



MIDDLEBURG HUNT BALL

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SUSTAINABLE GARDENS THAT THRIVE IN HUNT COUNTRY

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SNOW TOWN USA

DAN MORROW

At 7:00 AM on February 11, Town Administrator Jerry Schiro relayed the news that the regularly scheduled February 11 2010 meeting of the Middleburg Town Council had been cancelled.

Record-breaking snowstorms on January 29 and February 10 dropped nearly three feet of snow on Middleburg and surrounding countryside. Chest high drifts were common. Blown and plowed snow piles as high as 24 feet were reported along some roads in the north and west. Some lost power, water, heat, and communication for days.

To the casual observer on the eve of the twin blizzards things already looked grim. The town's snow removal budget had been cut, and by late January, was already well overspent. The town's street maintenance department had been reduced by budget reductions to a staff of one.

According to Mayor Betsy Davis, Middleburg's response to the crisis was nothing less than heroic.

As temperatures above freezing finally returned, Davis, Police Chief Steve Webber, and Town Administrator Schiro all praised the residents and merchants of Middleburg, town employees, and many, many subcontractors for their resilience and hard work to keep the town alive and moving.

Special Thanks

Praise was universal for Middleburg's street maintenance department of one, Marvin Simms, the man who, in the words of Jerry Schiro, had for the past two years "carried alone the entire burden of street related tasks."

As Schiro put it, "With back to back record snow fall events, Marvin Simms was on duty for as long as 36 hours at a time, only catching brief naps. He has diligently monitored the work of contractors, taken calls from tenants at the Health Center and been an invaluable aid to me in managing the logistics for events of this magnitude."

"If not for dedication and loyalty of the Town Employees," Schiro noted, "this Town would have been in dire straights on numerous occasions. Marvin Simms is an outstanding example of that dedication and loyalty."

Asked about both heroes and villains produced by the storm, Mayor Betsy Davis replied, "We had ALL heroes! I am so impressed and amazed at the amazing cleanup our town did."

"Marvin Simms, of course, worked above and beyond," she noted, "as did the subcontractors that Jerry Schiro hired. They even cleared a lot of the sidewalks which was such a help to our businesses..... it was almost

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PROJECT HELPING HAND BENEFIT FOR HAITI

The Washington Capitals, former Redskin Ken Harvey, Robert Duval and Hunt County's finest artists are completing their tablecloths to auction at the Project Helping Hand Haiti benefit Friday, February 26th, at the Middleburg Community Center.

Charming tablecloths from local artists Kevin Chadwick, Tom Neel, Joan Gardiner and Lilla Ohrstrom and many area residents will be auctioned at the event, as will important Haitian art and original artwork by Misia Broadhead, Kevin Chadwick, Simon Bland, Tom Neel, and Miguel Diaz. A terrific Resort and Golf Club weekend at Innisbrook Resort & Golf Club in Tampa, FL, will be auctioned off.

Well known musician Andrew McKnight will provide music and Tut-tie Perricone and

friends will preview their performance of Nunsence.

As you've heard and read, the Haitian crisis has only deepened in the weeks following the earthquake. Money is desperately needed for shelter and sanitation right now.

The Community Coalition for Haiti, the partner in the benefit and the beneficiary of the event, has set up a restricted fund so that 100% of your donation will be used to help those in need in the areas of Haiti hit hardest by the earthquake. Even the smallest amount is a treasure to those without food, water, medicine, or help at this time.

The benefit begins at 7:30 p.m. and tickets are \$25 at the door.

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NEWS OF NOTE GREGG HELVEY NOMINATED FOR ACADEMY AWARD

Gregg Helvey remembers riding his sled down the hill behind Middleburg's Community Center and stopping on the way home at The Upper Crust where Mr. Stein always gave him a cookie. In a couple of weeks, Gregg might be able to add an extra special memory to his files when he attends the 82nd Academy Awards.

Kavi, one of the films Gregg wrote, directed and produced for his USC thesis, is nominated for an Oscar in the Short Film category. It's not an exaggeration to say that Gregg, his wife, Margaux, his dad, Dr. Gregg Helvey, his mother, Anne, and his brother, Joe are all thoroughly excited.

"I'm still pinching myself," the younger Helvey said. "I couldn't have achieved this without the help and support of so many members of my family and friends, but Margaux, my wife, has been an absolutely tremendous support."

Gregg grew up in Middleburg, attended Hill School, Middleburg Elementary, Lincoln, Blue Ridge Middle School and Loudoun Valley High before he left for the University of Virginia to study English and French.

But his interest in film began early.

"My parents made lots of home movies and I always want-

ed to get my hands on the camera."

If Gregg could convince his teachers to let him make a movie rather than write a paper or make a presentation, he was off and running with an idea a minute and the dedication it took to impress his fellow students.

After he completed his Bachelors at UVA, Gregg headed for a posh private boarding school outside London where he taught French, Religion and was photographic artist in residence.

Three years later, he was certain he wanted to train as a filmmaker. He applied and was accepted to the University of Southern California's (USC's) School of Cinematic Arts.

For his M.F.A. thesis, Gregg wrote, directed and produced two short films: Kavi and Overexposed.

Kavi is a 19-minute fictional film that explores the world of "bonded labor," a phrase used to describe modern day slavery. Kavi was filmed entirely on location in India.

"Not all prisons have bars," he explained in an article about Kavi when it was the Gold Medal winner at the Student Academy Awards.

"Although Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation over 147 years ago, the conservative estimate is that

27 million people are enslaved today."

Gregg learned that within organized crime syndicates, human trafficking may soon become more profitable than the illegal arms trade. He realized that, although you can only shoot a bullet or snort a line of cocaine once, a ten-year-old girl can be sold for sex 20 times in a single night. Or, a young boy can be made to haul bricks day after day for his entire life.

"Today, people have become reusable and, when they're finished, disposable."

"When I had the opportunity to make a film at USC, I wanted to make the most of it by telling a good story, transporting the audience to a different world and raising awareness about this important issue."

Through his film Gregg is able to bring modern-day slavery statistics and issues to life in the story of a boy who just wants to play cricket and go to school but is forced to make bricks as a modern-day slave.

When awareness leads to action there is hope, and Kavi underscores not only the dire situation but what needs to be done as well.

Gregg emphasizes that Houston, Atlanta and Los Angeles rank frighteningly high on a world-wide human trafficking



and slavery scale, and he applauds President Obama's proclamation that "fighting modern slavery and human trafficking is a shared responsibility."

It is Gregg's hope that the film will do much more than entertain. His goal is to reach at least 50,000 people with Kavi in the first year before he turns the short film into a feature length film for theatrical distribution.

Gregg already has a deep portfolio of work. He has traveled the world to film in El Salvador, China, Kenya and England on projects ranging from BBC1 to National Geographic and independent fiction films.

"I want it to raise awareness and stir people's hearts to action," Gregg concluded. "I want to combine my passion for social justice with powerful story telling."

To see the trailer for Kavi, please visit KaviTheMovie.com.

Investors and media should contact Gregg at Helvey@Kavi-TheMovie.com.

This year's Academy Awards air Sunday, March 7th.

PROPERTIES IN HUNT COUNTRY

LAVENDER HILL



Middleburg/Upperville •Unique Italianate-Palladian inspired villa •Built by architect/owner •Nestled on a ridge above Goose Creek •4,600+ sq ft stucco home •4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, 2 master suites, 20' ceilings, 10' French doors, terra cotta tile floors, fireplace, and gourmet kitchen •Extensive landscaping •Formal gardens •Courtyard •Pool with pergola •Guest house. **\$3,200,000**
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NEWS OF NOTE

MIDDLEBURG REAL ESTATE ACQUISITION COMPLETE



Scott Buzzelli, Daniel Kaseman and Peter Pejacevich, a team with over 65 years of experience growing companies and Middleburg Real Estate, Inc., a leading real estate service provider since 1943, today announce the completion of the team's acquisition of Middleburg Real Estate.

"Bringing together a powerful combination of energy, management, technology and knowledge of the markets while maintaining the staff, history, confidentiality, integrity and expertise of the existing firm will allow us to create one of the most responsive, comprehensive and highest quality real estate firms in the region," said Daniel M. Kaseman, Managing Partner.

As a result of the acquisition, the company will continue as Middleburg Real Estate, LLC

and develop a subsidiary known as Atoka Properties to significantly increase the depth and breath of market coverage and services offered.

Middleburg Real Estate, located in the heart of the Virginia Hunt Country specializes in country and village properties, from luxury residences to working farms to raw land in Loudoun, Fauquier, Clarke and Rappahannock Counties.

Atoka Properties personnel are geographically based and have a thorough working knowledge of local markets in Arlington, Alexandria, Fairfax, Loudoun, Fauquier, Prince William and Clarke Counties specializing in townhomes, single family homes, luxury homes and commercial/residential investment properties.

ENJOY 'AFTERNOON DELIGHTS' AT NATIONAL SPORTING LIBRARY

Plan to spend a lovely morning or afternoon in Middleburg before May 15th to see the National Sporting Library's current exhibit, "Afternoon Delights," a refined mix of charming book illustrations, ephemera and framed pieces focused on the delightful times one may enjoy in the equine world.

Housed in the F. Ambrose Clark Rare Book Room in the Forest E. Mars, Senior Exhibit Hall, the exhibit elegantly captures steeplechase racing, a parade of toffs and commoners and several illustrations depicting the antics at a school for uninspiring horsemen.

All the illustrations on display are normally sequestered in the rare book room.

The central case features the Inaugural Llangollen Race, 1931, a sketchbook of 15 illustrations by Paul Brown recording a historic day in American steeplechase racing. The original race program, a magazine article from Polo magazine, and the annual chart book further document the race.

Two copies of the book The Legend of the Hounds by George Henry Boker, 1929, are accompanied by eight framed illustrations by Gordon Ross. Three different editions of Geoffrey Gambado's An Academy for Grown Horsemen (1787) are opened to hand-colored tongue-in-cheek illustrations of poor

horsemanship.

One case holds a number of illustrated 19th-century books on boxing. A hand-colored panorama, mounted on the wall, is partially unfolded, revealing an early 19th-century "parade" of toffs and commoners on their way to an illegal fight. The panorama is unfolded to 7 feet.

Afternoon Delights is open to the public during normal library hours, which are Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m. Curatorial Assistant Brenna Elliott and Librarian Lisa Campbell curated the exhibition.

The National Sporting Library and Fine Art Museum is a non-lending research center for horse and field sports. It is open to the public and admission is free.

Its 17,000-book collection covers a wide range of horse and field sports, including foxhunting, thoroughbred racing, dressage, eventing, steeplechasing, polo, coaching, shooting, and angling. Over 4,000 rare books from the sixteenth century onwards are housed in the F. Ambrose Clark Rare Book Room.

In addition to books, the Library owns important manuscripts, archives, and periodicals relating to field sports, and also features an audiovisual collection that includes films, videos, and DVDs.

The John H. Daniels Fellowship program supports the research



of visiting scholars. The Library hosts temporary art exhibitions and holds many fine works of sporting art, including paintings, sculpture, and works-on-paper in its permanent collection.

The Fine Art Museum will open in 2011 on the Library campus in the historic Vine Hill mansion, with 11 galleries featuring temporary exhibits and the Museum's permanent collection of American & European fine sporting art.

Admission to "Afternoon Delights" is free. The National Sporting Library is located at 102 The Plains Rd., in Middleburg, Va. For more information and directions, call 540-687-6542 or visit the NSL's website at www.nsl.org.

JAMES ATKINS LICENSED BY VIRGINIA AS REAL ESTATE BROKER

Armfield, Miller & Ripley Fine Properties is pleased to congratulate James P. Atkins on completing the requirements for his associate broker license in the state of Virginia.

A former president of two corporations and lieutenant colonel of Marines and jet pilot, he has been selected to serve on three corporate boards of directors and, in the non-profit world, is Secretary/Treasurer of the Fauquier Health Foundation Board and Chairman of the Cherry Blossom Breast Cancer Foundation.

