



BIRD HOUSE AUCTION

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A FARMER, COWBOY AND CATTLEMAN

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ELECTION FEVER

DAN MORROW

At press time, Middleburg's political pundits predict yet another record turnout for the May 4th Town Council elections. Sadly, with only two candidates meeting the March 1 filing deadline for two of the four open seats, the record set will probably not be the one the town had in mind.

Currently Mayor Betsy Davis is the only registered candidate for Mayor, and Vice-Mayor Darlene Kirk and Council Member Mark Snyder are standing for re-election.

Thus, half the open seats on Town Council will definitely go to write-in candidates and it is possible, if not probable, for a write in candidate to become Mayor as well.

Why the dearth of candidates?

Two popular and active members of the Council, Lisa Patterson and Judith Pryor Pleasow, decided not to run for re-election relatively late in their terms.

Nor was there an active campaign mounted to attract candidates to replace them.

At press time, neither the

date of the election, nor the qualifications for candidacy had been posted on the town's official web site, Middleburg.org.

For a town the size of Middleburg, little is required of candidates who wish to appear on an official ballot. Indeed, the state requires only that a candidate be

- qualified to vote for and hold the office sought;

- a resident of Virginia for a year immediately preceding their election;

- and, a resident, by the time of filing, of the Town of Middleburg

At press time Kevin Hazard, Middleburg County Inn proprietor, co-owner of the Hidden Horse Restaurant, and a respected member of the Town's planning commission has reportedly been actively campaigning for write-in votes.

Unsubstantiated and unconfirmed rumors of other candidacies abound. Names heard on the street include former Council Member Eura Lewis, and former Washington Times journalist, George Archibald.

Continued Page 6

CHERRY BLOSSOM FOUNDATION PLANTS TREES OF HOPE



Jim Atkins spoke eloquently about the many wonderful individuals who succumb to breast cancer as he dedicated a recently planted line of cherry trees on the hill behind The Middleburg Community Center.

"Today we gather in our beautiful town...to honor friends and family, some alive and some deceased, with cherry trees that each Spring will bear radiant white blossoms heralding spring and the transition from darkness and cold to sunshine and warmth."

The Cherry Blossom Breast Cancer Foundation

which Jim and others founded to honor his wife Cheryl Clayton Atkins, planted the trees in honor of Cheryl, Mary M. Stokes, Claudia W. Young, the women in our community who have fought and triumphed over breast cancer and the women in our community who live valiantly and courageously every day with breast cancer.

Reverend Anne C. Hallmark, Rector of Emmanuel Episcopal Church, led a prayer of dedication.

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NEWS OF NOTE

SIXTY YEARS OF SERVICE: THE PLAINS VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE COMPANY

Founded in 1950, the Charter Company of what was to become the highly respected Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company of The Plains, numbered just one hundred volunteer. Shirley Curtis served as their Chief for a decade. Val Stieglitz was President from the founding until 1955.

Laurens Hamilton of Bynly Farm and J.W. Slaughter of Slaughter's Coal Yard teamed up to provide the company with its first vehicle: a Jeep, with a front-mounted pump, dragging a 250-gallon water trailer. They kept it at Herby's garage, and mounted a siren on the top of the building to call the company to duty.

Of that very first company, only George Beavers survives. He drove The Plains Company's new Jeep pumper on the crew's first call, to Dennis Skinker's property, on Rt. 245, south of the current Post Office building. A vehicle in Skinker's garage had caught fire, Beavers remembers. Ammunition left in the vehicle was cooking off when the company arrived, thankfully in good time to save Skinker's house.

No one was killed or wounded by either kind of fire.

Barney Brittle, who joined the company in 1951, also remembers well the Jeep pumper.

The fire company was fifteen or sixteen years old when the Rescue Company was created. Dr. Robert McConnell taught the Red Cross First Aid Course for the team. Their ambulance? A new Ford station wagon, sent to Chicago for conversion to its new role.

Over the course of now well over half a century of service, the Fire and Rescue Company has responded to 500 or 700 calls per year, ranging from airliner crashes in tough mountain country, to helping with downed wires and trees, to providing stand-by emergency services at events, and much, much more.

Their Junior Program has trained and inspired generations of public-spirited young people.

On Saturday, April 17, the Company formally celebrated its 60th anniversary in ceremonies held at the Ruritan Center in Marshall, Virginia.

Holder Trumbo, Fauquier

County's Supervisor for the Scott District, spoke.

Distin-guished Special Service Award were presented to veterans: George Beavers, Clay ("Barney") Brittle, Blake Gallagher, Fred Wines, Kenneth Embrey, and Tony Corbin.

Distin-guished Service Awards for twenty or more years of Service were presented to: David Ball, Joe Beavers, Roger Beavers, Cathy Gallagher, Greta Corbin, John Shamblyn, Tom Shamblyn, Mike Slack, Bill Snider, Wendell Sutphin, Margaret White, Kevin Whitener, Early Wines, and Tony Wells.

The Outstanding EMS Award was presented to Scott Baron. Stephen Snider was named Outstanding Fire Officer of the Year. Don Beckman was named Outstanding EMS Officer of the Year.



Billy Boylan was recognized as Upcoming Firefighter for 2009-2010 and Rose Popovich, the Company's Treasurer, was recognized for Outstanding Support Services.

Herbie Wadell, Philip Bell, Mark Cease, Doug Coyner, Morgan Oil and Molly Morgan, Kinloch Farm, and The Plains Market also received recognition for their special support of the Company.

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NEWS OF NOTE

NEW TREES FOR GOOSE CREEK BRIDGE TO CELEBRATE THE GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICA’S CENTENNIAL

Thanks to the Fauquier & Loudoun Garden Club, and to the wisdom and stewardship of the Garden Club of America, many native trees have been planted on the Goose Creek Bridge property to contribute to the beauty of a truly important historic site.

In 2013, the Garden Club of America will be 100 years old.

As a tribute to their centennial, GCA asked its members to create a tree project to serve their communities. The Fauquier & Loudoun Garden Club decided to use their energy and resources to beautify the property at Goose Creek Bridge.

“Since 1976, the nation’s centennial, the Fauquier & Loudoun Garden Club has been the custodian of the Goose Creek Bridge,” Bridge Chairman Anne MacLeod, explained. “The bridge is on the border of Fauquier and Loudoun counties, so it makes perfect sense for our garden club to be the steward. It was built in Thomas Jefferson’s time and it deserves our care.”

The property was in a disastrous state when the FLGC took over as its guardian, but everyone helped clean up the trash, whether it required moving old refrigerators or simply picking up a seemingly endless supply of paper, aluminum or glass debris.

“When we got it all shaped up, we needed money to restore it,” continued MacLeod. “With many generous donors, we were able to restore it completely and build a scenic overlook and driveway. People from all over the world sign the guestbook and I never drive past the bridge without seeing someone parked at the overlook.”

Anne has worked on the bridge project since its inception, and she was thrilled that several stands of native trees would be planted on the property to honor the GSA’s centennial.

According to Kaye Nazarian of the FLGC, former Senator John Warner was very helpful by ensuring that the Club be placed in charge of the property around Goose Creek Bridge.

“Senator Warner was wonderful and kind to help formalize our commitment to the bridge, she added.

But many people have given invaluable service in the name of Goose Creek Bridge.

“We couldn’t have restored the property without the help of so many,” Kaye emphasized, “but two have been true stewards: Tom Armstrong of Bartlett’s who has provided much needed services and advice, and John Pennington of Monomoy who took care of all the roads. Both these gentlemen

and their company’s deserve the gratitude of every citizen in our two counties. They have been wonderful.”

In addition to many other services, Armstrong cut out the weedy and invasive Ailanthus trees that were taking over the land. They are not native and they compromise the growth of native trees. They are, however, the focus of “A Tree Grows in Brooklyn.”

“Quite simply, we could not keep the property as it should be without the donation of services like these,” Kaye concluded.

Because there was a Civil War battle at Goose Creek Bridge, it is an important site for re-enactors and historians and that equates with a need for constant care. Since the overlook was finished, many more tourists and students visit the Bridge, adding to the importance of it being kept in good order.

Linda Newton, who chairs the Horticulture Committee for FLGC described the very careful analysis they conducted before deciding what trees to plant for the GCA’s centennial.

“We decided to plant trees native to the Piedmont region that are not widely noticed but that contribute beauty to the region.

“We planted the Virginia Fringe Tree, the Service Berry



LOCAL LEADERS WIN 2010 TOURISM AWARDS



Loudoun Convention and Visitors Association presented their 2010 awards at their 14th annual meeting which took place recently at Ashburn’s Belmont County Club.

Many individuals from the Middleburg region were honored.

Jo Ann Hazard of the Middleburg Country Inn was honored as “Volunteer of the Year,” Virginia Fall races won as Event of the Year, Purcellville’s 7th Annual Town-Wide Tag Sale won as Event of the Year and Manuel Simpson of Crème de la Crème was honored with The Individual Humanitarian Award.

Also honored was Fran

LAMOND SURPRISED & HONORED

Clyde C. Lamond III received the John W. Rucker Standard of Excellence Award in recognition of valuable contributions to the Angus cattle industry at the recent annual meeting of the Northern Virginia Angus Association. Jerry Crenshaw, former recipient of the John W. Rucker Standard of Excellence Award, surprised Clyde when he presented him with this award.

“The Angus Fraternity is a very special makeup of men and women from all walks of life with one common theme that brings them all together—Angus cattle,” Rucker explained.

“Tonight it is my honor to present the John Rucker Award. John Rucker truly loved Angus cattle. Ten years ago tonight I was honored with this award, and I have it proudly hanging in my office.

This award was started by the Northern Virginia Angus Association to recognize a farmer or rancher’s contributions to Northern Virginia Angus and the Angus breed who had the same

ideals and love of Angus cattle that John Rucker possessed.

Lamond said that he was surprised, honored and humbled to be the recipient of the award established in memory of his dear friend, John Rucker. He said that beyond the ribbons, the silver, and the championships, it was the people you met and the friends you made that made this vocation so rewarding. Presently, Clyde is affiliated as a Realtor with Armfield, Miller and Ripley Fine Properties, Land and Estate Agents in Middleburg, Virginia.

Lamond is truly an Angus enthusiast and a leader in the field. He served on the Northern Virginia Angus Board and the Virginia Angus Board. He served as chairman or committee member of the Breed Promotion, Membership, Spotlight, Executive, Personnel, and Finance and on the Virginia State Fair Committee with John Rucker. He was Chairman of the Board and CEO of Farmers & Merchants National Bank of Hamilton and a Vice President of F&M National

CONGRATULATIONS TO THREE MIDDLEBURG RESTAURANTS

Goodstone Inn & Estate, Market Salamander and The Red Fox Inn have been named “destination restaurants” by The Loudoun Convention and Visitors Association. The highly coveted honor was awarded to nine Loudoun County establishments.

Also honored were Lightfoot Restaurant, Tuscarora Mill, Magnolias at the Mill, The Restaurant at Patowmack Farm, The Wine Kitchen and Grandale Farm Restaurant.

In order to be considered for inclusion in the annual list, a restaurant must showcase local character, produce and wine. The International Culinary Tourism Association defines a destination restaurant as “a restaurant that is so interesting, different or special that people travel just to eat there.”

The program was established in 2007 to identify, recognize lo-

cal restaurants that meet these standards.

