

TOWN BUDGET APPROVED: REVENUE -EXPENSES REDUCED

DAN MORROW

Middleburg's Town Council approved a balanced \$1.4 million budget for 2010 at its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, June 11. The motion for approval, introduced by Trowbridge Littleton and seconded by Mark Snyder, passed without opposition.

The \$1,394,000 budget is only about 5.5% less than the \$1,456,747 budget for 2009, a modest reduction in comparison to other jurisdictions.

Town Administrator Schiro had noted earlier that he intended to project revenues conservatively and keep expenses tightly under control. Council noted that the state of the county, state and national economy, and the delay in the opening of the highly anticipated Salamander Inn and Spa, fully justified his conservatism.

Council Member Mark Snyder, while urging everyone to read this year's budget carefully, made it a point to praise Schiro and the town's staff for both the thoroughness and transparency of this year's reporting, and for their highly professional conduct in leading council through the intricacies of the budgeting process in an unusually difficult economic environment.

Marshall/ Madison Street Intersection

Representatives of the Virginia Department of Transportation met with Town Administrator Schiro in early June to kick off the much-heralded and long-awaited project to improve the awkwardly designed intersection of Marshall and Madison Streets just north of the Pink House and Red Fox Inn.

At Thursday's regular session of Council, Schiro reported that VDOT had also announced approval of a new, second stage, \$118,000 investment in the project. The Transportation

Department's grants, designed to help improve traffic flow, sight lines, and the safety of both motorists and pedestrians across the sometimes-dangerous intersection now total more than \$350,000.

Parking Lot Lease

Middleburg's five-year Federal Street Parking Lot Lease, negotiated in 2004 with Middleburg United Methodist Church, expires in June.

At this month's Council meeting, Town Administrator Schiro reported that he had noticed the upcoming expiration and had duly contacted Howard Armfield, Chairman of the church's Finance Committee.

Given the long, friendly, and relatively problem-free agreement between the Town and church, Armfield reported that, frankly, he didn't realize the lease was about to expire.

According to Schiro, the church's Finance Committee has now discussed the lease and is proposing a rent increase of more than 12%, to \$5,500 per year, and a reduction in the term of the lease from five years to three. Revenues from the lot's parking meters would still be split 50/50 with the church.

Councilmember Mark Snyder suggested that some adjustment in the division of parking meter revenue might be in order if the church chose to increase the monthly rent. Snyder also noted he would prefer a five year lease.

Until the details of a new lease are worked out, Schiro reports the Town will continue to operate the lot on a month-to-month basis, under the terms of the old agreement.

New Water Connections

The Pink Box, PNC Bank, the offices of Long & Foster office, and Verizon are now benefiting from connection to the town's brand new Marshall Street water line, with further hook-ups anticipated as the month progresses.

This good news was tempered, for a time, by problems for those still connected to the old lines. Sediment, stirred up during the process of changing connections resulted in what was described as "black water" at the Town Hall and at a local dentist's office.

Asked by Councilmember Lisa Patterson about replacement of lateral lines connected to the new mains, Schiro confirmed that, at this point, the Town was not doing so.

Mark Snyder, noting complaints about the increase in water rates, suggested the Town was duty bound to replace as many of the worst of those lines as time, prudence and funding allowed.

Continued Page 7

UPPERVILLE HORSE & COLT SHOW

PAGE 16



MIDDLEBURG HUMANE FOUNDATION GALA

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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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Middleburg Office
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703.657.7614
bsharp@bluemontcapital.net

NEWS OF NOTE

COKIE ROBERTS TO TALK ABOUT LADIES OF LIBERTY AT OAK HILL

Members of the Board of Directors of The Mosby Heritage Area Association have announced that Cokie Roberts, national political commentator for ABC News and National Public Radio, will talk about her best-selling book, *Ladies of Liberty*, July 16th at Oak Hill, the lovely home of President James Monroe and his wife, Elizabeth.

Scheduled to begin at 4 p.m., the limited seating event will begin with a tour of the famed Oak Hill gardens, will continue with Roberts' discussion in the garden and will conclude with a book signing and light refreshments.

Roberts is well known for her interest in the heroic women whose patriotism, heroism and sacrifice helped create the new nation. In *Ladies of Liberty*, she presents a colorful blend of biographical portraits and behind-the-scenes vignettes chronicling women's public roles and private responsibilities.

Admission to this benefit for the Mosby Heritage Area Association is \$100 and dress is summer casual.



The event is made possible by the generosity of Thomas and Gayle de Lashmuth, the stewards of James Monroe's Oak Hill.

CARBON NEUTRAL HOME HEATING GETS TAX CREDIT

As part of the 2009 Economic Stimulus legislation, U.S. homeowners who purchase a 75-percent efficient biomass (wood or pellet) burning stove, fireplace or fireplace insert and place it into service in their home during 2009 or 2010 can receive a 30-percent tax credit for costs incurred, up to \$1,500. Today the Federal Government released clarifying guidelines for qualifying biomass products.

The guidelines verify that more than 30 Quadra-Fire® and Harman Home Heating™ products, as well as the Heat & Glo® Northstar and Heatilator® Constitution wood burning units, qualify for the tax credit. The products include EPA-certified wood stoves, fireplaces and inserts, as well as pellet stoves, fireplaces, inserts, furnaces and boilers. Quadra-Fire, Harman, Heat & Glo and Heatilator are brands of Hearth & Home Technologies, based in Lakeville, Minnesota.

"Significant financial and environmental benefits can be gained for the homeowner who heats with wood or



pellet burning appliances," said Rusty Cox, Owner of American Chimney in Purcellville. "You can enjoy reduced heating costs for years to come while utilizing renewable fuels and contributing to a greener Earth."

For more information about qualifying products, visit American Chimney at 201 N Main Street in the Purcellville Plaza Shopping Center, or online at www.americanchimneyva.com. For additional information about the tax credit, please consult your tax advisor.

HISTORIC CHARITY EVENT RETURNS IN NEW FORM

For 60 years the Fabulous Rummage Sale at Emmanuel Episcopal Church was one of the "must do" events in Middleburg.

Shoppers flocked to the yearly event in hopes of buying designer label clothing at a fraction of the original prices or maybe even finding a dress once worn by Jackie Kennedy.

But the sale ended in 2003, a victim of dwindling volunteer help. Now, a new event will take its place. It's not a rummage sale but rather the Great Emmanuel Public Auction to be held September 12 at the church on Washington Street. Donations for the event are accepted every Saturday until September 5 from 9 am until noon at Middleburg Self Storage on Federal Street. Any serviceable item is welcomed except clothing or large appliances. Items wanted include furniture, antiques, sporting goods, lawn and garden equipment, horse and pony items and running cars and trucks.

The sale will be conducted in two parts. The outdoor items will be sold in the church parking lot beginning at 10 a.m. and then in the parish hall for the furniture, antiques and other lots.



So far, 50 items have been donated and auction organizer expect to have more than 300 lots by sale time. There will be no buyers premium or sale taxes charged at the auction/ Admission is free and open to the public.

For further information or to donate an item, contact Curtis Prins (540) 687-3990.

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NEWS OF NOTE

THE SPICE OF VARIETY

JOY M. SMITH

Just about everyone who lives in, works in, or visits Middleburg needs to eat sooner or later. Recently, we came to realize that this little town has 16 eating establishments ready to meet those needs.

We learned early on when we began our research and interviews for this series, that each restaurant has its own identity, its own specialties and, of course, its own human story. We also realized that, in Middleburg, there is a good meal for every budget.

We hope readers will let us know their thoughts and opinions after they visit the restaurants we feature. What could be more fun than dialogue about eating?!

Initiating The Spice of Variety series in this issue we present three distinctive Middleburg restaurants: The Red Fox Inn, Market Salamander and The Goodstone Inn and Estate.

We heartily thank each of the chefs and staffs for their cordial cooperation in helping us bring their establishments and talents to Middleburg Eccentric readers.

The Red Fox Inn

WWW.REDFOX.COM

The Red Fox Inn rests on more than 200 years of history and, currently, is the cherished endeavor of three generations of the Reuter family. Matriarch Nancy Reuter bought the Inn in 1972. Family members including her son Turner and his wife Dana have managed the Inn until just this year when the new Reuter Team stepped up to management. Third generation family member and front house manager Matilda Reuter, (daughter of Turner and Dana), back house manager Jonathan Engle, and executive chef Becky Croft comprise the collective management committee. This is a new concept in food service which they learned while in training in North Carolina. Rather than specific chef designations the collective management committee plans the menus.

This splendid old Inn now showcases today's dining experiences with today's fresh from local gardens and farms selections served with the friendliness and poise of today's family of professionals.

Matilda smiles when we ask about the three most popular items on the menu. "Could I pick four please?" she asks. We assure her she

can and we scan today's menu which features Appetizers, Soups & Salads, Tavern Fare and an extensive list of Entrees. Her list of four guest favorites includes:

Appetizer – Broken Arrow Ranch Venison Sausage

Soup – Red Fox Peanut Soup - World famous

Tavern Fare – Middleburger Angus patty - all the trimmings

Entrée – Surf and Turf – Angus filet, Red Fox crab cake

The exquisite old paneling announces historic vintage throughout.

