



COUNTY BUDGET CRISIS

THE CASE FOR FORGIVENESS

PAGE 18

COUNCIL QUERIES BURTON ON SCHOOL AND LIBRARY CUTS

DAN MORROW

February's meetings of the Middleburg Town Council focused sharply on the disproportionate impact of proposed cuts in the County budget on Loudoun's small towns in general, and Middleburg in particular.

In response to draft departmental budgets calling for the closing of Middleburg Elementary School and the shuttering of its library, Council had already passed resolutions supporting both institution, dispatched its Mayor and members of Council to appear before the School Board and County Supervisors and, in January, issued invitations to Blue Ridge District Supervisor, Jim Burton, and Board Chairman, Scott York, to clarify the Board's intent before Council.

Burton spent well over an hour at Council's February 9 work session. A last-minute family emergency prevented York from appearing at the Thursday,

February 12, regular meeting of Council

Burton on Appraisals, Revenues, and Budget Cuts

On February 9 Supervisor Jim Burton reiterated the position on real-estate appraisals and property tax rates he's held consistently throughout the recent County budget crisis.

Unfortunately, County property tax rates must be raised to make up for the precipitous decline in property values across most of Loudoun. The rates cannot be raised enough, however to avoid serious cuts in the County's budget. To do so, Burton insists, would invite "disaster" for both businesses and individual property owners whose real-estate holdings retained most if not all of their assessed value.

Burton is not in favor, however, of closing any existing libraries or public schools. Repeating views since published in his on-line newsletter, Burton calls for cuts that are "... felt equitably

Continued Page 8

HOW THE WEST WON THE LOUDOUN HOSPITAL BATTLE INOVA APPLIES TO OPEN FACILITY ON ROUTE 50

As a decade of public acrimony concludes with a Route 50 hospital in sight and the Supervisors saying "no more" to appeals to continue the Inova/HCA hospital location fight, it's easy to understand why residents in Western Loudoun feel they've won a critically important fight for quality medical care.

"I promised at the first public hearing on October 6th that we would extend our services with a quality healthcare facility on Route 50 if HCA's Broadlands application was not approved," said Inova Loudoun CEO Randy Kelley. "All the behind the scenes design work is done and we're committed to putting our services where they are needed by Greater Loudoun citizens."

Kelley describes the new hospital as the cornerstone of a medical campus that will grow and evolve to meet community needs.

"It will probably take two-to-three years to open the doors," Kelley explained.

"We have to receive approval for our application, complete the road work that is part of our proffers and recruit the level of staff we demand to provide the highest quality of care."

The battle to build the next Loudoun County Hospital has been long and agonizing for Hospital Corporation of America and for Inova Health System.

HCA, the largest hospital chain in the country controlling 166 hospitals nationally, a dozen hospitals in Virginia and three in Northern Virginia, tried to position Inova, that controls five hospitals total, as a monopoly in Loudoun County that was seeking to quell competition.

Inova countered that the issue was not whether

or not to build another hospital in Loudoun County but where that facility was to be built. The need, according to Inova, was in the West, not on the Greenway just four miles from the main Inova medical campus.

According to experts, successful hospitals that offer both basic and sophisticated care to their patients must have stable patient populations to make the investments required to provide the best care.

The different orientations of the competing hospitals, HCA being a for-profit enterprise and Inova a not-for-profit institution, was the basis of heated debate at Supervisor's meetings and at public hearings, but the entrepreneurial spirit of HCA, sometimes described as a "buy, relocate, sell and close" strategy did not compare well with the "build, purchase and hold" business philosophy of Inova.

In the end, more than anything else, the issue was location. A majority of Supervisors simply did not believe the Broadlands location proposed by HCA was best.

If their proposal had been located on Route 50, many believe the result would have been very different.

But, in the end, residents of Western Loudoun were well satisfied with both the decision and with Inova's response.

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SPRING IN BLOOM

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NEWS OF NOTE

SALAMANDER OPENING RESET FOR 2011

Shortly after Valentine's Day, Salamander Development's Prem Devadas requested a meeting with Middleburg Mayor Betsy Davis to discuss plans to reschedule the grand opening of the Salamander Inn and Spa to the spring of 2011. Salamander's decision, according to Devadas, was driven by the precipitous drop in travel, which industry experts now predict will last throughout 2010.

According to the Mayor, she, Devadas, Town Attorney Liz Whiting, Town Administrator Jerry Schiro, and legal counsel for Salamander met privately during the week of February 16, at which time, "... we were informed of their plans to delay the opening of the Resort until March 2011."

After the meeting with Davis, Whiting and Schiro, Devadas then contacted each member of the Town Council directly, "to relay the same information."

At press time, Devadas is scheduled to make a formal presentation and answer questions from the full Council at 6:00 PM on Thursday, Feb-

ruary 26, at one of the Council's regularly scheduled work sessions. The work session is open to the public, but, under normal rules of procedure, would allow questions to be addressed to Salamander only by Town Council members and staff.

Roots of the Decision

According to Devadas, Salamander decided to postpone its opening rather than risk a less-than-successful, five-star-caliber, first year. The postponement, he told the Eccentric, is just that and no more. "... a fact-based, well-analyzed, short-term postponement."

Nationally and internationally, corporate and personal resort bookings have declined precipitously, Devadas noted. Opening the new inn and spa under such conditions would risk both financial loss and worse, a possible revenue-driven reduction in service. Anything less than a sparkling five-star first year, he noted, would hurt both the Inn and the town.

Council Concerns

Key issues to be addressed on the 26th include the effect of the postponement on both tax revenue and plans for expansion and improvement of the town's infrastructure.

Of special concern to most members of Council was the fate of the new, Salamander-financed, state-of-the-art town waste water treatment facility. Prior to his formal presentation Devadas assured the Town that Salamander "... fully intends to honor all its obligations to Middleburg with regard to the waste water treatment facility."

Council Member Bundles Murdock, a consistent opponent of construction of the Inn, told the Eccentric that she understood Salamander's decision. "If the resort is to be part of Middleburg, we all want it to be successful," she said. In practical terms, she also noted that lengthening construction time might allow Salamander to schedule later starts to the building day, and the noise associated with construction.

SPRING IN BLOOM COUNTRY WAY OPENS NEW SHOP

If you simply cannot wait another second for Springtime, take a trip to Country Way in Middleburg where you'll find bouquets of shockingly beautiful tulips, the palest pink hyacinths, fragrant roses, romantic hyacinths and every delicate blossom your heart could desire.

Originally located in a small cottage, the charming shop has moved to 102 West Washington Street where the large French windows on the street attract attention and customers all day long.

"We're so happy to be here," said owners Amy Sullivan and Deborah Graham. "Everyone has been so complimentary and charming."

It's no wonder. The delightful display rooms in swimming pool blue and buttercup yellow hold beautiful decorative pieces, fragrances, candles and linens that are precisely what's needed to chase away the winter doldrums. Telephone 540 687 3583 for service.

ONE OF THE LAST ELM TREES IN MIDDLEBURG



One of last remaining Elm trees in Middleburg was cut down recently after Sally Bolton, Reggie Dawson, Bartlett Tree Company and others regrettably decided that it was a hazard for everyone's safety. The Treescape committee will replace the tree as soon as possible.

LOCAL ARTIST DONATES PAINTING TO PINK BOX



Virginia artist Tom Neel, recently donated his painting "Pink Box in Winter" to The Pink Box Visitor's Center in Middleburg. Known for his oil paintings of the local Piedmont region, Neel has always enjoyed the character of Middleburg and the little washed brick building, with its white picket fence on 12 North Madison Street. The oil on panel painting is nicely framed to suit its new home on the wall just inside the door of The Pink Box.

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NEWS OF NOTE

FAUQUIER HOSPITAL OFFERS HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED SERVICES

Brain Lab technology that uses infrared sensors to pinpoint crucial anatomical points in hip, knee and sinus surgery and digital mammograms that allow women to have the best information possible are now available at Fauquier Hospital.

The Cherry Blossom Breast Cancer Fund contributed \$50,000 of the \$500,000 needed for each of the two digital mammography tools, and the Fauquier Health Foundation raised more than \$96,000 for the new system.

Women who turn forty years of age in 2009 will receive a special birthday gift of a free screening mammogram at Fauquier Health. Simply ask your doctor for an order and telephone 540 316 5800 to make an appointment.

Orthopedic surgeon James Ramser is enthusiastic about Brain Lab.

"This new technology allows a surgeon to do everything better," he says.

Infrared sensors pinpoint the exact locations of crucial anatomical points.

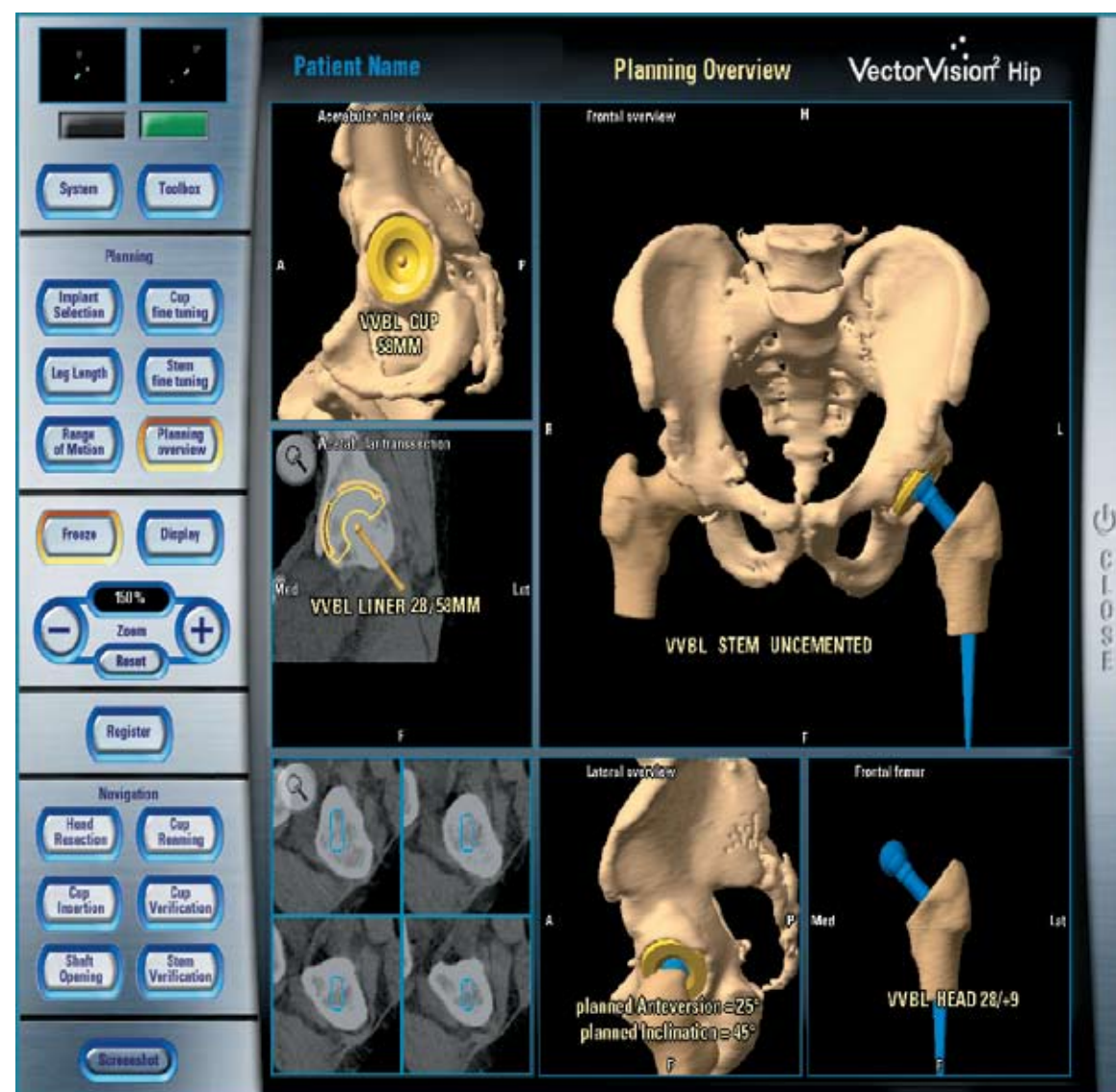
During surgery, doctors can view a computer screen that shows exactly where bones and implants are inside the patient, allowing surgeons to tailor the size and positioning of implants to the specific anatomy of each patient.

Brain Lab is also a tremendous technological asset in knee and sinus surgery. Dr. Christopher Change, an ear, nose and throat specialist used the Brain Lab at Duke University before he began using the procedure at Fauquier Hospital.

"This is a great tool for sinus surgery," he explained.

"It allows the surgeon to be most precise. I can see exactly where the tip of the surgical instrument is at all times, in three dimensions." This is especially important since sinuses are so close to the brain and eyes.

"Fauquier Hospital is committed to new technology," says Dr. Ramser. "Brain Lab is a fantastic tool. It lets you see what you can't see."



WATERFORD RAISES THE ROOF TO COMPLETE OLD SCHOOL RESTORATION

Friends and donors from many corners of Loudoun County met recently at the Waterford Old School's newly restored main building to officially begin the campaign to rebuild the auditorium that was completely destroyed by fire two years ago.

The Waterford Foundation has already raised \$400,000 toward the \$1.6 million required for the complete restoration of all the facilities that were destroyed in the fire, and the recent event was the kick-off to raise the remaining \$1.2 million required to complete the auditorium and related facilities.

The newly restored main school building is delightfully true to its origins with every modern convenience now available. New lighting and windows offer airy, bright and comfortable classroom space. All that remains is to complete the new addition to the building that will house the auditorium.

To complete the auditorium, the Raise the Roof Capital Campaign has set an

additional \$1.2 million as its fund-raising goal.

It is hoped that the many artists, exhibitors, performers and citizens who have missed the Old School facilities over the past two years will join the many generous donors who have made possible the progress to date.

These donors include the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, the Cabell Foundation, the Philip L. Graham Fund, the Warren and Marylou Hayford Foundation, donors to the 2008 Special Appeal, donors to the Reserve a Seat Campaign, donors to the Bucket Brigade and generous members and supporters of the Waterford Foundation.

Enthusiasm was high at the kick-off event and Kathleen Kilpatrick, director of Virginia's Department of Historic Resources was highly complimentary of the progress to date and the plans for the auditorium.

Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership President Cate Magennis Wyatt underscored how grateful the community was

to Melanie Lockwood Herman who chairs the Waterford Foundation Development Committee and to Kathleen Hughes, President of the Waterford Foundation.

"They have been unstoppable in their efforts to restore this magnificent facility," she said. "We are all so grateful to them."

The Honorable Sally Kurtz, member of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors spoke powerfully about the absolute necessity of protecting the Village of Waterford's heritage.

"We all know the significance of this charming village," she said,

"...and we all know that without our help, especially in times of trouble like the terrible fire, our Village will be no more."

