



GREAT MEADOW EVOLVES WITH NEW LEADERSHIP

MIDDLEBURG BEAUTIFICATION GARDEN TOUR

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FOXCROFT HEADMISTRESS HONORED FOR ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP

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JOY M. SMITH

As most residents from this part of Virginia will tell you, change can be a slow process around here. And, if the changes involve the horse world and revered people, events and traditions, you can be sure every process has been implemented after extensive thought and thorough planning by the appropriate powers-that-be.

And so, at the April, 2009 Great Meadow Foundation board meeting when Henry A. "Buzz" Kievenaar, Major General (retired), and Great Meadow trustee took over as the new Chairman of the Board, and when Robert L. "Rob" Banner, Jr., Great Meadow trustee for 16 years and former Publisher of The Chronicle of the Horse stepped forward as the new President of the Foundation, members and friends knew the transition of Great Meadow to the next generation, was complete and the organization was up and in action.

The first generation at Great Meadow was founded by news executive and philanthropist Arthur W. "Nick" Arundel in 1982. He purchased an abandoned

farm, then slated to become a housing development, with the intent to preserve the land for perpetual open space. At that time, suburban growth pressures on farmland near Washington, the opening of I-66, and the loss of the former Virginia Gold Cup course, Broadview, in Warrenton to subdivision development converged to send the Virginia Gold Cup to its newly founded home in The Plains. Great Meadow was established as a 501(c)3 nonprofit foundation and the annual Virginia Gold Cup races became an instant tradition at the new site.

Now, 25 years later, Great Meadow and The Virginia Gold Cup have entered times of new expansions. Nick Arundel remains involved because his policies and procedures are being followed, and his knack for organization and

timetables is still essential for smooth operations on the property. But the new leadership is pioneering the focus on regionwide building of the new Great Meadow Endowment Fund. The Fund will help greatly expand other participating sports as well as the traditionally supported equine sports. Founded on the mission to preserve open space, Great

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POLICE WORK PRAISED

WET SPRING SLOWS CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

DAN MORROW

At the May 14 regular meeting of Town Council, Middleburg Mayor Betsey Davis gave special thanks to the officers of the Middleburg Police Department and Police Chief Steve Webber for their outstanding contributions to a multi-agency investigation resulting in the swift arrest and indictment of principals in a rare string of county-wide burglaries, assaults and other crimes, including at least one murder.

In March, ten businesses in Middleburg were burglarized, seven on one night, and three on another.

The morning after the last string of burglaries in Middleburg, William Benet was killed, and his wife brutally beaten near Lansdowne. In mid April, Loudoun guns in Leeburg was robbed.

By April 25 Loudoun County Sheriff Steve Simpson was formally announcing multiple arrests of suspects described as members of a large "criminal enterprise."

Sources close to the investigation indicated that the Middleburg police had identified suspects in the first string of seven Middleburg break-ins almost

immediately and that the second string of Middleburg break-ins, characterized by significantly more destruction of property than the preceding seven, may well have been triggered by the swift and from the perpetrators point of view, distressing accurate police work done by the Middleburg force.

The entire council joined in Mayor Davis's praise for the force, and convey what all believed were the sincere thanks of the citizens of Middleburg.

"I would like to thank Sheriff Steve Simpson, the Sheriff's Office, Investigator Dave Crandall, and Officer Mike Prince with the Middleburg police department. I would also like to thank the Middleburg community for their support and assistance during this unusually stressful period," Webber said.

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Middleburg Eccentric
P.O. Box 1768
Middleburg, VA 20118
540.687.3200
fax 866-705-7643
www.mbecc.com
news@mbecc.com

Cover Photo
by Jay Hubbard

Editor In Chief
Dee Dee Hubbard ~ editor@mbecc.com

Design & Production Director
Jay Hubbard

Publisher
Dan Morrow

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NEWS OF NOTE

PETER WINANT SCHOLAR, AUTHOR, SPORTSMAN



Horse.

Mr. Winants served in the Army during World War II and later during the Korean War when he trained as a paratrooper.

In 1956, Mr. Winants was married to Rosemary Margaret Winants until her death in 2002. They had four children together, and later two of their sons, Peter Winants Jr. and Garet "Woods" Winants became amateur steeplechase riders.

After the Korean War, he bought a store in Baltimore with his brother, the late Garet Winants, and also became interested in photography. He started out doing portraits and wedding photography, but turned to his true love of photographing all things equine. His horse racing and steeplechasing photographs were famous for capturing the action like never before, using telephoto lenses, according to award-winning photographer, H. Douglas Lees III. "He was so good about encouraging people," said Lees, who remarked on Mr. Winants loaning him an expensive telephoto lens when he was beginning his own career in photography.

Mr. Winants freelanced for The Maryland Horse covering events and photographing stallions at breeding farms for ads. He followed the remarkable steeplechase horse, Jay Trump, and his career with his camera as the rags-to-riches horse won the English Grand National and the Maryland Hunt Cup in 1965, a feat no other horse had accomplished. On the return from England, Mr. Winants wrote an article on Jay Trump which The Maryland Horse published, thus branching out into journalism. In 1966 he published his first book Jay Trump: A Steeplechasing Saga.

In 1972, Mr. Winants was hired

as editorial assistant at The Chronicle of the Horse, and in 1975, George Ohrstrom named him publisher/editor. Mr. Winants updated the weekly equestrian publication, while still also writing, editing, and photographing. He published his second book through The Chronicle in 1988, Flatterer: A Story of a Steeplechase Champion. He traveled throughout the U.S. and Britain photographing and writing profiles of foxhunts for The Chronicle.

In 1991, Mr. Winants hired Robert Banner Jr. from Equus magazine to replace himself as publisher at The Chronicle, and was named director of the National Sporting Library. During his tenure, the Library acquired two major collections, the John H. and Martha Daniels collection of 5,000 sporting books, and the von Hünersdorf collection of 16th to 19th century equestrian books. In the mid-1990s, plans were made and carried out to construct a new building to house the NSL's growing collection. In 1998, he retired as director of the NSL. Mr. Winants served on the board of directors of the NSL 1991-2005, then honorary director until his death.

Nancy Parsons, President and CEO of the National Sporting Library, said, "Peter Winants embodied in his life much of what the Library represents. A scholar and author on subjects such as foxhunting, steeplechasing and sporting art, Peter was passionate about country life and field sports. As the former Director of the Library, Peter played an integral role in the development and growth of the organization and his leadership continued through his service on the Board. He was a fine gentleman, a respected colleague and a dear friend."

Mr. Winants published three other

books – Steeplechasing: The Complete History of the Sport in North America (2000), Foxhunting with Melvin Poe (2002), and The Sporting Art of Franklin B. Voss (2005).

In 2003, he was married to Mary Weeden Winants who shared his love of horses and foxhunting. Together, they bought their home Sunnyside Farm in Rectortown, Va.

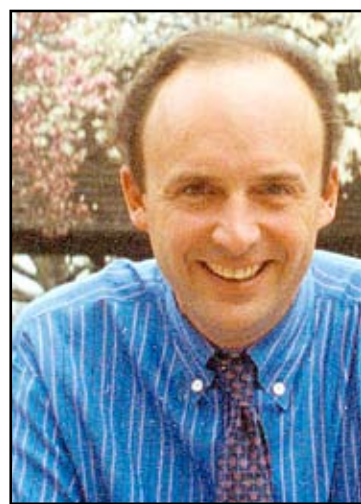
Mr. Winants served field master for George Ohrstrom's private pack of foxhounds, Bath County Hounds hunted by Melvin Poe. He invited many people to hunt with the pack including some who were encouraged to foxhunt for the first time.

At the Maryland Hunt Cup, May 25, Mr. Winants received the prestigious S. Bryce Wing Award for his extraordinary contributions to the sport of American steeplechasing.

"Peter was truly one of my heroes in life," said NSL Librarian Lisa Campbell. "He had a gracious and positive attitude toward everything he undertook to accomplish. He was a remarkable writer and photographer. He encouraged many people along the way, myself included. He will be greatly missed."

Mr. Winants is survived by his wife of six years Mary Weeden Winants, of Rectortown, Va., his children Jennifer Rose, Crested Butte, Colo., Bryce W. Winants, Sherando, Va., Peter Winants Jr., Bluemont, Va., and Garet "Woods" Winants, Middleburg, Va., and six grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Piedmont Environmental Council, or a charitable organization of choice. Funeral services and burial will be private. A reception will be held at the National Sporting Library... date and time pending.

CELEBRATING BILL LEACHMAN'S LIFE



kins Lymphoma on March 9th at the age of 48.

Born in 1960, in Washington, DC, he moved with his parents to Virginia when he was nine years old. After graduating from The Hill School in Middleburg, he attended St. James School in Hagerstown, MD and Washington and Lee University in Lexington, VA, graduating with the class of 1983. He pursued careers in real estate and investment banking prior to moving to Markham in the mid 80s, to work at Northern Counties, Inc., a family construction business based in Upperville which was sold in 1991.

Bill called himself a farmer, but he was a man of many talents and interests, including a successful entrepreneur who founded The Virginia Leaf Tobacco Company in the mid 90s and which he ran, together with a tobacco retailing and wholesaling business. A love of wine and the outdoors naturally led him to explore the idea of a winery, and he purchased a ten-acre parcel of land in the heart of Mendoza, Argentina early this century and produced, along with winemaker Olivier Ruhard, 675 cases of a delicious Malbec wine called La Bruja, which won several accolades including "Wine of the Week" at the French Hound in Middleburg.

In addition to his vocation, Bill was a natural athlete and enjoyed surfing, scuba diving, fly fishing and riding. As a teenager, he graduated from Pony Club and horse shows to a season riding in local Spring Races. This chapter was cut short as he approached six feet, too tall for the role. Later in life, his riding was primarily western and based in Montana, where he vacationed many summers with his extended family.

Bill was an enthusiastic, knowledgeable bird watcher who enjoyed participating in local bird counts. He was also a keen gardener, taking pride in his vegetable garden and fruit trees. His love of the outdoors was boundless and his devotion to nature and the environment was clearly evident to those who knew him well.

He became an avid cyclist after being diagnosed with lymphoma in 2004 and participated, in September 2007, in the first of the annual 50-mile bike rides, to benefit the Lymphoma Research Foundation. Bill had many sponsors and came in second to his oncologist, another enthusiastic cyclist. The ride brings together survivors, caregivers and other individuals who ride in honor and, in memory, of those whose lives are touched by lymphoma.

Bill had purchased Elmore Farm, Markham, in the 1980s and he and Kelsey made it their home after they were married in 1994. It was the house in which his great grandmother, Mary Virginia Strother was born.

He is survived by his wife, Kelsey, and two daughters, Olivia and Hannah; his mother and stepfather, Heather and Richard Taylor; a sister Kristin and her husband, Kurt Brabbee; a brother Jim and his wife, Mija Strong, and three nephews. His father, William H. Leachman Jr died in 1976.

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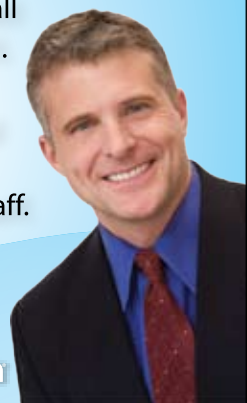
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NEWS OF NOTE

COPING WITH DOWN MARKETS AND RECESSIONS

People, by their very nature, need to exercise some control over their environment. The anxiety brought about during a recession can leave one feeling that they have little control over their financial affairs or even their lives in general. "The loss of a job, or the shrinking of assets, can be a serious stressor that could even trigger clinical depression or an anxiety disorder. The uncertainty of the cur-

rent economic situation causes stress and worry, leading some to work longer hours, others to eat too much or drink too much to get relief" according to Dr. Carol E. Harkrader.

It is important that emotions don't drive the decision making process and keep one from making good decisions. To avoid having that happen there are some steps one can take to get off the emotional rollercoaster and put their lives

and finances in order.

"It's important to safeguard your health by choosing healthy coping techniques, like exercise, more time with friends, and seeking out chances to laugh. If you do develop recurrent insomnia, or constant worry, or a loss of energy and concentration, it's time to seek help. The good news is that serious depression and anxiety are very treatable especially when they haven't been present

for long" says Dr. Harkrader.

Once you have adopted the physical techniques for coping start to become a little tougher in your financial psychologically. Don't let the stock market or the economic news scare you into inaction or over-reaction. You talk to people every day and yes, some people are losing their jobs, but not ALL of them. Most of the events that we participate in are still going on, if even at a reduced

rate or scale. The world is not coming to an end, embrace the fact that this is just part of the economic cycle and that it will resolve itself over time.

Once you resolve to reestablish control begin by reviewing your financial situation. While this sounds painful, it is the first step in gathering the data for sound decision making. Like planning a trip, you have to know where you are and where you want to go before you can decide on how to get there. Start with the basics, money coming in and money going out. Think of your budget like you would a business and put expenses in categories according to their importance. Maybe some temporary cost cutting is in order.

Take a look at your investments and assess your risk tolerance. Much of the US brokerage business is built on people being 'long term investors' that can be grouped into asset allocation models. This is great for brokerage firms and brokers because it allows them to handle large numbers of clients in discrete groups. Just make sure that you understand the risk associated with each of the investments in your account, not just the expected return, and that the risk and return expectations meet your objectives.

Asset allocation is generally more important than security (individual stock) selection. While history has shown the stock market to be a good investment over time, the S&P 500 is at roughly the same level it was in 1997. Most people have been over-allocated to stocks and although bonds aren't sexy, highly rated bonds are safe, they return their principal, and they pay interest that can be reinvested or used as income when needed. Portfolio diversification is important in providing long term growth with decreased portfolio volatility.

The market environment is more complex that it has ever been but, if you don't understand an investment you probably shouldn't be in it. And, don't let the financial press or even your broker lead you into making poor investment decisions. If you take the time to understand a complex investment, make sure that you are seeing a range of possible offerings and that the security offered is good for you, not just good in what it pays your broker.

Unfortunately, there are times that exercising control over your finances can strain relationships. No one can look out for your best interests like you can, so go ahead and exercise control over your financial well being. It is your money.