Matilda suggests we go outside for photos where the stone exterior of the Inn frames our photos. The Red Fox Inn has been one of Middleburg's most valuable historic sites since the 1700s. The Reuter family has respected, protected and continued those traditions into the 21st Century.

Market Salamander

WWW.MARKET-SALAMANDER.COM

Market Salamander has grown to be many a family's



favorite food resource. Certainly the blue Market Salamander truck is familiar at hunt meets and diverse equine events in the region through most of every year.

In town, full menus most days for lunch and dinner at Market Salamander have created a new need with locals. Time allowances in

Matilda, Jon and Becky escort us through the upper gallery rooms where we have chatted while admiring wonderful art from the family collections. We move down to The Tavern and Dining Rooms on the first floor which are gracious in size yet comfortably intimate.

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their schedules to "Pick Up" the next meal to take home. Career families and all of those ungifted kitchen shunners of domestic chores, such as cooking, appreciate and support Market Salamander menus.

We walk over to the Market to meet Chef de Cuisine Vaughn Skaggs and are treated to the pleasure of watching him prepare two beautiful, fresh garden vegetable specials which our camera insists we shoot. Ambidextrous Chef Skaggs grills asparagus spears (which are served with a roasted pepper relish) while tossing the bright leafy Salamander Farm Swiss Chard which is sautéed with roasted garlic.

We asked Chef Skaggs about three (or four) menu favorites and after consulting with his staff he named the following:

Sheila-Turkey Ruben, Judge Newman Bourbon Chicken Salad, Pincher Crab Cake and Slow and Low Pork

Market Salamander offers seating both inside and on the wraparound patio on the north and west sides of the Market. Beautiful buffets of the prepared specials and desserts with accompanying menu (cook to order) lists are easily referred to by patrons as they move through the interior core of Salamander's food presentation area. Staff members assist in selecting and serving orders.

The Market is part of Sheila Johnson's group of businesses that began with BET in Washington DC then grew far and wide. Included here, in addition to Market Salamander, are Salamander Farm just south of Middleburg and, just north of Middleburg, Salamander Resort and Spa which is slated to open in 2011.

Green Houses and gardens at Salamander Farm provide fresh produce and other ingredients for Market Salamander's menus. The Market has included local, fresh farm ingredients since it opened more than five years ago.

Goodstone Inn & Estate

WWW.GOODSTONE.COM

The 265 rolling acres of the Goodstone Inn and Estate, just a few miles north of Middleburg are a feast for the eyes this summer. The gardens are full, the assorted livestock are well fed and content and the Inn's open fields beckon visitors out for country walks or healthful jogs.

Goodstone Inn clearly represents the close ties between local fresh food resources and local menu offer-

ings. Goodstone accesses not only their own farm resources but also those of other farms including Ayrshire Farm, Crooked Run Farm, Over the Grass, Oak Springs Dairy

he takes us on a tour of the grounds and gardens where our camera records his obvious pleasure in nature's contributions. Goodstone is indeed a fully functioning farm



and numerous others. Among many others, wines from Linden Vineyards are served.

Chef Tarver King has welcomed us to the Inn and

with barns and a silo and pigs and chickens and all manner of farm inhabitants.

The Inn, cottages and residences at Goodstone offer

old world elegance with new world amenities. Here, modern luxury is balanced with rustic elegance and quiet privacy. Some guest accommodations are discretely placed around the Estate for guests' seclusion and relaxation.

A few of the current "Progressions" menu offerings at the Goodstone restaurant are:

Mulligatawny, curry, rice, fried onion, hyssop, accompanying wine: Pearmund, Viognier, VA. 2007

Polenta with nine embellishments, accompanying wine: Dr. Pauly, "Noble House", Riesling, Mosel, 2004

Beef on a stone, potato, malt, stilton, accompanying wine: Robert Sinskey Vineyards, Merlot, Carneros, 2004

Goodstone Inn & Estates restaurant is open to the public Wednesday through Sunday. Limited seating is available - reservations are requested.

Next month in the Eccentric The Spice of Variety will feature three Middleburg restaurants located right in the center of town. They are French Hound, Back Street Café and Mello Out.



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NEWS OF NOTE

CLEANSING WATER, INC.

Cleansing Water, Inc. is a private Home Health agency located in Warrenton Virginia owned and operated by Bob and Marsha Grant, who together bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the business. They develop competent, knowledgeable care providers to ensure the safety and well being of their clients. Cleansing Water believes that "each individual is a unique creation; therefore care must also be unique". As Marsha Grant says, "we must consider the whole person; body, mind and spirit to bring healing and overall well-being".

Administrator Joan Miles oversees daily operations, Trish

Mentzer, R.N., supervises the client delivery of care and staff and client education, and Carla Cunningham, the staffing coordinator, assures that all is well in the field. This team coordinates the delivery of care for their 25 caregivers and clients located within the surrounding five counties.

Services provided by Cleansing Water are varied and encompass a large list of skilled and companion aide services to meet every individual need. They offer R.N., L.P.N and CNA (certified nursing assistant) care. CNA's provide personal hygiene, skin care, medication reminders, and light house-keeping.

A growing need is the Profes-

sional Care Management service, which is provided by an R.N. This includes medical advocacy, health liaison, coordination of care and relocation. Cleansing Water and their team will do the scheduling, investigation and networking in the community to provide optimum solutions when seeking home care resources.

Specialty services include meeting the needs of dementia and Alzheimer's clients and their families and assistance for mothers with newborns and or special needs children.

Cleansing Water is located at 30 Main Street, a block from the historic courthouse. They believe that relationships are vital to the



delivery of care with solutions that work and have positive outcome for all. To schedule a free initial assessment, call 540-341-0212 or toll free 866-294-4665 or visit their

website at www.cleansingwater.com. Cleansing Water is a member of the Middleburg Business and Professional Association.

BILLS INTRODUCED TO SUPPORT PARKLAND EXPANSION IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA

The Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority is pleased to announce their support for two Congressional bills: Complete America's Great Trails Act, sponsored by Congressman Gerry Connolly; and National Capital Regional Land Conservation Act, introduced by Congressman Jim Moran. Both bills will likely result in more parkland.

National Capital Regional Land Conservation Act will create a \$50 million matching fund to help park agencies expand parks within the National Capital Region. While introducing this legislation on Friday, June 19, Congressman Moran noted a special thank you to William C. Dickinson, former chair of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority.

"Bill grasped the idea of a regional conservation fund and found an ingenious and clever vehicle for granting the Park Service the authority to operate the program through the long dormant Capper-Cramton act," Moran said. "He has tirelessly recruited support for the bill."

In researching the history of land conservation efforts in the Metropolitan area, Dickinson found that much of the George Washington and Rock Creek Parkways, in addition to many other parkland areas, were purchased with the help of the 1930

Capper-Cramton Act. This new legislation from Congressman Moran would in essence re-authorize this old act.

Pat Noonan, Chairman Emeritus of the Conservation Fund said, "I commend the Congressman [Moran] for his leadership to conserve the Capital region's treasured landscapes."

Complete America's Great Trails Act (HB 1912) is being championed by Congressman Gerry Connolly. This bill would provide a tax credit to landowners who donated a public access trail easement on their land. This tax credit would apply to lands within a half mile of the Potomac River, which is a National Scenic Trail corridor. Trails consistently rank as the most popular park amenity in public opinion polls. This bill would help complete the Potomac National Scenic Trail.

If passed, these bills will greatly add to the parkland and park amenities of the National Capital Region. The Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority owns nearly 13 miles of Potomac River frontage, and anticipates completing another land acquisition this fall that will add an additional half mile of Potomac River parkland. Most of NVRPA's parkland is along the major rivers and areas which supply much of the drinking water to Northern Virginia.

TOWN BUDGET APPROVED

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Schiro confirmed that he had already prioritized improvements, with special emphasis on the Ridgeview area.

Praise for Middleburg Police

Mayor Betsy Davis reported that David Crandall of the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office had written a letter to Middleburg Police Chief Steve Webber commending the Department for its assistance in investigating a series of commercial burglaries in March 2009.

The Middleburg force's excellent work resulted in additional local charges, and possibly federal charges, being filed against some of the accused.

In expressing her personal thanks, and those of the Town Council and Citizens of Middleburg to Chief Webber and his officers, Mayor Davis noted that it was especially gratifying have the Town's high opinions of the force confirmed by others, and especially by fellow law enforcement professionals.

End of the Colandrea Litigation?

Town Attorney Elizabeth Whiting reported she was in court last week on the motion of opposing counsel to withdraw from a long-standing series of multi-year court cases involving contentions of zoning violations linked to, among other things, fence heights and right-of-way intrusions affecting the Colandrea property on Middleburg's Walnut Street.

According to draft Council minutes, Whiting expressed "her opinion that the sole surviving suit would be dismissed soon."