Armfield, Miller & Ripley Fine Properties, a leading carriage trade real estate firm in Middleburg, is a representative of Leading Real Estates Companies of the World and Who's Who in Luxury Real Estate. The firm's region of coverage includes Loudoun, Fauquier, Rappahannock, Culpeper, Madison, Clarke,



Shenandoah and Page Counties. The company has represented the region for over 30 years and has evolved into a worldwide network. AMRFP provides brokerage services for all price ranges from luxury estates, residential homes, farms and vacant land parcels.

DICK FRANCIS: THANKS, OLD FRIEND

CYNTHIA MORGAN

I will sorely miss Dick Francis.

Mr. Francis, who died this week at the age of 89, was a legendary British jockey turned sportswriter turned detective novelist. He wrote about the world he knew best, racetracks and horses and jockeys and trainers and grifters. I've been reading his books since I discovered them as a child.

They weren't high-minded tomes on weighty subjects but simply detective novels. I'm not a huge fan of the genre, but Mr. Francis' were different. His protagonists were usually modest, hardworking men with a penchant for understatement and a habit of getting the job done. Minimal gore, maximum thought and if the good guy wasn't exactly a superhero he still seemed like the kind of guy you'd want living next door.

If you haven't read one, you should.

Once each year, right before the running of a big race in Laurel Park, Maryland, my friend Susan and I would head down to the mon-

ied, storied villages of hunt country, Fauquier county, Virginia. We'd stroll the streets in Middleburg, haunt the discreetly expensive custom jewelry stores (Susan is a world-class jewel collector) and brunch in one of the little cafes.

Then at some point we'd head over to the tiny bookshop, buy our copies of Mr. Francis' latest and get in the long line of fans waiting for his signature. We'd inch up to his table while I racked my brain for some novel way to thank him for years of enjoyment. "I just loooooove your books," seemed trite.

We'd arrive, he'd look up expectantly, patting his wife's hand and smiling politely. Someone would open my book to the right page, he'd sign it and I'd say, dumbly, "Thank you," and that was that.

One of his characters once said that praise and plaudits were all very well, but what the artist really appreciates is cold, hard cash plunked down to buy his work. If that's the case, I suppose I gave him what he wanted most: I own every book he ever published.

I once read an interview with

Dick Francis; the reporter, impressed with Mr. Francis' clockwork production of yearly novels, asked him how he worked. His response astonished me. I'm paraphrasing:

"I think about what I want to write, then I write out a sentence, longhand. I think some more, and write some more. When I've written enough sentences, I bundle up the pages and send them to the publisher."

No rewrites, no false starts, no edits. Writers know exactly how unusual that is. I'm not entirely sure I believe it; there were rumors for years that Mr. Francis' wife and researcher was the real author. Certainly the books lost a bit of fire and become more formulaic after her death, but that could also be the product of a man lost without his lifelong companion.

In the end, it doesn't really matter. Collaboration or ghostwriting or the author's own, he was very much worth the ride. Thank you, Mr. Francis.



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† Offer expires on March 1, 2010

20th Anniversary Savings!

Make your best deal. Then present this ad and get a two-year, 24,000-mile maintenance plan, included.†
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In 1996, programming language, Java, was introduced. Alanis Morissette became the youngest artist to win Album of the Year at the Grammy's. A computer beat chess champion Garry Kasparov. The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed over 6,000 for the first time in history. And Kia came to Dulles Motorcars. Tell me who hosted the Oscars in 1996, and I'll award you with a two-year, 24,000-mile maintenance plan on your new Kia from Dulles Motorcars!

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NEWS OF NOTE

NEW INSIGHT NEEDED FOR ENDOWMENT PORTFOLIOS

MARK STYS

While the last couple of years have been increasingly difficult for many endowments, the New Year presents new opportunities and an ideal time to review the portfolio rigorously and set a new investment course.

For many endowments, that rigorous review and fresh start is definitely needed right now. According to the Chronicle of Higher Education, the average college endowment lost 23% of its value from 2008 to 2009 combined with a precipitous drop in giving. In 2009 alone, the average endowment investment lost

18.9%, which is the worst performance in the history of the study which began in 1971.

With a deteriorating economy, almost half of educational institutions saw an increase in endowment spending while only one quarter decreased aid. At the same time, 60% of institutions reported an average drop 45% in giving to their endowments.

If there is such a thing as a triple-edged sword, this would be it; need is up, alumni giving is down and investments lost value.

So what steps can the managers of an endowment take in these circumstances?

Endowments are established to generate enough return to sup-

port the goals of the institution or organization they serve. The annual return is extremely valuable when unexpected costs arise, or when, during exceptionally difficult economic periods, budgets do not cover run-of-business costs.

In times like these, when endowments are not performing well, it makes excellent sense to concentrate on two things: energize the capital campaign, ie, raise more money, and take a rigorous look at the investment portfolio.

An energized capital campaign should be specific: discuss specific needs and specific outcomes. Tout the positive contributions that donors have made to both the lives of students and the

legacy of the school. For instance donors in the alumni association may want to talk about athletics and increased donations for uniforms, equipment, travel or even stadiums. Welcome their donation and earmark it for precisely that. Donations that are earmarked to cover specific projects may replace monies that have been budgeted for that and free those funds up for other financial needs.

Next, take a look at that investment portfolio. While 'modern portfolio theory' handles risk mainly through diversification, a more active approach to risk management is in order. Diversification of assets is the first step but, some times large portions of the

portfolio move in the same direction - unexpectedly.

Your investment policy should be flexible enough to allow for the active reduction of risk. Long-term passive management misses one important tenet of risk management: 'Gains that accumulate over time can be lost in a moment', safeguard your returns where possible.

Too often when we look at our investments after we have taken losses, the first thing that we think of is how to recoup that loss. That often leads us into taking too much risk or into making bad decisions by ignoring another tenet of active management: 'lost opportunities are easier to make up than lost capital'.

We should focus instead on our risk tolerance and the time horizon needed to meet our investment goals, not how to make up lost money.

Finally, be sure to bring the spending policy in line with the investment policy and a realistic appraisal of the ability to raise new capital. By setting appropriate capital goals in fund raising, investment and spending, we can better cope with the long term need of the education institution or organization.

Mark Stys is the Chief Investment Officer for Bluemont Capital Advisors, LLC. To discuss how to energizing your endowment, please contact Mark at mstys@bluemontcapital.

BLOOD DRIVE

Rappahannock National Bank will be sponsoring a blood drive on March 30th from 10:00am to 4:00pm at our Middleburg branch on 101 West Washington Street. Appointments are preferred, but walk-ins will be accepted. If you need to schedule an appointment or further information you may contact Michelle Rangel at 540-687-3500 or michelle.rangel@ubsh.com. Thank you for your donations and support.

PRESERVING OUR RURAL LANDSCAPE FORUM

The Goose Creek Association's Annual Community Forum will take place on Wednesday, March 24 at 6 p.m. at the Middleburg Community Center. "Preserving Our Rural Landscape: A Tool Kit" will showcase steps that landowners can support or take individually to ensure that Western Loudoun and Northern Fauquier Counties retain their rural character.

The event will feature experts from many local and regional conservation/preservation organizations for discussions of the benefits and implications for citizens and landowners who enjoy the Piedmont lifestyle. Topics to be covered in the evening's sessions include conservation easements, creating rural historic and roadways districts, protection of natural resources, and state of the art conservation techniques.

Admission is free; registration is required. To register, please call the Goose Creek Association office at (540) 687-3073.

SNOW TOWN USA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

too much for us to do ourselves!

"The police department," Mayor Davis continued, "was ALWAYS on duty, thanks to both good planning by Chief Webber and the kindness of Jo Ann and Kevin Hazard who opened their Middleburg Country Inn to our officers."

"And last, but certainly not least was the amazing work that Jerry {Schiro} did to get these crews in town and get the work done. As you know, we had no actual contracts with any companies to do our snow removal (our request for snow removal contract bids this Fall went unanswered), but he still got it done and done well!"

National Sporting Library: Sidewalks

By a 4-3 vote Council approved a much-discussed and long-delayed request from the National Sporting Library for a waiver of the sidewalk requirements linked to construction of the Library's new Art Museum on The Plains Road.

Council member Bundles Murdock had characterized earlier suggestions that the museum pay a fee for the privilege of not meeting the town's sidewalk construction ordinances as a scheme to "... sock it to the rich library to pay for sidewalks throughout town."

Murdock's motion to waive

the requirements, seconded by Vice Mayor Kirk, was approved by one vote. Mark Snyder and Trowbridge Littleton joined Murdock and Kirk in approving the motion. Lisa Patterson, Judith Pryor Plescow and Kathy Jo Shea voted against the motion.

Council member Patterson noted that she had informed the National Sporting Library's Administrative Director, Rick Stoutamy, that her vote was not a vote against the National Sporting Library, but a vote in support of the Town's long term goals of universal, tasteful, ADA-compliant, pedestrian access. Discussion of a draft ordinance allowing businesses to pay fees in lieu of sidewalk construction continues.

Stoutamy expressed the Sporting Library's appreciation of the vote in favor of a waiver, noting that, by his best estimate, construction could now be completed by the end of the year, and the museum open to the public some time during the second half of 2011.

Budget and Taxes

During an overview of the Town's mid-year budget revenues and expenditures, Town Administrator Schiro noted that real estate tax revenues were down by \$40,000 and that these revenues could not be recouped. Personal property tax revenue on businesses was down by \$8,000.

Schiro advised Council that, after meeting recently with other town managers, he understood that residential tax assessments were stabilizing; but the commercial assessments were "taking a hit."

He advised Council that, if these trends continue, the Town would have trouble balancing its budget.

Asked whether he thought mid-year budget corrections would be needed, Schiro confirmed they were. He told Council he expected to receive Middleburg's tax assessment information from the County next week, and would start running new budget numbers at that time.

Council member Patterson noted that, in the face of declining assessments, property tax rates would have to increase if revenues were to remain stable.

Christmas Parade Questions

In response to an appearance before Council by local inn and restaurant owner Kevin Hazard, and queries by "several" other unnamed business owners, Council member Kathy Jo Shea initiated a lengthy discussion at the Council's last work session on the "official" role of the Town in the annual "Christmas in Middleburg" celebrations.

Shea expressed concerns that "changes in the schedule of

events" for this year's celebrations had not come before Council for approval, and when citizens appeared to ask why, Council appeared to have no answers.

In mid January, Mr. Hazard had contended that the combination of the early morning hunt parade and the traditional floats, bands, and Santa parade into one, mid-day event, had hurt business. In the past, he thought, people came early for the morning hunt parade, stayed in town to have lunch and shop, and left only after the later, 3:00 PM traditional parade.

According to draft minutes of the Council's work session,

Shea asserted "the Town" was "not involved in the way it should have been" in decisions affecting the celebration "and the more she started to investigate where the event originated, the more confused she became."

Most of the Councils' work session was spent bringing Shea up to speed.

Mayor Davis told Shea the Christmas in Middleburg Committee was definitely NOT a town committee and NEVER had been.

Reggie Dawson, Co-Chair of the all-volunteer Committee explained that the event had

Continued Page 11

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EDITOR'S DESK

SNOW MORE

You know the joke. We're from the Government. We're here to help you.

Well, this time, one more time, and one more time again, those folks from the government were here, and most of us were glad they were.

We thought the Town Government had done a great job during Middleburg's absolutely beautiful, but potentially disastrous snow-covered Christmas parade.

Then came Snowmageddon . . . and SnowMore.

LETTERS

Dear Editor:

The budget situation is not looking very good for public libraries in Loudoun County this year. Even though the public library system accounts for only 1% of the county budget, it is not likely to be spared the ravages of budget cutting. Our own Middleburg Library, the smallest of the seven libraries that make up the system, will almost certainly lose staff and have drastically curtailed hours – unless the people speak up.