Mark Stys is the Chief Investment Officer at Bluemont Capital Advisors, LLC an independent investment advisory firm.

Dr. Carol E. Harkrader is a psychiatrist that has her practice in Purcellville, VA.

53 YEARS AND COUNTING



REGGIE DAWSON AND GABRIEL SENG PRESENT CHRISTELLA M. TURNER WITH FLOWERS TO CELEBRATE HER 53 YEARS AS A CUSTOMER OF MIDDLEBURG BANK

DUCHESSA RAISES \$1300



ROBIN CAVANAGH AND DUCHESSA OF MIDDLEBURG RAISED \$1300 FOR THE MIDDLEBURG HUMANE FOUNDATION WITH THEIR \$500 SHOPPING SPREE RAFFLE

PHIL BZDYK OF APPLE HOUSE CARPENTRY AWARDED AGING-IN-PLACE SPECIALIST (CAPS) DESIGNATION

Phil Bzdyk, owner of Apple House Carpentry recently became one of the select group of professionals nationwide to earn the Certified Aging-in-Place (CAPS) designation, identifying him as one of the building industry's top professional with skills and knowledge

specific to home modifications for aging-in-place.

The (NAHB) National Association of Homebuilders in collaboration with AARP created the CAPS program. CAPS was developed to help home remodeling professionals meet the needs of the 77 million

Baby Boomers that will reach retirement age in the first years of the 21st century.

The CAPS designation identifies remodelers who have been trained to help retirees and older adults remain in their homes safely, independently and comfortably, regardless of income or ability level, and continue

to live in a familiar environment throughout their maturing years.

CAPS program graduates are required to maintain their designation by attending continuing education programs and/or participating in community service projects.

PROPERTIES IN HUNT COUNTRY

HERRINGDON FARM



The Plains, Va. •Classic 1800's farmhouse restored by award winning architect and enjoyed as his personal country retreat •Great family home or weekend getaway •5 Bedrooms, 4 Bath •In-ground 75' brilliant pool and hot tub •3 Covered Flagstone Porches •Barn •Artist Studio/Summer Cottage •Greenhouse •21 usable acres with mature gardens •Orange County Hunt. \$2,250,000

Emily Ristau (540) 878-1909

POSSUM HOLLOW



Extraordinary 22 acre estate on beautifully landscaped grounds with spectacular mountain views •Impressive pillars and a tree lined drive mark the entrance to this gracious 3 level all brick colonial with high ceilings, hardwood floors, new chef's kitchen and spacious rooms •Ideal for the equestrian enthusiast •Barn, pool, terrace and decks are ideal for entertaining. \$1,950,000

Catherine Gutch (540) 270-1311

WATERFALL FARM



Architecturally designed 7,000 square foot house has 10' main level ceilings and large windows •Kitchen upgraded with granite and stainless •Property is 20.85 acres in 2 parcels •All improvements are on 1 parcel •8 Stall Stable, Wash Stall and Tack Room •Hay Barn •Riding Arena. House and improvements on 10.85 acres for \$1,300,000

House and improvements on 20.85 acres for \$1,550,000

Susie Ashcom (540) 729-1478

OAK HILL



Round Hill •Charming 4 Bedroom, 3.5 Bath home on 10+ acres near Middleburg •Sweeping lawn, mountain views, extensive landscaping and picturesque pond •New gourmet Kitchen •Hardwood floors •Formal Living Room and Dining Room •Library •2-story Family Room with Fireplace •New Master Bath •2 Bay Garage and separate 2-story Garage/Workshop. \$1,150,000

Cricket Bedford (540) 229-3201

26 CHINN LANE



Middleburg •Brick colonial right in town •Master Suite on 1st floor with Fireplace •Pine-paneled Living Room with Fireplace •Formal Dining Room •Open Kitchen with Breakfast Area and Fireplace •2 Guest Bedrooms upstairs •Lovely fenced yard with creek •Pool with flagstone terrace •2 Car Garage and heated front walkway. \$935,000

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GREGORMOOR



Unique, secluded 1 Bedroom Log Cabin with large stone chimney and front porch with tranquil water and garden views •41+ wooded acres in 4 parcels, includes a huge pond, smaller pond with fountain, 4 Bedroom septic installed, cleared building site and underground electric •Perfect weekend retreat now, build later •Ideal location near Aldie, Middleburg, and Dulles Intl Airport. \$799,000

Cathy Bernache (540) 424-7066

VALLEY VIEW MANOR



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Susie Ashcom (540) 729-1478

HOMESTEAD FARM RENTAL



Located only minutes from Middleburg down quiet gravel road •3+ Bedroom, 3 Bath cottage •Owned and redesigned by an architect •Charming large front porch •All hardwood floors, new windows •New Kitchen and baths •Large Family Room in lower level with tile flooring and French doors to flagstone terrace •Located near main house •Lawn care included. \$2,250 plus utilities

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NEWS OF NOTE

FOXCROFT HEADMISTRESS HONORED FOR ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP

Mary Louise Leisher Leipheimer, head of Middleburg's Foxcroft School since 1989, has been honored by the Indiana University of Pennsylvania with their Distinguished Alumni Award for her contributions as an educator and for her leadership in academia.

A 1966 graduate of IUP, she was honored for having achieved distinction in her field and for her loyal and active service to her alma mater.

The Distinguished Alumni Award is the highest award given by the Alumni Association.

Head Mistress Leipheimer continued her education in graduate studies in English and in guidance at the University of Virginia, and in reading at Eastern Michigan University. She also received counseling training at the North-field Institute in Massachusetts.

She began her career as an English teacher at Mercer High School, Mercer, Pa. in 1966 and the following year joined Foxcroft as an English teacher. She also served as the English Department chairwoman, before serving five years as the director of Emmanuel Preschool in Alexandria, Va.

She returned to Foxcroft in 1983 to serve as director of admission and later served as director of development and as assistant head for external affairs.

Leipheimer serves on the board of directors of the Virginia Association of Independent Schools and the National Association of Principals of Schools for Girls. She is a member of the Headmasters Association and a past chair emerita and board member of the Secondary School Admission Test Board. She also previously served on the board of directors of The Associa-



tion of Boarding Schools and was the founding co-chair of the National Coalition of Girls' Schools.

In 2004, the Mary Louise Leipheimer Scholarship was established by a Foxcroft family to honor Leipheimer and to support a student who "demonstrates the qualities, often overlooked in young people, most exemplified by Leipheimer: honor, dedication, loyalty, humor, grace and an understanding heart."

In 2008, another Foxcroft family, who had funded a new gymnasium on the campus, chose to honor her by naming it the Mary Louise Leipheimer Gymnasium. The Foxcroft Board of Trustees named her the recipient of the 2008 Anne Kane McGuire Award for Distinguished Service, its highest honor.

She also serves on the vestry

at St. James' Episcopal Church and on the Board of Visitors for the Margaret Paxton Memorial for Convalescent Children. She previously served as chairwoman of the board of directors for the Piedmont Child Care Center in Upperville, Va..

She was named to Who's Who in Executives and Business in 2000 and was the 1999 recipient of the William B. Bretnall Award, given by the Secondary School Admission Test Board annually to the leading educator who has contributed significantly to the field of independent school admission.

Leipheimer and her late husband, Robert E. Leipheimer, a 1965 graduate of IUP, are the parents of one son and grandparents of two children.

EMMY NOMINATION FOR LOUDOUN CONVENTION AND VISITORS ASSOCIATION

The Loudoun Convention & Visitors Association (LCVA) has been nominated for a 2008 Emmy for the Visit Loudoun Heritage Series, a set of videos featuring Loudoun's many tourism products.

"We are very excited," said Cheryl Kilday, president and CEO of the LCVA. "There were many people involved in this project. The Board of Supervisors approved the concept and funding, and LCVA Marketing Director Jeremy Harvey and his team implemented the program in conjunction with Electro-Fish Media. And of course there were the many venues and individuals who agreed to be captured on film because no professional actors were used."

The documentary style videos were produced to introduce visitors and potential visitors to the

heritage and culture of Loudoun County through short clips featuring a selection of Loudoun County's many tourism products, including wineries, heritage sites, destination restaurants, historic towns and villages, events and more.

Adeo Tours, in conjunction with the award-winning video production company, Electro-Fish Media, based in Austin, Texas criss-crossed Loudoun County for a total of 28 days and filmed at more than 50 locations. Vibrant color photography, commentary by more than 100 locals and visitors, music by local musicians brought the many experiences of Loudoun to life.

The high-quality, high-definition video clips are available for viewing and downloading on iTunes and YouTube, as well as the award-winning LCVA website, www.VisitLoudoun.org.

O'DONNELL & Co., LLC, A SMALL FIRM OFFERING PERSONALIZED SERVICES

Kimberly O'Donnell has specialized in accounting since 1997. One and a half years ago, she took the term 'small town CPA' to a new level when she decided to branch out on her own. She founded O'Donnell & Co., LLC with the goal: "to provide high quality tax and accounting services at a reasonable rate in the quaint town of Middleburg."

Finding the right answers for the diversity of her client situations provides a great sense of accomplishment. "I'm a small firm and being able to give the clients personalized service is very important to me," says O'Donnell. "This doesn't mean we can take on every client that comes our way. My goal is to keep it very personal so that I can stay in touch with the clients - with what's going on in their financial lives."

What O'Donnell offers - above and beyond the sophisticated software available for people trying to track their finances or fill out that 1040 or Schedule C

Profit and Loss - is knowing her clients and being able to utilize all the legal strategies to reduce their tax liabilities - be it through depreciation, a retirement plan or just ferreting out a deductible expense that might be overlooked.

As a board member for the Middleburg Business and Professional Association, O'Donnell helps promote the local businesses through encouraging participation in the monthly "Biz Buzz" mixers and special events in town.

O'Donnell's enthusiasm for her task carries over into her personal life: she is an avid supporter of rural lifestyles and enjoys the thrill of the chase - on paper and in the field.

The human additions to her staff share O'Donnell's work ethic, ability to smile with sincerity, and the willingness to think something out and learn from it.

The bottom line: O'Donnell & Co believes each client deserves special attention.

FAUQUIER HOSPITAL OPENS WOUND HEALING CENTER, BREAKS GROUND FOR ASSISTED LIVING COMPLEX

Fauquier Health continues to increase its services to the Northern Virginia community with the opening of a new Wound Healing Center and the ground breaking for a new fifty-six-bed Assisted Living Complex scheduled to open in June of 2010.

Although they say that time heals all wounds, as many know, it is not necessarily true. Without advanced therapies, some wounds can take years or even decades to heal and it is for precisely that reason that Fauquier Health will open the Fauquier Health Wound Healing Center at 493 Blackwell Road, Suite 104, Warrenton, to offer the community state-of-the-art specialized wound healing care.

"With the rising rate of diabetes, there is a great need for a specialized care center that can treat the wounds associated with the disease, as well as help patients with other skin, bone and tissue conditions caused by illness or injury," said Dr. Jorge Minera, Medical Director Dr. Jorge Minera.

In addition to Dr. Minera, six local physicians will be providing care for patients: Dr. Tam Ly ; Dr. Joseph David; Dr. Robert Dart; Dr. Kevin McCarthy; Dr. Lynn Samuel and Dr. William Simpson. The doctors and clinical staff are skilled in the latest therapeutic methods in wound management and stay abreast of leading information through continuous training.

To establish the center, Fauquier Health partnered with Florida-based National Healing Corporation, which manages wound healing centers nationwide.

Dr. Minera explained, "Patients will be treated with state-of-the art technology and will have their progress charted through digital photographs." He added, "Our treatments are evidence-based and best practice driven. Our patients do not undergo any treatment or progress to a new level of treatment until the need is clearly indicated."

Patients covered by Medicare, Medicaid and most insurance plans may self-refer to the Wound Healing Center. However, one of the center's missions is to build relationships with patients' primary care physicians.

For more information about the Fauquier Health Wound Healing Center or to

make an appointment, call 540-316-HEAL (4325).

Assisted Living

Fauquier Health's new assisted-living complex is being built in the Suffield Meadows community, located on U.S. 29 between

Warrenton and Gainesville and plans call for it to open in June of 2010.

The two-story building will have the welcoming feel of a Virginia colonial estate and will be LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Green Building Rating) certified.

Fifty-six assisted-living units will be available, ranging from small studio apartments to two-bedroom apartments, as well as an 11-bed memory unit for dementia patients. All apartments will be equipped with kitchenettes but dining services will include a formal dining room

and a more casual bistro.

Rental agreements will operate on a month-to-month basis. As residents need increased care, additional nursing and support staff can be added. To be added to the current waiting list, call 540-316-5004.

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SEA BASS à LA MEUNIÈRE
~or~
STEAK & FRITES
~or~
LAMB SHANK, POTATO PUREE, MOREL MUSHROOMS

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NEWS OF NOTE

POLICE WORK PRAISED

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Water Water Water

Town Administrator Jerry Schiro reported that work on the Marshal Street Water Line Project was held up for a least a week by the rains that brought an official end to drought conditions in parts of the county. A shelf of rock, and the necessity of installing a \$4,500 air release valve, had already slowed progress. With both issues now addressed, Schiro reports that work should move ahead more swiftly.

Rain also delayed work on the town's much-anticipated new waste water treatment plant, notably the pouring of the concrete foundation slab for the plant's control building.

Problems with specifications for the control equipment to be housed in that building have also slowed progress. According to the Town Administrator, the town's engineering subcontractor, Patton Harris and Rust, had authorized fabrication of General Electric control equipment for the plant "without sufficient input from the Town." Loudoun County, it seems, requires the use of Allen Bradley controls in such facilities. Attempts to schedule official meetings to compare the two systems took time, as did efforts to schedule a tour of a plant in Culpeper, similar to Middleburg's, using GE controls.

Additional monitoring equipment and alarms may add as much as \$18,000 to the cost of the plant as well. Though the subcontracted project manager for the plant, Mark G. Anderson & Company, is questioning the need for the additions, the Town believes that both safety and long-term efficiency will be served by having them in place.