To donate to the Raise the Roof Campaign for The Waterford Old School Restoration, please mail your contribution to Raise the Roof, The Waterford Foundation, PO Box 142, Waterford, VA 20197.

PROJET AVIATION PROMOTES NORTHERN VIRGINIA BUSINESS AT LONG BEACH CONFERENCE

ProJet Aviation, based at the Winchester Regional Airport, recently attended the annual Scheduler and Dispatcher's Conference, hosted by the National Business Aviation Association (NBAA). This year's 20th -anniversary conference took place in Long Beach, California

where ProJet promoted their private aircraft based in Winchester and the benefits of the Northern Virginia location to other corporate flight departments in the country.

ProJet distributed materials promoting the Winchester Regional Airport, Virginia Tourism, and the Virginia Department

of Aviation. "This is the largest networking opportunity for private aircraft operators within our industry, and we were thrilled to be a part of it," stated Julie O'Brien, Director of Marketing for ProJet Aviation. Over 300 industry vendors and 2,500 people attended the conference.

ProJet Aviation is the Mid-Atlantic region's premier management and charter firm, serving the Metropolitan D.C. area and destinations worldwide. ProJet is a privately held company that provides aviation consulting, acquisition, management, and charter services for individuals and large corporations.

PRINCE OF WALES RECEIVES NATIONAL SPORTING LIBRARY CHAIRMAN AND CURATOR

The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall received Mr. and Mrs. Manuel H. Johnson of Upperville, Va., and Mr. and Mrs. F. Turner Reuter, Jr., of Aldie, Va., at Clarence House in London, England. Manuel H. Johnson serves as Chairman of the Board and F. Turner Reuter, Jr., as Curator of Fine Arts of the National Sporting Library in Middleburg.

Reuter and Johnson presented the Prince of Wales with a limited edition, numbered copy of Reuter's book, *Animal and Sporting Artists in America*. A second copy of the book, inscribed to the Prince's mother, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, was offered as a contribution to the collections of the Royal Library at Windsor Castle.

In 2008, the National Sporting Library published *Animal and Sporting Artists in America*, the first scholarly reference work devoted to American animal and sporting artists ever published, containing the biographies of over 2,000 individuals.

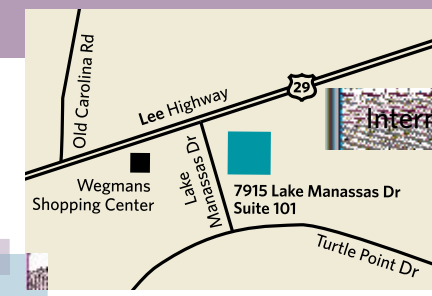
The British Monarchy's passion for equestrian and field sports has set standards for aristocratic tastes for sporting life and art for over five centuries, making the

Royal Family among the foremost patrons in the history of the genre and having a profound influence on American life and art.

The Royal Collections include works by the English naturalist Mark Catesby (ca.1682-1749), whose drawings for *The Natural History of Carolina, Florida and the Bahamas* (published in 1749) represent the first major illustrated record of North American wildlife. These paintings are among the first works of art to show how the development of American art and sporting life has been deeply linked to English culture from the earliest days of our Nation's history. Other American artists in Reuter's book who studied or worked in Britain include John Singleton Copley and Edward Troye.

During the audience, Johnson and Reuter discussed the historic relationship between English and American sporting art, their shared love for country life, and the preservation of classical architecture. The Prince also mentioned his organic farming initiatives through his food company, Duchy Originals, and his working organic garden and farm at his country residence, the Highgrove Estate near Tetbury in Gloucestershire.

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NEWS OF NOTE

TINA GULLAND TO CHAIR OATLANDS BOARD

Oatlands announced today that Tina Gulland has been named chairman of the 2009 board of directors. “We are delighted that the directors elected Tina as board chair,” stated David Boyce, executive director of Oatlands. “This is both an exciting time and a challenging time in Oatlands’

history, where Tina’s talent, knowledge, and leadership will create new and wonderful opportunities for the property. Tina is the perfect person to guide us through.” Ms. Gulland has served on the Oatlands board of directors for four years. Her career as a Washington broadcaster has included posts as an NBC radio news reporter,

anchor and executive, television producer. Tina and her husband, Gene, a partner at the Washington law firm of Covington and Burling, live in Aldie, Virginia where they have raised their three children, Michael, Molly and Sam. Tina is also a docent at the Library of Congress, and a sponsor of the Washington Jesuit Academy in Washing-

STATE OF THE CREEK AND HOW YOU CAN HELP

On Thursday, March 12 the Goose Creek Association will present its annual Community Forum at the Middleburg Community Center. This year’s topic is water quality in the Goose Creek and its tributaries – “The State of the Creek.” A panel of professionals and volunteer, certified, stream monitors will analyze the results of several years of data collected in the Goose Creek watershed, and discuss which parts of the streams are pristine and which may be impaired and in need of conservation or mitigation measures.

Stream monitors from a diverse set of local organizations, including Goose Creek Association, Loudoun Water-

shed Watch, and the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy have observed and examined water quality in many of the major tributaries to Goose Creek in Loudoun and Fauquier, among them Little River, Cromwell’s Run, Gap Run, Jeffries Branch, Beaverdam Creek, North Fork Goose Creek, and Simpson’s Creek. This will be the first public presentation of all the stream monitoring scores in both counties. The information presented will paint a complete picture of the health of the Creek and its tributaries, from the Goose Creek’s headwaters near Linden to its confluence with the Potomac near Leesburg.

For landowners and residents wishing to maintain pristine streambeds or restore

water quality to the streams in the region, a series of presentations on riparian buffers and conservation and restoration practices will make up the second half of the program. A wide range of efforts to preserve, repair, and mitigate damage to the Creek and its tributaries are underway, and several examples of programs being undertaken by local landowners will be featured, as will exhibits of water quality projects by the participating groups.

The program begins at 7 p.m. and will conclude by 9 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. To register, call the Goose Creek Association office at 687-3073, or contact GCA at goosecreek@erols.com.

PURCELLVILLE TO BRUNSWICK FOR ONLY 50 CENTS !

On February 17 “Western Flyer” trolley service began on Route 287, providing daily service between Purcellville, Lovettsville, and the train connections to Washington, in Brunswick, Maryland. The fare: 50 cents.

Run by the not-for-profit, Virginia Regional Transit 501.c.3, the bright red

and tan trolley will ply the Purcellville to Lovettsville route seven or eight times a day.

For MARC railroad commuters to Washington, the trolley leaves Purcellville daily at 6:45 AM, and arrives in Brunswick at 7:22 AM.

In the evening, the trolley leaves Brunswick at 7:21 PM, and arrives in Purcellville about half an hour later.

Other VRT trolleys connect Purcellville, Leesburg, Dranesville, Dulles Airport and the Dulles Air & Space Museum.

For more information, including intermediate stops and schedules, call 877-777-2708. Complete information will also be posted soon on VRT’s web site at <http://va-transit.org/index.cfm>

WHEATLAND VEGETABLE FARM TO BE HONORED

Chip and Susan Planck will be honored for their innovative work at Wheatland Vegetable Farm at the fifth annual Forum for Rural Innovation, set for Friday, March 13, 2009 at the Best Western Lee-Jackson Motor Inn and Conference Center in Winchester.

The purpose of the forum

is to showcase replicable, innovative ideas, projects or programs that enhance farm or rural business profitability, conserve farm land and natural resources, or develop new approaches to rural prosperity that are viable in an expensive farmland, upscale, consumer environment.

The \$35 registration fee

covers the forum program, morning refreshments, and the Awards Luncheon, itself a buffet featuring locally produced foods.

Deadline for pre-registration is March 5. Registration information is available on line at www.Loudoun-Farms.org by phone, at 703-777-0426

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NEWS OF NOTE

COUNTY BUDGET CRISIS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

across the County and across users.”

“Thus, he notes, “I would oppose the singling out of individual facilities for closure, including the small, community libraries and schools.”

“System-wide furloughs and salary freezes,” he continued, “are a far fairer approach.”

Burton also reminded the Council that the Supervisors would hold Public Hearings on February 25-26 and, in a special joint session with the County School Board, on Saturday, February 28.

“This last is important given the division of authority between the two Boards over financial matters,” he emphasized. “Under State law, the Board of Supervisors (BOS) only determines the total amount of funding for the school system. The allocation of those funds is at the sole discretion of the School Board. While the BOS could allocate sufficient funding to retain particular programs, there is no guarantee that the School Board would allocate the funding in such a manner. Thus, it is important that the School Board hear directly from you about your priorities throughout the process.”

The same is true for the Library Board of Trustees, on which Burton serves as the Board of Supervisors representative. The Library Board, while opposed to any decrease in library funding, has decided in principle to adopt Burton’s system-wide approach to cost reduction.

Grease

Words to the wise from Middleburg: don’t dump grease down your kitchen drain. A combination of cold weather and kitchen grease in the town’s waste water lines caused nearly \$25,000 in damage to a recently refurbished home on Lincoln Road during the recent cold snap. Low temperatures caused kitchen grease

to congeal and block pipes on the wrong side of pumps designed to push raw sewage to the town’s waste water treatment facility. At roughly 3:00 AM, the sewage followed unblocked lines of least resistance which led, unfortunately to a private residence.

There is currently no ordinance in Middleburg requiring restaurants to install grease traps. Though easily installed, at relatively low cost, in modern commercial kitchens, older buildings may require expensive retrofitting.

MacMansions

Four to five meetings, designed to gather public opinion on the impact of building homes in Middleburg with larger-than-average footprints are being scheduled by Town Planner and Zoning Administrator, David Beniamino. Middleburg residents will receive notice of the scheduled meetings by mail.

Tim Youmans, Winchester’s Planning Director, has agreed to help facilitate the sessions, which will each be attended by a member of Middleburg’s Town Council, a member of the Historic District Review Committee, and a member of the Town Planning Commission will attend each session.

Information derived from the sessions will help shape new legislation designed to govern the relative size and appearance of buildings within the boundaries of the Town.

Other News

Fine tuning continues on the development of new rules of procedure for Town Council meetings, including regulations governing who can speak, for how long, on what topics, and with what tone and manner.

Further discussion of a new town noise ordinance, and preliminary discussions of the Town’s 2010 budget are also scheduled for March.

PIEDMONT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION RECEIVES NATIONAL CERTIFICATION

The Piedmont Community Foundation (PCF) board of directors is pleased to announce that the PCF recently received confirmation of PCF’s compliance with National Standards of operation for U.S. Community Foundations which is philanthropy’s most rigorous. National Standards were developed by community foundation practitioners within the Council on Foundations to serve as a roadmap for legal, ethical, and effective practices within a philanthropic environment increasingly affected by technology, competition

for donors, and political and media scrutiny.

There are 43 National Standards which address 6 key areas of community foundation operations. 1.) Mission, Structure and Governance, 2.) Grantmaking and Community Leadership 3.) Resource Development, 4.) Donor Relations, 5.) Stewardship and Accountability, 6.) Communications. Since the standards were adopted, community foundations of all sizes, ages, and locations have committed to operating practices which demonstrate a foundation’s transparency and financial responsibility

under increased public scrutiny of foundation practices.

Currently, U.S. community foundations serve tens of thousands of donors and administer more than \$39 billion in charitable funds. Of the nearly 700 community foundations in the United States, over 530 have pledged to comply with the National Standards. To date, over 260 community foundations have been found in compliance with National Standards and PCF is proud have achieved success in operational excellence which allows use of the national certification seal.



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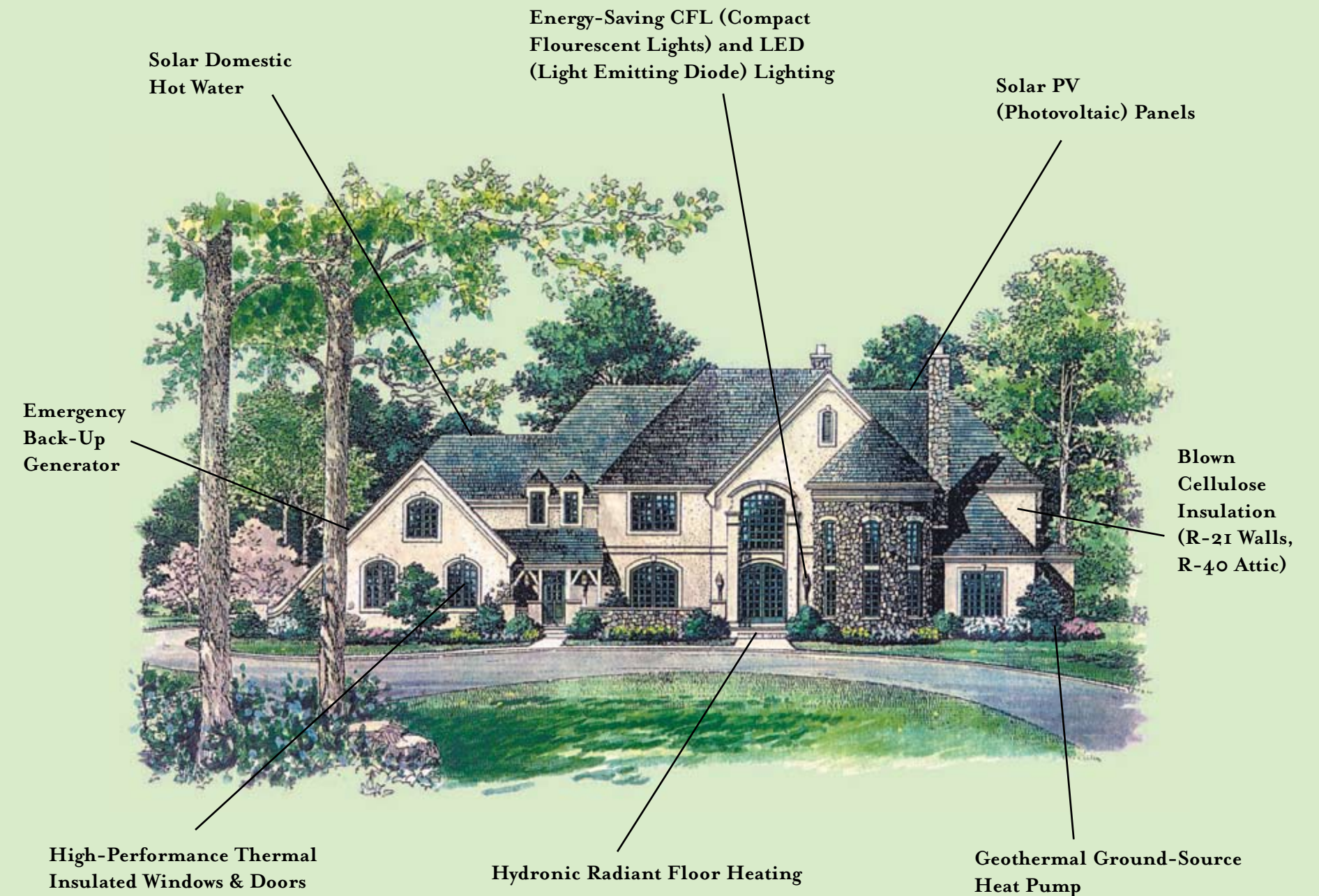
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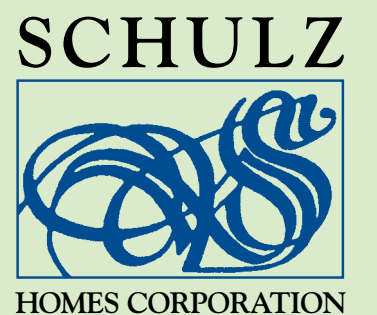
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EDITOR'S DESK

WORDS, DEEDS, AND LOUDOUN

In the midst of the debate about schools, libraries, the recreation department and other institutions and services threatened by County budget cuts, Middleburg took a look at "The Towns" section of Loudoun's official and highly regarded Comprehensive Plan.