The potential impacts to Middleburg Library became clearer when County Administrator Tim Hemstreet presented his draft budget to the Board of Supervisors on February 8th. He recommended a cut of \$1.3 million in the library budget – about 10 percent. There is also an option on the table to that would cut \$2.3 million, about 20 percent. And the Supervisors could go even deeper than this. Either of the two known options also involves imposing fines for overdue items – the first time in Loudoun library history – at 10 cents per item per day, up to a maximum of \$10 per item.

Since most of the library budget consists of staff costs, most of the budget cuts will be to staff, with a straight line direct effect on the hours that the library is open and the programs it can provide. In a nutshell: reduced staff, reduced hours,

reduced programs, reduced services. Middleburg Library will likely be closed one more day per week – it is already closed on Sundays. In fact, the hours may be reduced to a single 8 hour shift. There is a very real chance that we could lose a number of the library staff who are currently employed there. Over 50% of the programs now offered at the library could be ended.

There are several public hearings scheduled in the next couple of weeks so that the Board of Supervisors can hear directly from the public their thoughts about the proposed budget – also known as the FY 11 fiscal plan. It is very important to let our Supervisors know what we want our tax dollars to support. We need to tell the Supervisors how significant the Middleburg Library is to us, what kind of difference it makes in our own lives and in the lives of our neighbors. We need to let them know what the effect will be on us personally if hours are cut, staff are cut, and programs are eliminated.

Times and places for people to make their views known are:

Wednesday, February 24, 3:30 p.m. at the County Government Center, 1 Harrison Street, S.E., in Leesburg. There will be a second session here at 6:30 p.m. on the same day.

Thursday, February 25, 6:30 p.m.: another session at

BI-PARTISANSHIP OR SNOW JOB

FROM BEYOND THE BELTWAY

KEN RIETZ

Under severe criticism, even from his friends in the mainstream media, President Obama called for a bi-partisan meeting on healthcare this week and offered to open the entire meeting to TV cameras.

Is this a real attempt at bi-partisan action? Only time will tell.

If he accepts GOP proposals on meaningful tort reform and purchasing health insurance across state lines, then this effort may just work. The President has not been willing to bend in the past so chances are slim.

Obama's approach to bi-partisanship is strange. He likes to talk about it and call for it. Yet on the same day he proposed this meeting, his own counter terrorism chief, John Brennan, had an op-ed piece in USA Today questioning the patriotism of anyone criticizing the administration's actions regarding terrorism.

In fact, rather than trying to build consensus, the Obama White House has been in attack mode for over a year. They have demonized the Supreme Court, doctors, insurance companies, Las Vegas, Wall Street, Tea Party activists, Fox News, private plane users, cops (for acting 'stupidly'), Scott Brown's pick-up truck, families earning over \$250,000.00, GOP leadership and any action or person even associated with George W. Bush.

How is this all working out for Obama?

His polls are at an all time low. One poll looking

at the 2010 elections shows the all important Independent vote favoring Republicans over Democrats 48-35%. Over 70% in one poll want everyone voted out – not good for the majority party. Cops are mad. Independents have turned against Obama. The Mayor of Las Vegas has said Obama is no longer welcome there. One hedge fund executive, who had enthusiastically supported Obama, when called by the White House about a fundraising event politely said "No, and don't ever call me again." Scott Brown won and moderate Democrats, led by Senator Evan Bayh, are jumping ship.

It hasn't only been bi-partisanship that Obama has needed. It is also support in his own party. He has had controlling margins in both the House and Senate and still has not been able to pass his major legislation.

Contrast this with 2001 when Republicans held a mere 51 Senate seats and still managed to pass "No Child Left Behind" and the Bush Tax Cuts.

The Obama slash and burn tactics that worked in the campaign have just not worked in the White House where you need to offer leadership and govern by consensus. That's why Obama supporter, former Virginia Governor Douglas Wilder, has called on Obama to ditch the campaign team surrounding him at the White House and replace it with people who know how to govern.

Instead, Reid led a shameful effort of arm twisting and deal cutting behind closed doors. There was the

of your small community library!

Denis Cotter
President, Middleburg Library Advisory Board

Dear Editor:

On behalf of the staff here at Inova Loudoun Hospital, please allow me to thank the Loudoun community for selfless care and concern for their community hospital and its operations during our recent weather challenges.

Weather conditions like we have faced can complicate any business, but unlike most industries the hospital needs to run at full operation and, at times, proves even busier than usual. We are so very grateful to each person who came out in their 4 wheel-drive to shuttle staff to and from the hospital, assist with patient transportation needs and even supply doughnuts and coffee, great conversation, news updates and never-ending smiles as an encouragement. Even during the

BIPARTISANSHIP IS FOR PIKERS

BLUE NOTES

DANIEL MORROW

For the past year I've served as a member of Loudoun County Library Board of Trustees.

Each member is appointed by a member of the Board of Supervisors.

I joined the Board thinking that most of my time and talent would be devoted to defending free speech, fighting censorship, and protecting library staff from the perils of political perversion. You know. The easy fun stuff for blowhards.

Nothing could be further from the case.

The Board, as one would expect, reflects a cross section of political opinion in the county: the most liberal of

liberals, the most conservative of conservatives, and arguably, folks representing nearly every viable shade of political opinion in Loudoun County.

Is there left/right Bipartisanship? Of course not! It's better than that, and if I say so myself, what's there should serve as an object lesson to officials serving in what might be termed more exalted capacities.

Under the leadership of Chairman Scott Stewart (with whom I probably have absolutely NOTHING in common politically, and for whom I have NOTHING but the highest respect) we are beyond bi-partisanship . . . and completely united in support of maintaining and improving this county's outstanding pub-

lic library system.

Call it unity. Call it multi-partisanship. Whatever it is, left and right, east-Loudoun and west-Loudoun, soldiers and civilians, spies and counter spies, saints and sinners . . . all of us are doing our dead level best to make the case to our County Board of Supervisors to maintain that small portion of county operating budget which has consistently, year after year, produced a nationally recognized, highly efficient, library system . . . and, sadly a system already running (for years now) on vapor.

The conservatives among us see the libraries as integral parts of our educational and economic infrastructure; as critical resources

for family education (especially for home-schoolers); as the moral equivalent of corporate research and communication centers for small business people and budding entrepreneurs; as offices for those without them; as internet access centers for those who need them more than ever, and as safe and profitable places for kids to go after school. The fiscal ROI on public libraries, they say, is documentably 2:1 at a minimum, and in some states as high as 6:1.

We liberals couldn't agree more.

Libraries and education go hand in hand. Keeping the libraries open is right, just, honorable, loyal, supportive of the best of family values . . . and, as the data plainly

demonstrates, economic good sense.

Last year we almost lost two libraries entirely . . . one in Middleburg, and one in Sterling.

This year, as a Board, and as members of a world-class team of professional librarians, we've decided to do our dead level best to keep all the libraries open. At best, we're allocated less than one percent of the county's budget. What seem to be small cuts in our budget translate into large percentages.

We are accustomed to doing a lot with a little, sharing resources, spreading pain and extra work around, selling books and holding bake sales, begging for volunteers, and thanking our lucky stars for

all the time and magnificent talent our fellow citizens put at our disposal. We've been doing that for years now.

The loss and cost of continuing to make such sacrifices system wide . . . the price of continuing to demand, year after year, so much from so few . . . is, somehow, less obvious . . . but it's still the functional equivalent of closing those two libraries, firing their staffs, and making the access they provided to all the world's intellectual capital more difficult for some, and impossible for others.

We need your help. Call your supervisors. Ask them to save the libraries.

IS AMERICA'S SYSTEM BROKEN?

PURPLE

BRUCE SMART

Last month, Purple philosophized on the difficulty humans have planning ahead. Heading off serious problems, when costs come now, and benefits lie far in the future, is a hard sell. And there are numerous politicians and "talking heads" ready to demagogue such proposals to death, if doing so will make them heroes to shortsighted voters and party ideologues.

America faces a mountain of such problems, many interconnected, and often with roots in past policies, including:

High unemployment

A financial system in disarray

Demographics - an aging population; and the nation's least prosperous socio-economic components expanding fastest

Public education – pre K to 12 – suffering academic cut backs to avoid taxes

The world's highest per-capita health care costs, headed higher

Growing fiscal deficits and public debt, and a low rate of savings

Inadequate investment in infrastructure – roads, bridges, communications, water systems and airports

Global climate disruption, traceable to fossil fuel use and deforestation

Immigration policy permitting inflow of poorly educated laborers, while deterring foreigners attending our graduate schools from working here

Until recently, declining international respect

Lack of a peaceful working relationship with many Islamic peoples.

Nuclear proliferation

Briefly, the political parties' current reactions:

Democrats: Don't touch present entitlements, expand health care to cover everyone, don't upset our teachers and other unions.

Republicans: Mustn't raise taxes. We will oppose all Democrat proposals so the President will look ineffective, and we can win elections.

Looking at the federal budget, Purple believes anyone who passed sixth grade arithmetic would conclude we must both curtail entitlements and raise taxes, or the nation will drown in red ink. But each party is pursuing its short term electoral goals. Neither seems to give a hoot for the future of

the nation they were elected to serve. And few legislators in either party will publicly question their leaders.

When I was in the government, Commerce Secretary Mac Baldrige (a fellow former businessman and my boss) explained that "Business is organized to make good things happen. Government is organized to prevent bad things happening."

Or to prevent anything happening? The Senate requires 60 votes (out of 100) to cut off a filibuster. This means that 41 votes can stop anything. The 21 least populous states (42 senators) have less than 12% of the nation's population between them. In theory, only a bare majority of that 12%, electing senators so inclined, can shut down the federal government.

The nation does not deserve this partisan gridlock. During the past year I was privileged to give two commencement speeches to teenagers, and to attend a family reunion including 10 of our grandchildren, ranging from mothers to college freshmen. These young people are more aware of the world around them and far more service-oriented than their parents' contemporaries. They and their age-mates are America's future. Their universities are the world's finest, as is the science they studied. Our market system remains the world's most efficient wealth producer. They have all the tools to build America in the next 40 years as the so-called "greatest generation" did after WW II. They deserve a government that helps them to do so.

There are some hopeful signs. The leadership of the Senate Finance Committee proposed a bi-partisan commission to study and recommend how to fix our finances. Republicans voted "no" because it might propose raising taxes. Now the President has indicated he will appoint such a commission. The Bipartisan Policy Center, founded by two Republican and two Democrat former Senate majority leaders, is forming a similar group. Congressman Frank Wolf also proposed such a commission to give politicians cover to make unpleasant choices. But one must ask "why must today's elected officials hide behind a commission in order to do what's right for America?" Purple is eager to hear what its page-mates Red and Blue think about this.

HYPOCRISY

TOM PRATT

Dear Readers,

This says it all about Republican thinking. It is not about the budget, it is not about health care it is ONLY ABOUT BRINGING DOWN THE OBAMA PRESIDENCY AND TRYING TO GAIN VOTES IN NOVEMBER.....PERIOD!!

This from Governor Tim Kaine:

"It's a breathtaking display of public hypocrisy. At least 116 Republican

governors, senators, and representatives have spent the past year railing against the Recovery Act, while simultaneously requesting funds to create jobs in their districts and taking credit for projects at ribbon-cutting ceremonies."

As the independent Politifact put it, they're trying "have their cake... and vote against it too."

They know the Recovery Act is creating jobs, but they think attacking it will bring them victory in the 2010 elections.

A TRIBUTE TO HOWARD ZINN

TOM PRATT

Howard Zinn died suddenly last month of a heart attack at age 87. He went, as I think most of us would like to go, suddenly and on a well deserved vacation.

I had the great privilege and pleasure of meeting him on several occasions when he was in Washington speaking, demonstrating for peace, or signing books.

He was one of the most charming and brilliant of men,

he had that unique ability to get his point across without being strident or rancorous, you could disagree with him but it was impossible to dislike him.

His, nearly lifelong work "A People's History of the United States", published in 1980, tells the often unreported truth about some of our so called "heroes" and tells the tales of lesser known true heroes who were participants and sometimes leaders in the abolitionist movement, labor movement civil rights movements, gay rights and feminist movements.