Current plans now call for the start-up process and commissioning of the new Waste Water Treatment Plant in early November, 2009, approximately five months later than originally scheduled. If all goes well, the "commissioning" process will be completed in 30 days, and the plant activated before the new year.

The Town's Water Treatment Plant (not to be confused with the town's WASTE Water Treatment Plant) is, according to Schiro, "progressing ahead of the WWTP."

Concerns about the sealing of well walls, inspection hatches in holding tanks, easements for both power supplies and water lines, and a radio communications system linking the Town's well, the treatment plant, and a critical water-pressure-reducing-vault have been addressed.

If all goes well, says Schiro, "Substantial completion of the facility is scheduled for October, 2009."

Fun Shop United?

Town Planner and Zoning Administrator, David Beniamino, notified council that Town Staff had met on April 29 with Ms. Paige Allen and Land Surveyor Stuart Dunn to discuss "a potential request" that the Allen

family "might submit" asking the Town to legally vacate its claim to an unused portion of Pickering Street right of way, adjacent to the west side of the Fun Shop at 117 West Washington Street.

Mayor Betsey Allen Davis recused herself from all discussion of the proposed proposal. Davis is the daughter of Paige Allen.

In 1988, former Mayor Tim Dimos had acquired a portion of the unused Pickering Street right-of-way for \$14,000. The acquisition allowed Dimos to create a consolidated lot that now houses the Southern States store on Washington street.

For all practical purposes, Dimos's 1988 purchase rendered any further extension of Pickering street impossible, and, in the view of the Town Staff, made the remaining portion of right-of-way "not of very high value to the Town."

If the Town approves abandonment of the right of way, lots owned by the Fun Shop to the west of its main store front location could be united and more rationally developed.

With Mayor Davis sitting with the press and general public attending the meeting, Council approved Beniamino's request to move forward with discussions with the Allens, including solicitation of a fair-market-value appraisal of the land in question.

If sold, according to reliable sources, the right-of-way would enhance the value of the Allen properties, could increase traffic flow at the Fun Shop, and thus produce additional tax revenue for the Town.

Budget and Treasury

With cash balances standing at \$1,954,742 in the Town's accounts, the anticipated collection of more than \$200,000 in bank franchise taxes by early June, and expenses at or below projections for the year, the Town remains in excellent fiscal condition, despite the current economic downturn.

Though businesses around town are reporting declines in revenue year over year, Middleburg continues to more than hold its own, with comparatively few business closings, and relatively higher than county average occupancy rates.

Economic Development

Economic Development Coordinator Cindy Pearson reported that the Middleburg Business and Professional Association had endorsed the establishment of a "reward fund" to be administered by the Middleburg Police department. Contribution to the fund may be made by check, earmarked "reward fund," and sent to the Town offices.

Pearson also noted that, the June edition of Southern Living, among others, will include coverage of Middleburg. Bendure Communications handles the town's media relations.

SHEILA JOHNSON HONORED BY CALVARY WOMEN'S SERVICES

Sheila C. Johnson and Michel Martin were honored by Calvary Women's Services at their annual Hope Awards Dinner recently.

Ms. Johnson, co-founder of BET and founder and CEO of Salamander Hospitality, is also the first African-American woman to be a partner in ownership of three professional sports teams. Ms. Martin, the host of NPR's Tell Me More, is a successful journalist and news correspondent with a career that spans the Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, and ABC's Nightline.

The Hope Awards Dinner was created both to support the work of Calvary Women's Services and to bring to the forefront of the community women who offer hope and empowerment to women in need. The event supports Calvary Women's Services' work with homeless women in Washington

, DC.

Demand for Calvary's services has increased in recent months, reflecting a nationwide increase in homelessness due largely to economic stress.

For over 25 years Calvary Women's Services has been a turning point in homeless women's lives. Its three programs—Calvary Women's Shelter, Pathways, and Sister Circle—offer housing and comprehensive services to help each woman identify her strengths, set personal goals, and build the skills she needs for independent living.

Each year Calvary supports 150 women as they journey from homelessness to self-sufficiency, providing a safe, caring place for tonight; support, hope and change for tomorrow. www.calvaryservices.org. Calvary Women's Services is a 501(c)3 organization.

CALLING ALL TOMATO GROWERS

START YOUR SEEDLINGS NOW, GROWING YOUR OWN TOMATOES. ENTER THE BEST TOMATO CONTEST!

August 29, 2009 will be the 1st Tomato Festival in the Town of Middleburg. The day will kick off with a 5k walk/run at 8:30 am, followed by the Ugliest Truck Parade 10:00 am, activities on Madison Street, at Middleburg Community Center and throughout town. Starting at 11:00 a.m. on Madison Street, entries for

the Best Tomato Contest will be accepted. Different categories will be: Best tasting tomato, ugliest tomato, largest tomato, smallest tomato. (Look for more information in local papers, emails, etc.) Look for more information on the Local Chef's Tomato School.

Start your seedlings now, grow your own tomatoes!

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NEWS OF NOTE

PIEDMONT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION: NEW GRANT AWARDS & REPORTS

The Directors of the Piedmont Community Foundation (PCF) are pleased to announce several new grants.

The 100 Women Strong have given their first grant as donor advisors of the PCF. A \$25,000 award went to the Loudoun Community Health Clinic, in Leesburg, VA. The PCF Directors are delighted the 100 Women Strong have chosen to support strengthening capacity for healthcare in Loudoun County for the under-insured and those without insurance. With their debut grant the 100 Women Strong are demonstrating the significant impact that collective philanthropy can have on charitable need. The PCF encourages more women to join this important effort for humanitarian need.

In addition to working with donor advisors, the PCF administers the PCF Community Grants program which determines recipients via grant applications. There are two new grant awards which have been distributed during the Spring 2009 cycle. A third award is forthcoming once directors have fully vetted grants for the Peter M. Howard Memorial Fund.

The American Children of Score, in Warrenton, VA, is the debut recipient of the Frederick L. Spencer, Jr., Memorial Fund. SCORE (String, Choral, Orff and Recorder Ensemble) received \$600 to assist in providing early childhood music to children in the Head Start program in Fauquier County and surrounding communities. Spencer family members were pleased to learn that

SCORE would be the first recipient of a grant from Fred's endowment which is being built by many friends in the community who remember his joy of life for the arts, music and drama. Betsy Porter, General Manager of SCORE said, "We are thrilled! This will touch a lot of little lives." We are pretty sure Fred is watching from above with a gentle smile.

The Middleburg Humane Foundation (MHF) was selected to receive \$500 from the PCF Community Endowment Fund. The purpose of the grant is to assist in providing Spay/Neuter and emergency veterinary care for families which cannot afford the cost of services. PCF Directors were pleased to support the compassionate work of MHF which strengthens and helps families keep their promises

of care and service to their pets when money is scarce; when families are strengthened then so is the community.

In addition, the Directors of the PCF, have received grant reports from two of the grant recipients last Spring which show excellent use of the funds.

In the past year, The Waterford Foundation has used their \$800 grant given in 2008, from the Peter M. Howard Memorial Fund (restricted for historic preservation) to install entrance and interpretive signage on the 144 acre Phillips Farm in the Waterford National Historic Landmark. Executive Director of the Waterford Foundation, Nance Doane, reported that the grant gift was leveraged by talented volunteers willing to donate their expertise to the project; signage posts were designed, constructed and finished by Mr. Rob Hale in the Waterford village, who went so far as to hand carve the numbers on the 18 posts so the font would be appropriate to the historic period when the farm was established in the early 1800's. A young man in the village, Mr. James Pfohl, volunteered

to install the posts for the project which visitors enjoy when greeted by the simple oval welcoming sign at the entrance to the farm. Ms. Mimi Westervelt, chaired the project for the Waterford Foundation and worked tirelessly to ensure its success.

The Community Music School of the Piedmont (CMSP) submitted their grant report for the \$1,000 award given in 2008 from the Community Fund with supplemental support from the General Fund of the PCF. The grant strengthened CMSP's capacity to positively impact children and families through the Early Childhood Music program at the Piedmont Childcare Center for needs based music scholarships. 50% of the children were eligible to receive full or partial tuition assistance during the academic school year. Children received weekly music instruction and were given the opportunity to play simple percussion instruments and tone chimes. Martha Cotter, Executive Director of the music school, said, "the grant was critical component in this scholarship program and we are most grateful".

ALAN CROFT JOINS LEESBURG'S MCCANDLISH & LILLARD

Alan B. Croft, longtime Middleburg resident and nationally recognized litigator and trial attorney, recently joined the Northern Virginia law firm of McCandlish & Lillard, P.C., which celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2008.

Croft will work primarily from the firm's office in downtown Leesburg making it possible for him to be more deeply involved in community activities.

With an office in Fairfax as well as in Leesburg, McCandlish & Lillard provides a broad and diverse array of legal services throughout Northern Virginia and the Washington metropolitan area for local, regional and national clients.

Over the last 13 years, as a partner in the Washington, D.C. law firm of Baach, Robinson and Lewis, Croft's practice has focused on complex commercial matters, insurance coverage disputes and other insurance cases for U.S. and international clients. He also handles complex construction and tort litigation.

Croft has been involved in a number of community activities, including as a member of the board at Middleburg's Hill School and working with the Windy Hill Foundation to help provide low cost housing for Middleburg and other Loudoun County residents. He is currently on the Advisory Council

of the Piedmont Community Foundation that assists many local philanthropic organizations.

Over the years, Croft has served as lead counsel in more than 100 trials in state and federal courts. With his new firm, he will continue handling a wide variety of cases, both civil and criminal.

A graduate of Washington University in St. Louis, Croft earned an electrical engineering degree in 1966 before deciding to pursue a career as an attorney. He is a 1970 graduate of the American University law school, and early in his career worked as a patent attorney.

A native of Chicago, he moved to Middleburg in 1973. He and his family now live on a 38-acre farm that includes a restored 1790 home that was originally located in Preston, Conn. before being taken apart, transported south and reassembled on his property, with Croft serving as general contractor on the project. He also helped move and restore an 1830 log house from Winchester and an 1880 post and beam barn from Leesburg, both also now on the farm.

Croft was married to the former Ilona Sipars in 1971 and they have two daughters, Katherine and Aleksandra, both graduates of the University of Virginia.

FABULOUS SILENT AUCTION PLANNED TO BENEFIT MIDDLEBURG HUMANE FOUNDATION

The fifteenth annual silent auction to benefit Middleburg Humane Foundation promises to be fun and fabulous when it takes place June 20th at Peace & Plenty at Bollingbrook Plantation in Upperville. Rose Marie Bogley will hostess the evening that has become one of Hunt Country's important social and philanthropic events.

A spectacular attraction this year is a Champagne Raffle for a five-day stay for four at the lovely French 'Chateau Les Charmettes' near Toulouse, France. Only 100 tickets will be sold for this \$6,500 package that includes a day of golf, a day of tennis and a wine tour of the region. Tickets are \$100 each and are going fast!

Among luminaries who have donated items are Country Music Entertainer of the Year Keith Urban who donated an acoustic guitar with a certificate of authenticity and a photo that will be autographed to the winner and movie star and local activist Robert Duval who has donated and autographed several of his DVD's including Lonesome Dove, the most popular Western television series ever made.

Works of art will play a major part in this year's Silent Auction with works by internationally recognized Ria de Wit and local artists Lina Liberace, Penny Hauke and Gail Guirrerri-Maslyk.

Wonderful Gift Baskets of all kinds will include gastronomic treats, movies and overnight stays at lovely local inns including the Poplar Springs Inn, The Blackthorne, The Ashby Inn and Three Fox Vineyards.

Should you like to venture farther afield, you will have an opportunity to bid on stays in an Outer Banks beach house, a Florida Condo or a Net-Jet round trip flight for four.

Also included in the Silent Auction are two lower-suite seats for the Washington Capitals, a gorgeous Elizabeth Locke sapphire 19K ring, a massage, whitening for your teeth and the list continues for miles.

Economic Crisis Hits Home

Now more than ever, Middleburg Humane needs your help.

"It's heartbreaking," said Middleburg Humane Founder and President Hilleary Bogley when speaking of the impact the economic crisis is having on animal shelters across the country.

"Time and again people have no option except to bring their beloved four-legged companions to a shelter. Among the reasons are 'foreclosure pets,' when families are forced to move into no-animals-allowed apartments. Other pet owners simply can no longer afford to feed and medicate their pets.

"Across the country, Humane Organizations are seeing a dramatic decrease in financial support at the very time there has been a tremendous increase in the number of animals in need of help."

Hilleary and her devoted staff take in abandoned and abused animals of every description with the commitment to house, feed, medicate and nurture them until a suitable, loving 'forever' home can be found.

For tickets to the June 20th Middleburg Humane Benefit, please contact: The Middleburg Humane Foundation at: 540 364 3272. Tickets are \$200 each of which \$125 of each ticket is tax deductible.



Thank You!

to all The Pink Box Docents and their Director, Mary Kay Garwood

Pink Box Docents

Audrey Bergner
Andrew Bergner
Jeri Coulter
Janet Danker
Karen Decker
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Wendy Duling
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Pink Box Advisory Board Members

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Wendy Duling
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Terri Kitchin
Rita Lang

Punkin Lee - President Middleburg Business & Professional Association

Mary Bell Peters
Dana Reuter
Mimi Stein
Susan Webb

Bundles Murdock, Town Council Representative
Cindy Pearson ex officio

Stop in the Pink Box to thank the docents for all the volunteer hours they give to the Town of Middleburg.

The Pink Box is open 363 days a years, closed on Thanksgiving and Christmas.

MICHELE STEVENS ELECTED BUCHANAN HALL PRESIDENT



The Board of Directors of Buchanan Hall recently announced the election of Michele Stevens, Upperville resident and community activist, as President of the 19-member board.

Michele, managing broker of the Long & Foster Real Estate office in Middleburg, has been involved with Buchanan Hall since 2004 when she originally joined the board. Michele is committed to the mission of providing a thriving community and event center for the residents of Upperville and surrounding communities.

