



NEW BUDGET FOR 2010

LOCAL BUSINESS CELEBRATES
NINTH ANNIVERSARY



GOVERNOR KAINE
HONORS COROTOMAN
FARM

PAGE 5

MIDDLEBURG TIGHTENS BELT

DAN MORROW

Middleburg Town Administrator Jerry Schiro continued to project reduced tax revenues for fiscal year 2010 as Council prepares for formal discussion of spending priorities for the year ahead.

With tax revenues for 2009 already more than \$350,000 below projections, and facing a 7% average reduction in the assessed value of the town's real estate, Schiro has budgeted conservatively.

No salary increases and no cost-of-living adjustments are contemplated for any Town employees.

A relatively small increase in tax rates may be sufficient to avoid a significant decrease in services, according to Schiro.

Council members urged flexibility, noting that the town should be ready and capable of responding to upturns, stagnation or further downturns in the economy.

Both Council Member Lisa Patterson and Town Planner and Zoning Administrator David Beniamino, expressed concern about the County's apparent failure to increase the assessed value of Salamander Development's property after it had been rezoned. At press time,

the issue was still under investigation.

The early draft budget includes reductions in operating expenses for all Town departments, with the notable exception of the Town's Police Department, just recently brought up to full strength and, currently, unusually active.

Though suffering slight declines in month-over-month receipts from Meal-and-Occupancy Taxes and Real-Estate-and-Personal-Property Taxes, the Town still retains more than \$2,000,000 in its cash accounts, thanks primarily to the impact of Salamander Development and its contractors.

Public Input Sought for Revised Zoning Legislation

Capping months of discussion, Town Council and the Town's Planning and Zoning Department are now seeking direct citizen input on how to define and maintain the "look and feel" of an expanded Middleburg, in a series of workshops entitled "A Vision for Middleburg's Future."

The first in a planned series of "Community Workshops" will focus on the future of the critical Ridgeview Subdivision, located along the northern edge of

Continued Page 8

MIDDLEBURG AREA TOURISM CONTRIBUTIONS HONORED

The Loudoun Convention and Visitors Association held its 13th Annual Meeting and 2008 Tourism Awards Luncheon on Tuesday, March 31, 2009 at the Holiday Inn Washington-Dulles.

The LCVA Annual Meeting and Tourism Awards Luncheon is a popular event for tourism industry professionals, elected officials and local business owners to get together, network and most importantly, recognize and celebrate key individuals and programs for their valuable contributions to tourism promotion in Loudoun County. This year's Annual Meeting was attended by more than 220 people.

The following award nominees and winners were honored during the awards presentation for their contributions to tourism promotion in Loudoun County:

Tourism Employee of the Year Front-Line Employee

Jason Reaves
Pastry Chef, Market Salamander

Management Employee

Vaughn Skaggs
Executive Sous Chef, Market Salamander

Tourism Volunteer of the Year

Mary Kay Garwood
Docent, The Pink Box Visitor's Center,
The Town of Middleburg

Tourism Event of the Year

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Attendance Under 3,000*

Chrysalis Vineyards
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*Event of the Year with
Attendance Over 3,000*

Upperville Colt and Horse Show

Judy Patterson Award

The LCVA's highest honor was awarded to Cate Magennis Wyatt for her contributions to tourism through the historic preservation of the village of Waterford, her coordination and involvement with the Northern Virginia Visitors Consortium, and currently in her role as the President of The Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership. All of these tourism programs have had and will continue to have a significant impact on visitation to Loudoun County. The national heritage area designation for The Journey Through Hallowed Ground will be a large part of Cate's legacy, but her overall understanding of the economic rewards from visitor spending are appreciated and will be remembered.

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Cover Photo

Master Crepe Chef Manuel Simpson at Crème de la Crème, joyfully serves customers and friends at the shop's ninth anniversary by Dee Dee Hubbard

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NEWS OF NOTE

DAVID GOLDBERG NAMED ADMINISTRATOR OF INOVA FAIRFAX HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN

Inova Fairfax Hospital for Children is pleased to welcome David Goldberg as its new administrator, effective April 13. As administrator, Goldberg will oversee daily operations for the hospital and will be responsible for strategic planning and directing clinical business development. He will report directly to Rod Huebbers, Administrator, Inova Fairfax Hospital Campus.

Goldberg has been a part of Inova Health System since 2001. He is currently the Chief Growth Officer and Assistant Vice President of Operations at Inova Mount Vernon Hospital. Prior to that, he was with Inova Loudoun Hospital as Vice Pres-

ident of Planning and Development.

"We're excited to have David join us here at Inova's Fairfax campus," said Reuven Pasternak, MD, CEO, Inova Fairfax Hospital Campus. "During his time with Inova, David has developed strong business and community relationships throughout Northern Virginia, and he's perfectly attuned to continue building Inova Fairfax Hospital for Children's presence in the region."

Goldberg earned a Bachelor's degree in political science from West Virginia University and a Master's degree in healthcare management from George Mason Univer-

sity. In 2008 GMU honored Goldberg as their 2008 Distinguished Alumni of the College of Health and Human Services, and he was recently named to the Dean's Advisory Board of that college. He is also actively involved in various civic associations, including the Boys and Girls Clubs of America and the Boy Scouts of America.

Inova Fairfax Hospital for Children is a 186-bed, full-service children's hospital devoted to the healthcare of infants, children and adolescents. It is Northern Virginia's only pediatric tertiary care center, and includes a full-service pediatric emergency department, the region's only pediatric inten-



sive care unit and the region's largest neonatal intensive care unit.

HENRY TOMPKINS "DUFFY" RATHBUN REMEMBERED FOR WARMTH, KINDNESS, GRACE AND HUMOR

Henry Tompkins "Duffy" Rathbun of Middleburg, founding partner of the Washington law firm Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering, who bred and raced thoroughbreds with his wife Sheilah, died March 19 in Cape Coral, Florida, from complications following a heart attack. He was 87.

A native of Elmira, New York, Rathbun graduated from Amherst College and served on a Navy destroyer escort in World War II. At the University of Virginia Law School, he was

on the law review but jeopardized his high class ranking by skipping his last classes to go to the races at Charles Town, WVA, on a blind date with his future wife.

He is remembered, a firm memorial said last week, "for his warm, welcoming and gracious manner and great sense of humor." He is also remembered, the firm said, for having persuaded partner Lloyd Cutler to buy a racehorse with him. The horse lost every race he ever ran, providing "much amusement to Duffy's and

Lloyd's colleagues."

The Rathbuns won their first race in 1955 with a filly called "Arietta," who paid a \$122 mutuel. In 1963 they bought their farm in Middleburg. They bred and raced numerous winners including stakes winners Worrisome Thing, Miss Otis and Shiny Sheet.

Rathbun collected sporting art and was a supporter of the National Sporting Library in Middleburg. He and his wife were active in the preservation of Virginia farmland, open space and streams.

He was on the board of directors of the Land Trust of Virginia, was a member of the Goose Creek Association, and belonged to the Chevy Chase Club and the Metropolitan Club in Washington. He was a member of Trinity Episcopal Church in Upperville VA.

He is survived by his children, Gordon Forester Rathbun of Middleburg, Jennie Henry Rathbun of Arlington, MA and Sheila Rathbun Benfey of Amherst, MA; and two grandsons, Thomas and Nicholas Benfey.

DOGS FROM KABUL FIND A FRIEND IN MIDDLEBURG

American soldiers befriend many stray dogs in Afghanistan but when they return home, many of the dogs must be left behind. When Elaine Broadhead learned that paws4people's AfghanDogZ was rescuing these animals and estab-

lishing them in the United States, she made major donation to help the worthy work continue.

Broadhead's donation will support the paws4prisons effort that is led by paws4people. The organization transports rescued dogs from Afghanistan to paws-

4prisons (www.paws4prisons.org) K-9 Training Program at the U.S. penitentiary in Hazelton, Bruceton Mills, West Virginia.

After the rescued dogs are rehabilitated and trained by prison inmates participating in the program, they will be placed with veterans suf-

fering from post-traumatic stress disorders and traumatic brain injuries.

"I love this project," Broadhead said, "because of the hope and new life it gives to veterans, inmates and animals, all victims caught in a brutal cycle of war and violence."

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NEWS OF NOTE

NOTRE DAME ACADEMY WELCOMES NEW HEAD OF SCHOOL

Libbi Murray, Notre Dame Academy's new Head of School, has been involved in independent schools all of her professional life, starting with St. Timothy's in Stevenson, Maryland, and most recently at Linden Hill in Northfield, Massachusetts, with stops at Brearley and Spence in New York City along the way.

A graduate of Marywood College, Murray received her Master's degree from the Klingenstein Center for Independent School

Leadership of Teacher's College at Columbia University.

Throughout her career, she has worked to help create a healthy and positive environment for the students she's come to call her own. And most recently, at Linden Hill, she was directly involved in the authorship of the school's strategic plan designed to chart its course for the future, reenergizing its capital plan, promoting the school's brand and advancing enrollment.

All of this and more, she

says, is what makes her feel so energized and enthusiastic about the opportunities she sees to build upon the strong foundation at Notre Dame and carry it forward into the future.

Murray first visited the Notre Dame campus in October of last year, and was immediately moved by what she found.

"The first thing that struck me on that visit was really the students, these bright, happy young people who were everywhere, going about their lives as engaged in

what was going on around them as any I've ever seen in my career.

"The second thing was the faculty. Notre Dame Academy has a remarkable group of men and women who serve its student-body, day in and day out. Of the twenty-six full-time faculty currently on campus, six of them have PhD's; an additional ten have other advanced degrees. For an independent school of this size, those are remarkable numbers."

But Murray is not deaf to the winds of concern and appre-

hension that have blown through campus during the recent past, particularly those relating to the school's break with the Diocese of Arlington.

"I understand those concerns, and respect those that voice them," affirms Murray. "There has, at times, been a lack of organized communication between the school, its Board and its parents. One of the main things I want to do, one of the main things I was specifically brought in to do, was to reopen those channels of communication, heal the wounds that may have been opened over the issues that have divided us, and help the school come out the other side better, stronger and healthier, all while maintaining strong and respectful ties to our founders and they principles they set forth."

Notre Dame's direct ties to the Diocese, though historic, are hardly the norm, even amongst other independent Catholic schools across the country.

"Notre Dame will move forward as an ecumenical high-school," says Murray, "and anyone who says differently is misrepresenting the facts, or doesn't understand them. We will continue the traditions set forth by the Sisters of Notre Dame in 1965 when they founded the school, specifically to create a safe, nurturing environment that excels in college preparatory education. We will maintain our spiritual base, we will maintain our religious studies, and we will continue to use the Catholic Bible."

Given the cries of alarm that have resonated across the community concerning the Notre Dame's continued evolution, it's remarkable to hear what Murray's vision for the school actually entails.