A couple of excerpts from "A Peoples History"

Few books describe Mark Twain and Upton Sinclair as socialists and men of the people that they were. Mark Twain once wrote in the New York Herald about the exploits of the United States and other Western countries as they went about the world in the early 1900's. "I bring you the stately matron named Christendom, returning bedraggled, besmirched and dishonored from pirate raids in Kiao-Chou, Manchuria, South Africa and the Philippines, with

Continued Page 11

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NEWS OF NOTE

SNOW TOWN USA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

originated as a function of the Middleburg Business & Professional Association. Now the "Christmas in Middleburg Committee" is a fully independent, free-standing, though still all-volunteer, organization.

Vice Mayor Kirk reminded Shea that Town did, indeed, "put money toward the event; and, paid its staff to support it."

Administrator Schiro pointed out that most of the costs were related to the Police, Economic Development Coordinator and Street Superintendent's time. Virginia State Troopers and County Sheriff's Deputies assigned to the event were not paid by the Town.

Council member Lisa Patterson assured Shea that the Christmas in Middleburg Committee had its own liability insurance.

As for the Town's formal \$5,000 annual contribution to the event, Patterson noted that the committee used \$2,500 to pay for Christmas sign installations and lighting, expenses that the town would cover in any event.

The remaining \$2,500, she told Shea, was the equivalent of a sponsorship fee, and, as was the case for other events, positioned the Town formally as ONE of CiM's sponsors.

Mayor Davis pointed out that the CiM Committee regularly and rigorously reported on planning for the annual event during meetings of the Town's official Main Street Committee.

CiM Committee Co-chair Dee Dee Hubbard reminded

Council that they had been given full details of the changes in this year's event months in advance of the event itself.

Council member Bundles Murdock said that "she would hate to change this event as it has been successful over the years and brought business into town," further noting that "everyone loved it." While she agreed that most people THOUGHT the parade was a town event, it was NOT, it worked well, and that "she did not want to upset the works."

Council member Trowbridge Littleton quietly suggested that if the system was running well and was not broken, the Council should not fix it, noting that the Committee had done "a fantastic job throughout the years."

Shea also raised questions about the Town's role in insuring public safety at the event.

CiM Committee Co-Chair Hubbard explained that the Committee decided to combine the hunt and traditional parades PRIMARILY due to public safety concerns.

By combining the parades, she noted, police crowd and traffic control resources were concentrated. When the hunt parade was held early in the day, and the traditional parade several hours later, police resources were stretched thin.

This became particularly apparent, and dangerous, during the early morning hunt parade, she noted. With fewer officers on duty for crowd control it became virtually impossible to keep on

HOWARD ZINN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

In "The Peoples' History" Mr. Zinn gives a clearer picture of so called heroes, such as Andrew Jackson. Jackson as slaveholder, land speculator, executioner of dissident soldiers and exterminator of Indians, and not simply Jackson as the great frontiersman, soldier, democrat, and man of the people.

As to the robber barons, J.P. Morgan son of a banker with connections started his fortune by selling stocks for commissions but he also dabbled in arms. During the Civil War he bought rifles for \$3.50 and sold them to a general in the field for \$22, fair enough except that the rifles were defective and shot the thumbs off all who used them. Congress and a federal judge held him blameless.

Morgan, along with John D. Rockefeller, Andrew Carnegie, Philip Armour, Jay Gould and James Mellon paid substitutes \$300 each to take their places in military service, Mellon's father saying "a man may be a patriot without risking his own life or sacrificing his health." There are plenty of lives less valuable."

Just a very small sampling of what is in store for reader's of "A Peoples' History".

Howard Zinn was a bombardier in the ending stages of WW2 and was in a plane that dropped napalm (used for the first time in warfare) on a small village in France where a group of Germans were thought to be hiding, even though the war was all but over. When he got back home he came to

the realization of what he had been part of. He said it is easy to disassociate one's self from the destruction one is causing on the ground when you are 30,000 feet in the air. From that experience he became an ardent anti war activist. He was arrested and beaten at anti Vietnam demonstrations with Daniel Berrigan, was against segregation and was a champion for the common man. And because of his military experience he devoted the rest of his life to quests for peaceful solutions to conflict.

He will be missed terribly by all of us who believe in peace and equality but I am sure he had to be very happy, in his modest way, that his last years were blessed with well deserved recognition. "The People Speak", a theatrical production of "A Peoples' History" features well known actors and activists reading from the book. The production has toured the entire country. A documentary about Howard Zinn's life taken from his writings "You Can't be Neutral on a Moving Train" has been nominated for an Oscar.

Howard Zinn stood for fairness and truth, was dignified, approachable and one of the finest men I have ever met.

The world is a far better place because of the influence of Howard Zinn. His work, "A People's History", should be required reading for every high school student in this country.

Thanks Mr. Zinn for a life not only well lived but importantly lived.

lookers, especially those trying to snap pictures of the horses and hounds, out of the street. Dogs and horses are easily spooked, she noted. Many parade go-ers remember scenes of the tail-wagging dog pack coursing happily through Creme de la Creme on Main Street two years ago. No injuries were reported.

As for the effect on business, Hubbard noted that this year's parade-day snowstorm makes it difficult to assess what, if any, effect combining the two parades had on business. Though she had heard some negative opinions, most of the business people she'd seen were in favor of the change.

Hubbard also noted that the early December snow, though nothing compared to recent events, was serious enough for Chief Webber and the Committee to consider a last minute cancellation of the event. Given the

amount of snow on the ground, and still falling during the parade, attendance would have been down in any case.

Current plans are to stage next year's parade on the same timeline as this year's

The Council's work session discussion ended with a commitment by the Christmas in Middleburg Committee to poll the town's business owners about their parade preferences and continue to work closely with relevant town staff and committees.

Members of Council also agreed to do their best improve communications about the event between the Council, their own Town committees, the town staff, and general public.

Bluemont Concert Series

According to Town Administrator Jerry Schiro, the Bluemont

Concert series has formally requested a \$20,000 contribution from the town for the coming year. Schiro noted that last year, Bluemont received a \$5,000 grant from the town, and a \$5,000 State grant.

In Memoriam

Mayor Davis opened Council session with an expression of the entire town's sorrow at the passing of Audrey Bergner: teacher, genealogist, author and for 13 years an outstanding reporter and feature writer for Middleburg Life. Mayor Davis noted that this was "an immense loss for Middleburg" and cited, among her many other good works and accomplishments, Bergner's work with the Pink Box Visitor Center, and her wonderful articles about the town.

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PASTIMES

FILL YER BELLY WITH POTATO!

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ALYSON BROWETT

It may be cold, but at least there is not a famine. (Well, at least not technically, although you may not have had that impression after visiting one of the local grocery stores over the past two weeks.) Exactly 270 years ago, the people of Ireland and the rest of Europe faced one of the greatest famines in human history, caused primarily by extremely cold temperatures that decimated an otherwise abundant potato crop. Then, a little more than 100 years later, Ireland was hit again by famine, this time caused by a potato blight disease that wiped out the crop once again. Dependent primarily on potatoes, oatmeal and dairy products, Ireland's population shrank by more than 20 percent, and the poor, who relied principally on the tuber crop for sustenance, were hit especially hard.

The potato most likely was introduced to Ireland in the mid-1600s, and the population became dependent upon the crop thereafter. Potatoes yield a high output per acre, compared with other staple crops such as grains, and are abundant as an energy and nutrition source (when fresh, they are particularly high in vitamin C). However, the potato crops in Ireland, which were not genetically diverse, eventually succumbed to blight brought about by the wet and cold climate of the island, causing mass starvation and disease and leading to unrest and emigration. Despite its checkered past, the potato survives as a leading source of nutrition in Ireland, and it can be found in many of the dishes served there to this day.

Potatoes are usually consumed at breakfast and dinner, more commonly known to us as lunch.

(Often, a light meal is taken for supper, or our dinner.) Many of the meat stews served in Ireland contain potatoes, and often, more potato than meat. Lamb and beef are the most common of the meats found in Irish cuisine (other than the amazing seafood that is plentiful and readily available on the coasts). Try these dishes at any time of the day, particularly with this uncommonly cold winter. Trust me when I say that potatoes will keep you going all day long, whether you're shoveling out of three feet of snow or simply running errands (such as navigating empty grocery shelves). Sláinte!

Irish Lamb Stew

This is a fabulous cold weather meal. There's no need for an extra starch, but it could be served with a green salad, or you could add some cold weather greens (such as kale or spinach) for an extra vitamin C boost.

1 ½ - 2 pounds lamb stew meat
(I used trimmed leg meat)

6 cloves garlic, minced

2 teaspoons dried rosemary (or 1 teaspoon fresh, chopped rosemary)

2 tablespoons olive oil

1 onion, chopped

5 small carrots, peeled, halved, and sliced on a diagonal

3 ribs celery, split and sliced on a diagonal

5 medium potatoes, (about 1 ½ pounds), peeled and cut into ¾" cubes

1 bay leaf

2 cups beef stock

1 12-fluid ounce beer (preferably Guinness)

½ cup chopped parsley

Marinate the lamb in the garlic, rosemary and olive oil at room temperature for about 20 minutes. Heat the oven to 350°. Heat a heavy stockpot over medium-high heat, and brown the lamb in two batches. Remove the meat and set aside. Add the onion, carrot and celery to the pan and cook over medium heat until almost tender. Add the potatoes and cook for about five minutes more. Add the bay leaf, beef stock, beer and bring to a simmer. Add the lamb back in and bring to a simmer. Place a lid on the pot and place in the oven. Cook in the oven, stirring occasionally, for about one hour. Reduce the heat to 250°, remove the lid and cook for another 30 minutes, stirring occasionally. Remove the pot from the oven and allow the stew to cool for about 10 minutes. Stir in the parsley and serve. Serves 4 to 6.

Potato Cakes

Ever had leftover mashed potatoes? This is the perfect solution. Add sautéed apples, caramelized onions, sautéed greens with garlic (squeezed of all liquid), and/or your choice of chopped herbs, as flavor enhancements.

2 large potatoes (a white variety, such as Idaho, Russet or Yukon Gold), peeled and cubed

2 tablespoons flour

1 egg, lightly beaten

About ½ cup vegetable oil or bacon rendering

Boil the potatoes until very tender. Cool, drain well, and squeeze any extra water from them, mashing with your fingers. Add the flour and egg to the potatoes, and mix with a fork. Allow the mixture to sit undisturbed in the refrigerator for approximately 15 minutes. Form small potato patties with your hands and refrigerate for an additional 5-10 minutes. Heat the oil in a nonstick



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FREE GARDEN LECTURE DEVELOPING AN EYE FOR YOUR GARDEN DESIGN

The Lecture will be presented by Karen Mazza, March 4, 2010, at 7 pm, at the Loudoun Extension Office, 30 Catoctin Circle, SE, Suite B (Wachovia Bank Building), Leesburg. Karen is originally from Washington, D.C., and graduated from Montgomery College in Rockville, Maryland. She began her career as a volunteer in the Oatlands garden, becoming the assistant to head gardener, Alfred Staini. Karen completed courses in garden design and botany at George Washington University with a special inter-

est in historical gardens. She spent several years maintaining gardens in Upperville (including the Mellon garden) before becoming head gardener at Oatlands in 1994, where she served for 10 years.

In 2001, Karen was the first American woman to participate in the Europe Gardens Exchange program, working 3 weeks at Powis Castle, a National Trust Property, in Wales. Since 2004, she has focused on private client garden design and consultation. Karen and her husband, John, currently reside in Lovettsville.

For more information about the lecture or the Loudoun County Master Gardener program visit the website: www.loudouncountymastergardeners.org or call the Loudoun Extension Office at 703-777-0373. Debbie Dillion coordinates the Master Gardener Volunteer program.

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If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Debbie Dillion, Loudoun Office at (703-777-0373/TDD*) during business hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event. *TDD number is (800) 828-1120.

