

MIDDLEBURG COMMUNITY CENTER CASABLANCA BALL

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WALKWAY WOES

DAN MORROW

A crimonious debate about regulations governing sidewalk construction and their impact on the construction of the new, \$14 million plus, National Sporting Library Museum, dominated the regular January meeting of the Middleburg Town Council. Council Member Bundles Murdock told Council that she "a moral problem" with "dreaming up a fee" for the Sporting Library to pay instead of building sidewalks when they were "half-way into their building and the building process."

Murdock referred to a draft proposal to allow the Library not to build certain sidewalks required by law, if they paid the Town a "fee-in-lieu-of-construction" of some \$400 per linear foot of unbuilt sidewalk. The town, in turn, would use the fee to build and maintain other sidewalks.

The cost to the library, if the proposed fee were adopted by Council, would total more than \$400,000.

Stone Walls

In early 2009, the National Sporting Library had asked the Town to waive its sidewalk construction requirements, in order to preserve, among other things, the historic stone walls that border the property.

On March 26, 2009, almost

ten months ago, Murdock noted, Council had tabled the library's request, referring it for review to the Town Staff, the Planning Commission, and the Historic District Review Board.

"To me, and to some of the public," Murdock continued, reading from a prepared statement, "it smacks like, 'Let's sock it to the rich library to pay for sidewalks throughout town.'"

With apologies for her frankness, Murdock described some of the changes in the Library property that would be required by construction under the existing rules, as "dreadfully ugly."

Her suggestion to Council: Waive the town's sidewalk construction requirements completely for the National Sporting Library. She was confident, she said, that the library, if left to its own devices, would, on its own, build a pathway that traversed the property that both served the public and was aesthetically pleasing.

Caught in the Middle

Town Staff and a number of members of the Council who had been heavily engaged in drafting the proposed "fee-in-lieu-of-sidewalk-construction" chose to differ.

All stated their ongoing support for the new Sporting Library additions, and their hopes

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INSPIRED SPIRIT OF GIVING FOR SALVATION ARMY

Manuel Simpson's tireless energy and true generosity lifted Middleburg's spirits and encouraged citizens to clear enough time on their calendars to ring the bell in front of Safeway for the Salvation Army during this Christmas season.

\$9,055 was raised, more than \$2,000 more than the community collected last year, the first season a Salvation Army bell was heard in Middleburg.

Initiated by Simpson to, as he said, "Help us all a play a part in the true meaning of Christmas," the one-hour assignments were welcomed by Middleburg area citizens of all ages.

"It's great to feel part of a larger Christmas spirit," Simpson continued.

"We all want to help as many as we can at the holi-

days, we just need a way to do it. Ringing the bell for the Salvation Army is a great way to help."

When an hour or two or three weren't filled, Manuel manned the bell himself, wishing everyone good cheer as he requested a contribution to help those less fortunate. With his help, the bell was never silent and the contributions continued unabated.

Perhaps the greatest gift was the model Manuel established for every citizen.

"It only takes a little time and the gifts are so appreciated," he said smiling.

"It feels great to lend a helping hand."

2009 FOXCROFT ROAD PIG PEN AWARDS

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NEWS OF NOTE

A CREEK RUNS THROUGH US

CHANDLER VAN VOORHIS

The Wealth of the Nation is derived by the investments, both public and private, into its natural resources. It might just as well be called The Wealth of Nature.

One of the great examples of investing in our natural capital is the story of the Catskills.

In 1998, New York City was faced with a drinking water issue and instead of investing in a water filtration facility to the tune of \$6-8b with an annual operating cost of \$300m, they invested over \$1.3b to protect the Catskills. By recognizing their water source and strengthening that connection, New York City saved the Catskills, got fresh drinking water and saved billions of dollars.

The story of the Catskills has become a parable for investing in points of connections and the impact those decisions have for all that are involved.

As Theodore Roosevelt once wrote, "The nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources as assets which in must turn over to the next generation increased; and not impaired in value." Roosevelt is not talking about conservation or living off the land or plundering the goose that lays the golden egg but rather how to invest, increase and enhance the asset. What Roosevelt is speaking to, is the power of restoration ----

investing in natural capital and watching it grow.

The Catskills story serves as an important parallel for how we must look at Goose Creek -- our watershed and our water supply to the region. Beyond making taxpayer investments into these assets, private landowners have more options than ever before to make private investments. There are four broad areas where landowners can access capital and assistance.

1. Fencing cost share programs for livestock. Here landowners can work with the John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District (JM-SWCD) to access cost share to fence out livestock from the local stream or creek. Last year, Locust Hill Farm (Middleburg), working closely with JMSWCD, installed 11600 feet of stream protection fence in 2008 and has future projects planned in 2010 along Cromwell's Run.

2. Grassland Reserve Program and Conservation Reserve Program. These federal programs provide landowners cost share on establishment, annual rental income every year for 10-15 years, and some practices may include signing bonuses and practice incentive payments.

3. Wetland Mitigation Banking. There are a number of private firms that work to create a natural wetland. The mitigation credits for making

the improvement are used and bought by developers who are faced with wetland issues on building. Each acre created as a wetland generates a credit. The national law is to purchase two wetland credits for every one acre destroyed. The markets are fragmented by watershed and depending on the development pressure in that watershed, the value of the credit can range from \$1,000 to more than \$100,000. So it varies a lot.

4. The Carbon and Nutrient Markets. These markets are part of what is also called Payment for Environmental Services (PES). By restoring lands whether in grasses or trees, these markets enable payments that are based on the rate of absorption (sequestration) of either carbon dioxide from the atmosphere or nutrients that would be leaching into the nearby stream or creek. On the nutrient front, Chesapeake Bay has a nutrient fund for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. C21, LLC (a company for which I am a co-founder along with Carey Crane), has a program called GreenTrees in the Mississippi Alluvial Valley where we partner with private landowners, and make payments to them for restoring their lands into trees. The capital we raise and use comes from companies that are looking for carbon for pre-compliance needs. Funds and aggregators are very im-



portant to facilitate the technical expertise and economies of scale for both markets. For the landowner, these markets provide new sources of capital and new income streams for sensitive and marginal lands.

For the landowner whose property is adjacent to the 835 stream-bank miles that comprise of the Goose Creek Watershed, these four areas provide much needed tools that go beyond conservation --- restoration. These acts of investing in our natural capital and restoring our lands, creating a healing effect, will make lasting impacts that are felt downstream. In doing this, we have begun the process of putting a price on what was once considered free.

Doing well by doing good!

Chandler Van Voorhis is a board member of Goose Creek Association (www.goosecreekassn.org) and a member of the Outdoor Writers Association of America. Chandler can be reached at chandler@c2invest.net.

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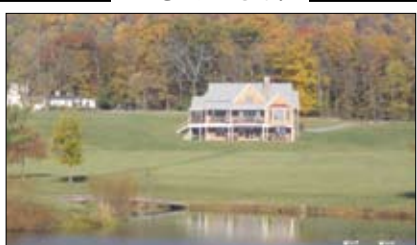
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NEWS OF NOTE

NO CREATURE TOO SMALL FOR DIANA REUTER-TWINING

Diana Reuter-Twining is that beautiful child of the sixties who, refused to give up her dreams and is now a marvelous example of all the things a woman of courage, talent and determination really can do.

Her deep desire to be an architect, momentarily squelched by a professor who said "architecture is a man's world," has been realized through a career creating work that spans the globe.

Her commitment to philanthropy, shared with her husband Ned Twining, has taught her that one person can make a big difference almost anywhere in the world if you make intelligent decisions and practice serious stewardship.

Diana's love of the natural world was born on a farm in Aldie where she spent her summers and has infused every aspect of her life and work. It is this passion which might prove to be her true legacy.

"I love the country life," she explained. "I have enormous respect for the strength it takes to live the true country life."

"My parents, Dr. Turner and Nancy Reuter, live in Aldie on the farm where my father's mother was born. I have always loved it there, and, although I spent a lot of time traveling and working in my architectural firm in Washington, D.C., I was delighted to return here to live."

A graduate of art history from Hollins Diana's first job after col-

lege was with the architectural firm of VVKR. She worked with Design Collaborative as the interior designer whose job was to liaison with the firm's architects for the headquarter of Satellite Business Systems in Tysons Corner.

Working with these architects re-ignited Diana's desire to pursue architecture and she enrolled in Catholic University where she received her Masters Architecture. She opened her own firm in Washington afterwards and together with Kaya Arıkoğlu, they formed the firm Architectural Associates. Together they designed projects here and abroad.

With the recession in the early 90's Diana experienced first hand what it was like to be in an environment where no one was building. Meeting Ned Twining in 1991 changed her focus.

It was Ned's passion for enlightened philanthropy and his sense of adventure that took them to Southern Africa where they worked with South Africa National Parks to work on an initiative which would establish a project called The Conservation Science Centres.

"Having the opportunity to travel throughout Southern Africa for 5 years visiting game preserves and parks changed my life forever."

Diana was inspired to pursue a life long passion for sculpture and upon her return and with the encouragement of Ned, she enrolled in the Corcoran School of Art's sculpture

program. She soon realized that what she really need was to study with artists' who shared her same interest in the lost wax method of bronze casting and the genre of animalier art and she went to Loveland, Colorado, the center of the sculpture world to take a course with David Turner.

"David Turner, who taught my class, was so encouraging. I have to admit that in the company of so many truly established artists, I felt out of my league. At one time, I was certain I had to give up, but David said "Virginians never quit!" so I kept going."

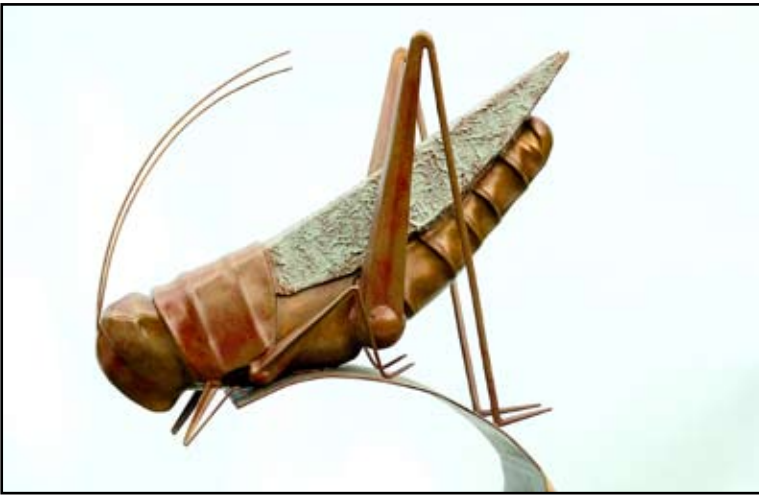
It took months for Diana's first sculpture to arrive at home in Aldie. It was a baboon.

"It was so exciting," she laughed.

Today Diana's elegant gallery in Middleburg showcases her beautiful sculptures of animalier art. The genre that was made famous by Rembrandt Bugatti. Often described as the back room of the art world, this genre elevates the natural world to an established subject.

Several years ago her parents commissioned her to do a sculpture for the grey-green garden. "To have my parents' gardens at Glenstone as a stage for my work has been the opportunity of my lifetime to study design and scale of monumental sculptures."

Her new book 'BRONZED, Into the Garden,' articulates what it is about art that she finds so com-



elling. "It was in the Mannerism period (and the Age Reason) at the end of the Renaissance that art reflected man's realization that he was no longer the center of the universe. It would not be uncommon to come around the corner in a garden and see a monumental insect staring at you from the end of an alley. Diana says that sculpture might be better judged by the questions posed to the viewer.

To see a Diana's 'Honey Comb' five feet tall and 6 feet wide with faceted amber glass and placed in perfect hexagonal cells begs us to imagine what else we are missing in this macro world and how these creatures interact with our own.

While working on her monumental Grasshopper Diana says that she felt that she was working on a mechanical toy.