We small towns, it says "offer a window to the County's past and are a key component of its unique character today."

The County "values the character" of the towns and "will be proactive in working with the Towns to assure a vibrant future for them."

They recognize that "the health of

each Town contributes to the County's overall strength and attractiveness as a place to live."

The County is committed to "a new era of partnership" with its Towns.

Specifically, the County will work with the School Board to "concentrate school facilities in and around the Towns."

And "the need for new schools . . . must be balanced with the importance of maintaining existing schools."

Indeed, as one study noted, "all planning for schools must FIRST focus on community" and the County "endorses the concept to maintain ex-

isting rural community based schools as an essential component of the community."

Furthermore, the County pledges to "encourage the continued USE and ENHANCEMENT of EXISTING public facilities located in the Towns and Joint Land Management Areas."

We couldn't agree more . . . and trust that the Board of Supervisors will back its words with deeds, bite the bullet, raise the tax rate another penny, and save our schools, our libraries, our recreation facilities, and the oh-so-beloved hearts and souls of all our small towns.

WORDS, DEEDS, AND INOVA LOUDOUN

Speaking of words and deeds, hats off to Inova Health System.

From almost the beginning of his involvement in the HCA/Inova dispute about where to build the County's next new hospital, Inova, and especially Loudoun Hospital's CEO, Randy Kelley, said all the right things about the need for a hospital on Route 50.

If HCA decided to build a new hospital on Route 50, instead of at the proposed Broadlands site on the Greenway, Inova would support the move in every way legally permissible.

If, on the other HCA chose NOT to build on Route 50, Inova promised to fill the need.

Mirabile dictu. As soon as it be-

came clear that HCA could not build at Broadlands, would not build on Route 50, and, instead, would seek to add beds in Reston, Inova filed for permission to build an 80-bed hospital . . . on Route 50.

Promises made. Promises kept. Good will earned . . . and hopes for success.

WORDS, DEEDS, AND JOHN WARNER

Best wishes to Senator John Warner, soon to be dubbed by Queen Elizabeth II, Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire. The honor confers knighthood, and were he not an American citizen, the right and prerogative to be called, Sir John.

As a Virginian, a Marine, Secretary of the Navy, and United States Senator John Warner earned his spurs, and our trust, long ago and many times over.

Sometimes a life's work and a man's deeds speak words he, out of modesty, simply cannot or would not say.

John Warner's life and work have consistently spoken the words of one of the ancient oaths of chivalry:

"Protect the weak, defenseless, and helpless, and fight for the general welfare of all."

We are in John Warner's debt, and thank the Queen for honoring him.

Letters to the Editor 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

**A Letter on to Scott York
Chairman Loudoun County
Board of Supervisors**

Dear Chairman York,

I am writing to you again concerning the future of the four small western Loudoun County elementary schools. As I stated in my previous letter, I will focus my attention on Middleburg Elementary School, but please keep in mind that the other three schools are equally important to their respective communities.

I am concerned that there is an incorrect perception of Middleburg as an enclave of wealthy homeowners. There are indeed wealthy Loudoun and Fauquier county landowners that live in close proximity to Middleburg. However, based on the 2000 Census figures Middleburg's median household income is \$40,625 compared to Loudoun County median household income of \$80,648.

A small historical community with; if not the lowest median household income in the county then certainly one of the lowest; is critically dependent on its neighborhood elementary school. Middleburg Elementary School has outstanding SOL scores, has been the recipient of the Governor's award, and has the support of the surrounding neighborhoods as well as the support of the Town. Please remember that the Town supports the school by covering the cost of water and sewer and that there is no debt on the school.

Chairman York, I understand the pressures the economic downturn has placed on the county budget. Middleburg Town Council is struggling

with the similar issues just on a much smaller level. But remember that those pressures are also placed on the individual citizens of Loudoun County of which Middleburg is part. Given the considerably lower income levels of Middleburg residents, the pressures are greatly magnified. It has been said that these small neighborhood schools are niceties. They are not. They go much deeper than that. A large number of our residents work in and around Middleburg. Sending their young children to a neighborhood school is a necessity, not a nicety.

The Board of Supervisors and the county staff has a done a remarkable job in compiling a strong budget in a miserly economic market. As with most Herculean tasks, there is room for adjustments. The County Comp Plan stated that "the need for new schools, however, must be balanced with the importance of maintaining existing schools". If these schools are closed and the students shipped off to other elementary school then within two years a new elementary school will need to be built. I question saving 2.2 million today only to spend 40 million on a new school in two years.

I close asking that the Board of Supervisors reaffirm the County Comp Plan and "work with the Towns and the School Board to maintain existing rural community based schools as an important component of existing rural communities".

**Judith Pryor Plescow
Middleburg Virginia
Town Council Member**

HYPOCRISY

TOM PRATT

Each time I hear the President or anyone in the administration use the words "we want to look forward and not back" it gives me great concern

What could be more forward looking than to address the past and correct the wrongs done by former administrations in order to ensure that it never happens again.

It is becoming increasingly more evident that the Bush administration, Cheney being the ring leader, had a well thought out agenda and then went about hiring goons such as Alberto Gonzales and others who held the same ideology to make their manifesto if not legal, certainly designed to protect them from prosecution in the future. The firing of the federal attorneys who did not hold the same views and then hiring those who did being the most blatant.

Cheney admits that Watergate enraged him, not because of the illegality, but because of the loss of Executive power that ensued. He vowed to change all of that when back in power and he performed mas-

terfully.

In my opinion it is not only hypocritical of the Obama administration and the President himself to talk of sweeping change if those responsible for egregious abuses of the Constitution and laws of both this country and international are not investigated in a court of law. If those perpetrators are not guilty then they should have faith in the justice system and have their day in court to defend their positions.

The thing I fear most is that the expansion of executive power may be very seductive to all executives and by investigating the past may seriously limit present and future occupants of the White House.

The argument that, although the acts committed by many in the Bush administration including the president and vice president, were somehow "legalized" by the attorneys hired by that administration absolves them from prosecution does not, in my opinion, hold water. In the trials of war crimes after WW2 simply following orders was not a defense and should not be here either.

THE ARROGANCE OF POWER

FROM BEYOND THE BELTWAY

KEN RIETZ

Seldom has a national political figure demonstrated the kind of pure arrogance as has House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. "We won the election" was all she said as Republicans wondered why they had been completely shut out of the drafting stage of the Stimulus Plan, the most expensive legislative measure ever. Pelosi had no hearings. No debate. She invited no Republicans to the closed door discussions.

The result was a 1,100 page Bill that Members of Congress were expected to read, dissect, understand and vote on, within a few hours.

When asked how many Members of Congress would actually read this historic legislation, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich predicted "4 or 5 per cent."

The merits of the legislation aside, this is no way to run a Congress or even a railroad. It is no wonder that recent polls show that less than 20 % of Americans approve

the job Congress is doing and almost 60% of Independents disapprove of the so-called Stimulus Package.

In addition to "We won the election" Pelosi's other mantra is to blame Bush for everything. But it was Pelosi and the Democrats who took control of BOTH the House and Senate, in the 2006 elections. After all, it is the House and the Senate that appropriate the money. Shouldn't they share the blame? Remember Pelosi's 100 hour plan? Then her 100-day plan? Probably not. Neither led to much.

Pelosi's most obnoxious power play was her refusal to join Senator Harry Reid at a press conference to announce agreement on the Stimulus Package. Apparently she had not been "adequately consulted" on press conference participants. There was Harry Reid surrounded by colleagues and the cameras rolling and no Pelosi. No Pelosi. . . no press conference. Lots of egg on Harry's face.

In the legislative process, Pelosi undermined promises made by President Obama.

He promised NO EARMARKS. It included billions in pork and political payoffs. Obama promised TRANSPARENCY and PUBLIC ACCESS to the Bill. The 1,100 pages were NOT available for view by anyone prior to the vote. Obama promised BI-PARTISANSHIP. The only bi-partisan-ship in the House was the vote against the Stimulus Package with 7 Democrats joining the Republicans.

It would be great theatre to watch if it wasn't the Taxpayer's money. At this rate however, with Pelosi's help, Republicans will regain control of the House sooner than expected. Americans voted for and expect change. Instead, Pelosi is giving them strong arm tactics, backroom dealings and the same old, same old.

Ken Rietz lives in Delaplane VA.

WHEN THE WOLF IS AT THE DOOR

BLUE NOTES

DANIEL MORROW

Down the wild Potomac, our beloved local Congressman assures us that . . . he feels our pain.

"I understand that Americans are hurting," the 10th District's Frank Wolf tells us. "Many have lost their jobs, are unable to pay their mortgage, don't have health insurance and are struggling to make ends meet. Small businesses," he notes, "have especially felt the brunt of the recession."

No kidding. Franks' answer: set up a "long term commission" to "review our nation's long-term economy" . . . a notion he's been pressing since . . . well . . . since at least 2006.

In the short term, of course, Frank has adamantly refused to support the President's efforts to stoke the economy, relieve at least

some of our pain, provide jobs, reform the mortgage business, provide health care, promote small business, and help everyone make ends meet.

It's that "deficit spending" and "national debt" business. Good, when it helps the rich. Bad when it helps the rest of us.

I suppose that, as a member of a Republican majority, with a Republican President (if you think of Bush as a President), for most of eight years, he simply didn't have the time or inclination to cipher on it.

Clearly, he still doesn't understand the broader implications of either deficit spending or national debt, and stubbornly clings to the same unthinking knee-jerk tax-the-poor, reward-the-rich, and devil-take-the-hindmost economic ideology that gave us the Great Depression (and an all-but-one "no" vote on the very idea of social security.)

Grandmothers . . . watch your children. There's a Wolf at the door . . . and he's bringing friends . . . including a significant contingent . . . apparently . . . from Purcellville.

Apologies to Purcellville

First, a long-delayed apology to my Republican friends in Purcellville. As a Republican reader (Yes! There are some!) pointed out in November, Purcellville's voters chose the McCain/Palin ticket over Obama/Biden . . . not, as I foolishly reported, the other way around.

Indeed, the McCain/Palin banner still flies over the local gun shop and hope springs eternal in the land of Patrick Henry . . . or, at the very least, the college that bears his name. Blush.

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EDITOR'S DESK

LETTERS

A Letter to Congressman Frank Wolf

Dear Congressman Wolf;

I am writing this letter to you to enlist your aid in securing the future of four small, western Loudoun elementary schools that are in imminent danger of being closed.

In response to the economic downturn, Loudoun, like all other areas, is in the process of reviewing the budget and making needed cuts. My concern is that the “go to” areas for cuts are the smaller communities; specifically, small elementary schools. In an effort to trim 2.2 million from the budget, the School Board is recommending that the following elementary schools be closed: Middleburg, Aldie, Lincoln and Hillsboro. Please note that the budget has a standing reserve that could more than cover the projected savings.

As a Council Member for Middleburg I will address Middleburg Elementary but please be advised that the remaining three elementary schools are equally important to their communities.

Middleburg has remained relatively consistent in its population for over two centuries; the last century Middleburg has had as an anchor its elementary school. The community has been actively supportive of the school to the point that the Town covers the cost of water and sewer. In addition, Middleburg is one of the crowning tourist destinations for Loudoun County, bringing in sales revenues of approximate

\$48 million annually. Real Estate and personal property taxes bring in \$3.1 million annually of which 73% goes directly to the school budget. This is remarkable considering that we have a population of under 700 people. When this is broken down Middleburg more than carries the weight of having an elementary school in town. I must also mention that Middleburg Elementary School is meeting the SOL requirements and has had bestowed upon it the Governor’s Award.

Let us not forget that in March of 2010 Salamander Inn will open and the sales revenue will significantly increase. Salamander Inn will employ approximately 200 people. Of those, people there will surely be families moving to the area for employment that will require an elementary school. Without the school there will be less of a draw for those families. Following in that vein, if Middleburg loses its elementary school the young families that are the very life blood of Middleburg will relocate to find schools that don’t require young children spending excessively long hours on a bus in order to seek an education. In short, by closing this school, Middleburg as a thriving, self sufficient small town, could easily find itself a footnote in Loudoun County’s historical accounts.

Congressman Wolf, we are not asking for anything additional. We are simply asking to keep that which we have had for close to one hundred years. I ask you to help us keep Middleburg Elementary School open so that we can

continue to plan our centennial celebration in 2011.

Judith Pryor Plescow
Middleburg Virginia
Town Council Member

To the Editor:

Here are a few suggestions that would make our existing and badly designed land conservation program much more attractive, fair and productive.

Permanent Open Space Easements on Land - Making Them Work for Everyone

Having owned land that is protected by an easement given by the former owner for about 13-years, I would like to propose several changes that should make the program work a lot better for all involved.

The only beneficiaries of this program are the original grantors of the easement, by virtue income tax deductions based on the devaluation of the property. All subsequent owners get no benefits at all, and are in fact punished by the easement.

Land under easement is taxed at much higher values that it should be

Land under easement is considered an ‘asset’ by jurisdictions having “Tax Relief for Senior Citizens” programs, even though it cannot be sold or subdivided and this inequity is very likely to disqualify applicants for tax relief by raising their ‘assets’ total.

Eased land becomes more of a liability than an asset under the current rules. It’s an absolute curse to us.

Overall, we think the program urgently needs constructive changes.

Proposed Changes

Jurisdictions should not be able to assess eased land in any category that causes the current owner/s real estate taxes to be higher than on land considered ‘Vacant’, or assessment should be equivalent to the lowest ‘Land Use’ tax rate. This change would save taxpayers substantially and encourage them to stay in place. It would also make eased property easier to sell.

Property owners who live on tracts of eased land who are applying for tax relief should not have their eased land considered an ‘asset’ under any circumstances.

Benefits of Making Constructive Changes

Land owners would see benefits to themselves beyond a one-time income tax break, and would see that as long as they lived on their land that they would enjoy on-going tax benefits.

Should an owner of eased land wish to market it, the potential purchaser would see a large benefit accruing from the easement. This is impossible now, and the easement is likely a very negative factor.