Specific criteria required to meet the standards include a unique experience; authentic cultural appeal, quality; locally grown products; a local favorite and bonus points are awarded to those restaurants that serve Loudoun wines.

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I’m good with spring thaws. The ground’s a little soft, the mud flies. I’m in my element. A lot of cars try to tiptoe around the puddles. I say bring it! I’ve got a chassis that stands up to punishment. So go where the spirit takes you. And I clean up nice, too. In case you’re going to the theater tonight. It’s not for nothing that I’m *Motor Trend’s 2010 Sport/Utility of the Year*®. So be good to your Mudder. And I’ll be good to you.

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NEWS OF NOTE

ELECTION FEVER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Tax and Utility Rate Increases

On April 8, Town Administrator Jerry Schiro informed Council that notices have been published and public hearings on the Town's proposed real estate and utility rate increases have been set for May 13.

As a result of two consecutive years of both declining real estate values and local business tax revenues Council proposed an increase in the Town's real property tax rate from \$0.15 to \$.19 per \$100 of assessed value, a 26% rate increase.

Utility rates are expected to rise by 6%.

If approved by the newly elected town council, these increases would appear on the tax billing at the end of calendar year 2010. Utility rates could be increased earlier.

In anticipation of the May 13 public hearings, Council also requested that local media direct citizens interested in further details on the FY 2011 Budget to the Council's "Budget Message to Citizenry", on the web at <http://www.middleburg.org/index.htm>

Jaywalking

At the April 8 regular session, Council Member Bundles Murdock called for the installation of a new pedestrian crossing in front of Middleburg's Post Office. According to Murdock, a vehicle stopping to avoid a jaywalking pedestrian there had been rear-ended recently, and in her view the problem, and danger, was increasing. She suggested the Town actively pursue some sort of program to address the dan-

ger, which she believes will only grow as the economy revives and more and more people are in motion, both on foot and on Route 50

Council member Mark Snyder worried that an anti jaywalking PR campaign, no matter how well intentioned, would be "spitting in a fire".

Noting that an active campaign to ticket jaywalkers might well hurt tourism, Vice Mayor Darlene Kirk suggested that the town's police department focus instead on inattentive and dangerous drivers.

Mayor Davis agreed to ask the Virginia Department of Transportation about a new crossing at the Post Office, but noted that, if it were installed, it would cost the town two downtown parking spaces.

Council member Lisa Patterson pointed out that there were no crosswalks on Federal Street, and thus, arguably, no way for a pedestrian to cross the street legally. When Council member Kathy Jo Shea suggested that pedestrians were required by state law to cross at an intersection and that state law required vehicles to yield to them, Police Chief Webber replied that, to his knowledge, this was not the case, but that he would look into it and report his findings to Council.

New Town Manager

The search for replacement for Town Administrator Jerry Schiro continues. Advertisements have been posted with the Virginia and Maryland Municipal Leagues, and a national search will be mounted if Council finds the pool of applications inadequate. Recently published rumors that the job had already been offered to an inside candidate were explic-

itly and vigorously denied by all parties named.

Brush

As a result of the recent unusual snowfall, heavy rain, and windstorms, the Town Manager reported at least twenty cases of citizen complaints about bulk brush being left uncollected after being inappropriately left on the Town's curbsides.

Council member Mark Snyder noted that his front yard was "a mess" and confirmed that he had no idea what the regulations were about the collection of such trimmings.

The town will collect bundles of brush, cut to no more than four feet in length and weighing less than fifty pounds.

Full details will be published in the Town's next newsletter and posted on line.

Stone Spring Medical Center Supported

On April 5, Tracey White, Vice President of Community & Government Relations with Hospital Corporation of America's Capital Division asked for Middleburg's support of a special exception application that will be reviewed in a public hearing before the County Planning Commission on April 28 and the Board of Supervisors on May 10th.

HCA is seeking approval for a four-story, one hundred sixty-four bed hospital, in a 337,000 square foot facility on Route 50 at Gum Springs Road, for which zoning has already been approved.

The resolution of support passed with a four-one-one vote. Council member Snyder opposed the motion, noting that he favored the hospital, but was not comfortable supporting a special exception application for a private business, especially since he was not aware of all of the terms of the application.

Tourism Awards

At the Council's last work session in March, Mayor Davis congratulated the nominees and recipients of the 2009 Tourism Awards sponsored by Visit Loudoun. She reported that Marvin Simms was nominated for and Matilda Reuter won the Management Employee of the Year Award. JoAnne Hazard won the Volunteer of the Year Award; The Virginia Fall Races won the Event of the Year Award for over 3,000 in attendance; and, Manuel Simpson won the Humanitarian Award.

Notre Dame/Middleburg Academy Day

Noting that Notre Dame Academy will officially become Middleburg Academy on July 1, Council resolved to recognize the day in honor of "the contributions the Academy has made to the community over the past forty-five years."

Arbor Day

Council proclaimed April 30, 2010 as Arbor Day in the Town of Middleburg and asked that everyone help celebrate the event and support efforts to protect all our trees and woodlands.



BE THE ONE WHO RECOGNIZES THE SIGNS.

BE THE ONE WHO PLAYS IT SAFE.

BE THE ONE WHO RUSHES TO THE EMERGENCY ROOM.

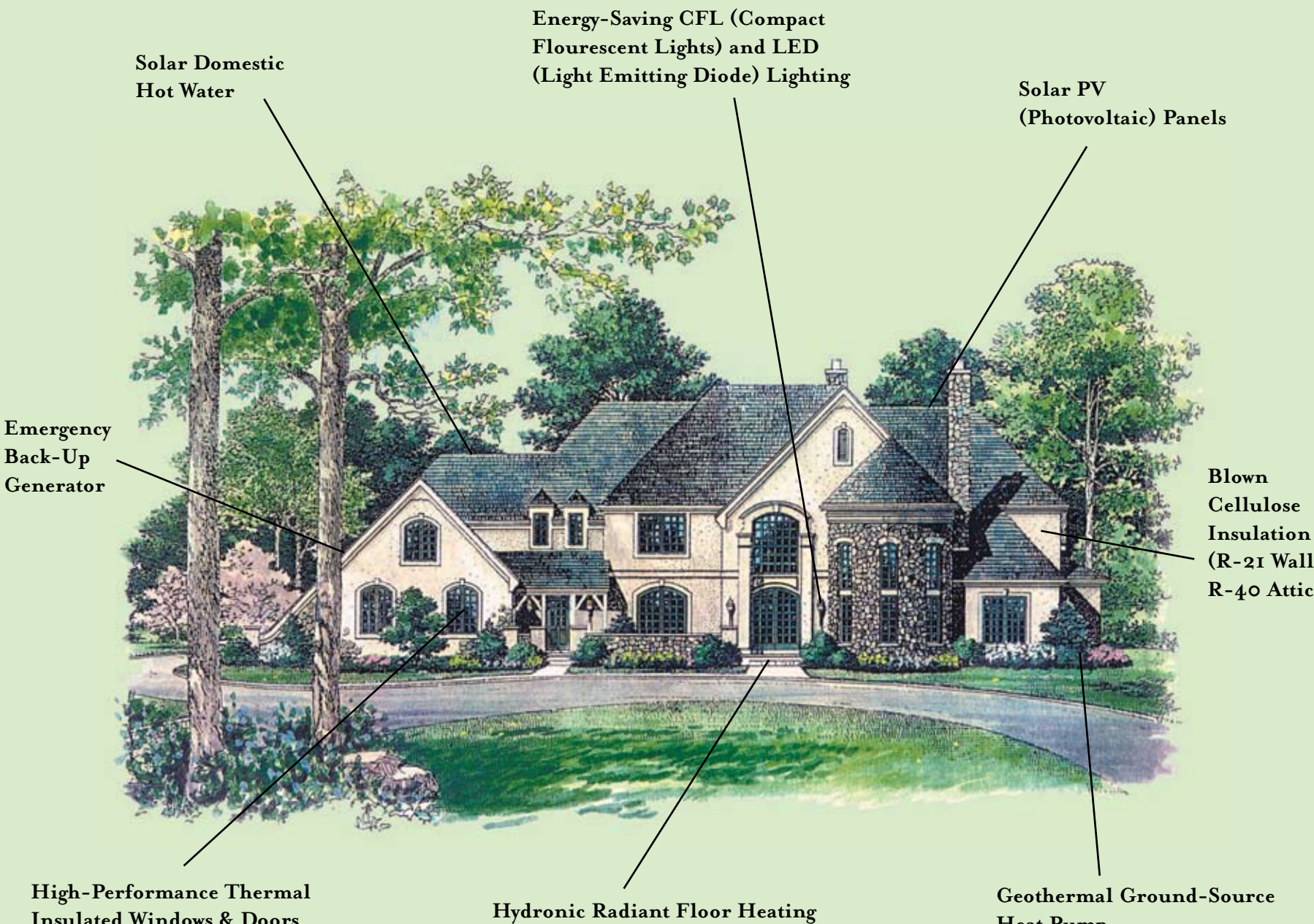
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Often times, the difference between life and death comes down to the decisions you make in an emergency. Should you ignore that sudden pain or seek help immediately? At Fauquier Hospital, we believe that you should always consult an expert. Which is why we're here. Our state-of-the-art emergency department is staffed by specialists in emergency medicine who will diagnose your condition quickly and accurately, and then get you the treatment you need. And while you're under our care, we'll keep you and your family informed every step of the way. So when every minute counts, go to the hospital that's right around the corner.

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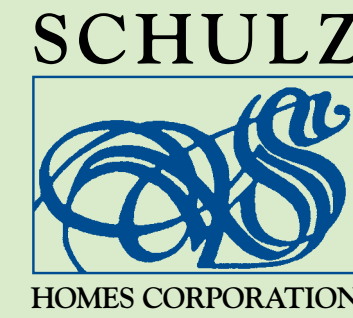
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NEWS OF NOTE

VICTOR DUPONT, FARMER, COWBOY AND CATTLEMAN



Victor duPont left a large vacuum in Loudoun County and beyond when died September 8th, 2009 from complications after a fall.

"I miss him so much," said Barbara, his wife of twelve years. "But I was so lucky to have twelve years with Victor. I learned so much from him, and, believe me, there was never a dull moment."

Jim Wiley and his brother Lewis grew up with Vic and his brother, Mike. They spent hundreds of days together from the very earliest days of their lives.

Jim and Victor were about the same age, and Lewis Wiley and Michael duPont were close to the same age. They

made perfect companions and thoroughly enjoyed the many pleasures and pastimes afforded in the Loudoun of their youth.

"Vic was a good friend," Jim Wiley continued. "If there is one thing I miss more than any other, it's being able to pick up the telephone and share things with him. He had a big heart and he was very generous, with his time and so much more."

"But there were things one had to be mindful of with Vic.

"For instance, when a fight broke out, you always wanted to be on Vic's side," Jim explained. "I must admit that I was in quite a few fights with Vic, but always on his side. That's where you

wanted to be if you wanted to win."

Victor duPont was 6'2" and of a very "serious" stature.

According to friends and family, he loved the land and was dedicated to its future.

Brian Pope, who worked with him at Glenwood Park for years, described Victor as "very quiet when I first met him at Chuck Hoover's request."

"Vic was all dressed up in his cold weather gear and because he was so quiet, I didn't know if we'd get on... That was when Chuck was in the process of handing Glenwood over to Victor, or visa versa."