Since her initial acceptance into the art world at the Southeastern Wildlife Exposition in 1998 until today, Diana exhibits at venues throughout the United States. Her work has been shown at the National Sculpture Society, NYC; Brookgreen Gardens, Center for American Sculpture; Birds In Art (Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum); Animals in Art, Art and the Animal Kingdom; The Rainforest Foundation and Artists for Conservation.

When asked if she misses architecture she says she hasn't left it. The founders of the National Sculpture Society were primarily architects. Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright integrated their sculpture into their buildings.

When asked, as she often is, how long it takes to create a sculpture

"It takes me a lifetime and six months to create a piece," she explains.

For Diana Reuter Twining, the need "to feed her head" as a young woman, is still alive and well and working hard to re-balance the world's understanding of the power of the natural world.

Her new book "Bronzed, Into the Garden" is available at her gallery or by visiting her website at www.bronzed.net

AN ORIGINAL THOUGHT YOUR FINANCIAL RESOLUTIONS

TOM NEEL

So, have you ever given much thought to the concept of how vast the word "original" can be when pertaining to artists work general. I must admit, being a fine art painter, who writes and has played a tune or two, I have. But this all popped into my head the other day and I had some real fun giving it some deeper thought.

So, I'll start off with an easy one. An artist paints a painting and it would be the original. Simple right? So, there's just that one original. Okay, so the artist would like to share that image with others and in doing so, prints reproductions, also known as prints. Still with me?

So to make a reproduction, you first need to photograph the painting. Now before the age of digital photography, you would shoot on film and guess what, to a photographer, that would be an original photo negative, for which reproductions or prints could be made. In just that one example, you have an original painting and an original negative, both reproducing their own prints. As the final prints are both reproductions of an original painting and an original negative, from an original photo taken and two artists are involved, a painter and a photographer. But wait, if the photographer used a digital camera, he/she still would have produced an original image of the artist's

original painting and there would be an original electronic file. Certainly less complicated would be that the photographer could have photographed anything, a tree for example and that would still be an original and more so his property, but any prints he/she made would be what? Original prints or reproductions of his original file? Perplexing huh?

Well, let's move on to something more simple, like song writing. Okay, so there's little Taylor Swift sitting in her bedroom writing her next big hit. She's strumming her guitar, singing some things and jotting her words down on a piece of paper. She plays one cord after another and she writes them down too. So you have music and lyrics. Is her original the concept or what's on the piece of paper? And once she's sung the whole thing once, is that the original time or is it the original when she actually records it? There obviously will be an original recording and then all those CD copies will be reproductions right? So does that mean every time she sings the song in concert, she is singing an original or a reproduction of the first time or both? I guess we already know that the photographer who photographed the CD cover will be making reproductions.

On that note, when Eric Clapton wrote and sang his original song "Layla" with Derek and the Dominos in the 70's as a rock tune, did it become a new original

CAROLYN STYS

It's that time of year again... the gyms are crowded and many people are trying to either give up a bad habit or start a good one. The vast majority of those resolutions involve our physical and mental health.

But, coming off 2009, a year that was difficult economically, and caused many people a great deal of stress, some of your resolutions should involve your financial well-being. This will not only get your house in order, it will greatly reduce your stress.

Some of the key idea's we recommend to our clients are:

Track your spending. There are many simple-to-highly complex computer programs you can purchase for under \$50 that will help you to accomplish this. But another, more rudimentary way to track spending requires only a simple envelope and small notebook. Just save every receipt and write down any checks you write for one month and then review.

Most people are amazed, the author included, as to what

when he turned it into a new bluesy "unplugged" hit a few decades later? Or was that just considered a different version, even though the two would be barely recognizable to each other to someone who wasn't around for the original original.

In any event, I'm pounding away at my keyboard right now,

you spend on miscellaneous items each month. This will also help you prepare for the next item.

Create a budget. Truly understanding what you are spending each month will help you to plan. Again, many of the programs you can buy have great tools that will ask you all the right questions. If you are a fan of spreadsheets, I can send you a great one that we have built that will get you started.

Plan ahead. Pull out your last social security statement and review it. Is it correct?

Review the projected amount you will receive when you retire. Can you live on that?

If not, then start looking at your savings rate and other vehicles such as IRA's and 401K's to help boost your rate of saving. If you are like me and at the end of the baby boom or beyond, you need to plan for only a faction of those funds to be there so your challenge is even more daunting.

Do you have young children? If so, planning for an average \$50K-a-year for tuition is not unreasonable. As someone who is walking that walk right now, call

me and I can give you the reality of what college costs are and are projected to be in the next 10-15 years.

Understand the risks you can tolerate. The stock market is down about 20% since 2008. The average investor lost 35-40% and many people locked in their losses by going to cash late.

Additionally, many investors did not recognize that their exposure to equities was far higher due to the use of mutual funds or ETF's. Doing a more detailed review and analysis of your long-term goals will help you ride out what will likely be a bumpy 2010 and a new reality.

And, as Warren Buffett said "should you find yourself in a chronically leaking boat, energy devoted to changing vessels is likely to be more productive than energy devoted to patching leaks."

Finally, put your goals on paper. What is it that you want most out of life? Many dreams come free but most do not. With proper planning, money can provide you with freedom – to travel, retire early, change careers or start a business. By putting them in writing you formalize them and help give you and your trusted advisors a place to start.

To speak with Carolyn Stys, founder and president of Bluemont Capital Advisors, please telephone: 703 657 7611 or email her at csstys@bluemontcapital.com.

“New Year’s resolution: find snow!”

“Happy New Year. It’s 2011!”

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NEWS OF NOTE

MALMGREN JOINS BLUEMONT CAPITAL

In early January Harald B. Malmgren joined Middleburg's Bluemont Capital Advisors as their chief Global Economic Strategist. Ambassador Malmgren, is currently Chairman and CEO of Malmgren Global LLC, a consultancy specializing in global business-planning, trade, and financial advisory services.

"Both the economic difficulties we face and the opportunities those difficulties sometimes present are driven by global events," says Bluemont co-founder Mark Stys. "Harald will bring to Bluemont the global insight and perspectives all too often reserved for heads of state and Fortune 50 CEOs."

Malmgren's advice has been in high demand since the early 1960's.

Born in midst of the great depression, he was the first member of his immediate family to go to college, to Yale, on a full scholarship.

By 1961 he had taken his D.Phil at Oxford, where he did ground-breaking work on the structure and behavior of business organizations. His first job: a full professorship at Cornell. Since then he's taught economics at Georgetown, George Washington and Johns Hopkins, and lectured around the world.

From Cornell, Malmgren was recruited to serve in the Kennedy administration. After Kennedy's assassination, he continued to serve under Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon, and Gerald Ford.

As Deputy U. S. Trade Representative in the early 1970's, Ambassador Malmgren helped draft the legislation that still gives the President of the United States "fast-

track" negotiating authority for certain key international trade agreements. He has provided advice and counsel for administrations of both parties, and senior executives in the private sector ever since.

Highly honored and constantly in demand, he's served as a member of the advisory board of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, the G-7 Council, the Council on Foreign Relations Committee on the Future of the World Trading System, and as Chairman of the Cordell Hull Institute's Board of Directors.

"The US financial market is now just one part of a global marketplace. The key to successful capital management in this century is research and analysis," he says, "with strong emphasis on the latter." In order to optimize one's portfolio, whether you're a head of state or of a high-net-worth household, you must understand the global economy."

A firm believer in the power of technology and modern quantitative analysis, Malmgren smiles when he talks about the "human" side of economics.

"There is a critical element to pattern recognition that comes only with experience," he says. "Good data is critical," he notes, ""but without a good sense of people, and institutions, and the global ebb and flow of events and behavior, past experience is increasingly inadequate to successful anticipation of events to come. Just look at the continuing shocks to financial markets in the last two or three years, not only here at home but throughout Europe, Asia, and the rest of the world."



Eying a Corgi-chewed pawn on a chessboard, Malmgren mused that people still give IBM's Big Blue chess computer a run for its money. Asked if he played, he smiles again. "Some," he said modestly. His uncle, it seems, was a grand master.

Asked about the "end of the American Century" he notes that, "Globally, the United States remains the refuge of choice for those holding assets even vaguely threatened When disappointments come in Europe, China, or the emerging markets, capital will fly to the US for safe parking."

Malmgren's ancestors were Swedes, perhaps accounting, in part, for his ongoing love for sailing and the sea. He and his wife, twin daughters and son now live on a working farm in Northern Fauquier. "The Blue Ridge and horse country," he says, "worked their magic" on his family.

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Since carving out her niche in the Honeymoon industry more than twenty years ago, Teresa Belcher is passionate about helping couples turn the honeymoon of their dreams into reality.

What sets Teresa Belcher, President of Honeymoon Islands apart from other industry planners is the lavish list of 4 and 5 star properties she represents and the unparalleled 24/7 impeccable customer service she is able to offer, which not many agencies can say they do. She also works with each couple to tailor the honeymoon of their dreams into one they will cherish forever.

"When I got into the travel industry and saw some of the properties being marketed as honeymoon destinations I thought, I would never send anyone I know to some of these resorts." So she decided to de-fine her business by only offering honeymoons that were over the top – elegant, luxurious, pampered romance. This really set the tone for what she was looking to offer her clients. "I decided that I would never offer the average, everyday honeymoon, says Belcher."

As a result of her extensive travel experience, she provides travel planning services for those looking to go on a luxury romantic vacation or getaway to include private jet services to islands, even private island buy-outs for a truly private excursion for two or for any number of people for any occasion with offerings world wide. "Matching the finest resorts and islands that money can buy to discerning couples all over the world is what I do!" She takes pride in knowing first-hand each and every resort and island that is featured on her website www.honeymoonislands.com.

Belcher was featured on the Travel Channel's "Great Escapes" show for unique honeymoon ideas. Additionally, she has been nominated by Conde Nast Traveler Magazine as well as Travel & Leisure as the nation's top 100 Travel Agents in the honeymoon planning category. Finally, she was selected to participate in the American Music Awards luxury getaways giveaway.

Teresa recently relocated to the Middleburg area and is a new member of the Middleburg Business and Professional Association.

WALKWAY WOES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for their positive effects on the town's economy and lifestyle.

No one was trying to "exploit" the Library, several Council members insisted. Staff, Council, and the relevant subcommittees and commissions had conducted an extensive analysis of the real costs of sidewalk construction and maintenance in Middleburg. Their goal: equity AND aesthetics.

The proposed \$400 "fee-in-lieu", they insisted, had been calculated after compiling and averaging the true costs of several potential sidewalk improved projects in Middleburg. While they seemed high, they were supported by sound, real-world estimates of those projected real-world costs.

Alternatives

With a \$400 per foot fee on one end of the spectrum, and no fee on the other, Council now seeks a middle ground.

According to Town Staff, the current Loudoun County fee-in-lieu of construction of sidewalks is \$65 per linear foot. If Council should adopt a fee closer to \$65 than \$400, Town Planner Benniamino told the Eccentric the Town could use the money collected as the basis for an 80/20 grant application for sidewalk construction throughout the town.

At press time, Council had informally committed to deliver-

ing a final answer on the matter to the National Sporting Library within two weeks, at some time in the last week of January.

Mayor's Dilemma

In November, with Mayor Betsy Allen Davis abstaining, Town Council approved the sale of a parcel of town-owned real estate, an unused 40-foot alley right-of-way, which runs through Davis family's "Fun Shop" property. Council also requested an independent appraisal to determine the current fair market value of the right-of-way.

At January's regular meeting, with Vice-Mayor Darlene Kirk again presiding, Town Planner and Zoning Administrator Benniamino reported that a highly detailed, 62-page, \$1,500-appraisal, valued the 40x170-foot right-of-way at some \$61,000.

Council Member and realtor Bundles Murdock's reaction was immediate: "That's a HUGE amount of money." Several Council members laughed out loud.

Benniamino observed that, given the zoning of the parcel, the appraiser was compelled to value the land as if it were a lot on which a new building could be constructed.