"The school in five years will, on the one hand, look very similar to what it does now: a vibrant community of students and faculty interacting on a daily basis, a college preparatory program of the highest caliber, a nurturing and healthy environment where young men and women will grow and learn.

"On the other hand, there will, certainly, be changes. We would very much like to see a somewhat larger student-body, up to 300 from its current 250; expanded facilities for fine and performing arts, as well as athletics; a larger role in the outside community.

"Now, more than ever, it is important for our students to leave here knowing not just *what* to think but *how* to think; not to be prepared just for *college* but for life in an increasingly complex world *after* college. Notre Dame Academy students must learn how to be good citizens in a global community, they must be prepared to be of service, and they must leave here knowing the value of stewardship."

Murray is clearly struck by the school she now calls home, by its students and faculty and staff, as well as the by larger community that cares so much about it.

"I don't know if you'd say it was a calling, but I feel I was drawn here, I really do. The independent school model, the environment it provides, is truly special. I wanted to be somewhere where I could serve, and I think I can do that here. This place is a gem, it really is."

It sounds like Notre Dame may have found a jewel of its own.

After a search as long and deliberate as this one has been, that's at least a good start.

GOVERNOR KAINE HONORS COROTOMAN FARM

When Mark Thompson learned that his cows were polluting Loudoun County streams, he took steps to address the situation. To recognize the importance of those improvements to the health of the Chesapeake Bay, Virginia Governor Timothy M. Kaine paid a call recently to underscore how critical it is for farmers to follow the Corotoman Farm example.

In addition to the \$1 billion Kaine has committed to the bay's restoration since entering office, he is well aware that wide buffers of unplanted land need to be established along the banks of farms that lie on the Potomac's tributaries.

Waste from cattle adds to the pollution that is sapping life from the bay and programs like the one Thompson put into place are critical. Kaine said the administration would meet its goal of setting aside 400,000 acres of open space and would commit the funds needed to upgrade water

treatment plants in the watershed.

The governor acknowledged that the state has further to go to control pollution from more diffuse sources such as run-off from farms and development.

Kaine praised Thompson for the steps he's taken on his 554-acre farm including the protection of 80 acres by placing them under a conservation easement, and installing 9,735 feet of fencing since 2006 to keep livestock out of streams. The Governor presented Thompson with The 2008 Potomac River Basin Bay Friendly Clean Water Award from the Commonwealth of Virginia in recognition of the farms' important initiatives.

The state invested \$40,000 in the improvements at Corotoman Farm and Patricia McIlvaine, an agronomist with the Loudoun County Soil and Water Conservation District, estimated that since 1999 the farm and the State have committed more than \$54,000 in fencing and water troughs.



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NEWS OF NOTE

COUNTY BUDGET CRISIS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Town, adjacent to the property in the process of development by the Salamander organization.

Open to the public, the meetings are designed to allow any and all members of the community to raise issues and discuss potential solutions to problems associated with the Town's growth and development, including traffic flow, building restrictions, environmental protection, and other planning considerations.

Workshops are currently scheduled for Monday, April 27, from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM at Middleburg Town Hall; for Wednesday, April 29, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Middleburg Community Center; and for Saturday, May 2, from 10:00 AM until noon, at Levis Hill House.

Other sections of town will be explored in later sessions.

A Busy Spring for Middleburg Police

Crime of any sort is rare in Middleburg, but in March, a major multi-agency police action and a rare flurry of business-district break-ins, put Chief Steve Webber and the Middleburg Police Department to the test.

Nearly two full companies of state and county law enforcement officers, complete with roadblocks, drug-sniffing dogs and air support, converged on the Middleburg Equine Training Center in an early March, 3:30 AM raid. Four men were charged with cocaine possession, with intent to distribute. Related searches and arrests were also made in Clark and Fauquier Counties, the result of an on-going, nearly year-long investigation.

In mid March a burglar or burglars broke into seven downtown businesses early on a Sunday morning, hitting Middleburg Auto Parts, the Back Street Cafe, Dank's Deli, Creme de la Creme, Teddy's Pizza and Subs, the Fun Shop and the Tack Box.

Chief Webber had high praise for the hard work and ongoing support provided to Middleburg by the men and women of Loudoun County Sheriff Steve Simpson's department. "They're doing outstanding work in an ongoing investigation involving an extremely unusual number of crime scenes," he noted.

Adding that the most important "eyes and ears" for both departments are local businesspeople and citizens, Webber pointed out, that "Things like this happen much more often when times are tough. In a town like Middleburg, where such things are so rare, it thus

becomes especially important for everyone to become a little more aware of their surroundings," he continued. An early March assault in a barn near Atoka Chase, and a rash of violent crimes in the more densely populated eastern areas of the county, have driven home the point.

New Rules

At its regular March meeting Council unanimously adopted a much-debated series of new rules governing formal procedure and citizen participation in sessions of Town Council.

The new regulations require, among other things, that "Every petition, communication, or address to the Council shall be in respectful language, and is encouraged to be in writing."

Formal "Public Comments" are limited to three minutes per individual and five minutes for a group, and are restricted to the "purpose of allowing members of the public to present any Town business related matter, which, in their opinion, deserves the attention of the Council."

Such comments "shall not serve as a forum for debate with the Council" nor shall they be addressed to "staff, the audience or the media."

Comments are also required to "be in respectful language" and are "encouraged to be in writing." No "profanity, or vulgar language, or gestures" are allowed.

"Non-germane or frivolous statements" are banned, as are "disruptive" behaviors, "including, but not limited to applause, cheers, jeers, etc."

Members of the public are also forbidden to "address the council on issues that do not concern the services, policies, or affairs of the Town."

Council members, in turn, are forbidden to "discuss issues raised by the public, except by consent of the presiding officer, at the conclusion of the [formal] Public Comment section" of Council meetings.

Billy Leach

Council unanimously agreed to investigate an appropriate way to fund and install a bench or other memorial, in a prominent and public place, to honor the late William ("Billy") Leach, former Town Council Member, Town Manager, Loudoun County Supervisor, veteran, fireman, proprietor of Middleburg Hardware, and, by all accounts, a living Middleburg institution.

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AIRY HOUSE - UPPERVILLE

Remarkable brick colonial on **50+ acres** in prestigious Greystone •Over 9,000 square feet of spectacular living space featuring 3 finished levels with high ceilings •Elegant sunlit rooms of magnificent proportions •New gourmet Kitchen with beautiful stone walls and top of the line appliances •New Pool and brilliant gardens overlook a picturesque pond with mountain views •Private setting. **\$3,500,000**

FOXCROFT

Beautiful **97 acre** parcel with brick tenant house, historic tenant house and 2 barns •A fabulous location on Foxcroft Road in the quaint village of Union •Value is in the land, with rolling pastures, bordered by a strong stream and woodlands •Minutes from Middleburg and perfect site for country estate •Motivated Seller •Outstanding opportunity for easement credits. **\$2,850,000**

AIRWELL COURT - NEW LISTING!

Magnificent new colonial with approximately 10,000 square feet of spectacular living space on **13+ gorgeous acres** •Premier model estate with 6 Bedrooms, 6 Full and 3 Half Baths, Wine Cellar, Library and fabulous gourmet Kitchen •3 finished levels, fully equipped Theater, Recreation Room with bar, gleaming cherry floors, and stone terrace •Incredible views. **\$2,295,950**

DEERHAVEN - UPPERVILLE

Stunning 16 room brick colonial, exquisite decor and in pristine condition •**28+ park-like acres** with spectacular views overlooking the protected Paris Valley •Bathed in sun-light these elegant rooms with fine moldings, high ceilings, and gleaming wood floors boast extraordinary detail and superb quality •This fabulous estate with towering trees and brilliant gardens, offers a luxurious country lifestyle. **\$2,295,000**

SAINT LOUIS - MIDDLEBURG

Elegant custom built Victorian on **25 gorgeous acres** with 6 Bedrooms, 6 full, 2 half Baths •Brazilian cherry floors •5 Fireplaces •Fabulous gourmet country Kitchen •Library •Media Room •Extraordinary detail and moldings •Finished walk-out level with Fireplaced Study •Au Pair suite •Fitness Room •Terrace and hot tub •3 Bay Detached Garage •Fabulous Mountain views. **\$1,950,000**

LA JOLIE - MIDDLEBURG

REDUCED OVER \$500,000! FOR IMMEDIATE SALE! Exquisite custom built country French Manor on **8 private acres** in Middleburg Hunt •Features over 7,000 square feet of spectacular living space •Marble floors •3 Fireplaces •True chef's Kitchen •Custom millwork •Extraordinary quality, beautiful decor •Fabulous pool and terrace. **\$1,800,000**

PLUM GROVE

Historic **10 acre** farm circa 1787 beautifully sited in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains •Gracious Manor House recently updated, 3 levels, 5 Bedrooms, 6 Baths •Charming Guest House •Log Cabin •3 Bay Garage •Storage Building •Stocked Pond •Magnificent views •Extraordinary property with spacious rooms in an idyllic setting •More acreage is available •Ideal for horses! **\$1,695,000**

DELAPLANE - NEW LISTING!

Stunning colonial with approximately 10,000 square feet of open floor plan •Extraordinary quality and exquisite decor •Gourmet country Kitchen •Finished walk-out level opens to terrace •Recreation Room, Office, 2nd Kitchen and Bath •Wall of windows overlook an indoor Pool and Spa •3 Fireplaces •Studio/Office is ideal Guest Suite •**10 acres** of gardens and woodlands. **\$1,595,000**

BEAVER CREEK - MIDDLEBURG

Sited on **11 gorgeous acres** overlooking board fenced paddocks •4 Bedroom Custom Colonial •Minutes from Middleburg •Hardwood floors •2 Fireplaces •Walls of windows in Master Suite and 3rd floor Studio •Fabulous Lap Pool •Tiered Decks •Flagstone Terraces •Barn and Workshop •Picture perfect setting. **\$1,375,000**

ON THE ROCKS - MIDDLEBURG

Fantastic one level residence on a private, fenced **1/3 acre** parcel and "in town" location •Totally renovated with brand new Kitchen, 3 spacious Bedrooms, 2.5 Baths, new floor plan, French doors to terrace and exquisite perennial gardens •Spacious rooms are ideal for entertaining •Skylights, new windows and multiple French doors add light and warmth •Sun lit rooms •Beautiful decor! **\$1,095,000**

FOUR CHIMNEYS - MIDDLEBURG

Elegant all brick custom residence on **7.5 acres** with Barn and board fenced Paddocks •Meticulously maintained and beautifully decorated in neutral tones, this stunning one level home has high ceilings, gourmet Kitchen with custom cherry cabinetry, paneled Library, luxurious Master Suite, and extraordinary detail •Geothermal heating and A/C •Low utility costs! Seller financing available. **\$999,950**

AMITY FARM - MIDDLEBURG

Ideal horse property on **8+ acres** •Fenced paddocks spring fed pond, Riding Ring •Beautiful views •Contemporary home with vaulted ceilings, skylights, gourmet Kitchen with granite counters, hardwood floors, and decks •Attached 3 Stall Barn •Office/Studio with full Bath and separate entrance over a 3 Bay Garage •Present drainfield for 1 Bedroom, may be expanded •Second building site in adjacent paddock. **\$895,000**

FURR ROAD - PIEDMONT HUNT

Charming country Cape with Log Cabin wing on **5+ acres** in Piedmont Hunt •Over 3,200 square feet in the main residence with wood floors, stone Fireplace, spacious sun-filled rooms •Guest Cottage with over 1,500 square feet •Fabulous 3 Stall Stable, fenced Paddocks, excellent ride out •Located just outside Middleburg - with access to Route 7 and Toll Road •Just Reduced! **\$895,000**

NEW MOUNTAIN - NEW LISTING!