THE SLEEPING GARDEN

THE PLANT LADY

KAREN REXRODE

Sleeping plants rest in their thirty-two degree blankets. Blizzard and temperatures in the teens come and go but all is safe at thirty-two degrees. While that may keep most things dormant, Cyclamen coum and skunk cabbage will continue their flowering cycle. Imagine finding the snow melted and realizing that plants were flowering beneath? Prior to our historical snow, I had observed my snowdrops, checked in to see how far along they were. The very first signs of flowers were nestled at ground level. How much light penetrates thirty inches of snow? How long will this set them back? Recently a friend asked me, "Are the snowdrops blooming under the snow?". My immediate response was "No". Weeks have passed and I wonder. A snow shovel could answer this question, but a gardener knows better. More harm than good will come from the digging and removal of snow, just to appease my curiosity. It's

the fleeting nature of snowdrops that has me curious. What if they are thinking about flowering and I can't see them? What if I miss days of viewing them as they are buried under snow? What if snowdrops are called that because they will flower under snow instead of just with snow?

I'm sure if snowdrops persisted into April, I wouldn't have this fixation. The short window of flowering is exactly what makes them so desirable. The peonies and iris seem awfully enchanting, but not nearly as much as my calanthe orchids or my tender acidantheras flowers in summer (or my snowdrops in February). They demand you pay attention. Everyday. Examine them, check for fragrance, mark the flowering dates in your garden journal. The gardener will know them better than a petunia or azalea bloom. The way the calanthe orchids carry each little orchid on the flowering stem and the lip is so delicately notched. The way the purple lays on the white in the acidanthera bloom and looks like a butterfly.

These are the plants that become a destination into the garden. The reason to get up in the morning and to run out in your pajamas. These are the plants a gardener loves most.

In my days at the nursery, occasionally someone would ask "Does this flower all summer?". How boring to think it might. How glad I was to say no.



REMODELERS Q & A

PHIL BZDYK

Katie from Paris, VA writes:
I've been told that the water coming into my ceiling is "ice damming". How do I stop it?

Before I suggest a remedy, let me explain a little about ice damming. Visualize your roof and gutter as if it's a martini glass held up so you're looking at the side, and it's filled with a solid piece of ice. When your gutter gets clogged with ice, then melts, it's just like the martini glass with a warm hand holding it. Water forms below the block and seeps up and around the piece of ice as it melts. In the case of your roof, it seeps up underneath the shingles, and unlike the glass which is waterproof, the water finds a seam in the plywood below the shingles or a gap behind the fascia. Sometimes, there is heat loss in that area, which encourages melting. Under the right conditions it will find its way right into the finished areas of your home.

The solution? There are 2 things that will help. First is to insulate the eave area properly. If accessible from the attic, insulation should be installed in between the rafters, starting anywhere above the attic floor joists and all the way down to and into the soffit area. If the ceiling is finished right up to the rafters, then either drywall must be removed for access, or shingles & roof plywood re-

moved. Second, an ice dam shield should be installed. This requires removal of the shingles at the lowest edge of the roof up about 4' all along the roof edge. A waterproof membrane is then adhered to the black paper just beneath the shingles. Then the shingles are re-installed (if they were salvageable as they were

removed) or new shingles are installed in the repair area. In northern zones, installation of an ice shield is a standard practice during new construction, but in our area it's often overlooked, because the conditions for ice-daming are infrequent.

Unfortunately, when the leaking occurs, there's not much you can do to

remedy the situation right then, but if you notice dry-wall or plaster becoming wet, poke a small hole in the wet area to let the moisture out quickly, and direct it into a bucket or towels. Trying to chop the ice out of the gutter may do more damage and it's not very safe. Wait until a thaw to effect changes.



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PASTIMES

WHICH GOT ME THINKING....

7TH INNING STRETCH

ALEX CUDABACK

As I sat in what used to be our living room but has been turned by our 12-month-old into a hair-greying collection of Melissa and Doug puzzles, Little People playscapes, stuffed animals ("classic" and "smart" of course), and other assorted toys, trinkets and geegaws, frantically trying to find the USA v. Canada hockey game, a few questions kept popping up from my subconscious, languidly but persistently, like air trying to escape a tar pit.

• Why on God's green earth did NBC decide to broadcast the first-round game between the US and Canada on some channel NOT called NBC? They decided this would be a good event to hide?

Really? Someone in programming thought we'd all be better served by ice dancing than by an actual competitive sport like hockey, a sport decided by points tallied rather than interpretive judging, migraine-inducing scoring and silly, made-for-TV controversy?

I'm sure I wouldn't know Australian aboriginal garb if someone trussed me up in it; you could sit me down in front of a legitimate Australian aboriginal dance and I wouldn't have a clue.

I would hope, however, that if an entire nation asked me to stop butchering their culture and misrepresenting their traditions, I'd have the decency to do it.

(By the way, if you're nodding your head or in any way on the same page here, maybe there really is something to that whole "Redskins" thing, huh?)

- When are the Wizards going face the inevitable and hold open tryouts already? Since Gilbert can't play for the rest of the season, maybe he can help scout the local talent. In a town as crazy about basketball as Washington claims to be, shouldn't there be at least one or two undiscovered gems out there that could fit in on the current roster? Have you *seen* the current roster? You're telling me that Vince Papale in 1976 was a one-time deal? No way. If the Wizards are serious about keeping people interested for the rest of this season and the foreseeable, dreary future, let's at least make this vaguely entertaining. Use the rest of this season putting the production in place, hold a series of tryouts during the off-season, call in some celebrity judges, and

unveil the winner at the home opener next season. If Simon Cowell can do it with singers, if Sugar Ray Leonard can do it with boxers, if Donald Trump can do it with executives, surely the Wiz should be able to do it with hoops.

- Does Mark McGwire really think steroids didn't help him hit more homeruns? Then why take 'em? To "get healthy?" In order to do what? Hit homeruns. Exactly. OK. Back into exile with you, Big Mac....
- Where the heck is the stupid hockey game?!?!?
- Is a sport a sport if the outcome is determined not by the play of the athletes on the field but by a group of "judges" who never, ever, ever, ever seem to agree on the results of what they're watching? Or is it some sort of performance art? As I understand it, a sport is an activity in which an individual or team competes against another or others; figure skating, ice dancing, even things like halfpipe, ski jumping and moguls, are competitions not against "another or others" but rather competitions against the preconceived notions of those men and women who are selected to judge.
- Speaking of figure skating, any country that gets its knickers in a twist so regularly, so predictably, as Russia does needs to be put on notice by the UN. I mean, what's the good of the UN if it can't at least do that? Nuclear sanctions, world peace, global warming? It's time we all grew up and realized those are way too big for the UN. But the Russians having their quadrennial hissy fit about figure skating? That should

be right in the UN's wheelhouse.

And by the way, it was a miracle Plushenko landed the stupid quad he'd already hung his gold medal on, anyway. It was ungainly, off-kilter and akimbo. If I could tell he looked like the Leaning Tower of Pisa loaded onto the Tea Cups ride at Disney, well, it was crap.

- I think the Nats could conceivably finish third in the N.L. East this year.
- Did I just say that?
- I think the odds are better of the Knicks signing Dwayne Wade and Chris Bosh than of ever signing LeBron James.
- Godspeed, Antawn. Nobody deserved to be jettisoned from the earthbound fireball of a franchise that is the Wizards more than you. I'd love to see you win it in Cleveland, but my money's still on L.A.
- Can Tiger Woods, or any other person, really be a sex addict? I mean, wouldn't teenagers across the world qualify for their very own prescription drug plan if being a sex addict was for real? Or can Tiger just not keep it in his pants? Why not just say you're addicted to being an ass? Or blaming bad-idea genes?
- I wonder if more people watched Tiger's don't-ask-me-questions-about-my-personal-life-after-I-tell-you-all-about-my-personal-life-infomercial than watched the State of the Union? Huh...
- Here's the remote! Which has no batteries in it....

Ah, parenthood.

Alex can be reached at cuda24@yahoo.com



TEA STRAINERS

THE ART OF COLLECTING

TOM NEEL

Over the years, a visit to my brother's home would expose me to his wife Angie's love for antique glass. It's not hard to find homes with fine China or special pieces passed along through generations, but Angie's true passion is more than just glass or a piece or two of it. It happens to be antique porcelain tea strainers.

"I knew I wanted to build a collection, really, before I even started collecting tea strainers", says Angie Neel. "My former Mother-in-Law had a collection of antique salt shakers, and I always admired that collection and knew then, I wanted to collect antique glassware. When I saw that beautiful tea strainer in The Delaplane Store, I had never seen one before. I was fascinated with it, and I purchased it." That was 1999 and today, at nearly 500 pieces, the collection is thought to be one of the largest anywhere.



With names known for elegant glassware, such as Nippon and Noritake of Japan, Royal Bayreuth, Dresden and Rosenthal of Germany, Bing & Grondahl of Denmark and Royal Winton of England, porcelain tea strainers are things of beauty. With their golden era being from the late 1800's to about the 1930's, tea strainers, especially during this period were very ornate, hand painted porcelain, yet still fairly functional.

Utilizing two parts, the strainer portion with its sunken center to hold loose tea, would rest on the tea cup for water to be poured through, while the other part, the drip bowl, would then be used as a place to rest the strainer after use. Further, the strainer portion, mostly circular like the cup, has what might best be described as a thumb handle to lift it with.

As you look down on it, you see artistry ranging from embellished floral designs to miniature landscapes and such. The drip bowl is matching in design and continuity. It often takes a trained collector's eye to determine that over the years, with one part or the other being broken, that the surviving part may have been mated to something close, but not truly a correct set.

While Angie certainly enjoys a cup of tea, the tea strainers are much more about her love of fine glass, enjoyment of collecting and the thrill of the hunt. "Tea strainers come in so many forms - many of which are hand-painted by factory artists or by individual artists, and some that are decorated with transfer florals," she explains.

Some pieces have come and gone, ever fine tuning her collection into the best examples she can acquire. Her search extends beyond the United States, to all over the world. True collecting takes patience. In this case, it's not about the quantity, though her collection could only be described as vast, but rather the quality of her overall collection, which is impressive.

As to hold a prize, Angie shares with me, "The most expen-

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PASTIMES

A CREEK RUNS THROUGH US

CHANDLER VAN VOORHIS

For 40 years, the Goose Creek Association has been at the vanguard of protecting and preserving the natural resources of the Goose Creek Watershed. Founded in 1970, Goose Creek Association was organized to fight the discharge of sewage into Goose Creek. Over the decades, the issues faced by organization have changed, the tools have evolved but the commitment and passion to preserving the rural quality of life and the natural resources remains vibrant and alive.

As Goose Creek Association looks forward, one of the organization's core focuses is to create an on-going dialogue and to broker information to landowners about the importance of riparian buffers. Generally speaking, a riparian buffer is a vegetated area that is near a stream. Riparian buffers incept nutrient runoff, pesticides and other pollutants while creating wildlife corridors. Additionally, riparian buffers help to stabilize the stream bank.

Spatially, a riparian buffer is at least 50-180 feet on either side of the stream and is broken into three zones.

Zone 1: The purpose of this zone is to stabilize the stream bank and shade the water. Typically, native and fast growing trees are used for this purpose. Therefore, Zone 1 is the smallest of the three zones.

Zone 2: This zone is an important transition between the forest and the grasslands. The primary function of Zone 2 is to slow and absorb pollution that Zone 3 misses. This zone utilizes native shrubs, providing wonderful habitat for wildlife

Zone 3: This zone is the widest part of the riparian buffer as its aim is to be the first line of defense against runoff and contaminants. This zone is comprised of grasses, the easiest to install.

Landowners looking to restore riparian buffers can access programs like the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to help pay for the restoration. For example under CRP there are multiple practices for all types of land use restoration. One such example for riparian buffers is CP22.

A year and a half ago, Middleburg-based C2I, LLC led the charge in enhancing incentives for CP22 and three other practices for a total capacity of 1m acres. The new

incentives are as follows:

1)50% cost share on the establishment of the practice
2)Plus a 40% Practice Incentive Payment (PIP)

3)Plus a \$100 per acre signing bonus

4)Plus, an annual rental rate per acre for 10 or 15 years. This is based on the soil rental rate of each county. These rental rates can range from \$45 to \$120 per acre. The rental income comes from the Credit Commodity Corporation of the US Treasury and is not subject to annual appropriations.

