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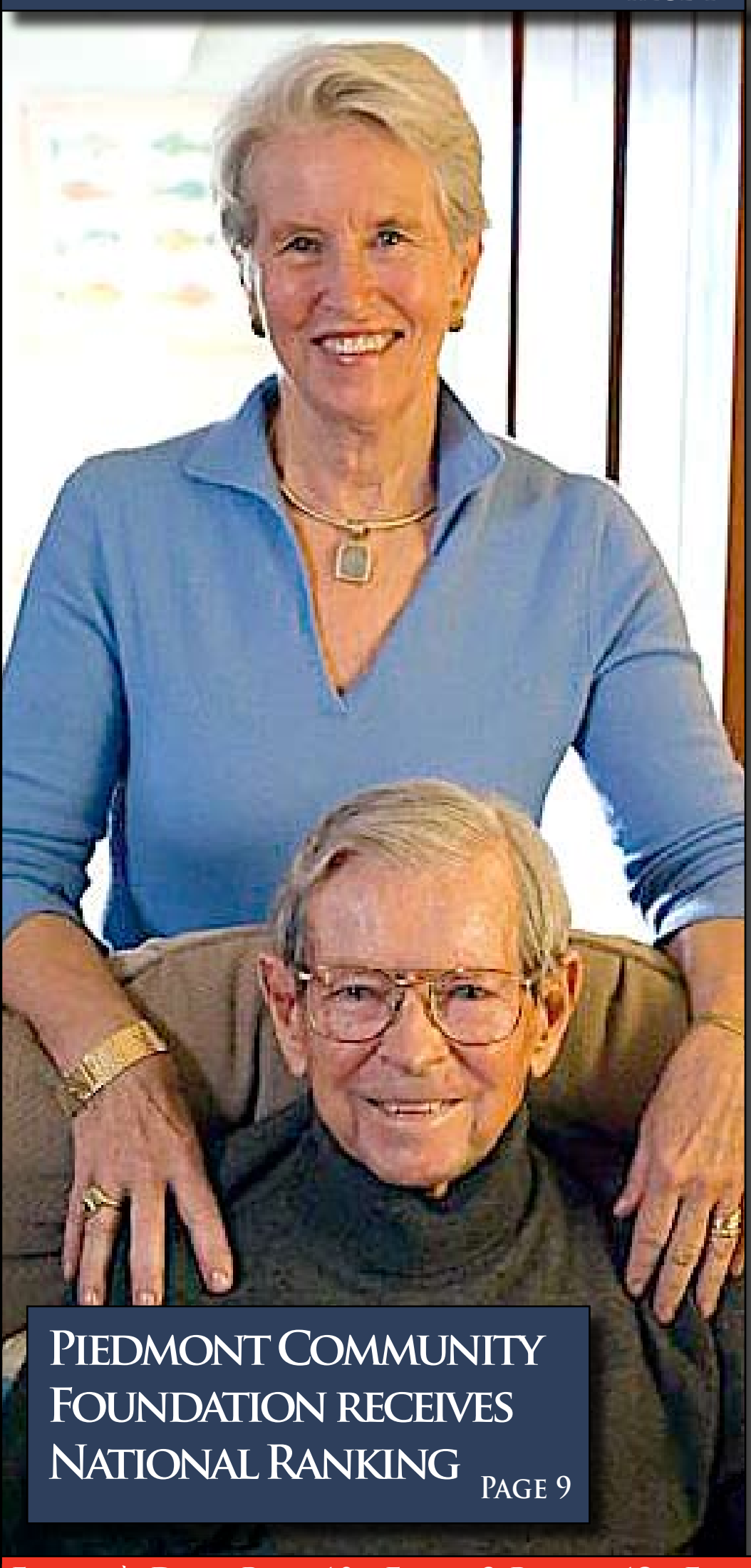
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2010 Loudoun Laurels for Washburns and May

On November 12, Middleburg's Lang and Judy Washburn joined Virginia State Delegate Joe May as the recipients of the third annual Loudoun Laurels in ceremonies that took place in the historic Morven Park Carriage Collection Museum.

First awarded in 2008 as part of an initiative founded by Inova Loudoun Hospital CEO, Randy Kelley, the newly independent non-profit program seeks out, recognizes, and captures for history the lives and work of some of the truly outstanding individuals who make Greater Loudoun County an exceptional place to live.

Lang and Judy Washburn

Middleburg's Judy and Lang Washburn received the Laurels this year for Lifetime Service.

Laurels Board and Founders' Committee Member Joe Boling described the award as an appreciation, "…for creativity, wisdom, courage and justice through ongoing service to the people of Loudoun County. These are individuals whom we believe will serve as outstanding and inspiring role models for civic engagement in the spirit of the Loudoun Laurels."

"Their service to Loudoun County," he continued, "is as profound, as it is profoundly unsung."

Judy was a founder of the Windy Hill Foundation, serving on the charter Board and for each of the 29 years since.

She served on the Board of the Evans Home for Children and was one of the founders of the Firehouse Chili Dinners in support of the Middleburg Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company.

She has written, Boling noted, by all accounts, hundreds, if not thousands of personal letters that have moved tens of thousands of dollars toward local Loudoun charities.

Lang, a decorated naval aviator, helicopter manufacturing pioneer, GOP strategist and organizer, Assistant Secretary of Commerce, and Disney VP, served as the irreplaceable, and (as always) "unofficial" fundraising captain for the Windy Hill Foundation, collecting over $7 million for affordable housing in Loudoun County.

He was one of the founders of the Middleburg Forum, and led the Bicentennial Beautification Committee that replaced nearly all the trees on the main streets of Middleburg.

Both Lang and Judy were recently honored by The Hill School for their contributions to its growth and development.

Boling also noted that the work they've both done that we'll never know about would probably merit Laurels on their own.

Judy Washburn recently told the Loudoun Times Mirror, "I think we owe it to this beautiful way of life to give back to it."

Boling noted that the Laurels symbolize both the true nature of the debt, and by whom, and to whom it is really owed.

Lang Washburn's granddaughter, Lily accepted the medal on his behalf.

Joe May

Thirty-third District Delegate Joe May, founder and CEO of EIT, was recognized for statesmanship and his contributions to business development in Greater Loudoun County.

REHAU Incorporated's North American CEO, Dr. Kitty Saylor introduced May as " . . . the oldest boy in a 6th-generation farm family from the Valley, who happily for us all, discovered that he might have more talent than his high school teachers suspected ."

May joined the Army right out of high school, and began to suspect he might have that "talent" while caring for the electronics of what were then, in the late 1950's, some of the world's most sophisticated guided missiles.

He credits one of his commanding officers with giving him the idea of 'giving college a try;' earned his engineering degree on eve of the Cuban missile crisis; and was immediately hired by the world-famous physics research team at DuPont's Wilmington Experimental Station.

May soon became a registered professional engineer, and went on to build many of the things he conceived, founding in the process, the highly respected and equally successful engineering and manufacturing firm, Electronic Instrumentation Technologies, now best know as EIT.

He now has well over 20 patents to his personal credit and more in the works, ranging from devices to measure the octane rating of your gasoline, to famous yellow and blue lines on your TV screens, indicating how many yards your favorite football team has to cover for a first down.

In 1993 Loudoun Laureate Paul Ziluca, then Chairman of the state's Republican Party, asked Joe, who had never run for any political office, to try for the 33rd District seat in the Virginia House of Delegates.

He's been re-elected nine times and serves on the Appropriations and Science and Technology Committees, and chairs the Transportation Committee.

Joe and his wife Bobby live in Leesburg. They have two daughters, Dr. Susan M. Pederson and Elaine M. Attridge.

Having recently added helicopter pilot's license to his fixed-wing credentials May says he looks forward to continuing to work, and continuing to serve.

The Loudoun Laurels Archives

The ongoing mission of the Loudoun Laurels is not only to seek out and honor the program's Laureates, but to preserve, protect and pass on their stories to future generations.

The Washburns and Delegate May joined 2008 Laureates Kim Hart, Eugene Scheel and Childs Burden, and 2009 Laureates Paul Ziluca and Karen Russell, in allowing the program to tape and produce extended video portraits, outlining their lives and work.

Those recordings (and other materials) are now part of the permanent research collections on the history of Loudoun County, a special Loudoun Laurels Collection, housed at the Thomas Balch Library in Leesburg.

Curated by the Balch library staff, the recordings are made available for non-commercial use by students of the history of Greater Loudoun from all over the world.

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Peter Pejacsevich 540-270-3835 $ 5,750,000



Korea Ln, Middleburg - Amazing 148+/- acre Fox Cross estate with gated entrance & stream just 2 miles from Middleburg. Huge 7 bed, 7 bath all brick manor home w/massive room sizes and three finished levels. Expansive deck overlooks the pool and patio. Wooded & open acreage with fenced pastures, 2 barns and two guest houses. Sub-dividable land not in easement

Peter Pejacsevich 540-270-3835 $ 5,100,000



Haps Ln, Purcellville - Modern horse training facility on 50 acres with 28 stall barn and an indoor barn. Half mile track. 38 acres of fencing with 15 paddocks. Two ponds and superior east-west ridgeline views. Approved 3 acre 4 bedroom home.

Charlie Westbrook 703-447-9505 $3,850,000



Clay Hill Ln, Millwood - Beautiful farm in the heart of Blue Ridge Hunt country. House totally renovated, no detail left unturned. In-law/nanny/guest suite attached to main house. Pool with large pool house, har-tru tennis court. Additional 2 bedroom guest house on property. Chicken house, barn/machine shed - board fencing surrounds this 120 lovely acres. Fantastic landscaping. Views of the Blue Ridge mnts.

