

WARRENTON PONY SHOW

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RACK AND ROLL REGS REVISED?

DANIEL MORROW

On July 6, in response to ongoing concerns about racks of merchandise, rolling carts, temporary signs, and other real and potential summer sprouting on and along Middleburg's sidewalks, Town Council ordered Town Planner and Zoning Administrator David Beniamino to draft a new ordinance, outlining just what local merchants (and others) may display on sidewalks and other public property along and beside the town's streets and roads.

Mayor Betsy noted that any new law will require careful drafting if it is to: 1) address a raft of recent complaints about aesthetics, pedestrian safety, convenience, and potential financial liabilities; 2) meet the requirements of the Virginia Department of Transportation, which actually owns and maintains Middleburg's streets;

and 3) be supportive of well-intentioned efforts by local business people to attract customers.

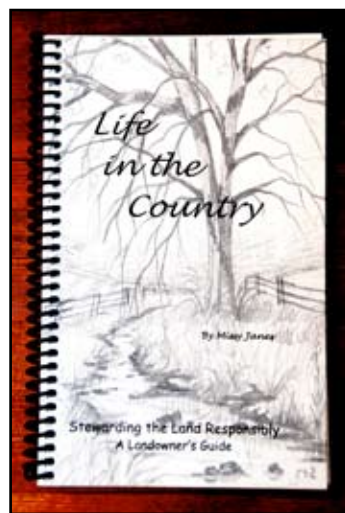
Because Middleburg does not own its streets and sidewalks, Virginia DOT regulations govern what is allowed on what are, legally, public rights-of-way.

In response to a request from Town Planner Beniamino, the Middleburg received several notes from the DOT, spelling out both "prohibited uses within the rights-of-way" (like signs, vendors' carts, and "dwellings") and other uses, such as "flower boxes and other types of ornamental displays," which could be allowed with a special permit.

The Town's annual sidewalk sale, Beniamino noted, is "allowed under a permit as a Town-sponsored event for a specific period of time," but would not be allowed on a permanent basis.

Continued Page 6

HOW TO LIVE A TRULY RESPONSIBLE COUNTRY LIFE



This small, modestly produced book is a treasure trove of suggestions, directions, definitions and comparisons about everything from the importance of hedgerows, how Riparian systems work, important Country Courtesies and pasture management. It is also an amazing compendium of lists including contact information for National & Regional Organizations; local organizations whose mission; Native Perennials;

Native Trees and Birds and Butterflies.

In only 100 pages, Missy Janes has set out precisely the information a Piedmont landowner needs to take good care of country property.

It makes excellent sense for Piedmont realtors to purchase hundreds of this brilliant book to give as gifts to every new Piedmont landowner.

The more every landowner knows, the better life will be for everyone in the country.

Missy Janes book is available at The Goose Creek Association office for \$10 (\$12.50 if mailed). Call (540) 687-3073 for a copy.

Until now, country living has not come with instructions or a guidebook.

Fortunately for country land owners who did not grow up learning the essentials about a successful agrarian life, local author Missy Janes has written an absolutely invaluable book: "Life in the Country, Stewarding the Land Responsibly, A Landowner's Guide."

Satisfying the yearning for a life in the country by purchasing land in a beautiful bucolic area brings with it many responsibilities that are essential if rural beauty and agrarian health is to be protected

AN INTERVIEW WITH LOCAL SCULPTOR, JEAN CLAGETT

PAGE 4

MIDDLEBURG REAL ESTATE

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SCOTT BUZZELLI 540-454-1399 \$1,600,000



23978 LACEYS TAVERN CR, ALDIE - GORGEOUS CUSTOM HOME 4 FINISHED LEVELS ON 4.25 ACRES. PROFESSIONALLY DECORATED, QUALITY FEATURES THROUGHOUT. HARDWOOD FLOORS, BUILT-INS, STONE FP, TRAY/COFFERED CEILINGS, GOURMET KITCHEN WITH VIKING, SUBZERO, GRANITE, HUGE BREAKFAST ROOM, SOLARIUM, HOME THEATRE/SURROUND SOUND, MUSIC SPEAKERS/TOUCHPAD, FULLY FENCED AND SPRINKLER SYSTEM. SCOTT BUZZELLI 540-454-1399 \$1,395,000



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RAVEN ROCKS RD. -BLUEMONT - HISTORIC HOUSE ON APPALACHIAN TRAIL. 6+ ACRES. 6 BEDROOMS, NANNY/IN-LAW SUITE WITH SEPARATE ENTRANCE. POOL, 2-CAR GARAGE, SMALL BARN/SHED, LOVELY LANDSCAPING. LOTS OF CHARM, WOOD FLOORS, FIREPLACES, CHESTNUT PANELING. MINUTES FROM THE VILLAGE OF BLUEMONT, BERRYVILLE, CONVENIENT TO DULLES AIRPORT. ANNE MCINTOSH 703-509-4499 \$645,000



18999 FOGGY BOTTOM RD, BLUEMOUNT - CHARMING CONTEMPORARY COTTAGE, OLD LOG FAMILY ROOM ADDITION, STONE FP, GRANITE, CUSTOM CHESTNUT KITCHEN CABINETS, HARDWOOD FLOORS. COCHRANS MILL WOODWORK. PRIVATE SETTING AT END OF PAVED DRIVE, WRAPAROUND PORCH, MATURE TREES, DETACHED GARAGE/WORKSHOP, 2 STORY OUTBUILDINGS. JIM LEMON 703-203-9766 \$500,000



1790 MEETING HOUSE - PARIS. VIEWS OF SCENIC CROOKED RUN VALLEY. ORIGINAL BRICK STRUCTURE WITH EXQUISITE ADDITION. BRICK AND BLUESTONE TERRACES LINK ENTIRE COMPLEX TO EXPANSIVE LANDSCAPING. OPEN KITCHEN/LIVING ROOM, AMPLE BEDROOM. ADDITION IS GREAT ROOM WITH FIREPLACE AND DOORS OPENING TO GARDENS AND VIEWS BEYOND. BUTTER STROTHER 540-270-4933 \$435,000

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All real estate advertised herein is subject to Virginia's fair housing law which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, ethnicity, familial status, handicap or intention to make any such preferences, limitation or discrimination."

The newspaper will not knowingly accept advertising for real estate that violates the fair housing law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on equal opportunity basis. For more information or to file a housing complaint call the Virginia Fair Housing office at (804) 367-8530. Toll free call (888) 551-3247. For the hearing impaired call (804) 367-9753. Email: fairhousing@dpvr.virginia.gov Web site: www.fairhousing.vipnet.org

NEWS OF NOTE

NANCY REDMOND MANIERRE: AN APPRECIATION BY KIM HART

Women have always had good reasons to be fearful: dangerous men, dangerous circumstances, looming failure, even uncertainty itself.

When I get onto an airplane, I like to introduce myself to my seat-mates. Most women traveling alone will shake hands, but the introduction is strictly first name only.

Look in the phonebook. Most of those names with a single initial are women.

I was out when Reddy called, so I checked the phonebook for the number. Manierre, Nancy No fear in that listing.

"If you want to talk to Nancy

Manierre, here's her listing," it says. "However, if you are considering making an unwanted or obscene phone call, you had better think twice, buddy."

Nancy wasn't afraid to pick up perfect strangers in her car and take them into town, to the doctor, or to the Safeway to buy groceries. Today, we call that organization which she started with her friend Rene Llewellyn, FISH.

Nancy wasn't afraid to associate with the poor or homeless. When Rene said, "we have to do something about those old houses with dirt floors on the west end of Middleburg," Nancy said, "OK, Rene, you get going on that and I'll back you up."

And today, we call that organization the Windy Hill Foundation.

Nancy wasn't afraid to ask for a miracle: enough loaves and—canned—fishes to feed hundreds in our community. And today, we call that organization 7 Loaves.

Whether from family, or from Foxcroft, from friends, or from her faith, Nancy wasn't afraid. She would just step up and do something.

Today, we are still oiling and stoking those three engines of social service that Nancy and Rene and their generation built and put onto the tracks of our community.

Nancy got it. She "got" the Lord's message:

"Trust me and don't be



afraid."

And just look what happens when someone, including Nancy Manierre, believes that.

[Nancy Redmond Manierre, 86, died June 28 at Waycroft Farm, near Halfway, Va. Donations in her honor and to her memory can be made to Foxcroft School, Box 5555, Middleburg, Va. 20118 or to Hospice Support of Fauquier County, 42 North 5th St., Warrenton, Va. 20186]

JOHN CHAPMAN "CHIPS" CHESTER, VIRGINIA EQUESTRIAN & GENEROUS PATRON

Longtime patron of Virginia equestrian activities, John Chapman "Chips" Chester died peacefully at home July 9, 2010.