Since its opening in 1933, Buchanan Hall has served as a focal point for events and ac-

tivities benefiting the greater Upperville community. Ongoing donations support renovations and repairs, and have transformed the building into a modern community center with the capability to host a wide range of recreational, educational, social, conference and cultural activities including theater productions and wedding receptions.

Buchanan Hall is located at: 8549 John Mosby Hwy, Upperville. Call 540-592-3455 for more info or visit the website at www.buchananhall.com. Buchanan Hall is a not-for-profit organization. Gifts are tax deductible under section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code

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EDITOR'S DESK

COMMUNITY WATCH GOES HI TECH

For those who haven't yet joined facebook, we commend to you the site, the service, and a very special facebook "group" . . . Middleburg, VA.

If your iPhone or computer's handy, see: <http://facebook.middleburg.com>

Founded as an "open group" that anyone can join, the site first specialized in stories about Middleburg's "storied

past.

So far there have been more than 130 posts in the "Do You Remember When . . ." section, featuring great tales of the Middleburg of yore, parties, people, hangouts and hangovers, gone but not forgotten.

There are lots of photographs. Video too.

In months, from a few early members, the site has grown to 573 and counting. Not bad for a town with only around 600 permanent residents.

Best of all the site has already proved to be a wonderful emergency resource. Best tale so far, a lost dog, found and returned to its owner within minutes of a posting.

Our only caveat: this sort of thing is great fun and can be very addictive.

LETTERS

Dear Editor

I'm writing to thank you and Middleburg Eccentric for the wonderful assistance you provided during the budget battles over Middleburg Library during the winter and early spring.

The press coverage played a large role in generating an amazing outpouring of community support and solidarity. Petitions, phone-calls and e-mails to the Library Board of Trustees and the Board of Supervisors resulted in the option of closing Middleburg Library to meet budget demands being taken completely off the table.

In addition, many community members testified at public input sessions on the budget held by the Board of Supervisors. The net effect was that the message was heard loudly and clearly by the Supervisors that libraries were a valuable resource, highly efficient, and needed more than ever in the midst of a recession.

In the end, thanks to the creativity and hard work of Supervisor Jim Burton, a funding source was identified which enabled the library system as a whole to be minimally affected by budget cuts. As a result, we continue to have our loved and treasured, small community library and our wonderful library staff -- Sheila, Heather, Dorothy, Lew, Tina, Mary Beth and Charlotte.

Thank you again for your newspaper's support -- and thanks, above all, to our strong community and its amazing energy.

Denis Cotter
President, Middleburg Library Advisory Board

WHEATLAND: PRETEXT TO DESTROYING WESTERN LOUDOUN FARMLAND FOR DEVELOPMENT!

JOHN P. FLANNERY

Hiding behind the pretext of educating children who don't live in Loudoun yet, and others who haven't even been born, the county wants to buy land in western Loudoun at Wheatland at ridiculous land prices for a triplex school that we don't need at a location we don't want.

Like the questionable decisions to develop schools that weren't needed near Lenah, the county government appears ready to use our hard-earned tax dollars once again to try to make a market for speculating land developers who hold lots that they can't sell.

The county proposes to bail out these developers by creating a magnet school to attract home buyers and, as a sweetener, to underwrite the infrastructure that will save these developers further financial investment.

The county shall likely attract 2.3 children and three to five cars per household. The home will have to be connected to a well or water tower or

questionable septic system. The children will attend the schools, oh, five, 10 or 20 years from now. The additional cars will certainly overrun our narrow roads 'untill concrete and pavement are hurled in all directions.

Folks like you and I who go about our lives and who aren't scheming 24/7 to destroy our community to make a buck by compromising the countryside look up one day and are told that we need a school near Lenah or Lovettsville.

We may object that we don't want it, find out that the land the county is talking about is really not for sale and, when we successfully call the county on their facts (as happened closer to Lovettsville), the county reps issue non-denial denials and slither elsewhere 'and thus we are now discussing Wheatland (the latest proposed site).

Imagine if we ran our lives the way the county goes about its business. They announced the school at Wheatland, tell us it's a done deal, high pressure its passage, except they still haven't figured out what it will cost, say, to widen routes 287 or 9 for the gazillion SUV trips, or from whence the waters will come, or how to dispose of the waste.

We are disserved by a county that proposes schools we don't need, where we don't want them, with little or no planning beforehand. As a former high school teacher, I'm giving the county a failing grade. What do you think?

HYPOCRISY

TOM PRATT

Dick Cheney is the most despicable person to hold high office in this country for decades. He is either a pathological liar or is attempting to carry on the Bush doctrine of repeating lies so many times that they may be thought of as truth.

For eight years he was practically missing in action and NOW he has booked himself on every talk show on network television trying to justify the illegal actions of the Bush administration and to save his behind.

He is the most hypocritical of human beings. He was so angry after Watergate, not because of the illegal actions, but because

the executive lost so much power, he vowed to get it back and schemed his way into the White House. He took advantage of loyalty from the Bush family, duped a presidential candidate, who was not the sharpest knife in the drawer and appointed himself the single search party for a running mate. After collecting unbelievable amounts of data on all prospective candidates (and eventually using much of the ill gotten information against said candidates) decided he was the only logical choice.

In his tirades of late on the virtues of torture he has been soundly contradicted by former FBI interrogator, Ali Soufan who recently testified in front of Congress on how ineffective torture is and that literally no good information was obtained by torture.

The hypocrite Cheney says "we don't torture" and in the same breath says how effective torture is.

If Cheney thinks that information gained from those tortured keeps us safe he is delusional. Information that keeps us safe is got through infiltration of the cells.

I firmly believe that Cheney is secretly hoping for an attack on America so he can say "I told you so"

FRANK WOLF'S GOOD IDEA

FROM BEYOND THE BELTWAY

KEN RIETZ

Our country is facing financial disaster. Yet, few seem to care.

When former Senator Fred Thompson announced a plan to restructure and save Social Security during his Presidential campaign, the national media ignored the idea.

When we heard this month that Medicare will run out of cash in 2017 and Social Security will go broke in 2037, it was barely mentioned. Instead, the national media was obsessed with Donald Trump and Miss California USA.

IT'S TIME TO PAY ATTENTION. Since Janu-

ary, Obama and Congress have tripled our federal deficit. Our financial burden now is: \$ 56 TRILLION in unfunded obligation

Over \$11 TRILLION in debt, much of it held by nations such as China, Japan and Saudi Arabia

A projected deficit of more than \$ 1.8 TRILLION for FY 2009

The potential by 2012 to lose our AAA bond rating.

With a Congress caught in partisan gridlock, there is little chance that they will take up restructuring Medicare and Social Security or even cutting federal spending. That's why Congressman Frank Wolf's (R-VA) idea makes so much sense.

His proposal will take partisan politics out of the decision making process.

The 15-term Congressman has introduced THE SAFE COMMISSION ACT. SECURING AMERICA'S FUTURE ECONOMY (SAFE). This legislation will create a bipartisan, 16-member commission to examine every aspect of the federal budget: entitlement spending (Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid); defense spending; domestic spending and tax policy. EVERYTHING would be on the table. Modeled after the federal military base-closing process, Congress would be REQUIRED to vote up or down on the

panel's recommendations. Mandating congressional action is what makes this commission unique.

Blue Dog Democrat Jim Cooper (TN) has joined Wolf as a lead House sponsor. When the Bill was introduced, it had 26 Republicans and 26 Democrats as co-sponsors. Companion legislation has been introduced in the Senate.

A recent Peter Hart/ Public Opinion Poll shows that a significant margin (56 per cent), of voters prefer a bipartisan commission to the regular congressional process as the best means to begin tackling our growing budget deficit and national debt.

Robert Samuelson, of the Washington Post, said "What would distinguish this commission from its many predecessors is that Congress would have to vote on its recommendations."

Social Security is known as " the third rail of politics." If a candidate touches the subject, he or she loses. That is why the WOLF idea makes so much sense. As he has said, " the time bomb of debt is ticking and it's on OUR WATCH to act before the explosion buries our country."

Ken Rietz; lives in Delaplane VA.

A FLAG FOR SAM TIMBERS

BLUE NOTES

DANIEL MORROW

Private Samuel B. Timbers, Company H, 29th United States Colored Troops, died in the year of the great centennial, 1876.

As a young man he had fought and survived in the trenches around Richmond, and in the slaughterhouse known The Crater.

He had marched with the Union Army that pursued Lee to Appomattox and may well have been among those few who witnessed the surrender

of the Army of Northern Virginia

They buried Timbers in the Mt. Sinai Free Baptist Church Cemetery, on the northeast corner of an obscure "T" intersection, where Britain and The Mountain Roads now collide, in silence, in the shadow of Short Hills Mountain.

"Britain," the community surrounding that intersection, was formerly known as "Guinea," a name often applied to settlements of newly freed black men and women after the Civil War.

According to Eugene Scheel's fifth volume of Loudoun Discovered, the oldest public building there was the "one room frame school and Mt. Sinai Free Baptist Church" built nearly a quarter century after the war.

Services were held there until the church was abandoned, some time in the 1950's.

In 1980, as Scheel tells the story, " . . . two unknown men built a fire on the floor of the nearly roofless church" and after nearly a century of service, it burned to the

ground.

Two months ago, several families in the neighborhood started clearing nearly thirty years of undergrowth from the site, gently uncovering the stone foundations of the old church, and the gravestones in its long-abandoned cemetery.

Among those stones, toppled and separated from its grave was the marker for Private Sam Timbers.

As we go to press it is Memorial Day and for the first time in many years, an American flag marks

Timbers place.

In 1889, another veteran of the surrender at Appomattox spoke just north of here, at memorial services in Gettysburg. "In great deeds, something abides," he said.

Thanks to neighbors who, in Professor and General and Governor Joshua Chamberlain's words, "knew him not," a new generation may pass the intersection at Guinea, be touched by "the shadow of a mighty presence" and have "the power of the vision pass into their souls."

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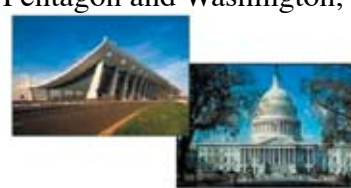
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PASTIMES

VEGGIES: A RAINBOW OF VARIETY

YOUR PERSONAL CHEF

ALYSON BROWETT

Vegetables are nature's superfoods. In general, vegetables are low in calories, low in fat, high in fiber, high in mineral and vitamin content (potassium, folate, vitamins A, C, and E, to name a few). All of these factors make them perfect for those of us looking to fill our stomachs but stay lean and healthy. Long-term, large population-based studies show that people who consume a diet containing many vegetables may reduce their risk of type II diabetes, certain cancers, kidney stones, heart disease, stroke and other cardiovascular diseases, including high blood pressure and high cholesterol. The USDA recommends adults get two and a half to three cups of vegetables every day, with most of those servings coming from colorful veggies (think rainbow: red, orange, yellow, green and purple). While dry beans are considered a vegetable, they are also included in the meat category, as they are a primary source of protein for those who are vegetarian.

There are so many types and varieties of vegetables, and so many things you can do with each one, narrowing down my focus for this month's column was a challenge. So, in an effort to keep this fairly simple, I will spotlight a few of the more widely available, generally liked, and abundant veggies. All of these will be available at the farmers' markets, or from your own gardens, soon enough (I, for one, cannot wait!). Do a little experiment this summer: purchase your favorite vegetable from a vendor at a farmers' market and find out when it was har-

vested (usually that day). Then, go to your local grocery store and purchase the same type of vegetable. Go home and conduct a taste test. I guarantee that the locally grown, recently picked version will be 100% better than the store-bought version.

Tomatoes

Tomatoes are a cook's best friend and an inspiration for many dishes, as they can be baked, roasted, grilled, stewed, preserved, juiced, pureed, or sauced. But, arguably, the best way to eat a tomato is directly from vine to mouth. As a young pup, our dog would wander into the garden and pick grape tomatoes off the vine, resulting in tomato pulp splatter covering her white chest. She knows what's up. Although amazing fresh and raw – and the fresher the better – tomatoes are one of the most versatile vegetables in the land. (And in case you are wondering, the 1975 Joy of Cooking (Rombauer & Becker, p. 331) notes that "[t]hose of us accustomed to having the highest court in the land pronounce upon paramount issues of our national life will not be surprised to learn that as long ago as 1893 the Justices resoundingly declared the tomato a vegetable, not a fruit.")

Tomatoes have a long and varied history. Originally from South America, they are a member of the same family as nightshade, and, because of this, were once believed to be poisonous. However, it is believed that the Aztecs used tomatoes, which they called xitomatl, along with capsicum peppers in much of their cooking. However, cooking references in European litera-

ture were scarce until the late 1600s, and it was not until 1797 that an early edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica mentioned that tomatoes were "in daily use." As their acceptance spread, in a strange turn of events, tomatoes became known as a possible aphrodisiac, and began to be called "love apples," in French "pomme d'amour," and in Italian, "pomodoro" (Davidson, The Penguin Companion to Food, 2002).

Heirloom Tomato Salad

Popular now are heirloom tomatoes that come in all colors, shapes, sizes and flavors. Try several varieties in this simple and beautiful dish, and enjoy it with grilled meat and a green salad.

4 heirloom tomatoes, variety of colors and flavors

1 vidalia onion

8 ounces fresh mozzarella

3 tablespoons chopped basil leaves

¼ cup extra virgin olive oil

2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar

½ teaspoon salt

½ teaspoon cracked black pepper

Chop the tomatoes and onion into either eighths or twelfths. Chop the mozzarella into ½ inch dice. Place the tomatoes, onion, cheese and basil in a

large bowl. Combine the oil, vinegar, salt and pepper and whisk briefly to emulsify. Pour over the tomatoes and serve at room temperature. Serves 6-8.