Anne McIntosh 703-509-4499 $3,400,000



Glenwood Grange – Berryville - a beautiful historic farm - house full of character, kitchen on bottom floor, beamed ceilings, beautiful wood floors, sunroom/porch on each level, exquisite views of the Blue Ridge Mnts, bank barn, corncrib, garage, 3 bdrm tenant house with separate drive, all on 70 acres in Blue Ridge Hunt country. Convenient to rt. 7, Washington DC 1 hr, Dulles airport 40 min, Winchester 20 min....

Anne McIntosh 703-509-4499 $2,400,000



Walsh Farm - Historic equine property in an idyllic setting at the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains within Piedmont Hunt. The Manor House is nestled within a tapestry of mature trees originally forming part of the Berkeley Mansion estate. Today, the estate encompasses a cluster of historically significant buildings, 1790 stone cottage/smoke house & Ice house

Paul Smith 571-233-2025 $2,250,000
Scott Buzzelli 540-454-1399



White Goose Ln - 15+ acres. English country home w/lake and pool. Master main w/luxurious bathroom. Gourmet kitchen/family room w/ great fireplace & Viking appliances. Tiled mud room w/separate laundry room & WC. Large rec. room & sports bar w/fireplace & wall of French doors to patio. Gym & playroom.

Wendy Andrews 703-408-0719 $1,645,000



New Mountain Road - Aldie - Spectacular eastern & western views from this incredible 60-acre lot on Mount Aldie, surrounded by mature trees. Minutes to Rte 50 & Aldie. Convenient to Middleburg, Dulles & Leesburg. 1,500 ft of water frontage on Little River. Truly amazing property. Active springs. Park-like setting. Approved perc.

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Atoka Chase - Middleburg - Incredible custom luxury home on 10 acre lot. 2 story foyer, cathedral & 9' ceilings. Open floor plan. Hardwood & marble flooring. Kitchen island, granite countertops, European appl.., fixtures and lighting. Renovated luxury baths. Plantation shutters, ceiling fans, skylights, built-ins, large rooms & tons of storage. Outdoor spa. Covered wrap around porch w/ mtn/view...

Scott Buzzelli 540-454-1399 $1,400,000



Rokeby Road - Upperville - True Custom Finishes -Reclaimed hardwood flooring throughout w/custom terra cotta/wood, limestone tops, Master Bedroom on main floor , custom-built-ins, custom kitchen w/granite tops, high-end plumbing & lighting, well landscaped w/pond & stone walls, mahogany garage doors, custom ceilings, easy access to Rte50.

Scott Buzzelli 540-454-1399 $1,395,000



St. Louis Rd. - Stunning brick and cedar colonial on 6+ private and beautifully landscaped acres,features two gracious decks on two levels with spacious pool and stone three bay barn with post and beam construction.This traditional floor plan offers a wood paneled den, remodeled kitchen with granite counters,sun-room,spacious living and dinning room and family room with view to the deck and pool..

Scott Buzzelli 540-454-1399 $649,000



Crosman Ct – Purcellville - Immaculate 4 bedroom, 3 bath Essex model on .30 ac mountain views. Extended family room and master suite finished lower level with lots of built-in shelves, deck opens to level fenced yard!.

Susan Hensley 703-732-5867 $397,000

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News of Note

Julie Moir Messervy's Gardens Grow Very Well

She'll Tell You How at the February 26th Garden Club Symposium

Mark your 2011 calendars now and order your tickets immediately for the Middleburg Horticultural Symposium, February 26th, when Julie Moir Messervy, one of the world's most respected garden designers, discusses "Home Outside: Creating the Landscape You Love."

Julie's portfolio includes enchanting gardens for noted estates, Yo-Yo Ma's Music Garden in Toronto, gardens for children of all ages and special features of world-famous landscape cemeteries. She is as at home composing landscapes of beauty and meaning as she is furthering the evolution of landscape design… Something she does with grace and sensitivity.

The 2011 symposium entitled "The Glory of the Garden : From the Ground Up" is organized and sponsored by the Fauquier and Loudoun Garden Club, a non-profit organization that is affiliated with The Garden Club of America and The Garden Club of Virginia. Taking place at The Hill School, proceedings begin at 8:30 a.m. and continue through lunch and into the afternoon. Julie's lecture, "Home Outside: Creating the Landscape You Love," begins at 2:30 p.m. and concludes the symposium.

"My mother always gardened," Julie recounted, "…but my six brothers and sisters might not have loved it as much as I. When we moved to an old Italianate home in Connecticut with the bones of formal gardens, I was in heaven."

Allowing as how the annual boxing and unboxing of endless boxwoods might not have been her favorite pastime, she enthusiastically planned and planted a serious vegetable garden the summer she was 11 before she left for two weeks with a friend in Chicago. Her brothers promised to tend it until she returned, but, sadly, her newly sprouting garden was in the perfect spot for a new clay tennis court. The tennis court won.

All was not well when she returned, but she recovered, having no idea at all that after studying art history and art at Wellesley and doing graduate work in architecture at MIT, she would fall madly in love with landscape design when researching Japanese Gardens.

"It was then that I realized I could have a career doing all of the things I loved to do by creating landscapes of beauty and meaning, like the ones I studied in Japan."

After studying in Japan with a young garden master, Kinsaku Nakane, Julie returned to MIT and the Radcliffe Seminars to teach before she began building gardens and then taking design commissions.

Julie's much applauded work with Yo-Yo Ma on the Toronto Music Garden will be a highlight of her lecture at the Middleburg Horticultural Symposium, as will her landscape design theory and process.

Four Lectures

Three additional lectures by individuals whose experience and expertise are highly respected will also be included in the symposium. All lectures and lunch are included in the early bird price of $120 when you secure your reservations before February 1st. If you reserve after February 1st, the price is $135.

Doug Tallamy, Professor and Chair of the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, will speak on "Bringing Nature Home." He will discuss the extremely important ecological roles played by the plants in our landscapes, and will emphasize the benefits of designing gardens with these roles in mind.



Sean Hogan, of Cistus Design and Nursery, near Portland, Oregon, will speak on the topic, "Who'da Thunk, Fabulous New Trees, Shrubs and Perennials for Temperate Climates." A leader in the Northwest horticultural industry, Sean is widely published in botanical literature and magazines.

Holly Shimizu, who has been the Executive Director of the United States Botanic Garden since 2000, will discuss "The Garden of Essential Fragrance and Flavor." Holly will focus on the values of the best and must-grow herbs, and other plants that bring scents to the garden throughout the year as well as at different times of day.

Elaine Burden, who has served as chairman of the Middleburg Horticultural Symposium since 1997, explained how pleased the committee is to present the 2011 program.

"It is always our goal to bring nationally recognized horticulturists and designers to our region for the symposium," she noted. "Our program this year is really outstanding and we are confident our guests will leave with terrific ideas and lots of new thinking about how to create and care for the gardens we love."

Many fabulous vendors will make their wares available at the February 26th Middleburg Horticultural Symposium.

"This year, vendors will offer everything from orchids, plants and garden tools to jewelry, books and much, much more," Elaine explained. "It will be a truly memorable day for gardeners and those who enjoy them. We look forward to welcoming everyone there."

For more information about The Glory of the Garden Symposium, please contact Elaine Burden at 540 687 6940. To register, please make checks payable to Fauquier and Loudoun Garden Club and send to Mrs. Frank Courts, 22035 Quaker Lane, Middleburg, VA, 20117.

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News of Note

Money Money Money

On Thursday, October 28, Jeff Mitchell and Sandy Tondreau, of Mitchell & Company summarized their formal audit of Middleburg's books for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010, Jerry Shiro's last as Middleburg's Town Administrator.

What We Own

Middleburg ended the year with total assets of $8.7 million: $1.6 million in cash; $196,000 in uncollected receivables; and, $7 million in fixed assets.

Mitchell quickly noted that $127,000 of the nearly $200,000 in receivables were accountable to July water and sewer bills, just mailed at the time of the audit, not to large numbers of unpaid bills.

The $7 million in fixed assets include, among other things, the depreciated original cost of the Town's water lines, wells, treatment plants, and office buildings.

What We Owe

The Town's payables are "fairly current" Mitchell noted. The Town's long-term debt stands at $3.5 million, $3.2 million of which stems an interest-cost-saving refinance of Town bonds in 2007.

General Fund Deficit

The Town's General Fund, operated at a deficit of $122,000 in fiscal 2010, Mitchell reported. Most of that deficit was due to unanticipated snow removal costs of some $80,000.

A decrease in General Fund revenues also contributed to the deficit. In 2008, the Town received bank tax revenue of $232,000. In 2010 that number had dropped to $150,000. Parking revenues also dropped, from $71,000 in 2008 to only $39,000 in 2010. Revenue from the Town's real estate tax, according to Mitchell, "stayed fairly level even though the assessments were down slightly."

Mitchell described the town's expense control as "excellent," with General Fund expenses for the fiscal year totaling only $581,000, some $99,000 under the $668,000 budget.

The Health Center Fund, which earns money from rents on the town-owned Health Center Building, and provides funds for a number of charitable and other town-approved social service activities, reported an operating surplus of $14,000.