Born and raised in Milwaukee and Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, he was eighty years young.

Having lived a fascinating life of government and military service, he was a devoted equestrian, rode in the Fairfax Hunt and recently sponsored Surefire Farm Eventing's Jan Byyny.

Chips Chester attended Milwaukee Country Day School, Phillips Exeter Academy, Princeton University and Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service. According to the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, he majored in German and English literature, participated in Theatre Intime and the Triangle Club and was unanimously voted "Most Unconscious Member" by his senior class.

He enlisted in the Army in 1953, was set to deploy to Korea

when the war ended and was reassigned to occupied Germany to oversee war crimes prisoners.

In 1956 he married Clara Paige Mills of Chevy Chase, Maryland and his career in the Foreign Service took him to stations in Germany, Yugoslavia and Malawi. He was recognized with an award for "Heroic Services" from the Malawi government.

When he moved to Capitol Hill in 1970, Chester worked for the

Continued Page 5



PROPERTIES IN HUNT COUNTRY

FOALSFIELD



Stunning 4 Bedroom, 4 Full and 2 1/2 Bath • Stone and Stucco home on 12.32 acres with reclaimed Old Pine Floors • Master Bedroom on Main Level • Marble and Stone Fireplaces • Covered Stone Terrace • Screened-In Porch • Pool • Detached Garage • Stone Walls • Board Fencing • Orange County Hunt. \$2,700,000

Bee Lefferts (540) 454-5555

WINDCREST POND



Charming stone, log and frame Virginia farmhouse tucked in private valley on 46 acres in exceptional location • 5 Bedrooms, 4 1/2 Baths • Formal Living and Dining Room • Gourmet Kitchen • Exposed log and stone walls • Hardwood Floors • 3 Fireplaces • Attached 2 Car Garage • Sun porch • Flagstone Terrace • Log Cabin • Lighted Sport Court • Small Barn • Paddock. \$2,550,000

Cricket Bedford (540) 229-3201

MERSEY ROAD



Beautifully renovated home on park-like setting on 3+ acres in Middleburg Downs • Less than 5 minutes from the village of Middleburg • Charming 3 bedroom, 3 bath home was completely renovated by designer/owner in 2008 • High ceilings, open floor plan and quality custom finishes abound • In-ground pool and tennis court complete this one of a kind offering. \$1,295,000

Emily Ristau (540) 878-1909

MIDDLEGROUND FARM



Just outside Warrenton • Gourmet Kitchen, Pareded Den and Stone Fireplace give grace to this 4 Bedroom country house • 7 Stall Stable, Run-In Shed and Machine/Trailer Shed are clustered in the center of the 50 acre farm • Hay has always been cut on about 25 acres and the rest are fenced pastures and lawn • Creek cuts through the back corner. \$1,200,000

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Mary Ann McGowan (540) 270-1124

BEECH HILL



Country French feel to the large open Living Room with custom arched Fireplace • Newly carpeted Family Room with Fireplace • Pond and Pasture areas bound by evergreens • Lawn leads to hardwoods • Swimmers in the pool and sunbathers are completely surrounded by nature • Separate studio with H/VAC • Stables and Equipment Barn • 38 acres • Warrenton area. \$805,000

Susie Ashcom (540) 729-1478

BROAD REACH



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Cathy Bernache (540) 424-7066

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Charming Virginia farmhouse located on large cattle farm just off of Route 17 south of the village of Paris • 4 Bedrooms, 1 Full Bath, 2 Half Baths, Living Room, Dining Room, Family Room, Kitchen, Mudroom and extra room as possible office with separate entrance • Screened Porch • Attached 2 Car Garage • Great Commuter access for Routes 50 and 166. \$1,900/Month

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NEWS OF NOTE

AN INTERVIEW WITH LOCAL SCULPTOR, JEAN CLAGETT

URSULA LANDSRATH

I had heard of sculptor Jean Clagett and her meticulous bronze sculptures but had never had the occasion to visit her or even her studio. This all changed when I was asked to pick up her donation to the Middleburg Humane Foundation's Silent Auction.

What I discovered in Boyce was a treasure trove of beauty, craftsmanship and dedication.

There, in a modest farm house surrounded by her dogs, horses and a cat, lives a woman of incredible talent. Her warm welcome led to a conversation in her kitchen that filled me with awe.

"I have been sculpting for more than 15 years working for part of this time in France," Jean said. She told me that she prefers working directly with her clients rather than using an agent or middleman. Beside this saving a gallery commission, she finds it important to meet the owners and animals she portrays to enable her to "see" them through their owner's eyes.

"Where possible I initially work with live models" she tells me and then shows me an email received that very day from a Hackney breeder in Argentina. He offers to supply photos and videos and the ability to arrange her visit there if she feels it necessary. I glance at her email reply to her latest client thousands of miles away. "I'm more familiar with the polo world from Argentina - wasn't aware of many hackneys down there. BUT HORSES ARE GOOD, REGARDLESS OF BREED OR OCCUPATION."

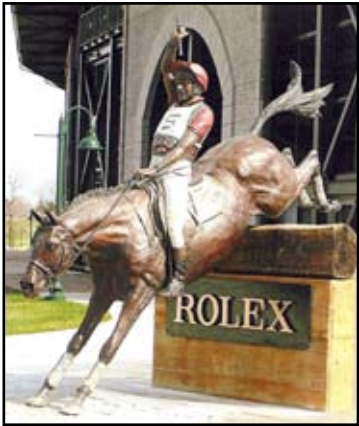
This pretty much summarizes Jean's love for her and all horses. And it is this love of all animals that translates into her sculptures. It is obvious that she thrives on and enjoys expressing that love in bronze.

"I have a major in literature and minor in chemistry" and then adds "the chemistry has really helped me in developing patinas necessary to finish the work myself".

Jean then invites me to visit her studio. Crossing the yard with dogs in tow and stopping to caress her two horses, I found myself in a very modest studio. There shapeless wax or clay is transformed into incredible, prize winning bronzes. Lest this sounds an over simplification one must remember the initial inspiration, the capture of the personality of the subject, meticulous detail to bestow the life like quality for which she is famous, the casting, soldering and skill to customize the patina.

Back in the house Jean shows me pictures of some of her works. There is the perpetual trophy for the Upperville Colt and Horse Show. Exquisite equine bronzes of beloved horses include: a life size bronze of eventer Bruce Davidson riding "Eagle Lion" over a cross-country drop fence installed in the Kentucky Horse Park; a 17 inch bronze of Kentucky Derby winner "Smarty Jones" standing in the winner's circle (for owners Pat and Roy Chapman) and the Sue Lyon Memorial Trophy.

My eyes fall on a photograph of an exquisite silver sculptures of Prince Charles on "Mora", captured with every minute detail of his polo pony. And then, awestruck I look at a silver



centerpiece created for Lord and Lady Roborough, England, featuring their broodmare, "Regent's Folly" with her little foal "Suave Dancer".

"I love my work and love the animals who inspire me" Jean says. "I am fortunate to have my works in homes and collections from Middleburg to England, Italy and France".

As I rise to leave, thinking of my birthday, I wonder aloud if she also creates more modest commissions. Jean smiles "Oh, yes, of course. I even do custom-designed awards and plaques for a wide range of events".

I take my leave compelled to give her a big hug. Was I hoping that some of that talent would rub off on me?

As I head back to my car I realized that I had just visited a magical place. Magic right here in Boyce.

For more about Jean Clagett and her work, visit www.atelierwest.com

GOOD TIME TO BUY A HOME

MARK STYS

If you have the financial wherewithal and tolerance, now is a good time to make an investment in home ownership. If you already own a home and you haven't taken advantage of the low interest rates, now is an excellent time to re-finance.

From the mid 1990's until 2006 it was a 'sellers market' as home prices kept rising. This led homebuilders to a binge of new building and people to become 'investors' buying multiple homes to make what seemed to be a guaranteed profit.

Many people started to use their home like an ATM by taking out one or more home equity loans. Some of these loans were used as down payments on another home, to pay for college for their children or to purchase other goods. As a result, home equity is at its lowest level since the Great Depression.

A decade of reckless finance culminated in debt that we, as taxpayers, must and will carry for the foreseeable future as bank bailouts and the debt of Fannie Mae and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation.

So, is now a good time to buy a home?

Homes have served a dual purpose in the US for a long time. The first and most important role is to provide shelter. From that perspective, the choice to purchase or rent a home is a personal one that is driven by the comfort one derives in being an owner versus a renter.

The second purpose of a home is as a store of wealth. Until the late 1990's, the home had been the number one vehicle of wealth for

Americans. We held more 'value or equity' in our housing than we did in any other form of investment (stocks and bonds). That changed in the late 1990's as the 401k, 403b, and IRA helped investable securities pass home ownership as the number one driver of wealth.