Quality built "Renaissance" home, on **10 secluded acres** •Hardwood floors, 9' ceilings, Master with Sitting Room and luxurious Master Bath •Library •2 story Family Room •Great Kitchen with granite counters and cherry cabinets •4 Stall Barn/1 Bedroom Apartment •Storage Sheds •Workshop and fenced Paddocks •Ideal location East of Middleburg. **\$750,000**

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Brian McGowan

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EDITOR'S DESK

IN PRAISE OF ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

By all accounts the surge of active, public, visible and vocal support for the County's libraries had a profound and positive effect on Board of Supervisors deliberations on funding for Loudoun's library system.

The results of a straw vote during recent budget deliberations produced, as expected, a cut in the county-wide library budget total-

ling well over \$400,000. The cuts were not, however, so drastic as to require closings, or drastic reductions in library staff or services.

They could have been worse . . . much worse.

Special kudos to all the citizens of Middleburg and Sterling who turned out in force to support libraries at first thought in

danger of being shut down; to the Middleburg Town Council for both its resolutions, and more important, its decision to show up, in force, at critical public input sessions of the Board of Supervisors; and to all those who wrote, emailed, called, and spoke publicly and privately to their Supervisors.

Let's hope that the same support will save our local schools.

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

Chairman York;

The economic crisis at the end of WW I made the Germans expert gardeners.

As a military dependant living in Germany after the end of WW II the advantages of this were apparent to me as a consumer of the fruits of mature trees and the bounty from our garden wrought by our gardener Willie Oberst.

In trying to emulate this WW I crises response in the current crises I visited our county Agricultural and Extension agents who

were most helpful; but, I found out that their budget is being cut.

When we could profit by emulating the post WW I Germans the means to do so are being restricted. This is insane. The Extension and County agricultural Agent support and all things that encourage Virginians and Loudouners to produce food should be increased and increased a lot.

Appropriations should be doubled or tripled that of pre-crises years.

Joe Keating
Waterford

HYPOCRISY

TOM PRATT

This month's column has some elements of hypocrisy but is focused on the misinformation and fear tactics espoused by politicians, unfortunately including the President, who are unduly influenced by lobbyists hired by the health care insurance companies.

Senator Max Baucus recently likened a single payer health care system to government run departments of motor vehicles, trying to scare Americans into thinking that government run health care would result in long lines

similar to those you encounter when you renew your driver's license.

HOW ABSURD!

How stupid does he think we are? I have, over the last several months, randomly conducted a poll of people 65 years and over who are recipients of Medicare. Without exception all have reported that Medicare meets most all of their needs with practically no complaints. Some do have supplemental insurance with AARP, which also works well and is affordable.

Medicare does not result in long lines, it does not limit you to certain doctors, all are free to choose any doctor they wish and the paper work is practically non-existent. In almost all cases the physician or hospital takes care of all of it. The single payer system works well in most European countries, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, so why should we be an exception? Can we not learn from those countries?

A single payer system would work nearly the same way as Medicare: it is an efficient way of handling health care and all the government would have to do is to include all Americans in the system, and bingo, problem solved.

Nearly 70% of all doctors and nurses support single payer and an increasing number of informed Americans do also, somewhere approaching 50%.

So why is it "off the table"? Because it would put a majority of the health insurance companies out of business and they will not have that. It would also have a huge impact on the drug company's profits as the fed-

eral government would then be able to negotiate for the best prices. The drug companies would then not be able to afford all the advertising on television of prescription drugs, which in itself should be illegal (we and New Zealand are the only countries on the planet that allow it).

Healthcare for all citizens of this country should not be a profit making industry, it is a right not a privilege, the very opposite of a driver's license to use Sen. Baucus' analogy.

Call your representative and demand that at least the federal office of budget management needs to compare single payer with all the other proposals that the administration is considering. It is unconscionable that they are not doing that comparison, and again shows how powerful the health & drug lobby is.

When President Obama held his very large conference/meeting on health care he excluded all those who favor single payer, including the leading proponent of single payer, Dr. Quentin Young, who was Martin Luther King's personal physician and whose medical

associate was President Obama's personal doctor in Chicago. Dr. Young is also a close friend of the President's. John Conyers was also excluded until thousands of us sent emails to demand his inclusion. Congressman Conyers has sponsored HR676 which would provide health care for all Americans.

President Obama, when campaigning for State Senator, was a proponent for single payer and then early on in his quest for the US Senate he still was for it, but that all changed when he arrived on the national stage. I cannot think that his change of mind was not influenced by the powerful drug and health insurance lobby.

Please go to www.singlepayeraction.org; for more information, Google HR676, read the bill and then call, write or visit your representative to demand single payer be on the table and allow it to have it's own day in court to compete with all the other plans that include the greedy, inefficient and extreme profit oriented health insurance industry.

Why is it acceptable to renegotiate a contract with the United Auto Workers but not with AIG executives?

UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES

FROM BEYOND THE BELTWAY

KEN RIETZ

Last November the Old Dominion bought the "Hope and Change" message advanced by Obama. He won Virginia. Will the price Virginians have to pay for some of Obama's proposed changes turn out to be just too high?

Sometimes a National election has unintended consequences for local communities. Take for instance Obama's call for renewable energy zones and corridors. It sounds good but the very first piece of renewable energy legisla-

tion will have a DEVASTATING impact on our local communities.

After working diligently and at great expense to keep giant, 15 story Power Towers out of our neighborhoods, Congress may just move them right back again. The powerful Chair of the Senate Energy Committee, Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) wants to use renewable energy legislation to give the Federal Government the same kind of sitting authority they have for natural gas. Bingaman has said that, just as with natu-

ral gas pipelines, electricity providers "need some broader authority to ensure obstacles are not put in the way." So, PEC's recent, hard won case, before the US Fourth Circuit Court giving transmission line authority back to states is once more in jeopardy.

This is not good news for Fauquier and Loudoun counties. The Department of Energy already has the right of EMINENT DOMAIN in the two National Interest Electricity Transmission Corridors (NI-ETC). One of those corridors cuts right through

Loudoun and Fauquier counties.

Giving the Feds more siting authority for giant Power Towers carrying 350kv lines will be a nightmare. These lines would have NO "renewable energy" consequences for us. Instead, they would be used to transmit electricity from some of the nation's oldest, dirtiest coal-fired plants in Ohio through our communities to the power hungry northeastern states.

We need to de-rail this fast moving train NOW. Contact Senators Webb

and Warner as well as Congressman Wolf. Ask them to make sure that the RUSH toward renewable energy zones and corridors does NOT have the unintended consequence of giving the Federal Government the authority to supersede the desires and needs of State and local communities.

It is up to all of us to protect what Robert Duvall calls "OUR HALLOWED GROUND".
Ken Rietz lives in Delaplane VA.

ACTIONS, WORDS, AND SPEAKING LOUDER

BLUE NOTES

DANIEL MORROW

One may quibble about details, but, after just over two months in office, no one with any sense of history, politics, or the management of the apparently unmanageable can fault the active engagement, hard work, intelligence and eloquence of the new President and his team of hard-

pressed, hit-the-ground-running, get-the-job-done appointees.

Which brings us, of course, to Dick, W and friends, Rush, John, Sarah, and what remains of their gaggle of hapless acolytes in the House, Senate, and Bloviocracy.

Poor Dick. Still pale and peckish from his sojourn in the great undisclosed, he crawls into the light to, of all things, publicly defend, and in the process, publicly admit to facilitating, torture and other war crimes.

He's probably not planning any vacations in Spain, given the Spanish National Court's movement toward indicting the former Vice President, and assorted other torture-justification

toadies, including "Fredo" Gonzales, "Doug" Feith, David Addington, John Yoo, Jay Bybee, and William Haynes. Of course, the New York Times could be wrong, and the Spanish investigations could come to naught, and pigs may fly.

W continues to mis-speak the truth to power, maintaining that history will judge him kindly, and that, through his forthcoming memoirs, he himself will provide one of the (and I'm not kidding here) "authoritarian" voices on the subject. (Next, he call for

global youthinization)

Rush, of course, repositions himself from hapless comedian to apostle of boundless hope . . . though, this time, its hope for failure.

John emerges from his slumbers to call for tax cuts.

Sarah emerges from the wilderness to blame John.

And everyone else in the GOP blames anyone, everyone, and each other for whatever most recent embarrassing failure or misspatement springs to mind.

Even those we believed were among the best of the GOP crowd in the House and Senate, our own Frank Wolf among them, seem desperate, and in desperation, fall into ragged line, all too often parroting failed, mean-spirited and discredited talking points to justify a pointless and self-destructive never-ending "opposition."

Then there's Lancelot, the Pope, AIDS, and stem-cell research . . . and the depression. But those are other stories.

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PASTIMES

LEARNING TO LOVE LIVER

YOUR PERSONAL CHEF

ALYSON BROWETT

As much as I enjoy the flavors of food, it is often the memories that food evokes that bring me joy. Perhaps my fondest memories of food occurred at my grandparents' house in South Carolina. Alas, not all of those food memories are good. We'd always try to have fried chicken the night before we left, so we could take some in the cooler for the long car ride home the next day. My grandparents' fried chicken cannot be rivaled (I have tried to replicate it, and there is no way). On one of these trips, after a morning spent in the back of the station wagon seeing how many green grapes we could stuff in our mouths, my brother and I dug into the container of cold fried chicken. There it was, the perfect piece – a nugget of fried goodness. Mmmm, batter, I thought. Salivating,

I bit into it, anticipating that release of cold, trapped grease... Blegh! Instead I got bitter mushiness, and it was then that I realized my little nugget of batter gold actually contained a chicken liver. Gross. And so for nearly 20 years I didn't get near any offal, much less eat the stuff. Then it happened. I don't remember where, or how, but I realized one day while enjoying a sandwich of braunschweiger that IT ACTUALLY CONTAINED LIVER. And pork liver, at that! The horror. But I loved the stuff. So it began: my love affair with all things liver. I don't think I'll ever get to the point of forcing my offspring to eat eggs and brains for breakfast, as my grandfather did to my mother, but it is time we all become a little more open-minded to the deliciousness and benefits of liver. According to the Weston A. Price Foundation, liver is packed full of nu-

trients, more so than any other food. Liver contains protein, vitamin A, all of the B vitamins, folic acid, iron, copper, zinc, chromium, and several other important nutrients. Because of its high nutrient value, many cultures have treated liver as a curative, a source of strength and even as sacred. However, be sure you are getting your liver (or any meat, for that matter) from a trusted, preferably natural/organic, preferably local, source. Liver from conventionally raised chickens, pigs and calves is not recommended. While I have included only one liver recipe, all of these are perfect for this warmer – but not too warm – weather we are beginning to get. Take these with you to the races, on a picnic, or to your front porch to take in a glass of wine and the sunset. Whatever you do, enjoy!