The third of the Town's operating accounts, the Water/Sewer Fund operated at a nominal deficit of $215,000, though Mitchell noted that, strictly speaking, the figure included elements that were "not truly operating costs." If one looked at real revenue vs. real operating costs, Mitchell assured Council, the Water/Sewer Fund would show only a $52,000 loss.

Where Has All the Water Gone?

One of the abiding mysteries of the Town's Water/Sewer system remains the discrepancy from what appears to be the number of gallons of water PUMPED by the town, vs. the number of gallons BILLED.

For years, Middleburg has "lost" roughly half its water . . . issuing water bills for only 50% of the water apparently being pumped through the town's systems. Other towns in Loudoun appear to be able to account for at least 70% of their water, with some accounting for as much as 9 gallons out of every 10.

Mitchell noted, with some frustration that "this was an issue he has raised over and over again, with no solution."

Mayor Betsy Davis suggested that "this item be put on the Council's plate." Councilmember Mark Snyder also remarked that he "planned to bring these issues back to the Council soon."

All in all, Middleburg's budgeting process had worked "very well" according to Mitchell, who noted that his firm's audit showed nothing "Council did not know about even though it operated at a deficit".

More Trash Talk

After further discussion of the already much-debated amendments to the Town's Trash ordinances proposed amendments to garbage ordinance, Council again took no action.

After taking notes on nearly an hour of discussion, Town Clerk Rhonda North observed that "the Council was expanding the ordinance greatly beyond what it has had in the past, " suggesting that " it may take some time to get the ordinance to the point where the Council was comfortable adopting it." Mayor Davis thanked the Town Clerk for all her work on the proposed changes to date, as Council again tabled the matter for later deliberation.

Schiro Honored

Mayor Betsey Davis presented outgoing Town Administrator Jerry Schiro with a copy of Council's formal proclamation recognizing his accomplishments, as well as a framed photograph, taken by Jim Poston, of the 2009 Christmas in Middleburg event.

Davis noted, on behalf of the entire Council and Town, that Schiro would be greatly missed.

Mr. Schiro thanked the Council and graciously remarked that he had enjoyed his tenure greatly.

Holiday Parking

Council voted unanimously to allow free parking in all Middleburg's public parking lots beginning Monday, December 6 through Friday, December 31/

The Meandering Trail

Councilmember Bundles Murdock reported that those interested in the ongoing "meandering trail project" were forming a new committee, which would, in time, provide Council with recommendations for a walking trail that would circumnavigate the village, passing though it most scenic and interesting natural assets.

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SUBARU

Old Europe and New World Combine at Julien's

A seasoned international restaurateur and wine merchant, Jean-Michele Lacaze speaks of his native Bordeaux with affection, nostalgia and, in spite of living for 35 years in the USA, an unmistakable and charming French accent.

Jean-Michele is patriarch of a growing family enterprise in Middleburg that now includes both a café -restaurant and European style market. Without fail, he greets visitors with a warm "bonjour" and often lingers for conversation.

Well positioned on West Washington Street, Julien's Café Restaurant opened in April this year and has quickly become an important rest stop for the Village's lunch and dinner crowds.

Son Julien's influence and presence are felt throughout the establishment. His experience includes a lifetime of internship with his parents in previous restaurants and two years at a restaurant in Spain. Even when the restaurant is at full capacity, the young chef displays a Zen-like calm and focus.

Classic items like oysters on the half-shell, paté, mussels and croque monsieur are always available with a delicious club sandwich and a perfect New York style Reuben equally appealing.

Julien's staff already knows their regular customers by name, and many of those regulars already consider the restaurant their home away from home.

Francois Lacaze, Julien's mother, oversees the restaurant and market "from the front." She anchors the team as they serve busy lunch and evening seatings.

Young Julien's influence and presence are felt throughout. His experience, of course, includes a lifetime of internship with his parents, in previous restaurants and two years of experience at a restaurant in Spain. Even when the restaurant at full capacity, he displays a Zen-like order amidst the din.

Julien's European Market, which opened recently next door, now offers a selection of more than 120 wines from around the world, a dozen world class cheeses and hard-to-find gourmet delicacies like magret de canard and boudin noir.

"We try to offer good food and wine at good prices," Julien explained. "Fortunately our customers are responding well to what we offer." Tailgating packages and catering are already well established, and Julien soon plans to introduce complete take-home meals.

"We are happy to be a part of the community," said Francois, "It means a lot to have roots, and we hope the roots we have set here in Middleburg will grow long and deep."

For reservations, please telephone 540 687 3123. Julien's is located at 3 West Washington Street, Middleburg VA.

Arts Instead of Apples at 'Hill High Orchards' in Round Hill

When Round Hill Arts Center outgrew their first space in an old furniture factory in the village, the much-loved Hill High Apple Orchard facility on Harry Bird Highway was in need of a new mission in life. Today, a lively mix of new shops and the brand new Arts Center studios welcome visitors and students of all ages.

Whether your passion is pottery, painting, porcelain or poetry, you will find teachers, aficionados and friends in the Round Hill Arts Center spaces at 35246 Harry Bird Highway morning, noon and night.

There is a brand new pottery studio with firing and glazing rooms, delightful children's studio space that welcomes every level of enthusiasm and abandon and lots of flexible space for literary, Celtic and poetry jams, concerts and Acadian weaving classes.

"This is where the arts and the community meet," explains Marketing Manager Carolyn Christensen. "We want to be part of the vibrant arts community in Loudoun County," the lovely Philomont native says enthusiastically.

"There is a beautiful and particular joy in creating something," she continues. "Not only does recent and rigorous scientific research support the importance of the arts and creativity in brain development, we are more and more aware that children need the arts to develop new synaptic processes."

"When these windows are opened with exposure to music and visual arts, the individual is able to live a fuller life. If, at Round Hill Arts Center, we can help accomplish this, we will benefit our citizens and our community at large."

The non-profit 501(c)(3) organization shares the Hill High Apple Orchard space with the original country store which still sells famous pies, the Gateway Gallery, an artists cooperative and gift shop, and the Bogati Bodega & Vineyard. All the shops partner and work together on events at Hill High that contribute in many ways to community and county life.

"We all believe in the resurgence of the community art movement that is alive and well in many parts of the country," explained Carolyn. "We want to be part of that movement and build resources for citizens of all ages at the Center."

An easy drive from every corner of Loudoun County and only a little farther from points east, west, north and south, the Round Hill Arts Center is a perfect place for a weekend family outing, Holiday shopping, a music event or summer camps and workshops.

Hope Haynes who was the founder of the Round Hill Arts Center (RHAC) was a woman of great vision and stewardship.

Bob Lewis, the property owner and landlord for RHAC today, shares that vision for the greater Loudoun community.

Every third Friday of the month there is an Open House at Round Hill Arts Center. Everyone is welcome and there are lots of activities. An art exhibition of teachers' work is on display now and the Community Literary Jams are the first and third Sundays of the month from 1-3:30 p.m.

For more information about classes, bazaars, how to rent space for special events and much more, please visit www.roundhillartscenter.org or telephone 540 338 5022.

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News of Note

New Cub Scout Pack 1737's Good Deed

Linda Platt

Middleburg's new Cub Scout Pack recently helped Andy Bergner honor his beloved wife Audrey Windsor Bergner by applying the proceeds from the sale of first editions of her still popular guidebook to give a much-needed coat of paint to the fence at The Pink Box.

Andy found a box of the late Mrs. Bergner's first edition copies of her Visitor's Guide to Middleburg, Virginia and the Surrounding John Singleton Mosby Heritage Area, tucked away in their Middleburg home.

Published in 1997, the firsts had been packed away after the guidebook was revised in 2006. He knew how much Audrey loved The Pink Box, where she was a docent for many years, and where he continues to serve as a docent today.

With the enthusiastic help of Mary Kay Garwood and Middleburg Millwork the books were sold, the proceeds used to purchase paint and brushes and tools and the plunder was given over to the Cub Scouts who took the much-needed project to a successful conclusion under the direction of Marie Feil.

"Audrey' would," he said smiling, "have approved Middleburg's new Cub Scout Pack is number 1737 to honor Col. Leven Powell's birth. Col. Powell purchased the land now known as Middleburg.

Chartered by Emmanuel Episcopal Church, the Pack currently has 35 scouts with more joining every week.

Santa Claus will meet children at The Pink Box on three weekends this year, November 27th and 28th, December 4th and 5th, and December 11th and 12th.



George White Fencing donates fence to Middleburg Elementary



Students from Middleburg Elementary School thank George White Fencing for donating a fence around the ball fields designed to keep balls from rolling into the parking lot. Pictured with the students are George White, owner and Fernando Villavicencio, manager.

Farmer's Delight is Awarded VADAR Grant

Farmer's Delight Plantation, home of The McGhee Foundation in Middleburg, Virginia was recently awarded a grant of $10,000, given by VADAR (Virginia Daughters of the American Revolution) to restore a section of the original structure of the manor house. At a meeting held at Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Middleburg last month, Richard Berger, Executive Director of The McGhee Foundation, a 501(c)(3), made a presentation about the historic property to the Ketoctin Chapter, National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (Loudoun County). Following the meeting, Berger invited all for a tour of Farmer's Delight.

Teresa McCarthy, Regent of the Ketoctin Chapter who spearheaded VADAR's interest and support of Farmer's Delight early on, was present for the day, as were 24 members, including a number of Board members and regents: Wendy Bye, Susannah Harding, Joan Whitener, Susan Webber, Wanda English, Victoria Raabe, and Jane Bogle.