It didn't take long for both men to realize that they had many common interests. They both loved to work with crops and cattle, and the longer they spent together the more they shared a love of preserving Glenwood.

"We both had a dry, some would say warped, sense of humor.

"Early on, even I didn't know if he was joking or not. But then, I learned to recognize a glint in his eye and knew he'd gotten the best of me. Vic knew there was more than one way to skin a cat, and he delighted in getting the best of you one way or another."

As a Glenwood Trustee, Victor duPont worked in a hands-on manner. If the grass needed cutting, he cut it. If the office was going to rack and ruin, he'd agree with Brian, who'd been trying to clean and paint it, that a new one was in order.

Lewis Wiley, also a very close friend of Victor's, remembered the early days as a time when "...we were all just boys, getting into whatever devilment we could, with some enthusiasm."

"I think Vic was about 15 when his grandmother gave him and his brother Mike, motorcycles. No one had licenses,

but we had a fine time traveling the back roads between Unison and Upperville."

Although this foursome did not go to university together, they stayed in close touch and, when they all came back to Loudoun, their lives continued to be closely intertwined.

"Vic walked onto the football team at VPI," Lewis recounted.

"It did not amuse him that, when he made the team, and was to have a scholarship, the university decided that as he was a duPont, that wouldn't be necessary. It made him very angry. He thought it was unfair."

Those who knew Victor duPont considered him a dedicated farmer and a very good friend.

"He always had time to listen," Barbara remembered. "And he always had a story to add to the discussion."

"Vic was a good friend, and we had many good times together" Lewis Wiley added.

"Age slows us all down," he continued.

"Vic was a tall man, the kind of man men liked. He was a rugged individual and women thought he was wonderful. We went to many dances at Buchanan Hall with Chauncey Brown's Band. I don't seem to have as many debutante invitations as we used to have, but we did have fun."

As a steward of the land and as a futurist, Victor duPont had few peers.

"Vic was an innovative farmer," according to Brian Pope.

"If something wasn't right, Vic would find a way to fix it, and he was personally involved in the change. He had novel ways of solving problems. You have to be able to do that if you're a farmer."

"I could always tell that Vic and Jim and Lewis were close friends. They were such tricksters that they could communicate almost without speaking. Sometimes, one might feel you were being picked on a bit... until you understood and appreciated the joke."

Victor duPont had a large group of friends. He was not the gentleman farmer who lived in the big house on the hill and let others do the work.

"Vic was farming for the future," Pope emphasized. "He was concerned about how what he was doing that day would affect all the days ahead. He really was farming for his family and for his children and for the future."

He was exceptionally loyal according to Jim Wiley.

JAMES E. LEMON JOINS MIDDLEBURG REAL ESTATE/ATOKA PROPERTIES AS PRINCIPAL BROKER OF THE RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE SALES DIVISION

Mr. Lemon is a life long resident of Loudoun County growing up on a black angus farm in Airmont. With over 23 years of real estate experience he brings a wide breadth and scope of experience to the firm. For the past 17 years he has been with RE/MAX, most recently RE/MAX Leaders in Purcellville and his accomplishments are numerous including serving in the RE/MAX Top Producers Club, a member of the Dulles Association of Realtors and a former Board Member of DAAR. Jim resides in Bluemont with his wife, Theresa and their six children.

Peter Pejacevich states "Jim will continue in a sales role and also oversee Residential Real Estate Management, Recruiting and Agent



Support. He joins our three partners and the Leadership Team in fostering a culture of providing small town quality and service to our customers. His community commitment and vast real estate experience is a big plus for our organization and we are delighted to welcome him to our Middleburg Real Estate team."

NON-PROFIT LAND TRUST PROTECTS BAZACOS' WINDHAM FARM IN LOUDOUN COUNTY

The Land Trust of Virginia (LTV), a nationally accredited non-profit land trust that protects open space and natural and historic resources in Virginia, announced today that Dr. George and Nichola Bazaco have placed their 496-acre Windham property near Hillsboro in conservation easement with LTV.

It is one of the largest single easements taken by the Land Trust, which now holds more than 10,000 acres of easements in Loudoun, Fauquier and surrounding counties.

Also known as the home of Doukénie Winery, Windham Farm is located on the eastern side of Short Hill just north of Hillsboro. Settled in the 1730s, Hillsboro is one of the oldest and most scenic villages in the county.

The Bazacos' action not only protects in perpetuity the property's spectacular open space, and its agricultural, forestal, and other conservation values, but helps protect the village of Hillsboro and surrounding countryside east of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

The property contains nearly 135 acres of forested mountainside and 360 acres of agricultural land, including 170 acres of prime farmland. For nearly one and one-half miles, it also borders Mountain Road (Route 690), a Virginia Scenic Byway, and stretches to the crest of Short Hill

Mountain just north of Hillsboro.

Said Dr. Bazaco, "Nicola and I purchased this property with the hopes of living and working for the rest of our lives here in northern Loudoun County, and someday passing this beautiful land on to our family. We loved this land from the moment we saw it, and we have worked hard to take good care of it. We are especially pleased that we will be able to continue our vineyard operations and protect the land with a conservation easement."

LTV Chairman Turner T. Smith, Jr., said, "We are delighted to accept this easement from the Bazacos, which protects their property's conservation values while allowing them to continue their use of the property, including the vineyard. As a result of their foresight and generosity, this beautiful landscape will be here hundreds of years from now, and our children and grandchildren will be able to enjoy the benefits of this easement forever."

The Land Trust has now protected 105 properties and 10,680 acres of land in Virginia, according to LTV Executive Director Don Owen. Most of the properties are located in Loudoun and Fauquier Counties, although the organization also holds easements in Clarke, Rappahannock, Culpeper, Madison and Greene Counties.

Great things are done when men and mountains meet...
William Blake

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EDITOR’S DESK

START RUNNING

In this community it’s heresy to talk about beating ANY horse, even one no longer among the living . . . so forgive us if , one more time, we seem to be beating this one.

For everyone who lives in and around Middleburg EVERY election is an important one . . . and every vote REALLY does count.

In fact, in Middleburg, ONE vote can not only make a difference, it can make you a voting member of the governing body that sets your tax and utility rates, hires and fires your police force, and determines what can be built, when, where, and how.

There are only around six hundred residents, of all ages, in Middleburg, most of whom don’t vote even during presidential elections.

Even worse, there are ap-

parently so few voting age residents among us interested in public service, we can’t find enough people to fill unopposed slots on a ballot, much less seats on the Council.

What should we do?

Perhaps we should simply reduce the number of Council members from eight (including the usually non-voting Mayor) to six, or even four.

That would, of course, essentially double everyone’s workload. In exchange, we could double everyone’s pay . . . assuming, of course, we paid our council members enough to compensate them for their time . . . which we don’t.

The better solution . . . run for office, or find a friend you trust who will.

LETTERS

Editor,

Middleburg Eccentric 3/25. p.9, “Well,Well Well”

We are all used to Tom Pratt’s incessant left wing socialist “Hypocrisy”

rants, but Daniel Morrow’s “Well Well Well” takes the cake. He is all for our federal government “requiring individuals to purchase anything” such as health insurance. Mr. Jefferson weeps that Daniel Morrow graduated from

Dear Editor

On Monday, April 12, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors held public hearings on the County-wide Transportation Plan (CTP), having received it just five days earlier from the Planning Commission. The production of the CTP is a process required by the Commonwealth of Virginia...one that must be repeated every five years. The intent of the CTP is to create a projected road network, in this case for the year 2030, based on using current information about what housing, traffic, employment and driving patterns will be in the future.

Loudoun’s last Board, the one dominated by the pro residential development side of county

politics, didn’t get the job done and the county is about seven years into completing a workable plan. Chairman Scott York has let folks know that won’t happen again. Loudoun will complete a plan and has until July 6 to meet the deadline.

Following the public hearing, at which 47 citizens spoke against the CTP as currently drafted and five individuals spoke for the plan, the CTP has been sent by the Board to the Transportation/Land Use Committee, chaired by Supervisor Kelly Burk (Leesburg).

The CTP, as drafted is over reaching, at a projected \$2, 000,000,000, it appears to be too costly to implement, would end the concept of walk-able

his University, apparently without learning anything. Mr. Morrow’s arrogance is unbelievable!

**Henry Wheelwright
The Plains, VA**

neighborhoods as envisioned by the Board, would attempt to use new roads to promote residential development in the Transition Area, attempts to create the allusion of residential housing as economic development, ignores the needs of existing communities and calls for a vast north-south road network when what we need are east-west improvements.

I am of the belief that transportation planning should not be used as a quasi land use planning tool. And, that the county’s Comprehensive Plan sets out the development patterns best suited for the area, based on the input of residents.

For residents of Prince William County, Loudoun’s draft CTP pro-

poses major 4 and 6 lane roads running from Prince William’s Rural Crescent north into Loudoun. These roads attempt to create the feeling of a Western Bypass or Outer Beltway and, if built, would open up large sections of Loudoun’s undeveloped land in the Transition Area to residential development.

How could the proposed roads be built? The only way appears to be through the use of the old and worn out proffer model. Developers would be expected to build the roads in exchange for massive residential rezonings. Citizens have tried for years to get

a look inside the county’s proffer tracking process. I think we would be stunned at just how little accountability there is in the management of proffers.

As we face increased county taxes for another year, all of us aware that the sins of past Boards, which approved large numbers of residential rezonings, are coming home to roost. Residential development never pays its own way. Citizens must always bail out these new developments in the form of increased property taxes to pay for the schools, services and infrastructure which are required to support the

new development.

If the Loudoun Board approves the draft CTP, they will be writing a check that our children and grandchildren will be forced to pay. The bill for the hundreds of miles of new roads proposed in the CTP will fall to the citizens of the county as they will be expected to cover the cost of the residential rezonings which will result as county officials trade massive residential development for unneeded ‘developer’ roads.

**Steve Hines
Aldie, VA**

CHANGE IS COMING FOR THE GOP

FROM BEYOND THE BELTWAY

KEN RIETZ

With just a little over six months before the November elections, the wind of change is blowing strongly behind the GOP.

In the Senate, nine seats now held by Democrats are leaning toward a GOP takeover - Delaware, Pennsylvania, Indiana, North Dakota, Arkansas, Illinois, Colorado, Nevada and California.

The GOP doesn’t have to have a clear majority in either the Senate or the House, however, to derail the Obama, Reid, Pelosi Liberal express. In the Senate, Independent Joe Lieberman can be counted on when it comes to excessive government spending and sensible foreign policy.

In the House, the real bi-partisan coalition voted NO on creating a massive Federal Healthcare bureaucracy with more than 30 Democrats joining Republicans. Democrat pollster Doug Schoen now predicts that Democrats will lose 40 to 50 House seats and Republicans will regain control. Republicans, however, have their work cut

out and should not be over confident or complacent.

The latest Gallup poll shows only 41% of voters like the direction Obama has taken the country. A poll of the all important Independents shows 60% disapprove. When asked in another poll if they agree more with the Tea Party or Obama, the majority chose the Tea Party. Independents favor Republicans over Democrats by 45% to 34%.