Liver Paté with Aspic

This is a wonderful, easily transportable dish to make for a tailgate. Serve with crusty bread, crackers, cornichons, capers, chopped red onion and Dijon or whole-grain mustard. I purchased the chicken livers from Fields of Athenry Farm (order online at fieldsofathenryfarm.com), and they were divine. If you are feeling lazy, you can always count on Middleburg's French Hound to have out-of-this-world pâté!

For the pâté:

¾ lb. raw, natural chicken livers, trimmed

2 bay leaves

1 clove garlic, peeled and crushed

½ cup Port

8 tablespoons unsalted butter, room temperature (try the Amish butter from Fields of Athenry)

For the aspic:

¼ cup cold water

1 tablespoon unflavored gelatin

1 ¾ cup clarified beef, veal, or lamb stock, boiling

Juice of half a lemon

1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce

Marinate the livers overnight in the Port with the bay leaves and garlic. Drain the livers, reserving the fluid and garlic. Melt 2 tablespoons of the butter over medium-high heat. Add the livers and toss until they are no longer red, about 30 seconds. Add the liquid and garlic and simmer another two minutes, until the livers are firm but still pink inside. Remove the livers using a slotted spoon and set aside to cool. Continue cooking the liquid until it has reduced back down to about 2 tablespoons. Turn the heat down to medium-low and pour in the cream, stirring to combine with the hot butter and reduced marinade. Pour this over the livers and let cool to room temperature. Place the livers and juices in a blender, purée until smooth, then place in the refrigerator to cool. Meanwhile, whip the butter using a handheld blender. Once cool, gradually add the liver purée and the truffle oil, if using, to the butter, continuing to whip with the blender. When combined, spoon the pâté into a large crock or individual crocks. Can be garnished with herbs and served as is, or covered in aspic.

For the aspic, sprinkle the gelatin over the cold water in a saucepan, allowing to sit for one minute. Then add ¼ cup boiling stock, stirring until the gelatin dissolves. Add the remainder of the stock, the lemon juice and the Worcestershire sauce, stirring to combine. Allow the mixture to cool in the refrigerator. Once it begins to set, pour it on top of the crock(s) filled with pâté.



Grown-Up Meatloaf

Think of this as meatloaf on steroids...or a country pâté. I loved Mom's meatloaf as a kid, but it doesn't sit well with me today. This one is for grown-ups, and it is perfect for picnics because it's served room temperature. Put a couple of slices in a ciabatta or focaccia with some mayo and mustard. Yum!

¾ cup brandy

3 tablespoons unsalted butter

1 cup minced or grated onion

3 cloves garlic, minced or pressed

¾ lb. ground pork

¾ lb. ground veal

1 ½ lb. thick-cut bacon

2 ½ teaspoons salt

1 ½ teaspoons ground dried thyme

1 ½ teaspoons ground allspice

½ teaspoon ground nutmeg

1 teaspoon pepper

2 eggs, lightly beaten

1 cup heavy cream

10 oz. thick-cut ham, cut into ¼" strips

Heat the oven to 350°. Line a 9x5x3 loaf pan with the bacon strips, allowing it to drape over the sides. Use three strips on each end. Finely chop the remaining bacon. On the stovetop, boil the brandy until it is reduced by one-third, about 2 minutes. Set aside. Sauté the onion and garlic in the butter over medium heat until translucent, but do not brown. In a large bowl, mix the pork, veal and chopped bacon using your hands or a fork. Add the onion, garlic, and spices and mix well. Then add the reduced brandy, eggs and cream and combine well.

Press half of the mixture into the bacon-lined loaf pan. Place the strips of ham across this layer, and then top with the second half of the mixture. Fold the bacon ends over and cover tightly with foil. Place the loaf pan in a larger roasting pan and fill that pan with boiling water until it reaches halfway up the side of the loaf pan. Bake the meatloaf for about 2 hours, or until it reaches an internal temperature of 155°. Remove the loaf pan and place it on a rimmed baking sheet or in another roasting pan, and weight the top down with heavy cans. Allow it to cool in the refrigerator overnight. To unmold the loaf, briefly place the loaf pan in hot water. Invert it onto a platter, and remove any congealed fat. Serve with accompaniments similar to the liver pâté. (Adapted from Bon Appetit, January 2009)

LET'S FACE IT

RUTH SCHIERENBECK

Do you know what the largest organ of the human body is? It's your skin.

The epidermis is our first line of defense against germs, sun and various other unseen assaults throughout the day. Our skin daily is working hard: it detoxifies, nourishes, protects our muscles and ligaments, regulates temperature, provides sensation, and is the source of the synthesis of vitamin D.

However, our skin is often the most neglected organ we have. The skin actually mirrors our well being. When we are stressed and lack of adequate sleep it will show in our faces.

Another huge impact on our skin is what we eat. When the body is lacking nutrients it reflects in the pallor of your skin. It is of great importance to provide your body with a balanced diet and plenty of water to ensure healthy skin.

Additionally, overexposure to sun and environmentally influences such as smoke and pollution will add to the damage of your skin due to the exposure of free radicals. Free radicals are aggressive unstable oxygen-containing molecules, which we are exposed to every day. These molecules begin to damage the cell membrane of our skin cells causing damage to its cell renewal process leading to skin sensitivity, irritations, age spots and dryness. They are also contributing to hardening of the collagen and elastin fibers in the connective tissue, resulting in a lack of elasticity and the formation of wrinkles. Scientific research reveals that certain vitamins such as Vitamin A, E and C and other antioxidants like blueberry and pomegranate help to counteract the accumulative damaging effect of free radicals and help reverse the sign of premature photo-aged skin.

In order to support your skin in the daily fight against these insurgents it is advisable to choose foods, product formulations as well as treatment applications containing such powerful anti-



oxidants ingredients to provide protection.

Now spring time is here. It is a perfect time for external and internal renewal.

Internally strive for a better healthier diet by adding more green vegetables and fresh fruits to ones diet. External let a professional evaluate your skin care routine. Start pampering the largest organ, your skin, and start protecting its natural supportive functions.

So how do we give our stressed and neglected skin a boost?

A skin nourishing facial will relax you and provides extra care for your skin.

Those of you who have never had a facial treatment can experience an immediate boost from a green tea peel or microdermabrasion (exfoliation). You may also wish to try LED Light therapy and microcurrent for skin revitalization.

Your treatments should be tailored to your individual needs. Your current habits and life style will play a key role in assessing the most effective treatment options. Some skin care conditions

may need medical attention and need to be referred to a dermatologist, nutritionist or plastic surgeon. Taking better care of your skin can have positive effects both physically and emotionally. When you feel that you look better, your attitude can be perked-up considerably. Don't you want to you feel better about your skin, too?

Ruth Schierenbeck is owner of Middleburg Skin Care. Her skin care studio is located at 5 N Hamilton Street, Middleburg

Ruth Schierenbeck is a licensed master aesthetician and master aesthetic instructor/educator with more than 20 years of experience in the United States and Europe. She is a graduate of Helen Pietrulla Skin Care Institute in Heidelberg, Germany. Ms. Schierenbeck worked as an educator for an international skin care company, specializing in educational training seminars for salon and spas nationwide. She has published articles on skin care services and treatments in leading trade publications.

She can be reached at 540-758-SKIN (7546) www.middleburgskincare.com

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PASTIMES

DEATH MARCH

7TH INNING STRETCH

ALEX CUDABACK

Ugh... It amazes me how quickly the floor can drop out from under one's own feet, how instantaneously one can go from the top of the world to being scraped from the soles of the shoes of passerby.

Like used chewing gum. Or worse.

As of late Friday, my brackets were fine. Yes, Memphis had been brought down by Missouri, once again gagging at the free-throw line, a scene reminiscent of the one they stumbled through in the Championship game last year against Kansas.

And yes, speaking of Kansas, I'd seen them upended by Michigan State, those silly Spartans guaranteed of only two things: advancing when I say they'll fall, and absolutely laying an egg when I say they'll go far.

But the rest of my Elite Eight teams were in place, actually lining up quite nicely, thank you very much.

Louisville looked absolutely wicked blowing the doors clean off of Arizona. And there was no way, no way that Michigan State was going to be able to slow them down enough to keep that game close.

North Carolina and Oklahoma had both advanced and were nicely set up for a game that was shaping up to be just what I'd expected:

Blake Griffin would more than hold his own inside against the 'Heels and Oklahoma's outside shooting had finally come alive against Syracuse. The game had the makings of a beautiful inside-outside beat-down; there was simply no way a team in baby-blue, argyle-accented uni could take that kind of heat.

Pitt had finally broken the Sweet Sixteen jinx, advancing beyond that cloyingly named round for the first time since forever. Yes, their wins had all been a little closer than I'd have liked but, hey, this is Pitt we're talking about. There's nothing, ever, nice and clean about a Pittsburgh anything. Teams reflect their surroundings, and that's no different at the college level than it

is in the pros. Pittsburgh, the town that brought you the Steelers, was not going to give you the Harlem Globetrotters. The Panthers are grinders, and grinders sometimes keep the margins a little close....

Villanova had done everything I'd asked of them, surviving the scare American put into them, then dispatching UCLA and Duke with greater and greater ease.

They'd actually made Coach K cry. What more could you want?

But then, as with any plot as twisted and insidious as the NCAA Tournament, things began to twist in on themselves.

Any hope for my Western bracket, long ago scotched by Memphis' early exit, rested on

upstart Mizzou working its magic on Jim Calhoun's Connecticut dogs. Just about everybody'd picked the Huskies coming out of the West, so if I couldn't succeed with my Memphis pick, at least I could root for those other Tigers to hamstring everyone else.

Nothing personal...

It even looked as though the fates were on my side when news of a seedy recruitment-violation story got thrown at UConn on their way to the second weekend of the tourney. But while the Huskies didn't look near as dominant as they had earlier against the Boilermakers, Aggies and Mocs, they looked good enough and did what they had to to advance.

One Final Four bracket pooched.