But, that was only temporary. As the stock market declined after April 2001 and the housing market continued to grow, home ownership passed investment savings in late 2001, and when the stock market collapsed and home ownership once again became the top store of wealth.

The volatility that we have witnessed in the housing, equity, and bond market have made it difficult to determine what is the best store of wealth today and what it will be in the future. But, a home serves dual purposes and one would expect that over time it will gain in value.

People often try to pick the top or bottom of a market whether it is stocks, bonds, or housing. However, it often makes more sense to look at the risk and return that you are comfortable with - and given the last couple of years you should have a pretty good idea what real risk is - as the driver in the decision to make any investment.

From a risk and return perspective, the housing market is well off its peaks, interest rates are at historic lows, and new building is at a very low pace.

Now could be a very opportune time to make an investment in home ownership.

Mark Stys is Bluemont Capital's Chief Investment Officer. You may contact him by email at: mstys@bluemontcapital.com

GALA PLANNED FOR 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF ADA

Among the many activities planned to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the passage of the Americans With Disabilities Act will be a gala at the Washington Dulles Airport Marriott Saturday, July 24th.

Organized by the ENDependence Center of Northern Virginia (ECNV) and Loudoun ENDependence (LEND) to empower and educate the community the gala will be a major fund raiser and will promote the 2010 theme, "Different Paths, Same Destination."

Sponsorships are still available for the gala, with a wide range of benefits and underwriting levels. Gala tickets are \$100 each and include a sit-down dinner, the awards presentation, a keynote speaker's presentation about the remarkable progress that has been made during the ADA's first twenty years and dancing.

If you would like to sponsor or attend the gala, please visit the website at www.ecnv.org or telephone LEND at 571 291 9550. You may also email Tracee@lend.ecnv.org for more information.

IT'S A FALL WEDDING FOR BRANDY SELLS & NICK GREEN



LOCAL CANCER FOUNDATION GROWS AND EVOLVES RAPIDLY

Local community leader Bill Couzens' Less Cancer organization is growing quickly and intelligently to raise awareness about how to reduce the risk of cancer.

"Our new program, Healthy Town Detroit, is getting a lot of traction, and we are successfully connecting the dots for prevention through new media," explained Couzens.

"When we work to prevent cancer, we, in turn, have an opportunity to reduce a whole host of other illnesses. Today we are operating in 38 countries and have over 12,000 members, fans and friends on Facebook alone."

Recently, Couzens, and Holli Thompson, Documentary Host and Founder of Nutritional Style hosted two standing-room-only viewings of Healthy Town Detroit on Capitol Hill. Healthy Town Detroit is the first film in a series that will focus on social entrepreneurs in communities throughout the United States.

The documentary covers organizations working to bridge the numerous environmental health gaps in Detroit through prevention. The film features Earthworks Urban Farm at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, Local Motion Green, Children's Hospital of Michigan, the Kresge Foundation, and Kids Kicking Cancer.

Healthy Town's mission is

to educate and increase awareness for healthy choices to include nutrition and preventable harmful environmental exposures in homes, schools, and work places. Exposures are identified based on research and warnings from current sound science of leading experts in the fields of cancer, human health, and the environment.

Many audience members were from the Michigan delegation, but others in attendance represented many other areas of the country.

Maryland Congressman Elijah E. Cummings and staff from Virginia Congressman Frank R. Wolf's office were at the screenings.

The film series is part of the

New Healthy Town Campaign from Next Generation Choices Foundation known for their Less Cancer campaign.

Next Generation Choices Foundation's first project was to reduce harmful pesticide exposures in Virginia Schools. The organization was recognized for its collaboration with the State of Virginia on recommendations to reduce pesticide drift in primary schools from health-effected communities.

To make a donation to Less Cancer, please visit the initiative online at lesscancer.org or send checks to Next Generation Choices Foundation, Post Office Box 1801, Middleburg, VA 20118.

JOHN CHAPMAN CHESTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives serving under, among others, Peter Frelinghuysen (R-NJ), and Dante Fascell (D-FL).

He served as staff facilitator of numerous House and Senate inter-parliamentary conferences with Europe, Mexico and Canada and traveled on Committee missions to Asia and Africa in the early 1970's evaluating Peace Corp operations, a subject on which he became a recognized expert.

After his retirement in 1987, he took horseback tours through many

countries including Argentina, Latvia, Mongolia, New Zealand, South Africa and Iceland among others.

According to the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, he is survived by siblings Marion Read and William Chester; by three children, John, Isabelle and Charles Chester; by seven grandchildren and four horses.

Donations in recognition of his life may be made to the International Crisis Group at www.crisisgroup.org, or Life Me Up! at www.liftme-up.org.

“Declare your independence!”



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I'll be brief. I don't need to say a lot because *Car and Driver* already said it for me: I'm on their list of the 10 cheapest cars to own. But that doesn't mean I've cut back. I've got side curtain airbags. And a wide wheelbase for extra stability. Which help me earn a Five Star Crash Safety Rating from NHTSA. So when you drive up in a Kia Soul, you won't have to say much either. Just look at their faces and smile.

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NEWS OF NOTE

RACK AND ROLL REGS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Appearance, Safety, or Both?

Noting that she had heard from "... many individuals saying they liked seeing merchandise outside," Mayor Davis pointed out that the earliest complaints about signs and merchandise on the town's sidewalks focused less on pedestrian access and safety, than on aesthetics, "visual appearance."

Town Planner Beniamino pointed out that, in some cases, approval by the Town's Historic District Review Committee (HDRC) or the Town Planning Commission would be required in addition to VDOT permits for sidewalk "installations." Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, he noted also required five-foot-wide sidewalk clearance.

Noted specifically during the June 6 discussion were Southern States outdoor displays of flowers and wheel-barrows ("beyond what was allowed" by its site plan, according to Beniamino); the Town's own "planters" and benches (apparently not yet formally permitted by VDOT); Crème de la Crème's outdoor displays of merchandise; the jockey statuettes at the Red Fox Inn (removed, because they violated VDOT line-of-sight regulations); the mannequin on the steps of Duchess; the front door of The Fun Shop (painted without HDRC approval of its color); The Three Crowns ("... would be allowed to display merchandise if they had a site plan that was approved by the Planning Commission for outdoor storage"); Lou Lou II's racks of scarves; the town's ubiquitous sandwich board signs (allowed by Town regulations, against the Town Planner's advice, with many not in compliance with the Town's ordinance);

Concerns About Enforcement

With many if not all the town's retailers suffering from the effects of recession, now was not the time to "come down like a ton of bricks" on the businesses, according to Council Member Bundles Murdock. Enforcing existing ordinances or introducing new ones at this time, she noted, was not only "unfair," but would produce an "uproar."

Vice Mayor Darlene Kirk agreed that now was not the time to "come down like a ton of bricks," but, in her view, for the benefit of all, random displays of merchandise could not be allowed on the town's sidewalks. "What may be tasteful for one person, may not be for another," she said. The only clear, enforceable, and fair standard, she said, would be a total ban.

Council Member Kathy Jo Shea, agreed, noting that she had "... asked that this item be placed on the agenda because she felt the Council needed to address the issue."

According to outgoing Council Member Lisa Patterson, the Town's Planning Commission, on which Shea also serves, was still working on the development of a pedestrian plan for Middleburg, "with the thought that it would be a new section in the Comprehensive Plan." As part of that process, Patterson noted, the Commission had "toured the town to look at side-

walks and pedestrian issues."

Consulting Town Administrator Jerry Schiro, pointed out that Middleburg, currently, had no formal agreement with VDOT "on the sidewalks or who would maintain them and enforce the regulations."

VDOT's District Engineer, he said, appeared to be willing to negotiate an agreement with the Town which would identify not only maintenance responsibilities, but also "who would control the sidewalks."

Schiro also warned Council to take care that they did not assume control over the sidewalks and "end up with the maintenance responsibilities by default."

Town Planner Beniamino told Council he had been "holding off on enforcement of the ordinances because he wanted to make sure the Council was in agreement as to how they wished to proceed."

According to Beniamino, "when talking about encroachments in the right-of-way, the Town would eventually have to say, 'get it out or we will take it'". In Winchester, which owns its own streets, he noted, merchandise left in the town's rights-of-way without a permit, had been, on occasion, legally removed by Town authorities.

Water

According to Councilmember and Public Works Committee Chair Mark Snyder, despite the appearance of browning lawns, the water table feeding the Town's wells "was fine."

If citizens behave responsibly, and avoid massive outdoor watering to save grass that is going naturally dormant, Snyder noted, "there was no need to act now or warn residents about water use."

Kirk Re-elected Vice Mayor

Darlene Kirk ran unopposed and was unanimously re-elected Vice Mayor by her fellow Town Council Members.