The formula for Republican victories this fall is simple:

- 1) Use the Healthcare debacle as an example of Congress and liberalism at its worst. Tap into Independent anger at back room deals and strong arm tactics. Talk about fixing it, not repealing it.
- 2) Attack Federal Government spending, waste and hypocrisy. Obama said nationalizing the Student Loan program and tacking it onto the Healthcare Bill would reduce the Federal Budget by \$68 Billion. Now he says the savings should be put back into higher education. Which is it?
- 3) Campaign against proposed tax increases on dividends, capital gains, small businesses, corporations and middle class Americans. Point out that while Obama may call the FINE for not buying health insurance a FEE, it is a tax and will be enforced by the IRS. A Rasmussen survey last week showed 66% of voters do not want more taxes.
- 4) Stress unemployment. The stimulus hasn’t worked. Predictions that unemployment would not exceed 8% have dissolved into almost 10%.
- 5) Talk about the abuse of power in Washington. Use Pelosi’s healthcare quote “we won’t know what’s in the bill until we pass it”.

Finally, remind voters of Thomas Jefferson’s words: “ When the people fear the government, there is TYRANNY. When the government fears the people, there is LIBERTY”.

SPECIAL COURAGE AWARD TO FAUQUIER COUNTY SUPERVISORS PETER SCHWARTZ and HOLDER TRUMBO. They sup-

ported fiscal sanity and voted against adoption of the Fauquier County bloated budget. In his op-ed to an-

other newspaper, Schwartz said the budget does not go far enough “ to trim spending or reduce taxes”.

Schwartz also pointed out that the County Education division has 24 employees with annual compensa-

tion of \$100,000. In a time when large and small companies, cities and states are cutting their budgets,

should we have 10 curriculum managers? How about saving \$500,00 by going with 5 ? Bravo to Schwartz

and Trumbo for having the courage to stand up for the taxpayers.

HYPOCRISY

TOM PRATT

This month we look at two unrelated but equally fine examples of hypocrisy at work in government and religion.

If you are a Catholic priest or seminarian and are gay or straight and either come out of the closet or admit to a consensual sexual relationship with a man or a woman, you are kicked out of seminary or are defrocked and ridiculed by the Vatican. But..... if you are a secret pedophile you are protected and kept in service but simply

moved to a less prominent place and church life goes on as normal and you are allowed to pursue your desires by abusing even more children. Why does some reporter not ask this question and why is the pope not asked this question? For the Pope to ask that we Christians pray for “our” sins, as he did in a speech very recently is very insulting to non pedophile Christians!!

Another bit of Catholic Church hypocrisy. Do you know how you can be a Catholic priest and be married with a family? Be-

come an Episcopal priest first then switch over and you will be welcomed with open arms.

Now on to the government and tax abuse and the hypocrisy of jailing the whistle-blower while allowing the criminals to be free.

Bradley Birkenfeld, a former banker for the Swiss giant UBS blew the whistle on the biggest tax evasion scheme in the history of this country. After a bout of conscience he decided to come clean in 2007, came forward and

provided very sensitive inside information about how UBS was enabling thousands of Americans to evade taxes by hiding billions of dollars in the Swiss bank thereby depriving the U.S. of billions in tax revenue.

Mostly because of the information provided by Birkenfeld, UBS pleaded guilty last year and paid a \$780 million fine and had to turn over names of over 4,500 U.S. clients to the Justice Department. Those who were named and not named have been allowed to disclose their accounts

without prosecution and pay civil penalties.

So the guy who saved U.S. taxpayers billions of dollars in tax revenues is sentenced to 40 months in jail and those who stashed the money and avoided taxes are allowed to be free and just pay fines?? Where is the justice in that? One can only assume that those in high places want to discourage others from coming forward and naming names. Those in power who are guilty of abusing that power and watch their cronies abuse power have much to fear from whis-

tle-blowers such as Mr. Birkenfeld.

Mr. Birkenfeld filed an appeal for clemency directly to President Obama on tax day. We will be watching closely to see what the President does. At the least he should release Mr. Birkenfeld immediately and praise him for coming forward, it is the proper message to send to potential whistle-blowers who play an enormous role in keeping those in high places in line.

REBEL YELL

BLUE NOTES

DANIEL MORROW

Our newly minted little julep of a governor once more mistakes proof for percentages.

Apparently playing the odds that no one would really notice his appallingly researched and ill-conceived proclamation of April as “Confederate History Month”, Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell managed to alienate more people in and out of his party than Ken Cuccinelli serving up a different sort of case before a different (and presumably more discriminating) bar.

Case in point: Sheila Johnson, a strong supporter of Barack Obama, who made a difficult,

highly controversial, and singularly unpopular decision among her own fans, to support McDonnell on principle.

What must it have cost her to “ . . . condemn Governor McDonnell’s Proclamation honoring ‘Confederate History Month,’ and its insensitive disregard of Virginia’s complicated and painful history” As she wrote to the Washington Post’s Jonathan Capehart, “The complete omission of slavery from an official government document, which purports to be a call for Virginians to ‘understand’ and ‘study’ their history, is both academically flawed and personally offensive. If Virginians are to celebrate

their ‘shared history,’ as this proclamation suggests, then the whole truth of this history must be recognized and not evaded.”

Then there are the poor “Sons of Confederate Veterans,” blood relatives (like me) of long-dead rebel soldiers, who themselves still make an ironic and telling distinction between members who are “sons” of “officers” and those who are “sons” of mere “enlisted men.”

McDonnell’s proclamation supposedly fulfilled a campaign promise to the boys whose great grandfathers really did the killing and dying in a war a disproportionate number of them still believe had little or nothing to do with

slavery. How pleased they must be to find themselves recast, one more time, in the roles of “Forget, Hell, Dixiecrats” in a world that can, for the most part, read.

Even worse, especially among a group that may be wrong about the forest, but knows the inscriptions on each and every button on each and every tree, little Cucinelli’s Captain blew the date.

April’s cruel, but it’s not the month the American Civil War ended (and, btw, Appomattox ain’t the place, either.)

Bob’s constituents down in Danville (the self-proclaimed “last capital” of the Confederacy) would no doubt beg to differ, as

would those who have heard or, perhaps, read about, the surrenders of: John Mosby’s Rangers on April 21, more than a week after Appomattox.

Joe Johnston’s army in North Carolina didn’t hang it up until April 26. Alabama and Mississippi surrendered in early May. Jefferson Davis himself didn’t give up until Union cavalry caught him, on May 10. And some diehards (including a native American who held a commission as a Confederate General) held out in the “Indian Territories” until June.

As for “Virginians” seceding, a good part of the state absolutely rebelled at secession: hence “West Virginia.”

Others, “left behind” so to speak, not only opposed secession, but fought on the side of the United States.

Indeed, the vast majority of “Virginians” in 1861 (the more-than-51-percent comprising women, people of color, and those whose property holdings were too small to earn suffrage rights) . . . had no vote at all in the matter of secession . . . either before or after Lincoln’s call for troops.

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EDITOR'S DESK

SQUEEZE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS WILL LAST FOR YEAR

DR. HARALD MALMGREN

Virginia, along with most other states, is caught in a bind between falling tax revenues, decreasing transfers from the federal government, and a growing share of responsibilities for health care and the enforcement of regulation mandated by the United States Congress.

While the falloff in tax revenue in Virginia is not as bad as in many other states, counties and towns in Virginia are making cuts in services while raising taxes and fees.

The argument goes that 2009 and 2010 are unusually bad years, with unemployment high, after tax income falling, housing still on the rocks, and heavy debt weighing on most taxpayers.

State and local officials plead for patience, innocently hoping that the return to "normal" is just around the corner.

The hard truth is that the

squeeze on local governments will continue for the next several years.

The "new normal" pace of economic growth will most likely be much slower than what we became accustomed to before recession began in 2007.

Recent job figures suggest moderate improvement, but to get back to where we were before 2007 will take 5 to 10 years – or even more, there is no quick fix.

In recent months, it has become increasingly apparent that State and local governments face even bigger challenges than previously acknowledged.

In virtually all states and localities, governments traditionally reported revenues and expenditures on a pay-as-you-go basis.

Under that system, liabilities for things like post-employment benefits for retirees were not required to be disclosed, even though they had to be paid.

New accounting standards are

now forcing local governments to account for those obligations publicly.

For many state and local governments, this will make the size of their budget deficits much larger.

Already, many local governments are considering dramatic cuts in retirement benefits, while a few are even considering bankruptcy to get rid of all post-employment obligations.

The only way to rapidly cut local government spending is to cut payroll and social services.

Continuing cuts in teachers and funding of schools and universities seem inevitable.

Cuts in nonessential services are already under way, but cuts in emergency services such as police officers and fire fighters will also take place.

Cuts in state and local jobs will worsen the unemployment situation and further suppress tax revenues. To fill the budget deficit gaps, virtually

Continued Page 18

WHAT COMES NEXT?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

with their predecessors.

Fast forward to today. The Nationals are 3-4 this season, already trailing Philadelphia by three games. The political season is also underway, with voters the scorekeepers. In both sports a good defense usually beats a good offense – pitchers over hitters, filibusters over public policy. Politics' leadoff hitter, Health Care, reached base by enacting a national health care plan. You decide whether that was an error (the Red view) or a clean single (Blue). Universal health care coverage, characteristic of developed nations, has been achieved. Bringing costs into line has mostly been left to the future. Purple scores it as a scratch hit, faulting both Parties' partisanship. Unfortunately, Health Care invective will persist until Election Day.

Meanwhile, important issues – big hitters – impend. Financial Regulation seems on deck as Politics' number two batter. An obvious and well understood need, its shortcomings leave unhappy memories with countless recent victims. Fixing the system should be a bi-partisan no-brainer, scored as a walk in our political ball game. But a walk would mean two Blue successes leading up to the next big hitters, Fiscal Overhaul and Climate Change/Energy. Lobbyists for banks and hedge funds preserved huge bonuses to reward disastrous management. They plan to defend this cookie jar. While Red doesn't want an election with two Blues on base, Blue needs political momentum to give its big hitters a chance to score policy "runs." Candidates seeking campaign "gotchas" will exploit every policy difference as grist for divisive rhetoric.

Baseball and politics write their own rules. The pitcher's mound is 60' 6" from home plate. Bases are 90' apart (forget the more efficient

metric system). Rich teams soak up the best players. Baseball winks at steroids because they produce home runs. The Senate cannot pass a bill if 41 of 100 senators object. A politicized Supreme Court decides 5-4 that huge corporations, with thousands of employees and shareholders of varying political beliefs, can give unlimited money to politicians management favors. Taxpayers are asked to support new baseball stadiums while school funding is cut. The propriety of these actions goes unchallenged.

The language of baseball is instructive: High hard one, brush back, cutter, steal, force play, slider, balk, double play, run-down, deceptively fast, intimidation, curve ball. Might some of those also describe politics?

Winning puts more points on each scoreboard than does fairness or good public policy.

How can citizens upset this trend from representative government to domination by radical extremes, or gridlock with nothing resolved? Purple believes: No One Has All the Answers, and Money Talks. When solicited, decline if the politician has voted over 80% along party lines, and tell him that he/she isn't representing you, just party bosses. Shareholders, ask management how they decide contributions. It's your money. Let them know if you dislike the answers.

This is an unhappy time for good government. Money floods into politics. Make no mistake; it buys votes, just as the Yankees buy great players. Why would it flow if it didn't? The best defense is an informed, active electorate. I know talking politics can damage friendships. But you needn't dwell on the issues. It is the system that needs fixing. When it is repaired the issues will take care of themselves.

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PASTIMES

AHHH, SPRING. AHHHSPARAGUS.