In the East, Pitt and Villanova played pretty much the game everybody expected, one with more twists and roundabouts than anyone could possibly keep track of, leads shifting back and forth, momentum seesawing from one team to the other and back again before you knew what was happening. 'Nova was doing a very good job of making Pitt look human, but like I said, who hadn't; Pitt thrived on keeping it close and I, sucker of suckers, thought that that would somehow make them stronger as the tournament went on. But then, and stop me if you've heard this before, Pitt's free throws started clanging. And banging. And clunking and clanking, bonking and thinking, bricking and sticking.

Villanova responded by going something ridiculous like 23 of 24 from the stripe and none of Pitt's muscle mattered a wit.

Suddenly, "Poof!" just like that, another bracket was torched, this one taking my eventual Tournament Champion with it.

And then Sunday happened. The Spartans, with their stupid little lantern-jawed mascot, made Louisville look, made them look, good Lord, they made them look awful! Or Rick Pitino made Louisville look awful. Tough to run the other team out of the building, force them to play the wild and wacky up-tempo game that keeps opposing coaches up at night, if you decide to squat in a 2-3 zone defense from the opening tip. Louisville may have done a better job of beating Louisville than Michigan State did, but with everything Michigan has been through lately, maybe more than any other state in the country they deserved a little good news.

Over in the South, Oklahoma apparently forgot to bring its rangefinders. The long-range artillery that had been so instrumental in taking out the 'Cuse was gone, dead-eye snipers replaced by brick-laying boobies. Carolina happily lassoed big Blake Griffin in the middle, giving him just enough room to keep his team in the game, and forcing him to pass back out to Village People when it really counted.

And just like that, the whole house of cards came crashing down.

I clearly know nothing more about college basketball than I did at this time last year. I'm as ignorant as they come, no more likely to pick winning bracket than someone who just arrived from the Moon. My brackets are nothing more than dry tinder, set ablaze by the kindling of my tournament buy-in.

But I'll be back next year, I guarantee you that.

For now, I say bet it all on UConn in a high-scoring free-for-all over 'Nova.

Trust me....

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

SO IT'S SPRING

THE PLANT LADY

KAREN REXRODE

Not every gardener chooses spring as the primary season for their garden. There is still summer and fall, a pivotal time in the garden for layers, textures and color. It seems narrow minded to ignore spring and jump right into thoughts of summer. How can one deny such a grand season when warm breezes blow in from the south and flowering trees, bulbs, and perennials ooze with beautiful blooms. This is especially true when a spring garden in Virginia is more remarkable than gardens in many parts of the world. The facts show that it is just about impossible to avoid spring. Eighty percent of all plants purchased are in the months of April and May. A shopper usually goes for the flowering plants, alas the plethora of azaleas.

Even as April passes and May arrives, the Virginia gardener has flirted with warm days, some even hot. The arrival of summer is in late June, but it often feels like summer way before. Summer can be hot and droughty, but the right plants can coast through. Again we are blessed to have three very distinct seasons in Virginia, which is not the case

in say, England or Canada. My point being, maybe more of us should shop for summer, better yet, fall. Let's hear about how your garden is its best in high summer or "I have a fall garden." Spring will come, you will go shopping, just buy something not in bloom, a gift for summer and one for fall. When the garden gets over its spring fling, there will be something to look forward. Shop for one, or all of these exceptional perennials and wonder the path less traveled. Be a rebel!

Good for Summer: after iris, peonies, and clematis
1. Sedum 'Matrona' (sun)
2. Crocosmia (sun)
3. Aster divaricatus 'Eastern Star' (sun, partial sun)
4. Heuchera 'Autumn Bride' (partial sun)
5. Hakonechloa macro 'Aureola' (shade, partial sun)

Good for Fall, after daylilies, lilies, and rudbeckia
1. Korean mums (sun)
2. Aster 'Raydon's Favorite' (sun)
3. Helianthus salicifolius (sun)
4. Begonia grandis (shade, partial sun)

RENEWABLE ENERGY

DALE SCHULZ

Question: Where I grew up in Europe most of the homes had heated floors. Here in the U.S. most homes are heated by blowing hot air. Why don't more homes here the U.S. have heated floors?

Answer: Radiant floor heating is not new. As a matter of fact, the Romans built fires under their stone floors starting as early as 60 A.D. There are a couple of reasons it is rare to have radiant floor heating systems here in the U.S. The first reason is that the initial cost is greater with a radiant floor heating system compared to a forced air system. The second reason is most builders and homeowners are unfamiliar with radiant floor systems in our area. The initial installation of these systems is more complex than with a typical forced air system.

Question: What are the advantages of a hydronic radiant system compared to a forced hot system?

Answer: There are several advantages. The first is comfort. Radiant heat warms you directly. There are none of the drafts that are associated with forced air HVAC systems. If you have ever gotten out of bed in the middle of the night and stepped onto a cold floor, you can appreciate the value of a warm floor. The second is radiant heating is virtually silent. Unlike a noisy forced hot air, radiant heating is virtually silent. Third, they are healthier there is no blowing of dust and allergens around the home. Fourth, is a radiant system does not require often unattractive registers, baseboard or wall radiators, there is nothing to see. Fifth, radiant heating generally uses less energy, it heat objects not the air.

Question: What heats the floors?

Answer: In most whole-home radiant floor systems the floors are heated with water. Water is up to 3,500 times more effective in heat transfer than air. After the water is heated by a hi-efficiency gas or oil-fired boiler, geothermal heat pump, or solar, it travels



through tubing either above or below the subflooring. Tubing often is embedded in a layer of concrete with tile, hardwood, or carpet installed on top of the concrete. Electrical resistant heat may be used as a "chill chaser" for limited bathroom floor applications, but is generally, not suitable for whole-home heating.

Question: How can I learn more?

Answer: Give me a call and I will show you custom home in the area with such system. After you have experienced a custom home with radiant floor heating it would be hard to go back to a home with forced air heating. It is regrettable more custom homes in area, many built in the past few years, do not have radiant floor heating.

Update: In the January column I discussed the 30% Federal Tax Credit for Solar Photovoltaic. Last month this 30% credit was expanded to include other renewable energy systems, including solar-water, wind turbines and geothermal systems (the topic of next month's column).

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

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PHOTOS BY DEE DEE HUBBARD



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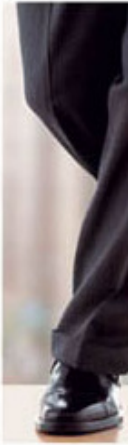


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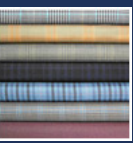
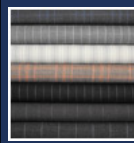


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FACES & PLACES

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PHOTOS BY DEE DEE HUBBARD



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Dakota
Middleburg, Virginia

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



Oakfield
Upperville, Virginia

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



Wildwood
Bluemont, Virginia

Built in 1966, frame construction home with 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, 2 fireplaces, family room, den, breakfast room, dining room, large deck and gold fish pond. Large storage building could be used as a barn and shed. Situated on 117.64 acres with spectacular southern views. Property has been placed in conservation easement. Two divisions possible. \$2,200,000.



Atoka Chase
Middleburg, Virginia

Impressive stone and frame home with a pond and 10 acres in Atoka Chase. Large first floor master suite, open contemporary design, great natural light, vaulted ceilings and a central stone fireplace. Extra rooms include an office, an enormous finished walkout basement with recreation room and fireplace, guest room, exercise room and storage areas. Great location, extensive plantings and a private setting. \$1,495,000.



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. \$1,150,000.



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.



Hidden Pond
Purcellville, Virginia

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



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



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PARENTS & PROGENY

THE MCGHEE FOUNDATION AND THE COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL OF THE PIEDMONT AWARD



The McGhee Foundation and The Community Music School of the Piedmont would like to congratulate Maggie Collins, winner of the 1st Annual McGhee Foundation Music Scholarship. Miss Collins studies viola at the Community Music School of the Piedmont and attends ninth grade at Fauquier High School. She lives in Upperville, VA.

"Music is a great passion of mine. I have all hope that I will one day play with great people," says Maggie, who performs with the Fauquier High School Cham-

ber Orchestra, the Shenandoah Valley Youth Orchestra and the Shenandoah Valley Chamber Orchestra.

"We are proud to support the education of our young local musicians," says Richard Berger, Executive Director of The McGhee Foundation. The philanthropic organization is headquartered at Farmer's Delight Plantation in Middleburg, VA.

Students between the ages of 10 and 18 with at least one year of private music instruction were eligible to apply for the scholarship, which will cover tuition for one

semester's worth of private lessons at CMSP. Candidates submitted a 500-word essay highlighting the role of music in their lives and why they considered musical study to be an important and valuable activity.

With locations in Loudoun, Fauquier and Clarke counties, The Community Music School of the Piedmont is currently celebrating 15 years of providing high quality music instruction and performance opportunities to the Piedmont community.

WOMEN IN ENGINEERING PRESENTATION BY GEORGIA TECH WILL CAP FOXCROFT MATH AND SCIENCE COMPETITION

Foxcroft School's commitment to innovative math and science education for girls will be on display Saturday, April 4, when the Middleburg, VA, school hosts the Ferrell McClean Math/Science Competition and a special presentation on women in engineering by a representative of Georgia Institute of Technology, which has one of the top engineering schools in the U.S.

Sandra Song, associate director of Tech's Women in Engineering Program, will speak about opportunities for women in engineering at 7 p.m. in Foxcroft's Currier Library. Tech produces more female engineers than any other university in the nation. The presentation and reception following are open to the public, especially high school girls who are interested in math and science, and their families.

The Ferrell McClean Math/Science Competition, which debuted last year as a Foxcroft-only contest, this year includes teams of girls from Notre Dame, Highland, and Madeira Schools. It begins at 1 p.m. and spectators are welcome.

Working in teams of three or four, students will vie for prizes based on their performance in a variety of fun and offbeat math, science and engineering challenges. The challenges are new and different each year but in 2008 they included activities such as "Murder She Wrote," in which students solved murders using logical deduction and "One More Brick in the Wall," in which students tried to build the widest wall possible on a base of just one brick. Other challenges had such titles as "To

Precipitate or Not to Precipitate" and "Science & Math Jeopardy." More than 60 girls participated last year.

Foxcroft students take far more math and science, on average, than high school students nationally, especially girls. In the most recent graduating class, 90 percent of the girls took four or more years of math and 81 percent took at least four years of science. In addition to seven Advanced Placement courses in these subjects, the outstanding curriculum includes electives in statistics, anatomy, astronomy, environmental science, food chemistry and molecular biology.

The Foxcroft Summer Science research Institute, a special six-week program that gives young women with a special interest in the biological sciences the chance to participate in groundbreaking, university-level research projects, will make its debut in June. For more information on that program, contact Science Department Chair and Institute Director Julie Ervin at jervin@foxcroft.org or call 540.687.5555.