Mayor Davis also appointed Chairs for the Town's standing committees: Finance/Personnel, Vice Mayor Kirk; Public Safety, Bundles Murdock; Public Works, Mark Snyder; Land Use, Trowbridge Littleton; Economic Development, Mayor Davis; Historic District Review Committee, Trowbridge Littleton; Planning Commission, Kevin Hazard; Health Center Advisory Board, Darlene Kirk; Pink Box Advisory Board, David B. Stewart; Main Street Middleburg, Economic Development Coordinator Cindy Pearson; Traffic Calming Task Force, Mayor Davis; and, Loudoun County Action Advisory Committee, Kathy Jo Shea.

New Tax Software

At the Council's July 22 work session new software to handle the Town's critical real estate tax billing will be discussed. According to Town officials the current software provider is "going under." Logics, which currently provides software for seven local jurisdictions, and the Town's utilities billing system is apparently "implementing new software for real estate taxes."

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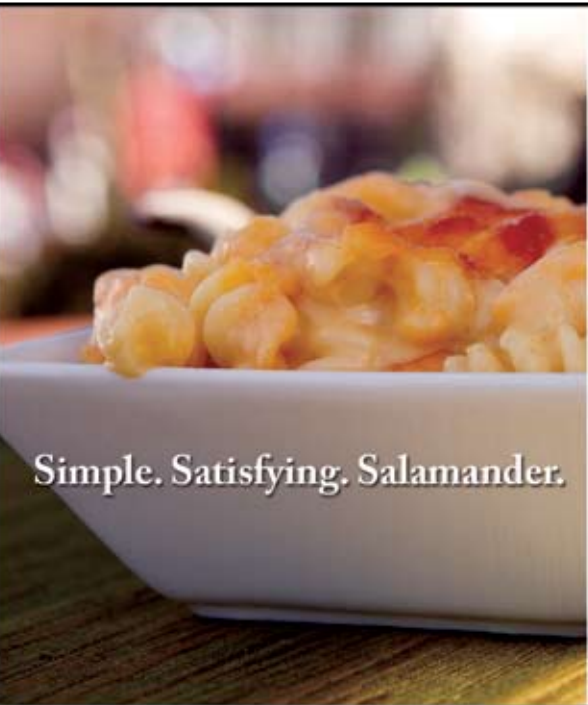
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EDITOR’S DESK

BLACK SWANS

Earthquake in Middleburg! National League Wins All Star Game. BP’s latest (better-late-than-never) well cap actually works (at least it was working when we wrote this.) Sadly, the BP “miracle” now seems more extraordinary than either of the other two. It has been

Keystone Cops Meets the Snake Oil Sales Team for nearly three months and counting. Unregulated, they were unprepared. Unprepared they were incompetent. Incompetent, they were clumsy. Clumsy, they were deadly. And worse.

SIDEWALK SALE

Do not miss this year’s Middleburg summer sidewalk sale, featuring the best of the best from the very best of Middleburg’s extraordinary shops and businesses. This year both the selection

AND the prices promise to be something really special. And be sure to check out ALL the sidewalks, north, south, east and west.

THE NEW MIDDLEBURG

While you’re here, also do not miss Lou Lou’s absolute transformation of the building that once housed the Coach Stop, and Wiley Wagg’s expansion of what is arguably the best pet shop anywhere. Both epitomize a gradual

(and tasteful) transformation of the Town, incorporating new looks, new merchandise, and new amenities, in a way that respects the very best of the look and feel of the special place that is Middleburg.

GIBBS VERSUS PELOSI

FROM BEYOND THE BELTWAY

KEN RIETZ

The Democrats campaign to maintain control of the House and Senate got off to a rocky start in July. For his part, Obama hit the campaign trail with the same old, stale message he has used the past 18 months. “The mess we are in is their fault. They ran the economy into the ditch”. Blah blah, blah.

Then, in a rare moment of candor from this White House, Press Secretary Robert Gibbs on Meet the Press speculated that Democrats could lose control of the House of Representatives in November. When asked

about his comment the next day, Gibbs said he had done something “VERY RARE IN WASHINGTON, I TOLD THE TRUTH.” This led speaker Pelosi to remark that she had never met Gibbs and he didn’t know what he was talking about. Two days later Gibbs backed off and said he had “always” believed the Democrats would maintain control of the House.

Gibbs may have been right in the first place. A Washington Post / ABC poll shows 60 % of voters have lost faith in Obama. The number for Pelosi and the Congress is even lower. The poll shows deep dissatisfaction with out of control federal spending, the new healthcare law and efforts to stimulate the economy. One third of Democrats surveyed are unhappy with Obama’s leadership.

In 2008, Independents overwhelmingly supported Obama. That has now been reversed. A clear majority of Independents are dissatisfied with the job Obama is doing.

The most important indicator for Republicans is the generic ballot. When asked if they will vote for a Republican or Democrat candidate for the House, Republicans come out on top by almost 10 points. Re-

publican voters are also winning on the intensity scale with a stronger inclination to vote.

This is why Republican Senate candidates in three key states – Pennsylvania, Ohio and California – have suddenly jumped into the lead over their Democrat opponents.

The theme coming out of the White House is that Republicans want to go back to their old ways while Democrats will take us forward.....forward over the cliff ? ? - keep in mind that the Democrats have already, in just the last nine months, added one trillion dollars to the Federal deficit - . They have clamped a stranglehold on job growth with threats of higher corporate taxes, cap and trade legislation and higher healthcare costs.

At the same time, two newly elected Republican Governors are giving the nation lessons in FISCAL LEADERSHIP. New Jersey’s Governor, CHRIS CHRISTY is successfully fighting the Unions to balance the State budget. Virginia’s Governor, BOB McDONNELL, has turned the \$ 1.8 Billion deficit inherited from a Democrat administration into a \$ 200 Million surplus without a tax increase.

So, I’ll place my bet on Gibbs’ problematic, if unique, veracity against Pelosi’s political interchange.

HYPOCRISY

TOM PRATT

At the risk of offending “dyed in the wool” Reagan democrats, the former president really does need to be held accountable for a major portion of what ails our country today.

His theory that privatization and “trickle down” was the way the country should be run has had disastrous effects. Wall Street and the Gulf apocalypse are just two examples of his failed policies.

Deregulation and allowing capitalism to run wild has caused incredible damage to so many lives both human and animal and to plant species as well. The gap between the rich and poor has never been wider, which underscores the fallacy of the “trickle down” economic theory Reagan touted.

Last Thursday Goldman Sachs agreed to pay \$550 million to resolve a civil law suit over their sale of a mortgage investment that was established to fail.

Goldman’s penalty represents how much the firm made every two weeks in the first quarter. Hardly a devastating sum for a firm betting against its clients.

The penalty is one-twentieth of the \$10 billion in bonuses Goldman handed out last year. And, immediately after the fine was announced, Goldman’s shares jumped by 5%, adding more to the firm’s value than it had to pay in fines.

Talk about hypocrisy! Where I ask you is the fairness in that.

Unless the fines are in the billions, this type of skulduggery will continue apace and more individuals will suffer so those few self-anointed few at the top of the financial food chain can continue to make fortunes they neither need nor spend wisely.

According to Mike Taibbi, a reporter at Rolling Stone who has written many articles concerning Wall Street, Goldman is more politically connected than any other company in America. It has been at the forefront of a variety of financial disasters over the last twenty years including the internet stock bubble, mortgage Ponzi schemes and commodity bubbles. The firm was neither fined nor punished for any of these disasters.

The incestuous group in the Obama administration who wrote the financial reform bill includes: Mark Patterson (number two at the

Treasury) former Goldman employee, Robert Rubin, former head of Goldman, Timothy Geithner, former Rubin aide. Larry Summers, principal financial advisor to Obama is part of the Rubin group before he was Treasury Secretary under Clinton. Not very encouraging.

The real hypocrisy is that if you are a small time con-man who dupes a few folks out of \$50 or \$60 thousand and are caught, you will most likely go to jail and pay a fine that far exceeds the amount you stole.

For some reason, that legal logic does not apply to Goldman Sachs.

Senator Feingold stood alone amongst the Democrats to vote ‘no’ on the financial reform bill saying “Washington once again caved to Wall Street on key issues and produced a bill that fails to protect the American people from the pain of another economic disaster.”

When he was pressured by the White House to vote for the bill, he said that he did not need to be lectured to by the people who got rid of Glass-Steagall Act.

KILLING CHRISTMAS IN JULY

BLUE NOTES
DANIEL MORROW

Who would have thought it? According to “Supervisor” Eugene Delgaudio, the Loudoun County Board not only has the transcendent power to destroy Christmas, it is threatening to do so.