For more information about The McGhee Foundation and Farmer's Delight Plantation, please call or email: 540-687-3743, info@farmersdelight.org.

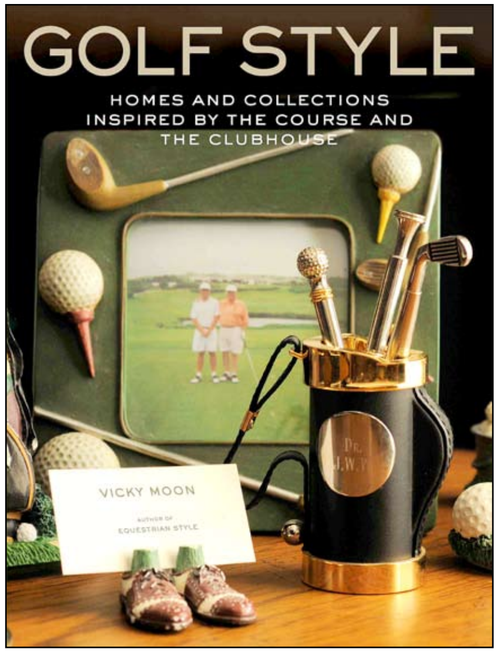
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News of Note

Golf Style

Homes and Collections Inspired by the Course and the Clubhouse By Vicky Moon



Whether just starting out as a duffer or reaching the highest level of the game as a PGA Tour pro, golfers of all kinds are united by their passion for the sport. Their desire to make golf a part of their lives extends far beyond the confines of their favorite course.

Now, Equestrian Style author Vicky Moon brings her lyrical writing touch and her expansive eye to the world of possibilities the game has inspired. With more than 500 photos and in-depth stories about the characters, the courses, the clubhouses, the traditions, the innovations, and the historical moments that make up the stuff of legend, Golf Style: Homes and Collections Inspired by the Course and the Clubhouse (Clarkson Potter, on sale December 7, 2010) is the most comprehensive book ever for lovers of the sport and its iconic style.

Golf Style takes readers into the homes and decorating minds—not just the clubhouses—of famous golfers, award-winning course designers, and renowned interior designers. With sidebars on fashion and jewelry, collecting clubs, golf art and antiques, and using golf fabrics in the home, this book is as useful as it is inspirational.

Featuring eighteen chapters (of course), Golf Style draws us into the world of golf, including:

* The expansion of Virginia Tech alumni and young golf champion Drew Weaver's home to accommodate his passion, including golf memorabilia and a growing trophy collection
* PGA Tour veteran Fred Fun, who built his dream home complete with a practice putting green
* The influence of LPGA stalwart Sophie Gustafson's style of play on her golf wardrobe choices
* Valuable golf art, in a chapter featuring more than a dozen notable historical and current golf artists
* The world of Dorothy Draper's decorating heir, Carleton Varney, as he weaves golf style into the legendary Greenbrier Resort's décor using golf-themed fabrics and rugs, lamps with golf motifs, and other inspiring pieces
* The annual gathering at the most famous golf site in America, Augusta National, which epitomizes the golf lifestyle in all its forms—play, food, and fashion—for The Masters
* PGA Tour player Duffy Waldorf as he uses his wine cellar and his passion for golf to entertain
* And much, much more

Author Vicky Moon's travels have taken her from Palm Beach to the Greenbrier in West Virginia to the exclusive Augusta National Golf Club in Georgia to Hay-on-Wye, Wales, as she chronicled all the very best a golf lifestyle has to offer. Golf Style is destined to be a must-have collectible object and idea resource for every lover of golf.

About the Author

A writer and photographer for more than twenty years, Vicky Moon has covered prominent lives in People and the Washington Post, written about lavish parties for Town & Country, chronicled homes and gardens for Veranda and Southern Accents, and currently writes a monthly column for Washington Life. She is the author of six books, including The Private Passion of Jackie Kennedy Onassis: Portrait of a Rider and Equestrian Style: Home Design, Couture, and Collections from the Eclectic to the Elegant. She lives in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and Middleburg, Virginia, with her husband, sportswriter Leonard Shapiro.

Seasons Greetings

Duchessa

Middleburg

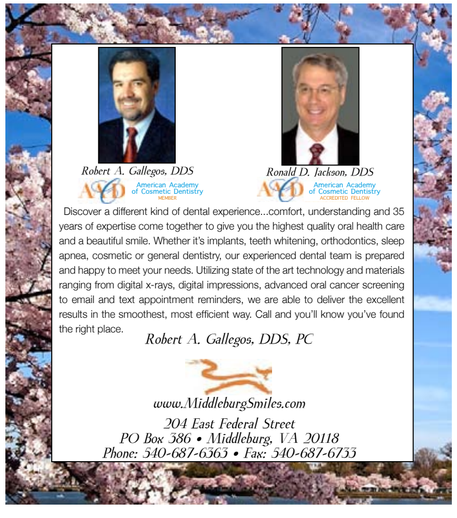
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Piedmont Community Foundation receives National Ranking

For the first time in its 11-year history, the Piedmont Community Foundation (PCF) has been ranked in the top hundred of the most active grant-makers in the United States based on the percentage of its assets distributed to worthy causes in Loudoun and Fauquier counties.

The annual rankings, an initiative of the national Council of Foundations, placed the Piedmont Community Foundation No. 54, the highest ranking "active grant-maker" of any foundation in the state of Virginia. In fact, only two foundations in the state made the top hundred list, with The Community Foundation serving Richmond/Central Virginia ranked No. 83.

The PCF is approaching $1 million in assets with about 80% in permanent endowments. Annually they distribute to a wide variety of worthy causes in the two counties. Over the 12-month period from Sept. 30, 2009 to Sept. 30, 2010, the PCF has awarded grants totaling over $121,000.

"We're doing extremely well with what we have," said Karen Krei, executive director for the PCF." Foundation goals are to attract philanthropic assets, raise money, establish new endowed funds and make grants to improve quality of life in the community. "We are constantly working to help donors impact their community in an effective manner at low cost. Once assets come to us we're not sitting on them. We try to get them working in the community as quickly as we can under the usage agreements for each fund. This ranking just shows how serious we are about getting money to charitable needs while simultaneously building permanent grant resources. We're very excited about it, and very excited about our future, as well."

"We need people to put us on their giving list. Here we are, this little gem growing with value added philanthropy, and all for the community we live in. Participation by everyone makes the community stronger."

One of the model community outreach grant programs involves the S. Murray Rust and Mary H. C. Rust Student Philanthropy Project which now has participation from 15 public and private high schools. The SPP tries to distribute $5,000 every year to worthy causes the students themselves determine after encouraging requests for proposal from other youth and after a rigorous review of submitted grant proposals.

The students' goals include providing food, clothing and shelter, promoting positive and healthy lifestyles among their fellow students, addressing educational improvements and maintaining and improving the environment.

"We encourage the public to support the grant program for the students," Krei said. "They're really doing a wonderful job, and they'd like to do more."

Foxcroft Christmas Pageant

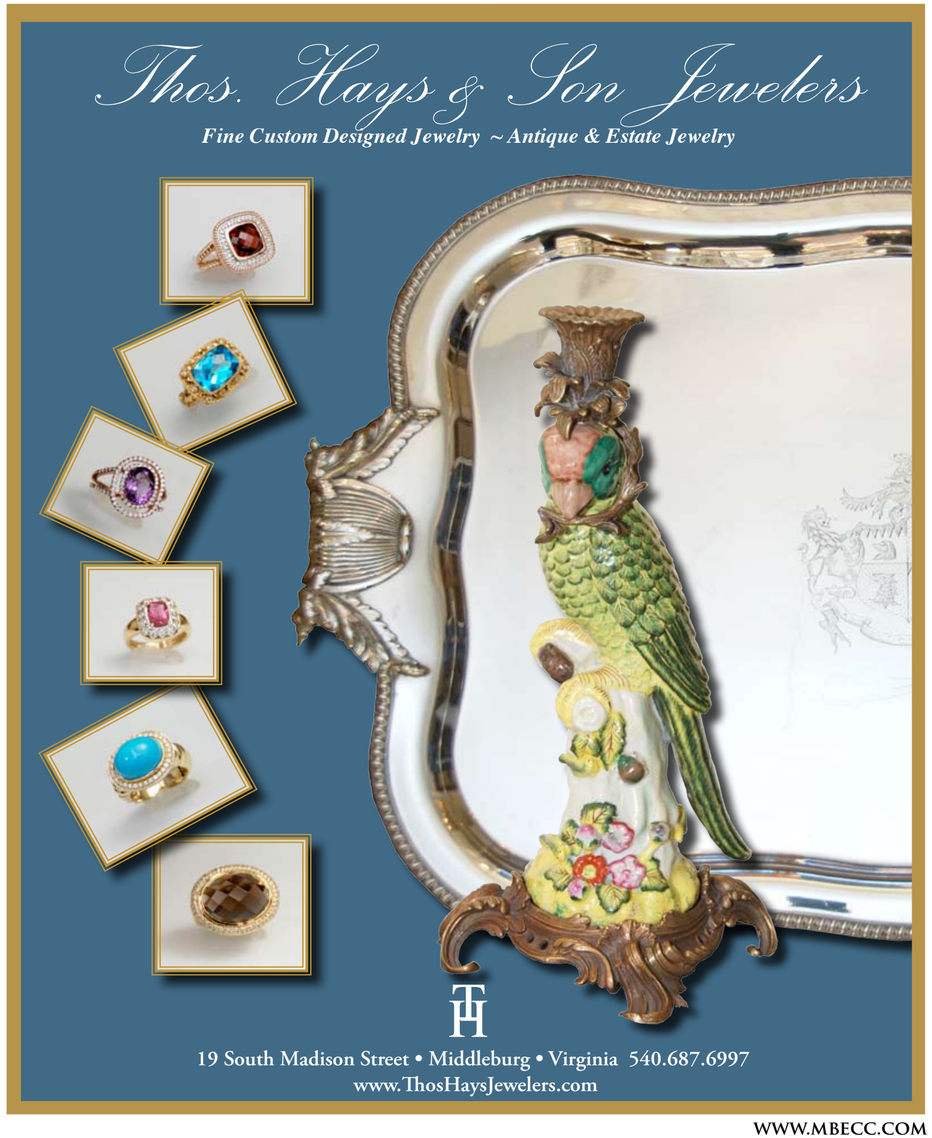
Community invited (free) to unique show on Sunday, Dec. 7

Adults and children of all ages are invited to join Foxcroft School students in celebrating the holiday season Sunday, Dec. 7, with a spectacular Christmas Pageant, followed by a visit from Santa Claus, on the Middleburg, Va., campus of the School. To accommodate the event's popularity in recent years, Foxcroft will present two public performances, at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., in FoxHound Auditorium in the School's main building.