Asked by Council Member Trowbridge Littleton whether or not "a cloud" would hang over the Colandrea title in the event that it was sold, Whiting explained that any alleged zoning violations "would follow the land." A title report, she noted, should include a check of the court cases affecting the land, with any cases being reported to the purchaser as a part of a final settlement.

At that point, she continued, a

purchaser would either accept or reject the sale; and, would thereafter be bound by the conditions of the land.

Whiting reminded Council that, in the town's view, there were still height violations on at least three of four sides of a fence erected by the Colandreas.

Town Planner David Beniamino then reported that he was scheduled to meet with Mr. Colandrea about what he described as possible "non-lawsuit related violations."

Beniamino had contacted Mr. Colandrea, he said, about complaints that a business was operating out of one of the homes, in violation of town ordinances.

Asked by Vice-Mayor Darlene Kirk whether Mr. Beniamino needed the Town Attorney's assistance, Beniamino said he did not think so.

According to the Town Planner, Mr. Colandrea had explained to him that he was simply renovating the house in question, that pipes had burst in the process, and more work had been required by his contractor.

Indeed, according to Beniamino, Mr. Colandrea had asked for the opportunity to take him through the house in question, to show him first hand that it was not being operated as a business.

Vice Mayor Kirk encouraged the Town Planner "to use caution."

Town Attorney Whiting suggested that Beniamino simply talk to her about what was discussed at his meeting with Colandrea, and follow-up his conversation formally, in writing.

Carla Gregory

Mayor Davis noted at the very beginning of this month's council session that she had just returned from a moving and very well attended funeral for former Council Member Eura Lewis's beloved daughter, Carla Gregory.

According to Mayor Davis both Ms. Lewis and Mr. Gregory had asked her to thank the Council and the people of the Town of Middleburg for all their support and kindness during her daughter's long and difficult illness.

FORMER MIDDLEBURG RESIDENT TO RECEIVE MEDAL OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA

The Australian Government recently announced that former Middleburg resident Walter van Praag now of Devonport, Tasmania, has been awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia by Elizabeth II, Queen of Australia, in her Birthday Honours List.

Mr. van Praag is being recognized for his efforts on behalf of cystic fibrosis awareness and treatment. In 2007, Mr. van Praag, who has cystic fibrosis, rode a bicycle from Paris to Istanbul to demonstrate, especially to young people, that persons with cystic fibrosis can lead normal,

productive lives. The medal will be presented to Mr. van Praag in Hobart, the capital of Tasmania, in September.

The Medal of the Order of Australia was instituted in 1976. It is awarded to Australian citizens for service worthy of particular recognition based on third party recommendations which involve in-depth information, references and research.

Mr. van Praag was a member of Middleburg's volunteer Rescue Squad.

He is married to Katherine Hitch, also formerly of Middleburg.

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NEWS OF NOTE

UNDERSTANDING YOUR INVESTMENT GOALS

MARK STYS

For the last three months the stock market has had an impressive rally. In simple terms, it is up about 30% from the bottom in March, but still down about 40% from the highs in 2007. As the panic phase of the recession appears to be over, now might be a good time to start thinking about your investment goals. However, it really becomes a question of addressing your personal goals.

Most people have a generalized view of their investment objectives. For instance, they may be saving for retirement, or putting a down payment on a new home, or putting kids through college. There are as many goals as there are people to come up with them. While it is important to understand our investment goals it is just as important to consider them in the context of our investment strategy and style.

When most people discuss their investment strategy they often use phrases like "I'm a long-term investor", or "I usually buy and hold for the long run." If our full-time working years generally start

in our late teens or early twenties and often continue until we are in our mid sixties, it is reasonable to assume that our primary goal is retirement. Even so, we still need to assess whether our 'long term investor' or 'buy and hold' strategy meets the expected outcome in our goals.

Certainly Wall Street has made a great deal of money pushing this classic version of asset allocation on investors that allows many brokers to coral their clients into one of five 'risk' herds or buckets from 'conservative' to 'aggressive'. This is important for most brokerage firms because once they get the five portfolios herded into the desired bucket they can manage each of them en masse. This lowers the administrative, reporting, execution, and allocation costs for the brokerage and management firms. By getting you into a set portfolio your broker or advisor can also handle a much bigger group of clients. Most clients want to believe that they have a personal relationship with their broker, so the financial services industry uses catchy terms like "mass customization" to help sell these strate-

gies.

This is not to say that all of these programs are bad or that brokers or advisors are dishonest; only that brokerage firms have made a great deal of money getting people to invest in the way that maximizes their efficiency and make it easy for them to handle your money. Certainly many of us have benefitted from gaining access to investment management, even if it is limited to one of five risk categories. But, each of us is different, with different goals, and for many of us these goals change throughout our lives. So at a minimum, we need to make sure that once we establish our goals, we understand what is needed to meet these expectations form both a return and a risk perspective. We also need to understand that these goals and expectations will and should change over time.

When we first begin investing, (let's assume that it is early in our life), we can take more risk because our longer term investment horizon increases our ability to absorb losses if our goal is truly a long term one. A good working definition for the term

'risk' is 'the likelihood of loss or receiving lower than expected returns' as it pertains to our investments. Too often we think of risk and synonymously think of the possibility of increased returns when what we should really be thinking about is the possibility of increased losses. Our ability to absorb losses directly impacts our ability to meet our goals. So our goals and the time horizons needed in meeting these goals is where we should increase our concentration. Whether we are saving for the purchase of a home, a future tuition, or retirement, we should be considering decreasing our risk tolerance as we near our goals.

Our communications with our broker or advisor are therefore extremely important. Most of the people in the financial services are honest and trustworthy people who are trying to do a good job for their clients. To be good clients we have to make sure that we give some real thought to our investment goals and our tolerance for risk. When we have clearly outlined our goals and have focused on our ability to lose money in our effort

to meet these goals, there will be no need to 'hide our statements in the drawer' or chant to ourselves that we are 'in it for the long term'.

So, the checklist of things that we should think about before our next meeting with our broker or advisor might look something like this:

1. Get a thorough understanding of our investment goals.
2. Think about our tolerance for risk – a good starting point would be how we handled the last 18 months.
3. Are our goals compatible with our tolerance for risk?
4. How and when are we going to communicate a change for our risk tolerance as we approach our goals?

Mark Stys was formerly the head of Investment Manager Products for Fidelity Registered Investment Advisor Group and is the Chief Investment Officer of Bluemont Capital Advisors, LLC. Mark can be reached at mstys@bluemontcapital.net.

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EDITOR'S DESK

THE WORK BEGINS ANEW

More than 230 years ago “our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation,” unlike any other in human history. It chose to define citizenship in terms of principles, so abstract, and yet so straightforward that its founders thought them self evident: equality, life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. It’s history since those July days of 1776 has been the history of a struggle to live up to itself. It has not been easy, and that perhaps is its

greatest glory. For those who were here first, for women, for people of color, and for a thousand other variations of our fellow citizens, the struggle sometimes began all too late, and remains a work in progress. We try. We fail. We destroy the very thing we seek to nourish and then we begin again. We deny the undeniable. We beg forgiveness for the unforgivable. We are proud, and arrogant, and still, to our credit, we are and remain

our own worst critics. We know that we can be better than we are, and we never stop trying. We are Americans. And such are the ideals that light us down to Lincoln’s latest generation. On this July 4, for the 233rd time, that torch is passed again . . . to you and to me and to our children. The work, in the words of a Massachusetts Senator, begins once more anew . . . and best of all, the hope rises again, and the dream lives on.

LETTERS

WHERE WERE YOU?

Ridgeview residents were notably absent from four separate meetings held by the Town of Middleburg – the week of April 27th. These meetings were organized to help Council, Planning Commission and the Historic Review Committee hear what YOU want to see built next door or across the street from you in the future. How can we act if we do not know WHAT you want YOUR neighborhood to look like in 5, 10, 15 years and beyond? Whenever a house or commercial building is built and considered “too big”, we hear from every Tom, Dick and Harry. Most of them do not even live in town and therefore do not pay town taxes. So when we ask you to come and give us your thoughts, why don’t you? Some think ideas fall on deaf ears. Believe me, they do not. It helps us make decisions and represent citizens who have elected us. This is YOUR town. Please take the time to come and voice your

opinions, concerns and desires. It is your right as an American not just a “Middleburg-ian” ! Catherine C. “Bundles” Murdock, Middleburg, VA

Dear Editor:

Thank you for publishing Mr. Reitz’s insightful letter in your May 28 issue. I would like to expand on shoplifting of the Social Security Trust fund (termed “thievery” by former Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, D-NY). I recently attended a symposium with a gentleman from the JFK School of Government at Harvard. This person has been engaged with the Social Security and related government debt at an academic level. I asked him how the government was going to pay the \$53 trillion in unfunded debt. He laughed and said “they are not going to pay it.” He advised that the debt resolution will take three forms: (1) The nationalization of health care and the rationing of care to

reduce Medicare and Medicaid costs. (2) Means testing for Social Security payments. The example he provided is a new law called “Windfall Profits Exclusion.” In WPE, all government retirees (state, local, federal) will lose a significant portion of Social Security because they have a government retirement, regardless of their Social Security contributions. This means that a police officer or fireman who worked part time jobs their whole career and retired after 20, then perhaps worked for another company for 15 years, will lose a significant portion of their Social Security retirement. They will likely extend this thinking to anyone who has any retirement. (3) Financial asset seizure. The specific example he provided on this point is a series of congressional hearings currently spearheaded by Congressman Miller (D-Calif) looking into government takeover of all 401k and other defined benefit retirement programs. The objective would be to create

a shadow Social Security trust fund using the citizen’s savings. So, I think the notion of Congressman Wolfe’s bi-partisan commission to look at national debt is interesting but represents political slight of hand. Using a “commission” to dodge “thievery” responsibility and accountability is probably the only tool that can accomplish anything. But what about the root causes---how can we taxpayers make our politicians act in our interest. If this thievery had occurred in the private sector, managers would be in handcuffs in orange jumpsuits. I would propose that the private sector hold hearings. Most of the controllers and treasurers of America’s Fortune 500 have the highest of educational accomplishments, ethics and values. Why not task them to evaluate Washington’s performance and make recommendations ahead of any government commission. They could conduct a root cause analysis and recommend structures to make sure this does not continue (for example, in many countries Social Security payments go into a taxpayers personal account that cannot be touched by the government). A government commission would be staffed by the “thieves” who committed the “thievery.” That makes no sense. But as an aside, one thing is for sure---one element that would not be on the commission’s table is Congressional retirements (full pay for life with full benefits after one year of service). Another reason to have the private sector look at this.

Thanks John Parker Haymarket, VA

HYPOCRISY

TOM PRATT

DO NOT BE DUPED!!

Many republicans, conservative democrats, and the health insurance industry are going to great lengths and spending untold amounts of money to spread the same scare tactics that have been used for over sixty years in an attempt to ensure that the health insurance industry stays in control of the health care of the citizens of the United States. You should not pay any attention to ads sponsored by people and businesses which have a vested financial interest in the end result of the ads. You should not allow health insurance companies, their lobbyists, and politicians who have taken money from that industry to dictate policy. That is just sound logic. They, the opponents of a public health care system, are flat out lying in their rhetoric and ads. A Single Payer system or a government paid system as an alternative, and in competition, to the private system is not socialized medicine, period!! As President Obama has unequivocally said “it is not socialized medicine as in England, France and Canada; in those countries the government runs the system and doctors work for the government, not the case in what is proposed here”. The government simply pays the bills instead of the insurance companies. Those ads featuring bulldozers are simply distortions of the truth without a scintilla of veracity. I am on Medicare and I have the choice of going to any doctor I wish and the bills are paid by the government run Medicare. Do not listen to Boehner, Baucus, or Blunt when they pejoratively equate a government health care system to the DMV or the Postal Service (ironically both function well which shows how out of touch they are.) Do not let them scare you into thinking if a government system is offered in competition with the private insurance companies that you will lose your present system. But, having said that, who would want to stay with the private sector if you could get the same care for less money through a public offering. The capitalists are being very hypocritical when they are afraid of the competition. If the government can offer

better and more affordable insurance then so be it, the private companies will fail if they cannot compete. Is that not the American way? “Let the market decide” is what they always say when it comes to privatizing water companies and other industries that the private sector wants to profit by. The present health insurance system is completely backwards, it makes money by only wanting to insure the healthy and excluding the unhealthy - especially if they have preexisting conditions. Health care should not be only for the affluent, it should be for everyone. The health industry should not be a profit making industry. Health care is a right not a privilege for the privileged. It is the responsibility of a nation as rich as ours to provide health care and preventative health care to all citizens.... PERIOD END OF STORY! We will never have it if the health insurance companies are allowed to run the game. Do not vote for any representative who will not support a government paid health care system, both before the elections and most certainly on Election Day; and let them know it. Be wise, don’t let them scare you. Over 60% of all doctors and health care workers are FOR a single payer system, nearly 70% of Americans polled are in FAVOR of a single or government paid system. The old words used against the Carter and Clinton administration’s attempts at health care reform will no longer work. They have nothing new to say: hopefully the public is now better informed, smarter, and will no longer stand to be lied to as in the past. There is nothing to fear about a government run health care system but plenty to fear from the opponents who simply do not want their gravy train to end. Let them know ... call your representatives today and demand a comprehensive health care system that takes care of all United States citizens and is affordable; or better yet free for all, and free from the money changers and greed driven health insurance companies.

IT’S AMERICA

FROM BEYOND THE BELTWAY

KEN RIETZ

Perhaps the most surprising news from the President’s recent trip abroad is the Americanization of commerce in Cairo. Whether it’s KFC, Fudrucker or The Gap, Egyptians like our products. No wonder. We are the most creative, innovative and entrepreneurial nation in the world. We are also the most free and the most generous. On this 4th of July, even in the midst of economic turmoil, with threats of al-Qaeda, and fighting two wars, we have much to be thankful for. As Rodney Atkins says in this song – “It’s America “

Drivin’ down the street today
Saw the sign for lemonade
They were the cutest kids
I’ve seen in this front yard

As they handed me my glass
Smiled and thinkin’ to myself
Man what a picture perfect postcard this would make
Of America

It’s a high school prom
It’s a springstein song
It’s a ride in a chevrolet
It’s a man on the moon
And fireflies in June

Kids sellin lemonade
It’s cities and farms
And open arms
One nation under god
It’s america

Later on when I got home
I flipped the t.v on
I saw a little town that some big
Twister tore apart
People came from miles around
Just to help their neighbors out
And I was thinkin’ to my self
I’m so glad that I live in america

It’s a high school prom
It’s a springstein song

It’s a ride in a chevrolet
It’s a man on the moon
And fireflies in June
Kids sellin lemonade
It’s cities and farms
And open arms
One nation under god
It’s america

Now we might not always get it right
But there’s nowhere else I rather build my life

Cause it’s a kid with a chance
It’s a rock n roll band
It’s a farmer cuttin’ hay

It’s a flag blowin’ in the summer wind
Over some fallen hero’s grave.

It’s a high school prom
It’s a springstein song
It’s a welcome home parade
It’s a man on the moon
And fireflies in June
Kids sellin lemonade
It’s cities and farms
And open arms
One nation under god
It’s america
It’s a welcome home parade

Our Nation has never conquered another. We have saved many.
We have nothing to apologize for. On this 4th of July we have much to celebrate.

Ken Rietz lives in Delaplane VA.

ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

BLUE NOTES

DANIEL MORROW

For the first time in living memory, the men and women we sent to Washington in November may well find in themselves the courage necessary to establish a healthcare system worthy of those who elected them and accessible to all. Nearly ninety percent of us want them act. Though we disagree on details, the vast majority of us favor universal access. All of us want a system that any of us can approach without fear or shame or dishonor. We all want a system that is, in and of itself, bound to respect our basic humanity, whether we, or members of our families, are sick now, have been sick before, or may possibly be sick in the future. If the representatives of the citizens of other nations can make such a system work (and those

of nearly every other industrialized democracy in world have managed the task) surely those who represent us, the citizens

of the most powerful country in all human history, can do so. And in the end, despite anything the rest of us may

say or do, the 537 men and women we elected in November have the power and bear the responsibility to act on our behalf.

They must now find the courage to act. And, for the first time in living memory, I truly believe they will do so.

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PASTIMES

EAT MORE VEGGIES!

YOUR PERSONAL CHEF
ALYSON BROWETT

Summer can be difficult. It's not the heat or necessarily the humidity. It's not deciding which concert, festival or party to attend on any given Saturday. It's not even trying to focus on work when your mind is on the beach or at the pool. It is that there are so many delicious fresh foods to eat, it's difficult to make decisions about which ones to choose. Hence, I am dedicating one more month to vegetables before moving on to fruits.

Already this year, I have been overwhelmed by the variety of veggies at the farmers' markets (not to mention the number of markets to visit – so far I've hit Purcellville, Leesburg, the Green Bams in The Plains, Mount Vernon in Fairfax, and DuPont Circle in Washington, D.C.). Sadly, some of my favorites are the fleeting, here today, gone tomorrow spring delicacies that you have to grab while you can: morels, pea shoots, zucchini flowers, garlic scapes. We're now beginning to see the emergence of warmer weather crops; hardier, more prolific veggies are sprouting up everywhere (no pun intended!).