Technically, building on the lot is possible.

On the other hand, Benniamino noted, given both the

physical characteristics of the right-of-way and the regulations governing construction in downtown Middleburg, "You're just never going to get what its worth out of it."

"You would have to do a LOT of work . . . make grade changes . . . provide access to Federal Street . . . address the issues created by all the trees . . ." he said. "It just becomes a VERY difficult proposition."

He went on to compare the potential return on investment to that for investing in the restoration of 1978 AMC "Gremlin" subcompact. Spend all the money you want, he observed, and you're still going to have a 1978 Gremlin.

In reaction to a suggestion from Council Member Trowbridge Littleton that Council simply announce that the right-of-way is for sale, and solicit offers, Town Attorney Liz Whiting pointed out that advertising and a public hearing is required before the Town can sell any interest in land.

With no formal offer to purchase the right of way on the table, and after lengthy discussion Council moved to table the issue for two weeks.

Haiti

Mayor Davis opened January's Council meeting began with a moment of silence for the vic-

tims of the earthquake in Haiti. Middleburg Eccentric Editor-in-Chief Dee Dee Hubbard then reported to Council on plans for a benefit to support relief efforts in Haiti, to be held on February 26, at the Middleburg Community Center. Further details, she noted, would be forthcoming and made public on www.middleburg.com and in the press. Council expressed its approval and support.

Salamander and the Donald

In response to persistent and ongoing rumors that the Trump Organization was negotiating purchase of the Salamander Inn and Spa property, Salamander Hospitality's Prem Devedas told the Eccentric that the Inn was not for sale, that no offers had been sought, and none had been received. The rumors, he said, were absolutely and totally incorrect.

According to Town Administrator Jerry Schiro, construction on the Resort came to a "complete standstill" during the bad weather in December and January, and contractors removed construction trailers from the site.

The weather and other delays, he noted, pushed substantial completion of the Salamander-funded town wastewater treatment plant into March.

Delayed delivery of specialized Siemens equipment also con-

tributed to delays in completion of the water treatment plant.

Fortunately, according to Town Administrator Jerry Schiro, most of the external work on both the wastewater and water treatment projects is complete and the structures housing both facilities effectively enclosed.

Christmas and Snow in Middleburg

Council formally thanked and recognized all the member of the Christmas in Middleburg Committee and the volunteers who supported their efforts. Dee Dee Hubbard and Reggie Dawson were on hand to represent the team.

Special thanks were also extended to Police Chief Steve Webber, Street Superintendent Marvin Simms, an all those who had helped with snow removal and traffic control.

Snow crews worked, on some cases, 36 hours straight according to Schiro, keeping the streets and parking spaces clear.

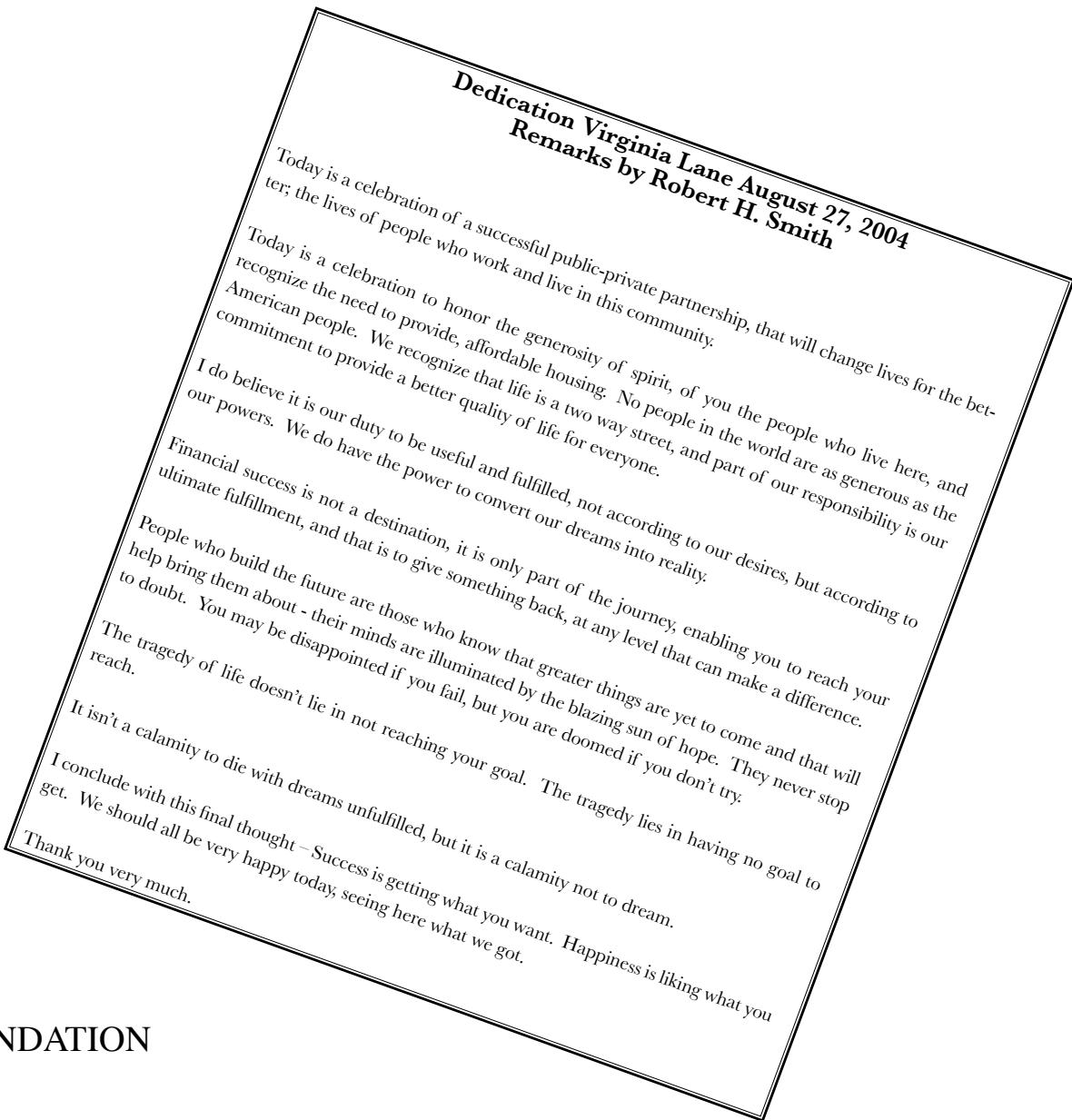
Costs were high. One preliminary invoice from ASAP Paving totaled \$33,000. Based on past experience, the Town had budgeted only \$12,500 for snow removal.

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EDITOR'S DESK

ANSWERING THE CALL

Once again the men and women who live in and around the village of Middleburg have joined together to help people in need.

After the Tsunami . . . after Katrina and the disaster in New Orleans and along the Gulf Coast . . . and day-by-day, in a thousand ways, in a hundred volunteer organizations, an extraordinary number of those of us lucky enough to be able to help people in need, do our best do so.

This time, the call has gone out to help those stricken by the earthquake in Haiti.

Some of us are already there, on ships, on shore, in the air, or on the way.

Others are gathering in Middleburg, at the Middleburg Community Center on February 26th, to raise funds to support them.

We will see you there!

HYPOCRISY

The earthquake in Haiti started in 1804 and has continued to today. In that year Toussaint L'Ouverture and an army of ex-slaves overthrew French rule.

The French demanded and received reparations from the new and first black independent country in the world, because they claimed ownership of the black slaves who revolted. This, in itself, is as unbelievable as the myriad of misfortunes that have been visited on the island.

The debt was staggering and would be equivalent to billions of dollars in today's money. So the new, independent country started out in bankruptcy.

The western world called for an embargo on the country under the direction of Thomas Jefferson, in order to punish the uppity blacks who kicked out the French.

(Pat Robertson recently said the Haitians signed a pact with the devil and that is what caused the recent natural earthquake. I would like to ask him if he thinks America signed the same pact when we kicked out the British).

But I digress. Forget about that idiot who calls himself a Christian. What a despotic and stupid man.

Haiti remained under the embargo until the Emancipation Proclamation in the United States. It took until 1860 before the Vatican even recognized Haiti as a country. From about that time, 1860 or so until 1915, Haiti remained relatively calm and was beginning to become somewhat prosperous left to its own devices.

But in 1915 under Woodrow Wilson, U.S. Marines invaded and occupied Haiti until 1934. They seized land redistributed it to American Corporations, took control of the country, and ran it as if it were an American possession.

After the occupation ended in 1934 Haiti drifted along with a number of presidents, several of whom were overthrown with military leaders and "executive councils" running the country.

During quite a lot of this time revolutionaries such as Che Guevara were drifting in and out of the country and the United States started to worry about the communist threat, the excuse for so many atrocities committed by the United States. The solution: To install Poppa Doc Duvalier as president for life, followed by

A LEGISLATIVE DISGRACE

FROM BEYOND THE BELTWAY

KEN RIETZ

HOW A BILL BECOMES LAW. That's something we all learned in school. The process is so simple "SESAME STREET" made it into a sketch.

First an idea is born. Then a member of the House or Senate brings it to a committee where it is discussed, a report is written and the Bill is voted out of the committee. It is then discussed by the full House or Senate and voted on. Differences between the House and Senate versions

are ironed out in a bi-partisan Conference Committee and the revised version is returned to both Houses for a final vote.

Contrast this to the disgraceful process Harry Reid has led forcing Healthcare legislation through the Senate. Instead of open hearings with members from both parties participating, Harry Reid held meetings behind closed doors with just a few Democrats participating. Day after day they met behind closed doors with TV cameras limited to views of the closed door.

Despite President Obama's promise during his campaign to open healthcare discussions to the public by inviting C-Span to the deliberations, his meetings at the White House were closed to the press and Republicans. Despite his promise of openness, transparency and bi-partisanship, his staff held dozens of meetings on Capitol Hill shutting out the press and Republicans.

In the end, there was no Bill offered for hearings, no hearings, no transparency and no bi-partisanship.

his son.

All was well until even we could not stomach the rampant corruption of the Duvalier's.

After Jean-Claude Duvalier was overthrown, Haiti again drifted along with president after president being overthrown until a poor parish priest, Jean-Bertrand Aristide was elected in 1991. He had plans to nationalize the country's resources and give Haiti back to the Haitians, but we could not abide by that and participated in a coup to overthrow him months after he was elected.

Several American puppets were then installed but Aristide would not give up and was reelected in 1993 and with a slight interruption, served out his term until 1996. Rene Preval, the present PM, was president from 96 -2000 when Aristide was again elected. We would have none of that and backed yet another coup and removed him bodily in 2004.

During the time of U.S. interference, industries such as flour and cement were privatized and eventually closed making the Haitians dependent on U.S. and other foreign countries to sell them needed food and construction materials.

Another example of how we have abused the people of Haiti.

Even as little as a week before the earthquake, the telephone company Teleco was privatized and diminished and then sold to a Vietnamese company, making the people dependent on foreign-owned cell companies.

From all reports on the ground in Haiti there is little or no violence, less even than before the quake, and if left alone the people can easily handle the distribution of food, water and medicine, which has been evidenced in neighborhoods all over Haiti. The LAST thing the beautiful, smart resourceful, resilient people of this ravaged country need are thousands and thousands of soldiers with huge guns pointed at them, the victims. They are a disruptive force and as one doctor said in an interview, "we need gauze not guns"

As we saw during Katrina, there is such unfounded fear of poor black people in desperate situations. Colin Powell very haughtily said in a recent TV interview "we can't air drop aid without security, there would be chaos". I wonder if he would feel the same if the quake had occurred in Beverly Hills.

So enough history. I will close by expressing my extreme disappointment in President Obama's choice of sending Presidents Clinton and Bush.

The Lesser to help raise funds, both of whom contributed in many ways to the miserable state of affairs that Haiti was in even before the quake. Send a respected humanitarian such as Jimmy Carter instead of those two former money grabbers. And return Aristide who could do so much for the moral of the proud Haitians.