At the end of the day the 50% cost share + the 40% PIP pay for 90% of the establishment cost. The \$100 per acre signing bonus covers the remaining 10% of out of pocket expenses and puts a few extra dollars in the landowner's pocket while the annual rental rate provides a predictable cash flow over the life of the contract (10 or 15 years which ever the landowner signs up for).

As the landowner, you still own your land. The only stipulation is that you must keep the enrolled land in the restored state during the period of the program. In many cases, the restoration can increase the value of your land

from a recreational advantage point.

To help further illustrate how this CRP riparian program and others work, Goose Creek Association will be holding their Annual Forum on "Preserving Our Rural Landscape: A Tool Kit" on Wednesday March 24th at 6pm at the Middleburg Community Center. Landowners wishing to learn more about stewardship tools for conservation and restoration are encouraged to attend.

Come learn how to make conservation and restoration pay and deliver dividends to the environment, the land and



the landowner.

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.

GREENTREES IS FIRST FORESTRY PROJECT APPROVED BY AMERICAN CARBON REGISTRY

GreenTrees, America's first and largest forest carbon origination pipeline, is the first forestry project to be approved by the American Carbon Registry (ACR). ACR's approval indicates that, pending successful third-party verification, the GreenTrees project will be listed on the Registry and able to transact high-quality forest carbon offsets with significant environmental co-benefits. Early this year GreenTrees became the first commercial greenhouse gas offset investment by Duke Energy.

"The focus of GreenTrees is to create a win-win for the private landowner, the environment and the economy. It enables private landowners to benefit from helping us establish a verifiable carbon offset market in the United States to address climate change, while also creating conservation and wildlife benefits along with bio-economic development opportunities for the Mississippi Alluvial Valley," said Carey Crane, founding partner of GreenTrees.

The GreenTrees program aims to reforest at least one million acres in the Mississippi Alluvial Valley, the nation's largest watershed, covering approximately 25 million acres in Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri and Illinois. A significant amount of its farmland is considered marginally productive, with the planting of trees potentially the highest and best use of much of this land.

GreenTree's specific planting methodology will accelerate and improve hardwood forest growth in this region.

"Afforestation is not the work of rich men and women but those rich in spirit whose belief that the resurrection of the native ecosystem delivers a dividend far greater than the monetary value of carbon," added Chandler Van Voorhis, founding partner of GreenTrees. "Approval by the American Carbon Registry sets the stage to deliver the highest quality premium forestry credit from America's 'Ark of Biodiversity' --- the Mississippi Alluvial Valley. As the United States' first private carbon registry, and in 2008 the most widely used, the American Carbon Registry demonstrates the unique blend of environmental integrity with operational fluency," said Van Voorhis.

"We are pleased and excited to have GreenTrees, a program recognized nationally for its innovation and conservation impact, as our first approved forest carbon project," said Nicholas Martin, Chief Technical Officer of the American Carbon Registry. "GreenTrees' approach to environmental integrity and maximum conservation impact underscores our own values in building the carbon marketplace. With Version 2.0 of the ACR Forest Carbon Project Standard to be released shortly, we look forward to further innovation in forest carbon projects from GreenTrees and others."

ELIZABETH NORMAN DESIGNS SUSTAINABLE GARDENS THAT THRIVE IN HUNT COUNTRY

It doesn't take three feet of snow to fully understand how difficult it is for our gardens to adjust to the many challenges of being planted in the zones between the North and the South, but it does emphasize how important it is to consider all the vagaries of this 'in-between' climate before planting.

Fortunately, Hunt Country gardeners will now benefit from

Elizabeth Norman's expertise as a garden designer who specializes in the Fauquier and Loudoun climates and in non-toxic garden practices for new, established and historic gardens.

Elizabeth moved from Alexandria to Hunt Country in 2005, and she has been restoring the historic gardens at her own home ever since. Recently, she took on two new commissions to launch her design firm in Fauquier and Loudoun counties. Elizabeth has been designing, installing, appointing and maintaining gardens and landscapes for over 15 years.

"Country living demands non-toxic gardening, and non-toxic land-

scape care are essential to our firm's services," she emphasizes.

"Most of my clients own livestock, have numerous pets, and care for horses, says Norman. "

Additionally, we are all on wells and our watersheds drain directly into our neighbors' properties. Using pesticides -- organic or otherwise --that can harm animals or drain into an adjoining property -- is not an option, so I spend a lot of time investigating natural controls and cultivation techniques that maximize the opportunity for integrated pest management, provide generous air flow in the garden environment, and use beneficial organisms in the landscape to deter damage from insects, disease, and even deer."

Elizabeth is very committed to teaching her clients how to garden in a sustainable way.

"The best investment gardeners can make is in their dirt. The most talented gardeners I know only plant what the ground is prepared to accept," says Elizabeth.

"I always encourage my clients

SOLAR HOT WATER RENEWABLE ENERGY IN VIRGINIA

DALE SCHULZ

WHAT IS SOLAR DOMESTIC HOT WATER?

When most people think of solar energy, they think of using it to generate electricity. But for the average home, using the sun's energy for daily hot-water needs can be a more practical and affordable use of the sun's energy. Hot water is the most efficient way to use solar, with the exception of passive solar where you are using sunlight to warm up tile or stone. Solar domestic hot water systems vary, but they generally consist of a well-insulated water tank inside the home and several solar collectors mounted on the roof. A non-toxic, antifreeze fluid is pumped through the collectors on the roof and is warmed by the sun. It then circulates through the water tank transferring the heat to the water in the tank.

IS IT MORE EFFICIENT TO MAKE ELECTRICITY OR HOT WATER WITH THE SUN?

Although it may not be as sexy to heat water as it is to make electricity with the sun's energy, solar domestic hot water systems are much more efficient in using the sun's energy. Water-heating is the third-largest energy expense in most households, after space heating and air conditioning, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. Hawaii, now requires solar water heaters in new homes. New York and Colorado lead the nation in the installation of solar domestic hot water systems.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THERE ARE PERIODS OF EXTENDED CLOUDS OR AT NIGHT?

Most systems have a fossil-fuel back-up, such as natural gas or propane, but typically 70-80% of the heating of the water is done by the sun. Dur-



ing the winter months the sun heats the water to nearly 100 degrees. During the summer, these temperatures can reach 140 degrees.

WHAT DO SOLAR DOMESTIC HOT WATER SYSTEM COST?

After tax incentives, these systems typically run \$6,000 - \$8,000. There is currently a federal renewable energy tax credit of 30% of the systems cost, with no cap. Water heaters for swimming pools or hot tubs don't qualify.

HOW MUCH WILL INSTALLING SUCH A SYSTEM SAVE US?

It varies from home to home, but in general you can expect a drop of up to 25% in your heating-fuel bill.

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.



between the northern states and the southern states. This takes finessing from year to year because, quite simply, we just never know what bugs, diseases, and weather we are going to get -- the differences can be so extreme from year to year."

Elizabeth Norman has a committed team of trustworthy industry professionals who care for and install her gardens.

"My team is key to our success. I cannot fathom installing a garden and then just leaving it," says Norman, "...we need to be there until it is established and then carry on -- it's not just gardens for me, it's a relationship with the land, the habitat, the people and animals who love it."

To contact Elizabeth Norman, please telephone (703) 346-6807 or email eliztnorman@verizon.net.

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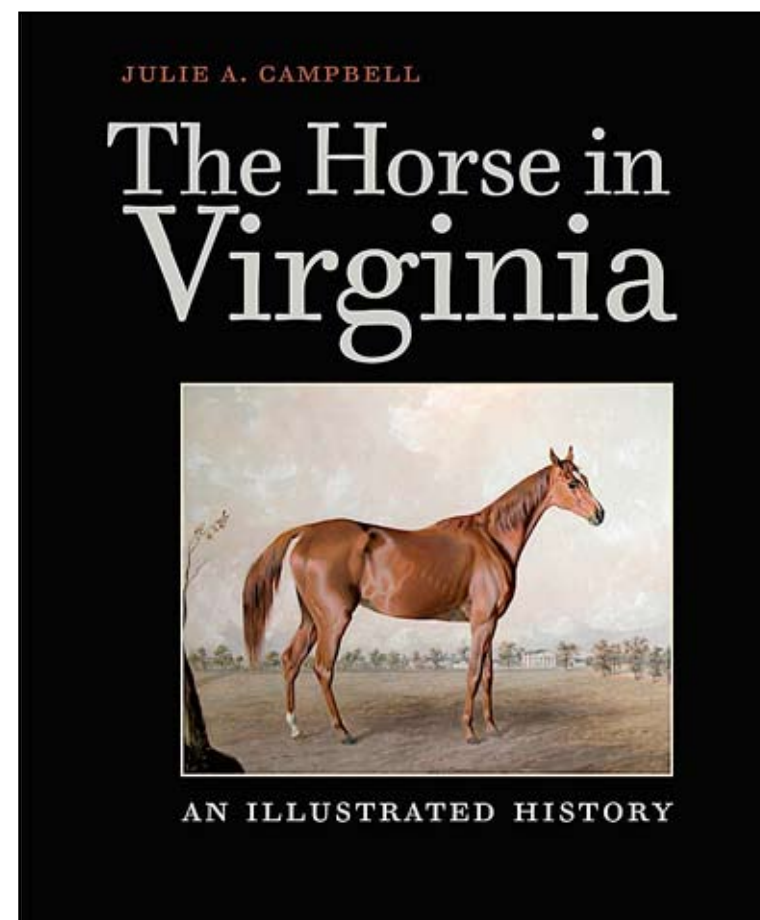
BOOKSIGNING FOR THE HORSE IN VIRGINIA: AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY

Author Julie Campbell will lecture and sign copies of her new book, *The Horse in Virginia: An Illustrated History*, on Friday, March 19 at 7 p.m., at the National Sporting Library. The booksigning will be the first public event launching the book's publication through University of Virginia Press.

Campbell is the associate director of communications and public affairs at Washington and Lee University, in Lexington, Va. Hers is the first book to cover the complete history of the horse in the Old Dominion, and much of the research was undertaken at the NSL. Virginia's horse tradition goes back 400 years to the first settlement at Jamestown. Since then, the state's special relationship with the horse has never waned. Virginia has been known for centuries for its production of Thoroughbred racehorses and as the birthplace of the native Quarter Horse breed. The state has also produced many famous individual horses, including the great Triple Crown champion Secretariat and Misty of Chincoteague, one of the most beloved animals in children's literature.

The most significant figures in the Commonwealth's history have almost invariably enjoyed a special bond with horses, from George Washington—whom Thomas Jefferson called “the best horseman of his age”—to Robert E. Lee, who rode into battle on his well-known gray, Traveller. This tradition has continued into the present day, when horse farms are still a proud feature of the Virginia countryside and famed equestrians such as David and Karen O'Connor have represented their state and their country in the Olympics.

Campbell was raised in Santa Fe, N.M., and earned a



B.A. in history from Arizona State University and an M.A. in history from the University of Arizona. She began her publishing career in Denver, Colo., working for a variety of magazines. From 1987 to 1994, she was an editor of books and a journal at the Arizona Historical Society, in Tucson. She moved to Richmond, Va., in 1994, when she became the editor of *Virginia Cavalcade*, the illustrated magazine of history at the Library of Virginia.

Campbell is the primary author of *Studies in Arizona History*, a high-school textbook published in 1998 by the Arizona Historical Society, and has contributed arti-

cles and book reviews to journals, newspapers, and books including *Clothing and Textiles Research Journal*, the *Dictionary of Virginia Biography*, the *Journal of Arizona History*, the *Bloombsbury Review*, and *Virginia Libraries*.

Admission to the lecture is free, but seating is limited. RSVP to Judy Sheehan at 540-687-6542 x 10 or jsheehan@nsl.org and leave a name & contact number. Copies of *The Horse in Virginia* will be available for sale. The National Sporting Library is located at 102 The Plains Rd., in Middleburg. For more information and directions, visit the NSL's website at www.nsl.org.