Cucumbers

Unlike tomatoes, which originated in the Americas and were transported to Europe by the Spaniards, cucumbers are believed to have originated in Southern India or Asia and brought by Columbus to the Americas in the 1400s. While not as versatile as tomatoes in their preparations, cucumbers are one of the most popular cultivars in the world, with about one-third of the nearly 100 varieties going to make pickles. Cucumbers are almost all water and have a refreshingly light flavor, making them a great platform for many pairings. Cucumbers can be used in cold sauces (Greek tzatziki or Indian raita) and soups; sliced and used as a "platter" or hollowed-out mini-bowl for canapés (top with smoked salmon or trout salad); or eaten raw with dip, as on a crudité platter, or on sandwiches (good bread, sliced turkey, dill havarti, cucumber and a smear of Dijon...yum!). They also can be subjected to heat and cooked, but why fool with a perfectly delicious cucumber?

While there are "seedless" varieties of cucumbers, those are not likely what you will find at the farmers' markets. If you happen upon a specimen with lots of large seeds, simply split it lengthwise and spoon out the seeds. And it is up to you whether you keep the skin on – it does contain vitamins and fiber that improve the cuke's nutrient value.

Sweet and Spicy Drunken Cucumber Relish

Serve this relish with fish, pork or chicken, or add thinly sliced medium rare flank steak for a take on Thai beef salad.

2 tablespoons rice vinegar (brown rice, unseasoned preferred)

1 tablespoon gin (optional)

1 tablespoon organic sugar

1 shallot, sliced thin in half moons

3 small cucumbers, sliced thin in half moons (about 1 cup)

½ cup peppadews, roughly chopped (available at Market Salamander or Wegmans)

1 ½ tablespoons brined green peppercorns (available at Marshall IGA or Wegmans)

Combine the first four ingredients in a small pan and bring to a boil over medium-high heat. Boil until liquid is reduced by half. Pour the mixture over the last three ingredients in a bowl. Mix and serve immediately. Serves 4-6.

Summer Squash, Eggplant and Peppers

Oh, the innumerable vegetables! Besides tomatoes and cukes, the other prolific growers of the season are yellow squash, zucchini, eggplant and bell



peppers. One of my favorite ways to prepare these seasonal gems is to slice in half-inch wide strips and grill them. Taking it a step further, add some herbs, cheese and eggs and you have an easy brunch dish or a nutritious (and delicious!) vegetarian dinner.

Grilled Veggie "Frittata"

I put frittata in quotations because this recipe does not use a lot of eggs – they simply act as a binder for the smoky grilled veggies.

2 bell peppers (any color will do, although red or orange adds a nice color to the dish)

2 medium zucchini, sliced lengthwise ½" thick

2 medium yellow summer squash, sliced lengthwise ½" thick

1 large eggplant, sliced crosswise ½" thick

¼ cup olive oil, 1 tablespoon reserved

2 leeks, white and light green parts only, sliced into ¼" rings, washed well

3 cloves garlic, roughly chopped

4 ounces goat cheese, crumbled

4 large eggs

1 cup (packed) basil leaves

1 teaspoon salt

½ teaspoon cracked pepper

Preheat gas or charcoal grill. Place bell peppers on hot rack or directly on charcoal (if using). Blacken each side of the pepper, then wrap in aluminum foil to steam. Allow to cool and remove the stems, seeds and skins, which should come off easily. Set aside. Toss the sliced vegetables with the olive oil, coating well. On a hot rack, grill the vegetables until just tender. Remove to a plate or tray to cool slightly. Preheat the oven to 300°. Heat 1 tablespoon of olive oil in a pan over medium-high heat, and sauté the leeks and garlic until cooked through. In a blender, place the eggs, cheese, basil, salt and pepper. Blend until combined and smooth. Spray a 9 x 13 or similar sized baking dish with nonstick cooking oil. Line the bottom of the dish with eggplant rounds, top with the leeks and garlic, then continue layering zucchini, squash, pepper, and eggplant. Pour the egg mixture over top, shaking the dish to get it to settle into the cracks. Bake for 40-45 minutes until the egg is set in the center and the edges are brown. Invert the frittata onto a cutting board, slice into squares, then invert back onto a serving dish or plate. Serves 6-8.

Alyson Browett, MPH, CPT
Edible Complex, LLC
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HOW YOUR GARDEN GROWS

THE PLANT LADY



KAREN REXRODE

The garden is a battle scene. The plants that grow there occupy space quite differently. In their lifetime they fight for survival using various methods or tactics to beat each other out. Divided into three groups, these survival concepts are studied as part of plant ecology and the gardener gains tremendously in the day to day care of their garden when they understand these strategies. Not every plant falls squarely into the confines of one group, in fact many share tactics and these can be out most aggressive garden plants as they fight for survival in more than one way.

The first group of plants are called the competitors. The perennial competitor grows rapidly. Their foliage is often soft and large, intended to push aside neighbors. Time is initially spent occupying space and flowers often arrive late in the season. Their late flowering stems can become heavy with flowers and subsequent seed pods. This is yet another tactic to gain ground, leaning against neighbors to push them aside. We often think of this as a weak stemmed plant, when in fact it is just another strategy. Winter finds their dried up leaves holding ground. Without our cleanup, the occupied space would keep weed seeds from gaining access to the ground. Examples include lamb's ears, silphium, Joe-Pye weed, and petasites. Many of these perennials are best

planted in large group as they tend to bully other plants.

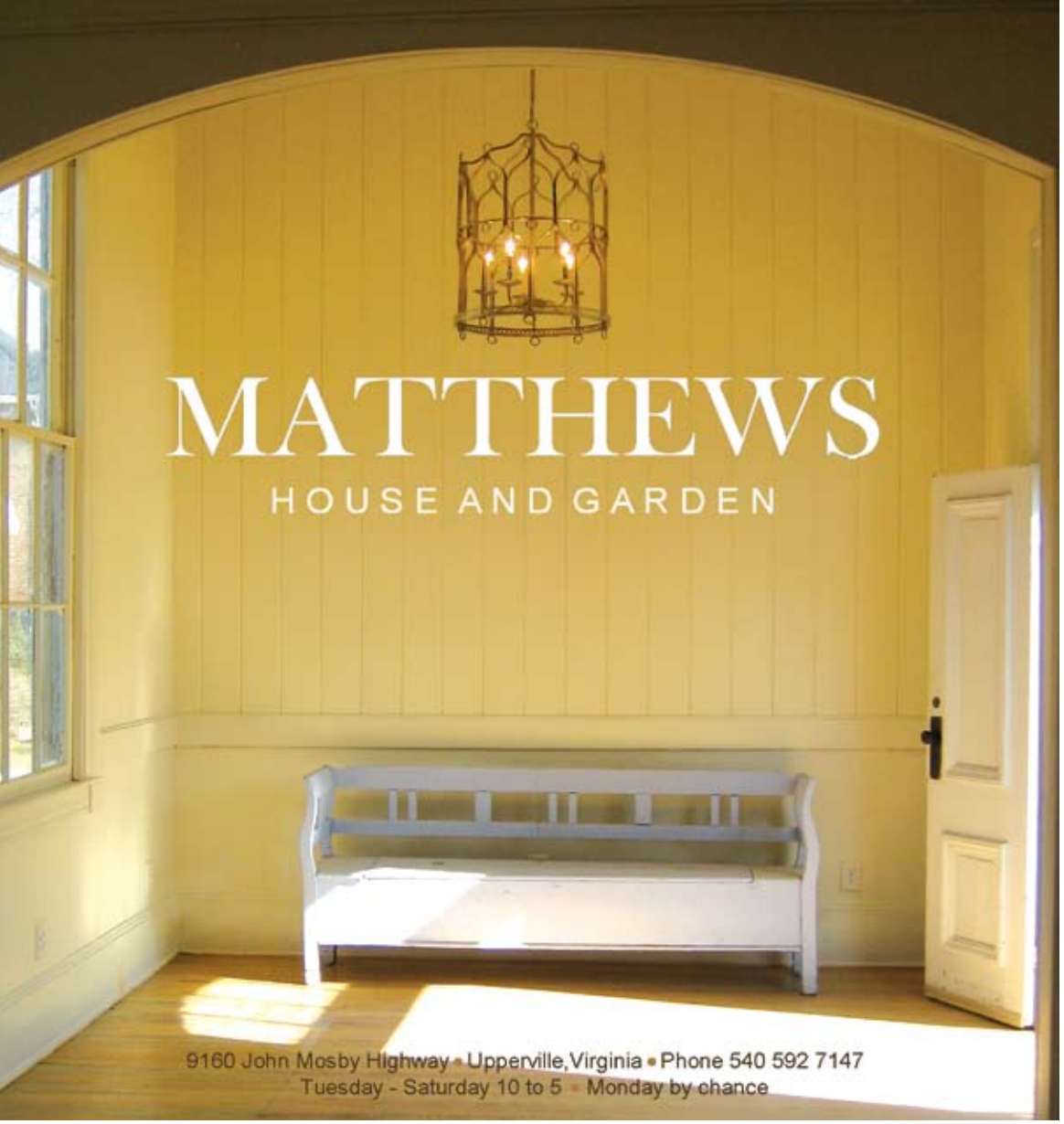
The second group are the stress tolerators. Our best perennials fall into this category. Stress in our climate can be heat, drought and humidity. Stress tolerators may have small leaves or coated foliage, able to conserve moisture. In a shady situation they may have evergreen leaves, taking advantage of the sun when trees are dormant. Examples include hel-leborus, Solomon's Seal, sarcococca, and peonies. Within this group, one finds the stress avoiders, our bulbous rooted plants like daffodils and tulips. Able to tolerate inhospitable situations with underground storage units, they also attempt to book-mark their space by producing copious amounts of foliage that smother plants that try to grow underneath as they go dormant. The idea being, I will be back and this is my spot. Since they actually only grow for a short season, it's more imperative that they play the suffocation game well.

Lastly we have the ruderals or pioneers. Fast growing, the flowers are usually showy and bright. Life is short, usually a year or two and copious amounts of seed are produced, insurance for future generations. Ruderals tend to fill open space quickly and often become weedy offenders. Examples include Lychinis coronaria or rose campion, verbenabonariensis, larkspur, Maltese Cross, and foxglove. Seed prefers to germinate with

light, another words, they can be extinguished by layers of mulch (once seed-ing has occurred). Quite a few ruderals are choice garden plants, two examples are Phlox divaricata and Papaver somniferum.

The intermingling of perennials is exactly what makes a garden, yet the battle to control them becomes our everyday mantra. Competitors are best planted in large groupings, essentially competing with themselves. The stress tolerators become our key structure plants. A gardener's good citizen, they thrive despite the weather. Lastly the ruderals have their merits, yet move around in random patterns, seeking open ground. Many purposely seed in fall, knowing that winter offers the ideal season for open space. Knowing what kind of plant we are managing helps us know what might happen next. The battle lines in our gardens are at the edge of each plant. If we could just draw a line in the dirt, dare the offender to cross, how much easier gardening would be.

This article is from a series of lectures Karen Rexrode gives at Green Spring Gardens in Alexandria, Va. The content is derived from the book "Plant-ing Design" by Piet Oudolf. This years lectures are based on Piet Oudolf's design strategies and Karen's garden observations. The lectures include indoor and outdoor lessons.



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PASTIMES

TICK TOCK

7TH INNING STRETCH

ALEX CUDABACK

On July 20th, if everything goes according to plan, if the gears of the American legal system wind down just so, Roger Goodell, Commissioner of the NFL, arguably one of the most powerful people in the history of professional sports, will officially run out of time.

On July 20th, if the terms of his incarceration and ongoing home confinement are appropriately met, Michael Vick will have successfully and honorably completed the first stage of his court-determined sentencing and, theoretically, move on to the final stage of his punishment.

The commencement of that final stage, a three-year probationary period, will force Roger Goodell to make a decision that, to date, he has been able to shuffle to bottom of his inbox.

Goodell's "indefinite" suspension of Vick, a suspension completely within his rights as Commissioner, was an easy and PR-savvy card to play when Vick was safely out of sight and out of mind in Leavenworth, Kansas, serving the first 21 months of a 23 month sentence for operating a dog-fighting ring.

Goodell's pronouncement that Vick would have to "show remorse" before he even considered reinstating him seemed perfectly reasonable while Vick was behind bars, and even now, as his every movement is observed 24-hours a day through the use of an electronic monitoring device.

But if, as is widely expected, on July 20th the federal government determines

that Michael Vick has served his time and is fit to return to society, albeit in a probationary manner, Roger Goodell might well find that any continued delay regarding his possible reinstatement to the NFL will start to sour, the continued funk of quasi-permanent banishment settling, miasma-like, over the league about which Goodell so clearly and deeply cares.

The three-year probationary period is really the rub for Goodell, for one simple reason; if the Federal government determines that Vick has served enough of his sentence and shown enough contrition to be released into society on the promise of good behavior, then on what basis can Goodell continue to prevent Vick the very opportunity to showcase that promised good behavior?

Now, to be clear, Roger Goodell is under absolutely no obligation to reinstate Michael Vick now or, indeed, at any time in the future. But he is under some obligation, if only one to be reasonable and fair, to lay out what additional terms and conditions, beyond the Federal government's, Vick must meet to earn his way back into the League.

Or he has to say Vick's NFL career is over, permanently.

I certainly don't envy Goodell's position. The situation in which he finds himself is, to be sure, untenable; there is, quite literally, no solution that will not leave him open to criticism and attack from one side or another.

Animal lovers and animal rights activists, on the one side, have promised to make any reinstatement of Vick by the NFL an absolute PR-nightmare, both for the league and whatever team decides he's

got enough gas in the tank to take a flyer on; football fans and Vick supporters, on the other, are clamoring that a once-in-lifetime-talent be given a chance for redemption, hoping to see him work the magic on a football field that so often left opponents and teammates alike shaking their heads in dumbfounded amazement.

And, of course, there is the racial subtext simmering just below the surface, ready to boil up at any time and enflame an already ignitable situation.

So no, I don't envy Roget Goodell.

But I also can't let him off the hook.

The closest parallel I can think of, the one I keep coming back to, and probably just because it was one that was debated, heatedly and often, around the dining table when I was growing up, is the limbo in which Pete Rose has found himself for the last 20 years.