Senior Citizens would be especially helped, as the real estate tax reductions would enable them to afford to stay on their eased land. If they are forced by taxes to leave, the jurisdiction is at risk of

having new owners with children of school age and having greatly increased expenses on that account.

In Loudoun County the cost per child in our public school system is over \$13,000!

Let’s change the easement laws and make this program really beneficial to all concerned.

Robert K. MacDowell
Waterford, Virginia

To the Editor:

Our Economic Crisis, we need Spending, not Lending

The condition of our economy has deteriorated from a minor blip to a major problem and our Government keeps insisting on making the wrong decisions. Had this been attacked properly six months ago, when it was a solvable problem, we would not be in the mess we are today. Instead, the incorrect actions have caused a cyclical problem from which it is becoming increasingly more difficult to break out of.

The only way to solve the economic problem is by an increase in the GNP, which can only happen by an increase in production. As the government does not produce anything, government spending will not solve the problem. At most, it may delay the problem from affecting the tiny section of society that profit from that spending. The only way to increase production, is by having people buy goods and services that they want. However, the fear-mongering by the government has caused people to horde their

money for the troubled times predicted by our government. This action has only made the problem worse for everyone.

To solve the problem the government has to encourage SPENDING, not LENDING. They have to stop supporting the very businesses that are the cause of the problem, and start supporting the people who are suffering because of them. Putting money in the hands of the people, so that they buy goods and services will cause producers to produce those very goods and services, and the corresponding increase in GNP can help us out of our financial mess.

I had been vehemently against the financial institution bailout, and I am against the bulk of the current bailout as well. I had predicted that the financial bailout would do no good, and it did not. If the current bailout proceeds as is, our financial problems will continue for even a longer term.

Neeraj Nigam
Aldie, Virginia

To the Editor:

Two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) for development of a Washington Redskins site? Let’s see, GM corporate executives don’t get it, John Thain doesn’t get it, Tom Daschle doesn’t get it and now the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors don’t get it. Next up!

With underpaid teachers trying to do more with less, facing budget cutbacks and layoffs; and so many who just don’t get it, investing in our educational system is obviously, the wiser choice.

vesting in our educational system is obviously, the wiser choice.

Steven M. Drumheller
Purcellville, Virginia

To the Editor:

Like a parent who watches from the sideline as their child begins their first day of school, of independent living, I watched the Volunteer Fair and Community Celebration unfold. Like that parent watching, I watched the 32 participants arrive, come together to share their activities, network and provide opportunities for greater public involvement.

The hall was at times so full that moving around was pleasantly difficult. There was an atmosphere of hope and enthusiasm that filled the room, and resounded in the chatter, laughter and concerned conversations.

There were networks formed, ideas exchanged and volunteer hours committed. I watched with amazement at what had been accomplished by a handful of people, from the Middleburg Area, who saw a need and put their time, enthusiasm, and commitment into making the event happen in just 30 days. It was a volunteer fair designed by volunteers, staffed by volunteers, and attended by even more volunteers.

The sense of community demonstrated at this event still endures.

Numerous times in the weeks since the event, I have been contacted by members of our community. They ask how they can get involved, if they were unable

GOVERNOR STUDYING PATH'S TRANSMISSION LINES AND WORKING TO PROMOTE WIND POWER

JOHN P. FLANNERY

In response to a letter by Lovettsville resident, Holly Flannery, Governor Kaine acknowledged Holly’s opposition to the PATH electric transmission line cutting across Northern Virginia, and, as important, not only applauded her support for alternative energy sources including wind power, but gave strong evidence that he means what he’s been saying and is doing something in the Commonwealth to explore wind power as a source of energy.

In response to Holly’s letter, the Governor asked the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy to report on the State’s programs for exploring wind power as a source of energy.

Stephen Waltz responded, on behalf of the Governor, in a letter dated February 2, 2009 (attached as a PDF), saying that “significant wind resources have been identified in the area off our coastline.”

Mr. Waltz also confirmed that “DMME, the Virginia Coastal Energy Research Consortium, and other relevant state agencies are working with the federal Minerals Management Service, the agency responsible for offshore energy development, to recommend options for offshore energy production, including wind power.”

Nor is that the end of it. Mr. Waltz stated further that “Virginia also possesses attractive wind energy resources in several on-shore areas of the state.”

We energy-conscious taxpayers can confirm this information for ourselves because Mr. Waltz explains, the State has “developed a Virginia Wind Resource Map designed to assist wind power developers locate potential sites for wind turbines” and

this information can be found at the state’s web site at http://www.eere.energy.gov/windandhydro/windpoweringamerica/maps_template.asp?stateab=VA.

It’s also more than talk for, as Mr. Walz explained, “the Commonwealth has recently approved its first utility scale wind plant in Highland County.”

The Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy and James Mawson University, according to Mr. Walz, helped establish the Virginia Wind Energy Collaborative (VWEC), which promotes the responsible development and use of wind energy.”

VWEC activities include educating citizens and county decision makers about the benefits wind power can bring to communities, as well as the possible impacts and how these can be avoided. More information on VWEC’s activities is available at www.windooeverva.org.

Governor Kaine announced the Renew Virginia Initiative on December 11, 2008, which encompasses both legislative and executive actions focused on energy conservation and efficiency and environmental protection.

It also includes incentives and requirements for energy efficiency and renewable energy developments, like solar and wind power.

“So why are we rolling out backward looking technologies like coal, and giving PATH the time of day,” said Holly, “when we have a forward looking Governor exploring new renewable energy sources.”

“We have old rules and bad habits,” said John Flannery, “that’s why. We think that these old energy sources are cheap but they cost us a lot in terms of our health, the value of our homes, and our national security.”

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PASTIMES

COLD COMFORT: FAMILIAL FOODS

YOUR PERSONAL CHEF

ALYSON BROWETT

As I write, the weather outside is frightful. Remnants of a white blanket of snow still cling to the ground, and the wind is whipping up severe and blistering gusts. It has been a cold, cold winter. What better way to survive than to tuck in to some of your favorite comfort foods? The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines comfort food as “food prepared in a traditional style having a usually nostalgic or sentimental appeal.” These are the foods that your family dished up on weeknights or even special occasions, that you loved eating as a child, or that you turn to when you are stressed, or in my case, cold. Typically, the meals are simple, down-to-earth and easy to prepare. While chefs worldwide recently have taken to recreating these dishes using higher-end and more expensive ingredients, comfort food meals traditionally have consisted of inexpensive ingredients – perfect for these days of dreaded recession.

Comfort food can mean completely different things to different people. In an extremely unscientific survey of my friends on Facebook, I received a wide variation of “comfort food” definitions: brown rice pasta with tomato sauce; Lays cheddar and sour cream potato chips; chocolate chips and a bottle of wine; frozen banana with cereal and soy milk; spaetzle; green bean casserole; grilled cheese sandwich; chips, salsa, queso and guacamole; mashed potatoes; and even just beer. One friend summed up her interpretation: “Comfort food requires meat. Or at the very least, cheese.” Another friend, who moved from Washington, D.C., to the West Coast several years ago, said, “Blueberry Krunch pie from Round Hill’s Hill High Store! Ugh, I’ve had dreams of that pie. Please go have a slice for me, and then write me a note and describe every last detail.” (I’m shipping one to her...)

Overall, the consensus came down to cheese, soup, pie, or “anything your mom would make.” That

Great Grandma Mary’s Spaghetti Pie

Created by Alyson Browett

One of the best memories I have of my great grandmother Mary is of her shredding cheddar cheese. Whether it was pimento cheese (one of my favorite comfort foods) or her spaghetti pie, she was always messing with cheese. I’ve taken the “recipe” my mother had scribbled on a scrap of paper and created an updated version of the original. Feel free to use good ol’ orange cheddar, regular spaghetti and white bread; I just was trying to counteract some of the fat with the addition of whole grains!

- 4 cups shredded cheese (I used Fontina, Gruyere and Irish Cheddar)
- 1 lb. whole wheat spaghetti
- 5 slices whole grain bread
- 2 cups milk
- 1 ½ cups heavy cream
- 2 eggs
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons butter

Preheat the oven to 375°. Cook the pasta in boiling water according to package instructions. When cooked, drain the pasta and run briefly under cold water. Grease a 9x13 inch baking dish using one tablespoon of the butter. Spread some of the cheese on the bottom of the pan, and then top with some pasta. Continue to layer the cheese and pasta, ending with

cheese on top. Whisk the eggs, then add the milk, cream, and salt, whisking together. Pour the liquid over the spaghetti and cheese. Butter one side of the bread and place buttered side up on top of the dish. Press the bread into the dish, allowing some of the liquid to soak into the bread. Place in the oven for about 45 minutes, or until the bread is toasted and the liquid is set. Serves 6-8 as a main course or 10-12 as a side dish. (Note: This is excellent cold or slightly warmed for breakfast!)

Puff Pastry Chicken Pot Pie

Created by Alyson Browett

Yum. The puff pastry’s crispy, flaky crust makes the pot pie more elegant, but it still has the feel of ooey, gooey chicken and dumplings when pushed down into the filling. You can make this with a regular pie crust, but you’ll be missing out on something special!

- 3 strips bacon, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1 leek, white part only, washed well and sliced into half moons
- 1 cup chopped carrot
- 2 celery stalks, washed and chopped
- 1 lb. chicken thighs, skinned and boneless, cut into bite-size pieces
- 3 tablespoons flour
- 2 cups water
- 1 tablespoon chicken stock base
- Salt and pepper
- Pinch ground sage, thyme, rosemary (herbs of your choice)
- 1-2 sheets puff pastry, thawed according to package instructions

tions

4 7 oz. ramekins

Preheat oven to 400°. In a heavy-bottomed pot, cook the bacon pieces over moderate heat, rendering out the fat. Cook and stir occasionally for about 4 minutes. Add the leek, carrot and celery. Stir and cook for several minutes. Meanwhile, pat the chicken dry with a paper towel and coat with the flour, either in a bowl or in a zip-top plastic bag. Add the flour-coated chicken to the pan and stir. The flour and bacon grease should combine to form a paste, or roux. Continue cooking and stirring until the chicken is no longer pink and the roux is a light almond color. Do not let the chicken brown. Add the water and the chicken stock base and stir well. Add salt, pepper and any herbs you’re using. Allow the stew to simmer for 10 minutes.

Spoon the filling into the ramekins, leaving at least ¾ inch from the top. Working quickly on a flat surface, cut ½ inch strips of the puff pastry to go around the rims of the ramekins. Fold them over the rims. Then, cut lids for the ramekins that are slightly larger than the opening. Top the ramekin with the lid and seal the edges using a fork (like you would for a pie crust). Cut at least two to three slits in the top of the crust to release steam. Place the ramekins on a baking sheet (to catch any boiling over flow) and into the oven. Bake the pies for about 20 minutes, or until the pastry has risen and is golden brown. Do not open the oven during cooking! Serve immediately. Serves 4.

Chili Verde

Created by Alyson Browett

This is for all of you soup and chili lovers, and it is perfect served with a grilled cheese sandwich or cheese quesadilla. Combine this chili with your choice of Mexican beer, and you’ve got a meal made in heaven. Although this recipe is a lit-



tle more work, it’s worth the effort.

- 1 large (or 2 small) shallot, quartered
- 1 lb. tomatillos, husked, rinsed and halved
- 3 jalapenos, stemmed, seeded and halved
- 1 sweet onion, cut into eighths
- 4 garlic cloves, peeled
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 green pepper or poblano pepper
- 2 lbs. bone-in pork loin chops, cut into 1-inch cubes, bones and fat removed and reserved
- 2 tablespoons masa (corn flour)
- 2 cups chicken or vegetable stock
- 1.5 cups chopped fresh cilantro, leaves and stems
- Salt and pepper
- ½ cup chopped green onions
- ½ cup sour cream

Heat oven to 425°. Combine 1 tablespoon of the olive oil, some salt and pepper with the shallot, tomatillos, jalapenos, onion and garlic in a roasting pan. Roast the vegetables for about 1 hour, stirring occasionally. On the eye of a gas stove (or under a broiler) roast the green pepper directly over the flame until all of the skin is blackened. Wrap it in a piece of aluminum foil and allow it to steam for 10 minutes. When the pepper is slightly cooled, carefully peel off the skin, and discard the skin, stem and seeds.

In a Dutch oven, render the fat from the reserved pork bones and fat over medium heat. In a separate heavy-bottomed pan, brown the pork cubes in 1 tablespoon of the oil. Remove, drain on paper towels and set aside. Remove the bones and fat pieces from the Dutch oven. Add the masa and stir for 2 minutes. Add one cup of the stock and scrape up the bits from the bottom of the pan. In a blender, combine 1 cup of cilantro, the roasted garlic, half of the roasted jalapenos, onion, tomatillos and shallot, and ½ cup of chicken stock until smooth. Add to the Dutch oven. Then blend the green pepper with ½ cup of water. Add this to the Dutch oven. Chop the remaining jalapeno, tomatillos and onion, if necessary. Add the vegetables and the cooked cubed pork to the Dutch oven and simmer over low heat with the lid on for at least 1 hour. Season to taste with salt and pepper and serve topped with sour cream, cilantro and green onions. Serves 4.

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PASTIMES

COOL SEASON FOOD AND ORNAMENT

THE PLANT LADY

KAREN REXRODE

The Iris reticulata have joined snowdrops and winter aconites in flower. The show is fleeting and everyone should spend some quality time admiring these hardy flowers that can cover the ground once established. Our balmy weather won't last and evenings can easily slip back into the twenties and even teens. Our average last frost period is the end of April and early May and surprise frost can hit in early June. If you are anxious to begin putting plants in your containers, the safest plants for pots and urns are pansies, ranunculus, stocks, perennials, cool season vegetables, and hardy bulbs. Be ready to cover your pots in cold snaps (28 degrees or lower) to keep them looking fresh. I prefer to use an old sheet rather than plastic, which has no insulating value. Cool vegetable crops can go out soon, lettuce, peas and kohlrabi starts can also be beautiful additions to spring pots. I often remind folks of the prolonged beauty of leafy red lettuces and how stunning they are with pansies and violas. Once this wonderful trio is planted out and hardened off, they can endure temperatures in the low twenties, although you may lose their current flowers. Peas, the edible type are also pretty growing up cut twigs, arranged teepee fashion. The red or purple stems of brambles can also be tied and arranged as upright supports for the delicate tendrils of spring peas. As natural frames or winter sculptures, they can be beautiful all winter.

Kohlrabi, a cool season root crop, is unusual. The foliage is like broccoli but the base swells to form an edible tuber that is delicious. Once you try them, fresh out of your pots, you'll find that they never make it into a planned meal. Better for the hungry gardener as an afternoon snack. The taste is like a cross between turnips and cabbage. They come in white and purple skinned varieties, the purple seems to be a little faster growing, otherwise they are both equally tasty. For edible flowers there are violas, nasturtiums and ca-

lendula. Violas are high in vitamin C and come in so many colors that caterers love them, used both as a garnish and ingredient. The taste reminds me of lettuce, a simple, leafy kind of taste which is considerably better with salad dressing. Nasturtiums, on the other hand are very strong tasting, eat both the flowers and leaves for a peppery snap. They will tolerate a light frost and prefer early spring, while temperatures are still cool.