The other difficult issue I face in summer is the hot, long days tend to encourage a lot of lounging in the cooler evenings. This usually means that, instead of slaving in the kitchen, I'm enjoying the company of family and friends over a cool lemonade, iced tea or cocktail. So when it comes time to cook, I am unprepared and the time has ticked away, edging ever closer to bedtime. That is

- what is so great about the variety of veggies that Mother Nature gives us – they really take little-to-no time to prepare. Perfection with vegetables lies in simplicity, allowing the produce to speak for itself.
- Enjoy summer. Enjoy the veggies. And don't stress about dinner.
- Grilled Pattypan Squash**
- This recipe really is a no-brainer. I am a huge fan of grilled veggies, especially if you have a vegetarian guest at your barbecue. These are also great on sandwiches with fresh mozzarella cheese and pesto. The same technique can be applied to just about any vegetable.
- 10 small pattypan or round squash, about three inches in diameter*
- 3 tablespoons olive oil*
- 1 teaspoon balsamic vinegar*
- 1 clove garlic, crushed*
- ½ teaspoon kosher salt*
- ½ teaspoon fresh ground pepper*
- 1 tablespoon roughly chopped herbs (basil, parsley, thyme, etc.) for garnish*
- Trim the ends of the squash. Slice the squash in half or in thirds (depending on its length) crosswise, forming ¼ inch thick slices. Combine two tablespoons of the olive oil, vinegar, garlic and half of the salt in a

- bowl and whisk until slightly emulsified. Pour over the squash slices and allow to marinate at room temperature for 10-15 minutes in a shallow baking dish. Meanwhile, heat a charcoal or gas grill to high heat. Season the squash with the pepper, and reduce the heat on the grill to medium-high. Place the squash on the grill and cook on each side for 3-4 minutes. Turn the squash to create criss-cross char marks, if desired. Remove the squash to a serving platter, drizzle with the remaining oil, if desired, and top with the chopped herbs. Serve warm, at room temperature or cold. Serves 8.
- Lemony Zucchini and Squash Salad**
- I am always looking to use zucchini and squash in ways that my husband will eat them. This was a success. Just be sure not to overcook the squashes in the steamer – it's very easy to do. Trust me, I'm guilty!
- 2 6-8 inch green zucchini*
- 2 6-8 inch yellow summer squash*
- Juice of ½ a lemon*
- ¼ cup extra virgin olive oil*
- 2 tablespoons spring onion greens, roughly chopped*
- 2 tablespoons herbs, roughly chopped*
- Salt and pepper, to taste*

- Cut the zucchini and squash into strips that are 3-4 inches long and ¼ inch square. Steam or blanch the squashes for only about two minutes and cool under cold water. Combine the cooled squash strips in a serving dish with the onions and herbs. Whisk the lemon juice and olive oil together until emulsified, and add salt and pepper to taste. Pour the dressing on immediately before serving (if left to sit, the greens will turn a lovely shade of grey-green). Serves 4.
- Italian-Inspired Broccoli and Cauliflower**
- We inevitably have leftover anchovy filets in our fridge, and I was searching for a way to use them up. The earthiness and crunchiness of barely cooked broccoli and cauliflower is the perfect palette for the salty fishy-ness of anchovies and capers. This dish immediately took me back to Italy.
- ½ pound broccoli, cut into small florets and sliced stem (if desired)*
- ½ pound cauliflower, cut into small florets*
- 1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil*
- 1 roasted red pepper, seeds removed, peeled and diced (use jarred if desired)*
- 1 filet canned anchovy, rinsed*
- 1 tablespoon capers*

- If you have young carrots, split them lengthwise, but otherwise leave them whole. If you are using older, larger carrots, or "baby" carrots, cut them into ¼ inch thick strips about 3-4 inches long. In a steamer basket, steam the carrots over boiling water for 3-4 minutes, until crisp tender. Rinse under cold water to stop the cooking. Set aside. In a dry sauté pan, toast the spices over medium high heat until aromatic, about 2-3 minutes. Add the olive oil and stir into the spices. Add the shallots and cook until soft, 1-2 minutes. Add the honey, orange zest, juice and raisins. Cook for about 4 minutes over medium heat, allowing the liquids to evaporate and thicken. Add the vinegar and salt, stir, and cook for another 2 minutes. In a mixing bowl, combine the cooked carrots and the thickened sauce, stir and place in a serving dish. Garnish with the parsley and serve immediately. Serves 4.
- Roasted Herbed New Potatoes**
- This too is a no-brainer, but it's a great way to use your herbs and potatoes. It takes a little longer than the other recipes; however, you can quickly get it in the oven and enjoy the evening waiting for it to finish. Another way to use up herbs in this dish (or on com!) is to create a compound butter, by chopping some herbs and mixing them with any other flavorings (roasted garlic, sun-dried tomatoes, capers, etc.) into some softened unsalted butter. Wrap the butter in plastic wrap and form a roll; refrigerate or freeze.
- 1 ½ pounds new potatoes, washed and dried*
- 4 cloves garlic, unpeeled*
- 1 tablespoon olive oil*
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt*
- ½ teaspoon fresh ground pepper*
- 4 sprigs rosemary*
- 10-14 sage leaves*
- 4 sprigs oregano*

- Heat half of the olive oil in a sauté pan over high heat. Sauté the broccoli and cauliflower, allowing the florets to brown and crisp a little as they become crisp-tender. Meanwhile, combine the remainder of oil, anchovy and capers in a small bowl or mortar and mix and smash until it becomes a thick paste. Remove the florets from the pan, mix in a serving bowl with the red pepper and salty paste. Serve immediately. Serves 4.
- Mediterranean Carrot Salad**
- I absolutely love using carrots in Mediterranean-inspired dishes. The sweetness of the carrots holds up so well to the boldness of cumin, cardamom and other spices (such as nutmeg and cloves). Feel free to omit or substitute any spices and/or the raisins.
- 1 pound carrots*
- 1 teaspoon whole cumin seeds*
- ½ teaspoon ground cardamom*
- 2 teaspoons olive oil*
- 2 shallots, sliced thin*
- 2 teaspoons honey*
- 1 orange, zested and juiced*
- 3 tablespoons raisins, dark or light*
- Splash of white wine or white balsamic vinegar*
- ½ teaspoon kosher salt*



1 tablespoon parsley, roughly chopped, for garnish

FUNGUS AMONG US

THE PLANT LADY



KAREN REXRODE

Summer becomes official this week and we must count our blessings with the continuing rain. Many plants are producing exceptional flowers. Japanese Iris have never been better and the daylilies have thick strong flowering stalks with plump buds and flowers. The bugs are also arriving, the first Japanese beetle will usually show up around the 15th of June. The Japanese beetle population is determined by wet or dry conditions incurred during the summer of the previous year. In drought years the numbers are reduced as few eggs reach maturity. Since last years summer wasn't terribly droughty,

our beetle population will be higher. If their numbers increase to the point that you feel the urge to reduce them, consider using one of the Neem tree products. One such product, "Bio-Neem Oil", can be used as a preventative, when sprayed every week, it is effective in decreasing the chewing habits of bagworms, cutworms, gypsy moth larvae, Japanese beetles, mites and sawflies. "Bio-Neem Oil" will not harm bees or ladybugs.

With our frequent rains, powdery mildew can be a big problem and a homemade fungicide can be used as a preventative. It is especially important is to spray every week or two. Following are 3 recipes, use the one that best suits your kitchen or garden shed inventory:

*1/2 tsp. baking soda
drop of Ivory soap
to 1 quart of water*

*1 lb. baking soda
2 1/2 lb. 'Sunspray Ultra
Fine Horticultural Spray
Oil' to 1 gallon of water*

*1 lb. baking soda
1 tsp. insecticidal soap
to 1 gallon of water*

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MORGAN MAY WALKER DESIGNS BEAUTIFUL WEDDING FLOWERS

Every bride knows the most memorable flowers she ever received were in her wedding bouquet. Whether they were roses and lily of the valley, white orchids and gardenias, pale pink hydrangea with long satin streamers or one ivory French tulip, she will never forget them.

One of the most difficult aspects of planning a wedding can be the search for a floral designer who understands what you envision and who can create it flawlessly. That's why so many brides are telephoning Morgan May Walker at Gardens of Delight in Paconian Springs.

Her pretty nursery is only one example of how Morgan draws upon her love of all things floral. Many of her customers believe the wedding flowers she designs are the true illustration of her artistic talent.

Morgan's ability to create everything from the most romantic to the most modern wedding flowers is well known and word is traveling fast. Her weddings at the Women's Museum in Washington, D.C. are as admired as the nuptials she designs in private estates, historic monuments and vineyards. By sourcing flowers from around the world, she has materials from every season to draw upon and her kind understanding of how difficult it is to make this important decision endear her to brides-to-be.

Although she doesn't look as though she could possibly have so much knowledge and so many answers, you only need remember that Morgan started learning about flowers and gardening by riding in a backpack with her mother, Andrea Watson, when Andrea was putting herself through school working for the Reston Home Owners Association.

"That was a long time ago," Morgan remembers, "but I remember so well all her many garden design commissions and when she assisted the renowned gardener Alfredo Sianni at Otlands. I still love the smell of the mown lawn, the roses and the boxwoods at Otlands. And I remember pick-

how much she knew, to going to trade shows, on buying trips and to seminars.