YOUR PERSONAL CHEF

ALYSON BROWETT

People either love it or hate it: asparagus. It is one of the first vegetables to show up at farmers markets, making it a true sign that Spring finally has sprung. Asparagus is a flowering plant native to Europe, North Africa and Western Asia. Humans have consumed asparagus for millennia, lauding it for its medicinal properties, as well as its subtle and delicious grassy flavor (we may not be as far removed from our four-legged friends as we think!). Asparagus contains certain chemicals that act as diuretics, and the shoots are low in calories and sodium, contain no cholesterol and provide numerous vitamins and minerals that our bodies need to thrive. The younger, thinner shoots are extremely tender and need only be exposed to a brief amount of heat (if at all), while the older, thicker stalks can withstand the high temperatures of oven-roasting or grilling (add a little lemon juice, pepper and olive oil...even naysayers might be tempted). However you eat your asparagus – blanched, roasted, grilled, baked, fried or

raw – try to make sure that it’s local and in-season (through about mid-June).

Spring Bounty Salad

This salad can be served as a side dish (with barbecued chicken or ribs...mmmm) or as a main dish over a bed of greens. The quinoa provides an excellent source of protein for your vegetarian guests. Also, to make things quicker, use your favorite store-bought vinaigrette (or make up your own version).

½ cup quinoa

1 bunch asparagus, cut into one-inch pieces

1 cup sugar snap peas, cut diagonally in half (on a bias)

6 Campari or cherry tomatoes, quartered or halved

4 spring onions, thinly sliced green and white parts

2 tablespoons chopped tarragon

Zest of 2 oranges

Juice of 1 orange

½ cup extra virgin olive oil

1 shallot, minced

1 clove garlic, crushed

Salt and pepper

Combine 1 cup of water with the quinoa and place in a small pot over high heat. Bring the mixture to a boil, stir, cover the pot and reduce the heat to low. Simmer for approximately 12 minutes, until all of the water is absorbed. Meanwhile, fill a larger pot with about 4-5 cups of water and 1 tablespoon of salt, place it over high heat and bring to a boil. Add the asparagus and cook for 3-4 minutes. Remove the asparagus to a strainer with a slotted spoon and place under cold running water. Bring the water back to a boil and blanch the snap peas for 3-4 minutes. Remove the peas to a strainer and rinse with cold water. In a bowl, combine the asparagus, peas, tomatoes, spring onions, tarragon and orange zest. Fluff the quinoa with a fork, and after allowing it to cool slightly, add it to the bowl. In a separate bowl or jar, combine the orange juice, olive oil, shallot, garlic, ½ teaspoon of salt and ½ teaspoon of fresh cracked pepper. Shake or whisk to combine and pour over the quinoa and vegetable mixture. Add salt and pepper to taste. Stir to coat well and serve at room temperature. Serves 4-6.

White Asparagus and

Mushroom Tarts

Simple but so elegant, these pastry tarts can be served as “pizzas” for a quick week-night meal or as an appetizer when cut into quarters. Head over to the Wine Cellar and ask about the best wine to pair with this dish (asparagus is notoriously difficult to pair with wine because of its chemical compounds...I would suggest a Prosecco or Gruner Veltliner).

1 sheet puff pastry

½ pound white (or green) asparagus

2 portobello mushroom caps, stems and gills removed

3 tablespoons olive oil, divided

1 tablespoon finely chopped basil, parsley, chives, tarragon, or a combination

1 sweet onion, halved and sliced ¼” thick

3 tablespoons unsalted butter

8 ounce fresh mozzarella ball, sliced

¼ cup whole milk, half and half or cream

Salt and pepper

Preheat the oven to 400°. Toss the asparagus with one tablespoon of the olive oil and salt and pepper, and lay them



flat on a baking sheet. Lay the mushroom caps on the same sheet and drizzle with one tablespoon of oil and some salt and pepper. Roast in the oven for 10 minutes. Remove the asparagus from the sheet and return the mushrooms to the oven for an additional 10 minutes. Remove and allow them to cool at room temperature. Meanwhile, melt the butter in a sauté pan over medium-high heat. Add the onions and sauté until golden brown, about 10-15 minutes. Allow to cool. Roll out the thawed pastry sheet to about 10”x10”. Cut it into four pieces. Score each piece about ¾” in from the edge, making sure not to slice all the way through. In the center of each, add one quarter of the sautéed onions. Top each with one or two slices of mozzarella cheese. Combine the mushrooms and asparagus in a bowl and toss with the herbs and remaining tablespoon of oil. Then top each pastry sheet with ¼ of the combination. Brush the edges of the pastry with the milk, and place in the oven. Bake for 10 minutes, and then check every five minutes. The pastry should puff and get golden brown. Remove from the oven and serve immediately. Serves four as a meal and up to 16 as an appetizer.

Alyson Browett, MPH, CPT
Edible Complex, LLC
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BATTLEGROUND

THE PLANT LADY



KAREN REXRODE

The garden in any season is a battleground. Each plants footprint is variable, deceptively small in spring, rampant and running over

others in fall, this occurs in each season in the perennial garden. The intent is the same for the most part, gain ground and bookmark a space. A serious game of spread and conquer. Within the scheme of growing there

are differences in methods of acquisition, adaptations that vary mightily between spring and fall. Early in the year we find the stress avoiders. They arrive with delicate flowers and few leaves. Many are bulbs or spring ephemerals, their life above ground is short. Good examples include snowdrops, daffodils, Virginia bluebells, and tulips. The underground bulb or storage unit is full of food, garnered during that short time when leaves were above ground. The stress they avoid is heat and drought, two common traits of summer in Virginia. Their thinking is grow during spring rains, flower while there is a smaller pool of flowers for a better chance of pollination, and don't bother growing while things are tough. Not always a perfect game, the biggest drawback might be the spread of others into their space while they rest in dormancy. With that in mind they produce large leaves after the flowers have finished and the effect of heat on these leaves and stems elongates both. The leaves then stretch, hopefully beyond the boundary they garnered this year, and fall over with the intent

of suffocating all beneath. The elongation of flowering stems (now seed pods) is also a highly evolved scheme to spread their seeds beyond the mother plant, effectively making a ring around the mother plant and producing seedlings beyond any foreign neighboring plant. In time that circle of seedlings will spread and hopefully choke out others between them, eventually becoming a larger patch of mother's progeny.

The stress avoiders are serious at their game. To survive they have to be. Once heat sets in, the end is near and there will be a long stretch of time before they sprout again. Most are cool season growers, triggered by the cooler temperatures, they want to grow while the trees have no leaves. In the big picture, trees are warm season growers, developing leaves with spring warmth and building a canopy as it gets warmer. The leafy canopy of tree leaves is just another ploy to shade out root competition for the trees. The stress avoiders are savvy to that and cool means grow, hurry and grow. Of the many growth habits, this is just one but



it makes the garden look full in spring. Those excessive leaves left by the stress avoiders make the gardener think that space is limited in the garden in spring, when in fact these will disappear as summer approaches. It is essential that the leaves are left to wither and die naturally, at least until the food stored in them is transferred to the resting root or bulb. The good side is that many plants can be put directly in with this group of plants, essentially growing in their space when they don't use it, when its vacant later. The gardener's job is to allow both to live happily. So the gardener cleans up the spot where daffodils or Virginia bluebells sprout in early spring, especially if winter did a poor job of breaking down thick leaves of others that rest on top. The real test of a successful gardener is knowing how to manage the interface of various plants as they attempt to spread and conquer. It is a battleground, and yeah, who really is in charge here?

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PASTIMES

BETTER GET A BUCKET

7TH INNING STRETCH

ALEX CUDABACK

I can't get over how queasy the Masters made me feel. I used to love the Masters, probably started loving it before I really even played golf. There was always something just so gosh-darn perfectly golf-y about it.

The grass on the fairways always looked like grass the way a little kid would draw it: greener than green, flat (when it wasn't flat it "undulated," smoothly, languidly, kinda sexily) and, most importantly, it always seemed two dimensional, players and their Titleists floating just above it, spikes the only things that actually broke that flawless plane.

Divots lifted clear of those fairways seemed to release with something approaching Teflon ease. I couldn't imagine, still can't imagine, what it would be like to feel a 7-iron smoothly slip through that silky surface, a lovely Bermuda grass toupee plopping down a few yards away.

Balls launched from the fairways disappeared into the air, magically reappearing on the greens with a wondrous poomp that left no doubt that the ball was back where

it belonged. There was no HDTV, so the balls really did "disappear." Nutty camera operators would fling their lenses skyward, rolling the stomachs of watchers everywhere, but there was nothing to actually see in those shots, just vertigo.

The grass on those greens was somehow even greener, smoother, faster. And the wondrous things people could do with putters! Ahhh.... Balls struck just so seemed to dance a tango across those greens, drifting and spinning and stopping and starting and dropping home with a satisfying rattle.

Around those fairways and greens, great, huge, ent-ish trees towered over everything. This was no course dropped in a desert or hugging a coastline. No, there was an arboreal splendor here that to this day helps define in my mind what a golf course should be.

The azaleas were always blooming, silent explosions of preposterous color: pinks and reds and whites and oranges.

The fans, excuse me, the "patrons" were always humble and polite and appreciative of the remarkable privilege they had been granted by the membership to simply be on the grounds, just like all good "patrons" should be.

The birds were always chirping.

But then, gradually, over the course of years, as I grew older and as sacred cows grew somehow less sacred, the curtains started to pull away.

People talked more openly about the club's exclusivity, and the lily-white nature of its membership. Its first black member was admitted in 1990.

In 2002, Hootie Johnson, Augusta National's chairman from 1998-2006, got into a public spat with Martha Burk of the National Council of Women's Organizations over the club's men-only membership policy. Burk saw it as discriminatory; Johnson saw it as his private club's right, likening it to Junior League, the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, fraternities and sororities.

Less morally questionable but equally ridiculous, CBS, the Masters broadcast partner, got busted for piping in fake birdsong during their telecasts.

So there I found myself, watching on television, listening on the radio, as Tiger Woods kicked off his 2010 redemption tour at Augusta, his appearance at the Masters his first real public appearance since he lost a game of chicken with a fire hydrant last Thanksgiving.

But before it all got started, before any actual golf was played, I had to listen to Billy Payne, the current chairman of Augusta National, publicly lambaste Woods before allowing him to tee it up.

I found Payne's comments, to use language he can understand, out of bounds.

Anyone who still speaks of holding professional athletes up to his children or grandchildren as "role

models" is living in a reality far removed from the one I inhabit, and is asking for continued disappointment.

That Billy Payne, he of the letter-of-the-law-if-not-spirit-of-the-law club that doesn't admit women and for years refused blacks as anything other than staff (In Georgia?!?!? Shocking!!!), should wag his finger and look down his nose at the perceived moral shortcomings of an individual who plays to exactly the same letter of the law leanings is more hypocrisy than most can stomach.

That Billy Payne had the ego to pontificate that Woods "forgot in the process to remember that with fame and fortune comes responsibility, not invisibility," simultaneously paraphrasing Stan Lee's greatest catchphrase and begging the question, "What have you done to raise the moral standard today, Mr. Chairman?" points further to the absurdity of the life Mr. Payne lives.

Payne saw the need to speak for "we" and "us," somehow wrapping his Cloak of Morality around everybody else to judge a philandering professional athlete. Hey, news flash: we're not in Mayberry anymore, Billy! I'd be curious how many philandering members you've called on the carpet before, hmmm? Or does Augusta National not have any members guilty of such "egregious conduct"?