Song will be on hand during the afternoon to observe the competition and answer questions about women in engineering. The Georgia Tech Women in Engineering (WIE) program she is with encourages women into engineering majors and seeks to keep them in the field. It also strives to redefine engineering as a positive societal force which can improve the quality of life by creating world-changing technologies and inspires women to achieve their fullest potential as engineers and as leaders.

EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR MIDDLEBURG ELEMENTARY



Middleburg Elementary School is one of 17 Loudoun schools to win the distinguished Governor's Award for Excellence in 2009.

Teachers, students and parents attended a recent Board of Supervisors meeting to receive the award, the highest honor under the Virginia Index of Performance incentive program created by Governor Timothy Kaine to encourage advanced learning and achievement in the Commonwealth's public schools.

To qualify for the

Governor's Award schools must meet all state and federal achievement benchmarks for at least two consecutive years and achieve Governor Kaine's goals for elementary reading; enrollment in Algebra 1 by grade 8; enrollment in college-level courses; teachers with advanced diplomas and an increased attainment of career and industry certifications.

Schools may also earn bonus points for other performance measures including the Governor's nutrition and physical activity scorecard.

FOXCROFT STUDENTS TO WALK FOR MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS FOUNDATION ON APRIL

Foxcroft School's Junior Class invites area residents to join them in making a difference in our world by supporting the Foxcroft Walk-A-Thon to benefit the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation on Friday, April 3. Walkers, runners and cyclists are welcome to join the five-mile trek, which starts at Brick House on the campus of the Middleburg, VA school at 3:30 p.m.

Individuals may also sponsor participants or make a donation. Contributions of any size are appreciated and may be mailed to Class of 2010 Walk-A-Thon 2009; Foxcroft School; P.O. Box 5555; Middleburg, VA 20118. They may also be or given to members of the Class. Please make checks out to the Foxcroft School Walk-A-Thon.

The Foxcroft Walk-A-Thon is organized each year by the School's Junior Class, which chooses a beneficiary, elicits sponsorships from local busi-

nesses, families and friends and conducts the walk, with help from faculty sponsors. In recent years, the event has raised thousands of dollars to build a school in Malawi, Africa (2006), support a pediatric AIDS unit in Accra, Ghana (2007) and benefit the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation.

The 50+ members of this year's Junior Class chose to benefit the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation because both a classmate's father and a Foxcroft housemother's husband have been diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. MS affects the muscles and brain function causing everyday tasks such as walking, breathing, and eating to become monumental tasks. The Multiple Sclerosis Foundation is concerned with the physical, emotional, and social impact on people diagnosed with MS and their families and provides programs, information and assistance to these people.

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April Happenings

EASTER DINNER
APRIL 12, 2009
Join us for Easter dinner from 5:00 to 9:00pm.
\$79 per person for four-course*
\$115 per person for six-course*
*Prices do not include tax or service charge

UPCOMING CULINARY EVENTS
Mother's Day Brunch - May 10, 2009
Petillant au Printemps - May 13, 2009
En Vino Virginia - June 10, 2009

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PARENTS & PROGENY

SUMMER'S HERE! CAMP OPEN HOUSES SLATED

Summer's Here! Foxcroft's day and residential camp for children 5-14, will hold two Open Houses in April. Director Susie Old announced Thursday. The Open Houses, which offer prospective campers and their families to tour the campus and meet the staff, will be held Sunday, April 5, and Sunday, April 19, from 1-4 p.m. Foxcroft is located four miles north of Middleburg, on Foxcroft Road.

Senior and junior counselors as well as counselors-in-training who work with each age group will be on hand for parents to get to know, to lead tours and to describe the various activities that are available. Ms. Old, who has overseen the popular camps for more than 20 years, is also available to answer questions. Light refreshments are offered as well.

Summer's Here will hold three

two-week sessions this summer, beginning June 29, July 13, and July 27, 2009. Transportation is available from a number of surrounding counties. In addition to a general camp experience, specialty riding, theatre and, for older children, adventure camps are offered. For more information, please explore our website at www.foxcroft.org/about/summer or call Foxcroft School at 540.687.5555.

SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION FOR EXTREME JOURNEY STARTS NOW

Registration for Extreme Journey Through Hallowed Ground Summer Camp is now open for Loudoun County, VA middle school students interested in using modern-day technology and on-site experiences to discover critical historic events in the nation's most historic region.

The Journey Through Hallowed Ground has funded a limited number of scholarships to ensure that the cost set by each school system is not a barrier for interested youth.

In this two-week program, students explore the region known as Where America Happened. Hiking, biking, paddling, role-playing, and movie making -- all are part of the Extreme Journey in the area

many call "Where America Happened."

Students visit critically important historic sites from Gettysburg to Monticello, where they view life through a different lens and get the inside scoop from experts. Archaeologists, authors, Park Rangers, re-enactors as well as multimedia specialists share their passion and expertise, taking students back in time, into the mind set of men and women during a crucial time in our nation's history.

Students evaluate the roles of former leaders as well as everyday citizens to understand the complexities of their lives and then create original multimedia VOD-casts depicting the students' interpretations

of "What leadership means to me."

This is the fourth year that the JTHG Partnership has offered the program that runs from July 6 - 17, 2009.

"We transform traditional text-book learning into a truly stimulating experience that exists only outside the confines of the classroom," said Cate Magennis Wyatt, president of the Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership.

For more information and to see a video from previous camps, go to <http://www.hallowedground.org/content/view/285/67/>

FOXCROFT RIDING TEAM IS TSEL CHAMPION AGAIN!



Foxcroft riders collected 13 ribbons and claimed two individual season titles at the Tri-State Equestrian League (TSEL) Finale Saturday to propel the Foxcroft Riding Team to the 2008-09 TSEL Championship.

It was Foxcroft's third league championship in five years. The team, which is coached by Foxcroft Riding Director Nelly Sheehan and Assistant Laurie Feickert, was reserve champion in 2008 and did not place in 2007 when the Finale was cancelled due to inclement weather.

Foxcroft, which entered this year's Finale trailing Garrison Forest School in the season standings, earned 37 points to win the show and finish the season with 23 Total Quality Points (TQP). Columbia Horse Center collected 33 points Saturday, followed by Madeira with 29 and Garrison with 25. On the year, Columbia finished with 20 TQPs to claim the Reserve

Champion honors, followed by Garrison with 17 and Madeira, with 15 TQPs.

Senior Kate Aldrich of Huntley, VA, took second in the Advanced flat class to clinch the season title among the league's best riders. Freshman McKenzie Canard (Philomont, VA) nabbed 3rd in the flat and 6th over fences in the Intermediate class to capture that season crown.

Foxcroft swept the Novice competition with senior Louisa Fruehauf (Cherry Hill Village, CO) winning the flat and sophomore Carlee Kirsch (Winnetka, IL) winning over fences. Fruehauf finished second among Novice riders for the season and Kirsch was fifth, a point behind senior teammate Margarite Szamborski (Northeast, NY), who collected a 2nd and a 5th Saturday.

Freshman Allie Dietz (Unionville, PA) also grabbed two ribbons, placing 6th in the walk-trot and 4th in the walk-trot-canter.

LUNGE LINE

NEW BARN AT THE MARION DUPONT SCOTT EQUINE MEDICAL CENTER TO BE DEDICATED TO PAUL R. FOUT

The late Paul R. Fout, a renowned horse breeder and trainer who passed away in 2005, will be posthumously honored when a new equine barn on the campus of Virginia Tech's Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center is dedicated in his name on Friday, April 17. The public is invited to attend the ceremony, which will be held on the grounds of the Leesburg medical center from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

During his 60-year career, Fout found much success in his equine pursuits. He served as general manager and former chairman of the Middleburg Spring Races, designed Glenwood Park's Alfred Hunt course, published equine-related magazines, and with a group of other buyers in the 1970s, purchased the Middleburg Training Center, which leases stalls to race-horse trainers.

But his greatest legacy is most likely related to his achievements in training race-horses. His horses won over 200 races and more than \$4 million in prizes. One of his biggest success stories was Colstar, a thoroughbred he trained for Peggy Steinman, who is currently a member of the EMC Council. Colstar won 11 out of 18 races and more than \$1 million in prize money, including the Flower Bowl Invitational Handicap at Belmont Park in 2000.

Steinman, a longtime friend of Fout's, was the impetus behind the construction of the barn. "Mr. Fout was a giant in the local horse community and a strong advocate for the Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center," Steinman said. "His support and guidance in the equine industry



was invaluable, as was the assistance he provided to the center. Naming this barn in his memory will permanently honor him and highlight his importance to the center. This is a fitting tribute."

Fout approved the design of the new barn before his death, acknowledging the benefit of adding space to move horses in and out of the hospital quickly, thereby freeing up space for critical care cases and other emergent needs within the main hospital. The new barn is an open-air facility and includes 12 horse stalls, a nurses' station, and three work areas. It will primarily be utilized for elective cases as well as a place to house and care for outpatients.

The barn dedication ceremony will feature an official ribbon-cutting, remarks by people who knew and worked with Fout, and a reception.

For more information about the dedication ceremony, please contact Amy Troppmann at (703) 771-6843, or by email at aht1@vt.edu.

VIRGINIA INTERNATIONAL POLO CLUB ANNOUNCES OPEN HOUSE DATE

The Virginia International Polo Club (VIPolo), the only all-inclusive polo facility in the Mid-Atlantic region, will host an Open House on April 25, at 12 noon at Llan-gollen's famous Horse Shoe Barn. Everyone is welcome to attend and hear about all of the exciting new social and polo programs for the 2009 season. Hors d'oeuvres will be sponsored by The Blackthorne Inn and Restaurant and beverages will be sponsored by Guapos Restaurants.

Weekly premier matches will take place every Saturday and Sunday beginning at 10:30 a.m. from June through September and featuring teams from the 4 and 8 Goal grass leagues. Additional 8-

goal matches will be played every Wednesday night at 5:00 p.m., the Arena League on Thursday p.m. and on Fridays will be the 4 goal grass games at 4:00 p.m. and the Women's Sunshine League on Friday at 6:00 p.m.

The VIPolo 2009 Social Program will host matches all summer accompanied by a buffet and live music in the field side Pavilion catered by the Blackthorne Inn and Restaurant. Special events will take place throughout the season, including the third annual 20 Goal Exhibition Match, charitable matches, clinics and more. Reserved tailgate and boxed seats are available (at a discounted rate) and general spectators are welcome for all matches.

"We are thrilled with the additional social accommodations that are available this year and are looking forward to an exciting year with several new social and polo programs making the 2009 season as one to really build on," said Maureen Brennan, founder and general manager of VIPolo. "We are able to offer members and spectators new fields, tournaments, events and hospitality options for featured Special Event matches and lower-goal tournaments."

For additional information on any of the services offered by the Virginia International Polo Club, please contact info@vipoloclub.com or call 540-592-7474 (May - Oct) or 540-592-3845 (Nov - Apr).