Foxcroft's pageant is a tradition that was started by Charlotte Haxall Noland, the founder of the School, nearly 100 years ago. Each December, Foxcroft's new students and Chorale present the nativity story as a gift to the community. Miss Noland's script includes several characters you won't find in the Bible and provides a musical and visual treat -- complete with live animals. This year, goats and bunnies will be featured, along with non-stop Christmas music and beautiful costumes that have been part of the show for decades. Karin Thorndike, a Fine Arts teacher at Foxcroft, directs the performance, assisted by Fine Arts Department Chair Robyn Yovanovich and other faculty members.

Following the Pageant, Santa Claus will give the children in the audience gifts that have been prepared by Foxcroft students. The pageant is the culmination of a weekend devoted to community outreach and holiday activities at the School. Last, year, the girls decorated scores of Christmas wreaths for residents of Loudoun Hospital and Goodwin House; filled care baskets for needy families and boxes of supplies for Middleburg Humane, wrapped more than 250 gifts for local children, created a float for the Middleburg Christmas Parade, and went Christmas caroling on horseback.

The highlight of the weekend, however, is the Pageant and all are invited! Foxcroft is located on Foxcroft Road (Route 626), four miles north of the center of Middleburg. For more information, call 540.687.5555.



Editor's Desk

Armistice Day

For some of us Veterans Day, just past, will always be Armistice Day.

In Great Britain, and throughout most of what was once the British Empire, or later the Commonwealth, it still is . . . though they call it "Remembrance Day."

There, the undying symbol of remembrance of the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month remains the poppy of Flanders' Fields.

Regiments still mass at the Cenotaph. The Guards' Cavalry still fires a single gun as Big Ben begins to toll eleven, and all of London, indeed all of Great Britain, is silent for two minutes in honor of the more than 700,000 soldiers killed in action in the War to End All Wars.

In ceremonies held annually at Albert Hall the petals of blood red poppies representing each of those casualties drift from the rafters to settle of the roll of lost, the massed flags of the Queen's regiments, stacked regimental drums, the caps of soldiers, sailors and airmen, the epaulets of their officers, and the living symbols of the sovereign state. It is a quiet gentle blood red rain, still marked by breathholding silence and tears.

We now honor our lost on Memorial Day in May and our Veterans on Veteran's Day November. It is well to precede Thanksgiving with a reminder of debts owed and those to whom we are indebted.

We thank our veterans, all those loved and lost, and all those who loved and lost them.

Letter

Dear Editor,

It takes a sidewalk to make a Village.

We hear that the Village of Aldie will soon undergo traffic calming. Yippee. What good will that be if we still won't have a safe place to walk? Collecting my own mail at the Aldie Post Office (1700 feet away) will continue to require driving because the shoulders through the Village make foot traffic treacherous.

Sidewalks foster a sense of community and provide safety to those of us who enjoy our villages (such as Middleburg, Upperville, and Hillsboro). Sidewalks encourage healthy living; after all, walking is still man's best medicine. How come Aldie is getting short-changed?

How is it that sidewalks are NOT to be included in this traffic calming project? Wouldn't the funds be better spent for a useful component that fosters community AND safety versus stacked stone walls and decorative curbs?

Thalia Gerachis @ Aldie Hill
(the house that you have to drive to because we aren't getting a sidewalk)

Change the Tone

From Beyond the Beltway

Ken Rietz

President Obama took what he called a "shellacking" in the mid-term elections. The Republicans gained more than 60 seats in the House. This was the biggest turnover in 60 years.

They gained 6 Senate seats, 10 Governorships, 19 State Legislatures and more than 600 local members of state legislative bodies.

The best example of the extent of voter anger and the strength of Tea Party activism are the results in Wisconsin. Ron Johnson, a businessman who had never sought political office, ran against an entrenched Democrat in the previously blue state and won. In addition, for the first time in 70 years in that state, the Republicans won the Governorship and both houses of the State Legislature.

The election was a clear rejection of Obamacare, the failed stimulus, the bailouts and the backroom deals orchestrated by Pelosi and Reid. It was also a rejection of the TONE set by the arrogant Obama team in the White house.

It is often said in politics that if you can't win on the issues, then attack the person. The Democrats did that in spades. A survey of political advertising taken during the campaign showed that while 60% of Republican ads were focused on out-of-control government spending, the stimulus and Obamacare, 70% of the advertising by Democrat candidates was aimed at the person or personality of the opponent.

Obama led this negative change by calling Republicans "ENEMIES" and incredulously saying they should "RIDE IN THE BACK."

The new congress faces a daunting task. The issues are monumental. It will take people willing to work together. Bi-partisanship doesn't mean what Obama seems to believe - if people agree with what he proposes, it is bi-partisanship.

The first step is to tone down the rhetoric. Our leaders should be able to discuss issues without name calling or incendiary remarks. Mitch McConnell did not have to say his only goal in the next two years is to defeat Obama in 2012. Is it really? Speaker in waiting Boenner did not have to say he has "a few tricks up his sleeve." Hasn't he been listening to the Tea Party?

Our Republican leaders in congress need to take a leaf out of New Jersey Governor Chris Christy's book. He talks about "shared sacrifice." Here, in Virginia we do not have to look far for a fine example of bi-partisan co-operation. Virginia Governor, Bob McDonnell has been able to quietly and efficiently work with Democrats and Republicans to solve our state's fiscal crisis and balance our budget.

State Underwrites Choice Prevention Centers

John P. Flannery

State fees for "Choose Life" license plates are being used to fund so-called "crisis pregnancy centers" and the State forbids that a dime of these funds go to any non-profit agency that even hints that any pregnant woman consider an abortion.

Virginia's Attorney General, Ken Cuccinelli, introduced this legislation when he was a State Senator; Delegate Dick Black filed an earlier version of this bill but his legislative tenure was cut short after (among other things) he circulated pink plastic fetuses in the General Assembly.

We should all be able to agree that a belief that "life" begins with a fecundated ovum or blastocyte is a religious belief, constituting a definition of life that is not found at law.

When the Commonwealth, at Cuccinelli's urging, codified this religious belief into state law, required state action to protect and preserve and underwrite this religious belief and partly funded centers to implement them, the Commonwealth was (and is) party to "establishing religion" in violation of the First Amendment (as applied to the several states by the Fourteenth Amendment).

Nor is this constitutional objection all that is wrong here. Many of the Centers are apparently more concerned with compromising a woman's constitutional privacy right to choose an abortion, rather than rendering fair and accurate medical advice.

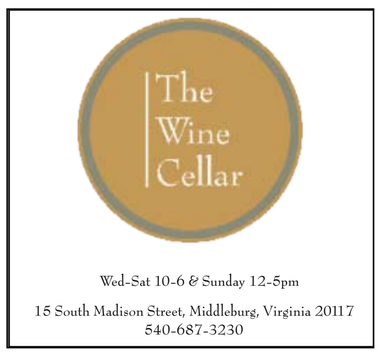
An investigative report issued earlier this year, titled, "Crisis Pregnancy Centers Revealed," conducted by the NARAL Pro-Choice Virginia Foundation, found that 38 of the 52 centers in Virginia are not medically-licensed, have no medically trained or medically supervised personnel on staff, and misinform the young women who seek counseling, about infertility, fetal development, sexually transmitted infections, contraception, pregnancy and abortion, thus putting these women at risk. (Read the report for yourself at -http://www.naralva.org/assets/files/cpcsrevealed.pdf)

More specifically, investigators found 18 of these centers gave misleading advice as to contraception including that "all condoms have flaws or holes …". 17 of these centers reportedly misled other women about cancer including that the "risk of breast cancer almost doubles after one abortion and rises even further with two or more abortions." 24 of these centers allegedly misled other women with false and misleading "advice" about psychological effects including that "Women will commit suicide post-abortion."

Attorney General Cuccinelli has an opportunity and a duty to clean up the mess he created by investigating what's gone awry. He should issue a Civil Investigative Demand (CID) to each and every one of these centers that received funds to find out whether they are making these misleading statements to pregnant women, invoking his authority under the Virginia Fraud Against Taxpayer Act (found at Virginia Code Section 8.01-216.1).