All the while, Tiger sat, looking glum, looking hurt, but nodding and grimacing away, another box on his redemption checklist crossed off.

Then the ad started running. You know, the creepy/brilliant Nike ad with Tiger staring soulfully into the camera as the words of his late

father roll, edited and spliced together from something so far removed from context as to be laughable?

Lastly, just for good measure, we saw Phil Knight, chairman and co-founder of Nike, Woods one real remaining sponsor, walking the course arm in arm with Tiger's mom.

And that's when the whole thing got queasy on me. That's when it all became so obvious to me that while Tiger was in seclusion, after going to sex-addict rehab, he wasn't just working on his swing (or, God forbid, his marriage), he was working on a commercial, a campaign, a rebranding. His transformation from suck-up Tiger, smiling and signing autographs on Thursday and Friday, to same old, same old Tiger, whining and glowering and stalking and leaving as fast as possible without a word of congratulation to anyone else, took place before our eyes. Gone was the guy who just wanted forgiveness; back was the guy who wanted everything else.

I don't know what I expected, exactly; Tiger's redemption, or his first tentative steps towards it. But that's no better than holding cloistered athletes up as "role models," not really.

Tiger's redemption is not for me, and it's certainly not something to be broadcast from the golf course. I just wish there wasn't this apparent enthusiasm to package it all and the ensuing enthusiasm to consume it.

I hope we can all stop talking about it now and move on.

The whole thing is making me sick.



EPA TIGHTENS MOUNTAINTOP COAL MINING

RENEWABLE ENERGY IN VIRGINIA

DALE SCHULZ

The EPA recently tightened regulations regarding water quality in streams that are impacted by mountain top coal-mining operations in Appalachia. The Agency is setting limits on the electrical conductivity of streams impacted by mining operations. This action is a significant step to limiting the practice of mountaintop removal mining operations, which is common in West Virginia, Kentucky, and parts of Virginia.

Mountaintop mining involves the blasting off of the top of mountains, removing the coal, and dumping the residual rock and dirt into valleys. As water seeps through the porous fill, it picks up metals and minerals increasing the conductivity of the water in streams which has been shown to adversely impact fish and plant life.

Approximately 11% of total U.S. coal production comes from surface mining operations in the region. The coal mining association has estimated as many as 27,000 employees jobs may be at risk from the new regulations. Environmentalist have long sought to halt mountaintop mining, and some think the new EPA rules would eventually shift more mining to higher-cost underground operations that are more labor intensive. "We are thrilled, this will definitely impact new mines and mine renewals and improve water quality," said Jody Bond, co-director of Coal River Mountain Watch, which opposes mountaintop mining.

Approximately 50% of the electricity we use in Northern Virginia comes from coal-fired plants burning coal mined in some instances from mountaintop removal operations often just several hours drive from us in West Virginia and Southwestern Virginia. There was an award winning documentary made a couple years ago titled, "Burning the Future - Coal in America". Bruce Nilles, Director, National Coal Campaign, of the Sierra Club said, "...burns through the 'clean coal' rhetoric of industry front groups, showing the harsh truth of the coal story..." You can rent the DVD from Netflix. I would be glad to lend anyone interested my copy.

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.



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The Spring Farm Tour weekend serves as an introduction to Loudoun's growing season. Buy spring seedlings and plants for your home, say hello to farm animals and greet spring babies, tour a winery, pick your own fresh-as-it-gets strawberries, and much more.

Bring the whole family for a day or two of fun, education, and agritainment!

In addition to the 25 participating farms, 14 wineries and three country stores, Grandale Farm Restaurant, Stoneybrook Farm Market, the Leesburg Animal Park, and the Heritage Farm Museum will provide special events during farm tour weekend.

New farms participating this spring include the American Academy of Equestrian Sciences in Leesburg, where visitors may tour of the facility with world

class dressage competitor, Marina Genn.

Visitors may take a hayride at Ballentine Farm and see the lifestyle of a working farm while enjoying hand-churned ice cream. See a working distillery in production at the first family-owned micro-distillery in Loudoun at Catocin Creek Distilling Company.

Children will enjoy a pony ride and stable tour at Chase Run Stable and parents can enjoy live music and a glass of wine at neighboring Hunter's Run Wine Barn. WeatherLea Farm will offer tours of the vineyard and cottage, and the Loudoun Valley Sheep Producers will sell their famous lamb sausage sandwiches. In the evening the barn will rock with a barn dance to benefit Loudoun's 4-H Program.

Complete information for the Loudoun Spring Farm Tour, including a map and directions to all participating farms, may be downloaded from www.loudoun-farms.org and will be available at Loudoun County libraries, the Heritage Farm Museum, and the Visitor Center in Leesburg.

WHAT COMES NEXT?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

every state and local government is planning to increase borrowing.

They will all be competing with a growing flood of federal debt necessary to cope with the enormous US Government deficits.

A new threat is that rating agencies will be looking hard at the rising deficits of state and local governments and their escalating retirement benefits, with the likelihood that there could be continuing waves of downgrades.

Historically, municipal bonds have an extremely low default rate, but investors will have to pay much closer attention to what municipal bonds

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Investing locally is virtuous, but it is increasingly necessary to have in depth professional knowledge and vigilance in efforts to safeguard one's capital.

Dr. Harald Malmgren is Global Economic Strategist at Bluemont Capital.

For more information, please contact Mark Stys at 540-687-5005 or mstys@bluemontcapital.com

Western Country Dance 'n Dinner Fundraiser

On May 21st, Middleburg Elementary School PTO is hosting its annual Western Country Dinner and Dance event. This fun event will be a fundraiser with a silent auction and raffles. Lots of high-end auction items to be won. Prizes will also be given for best costume.

Put on your cowboy hats and dancing boots and join us for an evening of dinner, dance, prizes and fun!



Date: May 21st, 2010
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Site: Middleburg Elementary School

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May 1, 2010 – Great Meadow, The Plains, Virginia

VIRGINIA GOLD CUP RACES

Photo Credit: Susan Carter

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FOXCROFT ALUMNA SALLY BARTHOLOMAY DOWNEY FIRST PUT FORTH THE NOTION OF COMBINING THE STUDENT ACTIVITIES CENTER WITH THE ATHLETIC BUILDING PROJECT AND WORKED TIRELESSLY TO GET THAT DONE. SHE WAS JOINED BY HER FATHER, WILLIAM BARTHOLOMAY (LEFT), HUSBAND TIM DOWNEY (NEXT TO SALLY), AND HER CHILDREN AT THE DEDICATION.



FOXCROFT HEAD OF SCHOOL MARY LOUISE LEIPHEIMER (IN PURPLE) AND FORREST MARS, JR. CUT THE RIBBON SATURDAY DURING THE FESTIVE DEDICATION OF THE SCHOOL'S NEW ATHLETIC/STUDENT CENTER. ASSISTING ARE, FROM LEFT, TRUSTEE AND GROUNDS AND BUILDING CHAIR CHIP GRUVER, PAMELA MARS WRIGHT '78, ATHLETIC DIRECTOR KATIE RYAN KANTZ, SENIORS KRISTINA LINDQUIST AND DISH HARRIS, SALLY BARTHOLOMAY DOWNEY '78 AND TO THE RIGHT OF MARS, VICE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES BEATTY PAGE CRAMER '66 AND TRUSTEE TOM LANE, WHO HEADED THE BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE DURING THE EARLY STAGES OF THE PROJECT.



FOXCROFT HEAD OF SCHOOL MARY LOUISE LEIPHEIMER (CENTER) CELEBRATES THE OPENING OF THE SCHOOL'S NEW ATHLETIC/STUDENT CENTER WITH (FROM LEFT) PAMELA MARS WRIGHT, A FOXCROFT GRADUATE, FORREST MARS JR., CHARLOTTE WRIGHT, A SOPHOMORE AT FOXCROFT, AND VICTORIA MARS, WHO GRADUATED IN 1974. THE GENEROSITY OF THE MARS FAMILY WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN GETTING THE BUILDING BUILT.



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FRONT ROW: (LEFT TO RIGHT) DENYA PECORA, MARGARET STINE, JOAN GARDINER, LINDA NORTHRUP, LILLA OHRSTROM, BARBARA AUGENBLICK, BETSY KLEEBLATT, WALTER WARREN, MARY WOODRUFF, BARBARA SHARP, LYNNE DONOVAN AND JUANITA CANARD BACK ROW: (LEFT TO RIGHT): MARGARET CARROLL, RICK CONWAY, ROBIN HILL, CHARLIE MATHESON, DANA WESTRING, PATTY CALLAHAN, CYNTHIA THOMPSON, TOM NEEL AND LINDA CONTI. NOT PICTURED: MARY ELIZABETH BENHARD, PATTI BSCHORR, DIANA BUNTING, MYSTERY ARTIST, BRANDY HART, AERON MACK HYNES, ROBERTA JEFFRIES, SUSAN JEFFRIES, LEE KINCAID, URSULA LANDSRATH, MARY ALICE MATHESON, STACEY MC LAUGHLIN, MIDDLEBURG MONTESSORI, CINDY PEARSON, MANUEL SIMPSON, NIKI STEPHENSON AND DORIS WEEKS.



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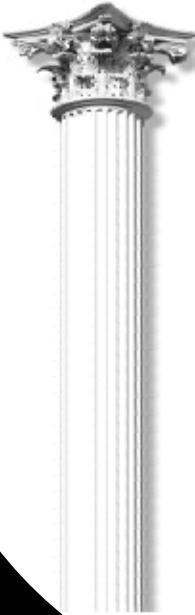


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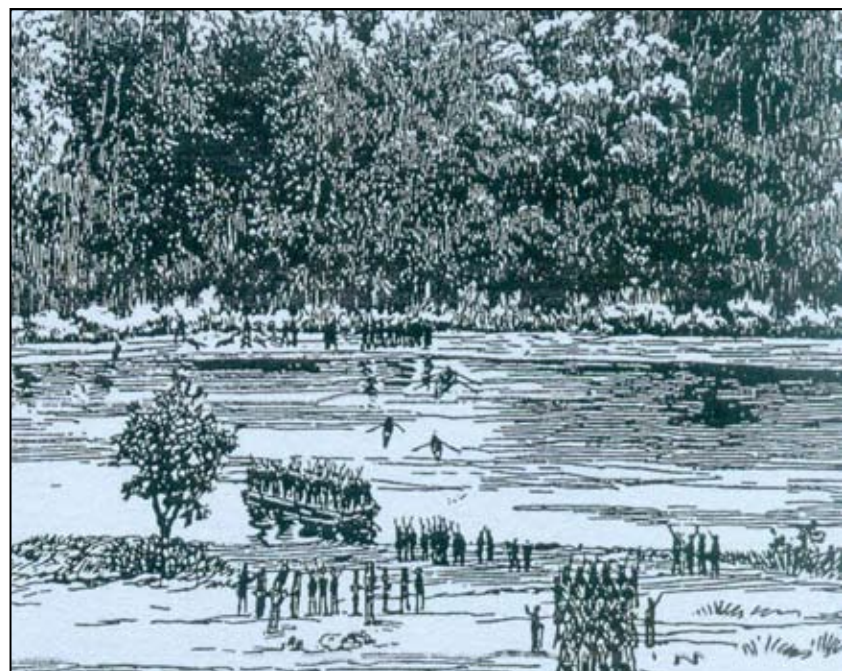


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Tickets for the full tour are \$100, and include a free copy of Morgan's definitive work: A Little Short of Boats: The Fights at Ball's Bluff and Edwards Ferry, October 21-22, 1861.