Granted, Rose voluntarily agreed to a permanent place on Major League Baseball's ineligible list in 1989; however, that agreement allowed him to apply for reinstatement in one year. Since 1997, the year in which he first formally applied for reinstatement, Rose has hung like an albatross around the neck of Commissioner Bud Selig and the rest of MLB. Selig's obfuscation and delay on the matter have only served to further divide the pro- and anti-Roses, drawing a proverbial line in the sand that few seem willing to cross.

Is that the situation Goodell really wants to find himself in, continually deflecting unanswerable questions, trying to explain the unexplainable? I doubt it.

I'm no Vick apologist.

GREAT MEADOW
CONTUNUED FROM 1

Meadow is here today because of the leadership and tenets of the Great Meadow Foundation.

Great Meadow owes a significant debt to Arundel who established the foundation, both functionally and philosophically. But the time has come to move on to a new generation of leadership. Previous executive directors have guided the day-to-day operations and seen to the efficient management of events, but have not had the authority to make financial decisions without consulting the board of Trustees. Rob Banner's new position as president gives him the ability to be the final say on many business decisions, which is important given the amount of coordination and attention to detail required to keep Great Meadow running on schedule.

Recently, we sat down with Rob Banner and Buzz Kievenaar at Great Meadow's Summer House on Members Hill. They were eager to talk

I would never condone or promote the awful activities in which he was involved, namely the torturing and killing of innocent dogs for personal amusement.

But I've not lived a perfect life, either. And I've been given second chances, time and again, so often in fact that they've sometimes been third and fourth chances.

Maybe Roger Goodell doesn't want to give Michael Vick a third or fourth chance, months or years down the road.

But come July 20th, I think he should give him a second.

about the new Endowment Fund expansion and the many changes ahead at the venue. They project that sports and environmental enthusiasts from many areas will participate in this greatly expanded promotion of this field sport competition site.

"Now, we are opening up Great Meadow for everybody in the community at large to use," Rob Banner said. "In the future, we will encourage using the property to its full capabilities."

Great Meadow offers one of the most popular Fourth of July Celebrations in the region. Traditionally, it has been a family focused day, with picnics, games and fireworks. Future plans project other large public events like the 4th.

"As the permanent home of both the spring and fall Virginia Gold Cup races and Twilight Polo at Great Meadow these traditional sports events will continue their regional popularity and growth," Rob continued.

We walk out of the Summer House to the overlook area where the course and the hills stretch out to the East. Buzz and Rob discuss how important it has been that Arlington, Alexandria, Fairfax, and DC businesses and fans have been supportive of the Virginia Gold Cup and other events in recent years. The first generation at Great Meadow showed the eastern regions where to come for sports excitement. The second Great Meadow generation is now expanding on that direction.

As Rob Banner stepped into his leadership responsibilities at Great Meadow, he found that his career in publishing and advertising and his background as a horseman have trained him well for his new job. Born in Kingsport, TN, son of a surgeon, he grew up riding horses. His father had a farm pack of hounds so they hunted through fall and winter seasons. He showed in hunter/jumper shows in the summers and he rode point-to-points. Rob graduated from Vanderbilt University in 1980. He worked on three horse publications for 28 years - his 18 years at The Chronicle of the Horse in Middleburg being the longest.

Continued support of friends and the community help make the future of Great Meadow possible for generations to come. The foundation's stated mission of "Preserving open space in service to the community" is basic to being a "constantly evolving and improving organization providing a quality of life opportunity for all of our constituents." Contributions to the Great Meadow Foundation Endowment Fund, a 501(c)3 tax-deductible non-profit organization, can be sent to the foundation at 5089 Old Tavern Road, The Plains, VA 20198.



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.



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, significant 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. \$1,495,000.



Silo Road

Marshall, Virginia

Original house expanded and completely updated. Hilltop setting with mountain views, large master suite on main level, 2 bedrooms on upper level, country kitchen with fireplace. 2 full and 2 half baths, grand family room, extensive landscaping, front porch, rear deck with access to terrace. 2 stall barn and run in shed on 10.88 fenced acres. \$799,000.

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Northwood

Delaplane, Virginia

Fabulous Fauquier property in two parcels on 113 acres in Orange County Hunt. Stunning 360 degree views of rolling countryside and mountains. Bounds Goose Creek for nearly a mile. Four bedroom, five bath main residence complemented by 1770s two bedroom log cabin overlooking large pond. Incredible mature landscaping. Subdivision potential. \$3,375,000.



Cabin Branch

Marshall, Virginia

103.47 rolling and rising acres in prime location, minutes from Warrenton and very private. 1/2 open, mountain views, Williamsburg style Cape with first floor master bedroom and two large bedrooms on second floor, stucco tenant home, long creek frontage. \$1,875,000. House and 5.46 acres available for \$450,000 or 98.01 acres for \$1,425,000.



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.



Springbrook Farm

Middleburg, Virginia

Located in the Orange County Hunt, Springbrook Farm offers an impeccably maintained brick white-washed residence with three bedrooms, three and half baths. The interior is designed with an open first floor plan, den, large living room, dining room, master suite, great kitchen and a solarium leading to in-ground pool. Three car garage with apartment and covered walk. 10 stall barn and two bedroom apartment and fenced paddocks on 35 acres. Lovely mature plantings. \$3,300,000.



Chinn Lane

Middleburg, Virginia

Absolutely lovely Williamsburg Cape tucked into a hidden lot in the Village Hamlet. Main level provides an elegant master suite, large formal living room with a wood burning fireplace and built-in book shelves and a separate dining room. Upstairs includes 2 additional bedrooms and a large home office. The lower level is finished with a family/media room and a 2-car garage. The property is surrounded by mature flowering trees and an established garden accessed from multiple French doors creating unusual privacy. \$625,000.



The Moffett House

The Plains, Virginia

Built in 1909, this expanded Sears bungalow sits on 3 pristine acres in the historic village of The Plains. Today this unique 3 bedroom home totals more than 3,500 square feet of charming living space which includes a first floor master suite and an English pub room with a large home office. Surrounded by land in conservation easement. \$950,000.



Whitestone

Leesburg, Virginia

Beautiful hilltop setting with a long paved driveway to house. Brick Colonial on 25.21 acres has been completely updated, 5 bedrooms, 5 1/2 baths, 5 fireplaces, office, detached 4-car garage, guest house, play house, sports court and putting green. Minutes from Leesburg and Greenway. Perfect for entertaining. \$1,999,999.



Cotford Cottage

The Plains, Virginia

Cotford Cottage is a wonderful three bedroom, two bath home in village of The Plains. Delightful den with brick fireplace and separate entrance. Wood floors in spacious living room with fireplace. Virtually entire dwelling remodeled since 2006. Exceptionally well-maintained property with lovely plantings. Convenient to shops, restaurants, services, I-66 and other major routes. \$399,900.



Berrywyck

Marshall, Virginia

"Berrywyck," highly desirable and protected location, surrounded by large farms, circa 1929 cottage with 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2 fireplaces, tons of charm, hardwood floors and large windows. Property includes a pool, 2 stall barn and 2 sheds on 3.49 acres. House is almost renovated, should be finished in 60 days. Perfect for weekend or full time living. \$630,000.



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Question. We are considering renovating a home in the area that we recently purchased, can we make this older home like your new Hybrid Home?

Answer. Yes, many of the systems, such as solar PV panels and geothermal heat pumps, can be retrofitted to existing homes. The windows and doors can be replaced with the latest hi-perfor-

mance windows and doors. Older energy inefficient incandescent lighting can be upgraded to newer energy saving compact fluorescent and LED lighting. Additional insulation and sealants can be used to reduce drafts in the home. The result is a home that will have significantly less monthly utility bills, as well as being more comfortable to live in.

Question. Are there financial incentives for installing Solar PV

panels on a commercial building, for example a horse or cattle operation?

Answer. Solar PV panels qualify for a 30% Federal Tax Credit when installed for both residential and commercial applications. Commercial customers who purchase grid-tied PV systems are also entitled to an additional financial incentive: depreciation. Depreciation is a mechanism for spreading out the cost of acquiring large capital items over time. Solar projects, even though they have a 25-year service life, qualify for 5-year accelerated depreciation. Systems placed in service in 2008 and 2009 also qualify for bonus depreciation. These PV systems are still depreciated over 5-years, but they can take 50% in the first year, and 12.5% in the next 4-years. Something for someone who has an agricultural or other commercial business may wish to consider.

Question. Will we have to give up anything in terms of style or comfort to build green?

Answer. You not need give up anything from a style perspective to build green. Your hybrid home will actually be more comfortable. It will less drafty due to better insulating and hi-performance windows and doors. With hydronic radiant floor heating your home with be quieter, without the blowing of allergen-filled air associated with conventional forced air heating systems. Equally importantly, you will be significantly reducing your monthly energy bill. You can save money while helping to save the planet.

Question. Do you only build large custom homes?

Answer. No. I am a disciple of "The Not So Big House" movement where the emphasis is qual-



ity and detailing, and not size. Smaller, exquisitely designed homes lessen our footprint our not so big planet. We are currently offering for sale in the area a smaller bungalow-style home priced at \$599,000.

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.



BEAUTY & PLEASURE BY DESIGN

AT GARDENS OF DELIGHT

Ingmar Bergman would have quickly discovered Morgan May Walker had he ever stopped to purchase a rose bush at Gardens of Delight in Paeonian Springs, Virginia.

It is the county's good fortune that he never stopped by.

Morgan, a beautiful blond with crystal clear blue eyes has spent almost her entire life in gardens of one kind or another, and over that time she has developed a sense of color, style and scale that even the most highly educated landscape architect seldom achieves. Morgan's deep plant knowledge, her Latin vocabulary and her dedication to her many clients and customers distinguishes her as a truly dedicated professional.

In addition, the level of service she offers is truly unparalleled.

You've seen something somewhere that you have to have in your garden but you don't know the name? Morgan will work diligently with you until it is found and planted.

The veranda has never, ever been quite right? She'll sketch and prepare options until you realize that she understands perfectly what you want and then she'll help you realize the original vision.

The evergreens are mildewey? She has just the thing. The deer are impossible? Ditto, and its organic. You want something

blooming for summer that accurately reflects a David Hockney palette? No problem, Morgan has the most beautiful blooming annuals and perennials in the palest, softest colors imaginable. And, she grows them herself, in her own greenhouse. So each is as healthy and hardy as one could possibly wish.



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He's also the ideal partner for restorations, renovations and repairs, no matter how large or small.

A handsome young executive who revived the company his father started over thirty years ago, Donnie, who looks a lot like actor Christian Bale, is as serious about his commitment to clients as he is generous and fair with his staff and suppliers.

"I grew up in Loudoun County," Walk-

er explains. "I want our work to contribute to the character and quality of the county. And I want my crew to be happy and local. We all benefit from that."

When Don Walker, Senior, started Walker and Clarke in 1972, he and his partner specialized in remodeling and were sought out for every aspect of building. He settled with his wife, Karen, in The Horsehoe, off The Narrows Road between Waterford and Lovettsville.

Donnie and his brother, Joey, grew up in one of the most pristine and beautiful areas in Loudoun County, playing beside Catocin Creek as it meanders

Continued Page 26



GARDENS OF DELIGHT

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THINGS TO DO

MOSBY HERITAGE AREA

CAVALIERS, COURAGE AND COFFEE PROGRAM: ON SATURDAY, JUNE 13TH SOME OF MOSBY'S RANGERS AND THE CIVILIANS WHO KNEW THEM AS WELL AS A FEW OF THEIR UNION OPPONENTS WILL GATHER AT THE RECTOR HOUSE IN ATOKA TO REMINISCE ABOUT THEIR EXPLOITS DURING THE CIVIL WAR. AS THEY TELL THEIR STORIES, INTERPRETERS FROM THE GREY GHOST INTERPRETIVE GROUP WILL BRING THEIR TALES TO LIFE AND PRESENT LIFE IN THE MOSBY HERITAGE AREA DURING THE 1860S. THIS FAMILY-ORIENTED PROGRAM IS SPONSORED BY THE MOSBY HERITAGE AREA ASSOCIATION AS PART OF A MONTHLY INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM. THE PROGRAM BEGINS AT 7:30 P.M. AND WILL BE HELD OUT OF DOORS BY LANTERN LIGHT. ADMISSION IS \$5 FOR ADULTS AND \$2 FOR STUDENTS. SEATING WILL BE PROVIDED, BUT WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO BRING A BLANKET AND SIT ON THE LAWN UNDER THE STARS. NO RESERVATIONS ARE NECESSARY. ATOKA IS FOUR MILES WEST OF MIDDLEBURG OFF ROUTE 50 ON STATE ROUTE 713 (PHYSICAL ADDRESS: 1461 ATOKA ROAD, MARSHALL, VA 20115). FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 540-687-6681 OR VISIT THE EVENTS PAGE ON OUR WEBSITE WWW.MOSBY-HERITAGEAREA.ORG.

MIDDLEBURG LIONS CLUB TRIVIA NIGHT

THE MIDDLEBURG LIONS CLUB WILL BE HOSTING ITS FIRST TRIVIA NIGHT AT WOLFE TONE'S PUB AT THE BLACKTHORNE INN IN UPPERVILLE, VA ON WEDNESDAY JUNE 24TH 2009 AT 7:30 PM. THIS IS THE FIRST OF WHAT WE HOPE WILL BE A MONTHLY EVENT AND PROMISES TO BRING GOOD CHEER AND A CHANCE TO MEET NEW FRIENDS AND TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF A RANGE OF TRIVIA. ENTRANCE FEE IS \$10 PER PERSON, A CHARITABLE DONATION, WHICH IS FULLY TAX DEDUCTABLE. TEAMS WILL BE ARRANGED BY TABLE, WITH 5 PEOPLE PER TABLE. EACH TABLE WILL COMPETE AGAINST THE OTHER TABLES WITH THE WINNING TABLE SHARING THE GRAND PRIZE PACKAGE CONSISTING OF A MINIMUM OF \$200.00 PLUS OTHER PRIZES YET TO BE DETERMINED! THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT, SIDE RAFFLES WILL BE HELD FOR CASH AND PRIZES. WE PLAN TO PROVIDE AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO WIN CASH AND PRIZES, SO PLEASE JOIN US FOR A FUN AND ENTERTAINING NIGHT. YOU WILL HAVE FUN AND HELP THE COMMUNITY AT THE SAME TIME!