Delgaudio, perhaps best known as Loudoun’s pre-eminent practitioner of gay bashing

for fun and (non) profit, now brings his special insight into the mind of God and the Founding Fathers to bear on that most sacred of all holidays, Leesburg’s summer retail promotion, “Christmas in July.”

Only for Eugene, it’s the same as that “other” Christmas. You know. The one without trees, lights, and little

round men in red suits.

In a recent e-mail blast, “Gene” expressed his profound belief that his colleagues (or at least five of them) “plan to destroy Christmas in July to block a small nativity scene and other religious displays.”

Anyone who thinks the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors has either the desire

(or, more important) the power to “destroy Christmas” in July or any other time, at the very least lacks “faith” in the durability of the religion he believes himself uniquely qualified to “protect.”

The notion that taxpayer money should not be used to subsidize sectarian religious displays (during a sales

promotion, for goodness sake), he describes as “an effort to destroy religious freedom.”

The Board has about as much chance of destroying “religious freedom” as it has of destroying “Christmas”, even in July.

The REALLY destructive force on the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors is Eugene

himself: the epitome of the sort mean-spirited self-righteous religiosity that Christ himself, in the view of this recovering Presbyterian, would find embarrassing.

And I have faith that Christmas (even in July) will survive.

PRIMARY LESSONS

PURPLE
BRUCE SMART

When Purple was a boy, over 900 moons ago, he had a friend with a streak of insightful humor, who often responded to human reactions to difficulty by repeating this old saw: “When in danger or in doubt, run in circles, scream and shout.” It took the American Tea Party folks little time to come up with the same prescription for the nation’s many problems. The Tea Party hasn’t solved anything yet, and it probably won’t, but following their line seems to win Republican nominations, judging by the results of June’s primaries.

Lewis Carroll, an early analyst, described this political phenomenon in scientific depth in “Jabberwocky,” writing as follows:

‘Twas brillig, and the slithy toves

Did gyre and gimble in the wade;

All mimsy were the borogoves,

And the mome raths out-grabe.

“Beware the Jabberwock, my son!

The jaws that bite, the claws that catch!

Beware the Jubjub bird, and shun

The frumious Bandersnatch!”

I assume Carroll wrote those admonitions after his experiences with Alice in Wonderland, where he met the Red Queen, the Mad Hatter and the March Hare. Now Wonderland and Washington may have similarities beyond both being ten letter words starting with “W”, but they also have differences. Wonderland amuses us and especially our children; Washington has responsibility for our nation’s future, and its inaction threatens those children.

Assuming Washington was Wonderland, the Tooth Fairy would solve deficit and debt problems without raising taxes. Unregulated financial institutions and oil companies would act in the public interest, rather than their own. Illegal immigrants would go home happily. One could wish away climate change and aging national demographics. Afghan war lords would embrace democracy. Politicians would look beyond the next election, investing in basic

research, infrastructure and education to give our children a better life, even if it cost the Tooth Fairy more. And all this would happen with almost no government.

Come to think of it, there is yet another similarity between the two locales, beyond “W” and ten letters – Alice enjoyed a Tea Party in Wonderland, too. Carroll describes it:

“There was a table set out under a tree in front of the house, and the March Hare and the Hatter were having tea at it; a Dormouse was sitting between them, fast asleep, and the other two were using it as a cushion, resting their

elbows on it, and talking over its head. ‘Very uncomfortable for the Dormouse,’ thought Alice; ‘only, as it’s asleep, I suppose it doesn’t mind.’” at this point, Purple also dozed off into a dream. A political survey had arrived in the mail, asking Alice whether she preferred the Wonderland Tea Party experience to the American Tea Party, with Rush Limbaugh and Sarah Palin using the Republican party as a cushion, resting their elbows on it, and talking nonsense over its head.

Alice’s answer: “Where’s the difference?”

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Sometimes the best meals are the result of accident, not careful planning. In today’s fast-paced society, many of us get caught up in the minutiae of life, forgetting that much of the fun comes from spontaneity, creativity and forgetting about the calendar every now and again. We hustle about, making lunch dates, getting the kids to sports practice, and ensuring that deadlines are made and kept. All of this leaves little time for “planning” our meals. However, planning meals can stifle creativ-

ity, forcing us into the drive-thru at dinnertime. Here’s a suggestion for the remainder of the summer: go to the farmers’ market on Saturday morning (get up early, just once, to get there when it opens), peruse the goods, and fill a reusable bag with fresh-from-the-ground goodies to fill your and your families’ tummies. Take advantage of the place in which we live, filled with fields of vegetables, fruits and animals that supply our necessary sustenance. Forget the cookbooks, recipe websites, and cooking shows – let your heart, soul and stomach

guide you to what’s good. Talk with the vendors about how they use their wares to feed their own families. Take notes, if you’d like. Explore. Learn. Remember that good food is simple. Good food means good ingredients. And there’s no better place to attain those ingredients than from our local farmers. Use these recipes as a guide, not as scripture. Insert your own ideas, and please, be sure to report back!

Summer Bounty Salad
Omit or add ingredients, as you wish. This dish is best served chilled and is a great accompaniment to grilled meats. From the onions you’ll get chromium and vitamin C; from the peppers, vitamins A and K; from the tomatoes, vitamin C, multiple vitamin B complexes and lycopene; and from the carrots, beta carotene. All of these vegetables and herbs also provide a healthy dose of dietary fiber.

- 1 tomato, 1-inch dice, or ½ pint of cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1 sweet onion, 1-inch dice
- 1 cucumber, 1-inch dice
- 1 sweet bell pepper, 1-inch dice, or 1 hot pepper, sliced
- 3-6 baby carrots, ½-inch dice
- 4 ounces feta cheese, 1-inch dice
- 1 pound (about 3-4 medium) cucumbers
- 1 red onion or 3 shallots

dice (can be marinated or flavored)
½ cup olive oil, hemp oil, or vegetable oil
¼ cup red wine, champagne, rice or other vinegar
½ cup roughly chopped herbs (whatever you have available: parsley, cilantro, basil, chives, thyme, oregano, etc.)
Sea salt and freshly ground pepper, to taste
Whisk together the oil and vinegar, adding about ½ teaspoon each of salt and pepper. Place all of the vegetables in a shallow bowl or baking dish, sprinkle with the herbs, and pour the dressing over the veggies. Combine well and refrigerate for at least one hour. Serve chilled or at room temperature. Serves 6.

Creamy Cucumber Salad
Originating in what is now India, cucumbers are a good source of vitamins C and A, as well as potassium, manganese, folate, dietary fiber, magnesium, and the mineral silica. They are in season and refreshing in these hot summer months, although they can be purchased year round in grocery stores. Try several different varieties in this salad.



- ¼ cup vinegar
- ¼ cup water
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ cup chopped fresh dill
- ½ cup chopped fresh mint
- ½ cup Greek yogurt
- Salt and pepper, to taste

Slice the cucumbers lengthwise, then slice half-moons on a bias, about ¼-inch thick. (The seeds can be removed if desired, but they provide a lot of the fiber.) Peel and cut the onion in half, then slice it thinly. Combine the vinegar, water, sugar and salt and stir until dissolved. Pour the solution over the cucumbers and onions, and allow the mixture to sit at room temperature for about 15 minutes. Drain the cucumbers. Stir in the herbs and yogurt, and season with salt and pepper (a pinch of white pepper is great in this salad). Refrigerate the salad for at least an hour. Serve chilled. Serves 6.

Roasted Beets
Beets are high in folate, potassium, manganese, dietary fiber, vitamin C and iron. While they are hard when purchased raw, once cooked, beets become soft and silky, with almost a buttery, earthy flavor that packs a powerful sweetness. Beets are high in sugar content, but they are still considered a low-calorie food.

- 8 small to medium sized beets, greens removed, leaving about one inch of stem
- 1 teaspoon olive oil
- Several sprigs of herbs (thyme, rosemary, oregano, sage are best)
- Salt and pepper

Preheat the oven to 350°. Scrub the beets gently with a vegetable brush and toss with the olive oil and some salt and pepper. Place the beets on top of the herbs in a roasting pan that can be tightly covered with foil, or a lidded casserole dish. Add a splash of water to the bottom of the dish and cover. Bake for 30 minutes to one hour, depending on the size of the beets (the larger, the longer the cooking time). When ready, a knife can be easily inserted into one. Remove from the oven and allow the beets to cool in the covered dish. When cool, slice off the tops and bottoms and the skins should peel off easily. Serve warm or chilled with a dollop of Greek yogurt or sour cream. Serves 2-4.