Those who are "pro life" may tell the world about it. But we can't have the state underwriting the "telling" of that religious belief.







The GOP "Mandate"

Blue Notes

Daniel Morrow

So now the GOP, that Grand Old Purveyor of Generally Outdated Platitudes, all too often based on Grossly Overestimated Perspicacity has what it believes is a national "mandate" for change.

As if the notion of giving a "mandate" for changing government for a party devoted to eliminating as much of said government as possible weren't silly enough . . . let's consider the nature of what they're describing as not only a "mandate", but the expression of the "true will" of the "American People."

At this point the GOP, by all accounts, isn't really sure who's really on or off its own island.

The folks who voted for their candidates, according to every reliable poll, say they don't like the GOP (or any party, or anyone else) all that much.

Indeed, they're not all that sure which "party" is really the grand "old" one, much less who's leading it.

The best of the GOP'ers get very huffy very quickly if one points just how many of their "spokespeople have been Generally Out Pandering to unpopular, incompetent, unpleasant people, or otherwise embarrassing people.

The "old" guard, the grand old Guardians of Plutocracy remain all too chummy with discredited millionaires (and billionaires) whose rationalizations of why "we" really can't afford for "them" to pay Clinton-era taxes. Odd, I think, given that the most prominent among them are the all too unwatched and unregulated masters of the financial universe whose greed got us into this mess in the first place.

The worst of the "new" old party (and some of the old) simply revel in the wisdom of their highly successful tactical mobilization (and empowerment) of the most self-righteous (and, even they agree) dangerous elements of their right wing.

The folks who voted for the GOP or its outrage tea-bag-toting temporary allies want their "majority" this time . . . but it was a majority of, at best, less than half of the roughly half of the folks who normally vote.

Statistically, they were disproportionately old, disproportionately white, disproportionately male, and disproportionately mad. Far from representing the "American People", they represent only a statistically well-defined segment of the most vocal, and in some cases, the legitimately most angry.

Many of them, arguably with the best of intentions, still think that government should be run like a business, even though nine out of ten businesses fail in their first year, and the most "free" of our current crop of free market capitalists, the hedge fund community and their minions, used their "freedom" to run the economy off a cliff while lining their pockets at our expense. Some of them truly believe in the Randian "virtue of selfishness."

Touchingly, the most vulnerable among them have been convinced that they want the "government" to keep its hands off their Medicare. They're mad, they're in trouble, and they don't know or care that they've already had their taxes cut, or that the government is actually smaller than it was under Bush.

And then there are the rest. I took a poll of poll-watchers at my voting place. All were male. All were white. None were in their twenties Three of the four didn't "believe" in evolution, two of them denied its "truth" adamantly. Guess which party they belonged to?

The GOP, for a variety of reasons, has managed to make itself the last refuge of a broad spectrum of outspoken, irrational, and sometimes dangerous minorities.

The notion that "earning" the votes of these folks means a mandate to act on behalf of "The American People" is simply laughable.

The November Election in Hindsight

Purple

Bruce Smart

Elections normally The results of the November 2nd election were neither surprising nor encouraging to this voter. Clearly many Americans are frustrated and angry over present conditions and the future they project for our country; their votes expressed those emotions. Unfortunately, most candidates that benefitted from those votes offered no programs for improvement, only shared frustration. And the Party that benefitted from this outburst of uninformed emotion was the Party most responsible for the difficulties in which we find ourselves. Logic, anyone?

A confession: I have personally occasionally acted out of anger and frustration; it has never proved a solution to the problems that caused me to do so. Which leads me with some thoughts on what next?

The most likely scenario is an escalation of partisanship between two approximately equal halves of a fractured government, with neither side able to do anything, no matter how reasonable, because the other side will oppose it in a gut reaction to the hated opposition's idea. Certainly, the unfounded charges fired back and forth between the campaigns did nothing to endear either Party to the other, and that hasn't helped America or fostered constructive debate.

So what does Purple suggest? If I was talking to my angry teen-age kid I'd say: "Cool down, grow up, that other person may have a point. Go talk to him/her. Life is short, and blind anger never gets you anywhere."

So with that parental experience, here is what I hope the leadership of each Party does:

(1) Recognize that they were elected to serve the nation as a whole, not just their districts, their supporters, their Party, or their ideology.

(2) Understand that our nation is confronted by a broad agenda of complex problems that need immediate attention, and that solving them involves short term pain to avoid long-term agony.

(3) Discuss these mutual problems with the other Party, calmly and constructively, listening with an open mind to alternatives, seeking consensus solutions.

(4) Have the courage to explain and sell these solutions to the voters who will have to bear the discomfort entailed in implementing them.

(5) Recognize that doing what is right for America now is more important than who wins the 2012 election.

A good place to start will be to act on the recommendations of the President's bipartisan commission now studying how to handle our financial mess – deficits, debt and unemployment. Purple sees no way to manage this other than by a combination of higher taxes (anathema to Republicans) and reduced spending on entitlements (anathema to Democrats), accompanied by reducing military spending, subsidies, and earmarks, all of which will entail political opposition from some segment of the electorate.

Success in working together in Congress will increase the confidence of voters of both Parties in the federal government, which they now feel is broken. And such improvement will make governing after the 2012 election easier and more successful, no matter who wins. But this option thus calls for great political courage. Don't hold your breath.







Faces & Places

PEC Halloween Ball

Middleburg, VA, October 30, 2010

Photos by Dee Dee Hubbard



Chris Miller and Barbara duPont



Tom Kee, Cgeris Treptow, Bill Buckingham, Mary Lee Treptow, Bill & valerie Lee and Cindy Johnson





elizabeth Baker



Jean Perin



Barbara duPont, Lisa Abeel, Malcom Matheson, Gertrude Hechl and Gretchen Brevnov

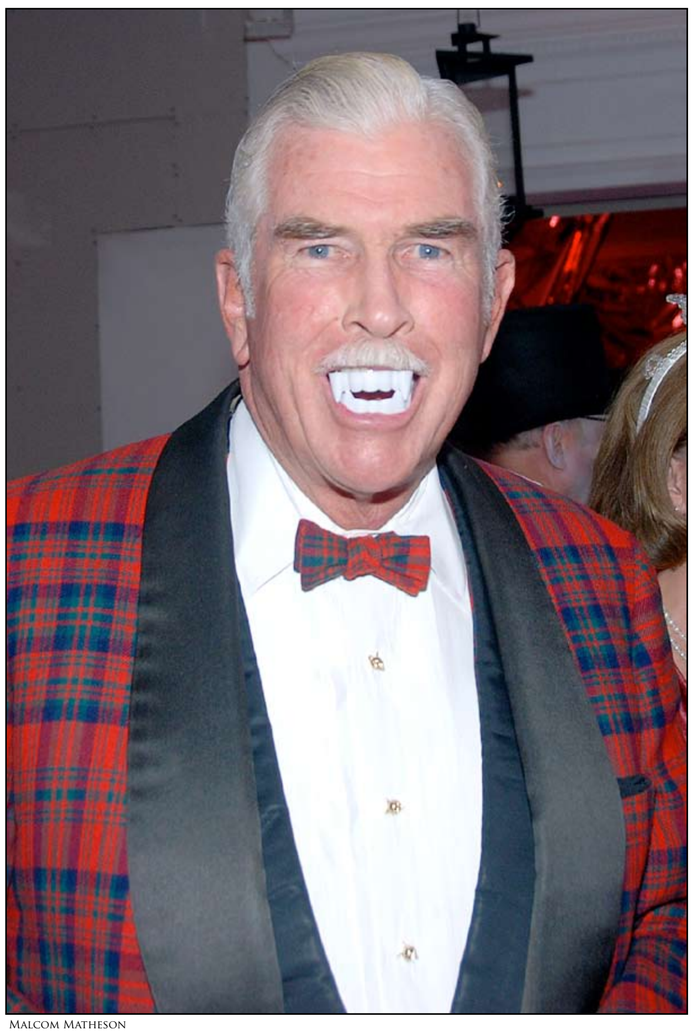


Lynn Wiley, Jimmie Hatcher, Malcom Matheson and Ruth Ripley



Bill & Ann Backer





Malcom Matheson

Tomte says: "If I can't be in Stockholm, I'd rather be at Svea!"
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Faces & Places

PEC Halloween Ball

Middleburg, VA, October 30, 2010
Photos by Dee Dee Hubbard



Reddy & Betsy Manierre



Rick Willis, Michelle Truffant, Cricket Bedford and Neil Morris





Barbara Augenblick, David & Harriet Condon

"Warm as a fire on the hearth, cool as a Swedish pine forest, Classic Scandinavian style returns to Middleburg."