ALL PROCEEDS COLLECTED BY THE MIDDLEBURG LIONS CLUB AT THIS EVENT ARE FOR CHARITY AND WILL BE USED EXCLUSIVELY IN THE MIDDLEBURG, VA AREA. THE MIDDLEBURG LIONS CLUB HAS BEEN PART OF THE MIDDLEBURG COMMUNITY FOR OVER 50 YEARS.



JOIN US FOR A FUN NIGHT OF BINGO

for the benefit of
Kathy Humphrey Collette

MONDAY, JUNE 29TH
6:30 PM

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THE
MIDDLEBURG COMMUNITY
CENTER

Middleburg Community Center along with the Luminescence Foundation invite you to be their guest for **The Second Annual Doc Saffer "It Was Mostly Fun" Summer Series** to be held at Middleburg Community Center.

Friday, June 12th 5:30 to 7:30pm

Family Fun Night & Picnic in the Park

Games, Moon Bounces, Face Painting & Barbeque

Rain Date: Thursday, June 18th

For information call 540-687-6373



Pool Opens

The Middleburg Community Center Pool will be open on weekends June 6 & 7, then June 13 & 14. Beginning June 20th through August 23rd, the pool will be open full time. Pool hours are: Monday through Saturday 11am - 6pm. Sunday 12 noon - 6pm. For more information call 540-687-5130. Interested in Swim Lessons? Call 540-687-6375.

History of the Middleburg Community Center Project... Begins Now!

Since the mid-1940s, the Middleburg Community Center has been the site of countless town events, town legends, and family occasions of every description both public and private. Geographically and metaphorically the Community Center has often been the center of our lives since its beginning. Many members and friends of the Center believe the time has come to announce the opening of the "History of the Middleburg Community Center" project.

We are asking for your help in searching out as much information as you, your family, your friends and neighbors can share about the Center and the town through all those years. We are looking for stories, articles, photographs, family remembrances, and town events and celebrations. Special memories about the Community Center itself will be deeply appreciated.

As you can imagine, we don't know what will appear in response to this request but, knowing Middleburg, we believe there are treasured memories and stories and photos waiting to be shared.

Please contact the Community Center at 540-687-6373 to participate in this exciting project.



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FACES & PLACES

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ROCKBURN FARM, UPPERVILLE, VA - 5/22/2009
PHOTOS BY DEE DEE HUBBARD



MARY B. SCHWAB AND JOHN ZUSCHWERT



GAYLE & TOM DELASHMUTT, BARBARA AUGENBLICK AND NANCY REUTER



RICK BROWNLEE, CHILDS BURDEN, MIMI STEIN AND ELAINE



STEVEN PLESCOW, PHILLIPA & HOWARD LEWIS AND JUDITH PLESCOW

TEAM AMERICA ROCKETRY CHALLENGE

GREAT MEADOW, THE PLAINS, VA - 5/16/2009
PHOTOS BY JAY HUBBARD



Top American Rocketry Challenge Teams met recently at Great Meadows to compete in the world's largest rocket contest, sponsored by the Aerospace Industries Association and the National Association of Rocketry. Teams must design, build and fly a model rocket that reaches a specific altitude and duration determined by a set of rules developed each year. The contest is designed to encourage students to study math and science and pursue careers in aerospace. Prizes include \$60,000 in cash and scholarships split between the top 10 finishers and NASA invites top teams to participate in their Student Launch Initiative, an advanced rocketry program.





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LUNGE LINE

PIEDMONT EQUINE PRACTICE EXPANDS SERVICE AREA



VETERINARIANS AT THE PIEDMONT EQUINE PRACTICE INC., LOCATED BETWEEN MARSHALL AND THE PLAINS, VA., HAVE NOW EXPANDED THEIR PRACTICE TO INCLUDE HORSES LIVING IN THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA SUBURBS NEAR WASHINGTON, D.C.

Horsemen in the suburbs of Herndon, Great Falls, Clifton and other Fairfax County equestrian enclaves will now have the opportunity to call on the expertise of The Piedmont Equine Practice Inc. The Plains, Va.-based equine veterinary practice—established in 1996—will broaden the geographic range its veterinarians serve to include horses that live closer to Washington, D.C.

"We've expanded our veterinary staff so we can fully commit to serving horse owners who have previously been on the outskirts of our coverage area," said Dr. Joe Davis. "We know there are still horse owners who live in Herndon, Fairfax Station and Clifton, for example, and we're now here for their needs too."

The Piedmont Equine Practice includes 13 veterinarians whose special interests include sports medicine, surgery, dentistry, emergency care, reproduction and alternative therapies. Several of these veterinarians are board certified in specialty areas and focus on continuing education to ensure that the horses they care for receive the most up-to-date treatments available. The veterinarians at Piedmont Equine Practice are truly dedicated to horses and to their mission of making cutting edge medical care available to every horse owner.

Fairfax County horse owners can now call on Piedmont veterinarians for emergency services day or night, and horsemen whose horses require emergency surgery, such as colic, may now count on Piedmont veterinarians to provide such care at their new state-of-the-art clinic and hospital in The Plains, which opened in 2006.

"It's important to us to provide our clients with the best possible care whenever and wherever they need us, from routine preventative services to emergency surgery," said Davis. "We hope horse owners will now think of Piedmont for all of their equine veterinary concerns."

In addition to emergency response, Piedmont veterinarians will also be available for wellness care, physical examinations and pre-purchase exams. The Piedmont Equine Practice also offers in-barn lameness exams and advanced diagnostics, such as digital

radiography and digital ultrasound. Bringing such high-tech tools to the client is more convenient and allows for veterinarians to diagnose and treat a horse in the comfort and safety of his own barn.

While the veterinarians at Piedmont are well known for treating equine athletes in all sports, they're also relied upon to care for valued companion horses, trail mounts and retirees.

"We are truly passionate about all horses," added Davis. "Whether your horse is a trusted companion or an Olympic-level athlete, he'll receive the care and attention he deserves at Piedmont."

For more information about The Piedmont Equine Practice Inc., call (540) 364-4950 or see www.piedmontequinepractice.com. Piedmont Equine Practice Inc. is located between Marshall and The Plains at 4122 Zulla Rd., The Plains, VA 20198.

FOX CHASE FARM TEAMS WITH SUSAN G. KOMEN FOUNDATION

Fox Chase Farm, based in Middleburg, VA, is pleased to announce that it will host Ride for the Cure Virginia on October 10, 2009, at its spacious hunter/jumper farm in the heart of hunt country. The Ride for the Cure Virginia has been adopted as an official affiliate event of the Richmond Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure. Proceeds from the ride will benefit the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

Fox Chase Farm has received recognition over the years for its annual non-rated horse show circuit, as well as its hunter/jumper clinics, fundraisers, and educational events.

This year the farm reaches out even further to make a difference, inviting Virginia riders and horse lovers to join this philanthropic cause.

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

Hanley commented, "I am thrilled to be a part of this exciting new event. Although I have had no personal experiences with breast cancer, I feel that it is important to give back to the community, and that is why I have chosen to become involved with Ride for the Cure Virginia."

She added, "The majority of the riders in the Middleburg area are women, and I believe that horses are therapeutic and can make a real difference in helping people cope with terrible situations. It just makes sense: horse riding for a cure for breast cancer."

On October 10, the Ride for the Cure Virginia trail ride will begin at Fox Chase Farm and will then continue to Sunnybank Farm. Sunnybank Farm, owned by Dorothy Smithwick, spans over 1,000 acres and will be available for everyone to ride through during the event. Participants will ride in one of three groups; every rider must raise a minimum of \$250 and is encouraged to raise more for this worthwhile cause.

At the event's conclusion, Fox Chase Farm will host a sit-down dinner and silent auction. For those who are unable to join the trail ride, tickets are available for the dinner and evening festivities.

In addition to fundraisers, Fox Chase Farm hosts the \$20,000 TCH Fox Chase Show Series, which is the first non-rated series to be affiliated with the United States Hunter Jumper Association (USHJA). The \$20,000 TCH Fox Chase Show Series offers two shows a month from January until September.

The farm also offers free online classifieds for local equestrians and businesses in the area. Members of the equestrian community can buy and sell horses and ponies, tack, farm equipment, cars, trucks, trailers, and post Help Wanted ads.

For more information on Fox Chase Farm or the Ride for the Cure Virginia, please go to <http://www.foxchasefarm.net> or call their main office at 540-687-5255.

To learn more about the Richmond Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure, please go to <http://www.komenrichmond.org>.

For additional information on the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer, please visit their official website at <http://www5.komen.org/>.

CELEBRITY POLO PLAYERS TO COMPETE IN CAPITAL HOSPICE BENEFIT MATCH



The third annual Capital Hospice Polo Cup benefit match on Sunday, June 28, at the historic Great Meadow in The Plains, Va., will feature professional celebrity polo players John Walsh, star of television's "America's Most Wanted," Salvatore Ferragamo, whose designer fashion line bears his name; and Ignacio "Nacho" Figueras, a Ralph Lauren model, in a benefit match where the winner will be the community. Proceeds will go toward construction of the first free-standing hospice facility in Loudoun County, Va., on land donated to the nonprofit Capital Hospice by the Van Metre Companies.

Since its inception, the Capital Hospice Polo Cup has raised over \$65,000 for the proposed building, to be located on US 50 and Gum Springs Road. This year's Polo Cup is expected to draw the largest crowd so far, according to Capital Hospice and Event Chairs Dee and Beau Van Metre, who expect hundreds, if not thousands, of polo enthusiasts as well as people who have never seen a polo match but are curious and want to support Capital Hospice.

Guests will enjoy mimosas, bloody marys and cocktails provided by Bacardi and a lovely brunch provided by Outback Steakhouse, and will watch two competitive polo matches of four chukkers each, with a mix of professional and amateur players including Tim

Gannon, co-founder of Outback Steakhouse. The benefit match will pit the Outback-Booz Allen Hamilton Team against the Black Watch-Van Metre Team. In addition to the polo match, activities will be available for children. During half-time, a memorial dove release will occur for attendees to honor a loved one.

General Admission Tickets for the benefit match are \$10 each, available through Great Meadow at www.greatmeadow.org. Reserved tables for eight under the VIP tent range from \$1,000 to \$5,000 with sponsorship tables benefitting from the premier location. For tickets or information, contact Capital Hospice Director of Corporate and Community Support, Carol Kennedy at (703) 551-6216 or go online to www.capitalhospiceevents.org/hospicepolocup.

Persons wishing to buy general admission tickets can purchase those tickets from Great Meadow at www.greatmeadow.org. Capital Hospice is a locally-based nonprofit organization providing expert and compassionate medical care to people with serious, progressive illness and their families. No one medically eligible for hospice services is turned away because they lack insurance and have no way to pay for their care. For more information on Capital Hospice, please visit www.capitalhospice.org.

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PASTIMES

DONNIE WALKER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

through fields of bluebells and buttercups in the spring, and snowy cliffs and rocky beaches in the winter.

His dad began to teach Donnie about the building business when he was seven years old, and his education continued as he worked with his father. Donnie learned how to listen closely to clients, use impeccable craftsmanship and materials, respect original structures and incorporate modern, green materials whenever appropriate.

When Donnie was in high school, Don Walker went to work for Loudoun County, in time serving as Chief Magistrate. But, all the while, Donnie never forgot how much he loved building.

After high school, Donnie worked for a while in the automotive industry, but it wasn't long before he decided to re-join Walker and Clarke Builders.

"I let people know that I was available for any job," he said. "What I really loved to do was build beautiful, quality sheds. Machine sheds, garden sheds, wood sheds, doll house sheds, I still love to build them all."

He carefully explains that his sheds are so beautiful because they are built to last 100 years, and, he spends a lot of time building beautiful sheds in the winter months and be-

tween remodeling jobs..

"There is nothing pre-fab about our sheds, he emphasizes. "I build them to meet my standards for quality which are very high."

And he's telling the truth. Donnie Walker's sheds are palatial. The inside is beautifully finished. The windows glide open and shut. Should you wish a potting shed with cubbies, shelves, and a potting table that Beatrix Jones Farrand would envy, Donnie will build it to suit your every whim and satisfaction.

When he married Morgan May Walker in 2005, he gained a partner who understands both personal and professional commitment. Morgan grew up in the garden design business and is now president and owner of Gardens of Delight near Waterford.

"We both love our work," Donnie said, as their two-year-old daughter darted into his office for her pinwheel. "We've worked hard and we've been very fortunate to have clients who gave us an opportunity to do beautiful work for them, whether large or small. We have excellent references and we enjoy many referrals."

"I want Loudoun County to remain one of the most beautiful places on earth. It's a great pleasure to do our part to contribute to that."

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MATTHEWS HOUSE OPENS IN UPPERVILLE



Imagine a beautiful, vaulted space cloaked in the palest of fawn, cream and dove gray. A lovely church lit with sunlight streaming through arched floor-to-ceiling windows that open onto green Hunt Country vistas.

Now, imagine that this space is filled with stunning but subtle French, English, Swedish and American antiques and decorative pieces designed for comfort and understated elegance, and you have a sense of the ambience at Matthews House, a new Upperville, Virginia destination for discriminating designers and shoppers.

Created by Wanda Crossley, who for many years owned The English Manor in Leesburg, Matthews House is a highly refined version of her first fashionable shop. In Upperville, however, she promises she will soon add a garden shop filled with topiary, beautiful architectural pieces, dish gardens and custom containers.

"For almost ten years, I had a landscape design business in Cleveland, and gardening is really my first love."

"We will, of course, also offer interior design services," Crossley said. "It will be such a pleasure to meet and assist clients in this beautiful region."

An exceptional designer who demands expert craftsmanship and technical skills from her team, Crossley is widely recognized for her ability to understand and interpret her clients wishes.

Born in Lynchburg, Virginia, she grew up around the corner from the carriage house home of a well-known interior designer who often threw away her wallpaper sample books.