FORTY-ONE !

BLUE NOTES

DANIEL MORROW

Pat Robertson believes that 666 is the number of the Beast (and, with equal certainty that gay people cause earthquakes, and that he, personally, has some special insight into the mind of God).

I beg to differ. Forty-one is, obviously, the number. Toting tea bags and shouting "41," the followers

of this new beast slouch toward Washington.

The key to crippling healthcare reform? "41."

The number needed to halt any and all progressive legislation affecting control of rampant corporate greed, job creation, renewable energy, the environment, women's rights, and the rule of law? "41."

The number needed to bring on the second great depression? "41."

And wasn't "41" the father of . . . "43?"

Court to Congress: Corporations Are People Too!

Now come the activist judges of the Supreme Court (or at least five of them) to declare that corporations, as legal "persons," enjoy full first-amendment rights under the Constitution.

I beg to agree! And

urge the Congress and Administration to extend the Court's decision to extend not only the rights of citizens, but their duties as well.

As corporate "persons" under the law, banks, and insurance companies, and Xe (the entertainer formerly known as Blackwater) should, for example, be subject to the draft.

Pay for executives of the drafted corporations should be no more than the pay of four-star generals . . . if that.

Insubordination and conduct unbecoming should be career-enders.

The ultimate reward for conduct of special merit . . . indeed, the ultimate token of recognition for heroic effort, above and beyond the call of duty . . . should be a small piece of ribbon, representing medal rarely worn.

Seems only just, no?

LOOKING AHEAD WITH PURPLE

BRUCE SMART

Few believe that America today is better off than in 2000. What must we do to avoid another unhappy comparison ten years hence? My grandfather was a Congressional minister, given to philosophical writings. Here are excerpts from a book published in 1910, in which he hypothesizes a conversation with Jesus. One hundred years later I find them relevant.

On the Future: "Fierce voices call me to rise to the double labor of gathering the fruits and sowing the seed. I can handle the harvest of other days more competently, and today as a commentary on yesterday is not a hard matter; but today as the seed field of tomorrow is the test of humanity."

Currently, America is failing that "test of humanity."

Why so? We compare yesterday to today, and react vigorously to adversity. The "war on terror" is a prime example. The threat is immediate and all too visible. We are alarmed, angry and determined. With such citizen understanding, government can act, even though the situation is complex and difficult.

But what of incipient problems with impact years off? Our present economic difficulties trace to failure to regulate financial institutions years ago. Must we wait until the damage is as close as today is to yesterday? No. We should sow the seeds of prevention now, long before the impending danger is upon us, thus "meeting the test of humanity." But here we are less resolute.

On the Environment: My grandfather asked "What are the rights and duties of man towards the natural world he lives in? He seems to be within his privilege as he cuts the grass and casts it into the oven; for the grass will grow again, and the cattle on the hills need provender. But he cuts down the forest, and the rain washes the face of the earth till it shines with a stony smile, and no more forests glorify Lebanon, and no more vines climb the mountain slopes. Or he digs deep into the earth and rifles the treasures of ages. What are his duties here? He seems to sin against God in despoiling the earth of its beauty; he seems to sin against posterity by robbing it of its garnered wealth, yet he must live. Oh that he might live as you lived, that he might move from utility to reverence."

In 1910 grandfather sensed environmental problems, without knowledge of

greenhouse gasses, carbon footprints, or that world population would expand four-fold. But he concluded that mankind should tread lightly on the planet, consuming less of its material resources. Today many can list environmental problems and suggest cures, but some dispute the science, others say change will cost too much, still others are preoccupied with immediate concerns. Collectively, we fail to act expeditiously.

On Education (In 1910 grandfather had one son in college, and a second headed there.) "In one thing I admit extravagance. Education takes a large part of my income, and soon will take more than I receive. Should I educate my own this expensively, or spread the worth over society? Could not my children cut down their style and equipage so that others might have a chance? But the question arises, Is it wise to put a youth accustomed to some dignity upon a bare subsistence? My Master, I do not know. But I seem obliged by the noblest examples and emotions to care for mine own" Grandfather valued education, and provided for his own family at some sacrifice. We know that education is the key to America's future - perhaps its survival - but we resist being taxed to better educate the less fortunate, thus impoverishing the world's future for all.

It is high time that all of us - Red, Blue, and Purple - minimize our differences and address our common future together, sowing the "seed field of tomorrow." The ancestors who gave us this great nation, and our children who will inherit it, deserve no less.

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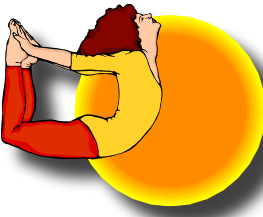
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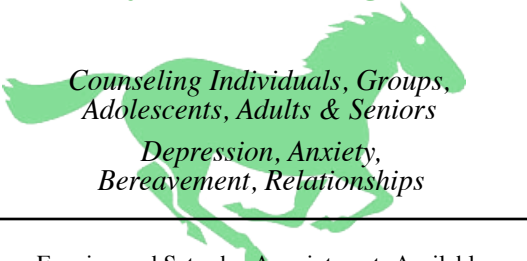


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NEWS OF NOTE

JOIN PROJECT HELPING HAND FOR HAITI

Middleburg's Project Helping Hands will partner with Inova's Children Hospital, The Community Coalition for Haiti, regional citizens and leading corporations to raise funds for Haiti February 26th at the "Join Hands for Haiti" benefit. The Dessert Pot Luck party and auction will take place from 7:30 to 10 p.m. at the Middleburg Community Center.

Fabulous auction items are already promised and a long list of popular musicians will be on hand to provide star-studded entertainment.

Designed to help the long-term needs of Haitian earthquake victims, the benefit follows similar successful initiatives to help victims of Hurricane Katrina and the Indonesian Tsunami, both of which raised important contributions to relieve suffering and support recovery.

Among the auction items are a three-day/two-night Preferred Golf Package for Two at Innisbrook Resort & Golf Club - Located in Palm Harbor, Florida, just 20 miles from Tampa International Airport. Innisbrook Resort & Golf Club is known as one of America's top golf destinations. Innisbrook offers four championship golf courses, 600 suite accommodations, 11 tennis courts, six swimming pools including the Loch Ness pool with water slides, new Fitness Center, Indaba Spa, and restaurants. The Preferred Golf Package includes spacious accommodations in a one-bedroom suite, breakfast daily at the Clubhouse of your choice, 18 holes of golf and one-hour golf clinics daily, and much more.

A painting by well known Haitian artist Frantz Zephirin is 30" x 40", and is entitled "The Oppressed". It represents Alix Cedras,

the military dictator in Haiti during the years 1991-1994, after the first ouster of Aristide. It shows him standing on the shoulders of Haiti (red rooster) and the United States (blue eagle). Another painting Mr. Zephirin Graces the cover of The New Yorker this week.

A spectacular Haitian art form the sequin-covered Drapo Vodou or "Voodoo Flag" by Eviland Lallanne, who was a renowned flag-maker. Vodou banners derive directly from the practice of the Vodou religion, a syncretism of traditional African religions brought to Haiti by slaves, with the Catholicism of their former masters. The banners are traditionally the work of practicing vodou priests and their followers. They are displayed in the vodou sanctuaries and are carried at the commencement of a ceremony. Each flag depicts the vevé symbol or image of the loa to which it is devoted.

The flags are made of shiny silk fabrics to which have been sewn a brilliant mosaic of sequins and beads. A full-size banner typically contains 18,000 to 20,000 sequins and may take ten days to complete.

Paintings by well known Middleburg area artists Tom Neel, Simon Bland and Kevin Chadwick

Designer table cloths by Kevin Chadwick, Wendy Pepper, Manuel Simpson, and Joan Gardiner and other local personalities, artists and celebrities.

Guests are asked to bring a dessert that will serve at least eight, and their beverage of choice. Coffee and soft drinks will be served. Admission is \$25 per person at the door.

If you would like to donate an auction item, make a contribution or assist the Project Helping Hand for Haiti initiative, please contact Dee Dee Hubbard, deede@mbec.com.



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After moving from Loudoun County to Fairfax when I was 10 years old, I was exposed to a wide variety of cultures and foods. Many of my high school classmates were Korean, and I had several close friends whose parents emigrated from Korea and still cooked traditionally classic foods from the peninsula. Even today, you can find a growing number of Korean businesses, including restaurants, in Fairfax County. I have always been fascinated by Asian cuisine, and Korean is one of my favorites.

I frequent some of the large Korean grocery stores in the county, including Super H Mart on Route 50, across from Paul VI High School. When the store first opened, I was one of a few of European descent who frequented the store, wandering around exploring a plethora of Asian delicacies. I always leave the store with something I've never tried before, determined to expand my culinary horizons.

Recently at work (at the Locke Store in Millwood), we received a large order of local white cabbage, and we were left wondering what to do with it all. I jumped on the opportunity to try a new recipe for kimchi, a sort of combination between spicy pickles and sauerkraut. The cabbage is brined, mixed with a spicy, salty, sweet mixture, and then left to ferment at room temperature for a few days. The resulting bubbling concoction is not only delicious but healthy. The result of fermentation creates several varieties of lactic acid bacteria (Lactobacillus), similar to those found in yogurt, which are beneficial to digestion. If you enjoy spicy foods, definitely try this recipe.

- Kimchi**
- Traditionally made with Napa or Chinese cabbage, this recipe uses regular white cabbage, which can be found in abundance at this time of year. Any cabbage will do. In fact, really any vegetable will do, and you can alter the recipe to include any or all of the vegetables listed below. Just be careful when you pack the containers – the fermentation process creates gases that need space to expand.
 - 1 large head of cabbage, Napa, Chinese or white, chopped or shredded into 1-inch pieces
 - 1 gallon of water
 - ½ cup kosher salt
 - ½ cup minced or crushed garlic
 - ½ cup minced or grated ginger
 - 1/3 cup fish sauce (nam pla)
 - 1/3 cup chili paste (such as Sriracha sauce)
 - 1 tablespoon honey
 - 1 bunch scallions, cut into one inch pieces
 - 2 cups shredded or julienned carrots (optional)

- 1 cup shredded or julienned daikon radish (optional)
 - 1 cup coarsely chopped cilantro (optional)
 - 2 tablespoons toasted sesame seeds (optional)
- Combine the salt and water, and stir until the salt is dissolved. Cover the cabbage with the brine and weight down so that the cabbage is fully submerged. Marinate in the refrigerator for at least three hours or overnight (I've even left it for several nights). Rinse the cabbage and squeeze it to release any extra water. Combine the garlic, ginger, fish sauce, chili paste, and honey, preferably with a large spoon or gloved hand (the spices can irritate skin). Add the cabbage, carrots, radish and cilantro (if using). Combine well, coating the vegetables with the sauce.
- Pack the vegetables tightly into glass jars, so that the liquid covers the vegetables. Leave plenty of room at the top. Seal the jars with lids and leave at room temperature for two to three days. (Set the jars in a shallow dish in case they leak.) At that time, check one of the jars; if you see the liquid bubbling up from the bottom, they are ready. Carefully remove the lids to release the gases and taste test! Replace the lids and refrigerate the kimchi. Serve sprinkled with the sesame seeds. The kimchi should last in the fridge for about three weeks. Eat as a salad, side dish, in soups, or especially, with grilled, smoked or marinated meats (see the following recipe). Makes about two and a half quarts.
- Bulgogi**

- This dish usually contains thin-sliced beef but can be made with chicken or pork. To slice the meat thin, freeze a ribeye or sirloin and then thaw it slightly at room temperature. This makes it easier to slice to about 1/8 of an inch thick. Or, you can venture out to one of the Korean groceries, where they sell thin-sliced ribeye. The inclusion of the fruits in the marinade helps to tenderize the meat.
- 1 pound thin-sliced ribeye or sirloin
- ½ of a kiwi, cut into pieces
- ½ of a pear, peeled, cored and cut into pieces
- 1 small onion
- 3 garlic cloves
- ¼ cup warm water
- 1 tablespoon granulated sugar
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- ½ cup soy sauce
- ¼ cup cola
- 2 tablespoons mirin (sweet cooking wine)
- ½ teaspoon sesame oil
- 1 bunch scallions, green and white parts cut into one-inch pieces

Place the kiwi, pear, onion and garlic in a blender and blend until a smooth paste. Add a small amount of water to get it started, if necessary. Combine the water and sugars and stir until dissolved.