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photo by Teresa Ramsay



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MIDDLEBURG BANK'S TERRI O'DOWD WITH JENNA WILSON

PHOTO BY PEGGY J. SMITH PHOTOGRAPHY



JENNA WILSON

PHOTO BY PEGGY J. SMITH PHOTOGRAPHY



MIDDLEBURG BANK'S TERRI O'DOWD AND WINNER DENISE FINCH

PHOTO BY PEGGY J. SMITH PHOTOGRAPHY

CELEBRATE EARTH DAY AT TRI-COUNTY FEEDS

Please join your neighbors and friends on April 25th and 26th at Tri-County Feeds, Etc. to celebrate Earth Day. Located at 7408 John Marshall Highway in Marshall, Virginia, Tri-County Feeds, Etc. is easily accessible from Routes 50, 66, 17, and 55.

You will obtain important information on energy-saving products and services, including how to receive your 30% tax credit with no cap. Also, you will receive valuable savings on environmentally friendly products; enjoy a presentation on Planetology by award-winning scientist and author Dr. Ellen Stofan; see the "green" clothing items currently available; and enjoy art and science projects by local area students.

"We are very committed to protecting our environment, both at the store and in our own home," said Jeri Noel Jackson, Vice President of Tri-County Feeds, Etc. "We want to provide an Earth Day celebration that will be both educational and fun. We hope everyone will enjoy the Earth Day week-end activities," she continued.

Appleton Campbell, Inc. of Warrenton, Virginia will have a geothermal demonstration unit on display and will have staff members available on Saturday April 25th to answer questions and provide additional information. You can save up to 70% on your heating, cooling, and hot water costs with a geothermal unit while contributing to a cleaner, healthier environment. Appleton Campbell, Inc. has been a leader in geothermal design, installation, and servicing for more than 12 years. Since 1976 Appleton Campbell, Inc. has been providing heating, air conditioning, and plumbing services to customers in Fauquier, Culpeper, Prince William, Loudoun, and Rappahannock counties.

J.R. Snider, Ltd. of Middleburg, Virginia will have a full-sized solar collector and tank on display to show how you can put the sun to work for you and save your hard-earned dollars. Solar hot water systems supplement a conventional hot water heater and can reduce an electrical hot water heater's consumption and cost by 80%. For more than 25 years, J.R. Snider, Ltd. has been providing plumbing, electrical, and air duct cleaning services to customers in Winchester, Middleburg, Leesburg, and surrounding areas.

The Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC), located in Warrenton, Virginia, will provide

information on ways to protect water quality and conserve water resources. Information on installing rain barrels, planting rain gardens, and ways to protect local rivers and streams from runoff and pollution will be available. The PEC will also provide information on energy efficiency and conservation and the Buy Fresh/Buy Local Program. Dedicated to safeguarding the landscapes, communities, and heritage of the Piedmont, the PEC serves Loudoun, Clarke, Fauquier, Culpeper, Rappahannock, Orange, Greene, and Madison counties and the city of Charlottesville.

On Sunday, April 26th from 4pm to 6pm, Dr. Ellen Stofan will address how exploring the solar system helps us understand earth. She will be drawing from her new book, Planetology. Dr. Stofan is a Senior Research Scientist at Proxemy Research and an Honorary Professor in the Department of Earth Sciences at University College London. Currently conducting research on the geology of Venus, Mars, Titan, and Earth, she has received numerous presidential and NASA awards for her outstanding scientific achievements. Dr. Stofan, her husband, and three children reside in Rectortown, Virginia.

An informal fashion show will take place all weekend showcasing environmentally friendly clothing. You can look your very best while doing your part to preserve our environment. G.R.A.S.S., "green" riding apparel for style and sustainability, will be one of the lines featured. Patagonia, whose casual attire is attractive, comfortable, and environmentally conscious, can be seen on Tri-County Feeds, Etc.'s models. Earth Creations, a line of leisure clothing made of sustainable fibers such as hemp and organic cotton, sewn in a fair labor facility, and colored with natural dyes, is a great choice for eco fashion and will be on display.

The Earth Day celebration will be enhanced by art and science projects honoring the earth developed by local area school students. Highland School's "junk" sculpture will be displayed. It is truly amazing what can be created from cast-off items. Also, Wakefield School's creative Earth Day art projects will be featured. Come and see the innovative works of tomorrow's leaders!

Please call Tri-County Feeds, Etc. at 540-364-1891 for directions or additional information.

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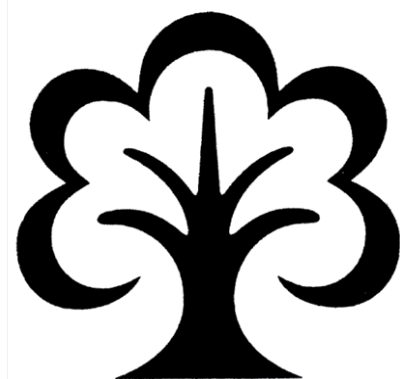
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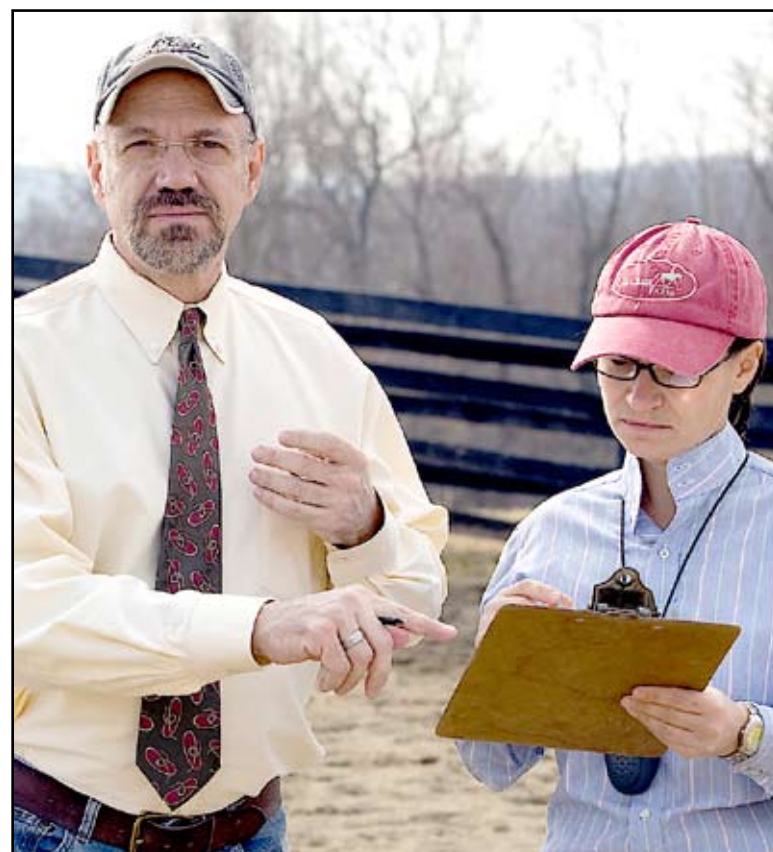
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JUDGE SKIP REESE AND ASSISTANT SHOW MANAGER HEATHER NOVAK

PHOTO BY PEGGY J. SMITH PHOTOGRAPHY

To Do

HISTORIC HUNTLAND WELCOMES ANNUAL LAND TRUST GARDEN PARTY

SAVE THE DATE JUNE 21

THE EXTENSIVE GROUNDS OF DR. BETSEE PARKER'S PICTURESQUE COUNTRY ESTATE, HUNTLAND, NEAR MIDDLEBURG WILL BE THE JUNE 21 SETTING FOR THE LAND TRUST OF VIRGINIA'S GARDEN PARTY TO SAVE VIRGINIA'S COUNTRYSIDE. THIS POPULAR EVENT, HELD ANNUALLY AT SOME OF THE PIEDMONT'S MOST SIGNIFICANT PRIVATE PROPERTIES, RAISES PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE LAND TRUST'S WORK TOWARD THE CRITICAL NEED OF CONSERVING THIS AREA'S NATURAL RESOURCES. THE FUNDRAISER WILL BE AN AUCTION HELD ON SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2008 FROM 7:00PM - 11:00 PM AT GREAT COUNTRY FARMS, THE STABLES. IT WILL FEATURE VACATION GETAWAYS AND OTHER GIFTS AND ITEMS DONATED BY PARENTS AND BUSINESSES. THERE WILL BE A DJ AND AUCTIONEER AND TWO SURPRISE REDSKIN LEGENDS ON HAND FOR AUTOGRAPHS. PRE-SOLD TICKETS (\$25 PER PERSON, \$40 PER COUPLE) ARE AVAILABLE FOR THE ELEGANT APPETIZER BUFFET, DRINK TICKETS AND AUCTION PARTICIPATION.

SPRING OFFERS UNIQUE PHOTO OPPORTUNITY AT LOCAL NATURE PRESERVE

EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND AT BANSHEE REEKS NATURE PRESERVE TO CAPTURE THE NATURAL LANDSCAPE OF SPRING COLORS WITH YOUR CAMERA! AND ONCE YOUR VISIT IS COMPLETE AND YOUR PHOTOS ARE READY, WHY NOT SUBMIT THEM FOR THE BANSHEE REEKS: NATURE'S OASIS, GIVE US YOUR BEST SHOT! PHOTO CONTEST?

BANSHEE REEKS IS A 700-ACRE NATURE PRESERVE THAT IS OPERATED BY LOUDOUN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES. IT IS SUPPORTED BY THE FRIENDS OF BANSHEE REEKS, INC., A VOLUNTEER, NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.

THE PRESERVE STRIVES TO PROTECT NATURAL HABITATS AND WILDLIFE POPULATIONS, TO CONDUCT AND COORDINATE ECOLOGICAL, HISTORICAL AND OTHER SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, AND TO PROVIDE THE PUBLIC WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO ENJOY AND LEARN FROM THIS UNIQUE RESERVED AREA. PHOTOGRAPHIC OPPORTUNITIES TO CAPTURE THE SPRING LANDSCAPE ABOUND IN FORESTED, HILLSIDE, MEADOW, WETLAND AND STREAMSIDE ENVIRONMENTS. AN ABUNDANCE OF BUDDING PLANTS AND TREES PROVIDE A CONSTANTLY SHIFTING PALETTE OF COLORS DURING THE SPRING SEASON. WILDLIFE SPECIES CAN PRESENT UNEXPECTED OPPORTUNITIES AND ADVENTURES FOR BOTH THE PROFESSIONAL AND AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHER. CAPTURE THE PICTORIAL WONDERS THAT BANSHEE REEKS NATURE PRESERVE HAS

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THIS CONTEST RUNS NOW UNTIL APRIL 15, 2009. CASH AND GIFT CERTIFICATE PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED. GUIDELINES AND BROCHURE ARE AVAILABLE ON-LINE AT WWW.BANSHEEREELS.ORG.