LOCAL ATTORNEY AND HORSE ACTIVIST TO CHAIR 4TH TERM ON THE VIRGINIA RACING COMMISSION



VRC CHAIRMAN PETER BURNETT AND HIS DAUGHTER ELLIE AT THE 2009 VIRGINIA DERBY

Personal Injury Lawyer and Loudoun resident Peter C. Burnett was recently re-elected to lead the state appointed, five member Virginia Racing Commission (VRC) through 2010. This regulatory agency is tasked with ensuring the integrity and benefits of horse racing for its participants and all members of the Commonwealth. “Our immediate goal is to regulate and promote Virginia's racing program to help it succeed in the current economic downturn and to help it grow and compete nationally over the long term”, notes Mr. Burnett. Loudoun County is home to the largest race horse population in the Virginia and hosts one of the nation's premier equine hospitals. “Loudoun County has a vested interest in the economic success of horse racing”, continues Mr. Burnett who has long supported the VRC's contribution of several hundred thousand dollars to the VA Tech Marion DuPont Scott Equine Medical Center in Leesburg.

In fiscal year 2009 the VRC contributed nearly \$1,000,000 to Virginia's general fund. It is one of a handful of state agencies that has income greater than expenses, thus generating net income for the taxpayers of Virginia. The Commission is charged with oversight of industry practices and enforces all statutes and regulations related to pari-mutual wagering in Virginia. Mr. Burnett was appointed to the VRC in 2003 by Gov. Mark Warner by virtue of his legal background and his many years in horse racing and breeding. Although his firm, Burnett & Williams, limits its practice to personal injury law, he has developed expertise in equine and regulatory law as a result of his decades of involvement with pari-mutual wagering and horse racing. “As with our legal system, integrity is critical to the success of racing. My most important task is to retain public confidence by protecting racing from any practice that would undermine the fairness of the game”, says Mr. Burnett.

MARE CENTER HOLDS RECOGNITION AND VIRGINIA TECH STUDENT RECRUITMENT EVENT



FROM RIGHT TO LEFT BACK ROW: DONNA McDONALD, MARE CENTER STAFF MEMBER, AND CHRIS LINK-OWENS. FRONT ROW: ALEXIS OWENS, ELIZABETH GILBOY, CARRIE GILBOY (2009 DESIGN WINNER), ALISHA HUDSON, KATHERINE ABRAMS, AND TERRY ABRAMS, MEMBERS AND LEADERS OF THE 4-H 'HORSIN' AROUND CLUB

More than 60 people attended the Middleburg Agricultural Research and Extension (MARE) Center's second annual holiday card recognition and Virginia Tech student recruitment event held Saturday, January 23, 2010.

Carrie Gilboy of Giles County, Va., submitted the winning artwork for the center's 2009 holiday card. Gilboy, 13, is a member of the 4-H Horsin' Around Club in Giles County and attends Blacksburg New School, in Blacksburg, Va. Gilboy loves to draw and is saving her own money to buy a horse. Gilboy loves to draw and she is saving money to buy her own horse. Gilboy loves to draw and is saving money to buy her own horse.

Shea Porr, superintendent of the MARE Center, presented information regarding the new Virginia Tech Equine Studies program at Middleburg and Equine Science program in Blacksburg. Rebecca Splan, associate professor, explained how the equine program is designed to prepare students to be successful in the horse industry. Splan, an active member of 4-H as a youth, continues to support the efforts of 4-H equine programs across the state. Four Virginia Tech undergraduate students that are currently in the program, Kelly Barber of Chapel Hill, N.C.; Stephanie Feinberg of Springfield, Va.; Kelsay Johns of Churchville, Md.; and Kaylee Kohlhaas of Strasburg, Va., shared their equine experiences with attendees.

Two 4-H Ambassadors, Brooke Lampert of Blacksburg, Va., and Zach McCann of Newport, Va., shared their experiences as 4-H members with the crowd. Lampert and McCann explained that to be an Ambassador you must complete two years as a 4-H member, followed by two more years preparing and completing the Ambassador requirements.

Cathy Sutphin, associate director of 4-H Youth Development for Virginia Cooperative Extension, gave an overview of her journey as a 4-Her and shared how being raised on a farm confirmed her love of agriculture and inspired her to further her education in agriculture. Sutphin shared how 4-H made her a more responsible adult and taught her how to care for animals.

To conclude the day, Tim Parnly, animal care technician at MARE Center, gave a hands-on equine dental demonstration. Tim discussed the equipment needed to float a horse's teeth and demonstrated the critical management activity. Children had an opportunity to feel a horse's mouth and teeth. Some were a little skittish at first, but it was obvious that some future equine dentists were cultivated in the crowd.

Virginia Tech's Middleburg Agricultural Research and Extension Center's mission is to advance the health and well-being of the horse through undergraduate and graduate education for equine professionals, nutritional and pasture management research, and community educational programs. Located in Middleburg, Va., the center is one of 12 Agricultural Research and Extension Centers located across the state that serves the commonwealth's agricultural needs.



2009 ARTWORK BY CARRIE GILBOY, AGE 13, GILES COUNTY 4-H 'HORSIN' AROUND CLUB

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

Tuesday, March 9
5:30-7:30 p.m.

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

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



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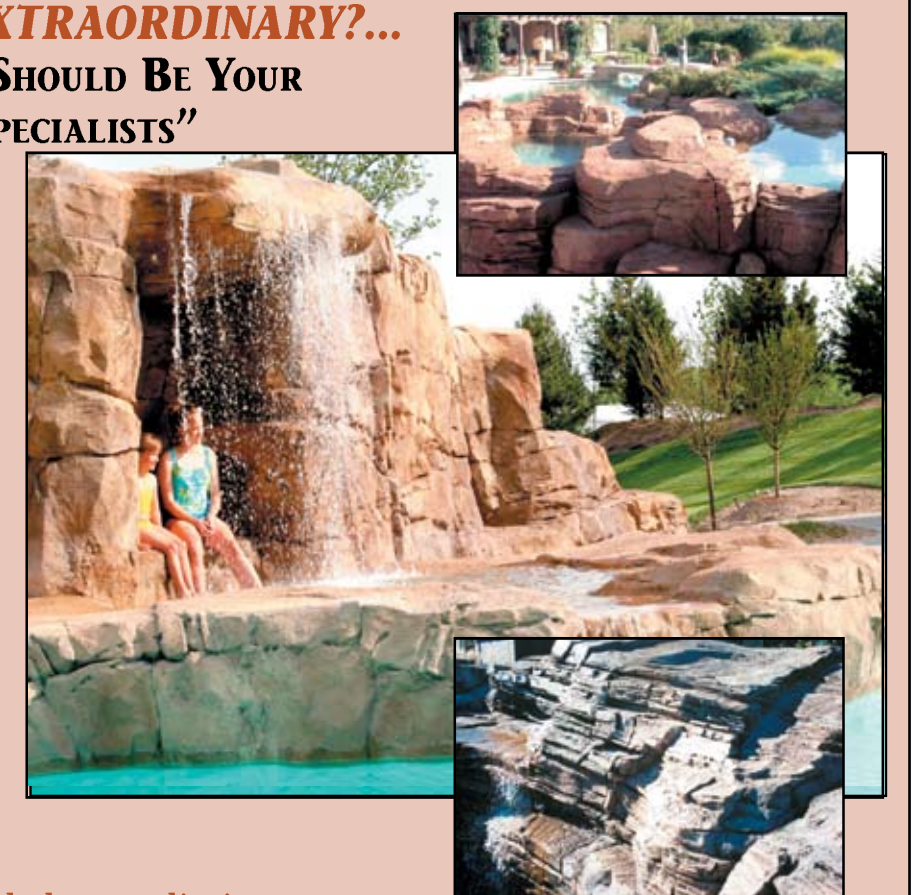
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PARENTS & PROGENY

FOXCROFT BASKETBALL INITIATES NEW GYM



FOXCROFT HEAD OF SCHOOL MARY LOUISE LEIPHEIMER, AFTER WHOM THE NEW GYM IS NAMED, DISPLAYS THE AUTOGRAPHED BASKETBALL SHE WAS PRESENTED BEFORE THE GAME.



ANNABELLE THOMSON CONSIDERS HER OPTIONS THURSDAY DURING THE FIRST GAME TO BE PLAYED IN FOXCROFT'S NEW MARY LOUISE LEIPHEIMER GYM. THE FACILITY INCLUDES A CLIMBING WALL AND RUNNING TRACK. SEEN HERE AT THE FAR END OF THE COURT.

Foxcroft School's new state-of-the-art, \$14 million dollar gymnasium opened for business Thursday (Feb. 18) and the home team nearly hit the lottery.

Playing a Delaney Athletic Conference basketball opponent it had lost to, 51-29, last month, Foxcroft (1-8) treated its fans — including Head of School Mary Louise Leipheimer, after whom the gym is named to an exciting, nail-biting inaugural contest that kept the crowd on its feet for the entire fourth quarter.

Fredericksburg Christian School (7-3) emerged with a 39-35 victory but the visitors no doubt breathed several sighs of relief during their 90-minute bus trip home.

"The girls were overwhelmed by it all," Foxcroft Coach Rachel Hollis said about christening the new gym, in which they had practiced just one time, "but it was special and they played their hearts out for the school."

In their previous meeting, FCS's quick guards ran Foxcroft out of the gym, but the Eagles' fast break never

got rolling for much of Thursday's game because Foxcroft's tenacious defense forced numerous turnovers and resulted in several steals. Senior guard Ashton Marshall led the defense by holding FCS's leading scorer, Kelsey Lucas, to 11 points. Lucas had torched Foxcroft for 23 points when the teams met on January 21.

Foxcroft built an 11-4 lead after the first quarter and, led by senior center Annabelle Thomson's 10 first-half points, took a 15-14 edge into the break. Foxcroft still led, 25-24, after three quarters but

the players, who had practiced just once in the previous two weeks due to weather and lack of gym space, began to show signs of fatigue early in the fourth quarter. That's when FCS's fast break, led by lightning-quick guard Brianna Clarkson, finally began to click and the Eagles took the lead for good with just over six minutes to play.

Foxcroft got within two points, 34-32, with 2:30 left on a putback by Terry Lynne Garvey of a Thomson missed shot, but FCS scored the next two baskets to go up, 38-32 with 57 seconds remaining. Foxcroft junior Markesha Burnett then hit a 3-pointer to cut the lead to three points with 45 seconds left. A free throw by Clarkson with 18 seconds left iced the game for FCS.

FCS, which has won seven of its last eight games, got 10 points from Lauren Kranyak and seven from Olivia Krakenfelz. Thomson and Marshall each had 11 points for Foxcroft.

The Mary Louise Leipheimer Gym will serve primarily as a practice facility once renovations are complete on the competition gym. The space, along with a state-of-the-art fitness and training area, student activities center (complete with kitchen, 55-inch flat screen TV and game room) dance studio, team rooms, running track and climbing wall, will open later this year with the dedication scheduled for April 17.

Before the game, Leipheimer, who has led the School since 1989, was presented with an miniature basketball autographed by the team. To the Foxcroft players, the gym was a welcome relief from the grueling experience of holding every practice and game off campus.

"We had been on the road so long that it was wonderful to be able to just walk to the gym and not have to pile into a bus to play another away game," Marshall said.

SEVEN STUDENTS, ONE TEACHER ELECTED TO FOXCROFT SCHOOL CUM LAUDE SOCIETY



Seven seniors, two juniors, and a faculty member have been elected to the Foxcroft School chapter of the Cum Laude Society, chapter president Susan Erba announced Wednesday (Feb. 3). The Cum Laude Society is a national high school scholastic honor society modeled on the collegiate Phi Beta Kappa.