ZINNIA ENVY

THE PLANT LADY
KAREN REXRODE



How lucky is the gardener to have a sunny spot to grow zinnias. With their many forms, it’s best if the spot is large. I buy about five seed packs a year, each one a different color. The seed packs have shrunk in size over the last several years but I still get



in mid-July. The stems are fairly straight with some branching but it’s not hard to cut a 20 to 24” stem. I also tried Zinnia ‘Benary’s Giant White’ which has been the most outstanding white I have ever grown. The backs of the petals are green as they first open and remain that way until the petals curve all the way down. The plants are 36” tall and show no sign of slowing down. With the color combination of white and green, it goes with virtually anything and is stunning in a mixed flower arrangement. The seed is about seven cents each, a packet of 50 is only \$3.95. Now in the last 10 years we have seen a lot of improvements in the small flowering zinnias. Varieties like ‘Profusion’ and ‘Sahara’ are tough and drought tolerant. These types grow wider than tall and are called self-cleaning, meaning they shed old flowers. Some colors are better than others when it comes to self-cleaning. I particularly like the orange ‘Profusion’ best for just that. But the future of zinnia breeding with the larger forms is about to erupt. Breeders are changing the shape of the petals and new classifications will be forthcoming. Zinnias will be scabiosa and echinacea-like. Some will have smaller guard petals in the center with a strongly mounding shape. If you go on the internet and look up zinnia breeding, you will see pictures of some of the newer types. No seed companies offer them just yet.

As it stands, there is little that can be bought and bring such joy for such a small amount of money. The seed prefers to be sown directly in the ground (keep it watered!), so no futz with starter pots. Spend your money on good compost to plant them in, time to water them well, and the rewards are crazy good. Great varieties are available now and I’m sure it will be a couple years before we see the newest types, but if your shopping for seed this coming winter, try a few new zinnias. You’ll thank me next summer. Many years ago the first green flowering zinnia was introduced. The variety was named ‘Envy’ and more times than not, the seed would be fickle. We learned at the nursery if it sprouted with great gusto, it wasn’t going to be the true ‘Envy’ zinnia. If the seed looked a little strange and germination was erratic, it was the right seed. Over time improvements on the variety yielded better results and today it’s a fine variety that comes true from seed and indeed, has a nice green flower. It also branches fairly tight (like Z. ‘Zowie’), so tall stems are rarely available. Last year I tried Zinnia ‘Tequila Lime’, another green flowering form. Great results, wonderful color for about nine cents a seed. The flower seemed a little larger and the stems a little longer than Z. ‘Envy’. This year I went with Z. ‘Benary’s Giant Lime’ and it’s the real winner with vigor, long stems and gorgeous green flowers. The plant will grow to thirty six inches or more. Mine are already at that

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ALEX CUDABACK

Congrats to South Africa's Louis Oosthuizen on his breathtaking win on the Old Course over the weekend. He led for the final 48 holes, closed with a 1-under-par 71 on Sunday, and shot a 16-under 272 for the tournament.

Lee Westwood was the closest player to even getting a whiff of Oosthuizen, and he finished at 9-under.

And Oosthuizen wrapped up his win on Nelson Mandela's 92nd birthday, no less.

Not too shabby.

I can only hope The Kingsmen's "Louie Louie" now and forever replaces the brain-piercing buzz of the vuvuzela as the unofficial soundtrack of South Africa.

Speaking of vuvuzelas, thumbs up to Spain for defeating the Netherlands to secure its first World Cup title. I still don't "get" soccer's global appeal, particularly after so

much attention was given to the head-scratching refereeing, the lip-service to rethinking the "possibility" of limited use of instant-replay, and the perpetual, near-Shakespeare-ian flop-tackle that marred almost every game.

But what do I know? If it ain't broke, don't fix it, right? Billions the world over consider soccer the beautiful game. I can't wait to get my fill again.

In another four years.

Looks like the National League gets home field advantage in this year's World Series. After losing the previous 13 All Star games it must feel good for the Senior Circuit to finally be back on top. Like knowing you never have to hear another vuvuzela.

Ever.

Also in baseball, Fox analyst Tim McCarver took special exception to the prominence given to four-time-World-Series-winning-manager Joe Torre in the new Yankee Stadium. More precisely, McCarver took special exception to the lack of prominence

given to Torre in the House that George Built.

"You remember some of those despotic leaders in World War II, primarily in Russia and Germany, where they used to take those pictures that they had ... taken of former generals who were no longer alive, they had shot 'em," McCarver said. "They would airbrush the pictures, and airbrushed the generals out of the pictures. In a sense, that's what the Yankees have done with Joe Torre. They have airbrushed his legacy. I mean, there's no sign of Joe Torre at the stadium. And, that's ridiculous. I don't understand it."

Hmmmm. Well, from what I've heard, and I fully admit I haven't yet been, there is, indeed, very little reference made to Torre, pictorial or otherwise, anywhere in the Stadium. Is that unfortunate? Absolutely. Petty. Definitely. No organization that famously dug up a section of its concrete foundation to remove a David Ortiz jersey could have simply

forgotten to include some mention of the skipper who guided the Yankees to their greatest consistent successes during the Steinbrenner family's ownership. I'm not going out on a limb by saying that the Yankees wouldn't have collected all that hardware without Torre astutely pushing the buttons and pulling the levers that kept the Yankees Express on the tracks.

But to compare the current pettiness of Yankees' ownership, a group whose feelings were obviously deeply hurt by Torre's tell-all book, as clumsy an attempt to cash in and flip the bird all at the same time as I can remember in sports, to the leadership of World War Two-era Germany and Russia, to Hitler and Stalin, let's be clear, is way out of bounds.

McCarver had a point, even a good one, and it was obviously a point he'd been ruminating on for a while, but the manner in which he made it? Stupid and thoughtless.

Which is too bad, because McCarver, while many things, is neither of those.

Speaking of stupid and thoughtless, Dwyane Wade, the real winner of the LeBron James sweepstakes, climbed onto the open-mouth-insert-foot bandwagon when he said, "You all are going to make it seem like the World Trade is coming down again, but it's not going to be nothing but a couple of basketball games," while discussing the possibility of his Super Heat inevitably dropping two or three games in a row this upcoming season.

Really? People are going to compare a basketball losing-streak to the terrorist attacks of 9/11? I won't. Nobody I know is going to. As a matter of fact, I solemnly promise, now and before my dozens-strong readership, to personally take my trusty tack hammer to the forehead of the first dunce who does.

Again, Wade is smarter than this.

The last person on this special edition of "Wait, wait, you said what!?" is a verbal-grenade-tossing-veteran Jesse Jackson, who defended James's decision to bolt for the sandier, less tax-invasive pastures of South Beach and blasted Cleveland Cavalier's owner Dan Gilbert by saying, "[Gilbert's] feelings of betrayal personify a slave master mentality. He sees LeBron as a runaway slave." Really? I think Gilbert, whose open letter to James in the Cleveland Plain-Dealer was utterly bonkers, sees James as the girl who not only got away but broke the news from the arms of her new beau.

So Gilbert's sad and hacked and hurt.

But comparing him to a slave master?

Sadly, but alone in these three slips of the tongue, that's precisely what we've come to expect from Jackson, an otherwise noble man whose good intentions are too often overshadowed by his outlandish oratory.

Not unlike a vuvuzela.

Alex can be reached at cudak24@yahoo.com



ALBERT'S CORNER
A MONTHLY COLUMN FOR PEOPLE WHO SHARE THEIR HOMES WITH FOUR-LEGGED FRIENDS.

Fleas and ticks are out of control this year! They're everywhere, hopping around like it's one big pest party. I'm sick of it. Time for them to vamoose!

I'm always interested in non-chemical approaches to everything in life, so I wanted to find out if fleas and ticks can be controlled naturally. The answer, it seems, is yes. However, there is no one "magic bullet" homeopathic approach to pest control.

There's lots of controversy over what works and what doesn't, what's safe and what's not, and what's effective against which parasites. Garlic can be effective, but the amount to give a pet is absolutely critical because garlic can be toxic to dogs and cats. Brewers yeast, neem and eucalyptus can be effective against fleas, but not ticks. And eucalyptus is toxic if ingested and can cause severe skin irritation in high concentrations. The list goes on, as do the pros and cons.

Basically, what I've learned is that natural flea and tick control is a commitment worth making, but it is a commitment.

The work begins with daily grooming. The best tool for the job is a fine-toothed comb that can literally pull fleas out of a pet's coat. It's also helpful to give dogs a monthly bath. Some people bathe their dogs more frequently, but the conservative recommendation is monthly. Shampoos with natural flea repellants such as neem oil can be used instead of regular shampoo. Cats are wonderful self-groomers; so daily combing should be enough for them.

Used as recommended, certain homeopathic sprays or water additives can also be helpful. Neem Protect Spray by Ark Naturals and Flea Relief by Dr. Goodpet are two that have been around for years and get consistently

good reviews. They are safe for use with dogs and cats. It's important, however, to realize that these products are not as effective against ticks as they are against fleas.