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MIDDLEBURG BANK ANNOUNCES PLANS TO OPEN NEW BRANCH IN WILLIAMSBURG

Middleburg Bank, a wholly owned subsidiary of Middleburg Financial Corporation (Nasdaq: MBRG) announced plans to open a new bank branch in the New Town area of Williamsburg. The new branch will share space with Middleburg Trust Company and Middleburg Investment Group, which have served the Williamsburg area since 2002.

When it opens in late spring 2010, the new office for Middleburg Bank will provide individuals, families, businesses and non-profit organizations with a full range of financial services, from checking, savings and CDs to commercial loans and cash management solutions. The new branch will be led by Ms. Laura Colvin, a local banking executive with deep roots in the Williamsburg market.

Since its founding in 1924, Middleburg Bank has been known for delivering the highest levels of personal service and the new branch in Williamsburg will continue this tradition. "We take great pride in providing exceptional service to our clients" said Michael D. Maddocks, Senior Vice President and Williamsburg Community Executive for Middleburg Financial Corporation. "The team in our new Williamsburg branch will get to know our clients and, in the process, provide personalized advice based on that client's unique needs. I'm confident that no other bank in the area delivers the personal service and proactive solutions that Middleburg Bank will," added Mr. Maddocks.

The bank's new branch will be located at 5372 Discovery Park Boulevard. This office will be the only financial center in the Williamsburg area to provide banking, trust, investments and mortgage services in one location, making it a true one-stop solution for all of a client's financial needs.

The bank will also be installing a new ATM in the Town Center. Located across from the fountain in the Main Street Shops, the bank's ATM will provide clients with easy access to their accounts. Area residents who do not bank with Middleburg Bank can also use the ATM to withdraw cash. This ATM is expected to be operational later in the first quarter 2010.

WATCH

THE PLANT LADY

KAREN REXRODE

Of the many things we like to seed in our gardens, or have them volunteer year after year, annual poppies and larkspur are two very satisfactory plants. Both will do so in great numbers and bloom like crazy until our temperatures turn hot. At that point all energy goes into seed production. Falling to the ground occurs as summer heats up, their life cycle comes to an end as temperatures rise and rains diminish, the seeds simply lie there. Few plants would do better than these in your hell strip, that place the hose won't reach and the south sun bakes.

These tiny seeds have tiny outer coatings. The rain of fall, combined with cooler temperatures work on their trigger mechanisms. Fluctuations of freezing and thawing take them out of their sleepy, dry summer period and tell them it's moist, it's the right

time to grow. Layers and layers of inhibitors are broken down as cold aids wet to imbibe the seed, convince it that winter is passing and spring is coming. That old adage; "The best time to throw out seed is with a new snow", is true. No need to cover them, these are both light germinators, they need light to germinate. Left to rest on the ground, what could be easier? With their sprouting might come the challenge, many of our weeds play the same game. Knowing the good guys from the bad guys, removing the right ones? Here lies the effort.

In my garden I have isolated a spot. That place that supports few plants and stays bare in late summer. After 3 years of trying various plants, only the bearded iris remain. They cycle themselves to match rain and cool as well. Quiet and sleepy in the hot days of summer, the iris don't want the sprinkler or a layer of mulch. So I tossed my poppy and larkspur seed there



last fall. As the snows melt I think of my little seeds, loosening their outer layers, waking from the anesthesia and thinking about growing. They are just beyond my snowdrops

that I will soon be investigating everyday. The snowdrop watch. A little further and it's the poppy watch. The larkspur watch. A garden is a wonderful place.



REMODELERS Q & A

PHIL BZDYK

Lisa from Middleburg writes:

"I have a balcony over part of my living room, and the floor of the balcony is a rubber roof. Water stains seem to be forming on the living room ceiling, and I think there is water coming in through the balcony door, but it hard to tell. Is there anything I can do to diagnose this?"

It's fairly impossible for me to diagnose without seeing it, even with photos.

But, if you want me to take a try...

Rotted wood is a sure sign water's getting in. If there's soft siding, pull some off to see if you can take a peek at the flashing detail. A properly lapped pan should be beneath the door, metal flashing that goes up behind the siding is common, with a 6" wide rubber batten tape covering the connection between the EPDM rubber membrane and the flashing metal. Occasionally, a roofer will run the EPDM right up the wall and leave out the metal. This flashing detail is ok, as long as the membrane wasn't over stretched allowing movement and possibly pulling away from the wall. Also, look for an over reliance on caulk instead of a good flashing detail. There are a number of possible flashing details. I've just described 2, but there are many ways to skin a cat, as they say. Look for a loose bond between materials or possibly no intelligent flashing detail at all and just gobs of sealer.

Occasionally, furniture was rests directly on the membrane, which I recommend

against. There could be a pin hole causing a leak. Also, whatever water collection system (gutter or "scupper") is being used could be blocked, allowing water to build up in too high in some places. Keep in mind that water is extremely difficult to track. The infiltration point could be nearly anywhere & traveling by unperceivable paths a fair distance.

The only sure way to diagnose is to take things apart, look at the details, trace water stains, etc. the good news is: once the water infiltration point is determined, repairing a EPDM rubber roof is fairly easily done with "batten tape" and rubber edge caulk, available from a roof supplier.

Phil Bzdyk, a long time



resident of Loudoun County, and owner of apple house carpentry, will gladly answer your home remodeling questions. Certified as a Green Builder and Aging-in-Place Specialist, Phil keeps current with new industry advances and technologies. Please email your questions to us at: questions@applehousecarpentry.com

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PASTIMES

THE SAINTS GO MARCHING IN

7TH INNING STRETCH

ALEX CUDABACK

The noise on Sunday, the screaming, the explosions, the sounds of bodies slamming against one another, was far different than those terrible days four-and-a-half years ago when the inside of the Louisiana Superdome edged precipitously close to the lawlessness and terror of Mad Max's Thunderdome.

Last Sunday, there were no wails of anguish, no shrieks of terror, no cries for help, any help, anyone, please, help, *help us!* There were no rending crashes as whole sections of the roof were ripped away as if by God's own celestial can-opener. No rain poured down, drowning hope and humanity beneath it.

No, about the worst thing that happened this Sunday was

an overtime period gone haywire because of a little too much enthusiasm from the replay booth. Other than that, Sunday's game between the Saints and the Vikings gave us all that we wanted, an epic shootout between two once-discarded quarterbacks, a back and forth emotional slugfest that left even the team captains sucking wind during the coin-flip before overtime.

Adrian Peterson burst back on the scene after having largely disappeared over the last two months. His once-in-a-generation combination of speed, guile and sheer, freakish power was on full display. So, sadly, was his penchant for coughing up the ball. His three stomping, romping, bulling touchdowns were things to behold, especially the first. But jeepers-creepers, that guy has about the

worst case of fumble-itis ever. And Brad Childress, the lemon-sucking fun-vacuum of a head coach of the Vikings, just kept giving him the ball.

Let's be honest, though, and let's be fair, Peterson, even with the fumbles, didn't give this game away. That sad and sorry weight rests squarely on the shoulders of Brett Favre, and he knows it. It's not fair, it never is, but the quarterback that gets the praise all season for being the difference-maker gets saddled with the crushing burden of responsibility when he throws the kind of interception Favre did with the game on the line, the kind he's so carefully avoided all season, the game under control in the closing seconds and a shot at a makeable field goal right there for the taking.

Was the field goal a gimme?

Of course not, and especially not this post-season. But if you give me a choice between trying to kick that game-winning field goal in the closing seconds or just brain-locking a gift-wrapped interception to the other guys and taking my chances on a coin-flip to start overtime? Chuck the rock out of bounds.

In Indy, the results were expected even if the J-E-T-S, Jets, Jets, Jets did make everyone just a little nervous for most of the first half. Mark Sanchez played with the poise nobody gave him credit for, the defense did their best to storm the castle of the Colts offensive backfield, and, for that first half anyway, lots of us thought this might really be the second coming of Broadway Joe.

Reality made a late entrance with 1:13 left in the half when Manning hit Austin Collie with a 16-yard strike and you could sense a shift, not in momentum so much, though there was some of that, but there seemed a sense that Manning had figured it out, that the pieces had dropped into place, that what he saw across the line from him was no longer confusing him, no longer confounding him, no longer stymieing him and that knowledge bolstered the confidence of his Colts and drained it, slowly but inexorably, out of the Jets.

That's Manning's greatest gift, what he's worked so hard to perfect; the ability to break the cipher presented by whatever defense you line up against him within the time allotted him. He presses and probes, finding the weaknesses and seizing upon them, bleeding the hope and confidence from opponents.

If the Jets had played a perfect game, would it have been

enough?

We'll never know.

Jay Feely uncharacteristically shanked two field goals, but they weren't the kind that Nate Kaeding missed the week before for San Diego. Shonn Greene, the Jets explosive post-season playmaker was lost for the second half with a rib injury, and Mark Sanchez, for the most part, was a non-factor in the second half.

In other words, the Jets' magical ride turned back into a pumpkin, just like most magical rides do when they finally run up against the real deal.

And that's exactly what Manning and the Colts are right now. Given enough time (hell, given 15 minutes) Manning has proven he can slice and dice an opponent's defense with the efficiency and cold-bloodedness of a great white shark through a fur seal. Don't get me wrong. Drew Brees and the Saints have been through their own battles. They've put a city on their shoulders, giving hope to millions by playing a game and more, by digging and giving back, with their time, with their blood, with their sweat. They'll fight and they'll claw and they'll scratch. There is no better story than the Saints and the city of New Orleans going to the Super Bowl in February.

My point is simply that Peyton Manning won't care.

The Saints may be marching in, but they'll be limping back.

There's another Lombardi Trophy waiting in Miami, and no fuzzy, feel-good, fleur-de-lis-wearing Saints team is going to keep it from Manning.

Alex can be reached at cuda24@yahoo.com



GLOBAL WARMING

AND OUR WEATHER

RENEWABLE ENERGY IN VIRGINIA

DALE SCHULZ

Question. If all this global warming is suppose to be occurring how is it that we are having such a cold winter this year in Virginia?

Answer. Beijing, China has its coldest morning in almost 40-years and its biggest snowfall since 1951. Britain is experiencing its coldest snap since 1981. A record temperature of -42 in Norway was observed. Freezing weather is gripping the East Coast from Florida to Maine. One has to really wonder why this is occurring if the earth is in fact warming. But experts say this is merely a blip in the long-term heating trend of our planet and it part of the natural variability. In fact according to the National Climatic Data Center 2009 ranked among the warmest years for the Earth since 1880. We will still have record cold temperatures. We will simply have fewer of them.

Most scientists do not tie the recent cold snap to man-made global warming but rather to a not unusual dip in the jet stream that travels from West to East. This jet stream typically acts as a barrier to keep cold Arctic air to the North of us. The jet stream currently has a wave pattern that has resulted in cold air on the East Coast of the U.S. while the Pacific Northwest and Alaska are having record high temperatures this winter.

The current cold snap has done nothing to diminish the overall and



accelerating pace of the warming of the Earth which is most pronounced at the polar extremes.

New on DVD. The Cove. A searing documentary from the man who trained Flipper to save dolphins from slaughter in Japan. It is estimated 23,000 highly-intelligent bottlenose dolphins are killed annually by the Japanese. Recommended.