WAKEFIELD SCHOOL
APRIL 26, 2009
WAKEFIELD SCHOOL AUCTION
SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2009 AT WAKEFIELD SCHOOL
THEME: THE RUN FOR THE ROSES
(IT IS BASED ON THE KENTUCKY DERBY.)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT THE AUCTION WEBSITE, WWW.WAKEFIELDSCHOOL.ORG AND SELECT THE AUCTION LINK ON THE LOWER RIGHT HAND SIDE OF THE HOME PAGE.

OATLANDS GALA
APRIL 26, 2009

OATLANDS IS ALSO PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT DELEGATE JOE T. MAY AND MR. CHARLES S. LUCK III, HAVE BEEN NAMED HONORARY CHAIRS OF THE EVENT. DELEGATE JOE T. MAY IS CURRENTLY SERVING HIS EIGHTH TERM REPRESENTING THE 33RD DISTRICT IN THE VIRGINIA HOUSE OF DELEGATES. THE 33RD DISTRICT INCLUDES CLARKE COUNTY AND PART OF LOUDOUN COUNTY THAT INCLUDES OATLANDS. CHARLES S. LUCK III, CHAIRMAN OF LUCK STONE CORPORATION, HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN THE COMMUNITY FOR MANY YEARS AND PARTICIPATES IN VARIOUS CIVIC AND NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS. "IT IS AN HONOR FOR US TO HAVE TWO SUCH PROMINENT MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY SUPPORTING OUR EVENT, STATES OATLANDS DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT CINDY BRIDGMAN. "WE ARE SO PROUD OF THEIR FRIENDSHIP TO OATLANDS THROUGH THE YEARS", BRIDGMAN ADDS.

THE THEME OF THE 11TH ANNUAL SPRING GALA IS "RUSTIC ELEGANCE" AND PROMISES TO BE A MEMORABLE EVENING WITH A FRESH AND FUN APPROACH. THE GALA WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE CARRIAGE HOUSE AND SURROUNDING TENTS. FESTIVITIES WILL BEGIN WITH COCKTAILS AT 6:30 P.M., FOLLOWED BY DINNER AND DANCING. THE GALA WILL ALSO FEATURE MANY RAFFLE AND AUCTION ITEMS; INCLUDING A TRIP TO NEW YORK CITY WITH A TOUR OF THE HISTORY CHANNEL, ORIGINAL ARTWORK, GOLF PACKAGES, AND MUCH MORE!

THE COST PER TABLE OF TEN IS \$1800. MAJOR SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE STARTING AT \$5000. PROGRAM SPONSORSHIPS ARE \$1000. INDIVIDUAL TICKET PRICES ARE \$200. A PORTION OF ALL TICKETS AND SPONSORSHIPS IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE. CONTACT CINDY BRIDGMAN AT 703.777.3174 OR CBRIDGMAN@OATLANDS.ORG FOR INFORMATION. VISIT WWW.OATLANDS.ORG FOR UPDATES AND TO PURCHASE TICKETS ON-LINE.

MIDDLEBURG COMMUNITY CENTER

LUNCH WITH THE EASTER BUNNY (ALL AGES)
SATURDAY, APRIL 4TH \$10.00/FAMILY
11:30A-2:00P

COME HAVE LUNCH WITH OUR FAVORITE FURRY FRIEND. HAVE YOUR PICTURE TAKEN WITH HIM...GET YOUR FACE PAINTED...MAKE HOLIDAY CRAFTS. A PARENT MUST ACCOMPANY CHILDREN. REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. CALL 540-687-6375.

BALLROOM DANCE (AGES 18-UP)
MONDAY, APRIL 6TH-JUNE 1ST \$80.00/
7:15P-9:15P

GET READY TO STRUT YOUR STUFF! LEARN THE ART OF DANCE. THESE MOVES TAUGHT BY INSTRUCTOR JASON CONRAD WILL GIVE YOU THE CONFIDENCE TO TRY THESE MOVES ON THE DANCE FLOOR. CALL 540-687-6375 TO REGISTER.

CHA-CHA II 7:15P-8:15P
TANGO I 8:15P-9:15P

SPRING BREAK RIDING CAMP (AGES 6-UP) \$280.00
MONDAY, APRIL 6TH-THURSDAY APRIL 9TH
9:00A-12:00P

MONDAY, APRIL 13TH \$70.00
9:00A-12:00P

LOCATION: STONELEA FARM, ALDIE, VA. SCHOOL'S OUT! WHY NOT TIME AT THE FARM? THIS CLASS WILL ALLOW CHILDREN TO SPEND TIME WITH HORSES, GROOMING, TACKING, RIDING AND LEARNING ABOUT OUR EQUINE FRIENDS. CALL 540-687-6375 FOR REGISTRATION.

SPRING BREAK DRAMA GIRL CAMP (AGES 5-12)
MONDAY-FRIDAY, APRIL 6TH-10TH
\$100.00/\$15.00 SUPPLY FEE

9:00A-2:00P

HAVE A DRAMA QUEEN AT HOME? GIRLS WILL LEARN SKITS, ONE ACT PLAYS AND MORE. THIS CAMP WILL ENHANCE PUBLIC SPEAKING, MEMORIZATION SKILLS, AND TEAM WORK. REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. CALL 540-687-6375.

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DRAWING HELD AT 5PM APRIL 11TH
PETS ALWAYS WELCOME ~ 80 LBS OR LESS PLEASE



Join Us for a Special Lecture
by Author, Fred Johnson
**Chair and Cabinet Makers
of Loudoun County**

For 30 years, Fred Johnson has studied 19th century Loudoun County cabinet, chair and pottery manufacturing. He has examined over a thousand pieces of Loudoun furniture and will share his insights and experience in identifying Waterford chairs and Loudoun case furniture.



Friday, April 3rd at 7:00pm
Loudoun Museum
16 Loudoun St SW, Leesburg

\$5 General Admission Members FREE
Seating Limited-Call 703-777-7427 For Reservations

88th RUNNING MIDDLEBURG SPRING RACES

Saturday, April 18, 2009

Glenwood Park Course
Middleburg, Virginia
Post Time First Race 1:00 p.m.

Seven Races with Total Purses of \$150,000

Featured races:

- \$60,000 Temple Gwathmey
- \$25,000 Paul R. Fout Maiden Hurdle
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- Amateur Flat Race

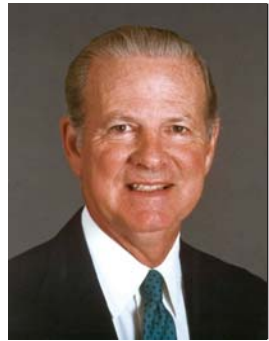


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Lauren
Lauren is an adorable 4 month old Min. Pin/Chihuahua/? mix puppy who was found on a country road. She is very sweet & loves to run & play. She will likely stay quite small.

Louise Pups! Boy do we have some terrific little puppies— Louise is an Am-staf Terrier and ? Dad. These little kidlets were born at the shelter on 12/29 so LOTS of love & socialization. They will grow to be medium sized.



Louise the mom Dog!
Louise was rescued on Christmas Eve. She was pregnant and starving. Fortunately she is a lovely gal— she is good with kids & other dogs. We just adore this dog and her puppies too!

Middleburg Humane Foundation



Summer
Summer has lived chained to a blue barrel. She is incredible sweet and loving and a beautiful little girl! She is only about 35 pounds and very gentle & affectionate!

Rhapsody
This is one special little gal! She is about 6-8 months old and very gentle and kind. She loves everyone and everything! Rhapsody would make a lovely family friend!



Gracie

Gracie is a very attractive 8 year old registered QH mare who has HUGE potential! She is sound and very healthy, about 16H. MHF will pay for her to go into a 30 day professional training program then she would go to her new home!



PeeWee & Bingo were found near death due to starvation— they are young Lab mixes & doing great!



Kittens We have healthy, loving young kittens who need homes! Please save a life and adopt a kitty! Our cats are felv/fiv neg, vaccinated, spayed/neutered. Ask about our buddy program!



Abner
Abner is a 6-8 month old Coonhound/ Foxhound mix with a huge fun personality! Abner is everyones best friend and loves to play ball. He was born with a front leg deformity but gets around great!

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!



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ALBERT'S CORNER

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Every now and then I wonder if I'm just a little too outspoken for my own good. This is one of those times. I'll ask your forgiveness in advance, because some of my readers undoubtedly use the product in this article. If so, please know that I'm just the messenger!

The subject at hand: retractable leashes. These leashes extend far longer than traditional leashes — up to 26 feet! The mechanism by which they operate allows the person walking the dog to let the leash out to a desired length and then bring it back in as needed. They are absolutely everywhere these days. Sometimes it seems that good old 4- or 6-foot leashes are the exception rather than the rule. Why should I care about such a seemingly innocuous device? Well, I'll tell you why.

First of all, retractable leashes pose a very real risk to the people who use them. In 2007 there were 16,564 hospital-treated injuries associated with leashes, according to Consumer Union's analysis of statistics collected by the Consumer Product Safety Commission. Of those, about 10.5 percent involved children 10 and younger; 23.5 percent involved injuries to the finger. Some of these injuries included amputation and many, many more involved serious rope burns. A great majority of those accidents involved retractable leashes.

One of the most popular retractable leash brands has this warning on their website: "To avoid the risk of eye or face injury and cuts, burns, and amputations to your body or the body of another person from the leash ... read and follow these warnings and directions for use before using." Additional warnings on the site go on for a couple of pages and include a note to never use the leash in or around infants or children.

In addition to the threats that these leashes pose to people, they also present risks for pets. Dogs can sustain many of the same injuries as people when they are tangled in the cords of the leash or when the leash snaps back too quickly. Of course, there is also the constant threat of losing control of a dog in a dangerous area. This could mean that the dog darts into the path of an oncoming car, gets entangled with another dog's leash, or wraps the cord around a passer-by on a busy sidewalk. There are also too many instances in which these leashes break because of incorrect use.

Another interesting note about these products is that they are absolutely detrimental when trying to instill good leash manners in a new puppy. They give far too much freedom and send the wrong message about who is in control at the other end of the leash. If walking a new puppy is still a bit of a struggle after attempting to train with a regular leash, I highly recommend the Easy Walk Harness, which is sold in most pet stores. This is a great product for training and for discouraging pulling for younger and older dogs.

So are these leashes out of the question for caring pet owners?

Not necessarily. They should simply be viewed as a specific tool that can be used by an adult walking a dog to allow greater roaming in areas that are free of distraction, other dogs and traffic. In other words, they are best for use in open fields or are for

wide, empty spaces. otherwise, it's a good idea to stick with traditional leashes.

For those of you who rely on retractable leashes for your daily walks, please know that I'm not here to judge! It's just that warmer weather is on the way

and many of you will be walking more frequently. What better time to put safety first?

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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