As for other homeopathic approaches, like combinations of herbs and oils, it's important to consult holistic vets, or at least vets who are open to all-natural alternatives. There are things to consider such as weight, breed, and general health when determining what to use and how much of it to administer.

Perhaps the most important weapon against pests is a strong immune system. Animals with robust health tend to attract fewer parasites. Immune system strength is greatly helped by a wholesome diet and can be improved by the use of supplements. As with people, the closer a pet's diet is to whole food, the more likely the diet is truly healthy. Many raw food feeders, for instance, report fewer instances of pest infestation in their pets.

I wish I could have written that my research led me to the discovery of a miracle product, but it didn't. In the end, I'm afraid we're stuck with the same nagging problem ... to use or not to use chemicals. Normally I would say absolutely not, but with Lyme disease so prevalent in our area, I'm not sure what's worse - the chemicals or the significant possibility of contracting Lyme. This ace reporter is stumped ... with my stumpy little tail between my legs.

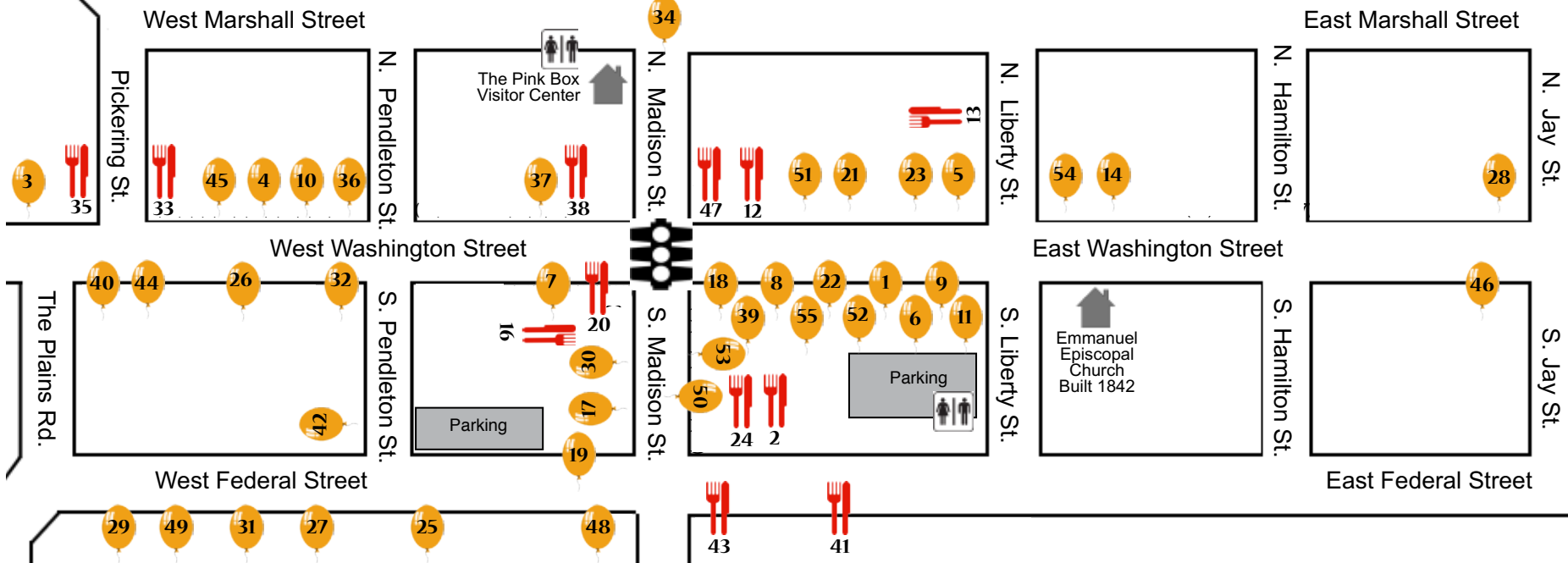
Albert, a Jack Russell Terrier, is Chairman of the Board of Wylie Wagg, a shop for dogs, cats, and their people, in Middleburg, Fairfax, Falls Church and Arlington.



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| 2) Back Street Café | 15) Four o'clock Fox | 29) Middleburg Tack Exchange | 43) The French Hound |
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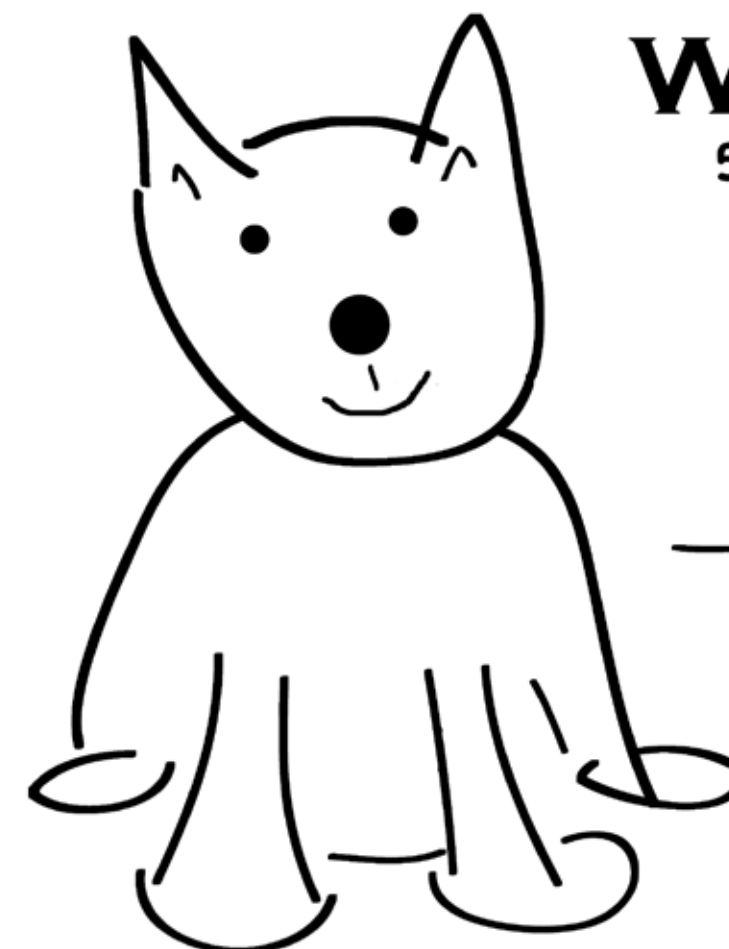


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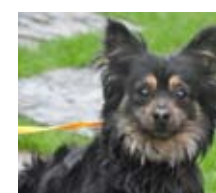
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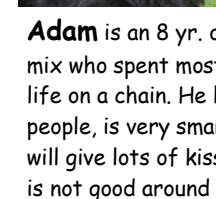
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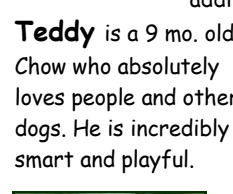
Misty is an adorable 8-10 yr. old Beagle. She is very sweet and is the ultimate dog. She loves people, dogs, & cats. She would make the perfect addition to any family.



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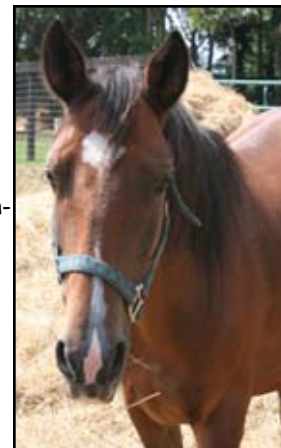
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CELEBRATING OUR NATION THROUGH COMMUNITY SPIRIT THE ANNUAL 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION AT THE MIDDLEBURG COMMUNITY

Fourth of July at the Middleburg Community Center typifies the old-fashioned, all-American Independence Day celebration that one might think was lost to a bygone era. For over sixty years the Middleburg Community Center has hosted the annual event which boasts the kind of wholesome family fun that Norman Rockwell might have portrayed: kids splashing in the pool, parents setting out picnics on blankets, the local boy scout troop hosting gunny sack races, the Ladies Auxiliary proudly displaying their homemade cakes, the American Legion raffling prizes, and—of course—a grand fireworks display!

In the 1950's the Middleburg Community Center was the only place in the area to have fireworks, so people came from miles around to watch. Joan Cole, who has managed the Community Center for over twenty years, recalls, "We were swamped with people in those days. I remember standing elbow to elbow with people while the fireworks were fired. The laws were different then, so people brought roman candles and sparklers and fired those, too." Today modernity might have crept its way into certain activities, like the Moon-bounce and a disc jockey spinning tunes, not to mention the cost of the fireworks display is upward of \$7000, but the heart of the event has remained constant—the Fourth of July festivities have always been and will always be about celebrating our nation through community spirit.