It should come as no surprise that rabbits and deer love pansies, violas and most cool greens. Plant ranunculus and daffodils in pots, both are poisonous and will be left alone by hungry wildlife. A few perennials can be added, they will stand up to the cold and many varieties are deer resistant. For a sunny pot consider the many herbs, typically hairy and smelly, deer will avoid them. For the gardener looking to fill a shady pot, use hardy ferns and the shade loving ornamental grasses like carex and Japanese forest grass (Hakonachloa macra), the deer will leave them alone also.



RENEWABLE ENERGY IN VIRGINIA

BUILDING GREEN



DALE SCHULZ

Question: *I have seen ads for your Hybrid Homes, can you tell me what the difference is between a Hybrid home and a standard custom home?*

Answer: A Hybrid home is similar to a hybrid auto in that it uses two sources of energy to operate. In the case of the hybrid auto, it uses an electric motor and a gas motor to save on fuel usage. In the case of a Hybrid home, it uses both electricity from the grid, in our area NOVEC and Dominion Power, and also renewable energy, such as solar PV panels. In addition, Hybrid custom homes are insulated to a higher standard than conventional custom homes, use hi-performance windows and doors with low emissivity glass coatings, and geothermal heat pumps. The end result is our Hybrid homes use up to 50% less energy from the grid than the same non-hybrid custom home.

Question: Is it possible to

retrofit my existing home to make it a hybrid home?

Answer: Yes, an existing home can be retrofitted with virtually all the renewable energy and conservation features of our Hybrid custom homes. As discussed in this column last month, many of these renewable energy systems come with generous Federal tax credits. For example, by installing solar panels a homeowner can reap an uncapped, 30% Federal tax credit. There are also tax incentives for other renewable energy features, although they are usually capped.

Question: *If I want to make my home more energy efficient to conserve energy today what would be the easiest, I least expensive items for me to do?*

Answer: The three easiest, inexpensive things to do to save energy are: First, caulk all your windows and doors. The numerous gaps around your windows and doors often add up to having a window open.



Use can purchase two tubes of quality caulk and a caulk gun for less than \$20. Second, make the switch to compact fluorescent bulbs, they pay for themselves in a matter of a few months. Third, install a programmable thermostat. They cost less than \$50 and often pay for themselves in a single heating or cooling season. Stop wasting energy when you are not home or asleep.

About the Author. Dale Schulz is the President of Schulz Homes, www.schulzhomes.com, and has been building custom homes in the area since 1987. He is also the founder of Virginia Renewable Energy which retrofits existing home with renewable energy systems, such as solar electric panels. You can send your questions for future columns to dale@schulzhomes.com. Schulz Homes phone # is 540.687.3367

LEVIS HILL HOUSE FIRST GREEN APARTMENT BUILDING IN LOUDOUN COUNTY

The Windy Hill Foundation's latest affordable housing project, Levis Hill House, has been certified "green" by EarthCraft Virginia, an independent assessment organization recognized by the Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA).

While there are other "green" buildings in the County, Levis Hill House is the first apartment building to be so certified and, as such, continues the traditions of innovation, excellence and accessibility so fundamental to the Windy Hill Foundation.

"Green certification was important enough to us that we started the process before construction was even underway," said Kim Hart, manager of the Windy Hill Development Company.

Architect Bill Turnure supplied plans to EarthCraft, which in turn prepared computer simulations to confirm the design would meet the standards required for certification.

Levis Hill House uses special windows and stucco walls; this not only better insulates the building but reduces air and particulate infiltration. Heating, air-conditioning and ventilation units, in addition to all appliances, are high-efficiency models. Inside, light fixtures take advantage of high-efficiency fluorescent, and special Icynene foam insulation, which uses castor oil to reduce reliance on petroleum-based materials, has been used throughout the property.

All of which adds up to two things crucially important to the project: reducing not only the building's energy and carbon footprints, good for the environment and the planet as a whole, but also reducing the monthly energy expenses for each of the

property's individual units, good for the elderly men and women living on very modest fixed incomes who call Levis Hill House home.

Energy costs for a one-bedroom apartment at Levis Hill House are only about \$50 per month—as predicted.

"Going 'green' is something we can all agree is valuable and worthwhile here in the 21st century," notes Hart. "But too often

people assume there is a burdensome cost involved with that process. It just doesn't have to be that way. We've proven here, for anyone who cares to look, that the savings created long-term can be achieved with very little construction cost increase in the short-term. If we can afford to be 'green' in an affordable housing project why can't any new building in Loudoun County afford to be 'green'?"

Perhaps K.C. McGurran, Executive Director of EarthCraft Virginia, summed it up best when she said of the Levis Hill House certification, "Levis Hill House, LP is a leader in Virginia's green building and the affordable housing market. Your commitment has enabled many individuals in our own neighborhoods to benefit from healthy, comfortable buildings while maintaining low utility bills."



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PASTIMES

THE CASE FOR FORGIVENESS

7TH INNING STRETCH

ALEX CUDABACK

"The only thing I ask of this group today and the American people is to judge me from this day forward."

Alex Rodriguez, New York Yankees, February 17, 2009

I've decided to forgive Alex Rodriguez.

As one of "the American people" (I wasn't invited to the media circus that served as the kickoff to Mr. Rodriguez's apology tour), I think forgiving the once-in-a-generation talent that was A-Rod before his fall from grace drove home the true meaning of his other, less auspicious nickname is the least I can do.

I am nothing if not magnanimous.

Ahem.

Let us forget, for a moment, the silliness of Rodriguez' story and take a look at the basic gist of it.

1) In 2001, Rodriguez signed a stratospheric, \$250 million, 10-year deal to play baseball for the Texas Rangers.

2) Rodriguez decided that the pressure to live up to such contract, the pressure to actually perform like he deserved that quarter-of-a-billion dollar deal, was simply too much for any mere mortal, regardless of skill and natural talent.

3) Rodriguez decided he needed "help" to live up to the deal.

4) So Rodriguez and his cousin got some drugs. Supposedly, they got these drugs in the Dominican Republic, where Rodriguez claims they were "legal" to purchase, you know, over the counter.

5) Rodriguez and his cousin knew neither what these drugs really were (only that they were "legal" to purchase!) nor what they were supposed to do. They did, apparently, know that these drugs were not "Tic-Tacs." That incredibly astute observation was confirmed at the apology conference.

6) Rodriguez, the quarter-of-a-billion-dollar-man, then allowed his cousin to administer the not-Tic-Tacs, presumably with a needle, presumably into Rodriguez, over some period not less than two years and not exceeding three years. During this time, Rodriguez' cousin came no closer to becoming a doctor, a nurse, a vet or a shaman than he was when the Dominican Tweedledee and Tweedledum set off on their medical mystery tour.

7) Rodriguez performed at levels he never had before and never has since, averaging 52 home runs with a .302 batting average, per year.

8) Rodriguez failed at least one drug test as Major League Baseball conducted its initial, league-wide drug-testing program.

9) Rodriguez was traded to the New York Yankees.

10) Having moved from the white-hot glare of media attention and inspection so prevalent in Arlington, Texas, to the relative journalistic and baseball backwater of New York City and the House That Ruth Built, Rodriguez was seemingly relieved of any fears he had of living up to his contractual obligations.

11) Rodriguez stopped using any and all banned performance enhancing substances. (Anybody who doubts the veracity of this part of the story need only ask any Yankees fan about Rodriguez' playoff performance.)

12) Rodriguez signed a new, 10-year, \$275-million deal with the Yankees in 2007, complete with performance-based incentives that would give him more money for breaking certain MLB homerun records.

13) Asked, point blank, on national television, if he'd ever used banned performance-enhancing drugs, Rodriguez denied it.

14) After defaming the

journalist (Rodriguez likened her to a stalker) who so inconceivably and rudely did her job and pulled back the curtain on his shenanigans, Rodriguez backpedaled and decided he had, actually, used something he thought might, maybe, give him an edge and that was, shockingly, both banned by MLB and illegal to obtain and use without a prescription.

15) Rodriguez held a watery-eyed press conference to kick off Spring Training at which he admitted using something (he didn't really know what), blamed that use on age, stupidity, pressure and naiveté, and asked for forgiveness and an opportunity to move forward.

So, fine. Here we are, back through the looking glass.

And here's the deal I propose we all make with Alex:

You are forgiven. All is forgotten. You get to play out

the rest of your career as a professional athlete, with all the trimmings and trappings that come with it.

But you have to start over. You don't get to keep any of the numbers you've piled up to date. You start from scratch, right here, right now.

Lifetime batting average? .000. Home runs? None. Singles, doubles, triples? Nada, zero, zilch. Gold gloves? Not yet.

If Alex Rodriguez wants to be in the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, he has the rest of his career to make the case. But the C.V. he's put together to date is too circumspect, too rickety, too questionable to be considered.

Most people would kill for the chance to start over with clean slate, from scratch, with neither obligation nor presumption.

For A-Rod, it seems the least we can do.

You can always reach Alex

CHERRY BLOSSOM FUND'S GENEROSITY BATTLES BREAST CANCER

The Cherry Blossom Breast Cancer Fund (CBBCF), a component fund of the Piedmont Community Foundation, recently disbursed \$41,500 to five non-profit organizations in Fauquier, Loudoun and Washington D.C.

These funds will be used for early detection and education programs; the purchase of a digital mammography system; support and outreach to individuals and families facing breast cancer; and the advancement of scientific research.

The grant recipients include:

• Loudoun Community Health Center, Leesburg: \$1500 to assist women unable to pay the fees charged by breast cancer specialists.

• Breast Cancer Network of Strength-Mid Atlantic: \$7500 for conducting breast health awareness workshops and creating peer led support groups in Loudoun and Fauquier counties as well as training volunteers to become workshop presenters.

• Fauquier Hospital, Warrenton: \$20,000 toward the price of the Hospital's first digital mammography system. This grant follows a CBBCF grant of \$30,000 in 2007. The Hospital is funding the remainder and has begun installation of the system. Digital mammography detects 28% more cancers than film-based mammography.

• Georgetown University's Lombardi Cancer Center: \$10,000 to continue a breast cancer research project which focuses on eradicating cancer cells circulating in the blood stream. This grant follows one last year of \$11,000 which initiated the study.

• Blue Ridge Hospice: \$2500 for terminal care of breast cancer patients.

"Given Middleburg's location at the Loudoun and Fauquier county lines, we wanted to help women in both communities," said Lizanne Driskill, Fund Advisor and daughter of breast cancer victim, Nanette White.

"Fauquier Hospital, for ex-

ample, screens over 6,500 women a year, but could not afford the cost of a digital mammography system in 2008," she said. "Our total pledge will allow these dedicated people to expand their ability to catch the disease early."

Fund Advisor, Sandi Atkins, added, "The Loudoun and Fauquier communities have very generously entrusted us with their charitable dollars in order to make a difference in the lives of our mothers, daughters, wives, sisters and friends. We are committed to expending these funds wisely and expeditiously in order to save as many lives as soon as possible. We believe these five deserving and dedicated non-profit organizations will help us make an impact in the fight against breast cancer."

In 2008, the Fund conducted breast cancer awareness seminars; the second annual Nanette's Walk (For the Cure); a pre-walk kick-off barbecue; a bake sale; and Middleburg's first "Paint the Town Pink" program, a partnership with the Middleburg Town Council and the Business and Professional Association. These fund raising events will continue into 2009 culminating with the third annual Nanette's Walk and "Paint the Town Pink" campaign on the weekend of Sept. 26.

The Cherry Blossom Breast Cancer Fund was formed in memory of the late Cheryl Clayton Atkins, a 2003 victim of breast cancer. The Fund was founded by her husband, James, and is led by breast cancer husbands, sons, daughters, survivors and friends. Its mission is to raise funds for screening and education, provide support and community outreach to individuals and families facing breast cancer, and to advance scientific research to eradicate the disease.

Donations may be mailed to the Cherry Blossom Breast Cancer Fund, P.O. 1051, Middleburg, 20118, or visit the secure website at www.cherryblossombreastcancerfund.org. For more information, please contact James Atkins at (703) 447-2302.

STAR HAURY NAMED SALES & MARKETING MANAGER AT THE GOODSTONE INN & ESTATE

Goodstone Inn & Estate has named Star Haury Sales & Marketing Manager for the historic property, located just outside Middleburg. Simon Smith, General Manager, made the announcement.

"I am just thrilled to announce the addition of Star to our executive team here at Goodstone Inn," stated Mr. Smith. "She experienced significant group sales success at Blackberry Farm, and we look forward to her leadership in developing the sales & marketing program here at our property as well."

Ms. Haury was previously Group Sales Manager for Blackberry Farm, the landmark property located in Walland, Tennessee. In this role, she experienced extraordinary success contributing significantly to the property's sales revenues, and developed new business in both the corporate and social group markets.

As well, Ms. Haury assumed coordination of meeting and event management during her tenure there, overseeing all aspects of group functions from important corporate meetings to major wedding celebrations. Ms. Haury also leveraged her significant sales and interpersonal skill-set, developing new business opportunities through representation at trade shows and association meetings.

Leading up to this role, Star Haury held positions of increasing responsibility at Blackberry Farm, including Group Coordinator, Leisure Reservationist, Junior Staff Accountant and Front Desk Agent. Success in these positions provided important operational experience, which has proven invaluable to her professional growth within the hospitality industry.