"I loved the business side of the gardening business. My sister, Airynee, who is head gardener at the Goodstone Inn, is a fabulous garden designer, just like my mom. We both learned so much from her."

Soon after her mother opened an office in the Walker and Clarke Building in 2000, Morgan May met Donnie Walker and soon they began to plan their future together.

"I asked him to build a potting shed for me. It was soon clear that he built the most beautiful independent buildings in Virginia. His pool houses are amazing, and soon he'll build a play house for our daughter Barrie. I can hardly wait."

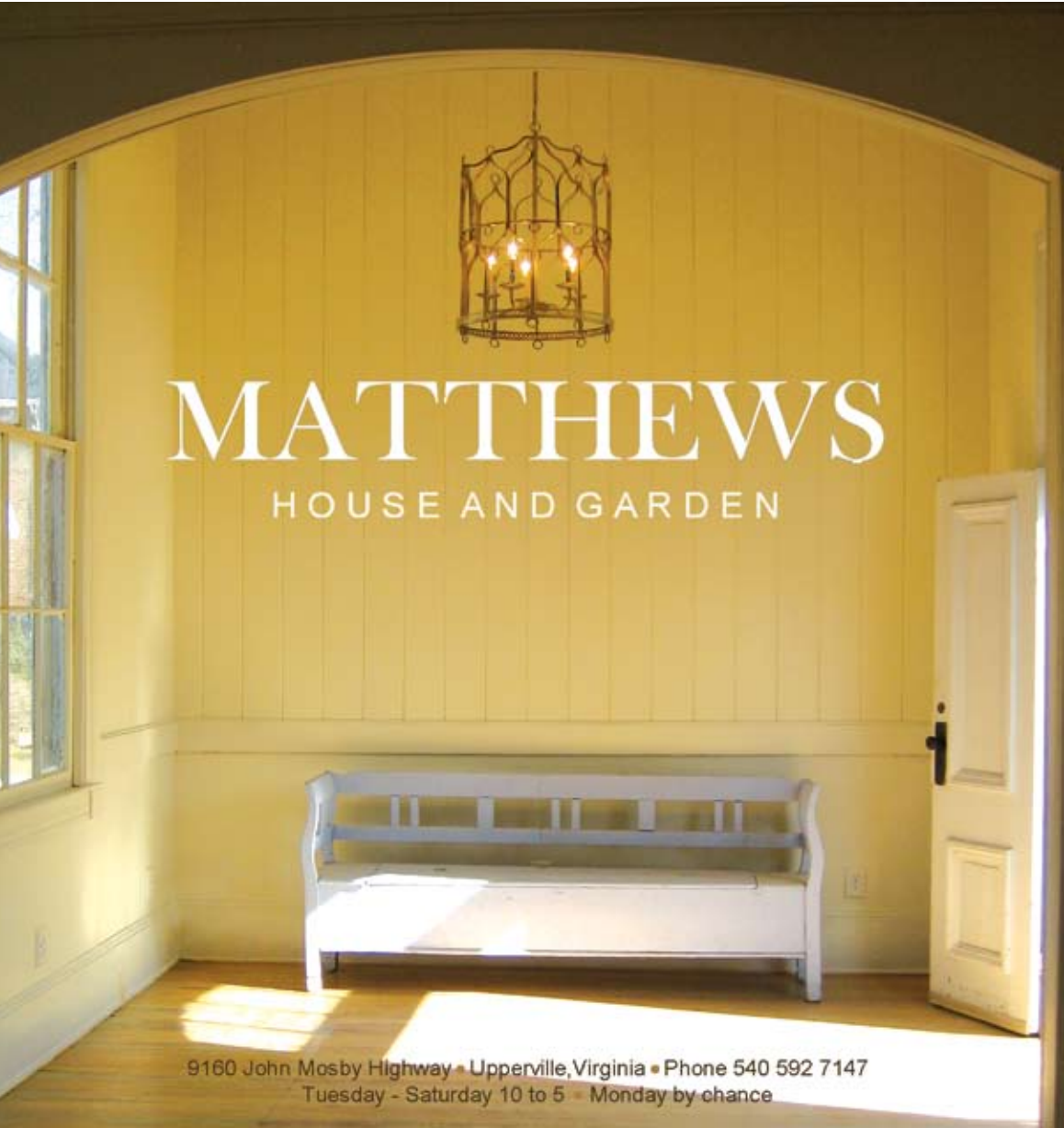
Morgan and her mother opened Gardens of Delight in 2001 and it

wasn't long before Morgan offered to buy the business from Andrea.

"We have everything for the truly personal garden," she says seriously. "I grow at least 50% of what we sell, so I am certain of the quality and variety. Quality is very important to my customers."

Morgan began designing flowers and décor for weddings and corporate events several years ago, and she is now booking these services six months in advance. Her wedding flowers are as charming and elegant and as the holiday decorations she creates for her customers.

"Because many of my customers want holiday décor that is truly spectacular, we have to begin taking orders for end-of-year holidays in September. It's the only way I can be confident of having the most beautiful and rare materials," she emphasizes.



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PASTIMES

WHAT I THINK I THINK. PROBABLY.

7TH INNING STRETCH

ALEX CUDABACK

Ricky Barnes and Lucas Glover. Really? Watching the two of them play this morning has been almost unbearable. If I had to pick one of ‘em, I’d say Glover looks like he’s managing to keep it together just a hair better than Barnes. They both seem to be falling into that nastiest of golf traps, though, trying to race through their round without screwing it up. There is no more surefire

way to blow up your scorecard. Lefty looks strong all of a sudden. Wouldn’t that be storybook? Meanwhile, I don’t know if Tiger’s knee is still bothering him (I don’t think it is) but his play so far this year has been just erratic enough to give the rest of us hope. He’s human after all! Of course, the fact that he’s already won twice this year after being out of commission for about nine months is enough to put the fear of God back into you.

Maybe he really isn’t human. One thing that’s really overstayed its welcome? “GET IN THE HOLE!!!!” every, single, freakin’ shot. Another? “YOU DA MAN, TIGER!!!!” Seriously. No offense to Tiger; all offense to tired meatballs. Speaking of meatballs, anybody noticed the what’s going in the National League East? OK, judging by the acres of empty seats at Nationals Park,

no, clearly none of you have noticed what’s going on in the division whose basement your team calls home. First, the cellar-dwellers recently ripped off four wins in a row, heroically clawing their way up to that benchmark of institutional success, a .300 winning percentage. Good for a lifetime batting average; less than stellar as the representative sample of an entire team’s body of work. (By the time you read this, it’s entirely possible they’ll have given most if not all of

those wins back.) But what’s really a puzzler is the fact that a team this bad, this late in the season, is still within reach of the division lead. OK, realistically, the Nats aren’t getting within spitting distance of the division lead until the first day of the 2010 season, and only then for a week or so. But at only 16 back of first place there’s still really a chance that Manny Acta’s fairy godmother will sprinkle some pixie-dust on this tragi-comedy of a season. In the National League West, 20-47 is enough to park you in the sub-basement, 26 games separating you from the big dogs. But luckily for the Nats, and even more so for the less-than-awful Braves and Marlins, neither the World Series Champion Phillies nor the heavy-walletted Mets appear particularly interested in plucking the low-hanging fruit that is the NL East title. The Phillies, essentially a carbon-copy of their 2008 version minus that year’s best closer, always seem to be warming up, only to stumble and face plant their way to 6 losses in a row as they recently did. And just a few stops up the Northeast Regional, the Mets are looking more like the Mess, or the Meds, if the number and quality of players they’ve tucked away on the DL is any indicator: John Maine, Oliver Perez, J.J. Putz, Billy Wagner, Jose Reyes, Carlos Delgado. And those are just the starters. Angel Pagan and Ramon Martinez are also on the shelf. Oh, and Carlos Beltran is “day-to-day,” which is baseball-ese for “we don’t know what the problem is but we hope it’s not serious.” I bet Omar Minaya, the Mets GM, wishes he’d overpaid for Derek Lowe right about now.... If the Lerner family has a shred of common decency, they’ll give Manny Acta at least one or two more years after this one. You know, one or two more years with a GM who’s not the baseball version of Bernie Madoff. I think the Lerner should spend a LOT less time letting their manager flap in the breeze and a lot MORE time explaining to everyone how they’ve botched their baseball experiment so badly. If they’re not careful, the Lerner might just give the Danny a run for his money for title of biggest disappointment of a team owner in the nation’s capital. Speaking of the Danny, how’s that Six Flags investment working out? Oops. Sometimes, people really are as smart as they think they are. Usually though, not so much. Grip it and rip it, Lefty, grip it and rip it....



COAL BUILDING GREEN



DALE SCHULZ

About half of all electric power in the U.S. is generated by burning coal. This is more than any other industrialized nation in the world. This is not surprising considering that that the United States has been referred by some as “the

Saudi Arabia of coal”. Only China produces more coal. Coal mining began in the United States here in Virginia in the 1740’s. Today in North-eastern Wyoming an 80-mile strip is home to nation’s 10 top-producing mines. Approximately 1/3 of all coal in the U.S. is produced here. Each



Question. Can you recommend any books or DVDs available on the subject?