For details and reservations visit the Mosby Heritage Area Web site at www.mosbyheritagearea.org. (PayPal and Master Card accepted) . . . or call 540-687-540.687.6681



Guarding the very heart of the Journey Through Hallowed Ground, the Mosby Heritage Area Association helps protect more than 1,200 square miles of colonial, ante-bellum and civil-war cavalry country between Jefferson's Monticello and the Battleground at Gettysburg.

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

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PARENTS & PROGENY

NOTRE DAME ACADEMY WINS SCIENCE AWARDS

Notre Dame Academy's Science Club sent two teams to James Madison University on March 9 to compete in the 2010 Shenandoah Valley Regional Science Fair. In total, 28 schools entered 81 research projects in the competition.

The Notre Dame team of Ross McFadden, Caswell Bennett, Jon Gustafson, and Drew Renzi presented a project entitled "Flywheel - A Mechanical Battery." They investigated the flywheel as an energy storage device, studying the effects of the position of a moveable mass attached to a bicycle wheel, and the speed at which the wheel ro-

tated, on the energy retained by the spinning wheel. Their project won several awards, including:

The Virginia Dental Association top award, a Gold Medal for excellence in research procedure.

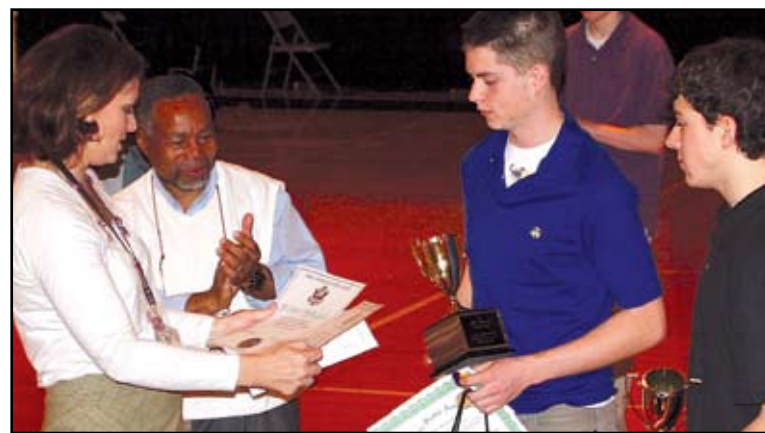
The United States Army's award for best overall excellence in research on an engineering topic, and

The Virginia State Science & Engineering Committee's top award for the best presentation of research material.

A second Notre Dame team of Alexis Stickovitch, Emma Rosecan, and Rebecca Jones entered a creative project entitled "The Psychology

of Astrology," investigating how students and faculty perceive Astrology and whether daily horoscopes show any correlation between predictions and actual later events. The results of the research - and of the competition - suggest that hard science usually wins out over myth and superstition.

"We are delighted to see this recognition of our students' efforts," commented Elizabeth "Libbi" Murray, Head of School at Notre Dame. "They reflect both the creativity and the practical aspects of our School's science program that provides a solid foundation for later careers in the sciences, and for an understand-



ing of science as one aspect of a well educated citizen." As a result of these awards, Notre Dame's Science Club has been invited to compete at Old Do-

minion University in Norfolk on March 27-28 for the privilege of representing Virginia at the International Science Fair in San Jose, CA.

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST STUDENTS MADE 75 EASTER BASKETS FOR SENIORS

St. John the Evangelist Middle School students made 75 Easter Baskets for seniors and other patients of the Fauquier County Hospice. Students have learned that Lent is a season for prayer, fast-

ing, and almsgiving. In this service project, the students practiced their faith in creating hand-made prayer cards, Easter greetings, and collecting supplies for those in need of brotherly love and a share in the warmth and joy of the season.



NOTRE DAME ACADEMY HUNT CLUB BEGINS POLO

This spring the Notre Dame Academy Hunt Club has begun to learn how to play Polo. They meet each week at Battlefield Park Polo Club and Equestrian Center (www.battlefieldparkpolo.com) where the instructors help the students learn the basic skills of the sport. At the end of each lesson, the students, including their teacher, Mrs. Samantha Johnsey(04) get the opportunity to play a "chucker" and display some of their new skills.





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The Spring Farm Tour weekend serves as an introduction to Loudoun's growing season. Buy spring seedlings and plants for your home, say hello to farm animals and greet spring babies, tour a winery, pick your own fresh-as-it-gets strawberries, and much more.

Bring the whole family for a day or two of fun, education, and agritainment!

In addition to the 25 participating farms, 14 wineries and three country stores, Grandale Farm Restaurant, Stoneybrook Farm Market, the Leesburg Animal Park, and the Heritage Farm Museum will provide special events during farm tour weekend.

New farms participating this spring include the American Academy of Equestrian Sciences in Leesburg, where visitors may tour of the facility with world class dressage competitor, Marina Genn.

Visitors may take a hayride at Ballentine Farm and see the lifestyle of a working farm while enjoying hand-churned ice cream. See a working distillery in production at the first fami-

ly-owned micro-distillery in Loudoun at Catoctin Creek Distilling Company.

Children will enjoy a pony ride and stable tour at Chase Run Stable and parents can enjoy live music and a glass of wine at neighboring Hunter's Run Wine Barn. WeatherLea Farm will offer tours of the vine-

yard and cottage, and the Loudoun Valley Sheep Producers will sell their famous lamb sausage sandwiches. In the evening the barn will rock with a barn dance to benefit Loudoun's 4-H Program.

Complete information for the Loudoun Spring Farm Tour, including a map and

directions to all participating farms, may be downloaded from www.loudounfarms.org and will be available at Loudoun County libraries, the Heritage Farm Museum, and the Visitor Center in Leesburg.

Watch your mail for the Buy Fresh Buy Local guide which includes all the farm

tour information. To have information mailed to you, submit your request by email (info@LoudounFarms.org) or call the Loudoun County Department of Economic Development at 703-777-0426 or the Loudoun Visitors Center at 703-771-2170.



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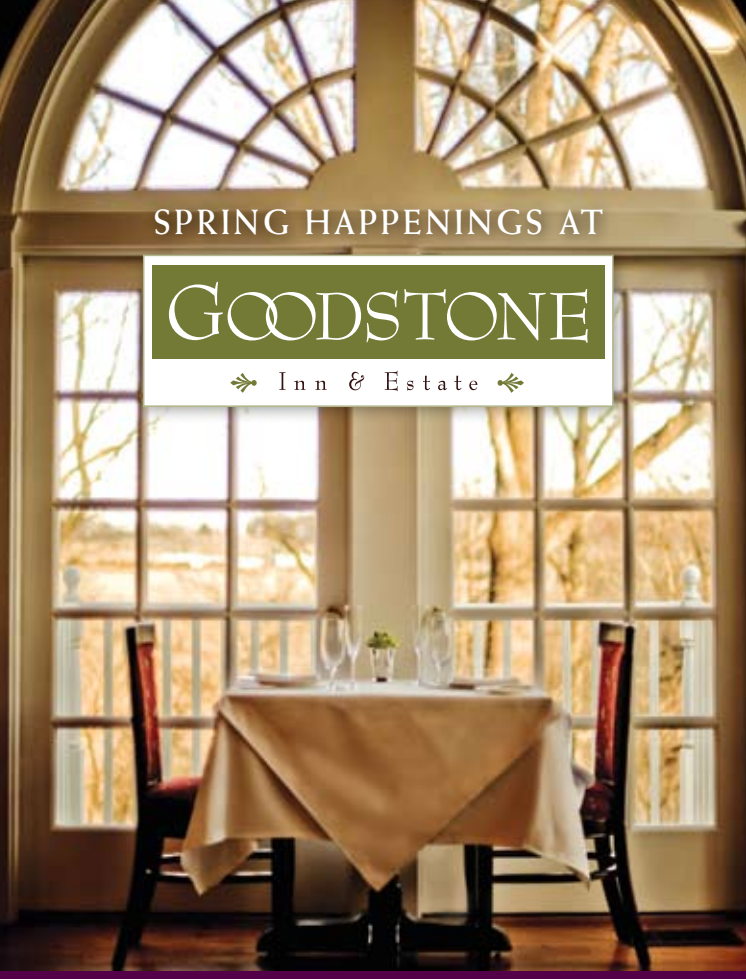
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Bethany is super sweet 6 month old kitty. She is great with other kitty friends and loves to play.



Mable is a super sweet 2 yr. old Lab mix. She has been doing very well with obedience training and is learning commands quickly. Mable would make a great family dog.



Jethro is a "love-of-your-life" 6 yr. old who has a slight limp from a previous shoulder fracture. He has a fantastic personality & loves to be held.

Casey is 2 yr. old calico with a fantastic personality that came to us with a broken back leg that needed to be amputated. She is extremely sweet & loves to cuddle.



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Middleburg Humane Foundation

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www.middleburghumane.com

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Please join us for our adoption events in Middleburg the third Saturday of each month. We will have dogs available for adoption at both Wylie Wagg & next to Scruffy's Ice Cream Parlor. (weather permitting)

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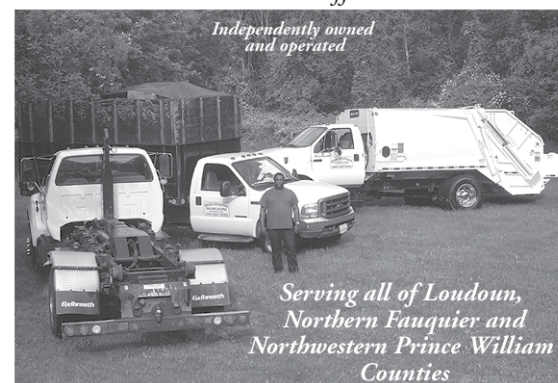
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ALBERT'S CORNER

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

From time to time, I like to write about the innovative products that are available for dogs, and the change of seasons seems like the perfect time to share some of the best items on the market today.

Despite the random sweltering April days we've had, this is the time of year to get out and enjoy the great outdoors with your dog. The winter was brutal and we had cabin fever just like you did. Nothing beats a case of that fever like a gentle spring day basking in the sun and playing in the newly green grass with our people. Having the right gear, so to speak, makes the experience even better.

Now more than ever, there are lots of smart, inexpensive and easy-to-find products that help make the most of outdoor excursions. First and foremost, it's critical that we have water available at all times when we're outside. Portable water bowls have evolved a lot over the years, and while it's still possible to buy a simple collapsible bowl in various sizes, it's also possible to make use of the wonderful updated versions of travel bowls like the Gulpy and the Water Rover. The updated products enable you to bring water along with a device that combines a water bottle and a bowl. These products are durable, clip to your belt, and come in multiple sizes to suit the needs of small- or large-breed dogs.

Toys have also come a very long way. A ball is no longer just a ball, with lots of options on the market. Kong makes a really simple and inexpensive "tennis" ball that looks just like the ones you use on the court. This ball, however, has a squeaker that drives us wild. It's a classic and I make a point of collecting them. (My people think I lose them, but they don't know I'm secreting them away for a rainy day. A dog can never have too many squeaky balls.) A couple of other companies make fantastic balls too - West Paw Design and Planet Dog both have their own notable

versions that are made in the US and withstand the toughest abuse.