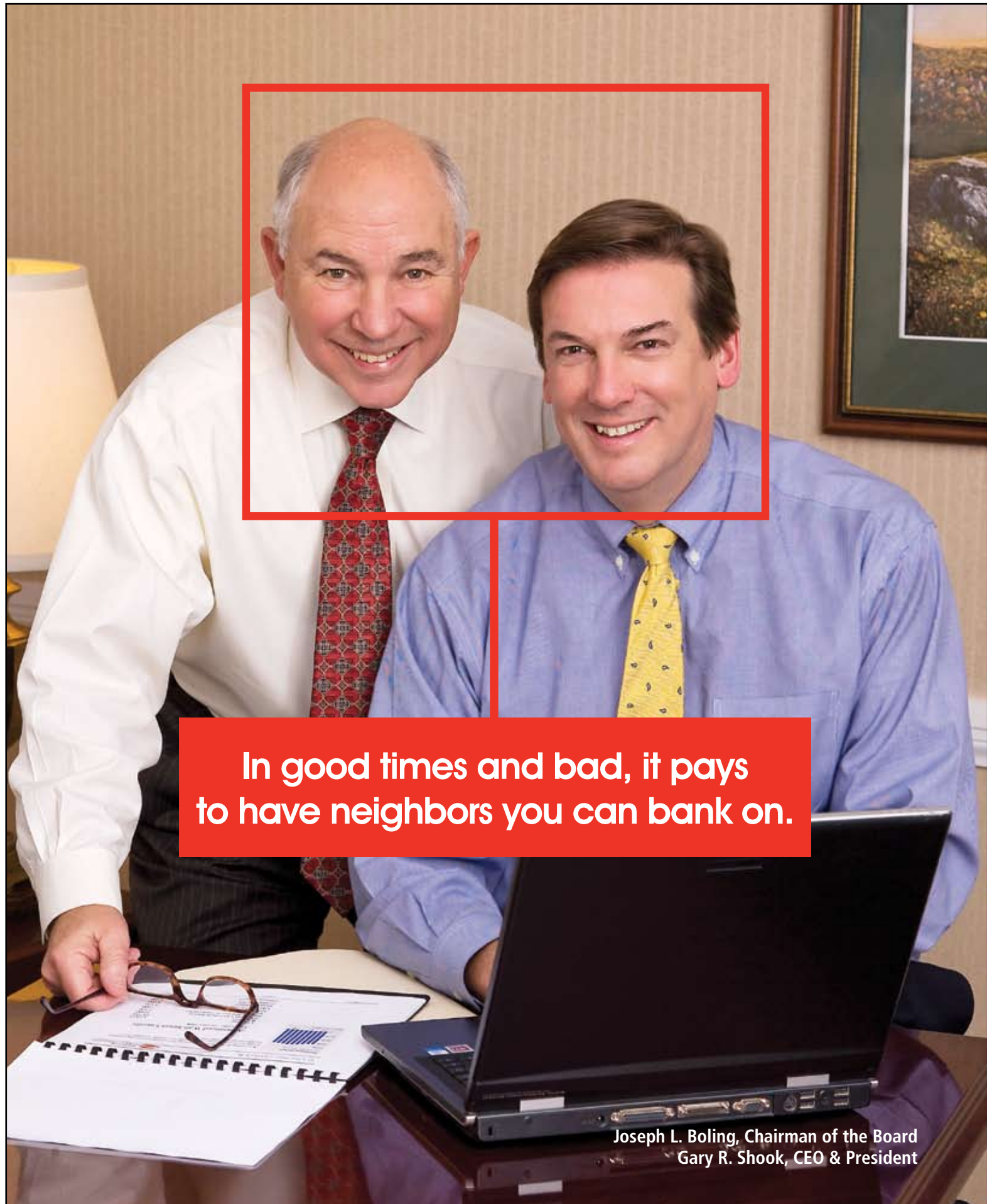
GOODSTONE INN & ESTATE NAMES SHEREE MCDOWELL PASTRY CHEF

Goodstone Inn & Estate has named Sheree McDowell Pastry Chef for the historic and rustically elegant property, located outside Middleburg. Goodstone is a member of the Small Luxury Hotels of the World Collection. Simon Smith, General Manager, made the announcement.

"I am so pleased to welcome Sheree to Goodstone Inn," said Mr. Smith. "She brings excellent credentials to her new role, having worked with prestigious Five Star properties for much of her career. Her immense talents will beautifully complement the superb culinary team we've assembled."

Ms. McDowell previously held the position of Pastry Chef at the Five Star, Five Diamond Woodlands Resort & Inn in Summerville, South Carolina, a Relais Gourmand property. She served in the same position for Port Bakery in Kennebunkport, Maine.

As Chef de Partie for The Inn at Little Washington, the Relais Gourmand property in Washington, Virginia, Ms. McDowell was presented the unique opportunity to assist in the creation of a celebratory dessert for the revered Julia Child, on the occasion of her 90th birthday. It was also the Inn's 25th anniversary.



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PASTIMES

HARRIS TWEED RENAISSANCE IN MIDDLEBURG

Harris Tweed, the romantic, iconic fabric that is still woven by hand in the Western Isles of Scotland, is undergoing a renaissance in the United States and has produced, for the first time in its history, a sports coat collection that is available at Middleburg's Highcliffe Clothiers.

Mark Metzger, owner of Highcliffe Clothiers is very excited about the new fabrics.

"The product is so full of color that it makes a unique tweed. The wearer is really distinctive – different from any other man in Hunt country."

"We're delighted to take this Scottish product on board and really hope that the Harris Tweed story will become part of our history."

Harris Tweed has a romantic history that began in 1846 when The Dowager Countess of Dunmore, asked a crofter on the remote Isle of Harris to reproduce the Murray family tartan in tweed.

The resultant fabric was like no other, dyed, spun, woven and entirely finished by hand. Lady Dunmore worked tirelessly to improve production and was able with her connections to establish a thriving market for the fabric in London and around the world.

Used by those in Queen Victoria's royal circle, sales of tweed began to boom. By



the nineteenth century, Lady Dunmore's efforts had created the largest cottage industry in Great Britain and Harris Tweed was firmly established as a status symbol.

To this day the crofters on the

remote island communities of the Western Isles of Scotland (Lewis, Harris, Uist and Barra) have woven by hand the magical cloth the world knows as Harris Tweed. In Gaelic this is Clò Mór - 'The Big Cloth'.

GOODSTONE CHEF TARVER KING CREATES POPULAR CULINARY BLOG

From the moment he joined Goodstone Inn & Estate in Middleburg, Virginia, Chef Tarver King had sought an ongoing means of engaging his customers in his culinary mission at the historic property. Chef King took over the culinary operation of the Goodstone last October, embracing his role in furthering sustainable agriculture on estate, and embodying the seasonal bounty of Goodstone's fields and farm in the cuisine he serves. Since then, his culinary creations have presented Goodstone's guests with an experience that brings them closer to the land that has provided the ingredients for their meal.

Chef King's cuisine is receiving rave reviews from guests – not surprising given his pedigree ... he was previously the chef at the Five Star, Five Diamond Woodlands Resort, has cooked at the Inn at Little Washington, The French Laundry, at prestigious restaurants in Europe, and for Julia Child. Guests at Goodstone have been so enthusiastic about his cuisine that they've asked to be kept current on what's new in the kitchen and in the dining room.

Tarver King's blog enables him to personally build a relationship with his guests, sharing



details of the menus he's creating, discussing special dishes he's particularly enthralled with, and informing guests on what's in season in Goodstone's kitchen gardens. Equally intriguing are the occasional updates King provides on the lambs in the pasture and the gorgeous flock of European chickens in the hen house, which supply the estate with fresh eggs each morning.

"I love to share what makes cuisine exceptional as much as I love to cook great food," said Mr. King, "and I never want to be far from our guests."



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 situated 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.



Hesperides

Warrenton, Virginia

Very private property located within minutes of Warrenton on 179 acres. This 100 year old residence features 3 full bedroom suites, 3 full baths, 2 half baths, 8 working fireplaces, a gourmet kitchen and an entertainment area on 2nd floor. Three refurbished cottages, historic log cabin, 4 barns and 10 acres of fenced paddocks and a 5-car garage. Property would make a great vineyard. Excellent condition with phenomenal mountain views. \$3,950,000.



Lanark Farm

Delaplane, Virginia

Stunning, 6,300 square foot, 4 bedroom, Craftsman style home just built with exceptional detail and solid construction overlooking 10 immaculate acres. Gourmet kitchen with Thermador and Viking appliances, Sirari Rosewood floors throughout the main and upper levels, and custom millwork. Huge finished basement, workout room, home office, lots of storage, views from every window. Property is bound by a bold creek and large mature trees. \$895,000.



Firethorn Lane

The Plains, Virginia

Very special 2 acre property in the sought-after location between Middleburg and The Plains. The main house has been expanded and completely renovated including the new master suite and two other generous bedrooms, a large gourmet kitchen, lovely dining room, wrap-around porch, a charming guest house, gardens and stonework. Great western views from the elevated site. \$1,295,000.



Old Oaks

Leesburg, Virginia

Classic Virginia home on 8.75 acres, minutes from Leesburg and Greenway. Home circa 1880 has been completely restored and shows beautifully. Great woodwork and detail. 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, 2-car garage, lovely formal boxwood gardens and guest house. Beautiful setting. \$1,950,000.



Lincoln Road

Purcellville, Virginia

Beautiful farm on 55.24 acres recorded in 5 parcels. Gently rolling land with lovely views in protected area near Lincoln. Contemporary home with 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths. 3 fireplaces and 2-car garage. European style stable with 6 stalls, tack room, office, wash stall and apartment. Very private. \$1,985,000.



Commercial

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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PARENTS & PROGENY

BASKET BINGO/SILENT AUCTION FUNDRAISER

Aldie Elementary School will be hosting a BASKET BINGO/SILENT AUCTION fundraiser on FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2009. Doors will open at 6:00 pm and bingo begins at 7 pm.

All baskets will be filled.

Food will also be available for purchase.

Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. For advance tickets, please call (703) 327-6514.

There is no charge for those wishing to participate in the SILENT AUCTION only.

MATTHEWS ELECTED TO ALA BOARD

FOXCROFT LIBRARIAN IS THE FIRST INDEPENDENT SCHOOL LIBRARIAN CHOSEN FOR KEY AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION ROLE

Foxcroft School librarian and English teacher Steve Matthews recently became the first independent school librarian elected to the Executive Board of the American Library Association in Jan. He is one of three individuals elected in January to serve three-year terms on the body that sets priorities and has fiscal and personnel oversight of the largest library organization in the world.

At the ALA's Midwinter Meeting in Denver, CO, January 23-28, Matthews was chosen from among eight candidates who represented all aspects of librarianship, including public library directors, university pro-

fessors, public school administrators, and state library officials. Matthews, who will assume his Board responsibilities in July, became librarian of Foxcroft's Currier Library in 1977 and has taught English at the School since 1980. A Middleburg, VA resident, he graduated from Hiram College and holds master's degrees, in library science, from the University of Michigan and, in teaching, from the University of Connecticut.

The American Library Association is the largest library organization in the world with over 67,000 members. Its Executive Board is composed of the four officers of the Association and eight at-large members elected

8TH GRADE STUDENTS OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC SCHOOL

8th grade students of St. John the Evangelist Catholic School in Warrenton participated in making their own replica

of the Statue of Liberty. The students are studying Immigration and the Growth of Cities in the United States from 1865 - 1914 in their Social

Studies class. Students also memorized The New Colossus, the poem by Emma Laqzarus that was carved at the base of the statue.



by the ALA Council, the 185-member policy making body. The Executive Board is responsible for setting priorities for the Association, overseeing and advancing long-range and strategic planning, fiscal oversight, and the hiring and evaluation of the ALA Executive Director.



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BERGAN POETRY FESTIVAL SHOWCASES STUDENTS AND PROFESSIONALS

MIDDLEBURG'S TRAVELL WINS FOURTH STRAIGHT COMPETITIVE READING LAURELS; EMERSON AND DJ RENEGADE ENGAGE STUDENTS

The Foxcroft Poetry Festival, in its second year as the "Paul K. Bergan Poetry Festival," was a rousing success on this very, very cold weekend. Poets, students, parents, faculty, board members, and administration alike enjoyed the vocal stylings of the slam in addition to the more formal readings from around the world.

On Friday night, DJ Renegade (also known as Joel Dias Porter) kicked off the festival with a moving and exciting reading of his original work. In his third appearance at Foxcroft's Poetry Festival, he entranced and energized the audience with his musical riffs and thoughtful love poems as well as his sense of humor.

A national Haiku champion, he also served as the MC for the student poetry slam, a hotly-contested competition among 11 student poets. Joined by the San Francisco Girls' Chorus -- which came to town to perform at the Presidential Inauguration and at Foxcroft -- the School community audience enthusiastically booed and cheered the teenage judges and wholeheartedly supported each and every brave girl who participated. After two rounds, the winners were named in a senior sweep: Kayleigh Moehle of Frederick, MD, in third place, Korama Danquah of Los Angeles in second (the only contestant to receive a standing ovation!), and defending champion Olivia Means of Washington, DC, once again in the coveted title, and a prize of \$100.

On Saturday morning, the festival continued with a reading by Pulitzer Prize-winner and Virginia Poet Laureate Claudia Emerson. Emerson shared both personal poems from her prize-winning collection *Late Wife* and poems of the imagination from her most recent book,



COMPETITIVE READING WINNERS (LEFT TO RIGHT) CARLY TRAVELL, KIM KLUWE, JAE YEON HAMM AND CHANDLER CARTER WORE LAUREL WREATHS AT THE PAUL BERGAN POETRY FESTIVAL SATURDAY

Figure Studies. The latter includes a sequence set at a girls' boarding school, Emerson having attended and worked at several, and resonated especially with the Foxcroft audience. Her quiet demeanor and vivid imagery captivated listeners.

Emerson and DJ served as the judges for the afternoon competitive readings, a venue that celebrates the reading presence of many of our students. The finalist, had been chosen by their peers and certified by faculty judges to earn a place on Saturday's pro-

gram. Senior Carly Travell of Middleburg won the top level, English 401 -- her fourth victory in as many years, with a reading of *Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird* by Wallace Stevens. Junior Chandler Carter of Ft. Washington, MD; earned English 301 laurels with a Maya Angelou poem, Jae Yeon Ham of Korea read a piece by Suji Kwock Kim to take English 201 honors and Kim Kluwe, a freshman from Seal Beach, CA, won the English 101 competition with Walt Whitman's *O Captain, My Captain*.

HORKAN MAKES DEAN'S LIST AT SHENANDOAH UNIVERSITY

Anthony Horkan of Upperville, VA., a Core Studies major in the College of Arts and Sciences at Shenandoah University, was named to the Fall 2008 Dean's List.

LEIPHEIMER TO BE HONORED BY INDIANA UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Just as her 20th year as Head of Foxcroft School came to a close on January 28, Mary Louis Leipheimer has been recognized by another institution of higher learning. Indiana University of Pennsylvania recently announced that Leipheimer has been selected to receive the 2009 Distinguished Alumni Award.

The highest honor given by the IUP Alumni Association, the Distinguished Alumni Awards recognize IUP graduates who have achieved distinction through sustained performance in their fields or who have provided outstanding service to IUP. Leipheimer is one of nine recipients who will be honored at an awards gala in March.

Leipheimer, a 1966 graduate of IUP, was selected from among more than 40 nominations received this year -- the most in the history of the award. In making the announcement, the awards committee of the IUP Alumni Association Board of Directors cited Leipheimer for her leadership and excellence in the field of education and for the contributions she has made benefiting the pro-



fession and community. "IUP has a great history in the field of education—it was a "Normal" school -- and so her work in teaching and education is in keeping with our values," said Mary Jo Lyttle, Executive Director, of the IUP Alumni Association.

Other 2009 recipients include President of American College Testing, Inc (ACT) Richard Ferguson, Director of Athletics at Georgia Tech Daniel Radakovich, and Founder and CEO of Optaros, Inc. Robert L. Gett. The only other woman selected is Susan K. Mellott, CEO/Healthcare Consultant, Mellott & Associates.

Get the Biz Buzz!

The Middleburg Business and Professional Association invites you to our March Mixer

Tuesday, March 10
5:30-7:30 p.m.

Hosted by Goodstone Inn & Estate
In the Carriage House
36205 Snake Hill Road

We'll have a 10-minute Biz Buzz to bring you up-to-date

There will be a \$5.00 charge for non-members.