About the Author: Dale Schulz is the President of Schulz Homes, www.schulzhomes.com. He has been building and renovating custom homes in the area for nearly a quarter century. He is also the President and Founder of Virginia Renewable Energy, which retrofits new and existing homes with renewable energy systems, such as solar PV panel and wind turbines. You contact him as well as send your questions for future columns to dale@schulzhomes.com. His phone number is 540.687.3367. Schulz Homes office is located on North Hamilton St.

LAND TRUST OF VIRGINIA CONSERVES 365-ACRE PROPERTY IN UPPERVILLE

Late last month, the Land Trust of Virginia (LTV), a non-profit land trust based in Middleburg, and Rose Marie Bogley, owner of the 365-acre Bollingbrook estate property near Upperville, agreed on a conservation easement that protects the estate's extraordinary scenic open space and other conservation values.

The LTV conservation easement on the Bollingbrook property represents another key piece in the effort to protect Upperville, one of Virginia's most beautiful and historic villages. The property's spectacular scenery can be viewed from Delaplane Grade Road, a Virginia Byway in northern Fauquier County.

LTV's conservation easement also protects the historic character of this classic Virginia estate. According to Audrey Windsor Bergner, author of Plantations and Historic Homes around Middleburg, Virginia, "Single-handedly, Rose Marie Bogley bought and restored Bollingbrook. Horses again graze on the green hills, busts of ancient Romans surround a sunny pool, and old schoolhouse (that) now serves as a spacious guest house. All four hundred acres are again a working horse and cattle farm and offer shelter to abused animals of all descriptions. The old cannery, overseer's cottage, stables, stone barn, blacksmith shop, scale house, and an in-ground silo

(the oldest in Virginia), still stand at Bollingbrook. But of all the old outbuildings, surely the most interesting is the old slave church, for it tells a story. Dating back to the early 1800s, its stuccoed stone and Gothic design features arched windows now covered by vines."

According to Don Owen, LTV's executive director, the organization now has protected more than 100 properties and 10,000 acres of land in Virginia, which have been goals of the organization since its inception more than ten years ago. Both objectives were achieved in a two-week period, with the organization's 100th easement being protected in Loudoun County and the 10,000th acre being protected in Rappahannock County.

Reflecting on those achievements, LTV Chairman Turner T. Smith said, "We are proud and pleased with the job that we are doing to protect our heritage. As a result of the foresight and generosity of landowners such as Rose Marie Bogley, these beautiful landscapes surrounding our communities will be here hundreds of years from now, and our children and grandchildren will be able to enjoy them much the way we do today. LTV's contributors and easement donors deserve all the credit for making the LTVs conservation easement program so successful."

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PASTIMES

TALKIN’ TRASH

2009 FOXCROFT ROAD PIG PEN AWARDS

WILLIAM H. MCCORMICK VMD

This was the eighth consecutive year of a volunteer action to control trash on the Foxcroft Road. The author conducts this survey as a single observer. However, there are others who also pick up trash on the Foxcroft Road, such as the Middleburg Hunt and the Foxcroft students themselves. Therefore, if anything, the numbers here noted are understated. The year 2009 ranks third most productive for the past eight years (2002: 713, 2003: 950, 2004: 1033, 2005: 1099, 2006: 1216, 2007:

1143, 2008: 899, 2009: 1105). The economy may be down, but apparently trash has no respect for macroeconomics.

To aid those first time readers and as a reminder to past readers of this column, the course of trash collection is a 4.6 mile route of dirt and hard road that includes portions of the Polecat Hill Rd. (Rt. 696), the Foxcroft Rd. (Rt. 626), the Snake Hill Rd. (Rt. 744), and the Millville Rd. (Rt. 743).

In 2009, 1105 individual pieces of repetitive trash were retrieved from the Foxcroft Road, and most of it was recycled. The Tobacco group is, as usual, dominated by Marlboro (32) or 44% of

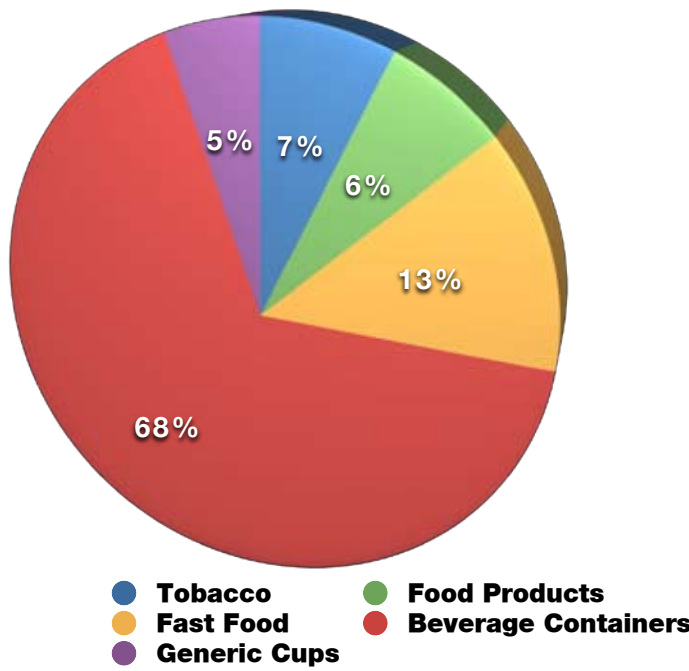
the Tobacco overall, and followed by the problematically named Merit (15), Newport (8) and Parliament (4). Tobacco seems to be able to hold 7% of the cumulative trash numbers over time. The same cannot be said for Marlboro, which has dropped its numbers to the lowest point since 2004. The FDA has recently been given the clearance to regulate tobacco, “America’s first cash crop,” as a drug. The surgeon general’s warning was first mandated in the early 1960’s. The justice of the gods grinds exceedingly slow when the power of financial interests exceed common sense and medical knowledge combined.

In the New Age- Soft Drink category, Pepsico and CocaCola (86 vs. 86) came in at a virtual tie. The totals include water sales of Aquafina (6) for Pepsico and Dasani (10) for Coca Cola. The competition here has been especially keen with Pepsico holding a slim lead in five of the last seven years.

The Fast Food group had no less than 23 competitors. 46% of this group, producing 75 pieces of trash, was McDonald’s. The closest McDonald’s to Middleburg is a 20 to 25 minute drive. Wendy’s accounted for 15% (25) of the fast food on the Foxcroft Road. As a group Fast Food has significantly increased market share while accounting for 15% of the total road trash, its best showing in the last seven years.

In the Beer, Wine and Booze category Coor’s is the surprise winner, while accounting for 11% individually, whilst Miller/Coor’s accounted for 14% of all Foxcroft road trash. Coor’s scored an amazing 364% increase over production in 2008. Anheuser-Busch was taken over by the Belgian company InBev in 2008. Currently Anheuser-

% of Total Years Trash by Type



● Tobacco
● Fast Food
● Generic Cups
● Food Products
● Beverage Containers

Busch has fallen from a 15% trash market share to 12%.

Bottled water comes in PET (Polyethylene terephthalate) bottles. The usual leader in this category is Deer Park with Refresche (Safeway) second, Dasani (Coke) third and Nestle fourth. In the New Age category, Red Bull (40) represented 49% of the group.

Economists use the term “negative externals” to describe the side effects of transactions where a producer and a consumer benefit whilst a third party, you and me in this instance, loses. Carcinogenic tobacco smoke, driving accidents due to the influence of alcohol, and road trash are negative externals. Sugar- sweetened beverages that contain added sucrose or high fructose corn syrup have been linked to increase risk of obesity, diabetes and heart disease. According to the New England Journal of Medicine, “between 1977 and 2002 the per capita intake of caloric beverages doubled in the United States across all age groups.” Furthermore the estimated yearly medical costs in the United States for over-

weight and obesity related diseases are “\$147 billion – or 9.1% of U.S. health care expenditures.” The authors of the aforementioned reference, K.D. Brownell et al., propose a tax policy that would give the manufacturers of sucrose added beverages an incentive to modify their unenlightened policies. While the legislature raises taxes on corporate parasites, it could also add deposit (not a tax) bill to account for the cost of road side trash removal. No company can be more closely associated with salt, sugar and fat than McDonald’s. Supersizing was brought forth upon this country when the board of directors of McDonald’s convinced Ray Kroc to increase the size of portions. Kroc’s objection was that if people wanted more French fries they could buy two bags. One board member urged Kroc on by saying: “But Ray, they don’t want to eat two bags, they don’t want to look like a glutton.” At least there would also be the unintended consequence of one less bag to end up on the roads, one might hope.

Please note that seven corporations account for 53% of all the trash. The “Slovenly Seven” are: McDonald’s, Wendy’s, Coca-Cola, Pepsico, Marlboro, Anheuser-Busch (InBev), and Miller/Coor’s. You can bet that the “Slovenly Seven” are in Richmond right now lobbying against any possible bottle bill, sugar sweetened bill or any other legislation that might compel them into considering more responsible corporate behavior.

1.Brownell, K.D. et al., “The Public Health and Economic Benefits of Taxing Sugar-Sweetened Beverages.” N. Engl. J. Med. 361:16, October 15, 2009, p. 1599-1605.

2.ibid.

3.Kolbert, E., “XXL,” The New Yorker, July 20, 2009. p. 75.

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Bryan Voltaggio, chef and owner of VOLT Restaurant in Frederick, MD
Josh Short, Executive Pastry Chef, Buzz Bakery in Alexandria, VA



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LUNGE LINE

NOTRE DAME ACADEMY INTRODUCES FOX HUNTING CLUB

Riding has returned to Notre Dame Academy! The new Fox Hunting Club is an athletic and social organization which promotes the famed local tradition in the rolling hillsides of America's Hunt Country.

The club was founded by Samantha Johnsey, the school's new Latin teacher. Although she only began teaching at Notre Dame in September, she is not new to the school. Johnsey is an NDA alum from the class of 2004. After recently graduating from the University of Virginia, she was pleased and excited to return to her Alma Mater as a teacher and coach. Mrs. Johnsey is also completing her Master of Fine Arts in Playwriting from Hollins University in her spare time.

While attending Notre Dame, she enjoyed playing volleyball and softball, however; her true passions were theater and Riding. When she was not performing, setting, spiking, or batting, she was memorizing lines or improving her saddle skills. Though she certainly wouldn't consider herself the most technical rider, she always enjoyed the thrill of being on horseback ("the faster the better"). Her fascination with horses was brought to a head when she met her husband, seasoned Fox Hunter and Whip for the Loudoun Hunt, Ryan, whom she met in the equestrian community. Over the past few years, he helped to foster her love for riding after introducing her to the hunt. The two of them have spent the last couple of years rehabilitating a rescue race-horse and turning him (and Samantha) into a fox hunting duo. This was quite a formidable task.

During the first week of class-

es, she decided to offer a Fox Hunting club for students of all levels of riding ability. They received a start up grant of \$2,500; and off into the sunset they went! The group of 6 students usually meets on the weekends at the Foxhole Farm in Middleburg. Foxhole provides the students with horses, equipment, and use of their facilities. Such generous support has helped make the club a reality, and everyone at Notre Dame is truly grateful.

The club was founded to teach and encourage riders of all levels—especially beginners. Mrs. Johnsey believes that sharing her passion for horses and the sport with her students is invaluable to their education. Hunting also improves their balance, confidence, and understanding of the local culture. "This is such a great area to ride, and it has a long history of fox hunting," says Johnsey. But why stop at hunting? The club is hoping to begin polo lessons this spring and summer. Who knows, perhaps in a couple of years, Middleburg Academy will have a polo team?