ChuckIt makes a great little contraption that marries an extended "arm" with a scoop that holds a tennis ball. The extended arm turns any so-so thrower into a Major League talent, and the scoop means no more touching sloppy balls. Games of fetch are clean and challenging - making for happy, well-exercised dogs when playtime is over.

Frisbee-type toys now come in lots of designs too. The aforementioned West Paw and Planet Dog make theirs out of super-durable material that insures months if not years of play. Other discs are nylon and rope - and some even have a plush squeaky toy at their center. Nothing makes me wag my tail more than seeing a fake squirrel catapult through the air, little furry arms grasping a sturdy rope ring.

Before closing, I would be remiss not to mention the many, many new options in outdoor beds. Jax & Bones and Bowers, as well as some of the major catalogs, offer an impressive array of attractive fabrics designed to stand up to the elements. These are not the drab affairs of years past, but rather beautiful pillows that actually add to the environment of terraces, pools and patios while giving family pets a comfortable place to rest.

So when you're gearing up for going outside, don't forget to think about us. You won't spend a fortune on most of the fun products and you can find them at lots of pet supply stores or online.

Enjoy the sun and put that cold, harsh winter far out of your minds. It's time to reclaim the great outdoors - and we'll be right there to help you do it!

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.

LOUDOUN COUNTY PETS GO ONLINE

Piedmont Animal Alliance, Lovettsville and Save The Tails Rescue Group Inc., Leesburg, recently have joined other animal welfare organizations in the area that list their homeless pets on Petfinder.com, the oldest and largest database of adoptable animals on the Internet. The site currently has over 294,500 homeless pets listed, and it is updated continuously.

More than 13,100 animal welfare organizations in the U.S., Canada, and other countries post their pets on the site. Pets may be viewed at <http://www.petfinder.com>. A potential adopter enters search criteria for the kind of pet he or she wants, and a list is returned that ranks the pets in proximity to the Zip code entered. Adoptions are handled by the animal placement group where the

pet is housed, and each group has its own policies.

Petfinder.com was created in early 1996 as a grassroots project by Jared and Betsy Saul to end the euthanasia of adoptable pets. Since its inception, the site has facilitated approximately 20 million adoptions, making it the most life-saving initiative in animal welfare.

Sponsors include The Animal Rescue Site, BISSELL Homecare, Inc., a manufacturer of home cleaning and floor care products, PETCO, a national pet supply retailer that sponsors in-store adoptions and provides coupon books for new adopters, and Merial, maker of the number one veterinary-recommended flea and tick preventative FRONTLINE(r), and heartworm preventative HEARTGARD(r).

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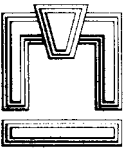
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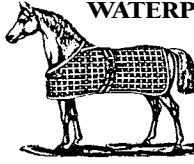
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Patrickswell
Middleburg, Virginia

One of Virginia's most distinguished estates consisting of 585 acres in Orange County Hunt with mountain views in every direction. Manicured farm with mostly open and gently rolling acreage. Main house was built in 1984 of stone construction with 4 bedrooms, 4 full baths, 2 half baths, an in-law suite and 4 fireplaces. Improvements include pool, tennis court, 20 stall center aisle Belmont barn (includes office, tack room, two wash stalls) with 1/16 of a mile indoor track. 2 bedroom guest house, 3 tenant houses and 4 barns. 213 acres in scenic easement. \$18,500,000.
Paul MacMahon (540) 687-5588



Harborvale
Middleburg, Virginia

51 acres in Orange County Hunt located just minutes from town surrounded by large farms off the highly sought-after Zulla Road. Interior renovations have begun. Charming stone cottage, 3 car garage, stable and tenant house are all in need of renovation but will make a fine estate. Currently in two parcels. \$2,900,000.
Helen MacMahon (540) 454-1930



Conde Road
Marshall, Virginia

Stunning home perched on 8+ acres in heart of Fauquier. Perfect first floor master overlooking stately pool and plantings. Gourmet kitchen, separate dining room, library, family room. Two private bedroom suites with baths on lower level with entertainment room, wet bar and sitting room. 4 fireplaces, 3-car garage. Lovely vistas. \$895,000.
Walter Woodson (703) 499-4961

110 East Washington Street
P.O. Box 1380
Middleburg, Virginia 20118
(540) 687-5588



Dakota
Middleburg, Virginia

87 private acres of rolling fields. This fieldstone and stucco house exhibits quality from the past featuring a reclaimed-timber barn transformed into an intimate family room overlooking two expansive ponds. Well-designed home includes an incomparable custom kitchen, antique beams, lovely first floor master suite and 4 bedrooms. Additional finished space below includes the media room, bar, exercise facility and generous storage. 3-car garage, in-law suite, 3-stall barn and generator. \$4,800,000.
Helen MacMahon (540) 454-1930



Pagebrook East
Boyce, Virginia

Gorgeous tract of land, 97.88 acres, in the middle of Blue Ridge Hunt territory. Small cottage converted from an original summer kitchen. Additional building site with approved 4 bedroom perc. Open pasture land, pond, small barn and run-in sheds. Fenced for horses and cattle. Land is in conservation easement. \$1,495,000.
Andrew Motion (540) 454-3466
Helen MacMahon (540) 454-1930



Ridgeside Road
Bluemont, Virginia

Solid brick home on 5 open acres with great views to east and south, 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1 fireplace, 3 board fencing, room for horses. Seller to install ceramic tile in baths and kitchen and hardwood floors in family room or provide credit. \$435,000. 5 acres contiguous also for sale. \$285,000.
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Forest Mills Farm
Leesburg, Virginia

Circa 1813 Quaker home, brick, stone and stucco construction. 5 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, 7 fireplaces, high ceilings, beautiful woodwork and original floors on 69.75 acres. Improvements include the stone guest house, log cabin, 3 barns totalling 20 stalls and riding ring. Property is fenced and cross fenced, boxwood gardens. Great setting in a protected area. Prime fox hunting location. \$2,500,000.
Paul MacMahon (540) 687-5588
Joseph Keusch (540) 454-0591



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.
Paul MacMahon (540) 687-5588



Martin Avenue
Middleburg, Virginia

Extra large corner lot in the village of Middleburg. This traditional cottage has 3 bedrooms, nice living room with wood burning fireplace and hard wood floors recently refinished - throughout the home. There is room for expansion above with the floored attic and large side porch. Great potential. \$390,000.
Helen MacMahon (540) 454-1930

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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. \$2,145,000.
Walter Woodson (703) 499-4961



Rectortown Road
Rectortown, Virginia

Stucco Hunt Box in quaint village setting, 2 tax parcels, 2.92 +/- acres, home circa 1942, 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, and 2 fireplaces. Improvements include guest home, 3 stall barn and board fencing. Lovely setting. \$995,000.
Paul MacMahon (540) 687-5588
Margaret Carroll (540) 454-0650



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. \$379,000.
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BROOKFIELD FARM, DELAPLANE, VA

Brookfield Farm on 85 acres in the Piedmont Hunt has a lovely 5 bedroom country house. Beautiful old pine floors throughout, high ceilings, a roomy kitchen and family room, privacy and stunning views of the Cobbler Mountains and the Blue Ridge. Equestrian facilities are top notch with a professional 12 stall center aisle stable with tack room, office, double wash stall, half bath, and hay storage; a schooling ring, and 5 fenced paddocks and fields. A wonderful property in the Virginia Hunt Country. \$3,200,000.

Carole Miller

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INTERNATIONAL OFFERING

WOODSIDE, DELAPLANE, VA

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

Ruth Ripley

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INTERNATIONAL OFFERING

HIDDEN VALLEY FARM, ETLAN, VA

Sophisticated country manor home in scenic Madison County just 2 miles over the Rappahannock County line. 5,600 sq. ft., completely renovated and expanded upon by noted architect Julian Kulski. Original section dates to the 1860's with major additions in 1991. 158 acres with outstanding valley views, fenced pastures, woodlands, ponds and outbuildings. Perfect setting for a vineyard, cattle or horses. 4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, 6 fireplaces. \$2,800,000.

Anita Sisney

703-973-1987

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INTERNATIONAL OFFERING

CARTER'S MILL, MIDDLEBURG, VA

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

Ruth Ripley

540-687-2222



INTERNATIONAL OFFERING

LIME KILN ROAD, MIDDLEBURG, VA

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

Rick Lowe

703-509-3962



INTERNATIONAL OFFERING

ROCKAWAY, MIDDLEBURG, VA

Totally charming country property. 1787 dwelling built of log and stucco with another historic log house addition. 3 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths. Original massive cooking fireplace. Large living room with two fireplaces. Lovely views from porch overlooking large pond. Stone terrace. Two parcels. 17.9 beautiful acres five minutes from Middleburg. \$1,295,000.

Ruth Ripley

540-687-2222



INTERNATIONAL OFFERING

DOGWOODS, MARSHALL, VA

Wonderful European-style property with custom-built, one-level residence and charming Guesthouse. 60-foot Lap Pool, outdoor dining pergola, herb and flower gardens on 9+ private acres with lovely views. \$1,095,000.

Linda Norris

540-270-7560



OAKMEADE, MIDDLEBURG, VA

Lovely Williamsburg Colonial on 10+ very private acres between Middleburg & Upperville. Highly livable floor plan with sunny, spacious rooms, gorgeous cherry floors, open kitchen/family room, 4 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, 2 car garage with office above. Outdoor dining area with flagstone terrace, stone walls and gardens, in a beautiful convenient setting. Priced to sell at \$995,000.

Linda Norris

540-270-7560

Kathryn Harrell

540-687-2215



WILD WIND, MIDDLEBURG, VA

Located just west of town in Middleburg Downs, this lovely French Colonial is sited on over 3 beautifully landscaped acres providing excellent privacy and views of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Well maintained 4 bedroom house has a new kitchen, laundry and powder room. Hardwood floors throughout. \$899,500.

Carole Miller

540-687-2233

Ruth Ripley

540-687-2222



THE PLAINS, VA

Hidden among mature trees with pond and small stream, established landscaping, this all brick cape has 2 master suites on the main floor, upper level guest quarters and ground floor family room, and home office, or could be a full in-law apartment with kitchen and dining area. 7.66 acres just minutes from The Plains and I66. Two levels of porches covered and enclosed, hardwood floors, fireplace. Total of 4 bedrooms and 3.5 baths. \$629,500.

Lynn Wiley

540-454-1527



BLOSSOM HILL, MIDDLEBURG, VA

Lovely comfortable contemporary residence in a terrific Middleburg location with great privacy. It is on just under 2 acres and has a charming living room/dining room "L" with a fireplace, bookshelves and built in cupboards and drawers. There are 4 bedrooms and an artist's studio with excellent north light. The back yard is fenced and the grounds have mature planting and trees. Blossom Hill offers good cheer, comfort and convenience. \$510,000.

Carole Miller

540-687-2233



BLACK ROCK COTTAGE, FLINT HILL, VA

Charming hunt box, retreat, or full-time residence. This completely renovated 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath home on 7 open/fenced acres boasts an enormous 80' x 40' barn. Two wide bay doors for trailers or boats. Lovely views of the Blue Ridge and surrounding countryside. The property adjoins Black Rock Farm and is within walking distance of Flint Hill. Just listed. \$392,000.

Howie Swaim

540-522-3921

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