Please RSVP to 540.687.6082 or email to: info@mbpainc.org

Jack J. Goehring, III

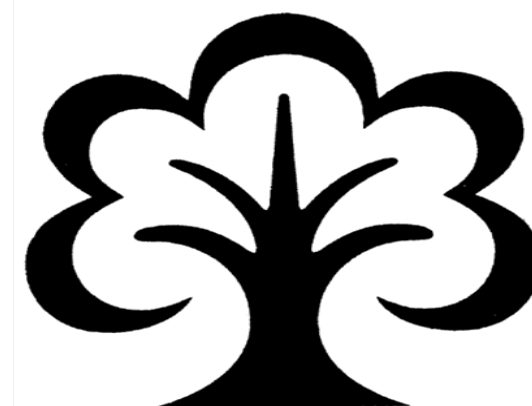
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LUNGE LINE

FOX CHASE FARM TO HOST VIRGINIA'S RIDE FOR THE CURE

Middleburg's Fox Chase Farm will host Ride for the Cure Virginia on October 10, 2009, at its spacious hunter/jumper farm in the heart of hunt country. The Ride for the Cure Virginia has been adopted as an official affiliate event of the Richmond Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure. Proceeds from the ride will benefit the Susan G. Ko-

men Breast Cancer Foundation. Fox Chase Farm has received recognition over the years for its annual non-rated horse show circuit, and for its hunter/jumper clinics, fundraisers, and educational events. This year the farm reaches out even further to make a difference, inviting Virginia riders and horse lovers to join this philanthropic cause.

Maureen Hanley, Director of Operations for Fox Chase Farm, is co-chair of the event with Dr. Tena Boyd of the Old Waterloo Equine Clinic. Currently there are only five Ride for the Cure events hosted throughout the United States, and Fox Chase Farm is the first and only host in the state of Virginia. On October 10, the Ride for the Cure Virginia trail ride will begin at Fox

Chase Farm and will then continue to Sunnybank Farm. Sunnybank Farm, owned by Dorothy Smithwick, spans over 1,000 acres and will be available for everyone to ride through during the event day only. Participants will ride in one of three groups; every rider must raise a minimum of \$250 and is encouraged to raise more for this worthwhile cause. At the event's conclu-

sion, Fox Chase Farm will host a sit-down dinner and silent auction. For those who are unable to join the trail ride, tickets are available for the dinner and evening festivities. In addition to fundraisers, Fox Chase Farm hosts the \$20,000 TCH Fox Chase Show Series, which is the first non-rated series to be affiliated with the United States Hunter Jumper Association (USHJA).

ART CONTEST WINNER HONORED AT MARE CENTER EVENT



DONNA M. McDONALD

Despite the cold, windy, day about 100 people turned out to honor Sara L. Withrow of Spotsylvania County's Stars 'n' Blazes 4-H Horse and Pony Club for her award winning artwork that was featured on the 2008 Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Middleburg Agricultural Research and Extension Center's holiday card.

Sara's design was prominently displayed at the recent recognition and educational event and, following the award presentation, Virginia Tech alumni and faculty shared their education and career

journeys with the audience.

Sara lives with her parents, Jennifer and Scott, and her 14-year-old brother, Kenny, in Spotsylvania County where she began riding horses when she was nine-years-old. She learned to ride on her now retired mare, a 28-year-old Hungarian Warmblood named Maggie.

Currently, Sara rides her seven-year-old Morgan Thoroughbred cross, Lady. She enjoys participating in Gymkhana classes, which are "games on horseback". An active member of the Spotsylvania County 4-H horse and pony club, Stars 'n' Blazes, Withrow was accepted to be a 4-H All Star this

year. In her club, Withrow is busy with many upcoming events one of which is the State 4-H Horse Show that will take place in September in Lexington, Virginia. The Stars 'n' Blazes 4-H horse and pony club is part of the comprehensive youth development program of Virginia Cooperative Extension. The 4-H agent for the club is Scott Woodard and its volunteer leaders are Deanna Poates, Hilary Parr and Heather Hockaday, as well as, Withrow's mother, Jennifer. You may visit the club's website at www.starsnblazes.com

Everyone enjoyed hearing the education journeys of Becky Carter, postdoctoral researcher at New Bolton Center, Shea Porr, superintendent at the MARE Center and Crystal Smith, animal science agent for Warren County. Each of these inspiring women detailed how they became associated with Virginia Tech and the MARE Center.

The audience, comprised mostly of 4-H horse and pony club members from throughout the State of Virginia, listened with eagerness and enthusiasm.

The event concluded with a wonderful lunch catered by Mill Valley, Inc. (www.millvalley-bq.com) and with tours of the MARE Center and Lazy Lane Farm in Upperville, Va.

It can truly be said that "...a good time was had by all."

USET FOUNDATION NAMES KIMBERLY BOYER, BILL BREWER, AND BILL WEEKS TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The United States Equestrian Team (USET) Foundation has announced that Kimberly Boyer, Bill Brewer, and Bill Weeks have been named to the organization's Board of Trustees. The announcement was made at the annual USET Foundation Board of Directors Meeting, held on January 31, 2009, in Wellington, Florida.

KIMBERLY BOYER
HAMPTON GREEN FARM

Kim Boyer, a dressage rider and breeder of Pure Spanish Horses, owns and operates Hampton Green Farm (HGF) in Wellington, Florida, and Fruitport, Michigan. HGF is dedicated to the development of the Pure Spanish Horse (PRE - Pura Raza Espanola) for dressage in America. Kim, a mother of four boys, started her involvement with horses when her oldest son, Michael Molinara, became an avid polo player as a youngster. She purchased family horses in Michigan and boarded them, and then in 1997 built her own barn. By 1998, Kim was focused on dressage and made trips to Florida, Germany, Holland, and Spain to buy horses. In 1999, Kim purchased a polo facility in Wellington, renovated it, and in 2000 established HGF there. By 2002, Kim was exclusively importing Spanish horses and promoting the Spanish horse as a dressage horse in America. Her 200-acre Michigan facility is home for her breeding stock and the Wellington facility showcases her stallions during the winter show season. All her stallions and broodmares have been imported from Spain and are descendants of national champions. HGF foals have earned many significant awards and achievements. Kim sponsors top notch riders and her horses compete in national and international FEI arenas, winning

titles at prestigious shows. Kim served on the Advisory Board for the Foundation for the Pure Spanish Horse. In 2005, she addressed the World Congress of Breeders of the P.R.E. in Seville, Spain. Currently, Kim is President of the United States P.R.E. Association, serves on its Board of Directors, and is a member of its Management Committee. She holds a PhD in Philosophy in Medieval and Renaissance Studies. Kim is married to Frédéric Boyer and they divide their time between Fruitport and Wellington.

"For a dressage enthusiast, it's a very exciting time to be asked to serve on the USET Foundation Board," Mrs. Boyer said. "Both nationally and internationally the dressage world is changing dramatically. Especially for Americans, the sport of dressage is taking on a new face - and it's a very unique American one. There is significant desire on the part of top riders to have more access to our coaching staff, more training for young riders, and more high performance programs, so it's a great time to get involved with the USET Foundation to promote those programs and raise funds for those programs."

BILL BREWER
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT,
AMERICAN QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION

Bill Brewer has been with the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) for 37 years. He was named Executive Vice President in 1992. Bill joined The American Quarter Horse Journal in 1971 as an Advertising Sales Representative. He was promoted to Senior Director of Administration in 1978, and from 1979 to 1991, also served as General Manager of the AQHA World Championship Show and American Quarter Horse Youth Association World Championship Show. Currently, as Executive Vice President, Bill works

with the Executive Committee and nine department heads to plan and coordinate business of the world's largest equine breed registry and membership organization, which encompasses 300 employees, 350,000 members, and 4.9 million registered American Quarter Horses. Bill also oversees the American Quarter Horse Foundation, which operates the American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame. Bill is past chairman of the Washington, D.C.-based American Horse Council's Horse Show Advisory Committee and currently serves on AHC's Government Affairs Advisory Council.

A native of Mountain Park, Oklahoma, Bill's involvement with horses and the livestock industry began in the third grade. He was a member of the Kiowa County 4-H Club, and was a regular rodeo competitor throughout high school. He graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Animal Science in 1967. Bill and his wife, Sue, have one son, Shane, who resides in Dallas, Texas, with his wife, Shanna, and the Brewer's two grandchildren, Grady and Holland-Rae. Bill enjoys riding his American Quarter Horse Larks Smooth Move, attending horse events, and playing golf.

"I am extremely pleased with the tremendous growth of reining since first being recognized as an FEI discipline," said Mr. Brewer. "I am honored to work with the USET Foundation to help raise funds for the USEF high performance programs, and particularly reining."

BILL WEEKS
GENERAL PARTNER, L & S CRANBERRY

Bill Weeks of Southport, Connecticut, has been a supporter of equestrian sport for many years, thanks to the involvement of his wife, Olivia Fry Weeks, and their daughters Alexa, Whitney, and Olivia. Weeks was asked to be on the USET Foundation Advisory Board a year ago, and he is "flattered" to join the Board of Trustees. Weeks has been the general partner at L & S Cranberry, a farm in Drummondville, Quebec, Canada, for nearly 10 years. The company is the main supplier of Ocean Spray and is also in the co-op of growers for Ocean Spray.

The Weeks daughters trained

at Fairfield County Hunt Club with Emerson Burr, and the family eventually went on to train with and support up-and-coming grand prix rider Kent Farrington. The Weeks family owns Madison, the Dutch-bred mare that had a very successful career as a grand prix mount for Farrington, and is now winning in the jumper divisions with Alexa.

Weeks supports the USET Foundation and was thrilled with the team's success at the 2008 Olympic Games. "I couldn't have been prouder of how our team rode last year," he said. "It's wonderful to see someone win a grand prix on Sunday, but when they actually have to put in a perfect round and they do, it doesn't get any better than that. I was extremely proud of how our team did and how they represented us."

Weeks said that his progression of involvement in the sport has been natural, and he looks forward to helping the Board of Trustees in the next fundraising endeavor. He remarked, "The board has a huge challenge to raise money for the next four years with our economy the way it is. We're very aware of how difficult it's going to be, but you still have to try. There are always some angels that seem to come to the front when you need them the most. It is a four-year period that you're raising funds for though. You hope the economy turns around and that people are in a position to give to the Team. I don't think it's a question of whether people will give. I think it's a question of how much they'll be able to give."

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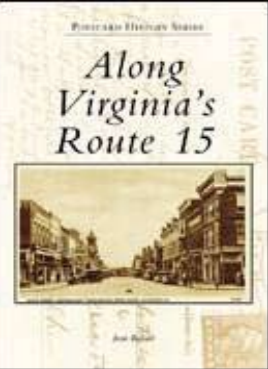
To Do

LOCAL AUTHOR REVEALS LOUDOUN'S
PICTURE POSTCARD HISTORY

JOSIE BALLATO, AUTHOR OF ALONG VIRGINIA'S ROUTE 15, WILL MAKE A SPECIAL PRESENTATION AT 7PM ON FRIDAY, MARCH 6TH AT THE LOUDOUN MUSEUM IN HISTORIC LEESBURG. HOSTED BY THE MUSEUM, MS. BALLATO'S LECTURE, POSTCARDS OF THE VIRGINIA PIEMONT, WILL PROVIDE INSIGHT ON COLLECTING, SELECTING AND VALUING POSTCARDS FOR HISTORIANS AND HOBBYISTS. SHE WILL ALSO DISCUSS HER EXPERIENCES AS A NOVICE AUTHOR USING POSTCARD IMAGES FROM HER RECENTLY PUBLISHED BOOK, WHICH CELEBRATES THE NEWLY DESIGNATED NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA THAT ENCOMPASSES LOUDOUN AND NEARBY COUNTIES.

FROM 1890 TO 1930, MOST COMMUNITIES HAD POSTCARDS OF TOWN LANDMARKS FOR SALE AT ALL THEIR LOCAL RESTAURANTS AND STORES. AS A STUDENT OF LOCAL HISTORY AND A SUPPORTER OF LAND PRESERVATION, MS. BALLATO DEVELOPED A STRONG INTEREST IN THESE VINTAGE POSTCARDS. "POSTCARDS OF THAT ERA SHOW THE LAST MOMENT IN TIME BEFORE THE BIG HIGHWAYS AND INTERSTATES CAME ALONG, AND YOU STILL HAD A TRULY RURAL SOCIETY," SHE SAYS.

MS. BALLATO BEGAN COLLECTING OLD POSTCARDS OF CULPEPER IN 2003 AS A MEANS OF TAKING HER MOTHER BACK IN TIME. FIRST, SHE SEARCHED FOR POSTCARDS IN ANTIQUE SHOPS AND ON THE INTERNET, AND THEN CAME THE LONG HOURS OF RESEARCH. "I REALLY DIDN'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT LEESBURG WHEN I STARTED," SHE ADMITS, RECALLING NUMEROUS WEEKEND TRIPS TO STUDY THE SPOTS WHERE POSTCARD PHOTOS WERE TAKEN. "I LEARNED SO MUCH BY DOING THAT. I COULD BRING THE STORY TOGETHER IN MY OWN MIND."



IN ADDITION, BALLATO'S BOOK TAKES A FEW SIDE TRIPS OFF U.S. 15 WITH OLD POSTCARDS FROM HISTORIC COMMUNITIES SUCH AS WATERFORD, MIDDLEBURG AND THE PLAINS. SHE HOPES THESE IMAGES FROM HER PERSONAL COLLECTION WILL SPARK THE INTEREST OF TODAY'S TRAVELERS TO EXPLORE THE HISTORY BEHIND THE SCENERY.

THE LECTURE WILL BE HELD IN THE FRONT GALLERY AT THE LOUDOUN MUSEUM, 16 LOUDOUN STREET, SW, LEESBURG WITH FREE ADMISSION FOR MUSEUM MEMBERS, STUDENTS AND SENIORS. GENERAL ADMISSION IS \$5.00. SEATING IS LIMITED TO 50 PARTICIPANTS; REGISTERING IN ADVANCE IS RECOMMENDED. CALL 703-777-7427.

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FREE ONE-DAY
SYMPOSIUM
SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2009
8 AM—5:30 PM
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WARRENTON, VIRGINIA

Keynote: *with*
Robert K. Krick Garry Adelman
3-D Presentation Childs Burden
by Bob Zeller Bud Hall

Fauquier County will host a FREE one-day lecture series bringing to life the historical significance of the countryside live in and travel through, thanks to grants funding from the National Park Service and the support of local historical groups and volunteers.
For more information, contact Kimberly Allen at 540-347-0823 or kimberly@chestnutforks.com.
With the cooperation of Chestnut Forks County, we welcome contributions to be made toward the cost of this event and additional civil war research. Write check to "CFCC" speaking "Battlefield Symposium" in the memo area, and mail it to P.O. Box 3466 Warrenton, VA, 20185.