Answer. Tom Friedman’s book “Hot, Flat, and Crowded” is an excellent book. The DVDs “An Inconvenient Truth”, “The 11th Hour”, “A Crude Awakening – The Oil Crash”, and “Burning the Future – Coal in America” are available from Netflix and are worth watching.

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.

day some 75 trains with 125-150 coal cars depart Gillette, Wyoming for power plants in the U.S. carrying some 1.2 million short tons. Question. So, what’s the problem with coal?

Answer. The problem is coal is responsible for 36% of U.S. carbon dioxide emissions according to the Energy Department. When we turn our lights on and run our air conditioners we are in effect burning coal to do so. In the Eastern U.S., including here in South-western Virginia, coal mining companies are removing the tops of mountains to facilitate the surface mining of coal.

Question. What is the future for “clean coal” in America?

Answer. Clean coal is based on the unproven technology of carbon capture and storage. It may be possible to capture the carbon produced by coal-burning power plants and bury it underground. The problem is it expensive to build plants to capture the carbon and then transport to the underground storage sites. Once stored, there

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MAGGIE MULRY (BLUE RIDGE HUNT), WITH JODY



HAYLEY ALCOCK, PIEDMONT FOX HOUNDS, WITH KERRY



FINALISTS, JUNIOR HANDLERS (OLDER GROUP) (L TO R): 1 (FRONT) CLASS WINNER KATIE MCCOY (HOWARD-COUNTY IRON BRIDGE) WITH PEGGY; 2 (BEHIND) - HAYLEY ALCOCK (PIEDMONT FOX HOUNDS) WITH KERRY; 3 (#83) - 4 (RED TIE) - TREVOR HUTCHINSON (LOUDOUN HUNT WEST) WITH SCOOTER; 5 (MED BLUE TIE) - HEATHER FECONDA (LOUDOUN HUNT WEST) WITH SALLY; 6 (SHORTEST) - BEVERLY ALCOCK (PIEDMONT FOX HOUNDS)



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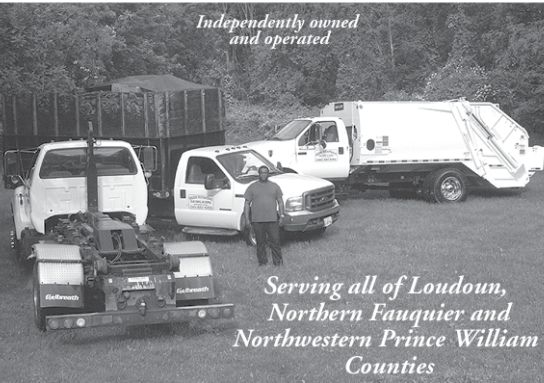
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A gift paying homage to two of the members of the Aiken Thoroughbred Racing Hall of Fame and Museum will soon be on display at the facility, thanks to a generous donation.

Trophies won by William Haggin Perry's Lamb Chop and Gamely will be presented by his widow, Nicky Perry, to the Aiken Thoroughbred Racing Hall of Fame and Museum in a ceremony on May 31 at 2 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

The trophies that are being donated to the Hall of Fame are the Coaching Club American Oaks and Monmouth Oaks trophies won by Lamb Chop in 1963, and the trophies won by Gamely in the 7-furlong 1967 Test Stakes; the 1967 Alabama Stakes and the 1968 Beldame Stakes.

Lamb Chop also won the 1963 Spinster Stakes and the 1963 1 1/16-mile Jersey Belle Stakes by 12 lengths, establishing a new track record by covering the distance in 1:41 3/5. She was conditioned by National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame inductee James W. Maloney. The ill-fated filly broke down during the running of the 1964 Strub Stakes.

In addition to winning the Test and Alabama during her sophomore campaign, Gamely won the Princess

Stakes. At age 4, she captured the Beldame, Santa Margarita Handicap and the Vanity Handicap. The bay daughter of Bold Ruler won the Beldame as a 5-year-old.

Both Lamb Chop and Gamely were enshrined in the Aiken Thoroughbred Racing Hall of Fame and Museum on March 18, 1979. Gamely, who was also conditioned by Maloney, has also been enshrined in the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame.

Perry, who owned Waterford Farm in Middleburg, Va., was an honorary director of the Breeders' Cup Ltd., campaigned a number of outstanding horses including Gamely, who was the Outstanding 3-year-old Filly in 1968; Lamb Chop, the Outstanding 3-year-old Filly in 1963; and Revidere, who was the Eclipse Award-winning 3-year-old filly of 1976.

Other prominent horses campaigned by Perry include Coastal, who won the 1979 Belmont Stakes; Princessnesian, who won the 1968 Hollywood Gold Cup and the 1969 Santa Margarita Handicap; Scan, who won the 1990 Cowdin and Remsen; and Tiller, who captured the 1978 Bowling Green Handicap, the 1979 San Juan Capistrano Handicap and the 1980 Sword Dancer.

VIRGINIA TECH'S MARION DUPONT SCOTT EQUINE MEDICAL CENTER HOSTS OPEN HOUSE



DEMONSTRATIONS THAT TOOK PLACE DURING THE JUNE 13 OPEN HOUSE AT THE MARION DUPONT SCOTT EQUINE MEDICAL CENTER INCLUDED SHOWING HOW HORSES ARE DIAGNOSED FOR POSSIBLE RESPIRATORY OR CARDIAC PROBLEMS BY HAVING THEM RUN ON THE CENTER'S HIGH-SPEED TREADMILL.

As part of the ongoing celebration of its 25th anniversary, the Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center held an Open House on Saturday, June 13 from noon to 4 p.m. The event was free and open to the public.

Visitors had the opportunity to see premier horse health care in action because several demonstrations - using live horses - were scheduled. For instance, the center's faculty performed ultrasound exams, endoscopy tests, and put a horse through its paces on the high-speed treadmill. Also, dem-

onstrations took place that to show how acupuncture is performed on a horse, how horses get their teeth cleaned, and visitors witnessed an equine "surgical procedure" (but, in this case, the patient was a stuffed toy horse).

In addition, presentations on how to prepare a competitive application for veterinary college were made and lectures on equine colic were featured.

Those attending the open house had the opportunity to visit with a Clydesdale named Forrest,

along with several horses from the U.S. Army's Caisson Platoon and its Therapeutic Riding Program. "Bo," a miniature horse that has learned behaviors and tricks through clicker training, was also on hand to demonstrate his skills.

The open house also included activities for children.

For more information, visit the equine medical center online. (<http://www.vetmed.vt.edu/emc/>)

MARE CENTER IS SITE FOR LARGE ANIMAL EMERGENCY RESCUE TRAINING

DONNA M. McDONALD

Virginia Cooperative Extension in conjunction with Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue (TLAER) held a three-day emergency training program at the Middleburg Agricultural Research and Extension Center on May 13-15, 2009.

This training program, held at the MARE Center, taught emergency personnel, veterinarians, and other interested people what to do if they are called to the site of an emergency involving a large animal. Too often, good Samaritans with good intentions or untrained emergency rescue personnel are injured or hurt while trying to rescue large animals on the scene of an accident or disaster. One of the first things taught in this program is to call 911 if you happen upon a situation where large animals are in danger.

Participants and auditors attending this three-day event were trained how to perform various types of rescues using specialized equipment, along with two horses and one llama that travel with the large animal emergency rescue team across the country to train rescue personnel. One exercise focused on freeing a horse trapped inside a trailer via its lead rope. The rescuer was instructed how to use a long extension pole with clippers on the end to reach the trapped horse and cut the rope, thereby freeing the animal in a safe fashion. The extension poles may also be used to pass equipment without having to enter a confined space to rescue the horse.

When a large animal is trapped in a muddy pond or a deep ravine, it may be im-

possible to rescue without special equipment. Large animal rescue training demonstrates many types of rescue equipment that can be used to free a large animal in a manner safe for both human and animal. One apparatus used is an A-frame with a hoist lift. Rescuers were instructed to securely assemble the frame and to prepare the ropes so that the animal is lifted up securely. This rescue takes several teams of people on each end of the ropes to hoist the frame and then to begin lifting the animal to safety.

According to the instructors, most people who happen upon an accident will immediately dial 911 for emergency help; however, it is also a known fact that many emergency responders do not have proper training in large animal rescue. Therefore, many rescue personnel are participating in training such as the one recently hosted by the MARE Center, to enable them to be able to assist in such emergencies. Fire departments, rescue personnel and animal control officers who have training in large animal rescue will be equipped to help save animals in disasters or roadway accidents and will have the knowledge required to keep animal owners and good Samaritans out of harm's way. Trained rescuers realize that if a large animal cannot be safely rescued, it will not be rescued.