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Faces & Places

Loudoun Laurels

Morven Park, Leesburg, VA, November 12, 2010
Photos by Eliza Paul and Dee Dee Hubbard



Kitty Saylor, Eugene Scheel, Karen Russel, Paul Ziluca, Kim Hart Judy Washburn, Joe May, Childs Burden and Joe boling



Barbara & Mark Augenblick



Karen Russell and Alex Cudaback



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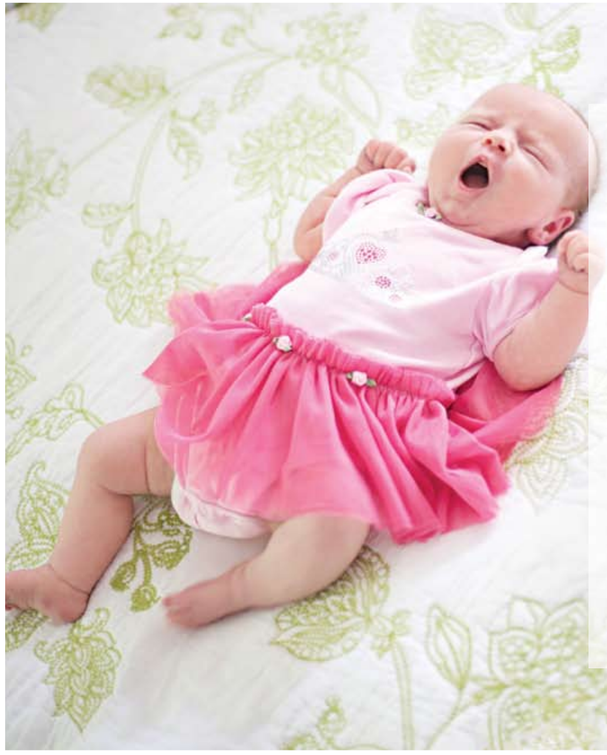
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To learn more about Andrea's story, visit FHstories.org.

The O'Shaughnessy Family Birthing Center

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Faces & Places

Orange County Hunt Team Event

Old Whitewood Farm, The Plains, VA - October 31, 2010

Photos by teresa Ramsay



Alice Porter and Aeron Hynes



Nina Fout



Cyndy Hair, Jennifer Nesbit and Liz Billings



Over The Grass Farm Team Entry.



Geri & Bill Jackson



Karin Ohrstrom and Beth Fout



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Faces & Places

Halloween

Middleburg, VA, October 31, 2010

Photos by Jay Hubbard and Dee Dee Hubbard



















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Christmas in Middleburg

December 4th , 2010



Photo Credit Jay Hubbard,

Featuring The Middleburg Hunt

8am-10am
Breakfast with Santa and Silent Auction
The Middleburg Elementary School
10am-5pm
Middleburg Garden Club's
Christmas Flower & Greens Show
10am-5pm
Craft Show at the CommunityCenter

11am
The Christmas Parade lead by the
Middleburg Hunt. The sight is spectacular with
approximately 100 riders and dozens of hounds

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Hayrides from the Pink Box
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News of Note

You Can Get With This or You Can Get With That



7th Inning Stretch

Alex Cudaback

I know someone who would sooner eat slug droppings than go near an automobile made by Kia, the South Korean car manufacturer that, along with brands like Hyundai (which, interestingly enough, owns Kia) and Scion (owned by Toyota), made huge headway in the U.S. market over the last several years, initially by targeting more cost-conscious demographics, preaching things like value and reliability while eschewing things like performance and styling.

(That has since changed; performance and styling are now much more a part of the whole branding package, but "in the beginning" and all that…)

Anyway, this someone is no class-ist, and he's certainly not vain or shallow enough to believe that style and performance are intrinsically more important than value and reliability. He'd happily drive the Flintstone-mobile if it did the job.

No, this someone wouldn't drive a Kia for the simple reason that the name, k-i-a, is incredibly ill-conceived, to the point of being offensive. Maybe it's the other way around but, either way, the notion that a car company would brand and market itself in the U.S. using the same three letters that, for a certain generation, automatically translate into "killed in action" is a total head-scratcher. It makes trying to sell Chevy Novas in Central and South America look downright brilliant.

Maybe not. But certainly less asinine.

According to the official Kia website, "The word Kia has origins in the Chinese language with the first syllable, *ki*, meaning 'to arise or come up out of.' The second part of the word, *a*, refers to Asia. So when you put it all together, Kia means 'to arise or come up out of Asia.'"

Which sounds made up, frankly, but at least Kia has its bases covered.

What I couldn't find on the official Kia website is any mention of its hamster advertising campaign.

Which, for me, is the real issue.

According to people in the know, advertisers, marketing gurus, etc., those hamsters are the bee's knees. The cat's pajamas. The best thing since sliced bread. The campaign, wherein giant, anthropomorphic rodents don hoodies and heavy bling (a combination surely targeting the ever popular Sopranos-meets-Run-DMC demographic) and celebrate their individuality by driving the same model Kia, the Soul, (now commonly referred to in dealerships as "the hamster car") and making fun of the other hamsters around them, either because they're driving toasters or hamster balls, or simply because they are not wearing any appropriate hamster clothes (losers…), got massive play during the 2009 NBA Finals and continued to run heavily through 2010.

Kia apparently bought the Mad Men Kool-Aid, attributing the Soul's impressive sales figures, in part, to the "edgy" campaign. Seriously.

Which simply goes to show that we all would have been better off going into advertising, a profession that, over the years, puts the celebrated wackiness of the ping-pong-playing tech start-ups of the 90's in something approaching perspective.

All of which is a long way of saying I wouldn't drive a car peddled by hamsters if you paid me. Well, maybe if you paid me. But I certainly wouldn't pay YOU for the privilege. Not in a zillion years.

But I'd at least consider it if the Soul were driven by a stunningly gorgeous, 21-year-old, six-foot, one-inch, Hawaiian native of Korean descent named Michelle Wie who proceeded to bomb drives 300-plus yards down the fairway at what can only be a 21st-century version of Bushwood Country Club.

So much better than hamsters. On so many levels.

And infinitely easier on the eyes.

Tom Brady simply must get a haircut. Or he's got to stop with the ever-increasing head-tosses as he roams the sideline. Troy Polamalu may have more famous hair, and more of it in general. But Brady's is getting to the point that it'd be more at home on the catwalk than the gridiron. Annoying.

SI spent a lof of ink in last week's issue seemingly trying to get in on the Gilbert Arenas rehabilitation / reclamation sweepstakes. I'm still trying to get my head around the fact that there is a shoe-pooper in this country making almost $20-million a year. Heck, I went to high-school with shoe-poopers who did it for free. *They* did it for the love of the game.

The Caps have sprinted out of the gates this year, apparently having put the disappointment of last season's early playoff exit behind them. Good. You can't win with that kind of baggage hanging over you. But I hope they haven't forgotten the taste of that disappointment. Because that's the taste that'll keep them focused.

Any reason the Nats still haven't signed Adam Dunn to a contract extension? Really?

Not sure what the heck just happened at FedEx on Monday night, but the Redskins might want to cancel all future bye-weeks. Forever. And rethink spotting their opponents 35-point leads. What was THAT?!?

Five words: Oakland Raiders in first place.

A Few Tips on Bulbs

The Plant Lady





Karen Rexrode

As much as summer dragged along with heat and drought, fall has moved at a very fast clip. November is an ideal month for planting in Virginia, especially the spring flowering bulbs. December can be fine and will work, but is often chilly. If your bulbs arrived in September, hopefully you stored them in an unheated location. As long as they receive their required chilling days, the wait will not hurt them.

I remember planting my first tulip bed. I was much younger and more energetic. With 100 tulips to plant, I dug the entire bed, down to six inches, put in a half inch of sand, tulips on top and finished it with soil to ground level. That was the first and last time I ever dug a special bed for bulbs. A good long handled trowel will make quick work of 100 tulips, daffodils or lilies.

When planted properly, each bulb is three times its size deep. This leaves tulips deeper than crocus, lilies deeper than tulips, etc... The bulbs are graded by size and sold accordingly. The gardener wants the highest grade or largest bulb. In some cases they may include a little sidecar or extra nose, as it's called with daffodils. Do not take them apart, that extra nose will produce another flowering stem.

You can also order your bulbs so that they will flower over an extended time. Listings will say early flowering or late flowering, the earliest bulbs will be much shorter than late flowering. A big mistake to avoid is putting late flowering bulbs in a hot spot or early spring bulbs in a cold spot. There is no reason to purchase late flowering if you don't take advantage of it. A hot spot might be the south side of your house, versus a cold spot , underneath a deciduous tree, facing east or north. The early bulb will end up flowering mid-season or late in that cold place and the late season daffodil will flower prematurely in the hottest spot of your garden or against the wall facing south. Another reason to pay attention to the little micro-climates on your property. Getting it right might mean three weeks difference in bloom time.

A very popular fall root is the foxtail lily or eremurus. Not actually a lily or a bulb, the roots spread out, like an open hand and are very fragile. The best method to plant these delicate roots is to dig an over sized hole, about twelve inches deep. Put rich compost in the bottom up to about seven inches. On that put a thick layer of turkey grit, which can be found at local farm supply stores. Lay the bulb on the grit and cover it thickly with grit. What you are doing is putting a pocket of grit around the crown or center of the root to keep it from rotting. It wants lots of food but a dry core. Fill the rest of the hole with compost. Your eremurus will last for many years with this method. Other roots and bulbs respond well to the same treatment, I use it with Cyclamen purpurascens, eucomis, or any bulb that comes from a rocky habitat.

Lastly, when your bulbs arrive, plant the lilium first. This will make a big difference in how many flowers each stem produces. The longer they sit out of ground and are in warmth, the fewer flowers they will produce. Tulips like to be planted when the ground is cool and daffodils can go in as soon as they arrive.