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3 DAYS (ANY DAYS)	\$190.00/MONTH
2 DAYS (ANY DAYS)	\$110.00/MONTH
EXTENDED DAYS 11:00 AM-6:00 PM	\$530.00/MONTH

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FORM. SNACK IS PROVIDED.

MONDAY-FRIDAY	\$275.00
3 DAYS (ANY DAYS)	\$165.00
2 DAYS (ANY DAYS)	\$110.00

SPRING (MARCH-JUNE) REGISTRATION STARTS THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH. REG-
ISTRATION CAN BE DONE ONLINE AT "HTTP://WWW.LOUDOUN.GOV/PRCS" WWW.LOU-
DOUN.GOV/PRCS, OR YOU CAN VISIT A LOCAL COMMUNITY CENTER. PLEASE BE AD-
VISED THAT WHEN INTERESTED IN A CLASS IT IS BEST TO REGISTER WITH PAYMENT
TO GUARANTEE A SPOT IN THE CLASS. THIS WILL HELP US TO ENSURE WE REACH
OUR MINIMUM NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS.

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4TH-MARCH 25TH \$40.00 1:15P-2:15P
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AGES 3-4 2:30-3:30 PM

MANNERS WITH AMY (AGES 3 1/2-6)
MONDAY, MARCH 9TH-APRIL 27TH \$80.00/\$20.00 SUPPLY FEE 1:15P-2:15P
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AGES 2-3 11:00-11:45 AM
AGES 3-4 12:00-12:45 PM
AGES 4-5 1:00-1:45 PM.

TODDLER & MOMMY DISCO (AGES 18MTHS-3 YRS)
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11TH-APRIL 4TH \$5.00/PER VISIT 3:00P-5:00P
LOCATION: MIDDLEBURG COMMUNITY CENTER. THIS IS THE NEW WAVE FOR MOMMY
AND ME GROUPS. GREAT DISCO MUSIC, REFRESHMENTS AND FUN. REGISTRATION IS
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TOGETHER AND CELEBRATE WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 20TH-MAY 15TH \$112.00 12:00P-12:45P
TODDLERS EXPLORE THEIR BODIES AND EXPAND THEIR MINDS WITH GROSS MOTOR
DEVELOPMENT TO NURSERY RHYMES. AN EMPHASIS ON SOCIAL AND GROSS MOTOR
DEVELOPMENT; BLENDED WITH ACADEMICS. REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED AT 540-
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KINDERMOTION (AGES 3-5)
FRIDAY, MARCH 20TH-MAY 15TH \$112.00 1:00P-1:45P
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ATIVE THINKING SKILLS WHILE STIMULATING THE CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM FOR
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Trinity Episcopal Church
Holy Week & Easter Day
Worship Schedule

Sunday, April 5—Palm Sunday
8:00 am Liturgy of the Palms, Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:30 am Liturgy of the Palms, Holy Eucharist Rite II

Monday, April 6
12:00 pm Holy Eucharist

Tuesday, April 7
12:00 pm Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, April 8
12:00 pm Holy Eucharist

Thursday, April 9—Maundy Thursday
6:30 pm Agapé Supper, Holy Eucharist & Stripping of the Altar

Friday, April 10—Good Friday
12:00 pm Good Friday Liturgy

Sunday, April 12—Easter Day
6:30 am Community Sunrise Service (Upperville Park)
8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II
12:00 pm Easter Egg Hunt

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*Prices do not include tax or service charge

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Gloria is a lovely little 2-3 year old Jack Russell/ Fox Terrier who is great with cats, other dogs and little kids too! She came to us with an old fractured hind leg but that has been repaired and all is well!

Jinx is the love of your life kitty. He is quiet and gentle and very laid back. Jinx adores everyone and everything! He has been at our shelter for many months and is oh so lonely and bored. Add some love to your life and adopt Jinx!



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.

Middleburg Humane Foundation



Brandy is a 5 month old adorable purebred Redbone Coonhound pup who has a heart of gold. She is very sweet smart and kind natured. Brandy will need a home with fencing!



Sage is a 1 year old Shepherd/Retriever mix recently rescued from an overcrowded shelter. She is an enthusiastic girl looking for a new family to love.

Felix is an adorable little Chihuahua/ Min-pin mix who sadly has lost a front leg. He is adorable, gentle and very loving!



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 months. Tom will be a great family friend!



Princess is a lovely Pit Bull Terrier that was spoiled rotten in her previous home. She is impeccably house-trained and would be a total couch potato. She definitely needs a person with a structured environment.

Frankie has grown up here at the shelter. She has been in a cage for months and is really ready to go home! She would do great indoor/outdoor or in a safe barn or garage!

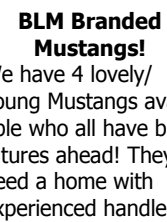


Mikey & George—Two terrified and freezing cold Jack Russell Terriers were left at our front gate on one of the coldest night of this winter. Fortunately, a neighbor saw them and took them in for the night. They appear to be brothers and young. We would love to place them together!

Maci is a gorgeous white and blue spotted AmStaff She is very intelligent and fun. She will need a home with an experienced dog person. Maci likes to play with other dogs and has been around and done well with children



Sassy is a very sweet 5 year old black Labrador Retriever recently rescued from an overcrowded animal shelter. She gets along with other dogs and would be the perfect family couch potato!



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ALBERT'S CORNER

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

February is National Pet Dental Health Month, so there's no better time than now to focus on your four-legged friend's pearly whites. I could never emphasize enough the importance of keeping your pet's mouth clean and sparkly. Just like humans, pets suffer greatly when their teeth are not in top form.

The American Veterinary Dental Society reports that more than 85% of dogs and cats exhibit signs of oral disease by the time they are four years old. A few signs of dental distress include yellow or brown teeth, bad breath, bleeding gums and loss of teeth. Fido's hair-raising halitosis, however, could be much more than just an inconvenience. It could be a sign of bacteria that could eventually cause severe and even life-threatening illness. The bacteria can ultimately affect vital organs. Additionally, poor dental health can cause significant pain and make it difficult to chew.

Maintaining the health of a pet's teeth requires the prevention of plaque and tartar. This can be achieved through a combination of regular trips to the vet for check-ups as well as frequent (daily if possible) oral care at home. While dogs may not love having their teeth brushed, it should be an important part of their hygiene routine. Cats, unfortunately, are not apt to tolerate brushing. If your cat says no way to the toothbrush, make sure the vet is checking his or her dental health.

In addition to specially designed pet toothbrushes and toothpaste formulated for pets, there are some products on the market that may help with plaque build-up. I'm fond of an all-natural product that can be added to water called Plaque Off. I also like another safe product called PetzLife that comes in a gel or spray. Finally, some all-natural chews can improve dental health. Some examples are Merrick Flossies and Bully Sticks. These products should not take the place of brushing, but they can help to get existing problems under control and prevent future decay.

Of course, many of you have probably seen foods and treats that supposedly promote the prevention of dental decay. A lot of these products claim to reduce plaque and combat the build-up of tartar. I have done a little research into this matter and I feel confident in my opinion that no food or treat will ever clean a pet's mouth. As most holistic vets will tell their clients, kibble and biscuits will not clean a dog's or cat's teeth any more than food cleans a person's mouth. There is no cookie or cracker on the planet that would substitute for human dental hygiene. The same is true for pets – regardless of what the marketing on the

package says. It's a myth designed to sell commercial pet food diets.

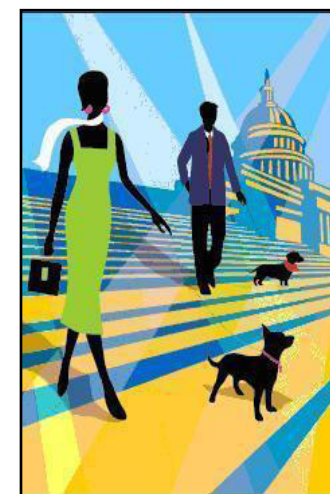
One exception is the feeding of raw bones and diets. Feeding raw food, especially bones, can actually help a pet maintain good oral health. If you're interested in feeding your dog or cat this way, be sure to do a little research first. There are risks and rewards

associated with feeding raw bones or raw diets, and while I firmly believe the rewards outweigh the risks, it's important to feed the right kinds of bones and the right formulation of diets.

The most important thing is to take your pet's dental health seriously and be proactive. Just a little effort can save lots of pain and suffering, as well as re-

duce the chances of expensive surgical procedures later in life. So break out the toothbrushes and get ready to do some good. Now that's a goal to sink your teeth into!

Albert, a Jack Russell Terrier, is Chairman of the Board of Wylie Wagg, a shop for dogs, cats, and their people, in Middleburg, Fairfax and Falls Church.



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Cindy Polk 703-966-9480



INTERNATIONAL OFFERING

MONTE FINO, HILLSBORO, VA
Incredible sweeping views of the Blue Ridge Mountains! Stone and glass house on 10 private acres north of Hillsboro, nestled into the side of a hill. Four bedrooms, state of the art systems, 10 foot ceilings, hardwood floors, game room, media room and exercise room. Well designed landscaping enhances the setting for this superb mountaineer retreat. \$1,675,000.

Ruth Ripley 540-687-2222



INTERNATIONAL OFFERING

ROKEBY, UPPERVILLE, VA
Charming country property with solid brick, 5 bedroom, 4 full bath, sun-filled home offering a large kitchen opening to family room with wood burning fireplace, separate dining room, living room with bay window, 4 car detached garage, gorgeous pool and terrace, new 4 stall center aisle barn, large spring fed pond with island and expansive pastoral and mountain views. Piedmont Hunt. \$1,650,000.

Cindy Polk 703-966-9480



FOX POND, MIDDLEBURG, VA
Charming horse property on nearly 5 acres. Sun-filled 3 bedroom, 3 bath home, large country kitchen, separate dining room with fireplace, living room with fireplace, office and mudroom. Pool, 3 stall barn, paddocks and lovely stone walls. Close to multiple equestrian venues. \$749,000.

Cindy Polk 703-966-9480



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 kitchen combination. Formal living room and dining room, butlers pantry and first floor laundry. 4 bedroom, and 2.5 baths, master has steam shower and separate tub. 2 car garage and large deck. \$599,000.

Lynn Wiley 540-454-1527



18993 FOGGY BOTTOM ROAD, MIDDLEBURG, VA
Brick rambler on 9 private acres with woods and fields, plus a large pond. Located near Bluemont with excellent mountain and pastoral views. Large barn with heated workshop. Lovely paved drive with beautiful old oak trees. Adjoining property also for sale LO6951417. Comfortable well maintained home with 3-4 bedrooms and full unfinished basement. \$549,900.

Rick Lowe 703-509-3962



18999 FOGGY BOTTOM ROAD, MIDDLEBURG, VA
Stone and cedar board and batton country cottage on 3.8 acres, with extremely fine architectural finishes throughout. Great log family room with stone fireplace. Located near Bluemont with excellent mountain and pastoral views. Adjoining property also for sale LO6951361. Two outbuildings, garage/workshop and two story building that resembles a little red school house. \$549,900.

Carol Fochtman 540-272-4334

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PROPERTIES IN HUNT COUNTRY

DEERWOOD



Fabulous property on **125 acres** in Fauquier County Hunt Country •Immaculate light-filled 4 Bedroom house with great views •Dining Room •Library •Great Room •Breakfast Room •Game Room •Fabulous Patio •Pool •Paddocks •2 Barns •Creek •Training Ring •Protected area •Private location •2 tax parcels with good Conservation Opportunity •Convenient to Old Town Warrenton. **\$2,995,000 or 63+ Acres \$2,300,000**

Rein duPont (540)454-3355

MIDDLEGROUND FARM



Just outside Warrenton •Hay fields, creek, hardwoods on back line •Several large fenced horse pastures surround the big new manor house •Stable with 7 dutch-doored stalls, Wash stall, Feed Room, heated Tack Room with Kitchenette and Laundry •Schooling Arena •3 Bay Run-in •4 Bay Equipment Shed •2 income producing cottages (3 Bedroom, 1 Bath; 1 Bedroom, 1 Bath) sit out on Lees Mill Road •**50 Beautiful Acres. \$1,675,000**

Susie Ashcom (540)729-1478

OAK HILL



Round Hill •Charming 4 Bedroom, 3.5 Bath home on **10+ beautiful 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 •New Master Bath •2 Bay Garage and separate 2-story Garage/Workshop. **\$1,395,000**

Cricket Bedford (540)229-3201

HORSE FEATHERS



20 acres of fenced pastures just outside Warrenton •Casanova Hunt meets right in the neighborhood! •Fabulous ride out from 8 stall Morton Stable •House was also built by Mortons with a large central cupola that streams light down onto its terra cotta 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

CANNON RIDGE



Middleburg land •A rare find •Excellent opportunity to build your dream home on two **10 acre** parcels within 5 miles of the village •Conveniently located off Route 50 just East of Middleburg and West of Aldie •Mostly open, rolling land with mature trees, quiet gravel drive and spectacular views of the Bull Run Mountains •Scenic potential building sites each with approved 4 bedroom perc. **\$515,000 per parcel**

Cricket Bedford (540)229-3201

HISTORIC MAIN STREET



Historic, circa 1870's immaculate 6 Bedroom colonial •Soaring 10 foot ceilings •Large light filled rooms with tall windows •4 Fireplaces •Handsome moldings and built in bookcases •Gleaming wood floors •**2/3 acres** in the quaint village of Round Hill •Lower walk out level is complimented with original stone walls and beamed ceilings •Custom built cabinetry adds old world charm. **\$499,900**

Catherine Gutch (540)270-1311

OLD POST OFFICE



Unison •A quaint village listed in the National Register of Historic Places •Charming 3 Bedroom, 1 Bath home once housed the Post Office •Hardwood floors, wood stove with stone surround and wood paneled Living Room •Unfinished attic space suitable for potential expansion •Fenced backyard with view of open fields from covered back porch •Massive detached 40 x 24 block garage with hydraulic lift. **\$345,000**

Cricket Bedford (540)229-3201

LAND

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

MANY SPRINGS - The Plains. **144 Mostly wooded acres.** Springs. Streams. Trout pond. Some open acres. Close to the village of Middleburg. Orange County Hunt Territory. Wonderful house site. Property is currently in Conservation Easement. **\$1,656,000**

MARKHAM - 20 acre parcel of land off of Sage Road. Mostly open. Beautiful views. **\$495,000**

MAJESTIC VIEW - Six 12.6 acre parcels. Each with an approved 4 Bedroom drainfield site with certification letter. **\$399,000 to \$469,000**

AVAILABLE SOON



Available soon in Rappahannock County and priced to sell •**150+ Acres** •Once a busy farm which now needs a new direction •This acreage is in prime fox hunting territory with miles of trails •Good sized lake, streams, pastures, mountain with old man-made stone walls •Land is protected by Open Space Easement in a protected area •5 minutes from Washington, Virginia •For information on this opportunity please contact

Alex Sharp (540)219-4425

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Alex Sharp*

*Our man in Rappahannock

Phillip S. Thomas

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