"I could not resist those books when I found them one day on my way home from school," Crossley remem-

bered. "I took them home and cut them up to cover the walls of my room. My love for interior design began then."

"If I had been a more talented mathematician, I would have been an architect, but I'm so happy as a decorator and interior designer that I wouldn't change a thing."

When Crossley decided to leave Leesburg and open her business in the western part of Loudoun County, she searched for an exceptional space with historic value that she could purchase and renovate.

She knew the minute she was shown the Upperville Primitive Baptist Church building that it was the space she'd been hoping to find. The congregation formed in 1775 and we think the church building is well over 100 years old, but it had stood vacant for some time.

"Its bones were excellent and, although it had been neglected for years, I could immediately see how beautiful it would be with a little care and attention"

Although it took months to design and renovate it, the space is now as light and elegant as a fabulous Paris apartment or gallery.

Whether you delight in bench-made French furniture, 18th century art, antique china, her complete line of case goods, distinguished lamps, linens and lighting, stylish carpets and window treatments or white bisque copies of ancient Italian pitchers and covered dishes, you will find many treasures at Matthews House in Upperville.

Matthews House is located at 9160 John Mosby Highway (Route 50) in Upperville, Virginia. 540 592 7147. Open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed on Sundays and open on Mondays by chance.



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BOSS— Boss is an 8 month old Catahoula Plott Hound X who is the love of your life dog! He is deaf but he is confident and well rounded. Boss will need a home with a fenced yard and another dog to be his ears. He is quiet, gentle & loving!

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 but does need a very structured home. She is a dog who deserves a second chance.

Middleburg Humane Foundation



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

BIANCA
Bianca is a gorgeous little Feist (terrier mix) who is very sweet and quiet. She is a little shy so needs a home with a fenced yard and no small children. She loves other dogs & cats and is very loving & cuddly!



CATFISH
Catfish is an 8 yr. old Catahoula dog who is a Katrina survivor from New Orleans. He was rescued in 2005, found a great home but his dad married & Catfish was returned. He is house-trained & good with children.



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Twister and Teddy Bear!

These 2 ponies are currently in 30 day training programs. They will need homes to go directly to continue their training. Great prospects!



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ZANDA
Zanda is a 1 year old small Lab/terrier mix who LOVES kids/ cats & other dogs. She is extremely quiet & gentle. Zanda needs a home with a secure fenced yard and lots of love. Zanda is special!

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GIA— Gia is a small Chihuahua mix who loves other dogs & kitties too. She came from a shelter in West Virginia. Gia is a great little dog

GOATS! We have 3 friendly goats that need a new home! Call if you can adopt all three together!

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ALBERT'S CORNER

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

You might think technology doesn't play a large role in the lives of dogs. I, of course, am very dependent on my computer and all things digital. (I am, after all, a journalist!) I'm not alone; there are plenty of other tech-savvy pets. Just search Google for "dogbook" and you'll see what I mean. For the most part, however, we're not prone to Tweeting, obsessing over smart phones, spending hours on our Facebook page or doing any of the things that so many people do these days. We're truly happy with a full bowl, a tennis ball and a comfortable place to rest. (I usually think people would be wise to take a hint from this.)

I have to say, however, that I now have a new perspective on the benefits of embracing technology. On a recent dark and stormy night, my people found a soaking wet small dog in the middle of Route 50. Things were definitely not looking promising for her, so they took her home and began the process of looking for the owner. Since the dog was recently groomed, loving and trained, they knew someone was missing her terribly.

After an evening of failed efforts to find her family, my people went to bed a bit discouraged. They would look for a microchip in the morning, but they couldn't know for sure if the little lost dog

had one. As soon as my people got up, they decided to post the information on Facebook and also send an email to a few people. Dee Dee Hubbard—the editor of this paper—saw the email and knew exactly what to do. She immediately posted the information on Middleburg's Facebook page, which has hundreds of members. Literally within minutes, the sister of the dog's owner saw the post. Within an hour of posting, the little dog was headed home to be reunited with her relieved family. It all happened so quickly that my people were completely stunned.

I've long known that technology is capable of making great

things possible. Being able to return a lost dog to its owner in moments, however, surprised even me. Obviously, this experience has far-reaching implications for the very troubling problem of missing pets. Pet owners now have another resource for communicating about a lost or found pet. This is great news!

For pet owners who aren't fond of the idea of joining social networks, I can reassure you that there are all kinds of privacy options. Having access to the power of these networks does not have to mean giving up personal information or exposing yourselves to any level of risk. It does, however, mean that you can become part

of a local, online community that can help in all kinds of difficult situations. So next time you lose or find a pet, I still recommend following the old methods of putting up posters, knocking on doors and making calls. Maybe the first step in this day and age, however, should start at your keyboard.

I think I'll update my status now: "Albert is ... very happy to have finished this month's column and definitely deserves a treat!"

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.

AMELIA'S STORY: HAPPY ENDING FOR GREAT PYENEES



five things that make a horse look good—balance, structure, muscle, quality, and character.

The Trailblazers listened intently as Porr explained how correctly balanced horses are more easily able to shift their weight and perform athletic maneuvers. She discussed how structure is the manner in which the bones of the skeleton fit together to produce angles and alignments. One participant asked what was meant by "shoulder angle" and how the angle actually affects movement. Porr explained that a more sloping shoulder allows for a longer stride. She talked about understanding how the angles of the shoulder will determine the movement of the arm bone. A 45 degree angle is considered the ideal for basic shoulder structure, but not very many horses actually have that degree of shoulder angle. In general, the more slope to the shoulder, or the more "laid back" the shoulder is, the longer and smoother the stride will be.

The Fauquier County Trailblazers Horse Club attended an equine conformation clinic hosted by the MARE Center in February.

Approximately 18 people attended the clinic where Shea Porr, superintendent of the MARE Center talked about the importance of correct conformation and how to determine whether various flaws in structure could be "forgiven" for a horse involved in a specific athletic event or for a particular purpose. Equine conformation refers to the alignment of a horse's bone structure, the patterns of musculature, and its body proportions in relation to each other.

Porr discussed how "form to function" refers to much more than just a "pretty" horse. She explained how form to function is the basis for judging conformation. A horse with proper conformation will be a stronger athlete and will tend to remain sound longer than one with poor conformation. However, there is no "perfect" horse, and some flaws can be overlooked for some athletic events. For example, a horse with poor form for a Grand Prix show jumper might still be used as an under saddle horse or trail horse. Porr talked about the external parts of the horse and showed how the skeleton of the horse affected what a person sees from the outside. She described

horse should possess traits that mark its breed. Their bone structure should be sufficient with the joints appearing coarse or heavy, and the horse should appear alert and attentive and move with grace and style.

After the discussion, Porr led the group outside to where several Virginia Tech Foundation Arabian geldings were waiting to be used for hands-on conformation demonstrations. After giving the participants

a chance to evaluate the geldings, Porr pointed out what good and poor conformation looked like. She also mentioned that poor conformation in one horse would not necessarily remove a horse from consideration for purchase, and that conformation alone does not mean the horse will not perform well.

Virginia Tech's Middleburg Agricultural Research and Extension Center's mission is to advance

the health and well-being of the horse through graduate education for equine professionals, nutritional and pasture management research, and community educational programs. Located in Middleburg, Va., the center is one of 13 Agricultural Research and Extension Centers located across the state that help serve the commonwealth's agricultural needs.

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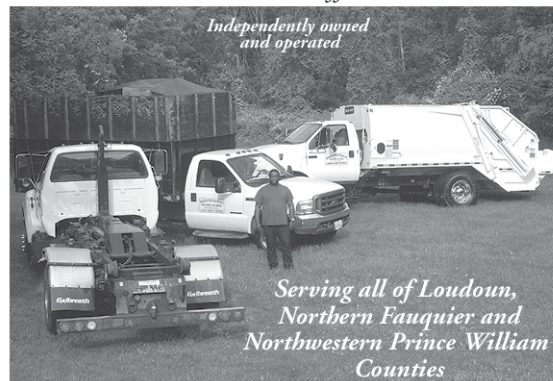
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\$100 Reserved Tailgate Space

(does not include admission to tent)
Bring your own picnic/refreshments (includes admission for 1 vehicle w/4 passengers).

Credit card number: _____ Expiration date _____

Or make check payable to "Golden Dreams Therapeutic Riding Center", a 501(c)(3) corporation.

Print full name: _____

Mailing address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Signature: _____

Day phone: _____ Mobile phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

For additional ticket/sponsor information contact: Kate Robbins at 540-687-5053 or polomagic@earthlink.net

The above charges are non-refundable. Event will be held rain or shine. All ticket purchases are final.

Mail or Fax this form to: Golden Dreams • Post Office Box 1413 • Middleburg, Virginia 20118 • fax: 540.687.6098

Please visit: GoldenDreamsRiding.com

Armfield, Miller & Ripley

FINE PROPERTIES, LLC

MIDDLEBURG 540.687.6395
WASHINGTON 540.675.1488
AMRFP.com



INTERNATIONAL OFFERING

ROCK RIDGE, MIDDLEBURG, VA

Great Location. Orange County Hunt. 94 acres. Five bedroom stone and brick main residence with paneled library, elegant woodwork and beautiful aged wood floors. The house is sited on hillside with fabulous views. 22 stall main barn, 5 stall barn. Outdoor ring, run-in sheds. 3 bedroom cottage. 2 bedroom tenant house. Superb facility for horses. Excellent ride out. \$6,450,000.

Ruth Ripley 540-687-2222



INTERNATIONAL OFFERING

HUNGRY RUN, AMISVILLE, VA

Wonderful 487 acre farm with extensive frontage on the Rappahannock River. Beautiful rolling fields suitable for horses, cattle or other livestock. Charming main residence with portions dating circa 1860's plus two additional cottages. Wonderful riding trails throughout the property and beyond. Located in and around numerous hunts and other equestrian events. Beautiful views overlooking the Blue Ridge Mountains and neighboring hillsides. Very private. \$5,999,000.

Anita Sisney 703-973-1987



INTERNATIONAL OFFERING

NORTHWOOD, DELAPLANE, VA

Lovely 113 acres property in sought after Orange County Hunt. Fabulous view, rolling pastures, large pond. Over 1 mile of frontage on Goose Creek. Open floor plan in well maintained, 4 bedroom, country house. Wonderful flow for entertaining. Additional log cabin with view of pond. Beautiful gardens surround house. Pool. Large deck. Great privacy. Superb country retreat. \$3,375,000.

Ruth Ripley 540-687-2222



INTERNATIONAL OFFERING

CARTER'S MILL, MIDDLEBURG, VA

Very creative and lovely country house on 44 park-like acres in the Orange County Hunt near Middleburg. Residence, with 2 bedrooms, is constructed in the footprint of a centuries old water mill. Wonderful views of beautiful landscaping and Cromwell's Run which traverses the property. Separate suite in the lower level with private stone terrace. Greenhouse, equipment buildings, stone garden house. Superb weekend retreat or hunt box. \$2,200,000.

Ruth Ripley 540-687-2222



INTERNATIONAL OFFERING

ANGELICA HILL, MARSHALL, VA

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

Rick Lowe 703-509-3962



INTERNATIONAL OFFERING

ROKEBY ROAD, UPPERVILLE, VA

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

Cindy Polk 703-966-9480



INTERNATIONAL OFFERING

LIME KILN ROAD, MIDDLEBURG, VA

Magnificent stone and brick custom built colonial on 5 wooded acres just outside of Middleburg. Easy access to Dulles. Lovely private setting surrounded by mature forest and large farms and estates. Fine materials used throughout home with slate patios and walks, 11 zone heating and cooling, 7.5 baths, and 5 fireplaces. \$1,699,900.

Rick Lowe 703-509-3962



INTERNATIONAL OFFERING

JENKIN'S MOUNTAIN, WARRENTON, VA

Stunning views surround this beautifully designed and built 5 bedroom house secluded on its own mountain. First floor bedroom. Fabulous European country kitchen. 3 fireplaces. 42 acres. Small barn with fenced paddocks. 20'x50' pool with spa. Landscaping includes superbly and professionally crafted gardens by Oehme & van Sweden. Close to the town of Warrenton yet in a private country setting. Drastic price reduction. \$1,550,000.

Ruth Ripley 540-687-2222



INTERNATIONAL OFFERING

THE RETREAT, BLUEMONT, VA

Historic 1799 Manor House overlooking the Va. National Golf Course and the Shenandoah River. Ready for final build out as an elegant residence or for the approved commercial use as a restaurant, meeting facility or special events facility. \$1,500,000.

Carol Fochtman 540-272-4334
Rick Lowe 703-509-3962



HILLSIDE COTTAGE, THE PLAINS, VA

Ten very Private acres, with views in the Orange County Hunt territory. Charming 2 bedroom, 2 bath stucco house on one level with an open floor plan designed for comfortable country living. Protected location is perfect for house expansion; property bordered by large farm in easement. Mature flowering trees, mountain views, stone walls and trails for walkers and horses enhance the property. NEW PRICE \$799,000.

Linda Norris 540-270-7560



HITT HOUSE, MIDDLEBURG, VA

Perfect little horse farm with beautiful views in Orange County Hunt. Backs up to 850+ acres of ride-out. Charming 1889 VA farmhouse, with original heart pine floors and moldings, traditional 2 over 2 plan with 2 BRs, 1 BA on 2d floor and a LR, DR, kitchen and half bath on 1st floor. The home has been upgraded since 2000 with a new electric heat pump and central air. Barn, paddocks, and 120x200 sand riding ring. 3.86 acres. \$600,000.

James Atkins 703-447-2302



SYCAMORE, MIDDLEBURG, VA

In the village: 3 bedroom, 2 bath updated home with sun filled rooms, wood floors, master bath with Jacuzzi tub, steam shower and radiant heat tiled floors. New kitchen appliances. Sunroom looks out to gardens and stone walls. Exceptional lot of just under half an acre with dogwood, lilac, sugar maple, holly and a 12x12 shed. Architectural expansion plans available. \$425,000.

Cindy Polk 703-966-9480

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