The unseasonably cold weather this winter has prevented the Notre Dame Fox Hunting Club from riding, but not for long! The spring brings promising opportunities to hunt and enjoy other riding activities. While they were "grounded" however, the club had the great opportunity to visit the Middleburg Hunt kennels where they met both Masters Mr. Jeffrey Blue, MFH and Mrs. Penny Denege, MFH, the huntsman and all the lovely hounds. Also with Middleburg, they got the opportunity to audit and ride in a beginner's Fox Hunting clinic. With Loudoun Hunt, members had the opportunity to help with a judged pleasure trail ride held at the beautiful

MARE CENTER WELCOMES UNDERGRADUATES

Virginia Tech's MARE Center welcomed four new undergraduate animal science students to its facility this week. This first class will spend a semester at the Center gaining both hands on experience and pursuing classroom studies working towards Bachelor of Science degrees from Tech's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Dr. Rebecca Splan, Associate Professor of Equine Science, is in charge of the new program and is based in Middleburg. Dr. Splan explains:

"This is the first group of undergraduates to study at the MARE Center. We plan to have three semester-long sessions each year – spring, summer and fall. You wouldn't know it by the weather, but this is the start of the spring semester, which ends in May. This group is perhaps a pilot run. Eventually we hope to have three times as many students per semester. We will also have graduate students as in the past, and a strong research program as soon as we fill the Paul Mellon Distinguished Professor chair." A search for the next Mellon Professor is underway.

Oatlands Plantation in Leesburg. This winter, they will join the Loudoun Hunt at their annual black-tie Hunt Ball held in February.

Notre Dame Academy is an independent, co-educational, college preparatory high school in Middleburg, Virginia. WWW.notredameva.org 540.687.5581



According to Dr. Splan, 40 warmblood horses came up from Blacksburg in December, supplementing the animals already resident at the Center. Two warmblood stallions will join the band as soon as their paddock fencing is in order.

"Seventeen of the new horses are pregnant," she said, adding "that will give the students a chance to participate in foaling and the care of young horses."

The students now in residence include Kelly Barber of Chapel Hill, NC, Kelsay Johns of Churchville, Maryland, and two Virginians, Kaylee Kohlhaas of Strasburg and Stephanie Feinberg from Springfield. An observation that "there are no young men in the group" brought quick responses:

"Boys can't handle the hard work,"

"Fewer boys are interested in horses; most boys are cow or sheep people. Our (equine) major is 85% female," and

"We're setting the bar here. If they can jump it they can come."

Interestingly, while all four young women are interested in careers in equine care and breeding, and graduate school is appealing, none plan to become veterinarians. As one of them said:

"I'm not interested in working with other people's animals, just the ones I know in the barn where I'll be working."

Paul Mellon, a legendary philanthropist, horse lover and world-renowned breeder, who donated the Center's 420 acres to Virginia Tech many years ago, would be well pleased with the spirit of these newest recruits.

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ProJet Aviation, a Metro-DC area aircraft management and air charter company, has opened a new corporate aviation facility at Leesburg Executive Airport (JYO). The facility features over 25,000 square feet of hangar and office space, and fuel services for corporate aircraft. The Leesburg expansion will complement ProJet's existing flight operations in Winchester and Manassas.

"We are pleased to announce our expansion into the Dulles marketplace, with Leesburg as our newest community partner," said Shye Gilad, President of ProJet Aviation. "With this new location ProJet can offer the most competitive hangar and fuel rates in the region, and convenient access to Northern Virginia and Washington, DC." The Leesburg Executive Airport has direct access off the Greenway (VA route 267), and an aggressive growth plan to include a runway extension, additional hangars, and an aircraft control tower.

ProJet will base four aircraft, two of which are owned by Sheila Johnson's companies, including a long range Gulfstream G-IV Jet and the efficient Piaggio Avanti II turboprop at

Leesburg. The latter two aircraft are available for charter, and the G-IV will be the largest aircraft based at Leesburg. Stuart Haney, President and COO of Johnson's business interests said, "ProJet has enabled us to achieve savings in every aspect of our operations. This is a great alternative to Dulles: fuel and hangar space is at a fraction of the cost, and we incur no landing or ramp fees, further contributing to our bottom line. Despite an extra eight minutes to travel to the Leesburg airport versus Dulles, with a greatly reduced taxi time at Leesburg, we can be in the air quicker, saving us both time and money."

"ProJet is exactly the type of company that can help stimulate economic expansion, and attract new users to our airport," said Leesburg Airport Manager Timothy Dieke. "ProJet's presence at Leesburg Executive will provide a valuable transportation option to local travelers, bring additional jobs, and demand for ancillary services, which is exactly what makes business aviation so vital to our economy and our community."

ProJet Aviation is the Metro-DC Area's premier aviation company, providing aircraft management, worldwide charter flights, aircraft acquisition,

and consulting services. ProJet operates a full-service jet center in Leesburg, Virginia, with additional bases in Winchester and Manassas. ProJet holds an ARG/US Gold safety rating, and is one of the few private jet charter operators approved for access to Reagan National Airport (DCA). A Washington Business Journal "Best Place to Work," ProJet combines the operational practices of the world's best air carriers with the refined service of a world-class hospitality company. ProJet Aviation: The value of time, the wonder of flight.

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PARENTS & PROGENY

NOTRE DAME ADDS A DANCE TEAM



FRONT ROW - CAROL YACOUR, 11TH, LEESBURG; KEZIA LAWSON SHANKS 9TH, ALDIE; CARLEIGH SMITH, 11TH, ALDIE; GABI PITTALUGA, 9TH, BERRYVILLE; MIDDLE ROW - KACI LONG, 11TH, LOVETTSVILLE; LAURA RENZI, 9TH, WINCHESTER; CATH-ERINE SOLTESZ, 9TH, LEESBURG; ALEX ROSSI, 9TH, LEESBURG; LILLI KLAINER, 11TH, LEESBURG; BACK - MARIA HERNANDEZ, 10TH, LINDEN

The Winter sports season is well under way. The boys and girls varsity basketball teams are off to a great start. However, the ten girls who participate on the new dance team at Notre Dame Academy, might be the

hardest working students in the school.

Each evening, as the sun sets behind the majestic Blue Ridge, a throng of high school girls, rehearse their steps and verify routine adjustment as they make their way into the

studio. The blaring music is suddenly interrupted by drill sergeant-like commands from their leader, "O.k.; one, two, three, four!"

There has been interest in starting a dance team for several years, but this fall, Ju-

nior Carleigh Smith decided to make it happen. As the Captain and founder of the team, Carleigh organized the girls, got the approval for the studio, acquired the uniforms, and helped design the routine. She of course had some help along the way.

The girls were extremely grateful not only for the opportunity, for the support provided by administration at Notre Dame. After some research, they discovered that an unused classroom in Mary House (administrative building) could be converted into a studio. Mirrors and sound equipment were donated, as was a bit of choreography by Jenn Koonce, a local dance instructor and director of the Legacy Competition Dance Team. Sometimes, Mrs. Murray, the Head of School, offers a few pointers that she picked up during her extensive professional career in drama, theater and dance.

After several weeks of practice, which began in late October, the girls performed

their routine for the first time in front of a packed gym on December 3rd during the Boys Basketball game versus Wakefield. The team also danced during the Middleburg Holiday Parade. Their progress has been especially remarkable since only two of the members have previous dance experience.

Carleigh confessed, "it was tough getting started...but in the end, all of our efforts were worth it. We are having so much fun!"

The team hopes to recruit a few more members next year and begin competing against other schools. So the next time you attend a Notre Dame Basketball game, stay in your seat during half time. With a little help from the Black-Eyed Peas, these girls will rock the house!

Notre Dame Academy is an independent, co-educational, college preparatory high school in Middleburg, Virginia. WWW.Notredameva.org 540.687.5581

MIDDLEBURG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Middleburg Elementary School Annual All School Field Trip to the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts last week to see "Teddy Roosevelt and the Ghostly Mistletoe". This was followed by a guided

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MIDDLEBURG ACADEMY

STUDENT ART EXHIBITION: "SOON TO BE..."

The Byrne Gallery will showcase Middleburg Academy student artwork February 4 through February 8, 2010.

The Thirteenth Annual Exhibition, entitled "Soon to be..." celebrates the creative spirit of Middleburg Academy art students and the support of its benefactor The Byrne Gallery that has generously underwritten the show since 1998. Throughout this period, over 500 students have exhibited their art in this very unique and successful partnership between The Byrne Gallery and the school. Enriched by the experience, many former students/graduates are studying art in college or pursuing an art related career. Enrolled at prestigious art schools as The School of the Art Institute in Chicago, Parsons, and The Corcoran, former students attribute the Student Art Show as having a significant impact on their decision to pursue an art related career. Several students have interned at the gallery and have included their experiences as a worthwhile addition in their college application process. The main focus however, is giving as many students as possible opportunities to display their art in a professional art gallery with each participating student artist having their work displayed in an optimum gallery environment. For some, the art show may be the only time their work is professionally exhibited.

"Soon to be..." is an exhibition of inspired and imaginative works of art created by Middleburg Academy art students. The Academy's instructors and contemporary visual artists Wayne Paige and Jill Palumbo work with the students in educating them on the process of how artists exhibit their work. This includes a review of the artwork, selection, presentation, determining the price of the work, and promotion: invitations, press re-

leases, openings/receptions, and critiques/reviews.

The Exhibition is a jurored show, and a local artist is lending her talent to the juror process: Linda Hughes, a Corcoran graduate from Middleburg will be on hand to review and jury the displayed works. Linda's role as juror and her ability to select quality art over the past 10 years has been significant in the success of the show. Ceramics, drawing, painting, photography, and mixed-media art will be featured. Awards and prizes will be given in each category. Each year, merchants and local businesses applaud the students' progress by donating prizes to the award recipients. The community's enthusiastic support of the arts has helped to make the exhibition an annual celebration of young artists.

The Tenth Annual Mrs. Susan Byrne Purchase Prize Award will be awarded to the best work in the show. This award is dedicated to Mrs. Susan Byrne, mother of the gallery owner and lifelong art teacher who did so much in inspiring young artists. Last year's recipient was Ashton Hoge whose work was added to the school's permanent collection of award recipients. Previous winners include Erin Manning 2007, Taylor Welsh 2006, Missy Cormak/Kelsey Struder 2005, Insee Haynes 2004, Kelsey Struder 2003, Constance Wilson 2002 and Min uk Jung 2001.

The "Soon to be..." exhibit is open to the public. A reception and awards presentation will be held on Saturday, February 7, from 3 to 6 p.m. Most of the work is for sale and is affordably priced. Regular gallery hours are Monday through Saturday, 10am - 5 pm, Sunday Noon - 5 pm. For additional information, please call (540) 687 6986.

For more information on Middleburg Academy, visit www.notredameva.org.

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST SCHOOL



The 4th and 5th grades of St. John the Evangelist School viewed the current exhibit of China's "Terra Cotta Warriors: Guardians of China's First Emperor" at the National Geographic Museum on January 11. Later, they attended a program entitled, "More Science and Music" at the Kennedy Center. The program was presented by members of the National Symphony Orchestra.

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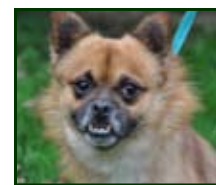
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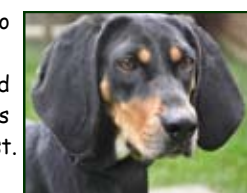
Oswald is a Vietnamese Pot Bellied Pig who was found as a stray. He is shy, but full of personality. He is in need of a safe home with a family who is willing to work on his social skills.

Middleburg Humane Foundation

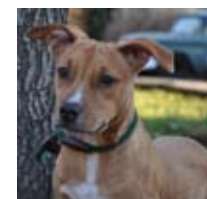


Claude & Owen are Beagle mix brothers, born July 2009. They love to play, get along with other dogs, and will need homes with fenced in yards.

Gracie is a purebred Coonhound who is a doll. She was rescued by animal control with a litter of pups that died of starvation. She spent many months at the county shelter with no interest. Please give her a second chance.



Buzzy is a very special 8 year old Chihuahua mix who is an adorable little gentleman. The perfect snuggle muffin. Super special!



Sassy is a Pit Bull pup born in April 2009. She is super sweet, has lots of energy and gets along with cats & other dogs. "Come see how cute I am!"