Certainly, no one can predict when a disaster causing large animals to be injured or killed will strike, but we can be prepared. Large animals in dangerous situations often exhibited behaviors that could injure rescuers not properly trained. To learn more about TLAER, please visit www.tlaer.org

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PARENTS & PROGENY

ELIZABETH GATES WEBB GRADUATED SUMMA CUM LAUDE FROM WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY



ELIZABETH GATES WEBB AND VANCE BERRY

Elizabeth Gates Webb graduated summa cum laude on Thursday June 4, 2009 from Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia. Webb was named the Class of 2009 valedictorian and was also given the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award, which the University awards each year to recognize the recipient's ideals, spiritual qualities and service to others. She received the Phi Beta Kappa sophomore award and was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa as a junior. Webb, a biochemistry major, was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship and will research melanoma for ten months at the Institute for Molecular Bioscience at the University of Queensland in

Brisbane, Australia before attending medical school.

While at Washington and Lee University Webb participated in varsity track and cross country and received a National Collegiate Athletic Postgraduate Scholarship. She qualified for Division 3 National competition in cross country and indoor track and was named the University's Scholar Athlete of the year.

Webb graduated from Wakefield School in 2005 as co-valedictorian and is the daughter of E. Hughes Webb and the late Joanne Ward Webb. She will marry her college sweetheart, Vance Berry, on July 25 in historic Lee Chapel on the Washington and Lee University campus.

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KIKI WEGDAM



HUGE WILEY WITH HIS MOM ERICA WILEY

2ND ANNUAL RACE FOR EDUCATION SCHOOL FUNDRAISER



Students send letters to family and friends asking for donations for our annual 'Race for Education'. The students have one hour to run around the school track, and parent volunteers keep track of the number of times the students run around. Family and friends sponsor the students in order to raise money for the school. We were fortunate enough to have raised \$16,000 so far this year - and donations are still coming in after the fact!

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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.



MHF Thrift Shop

Please help us continue to raise funds for needy animals by donating items to our thrift shop! The shop is run by volunteers so 100% of proceeds benefit MHF animals & programs. Clothing, knickknacks, CDs, china, saddles, etc... are greatly needed and appreciated!

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Middleburg Humane Foundation

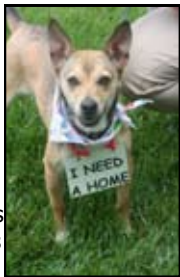


SUMMER

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.



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

ADOPT & SAVE A LIFE

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!



BABIES! 2 baby Mustangs were born at our shelter: Lucero and Trish! They are gorgeous little bay & white fillies who are being worked with by our volunteer trainer. Both moms and babies need experienced foster homes to continue their training.

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

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!



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

GIA— Gia is a small Chihuahua mix who loves other dogs & kittens 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!

Animal Wish List

Please help us continue to provide care & a safe haven for abused & neglected animals. We need and truly appreciate your support! Thank —you!

- Towels— all sizes
- Cat Food— dry & canned
- Small ceramic food bowls
- Homes for kittens & cats!



ALBERT'S CORNER

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

On the evening of June 20, something extraordinary happened ... for the fifteenth time! Middleburg Humane Foundation held their annual black-tie fundraiser at the stunning home of Rose Marie Bogley. Of all of the very special celebrations that take place against the beautiful backdrop of the Virginia countryside, the MHF gala is perhaps one of the most special. It's certainly the only one where a donkey named Dexter greets tuxedo-clad guests upon their arrival!

This year's event was marked by extraordinary weather, fabulous food and a tremendous silent auction that reflected the boundless generosity of area residents and businesses. Best of all, some of the wonderful animals in need of adoption shared in the festivities. I couldn't go to the party, but my people went, and they told me all about it. They even told me that the animals seemed a bit like they might just know it was all for them.

It is a privilege to have an organization like Middleburg Humane Foundation in our small community. Not only do they find homes for countless animals, they also assist chained dogs by delivering food and supplies to them and educating their families about responsible pet ownership. They spay or neuter feral cats and release them. They rehabilitate abused, neglected or slaughter-bound horses. As if all of that isn't enough, they also intervene in cruelty cases.

Accomplishing these important goals requires a lot of time, money and

effort. Hilleary Bogley, MHF Founder & President, works tirelessly, as does her team of staff members and volunteers. Even so, there is always — always — the need for more assistance and funding. MHF receives no federal, state or county financial assistance. They rely completely on the support of our community.

The annual fundraiser is an important part of that support. This one memorable evening spent in gorgeous surroundings among fellow animal lovers literally saves lives. If you care about animals and want to support our wonderful Humane Foundation, the event should be on your must-attend list every year. And, if you can't attend, please remember to think of MHF throughout the year when you are considering which organizations to which you might be able to donate time or money.

Now, more than ever, it is important to realize that your contributions truly make a difference. The economic downturn has adversely affected animal rescue organizations across the country. The number of animals needing homes has increased dramatically while donations have decreased just as dramatically. This has absolutely been true for MHF.

Thank you, Hilleary Bogley, and everyone at MHF for all that you do. Thank you to all of the people who support MHF. And thank you, Rose Marie Bogley, for once again welcoming so many animal lovers to your exquisite home.

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

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Middleburg Community Center's Annual

4th of July Celebration

Saturday, July 4th

Schedule of Events

11am-6pm • Swimming Pool Open

6:00pm • DJ Starts Music

6:15pm-7pm • Tae Kwon Do Demonstration
by Blue Ridge Tae Kwon Do of Upperville

7pm • Ladies Auxiliary Cake Walk

7:30pm-8:30pm • Games provided
by Boy Scout Troop #2950 of Middleburg

7pm-9pm • Face Painters

7pm-9:15 pm • American Legion Raffle

7:15 pm - 9:15 pm • Moon Bounce

9:25 pm • FIREWORKS!

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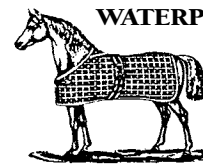
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Oakfield

Upperville, Virginia

Panoramic views surround this stone manor house beautifully sited on 86 acres in prime Piedmont Hunt Territory. There is a generous first floor master suite and four additional bedrooms, a classic pine paneled library, multiple fireplaces and a fine 4 season porch. The grounds have been improved with lovely specimen trees and perennial gardens. Other amenities include a tenant house, stable and riding ring, equipment building, stone walls and fencing. \$5,500,000.

Ann MacMahon (540) 687-5588



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. \$5,500,000.

Helen MacMahon (540) 687-5588



Northwood

Delaplane, Virginia

Fabulous Fauquier property in two parcels on 120 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.

Walter Woodson (703) 499-4961



Hesperides

Warrenton, Virginia

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

Paul MacMahon (540) 687-5588



Lincoln Road

Purcellville, Virginia

Beautiful farm on 55.24 acres recorded in 5 parcels. Gently rolling land with lovely views in protected area near Lincoln. Contemporary home with 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths. 3 fireplaces and 2-car garage. European style stable with 6 stalls, tack room, office, wash stall and apartment. Very private. \$1,800,000.

Paul MacMahon (540) 687-5588



Firethorn Lane

The Plains, Virginia

Very special 2 acre property in the sought-after location between Middleburg and The Plains. The main house has been expanded and completely renovated including the new master suite and two other generous bedrooms, a large gourmet kitchen, lovely dining room, wrap-around porch, a charming guest house, gardens and stonework. Fine western views from the elevated site. \$1,195,000.

Helen MacMahon (540) 687-5588



Maidstone Ordinary

Rectortown, Virginia

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

Helen MacMahon (540) 687-5588



St. Louis Road

Purcellville, Virginia

Solid brick colonial located between Middleburg and Purcellville. 4 bedroom home with hardwood floors throughout, 3 1/2 baths, open kitchen and family room with wood burning fireplace, bright sunroom, large unfinished basement. Mature plantings surround the pool and gazebo. Gorgeous bank barn with space for an apartment above. \$895,000.

Margaret MacMahon Carroll (540) 454-0650



Crenshaw Road

Rectortown, Virginia

5.7 acre cleared parcel with village zoning in quaint Rectortown. Beautiful, quiet setting adjacent to 300 acres of land in conservation easement. A stone wall lines the road frontage and there are wonderful views of the mountains. Potential for 7 divisions according to Fauquier County - must verify. Great opportunity for tax credits if put into easement. \$650,000.

Christy Stauffer (540) 295-1024
Helen MacMahon (540) 687-5588



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. \$895,000.

Margaret MacMahon Carroll (540) 454-0650



Berrywyck

Orlean, 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. Renovation almost completed. Perfect for weekend or full time living. \$630,000.

Paul MacMahon (540) 687-5588



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.

Walter Woodson (703) 499-4961

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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

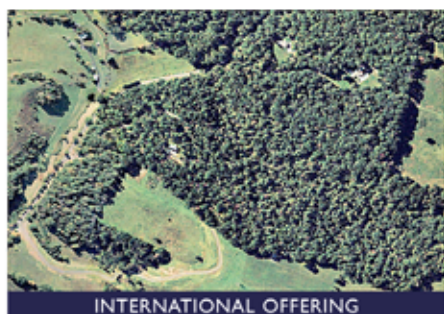


INTERNATIONAL OFFERING

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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