Katherine Fox of Mercer Island, WA, Jayne Gunter (Lucedale, MS), Su Bin Lee (Daejeon, South Korea), Robyn Low (Philadelphia), Meghan Thomas (Carlisle, PA), Hunter Wilhoit (Mt. Pleasant, SC), and Lindsey Yales (Charlotte, NC) were selected, joining classmates Grace Murphy (Middleburg) and Rachel Giampa (Warrenton, VA) who had the distinction of being elected as juniors a year ago.

This year, juniors Margaret Brown of Boyce, VA, and Jae-Yeon of Seoul earned the special honor of being admitted in their first year of eligibility. In

addition, Science teacher Lindsay Bowser, a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Hobart-William Smith College, was selected.

The Foxcroft Chapter, founded in 1958, is one more than 325 Cum Laude Society chapters across the United States. Erba, who chairs the Mathematics Department at Foxcroft, said that only students that evidence a genuine interest in the pursuit of knowledge, exhibit outstanding academic integrity, and have superior academic records as reflected in their course load, grade point average, and other factors, are selected for induction.

Head of School Mary Louise Leipheimer, Academic Dean Alexander Northrup and faculty members W. Glenn Kantz, Steven Matthews, Matthew Mohler and Mia Noffsinger will join Erba in conferring the honors on the newest group of academic stars at the official induction, which will take place at Foxcroft's Commencement in May.

NEW YORK OPERA SINGER AND EDUCATOR GIVES CONCERT, MASTER CLASS AND TOLERANCE WORKSHOP AT FOXCROFT



Opera, hair and tolerance were among the subjects professional singer and independent school administrator Derrick Gay covered in early January when he spent two days at Foxcroft School in Middleburg, courtesy of the Helen Cudahy Niblack '42 Arts Lecture Series. The visit, which included a "master class" with Foxcroft's voice students, visits to several English and History classes, and a two-hour workshop on diversity, culminated in a splendid concert that featured Foxcroft voice teacher Susan Merriman, several students and Gay.

A graduate of the Oberlin Music Conservatory and College, Gay demonstrated great versatility by singing arias, art songs, Broadway show tunes and spirituals. The baritone sang selections from Mozart and Handel operas and "art songs" by Schubert, Faure and Tosti, before performing a beautiful duet from Phantom of the Opera with Merriman. Merriman, a brilliant soprano, also thrilled the audience with several pieces by Kurt Weill.

Four Foxcroft students, who were all among the students in Gay's master class the previous day, also performed, quite impressively. Sophomore Luisa Brown of Wellington, FL, junior Michelle Lee of Seoul and Jamie Kai of Taipei sang classical pieces impeccably. Jessa Hurst of Bluemont, VA, wowed the audience with "Home" from Beauty and the Beast.

Earlier Saturday, students and faculty had gathered in the School's Currier Library to take advantage of another of Gay's many talents: his ability to address

and engage his audience on matters of diversity, tolerance and related social, economic and political issues. The two-hour workshop, entitled "Tolerance and Hair," presented some stunning statistics demonstrating persisting inequities among men and women and different races. Gay then used the teen-friendly subject of hair types, styles and fashions to illustrate how often we make assumptions about others based on things we see.

"Hair helps us determine age, socioeconomic, intelligence, marital status and sometimes religious affiliation," he noted. "It can signify conformity (think about men in the military) or it can signify rebellion -- Joan of Arc, punksters . . ." Clips from the new documentary film Good Hair by actor/comedian Chris Rock and exercises in which everyone contemplated her own hair and that of others

engaged the girls and sent them away with an increased awareness of the need for understanding and accepting each others' differences.

Gay recently sang the role of Balthasar in English and Melchior in Spanish in Chelsea Opera's production of Amahl and The Night's Visitors. He currently serves as the Director of Community Life and Diversity at the Nightingale Bamford School,

a girls school in New York City.

The Helen Cudahy Niblack '42 Arts Lecture Series established by Austi Brown '73 in 2007 to honor her mother, brings a variety of literary, performing and fine artists to Foxcroft to share their work and the nature of the creative process.

Get the Biz Buzz!

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

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5:30-7:30 p.m.

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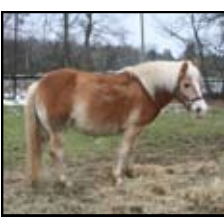


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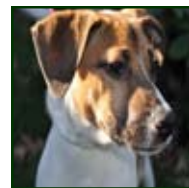
Sunshine is a healthy 19 year old beautiful dapple brown gelded Welsh Cross Pony who would make a great companion and/or lead line pony.



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Owen & Claude

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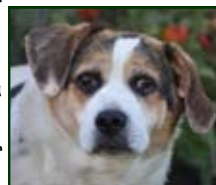
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Buzzy is a very special 8 year old Chihuahua mix who is an adorable little gentleman. The perfect snuggle muffin.



Bagel is a happy, fun loving older Beagle mix who was abandoned on the side of a road. She would be a perfect companion for a retired couple!

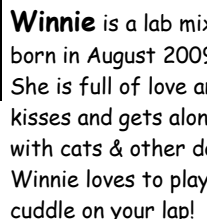


Brock is an adorable Hound mix born August 2009. He is super cute and playful. He will be a large dog & will need a home with a fenced in yard.

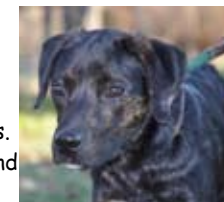
Pablo is a 2 year old Chihuahua mix. He is super sweet and loves to snuggle on your lap. Pablo gets along with other dogs and cats.



Harmony is a 3-4 year old super special Pitbull mix. She was rescued off a chain where she was cold, dehydrated, and left to waste away. She needs a home with lots of attention.



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!



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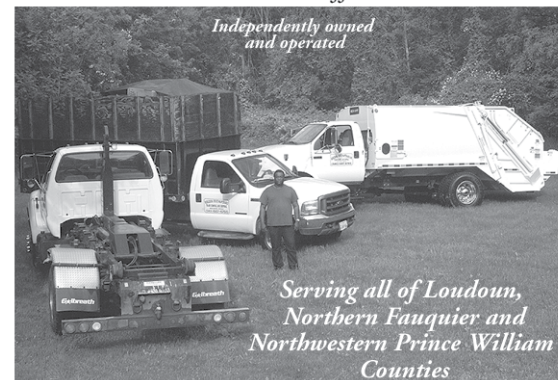
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ALBERT'S CORNER

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

I've been sitting here for nearly two hours, paws at the keyboard, trying to decide what to write. This is highly unusual for me. Writer's block just isn't part of my life. After all, the sooner I finish my work, the sooner I get to eat, play and sleep ... and that's all the incentive a dog needs!

Today, however, I just cannot seem to rise to the occasion. I know exactly what's wrong with me. It's just that I don't really want to write about it. It isn't a happy topic or an educational topic. It isn't timely in the broad sense of current affairs. Yet, I cannot seem to focus on anything else. And I guess that, as a columnist, when something is speaking this loudly, one must write about it.

My people lost someone they cared about a few days ago. Out of respect for his privacy and since I cannot ask if he would mind if I used his name, I will refrain from using it. I will say that he did not live in Middleburg or our neighboring towns.

He was important to my people personally and professionally. He was a stellar person: kind, highly accomplished in his field, humble, and a gentleman in every sense. He was a loving father of young children, a devoted husband and a great dog dad.

Last Thursday morning, he died quite suddenly and unexpectedly of a heart attack. He was just 44 years old. His friends and family are in shock.

At times like this, everything is put into crystal clear perspective. Life is precious, but we so often forget that. Maybe it's necessary that we forget it because if we focused on the fragility of our time here, we wouldn't be able to get through our days. Maybe it's healthy to get irritated over little things. Maybe it's therapeutic to focus on daily obligations and chores. Maybe it's good to live with such optimism that we disparage this hard winter and wish it away. Maybe it's healthy to put off today what we could do tomorrow. Maybe living with the certainty of tomorrow is what gets us through.

Right now, however, all I can see is that my people - and so many

others who cared about their friend - are deeply sad and shaken. To all of them, life seems just a little more precarious at the moment. And the normal frustrations of the day seem wholly unimportant.

Knowing this, I decided now might be a good time to offer some advice from the canine world. I cannot claim that this is original, as I did not write it. But I can tell you that it is excellent advice worth repeating to those of you who have heard it. And worth offering to those of you who have not.

As my people were reminded this week, life is very, very short and unpredictable. Every day is a gift and we should all consciously remember that. The following "dog lessons for people" can help everyone live a life that is more fulfilling and kind:

Love unconditionally.
Enjoy the simple pleasures of a walk.
Follow your instincts.
Be loyal and faithful.
Always drink plenty of water.
Know that sometimes it is best to just sit close and listen.
Be quick to forgive.
Avoid biting when a growl will do.

Keep digging until you find what you want.
Run and play daily.
Accept all of life's treats with gratitude.

My family's friend lived his life this way. In doing so, he left a legacy worthy of admiration. His life made a difference to all who knew him. And, if all of us live our lives in similar fashion, we can all matter greatly not only while we are here, but long after we are gone.

I will end this with one more lesson from the canine world. It is attributed to West Paw Design and these four words say it all: Wag more. Bark less.

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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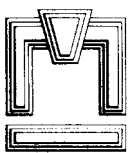


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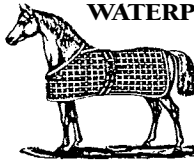
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Paul MacMahon (540) 687-5588



North Wood Cabin

Delaplane, Virginia

Stunning 112 +/- acres with breathtaking views of rolling countryside and distant mountains. Serenity takes over near the gazebo at the 1.6 acre pond. In the Orange County Hunt, historic Goose Creek borders the parcel for a mile. An idyllic, two bedroom, 1770s log cabin, recently renovated. With final county okay, also available in 50 (\$750,000) and 62 (\$1,395,000) acre parcels. 62 acres includes pond and cabin. Breathtaking building sites.

Walter Woodson (703) 499-4961



Walnut Street

Middleburg, Virginia

Classic stucco home in the quiet village of Middleburg. Lovely stone walls and mature foundation plantings surround this almost 1/4 acre fenced lot. Solid charming home has 3/4 bedrooms and 4 full baths, home office, hardwood floors, lovely stone fireplace, and a slate side porch. Great light and easily expandable with tremendous possibility. \$570,000.

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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.

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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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Jessica Lane

Marshall, Virginia

Immaculate cape on 8.25 acres in a private setting. Lovely views from this freshly completed home. Large wraparound porch, open kitchen/family room area with additional loft area. Finished lower level offers extra living space and storage. Very manageable property for full time or weekend residence. Peaceful retreat. Easy to show. \$545,000.

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Southpaw Place

Leesburg, Virginia

Beautifully built approx 11,000 sf home on 34+ acres. Unusual opportunity to have so much land in this location. Every possible upgrade available, gourmet kitchen, massive master bedroom suite, 6 fireplaces, almost 4,000 sf finished basement, great outdoor space for entertaining, wraparound porch, stone terraces, patios and firepit, pastoral views, creek, woods and 4 board fencing. \$2,900,000.

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Adams Green

Middleburg, Virginia

Four bedrooms, three and half bath Cape Cod. Sits on 3 private acres outside the town of Middleburg. Gourmet kitchen is complimented with hardwood floors, the master suite and walk in closet are exquisite. Wood burning fireplaces enhance the dining room and family room. Fully finished basement. Deck with hot tub and mature plantings. \$1,100,000.

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The Peddler's Cottage

The Plains, Virginia

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

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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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Westmount

Middleburg, Virginia

Perfect Hunt Box, close to Middleburg yet very private. Cottage built in 1970. 4 bedrooms, 3 full baths, fireplace, mountain views from rear deck and balcony. Improvements include 4 stall center aisle barn with wash stall and large extremely well done apartment, board fencing, storage building, spring fed pond on 12 very private acres. \$950,000.

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Soliel Cottage

Halfway, Virginia

Well priced home in desirable Halfway, between Middleburg and The Plains. This 3 bedroom brick home would make a perfect hunt box. 1 acre fenced yard is great for dogs and holds extensive cutting gardens. Lower level has a full bath, kitchen and separate entrance. Great Buy! \$385,000 or rent for \$1,850 per month.

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