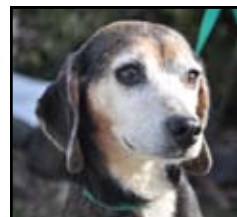
We have 30 White Pigeons who were part of a huge cruelty case. They are in need of a safe forever haven.



Winnie is a lab mix born in August 2009. She is full of love and kisses and gets along with cats & other dogs. Winnie loves to play and cuddle on your lap!



Pablo is a 2 year old Chihuahua mix. He is super sweet and loves to snuggle on your lap. Pablo gets along with other dogs and cats.



Angel is a marvelous older beagle who was rescued after living in a box. She seems to get along well with other dogs and cats.

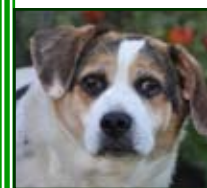


Brock is an adorable Hound mix born August 2009. He is super cute and playful. He will be a large dog & will need a home with a fenced in yard.



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ALBERT'S CORNER

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

In the aftermath of the Haiti earthquake, it has been heartwarming to see how charitable and kind people can be. It is understandable and even necessary, at a time like this, for people to intensely focus on the human population and place less emphasis on the animals in need. So many readers of this newspaper are animal lovers, however, that I suspect many of you are wondering what is happening to -- and what can be done for -- the animals that are suffering.

The good news is that some of the foremost humane organizations on the planet have joined forces to answer this call. The International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) have formed the Animal Relief Coalition for Haiti (ARCH). The two lead organizations are joined by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), the American Humane Association, Humane Society International, United Animal Nations (UAN), Kinship Circle, Best Friends Animal Society, and the American Veterinary Medical Foundation (AVMF).

Most of the Haitian animal population is agricultural, with approximately five million livestock. Additionally, there are many, many abandoned and/or wounded companion pets as well as a very large population of stray dogs who are in critical need.

In late January, the Government of Haiti officially requested assistance from the WSPA. Following that request, representatives from ARCH planned to arrive in Haiti to begin treating injured pets, livestock and stray animals. Additionally, they will be vaccinating animals to control the spread of disease. They will provide desperately needed food and clean water as well.

Animals and humans are in Haiti, as in all places on this Earth, deeply connected. While the human crisis clearly mandates immediate and focused attention, addressing the animals' suffering will help not only the animals but also the people who live with and among them.

This effort is in very early stages because the initial response had to be on assessing and addressing the human situation. At this time, however, ARCH is working tirelessly to bring care and comfort to the animals.

All of the participating organizations have information about ARCH on their websites. As you can imagine, donations of cash and supplies are badly needed. And, as with the human relief effort, every little bit helps.

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

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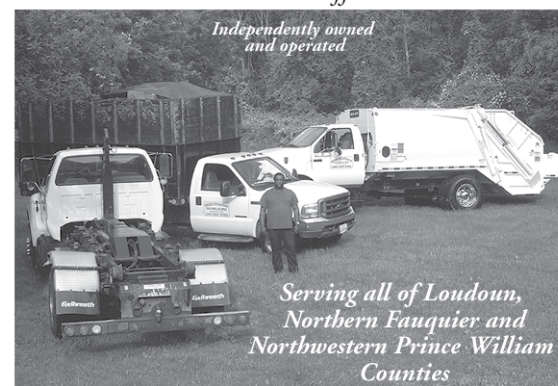
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For the Love of Animals Valentine's Day Wine Tasting

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Join us as we celebrate Valentine's Day and our love for the shelter animals! Taste a selection of fine wines and enjoy scrumptious hors d'oeuvres. All donations will support the many animals and programs at the Middleburg Humane Foundation Shelter.

For more information about MHF go to www.middleburghumane.com
For directions to The Aldie Peddler to www.aldiepeddler.com
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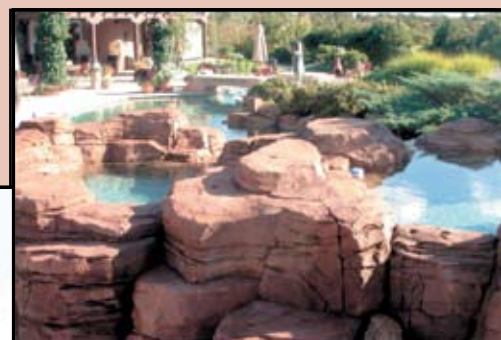
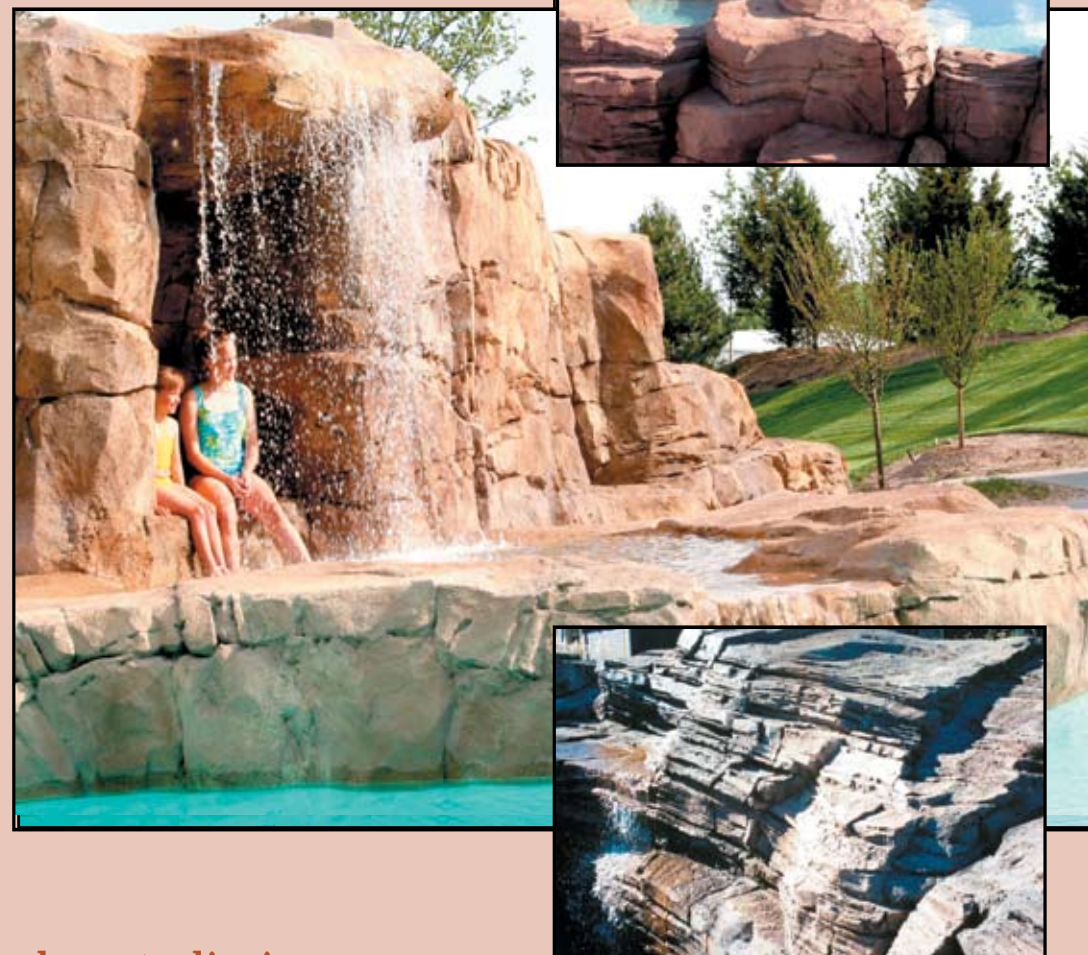
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Patrickswell Middleburg, Virginia

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Paul MacMahon (540) 687-5588



Wildwood Bluemont, Virginia

Frame construction home with 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, 2 fireplaces, family room, den, breakfast room, dining room, and large deck. Large storage building could be used as a barn and shed. Situated on 117.64 acres with spectacular southern views. Property has been placed in conservation easement. Two divisions possible. \$1,800,000. Also available with house and 90 acres \$1,400,000 or house and 27 acres \$875,000.

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Beaver Creek Purcellville, Virginia

Hilltop setting with panoramic views on 11.48 acres. 4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath frame Colonial, 2 gas fireplaces, hardwood floors throughout, wraparound front porch, tiered decks off rear of home lead to pool and cabana. Improvements include barn, shop and board fencing. Mature landscaping. \$1,150,000.

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Dakota Middleburg, Virginia

87 private acres of rolling fields. This fieldstone and stucco house exhibits quality from the past featuring a reclaimed-timber barn transformed into an intimate family room overlooking two expansive ponds. Well-designed home includes an incomparable custom kitchen, antique beams, lovely first floor master suite and 4 bedrooms. Additional finished space below includes the media room, bar, exercise facility and generous storage. 3-car garage, in-law suite, 3-stall barn and generator. \$4,800,000.

Helen MacMahon (540) 454-1930



Lions Lane Boyce, Virginia

Custom built log home on 109+ acres, top of the mountain with unbelievable western views. Private but easy access to Route 50, hunters' paradise, house has 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, 2 fireplaces, vaulted ceilings, gourmet kitchen, 3-car garage, top of the line finishing throughout. Very energy efficient. \$1,575,000.

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Rectortown Road Rectortown, Virginia

Stucco Hunt Box in quaint village setting, 2 tax parcels, 2.92 +/- acres, home circa 1942, 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, and 2 fireplaces. Improvements include guest home, 3 stall barn and board fencing. Lovely setting. \$995,000.

Paul MacMahon (540) 687-5588
Margaret Carroll (540) 454-0650



Harborvale Middleburg, Virginia

51 acres in Orange County Hunt located just minutes from town surrounded by large farms off the highly sought-after Zulla Road. Interior renovations have begun. Charming stone cottage, 3 car garage, stable and tenant house are all in need of renovation but will make a fine estate. Currently in two parcels. \$3,200,000.

Helen MacMahon (540) 454-1930



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. \$1,530,000. House and 5.46 acres available for \$380,000 or 98.01 acres for \$1,115,000.

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The Corner House Rectortown, Virginia

Lovely 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath well maintained, easy weekend retreat with open, newly remodeled country kitchen complete with soapstone countertops, Viking stove and wine cooler. \$549,000.

Alix Coolidge (703) 625-1724



1780 Quaker Barn Philomont, Virginia

Historic Quaker stone barn built in 1780 has been completely restored and updated in the last two years to become a four-five bedroom, 3 1/2 bath home with 3 fireplaces. The vaulted ceilings expose 40' hand hewn beams and original barn timbers. Stunning lower level reveals chestnut log beams, fieldstone walls and flagstone floors. Top of the line finishing throughout is further enhanced by the reclaimed stone façade surrounding the pool, terrace and outdoor fireplace. There is approx. 8,500 sq. ft. of living space with another 2,500 sq. ft. available to be finished. \$2,200,000.

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Atoka Chase Middleburg, Virginia

Impressive stone and frame home with a pond and 10 acres in Atoka Chase. Large first floor master suite, open 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. \$1,270,000.

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Commercial Middleburg, Virginia

The old church rectory. Unusual opportunity to buy a free standing commercial building in Middleburg on a large lot. The property includes the stone and shake office building and the oversized stone garage with unlimited potential. Includes a large administrative area, reception, conference room and three offices. \$895,000 or rent for \$3,250 per month.

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OAK STREAM, MIDDLEBURG, VA

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Anita Sisney 703-973-1987
Linda Norris 540-270-7560



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.

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WOODSIDE, DELAPLANE, VA

Elegant and historic brick federal house on 32.5 acres. The first section is circa 1730, with an addition in 1850. Fabulous views of the Blue Ridge sweep over a large pond. Huge, well maintained hardwoods stand in the park like lawn. Lush gardens. Dependencies include a glamorous pool, a seven stall barn, a large equipment/storage shed with an apartment attached and two log garden houses. The property is in the desirable Orange County Hunt. Large price reduction. \$2,900,000.

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