The Middleburg Community Center is truly a unique enterprise: created, operated, maintained and owned by the citizens who use it. Likewise, the Fourth of July celebration owes its success to the residents, friends, businesses and neighbors who give generously both in time and monetary gifts to make the day the amazing event that it is. Mary Jo Jackson, the Community Center's current President of the Board of Directors, comments, "Across the country people celebrate the Fourth of July, but the Middleburg Community Center celebration is a very special tradition for this town that many generations have enjoyed over the years. We are so happy to provide the backdrop for this occasion that is really put on 'by the people for the people' so to speak! Our Fourth of July celebration is what community is all about."

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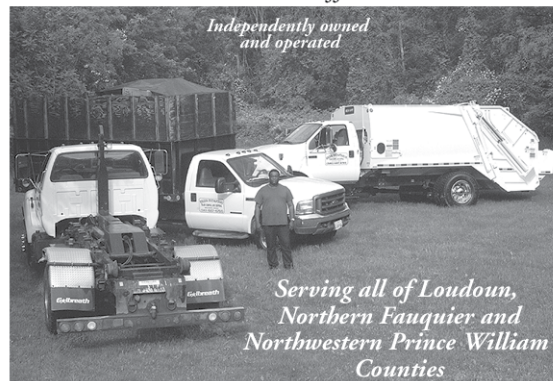
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Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905



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



Hidden Brook Farm

Unison, Virginia

25 acre horse property. Home was completely renovated from top to bottom in 2003. Bright open floor plan with 1st floor bedroom, pine floors, well proportioned rooms, 2 fireplaces and pool. Entire property is fully fenced, 16 stall stable with apartment, feed room, tack room and 2 bay garage. Lighted stone dust arena and great ride out. Manageable property for the amateur or professional. \$1,950,000.

Helen MacMahon (540) 454-1930



1780 Quaker Barn

Philomont, Virginia

Historic Quaker stone barn built in 1780 has been completely restored and updated in the last two years to become a four-five bedroom, 3 1/2 bath home with 3 fireplaces. The vaulted ceilings expose 40' hand hewn beams and original barn timbers. Stunning lower level reveals chestnut log beams, fieldstone walls and flagstone floors. Top of the line finishing throughout is further enhanced by the reclaimed stone façade surrounding the pool, terrace and outdoor fireplace. There is approx. 8,500 sq. ft. of living space with another 2,500 sq. ft. available to be finished. \$1,895,000.

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905



North Star Farm

Markham, Virginia

148 rolling and rising acres, mostly open with panoramic views, protected area, surrounded by large tracts. Stone cabin, 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, 2 fireplaces, vaulted ceilings, stone & hardwood floors, large screened porch overlooking pond. \$1,795,000.

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905



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 (703) 609-1905



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. \$945,000.

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905
Margaret Carroll (540) 454-0650



Conde Road

Marshall, Virginia

Stunning home perched on 8+ acres near Warrenton. 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 large entertainment center, wet bar and sitting room. 4 fireplaces, 3-car garage. Warrenton Hunt. \$895,000.

Walter Woodson (703) 499-4961



Stone Hill

Middleburg, Virginia

Classic 1850 stucco farm house just one mile from town. Country charm, original wood floors, high ceilings, lots of storage and a large welcoming front porch. 6+ acres makes this a great small horse property with a 4 stall stable including water and electric. 3 fenced paddocks. \$850,000.

Margaret Carroll (540) 454-0650



Mrs. Beaver's Cottage

Middleburg, Virginia

Excellent Middleburg location, Cape Cod circa 1944. Fabulous views of Blue Ridge, house sold in "as is" condition. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, living room with fireplace, hardwood floors under carpet. First time ever offered for sale. 7.12 mostly wooded acres. Great rehab potential. \$649,000.

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905



Piedmont Drive

Middleburg, Virginia

Elegant 4/5 bedrooms, 3 1/2 bath townhome in the village of Middleburg. 4 full levels, approx 4,000 sf of living space including fully finished lower level. Main floor has hardwood floors, large eat-in kitchen, two sided gas fireplace in lovely sunken living room and den/office. Lots of space, private patio, convenient easy living. OLREA. \$599,999.

Helen MacMahon (540) 454-1930



Freestate Road

Marshall, Virginia

Charming colonial on 6+ acres, 4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath with master suite, large living room with wood burning fireplace, kitchen with granite countertops, wood floors, 2 car garage, house well maintained and peaceful setting, minutes from Warrenton. Stream runs through back of property, and large portion of yard on invisible fence pet containment. \$479,000.

Alix Coolidge (703) 625-1724

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August 12th Deadline for July 26th Issue

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EGYPT FARM, PURCELLVILLE, VA

550 acres of open and wooded rolling land between Middleburg and Purcellville with spectacular mountain and pastoral views. Long road frontage on a quiet country road. 2 houses on the property sold as is. Some site work done. Substantial tax credit opportunity potential.

Jim Thompson

540-687-3216



INTERNATIONAL OFFERING

OAK STREAM, MIDDLEBURG, VA

Located just minutes from the Middleburg, this gracious English Country home is surrounded by 66 acres of rolling fields, stone walls, majestic Oaks and Kirk Branch Stream meandering throughout the property. A wonderful open, one level, floor plan with 4 spacious bedrooms and 4 full baths. Separate 3 bedroom cottage, garden shed, 4 bay garage plus 2 barns and run-in. Very private. \$3,400,000.

Anita Sisney

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INTERNATIONAL OFFERING

BLACK DOG MEADOW, RECTORTOWN, VA

Wonderful opportunity to purchase 107 acres in sought after Orange County Hunt territory. Property is board fenced, large pond, mountain and village views. In VOF Easement. May construct main house, secondary dwelling, barn or garage apartment plus farm buildings/structures. Great location only minutes from Middleburg, Warrenton and Rt. 66 access. \$1,890,000.

Anita Sisney

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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. \$1,800,000.

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

OLD WATERFORD ROAD, PAEONIAN SPRINGS, VA

Beautiful stone & hardiplank colonial home on 12+ acres. 6 BR, 6.5 BA, 6 FP. Fabulous Kit/FR with huge custom built center island w/antique wood top, granite counters, state of the art appliances. Main level master bedroom. Upgraded materials and superior craftsmanship throughout. Equestrian facilities include 5-stall stable, board fenced paddocks & riding ring. \$1,698,500.

Jud and Page Glascock

540-687-2226



INTERNATIONAL OFFERING

THE PERCH, MIDDLEBURG, VA

In the heart of the Orange County hunt just south of Middleburg. Light filled country contemporary in lush surroundings overlooking Little River. 8.9 acres. 2 bedroom main house, fabulous kitchen. Garage with lovely office/guest quarters above. 2 stall barn with groom's quarters. Fenced paddock with run-in shed. Price reduced. \$1,550,000.

Ruth Ripley

540-687-2222

Lynn Wiley

540-454-1527



INTERNATIONAL OFFERING

DOMENICA, HUME, VA

Very private Mediterranean-style home on 32 acres of rolling fields. A 7 acre vineyard is ready to be planted. Home features 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, living room with cathedral ceiling and large dining area. The home has fabulous views from all sides. A 3 story tower with additional bath, wine cellar, guest or office area. Pond, and out buildings. \$1,225,000.

Babette Scully

540-454-1431

Lynn Wiley

540-454-1527



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 8+ private acres with lovely views. \$995,000.

Linda Norris

540-270-7560



PLEASANT MEADOW LANE, PURCELLVILLE, VA

Custom colonial home on 13.6 fenced acres with beautiful mountain and pastoral views. The 5 bedroom, 4 bath home has a wonderful open floor plan along with quality amenities such as granite and cherry, detailed woodwork and a lovely slate patio and deck. Located in an established equestrian community with riding trails throughout. \$839,000.

Carol Fochtman

540-272-4334



DEER RUN, HUME, VA

Exceptionally well appointed country home in private setting in Old Dominion Hunt with tasteful finishes and architectural details. 4+ bedrooms including two main floor master suites. Professional landscaping. All in top condition. \$675,000.

Kathryn Harrell

540-687-2215

Linda Norris

540-270-7560



LOCUST GROVE, RECTORTOWN, VA

Historic stone and stucco farm house c. 1850 on 9.73 private acres in the famed Orange County Hunt. The 3 bedroom and 1.5 bath home is situated on land previously home to the Locust Hill Vineyard. The home is livable at present, but ready for major updating. Numerous out-buildings with unlimited potential. \$599,000.

Rick Lowe

703-509-3962

Carol Fochtman

540-272-4334

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