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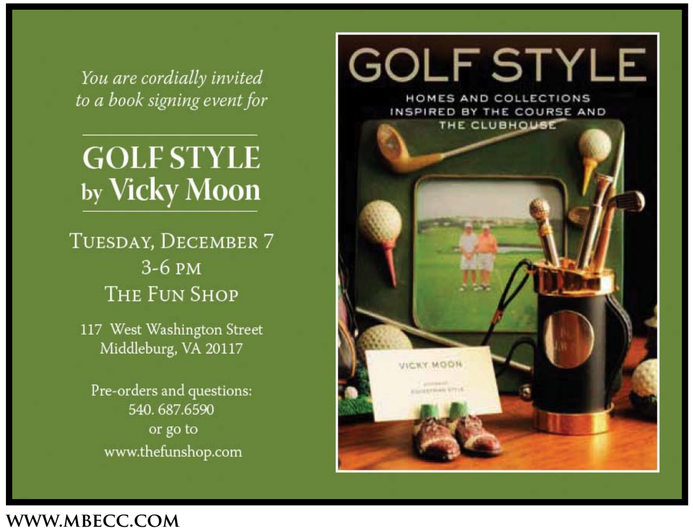
The work displayed here is just a sampling of Albert's abilities. You'll find much more at greenwayforge.com. If you have a project in mind that requires a master's touch, give Albert a call. Better yet, send him an e-mail. He may not hear the phone with all that pounding.

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Chowder is a 2-3 yr. Lab/Hound mix. He is very sweet, energetic, and friendly. He gets along with other dogs but can't live with cats.





Aspen is an adorable adult terrier mix. She was just transferred to us so we are still getting to know her, but she seems very social & gets along well other dogs.

Ripple is a very sweet red roan pony X mare, who is in her early teens, about 13h, has very good ground manners. Ripple is pregnant & will foal summer 2011. She and her foal are available.



A Yelp for Help!

MHF along with most other humane organizations have had a really tough year. The requests for all types of assistance has sky-rocketed and donations have decreased. MHF really needs your help to stay strong and continue to provide the many important services & programs for needy animals & people. Our funds and supplies are very low. Please help us by donating supplies—this will be greatly appreciated by all– both 2 legged and 4 legged! PURRS/ LICKS/ WHINNIES & HUGS!!!

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Melody is an affectionate young adult kitty. She does not photograph well but is drop dead gorgeous. She would do well in an indoor or indoor-outdoor home.

Twinkles is a playful Shepherd mix born in Jan. She is new to us so we are still getting to know her, but she gets along well with other dogs & has a huge, fun loving personality.





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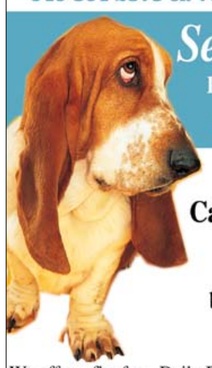
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Albert's Corner

A monthly column for people who share their homes with four-legged friends.

The time to start thinking about holiday gift lists is quickly approaching, and I'm sure I could come up with a very practical and possibly helpful list of what to buy your four-legged friends. But frankly, where's the fun in that?

Instead, I thought a little decadence might be in order. After all, everybody keeps talking about the economy and saving money. It's a little depressing. For this year's guide, I think we can all use some comic relief. Sure, it might be over-the-top, but it's entertaining to imagine what one can do with a lot of dollars and very little sense.

Before I continue, let me apologize in advance if any of my dear readers have purchased any of the following for your dog. If you have, you are obviously a very generous person with very good reasons to pamper your pet. I am not judging you whatsoever. It's just that for the rest of us, indulgences like these are simply not an option.

So here it is: the jet-set pet-set gift guide for 2010:

1.A custom doghouse from La Petite Maison (lapetitemaison.com). I've got the plans all drawn up, and for $5,000 or so, I can have a gorgeous "doghouse" that looks like a miniature estate … complete with upscale fixtures and finishes.

2.A dazzling diamond collar from ilovedogsdiamonds.com. Sure, the $3 million dollar collar on their website might be a bit much, but I'm more than happy to settle for the $150,000 one.

3.The MTI Jentle Pet Spa bathing system. Soothing jets turn canine bath time into a complete pleasure. For about $2,500, I promise I'll never tuck my tail and slink away from the shampoo again!

4.A Swarovski crystal dog bowl just introduced by BB Simon. At $1,376, it's sure to make any dog food taste like a gourmet meal! Don't forget to buy two: one for food and one for water.

5.To go along with the blingy dog bowls, why not pick up a bed fit for a king, encrusted with 95,000 Swarovski crystals? This luxury lounge can be yours for around $16,000. This one is a little harder to find, but my people saw it at an industry show and it really does exist. And the manufacturers swear that it's very comfortable!

Now, the one thing on the list that does sound pretty good to me is the pet spa. Unfortunately, my people doubled over laughing when I suggested it. Then they said something about flying pigs, but I tuned them out.

I hope this has been mildly amusing. If it's any consolation, most dogs are incredibly happy to just have lots and lots of love. The very best gift of all costs absolutely nothing. (Hmmm. I think that's true for people, too!)

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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The Middleburg Business and Professional Association invites you to our December holiday mixer

Tuesday, December 14
5:30-7:30 p.m.

Hosted by Santa and his elves
Held at Emmanuel Parish House
105 East Washington Street

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



Please RSVP by email to:
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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 with office, tack room, two wash stalls and 1/16 of a mile indoor track. 2 bedroom guest house, 3 tenant houses and 4 barns. 213 acres in scenic easement. $17,000,000. Also available house and 268 acres $10,500,000 or 317 acres $7,500,000.
Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905



Trough Hill Farm
Middleburg, Virginia

103 acres and towering white oaks surround this delightful 1800's Virginia farmhouse in a well protected area near Foxcroft School. Ultra charming main house has 9 fireplaces, multiple staircases, original wood floors and 5 bedrooms. Additional guest house and stunning pool house/game room make this a unique compound for entertaining. Gorgeous stone walls, terraces and garden walls wrap around the pool and overlook lovely spring fed pond and barns. $5,200,000.
Ann MacMahon (540) 687-5588
Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905



Stoneledge Stables
Front Royal, Virginia

171.70 rolling acres with spectacular views. 60 x 120 barn includes 8 stalls, office, wash stall, workshop, hay storage. 8 stall bank barn, 10 paddocks, automatic waterer in every field, tenant house, 3 run in sheds, hay building, riding ring and 2 wells. $2,400,000.
Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905



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



Wildwood
Bluemont, Virginia

"Wildwood", 117.64 acres with spectacular southern views of Upperville/Paris area. In conservation easement and adjacent to and overlooks thousands of acres in conservation easement. House recently renovated, built in 1966, 4 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, fireplace, garage, large deck, storage building/barn/workshop, level top of mountain house site. Easy access to Routes 50 & 7. Two divisions possible. $1,700,000.
Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905



Cabin Branch
Marshall, Virginia

103.47 rolling and rising acres in prime location, minutes from Warrenton and very private. 1/2 open, mountain views, Williamsburg style Cape with first floor master bedroom and two large bedrooms on second floor, stucco tenant home, long creek frontage. $1,250,000. House and 5.46 acres available for $365,000 or 98.01 acres for $1,100,000.
Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905



Kentshire
Marshall, Virginia

Lovely country home on 10.43 acres in Bellevue Farms. Stunning mountain views to west, 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, 2 fireplaces. Open floor plan, 10' ceilings, rear deck, gourmet kitchen. Improvements include detached 2 car garage with office/studio, 2 stall barn and run in shed. $875,000.
Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905



Commercial
Middleburg, Virginia

The old church rectory. Unusual opportunity to buy a free standing commercial building in Middleburg on a large lot. The property includes the stone and shake office building and the oversized stone garage with unlimited potential. Includes a large administrative area, reception, conference room and three private offices. $795,000. Reduced.
Helen MacMahon (540) 454-1930



Putnams Mill Road
Marshall, Virginia

Immaculate colonial on a quiet gravel road between Hume and Orlean. Traditional home with large master bedroom, fully finished walk- out basement, hardwood floors on first level, 2 fireplaces, home office, front porch and rear deck overlooking mature gardens and neighboring farms. 2 acres surrounded by large properties in complete privacy. $395,000.
Helen MacMahon (540) 454-1930



Watson Road
Leesburg, Virginia

2 acres and a 3 bedroom stone home on Watson Rd. Great location, pretty lot with large trees and meandering creek. There are 2 fireplaces and hardwood floors throughout the first level. Large lower level is mostly finished with rec room with stone fireplace and entertainment bar. Additional unfinished space provides storage/work area. Nice plantings, great stone terrace with built-in grill. Huge 3 bay workshop. $325,000.
Helen MacMahon (540) 454-1930



Lindsay Store & Paris Post Office
Paris, Virginia

Circa 1890, previously the Paris country store, post office and boarding house. Exceptional craftsmanship and care has transformed it into a 4,400 sf home with unobstructed views of the protected Paris Valley. The main section of the home includes 3 bedrooms and 2 1/2 baths. There is an additional 2 bedroom in-law suite with a full bath, second kitchen and separate entrance offering many uses. The detached garage (26' x 21') with sewer, water and electricity has unlimited possibilities. $635,000.
Helen MacMahon (540) 454-1930
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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 703-973-1987



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.

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INTERNATIONAL OFFERING

Fairfax Found, Middleburg, VA

Historic and charming 1729 log and brick home used by Lord Fairfax. 5 minutes to the town of Middleburg. 5,000+ sq. ft. of living space, 4 fireplaces 4 bedrooms 4 baths, full finished walkout basement, mature plantings, pool, modern amenities all on 11+ secluded acres. $1,450,000.

Jim Thompson 540-687-3216

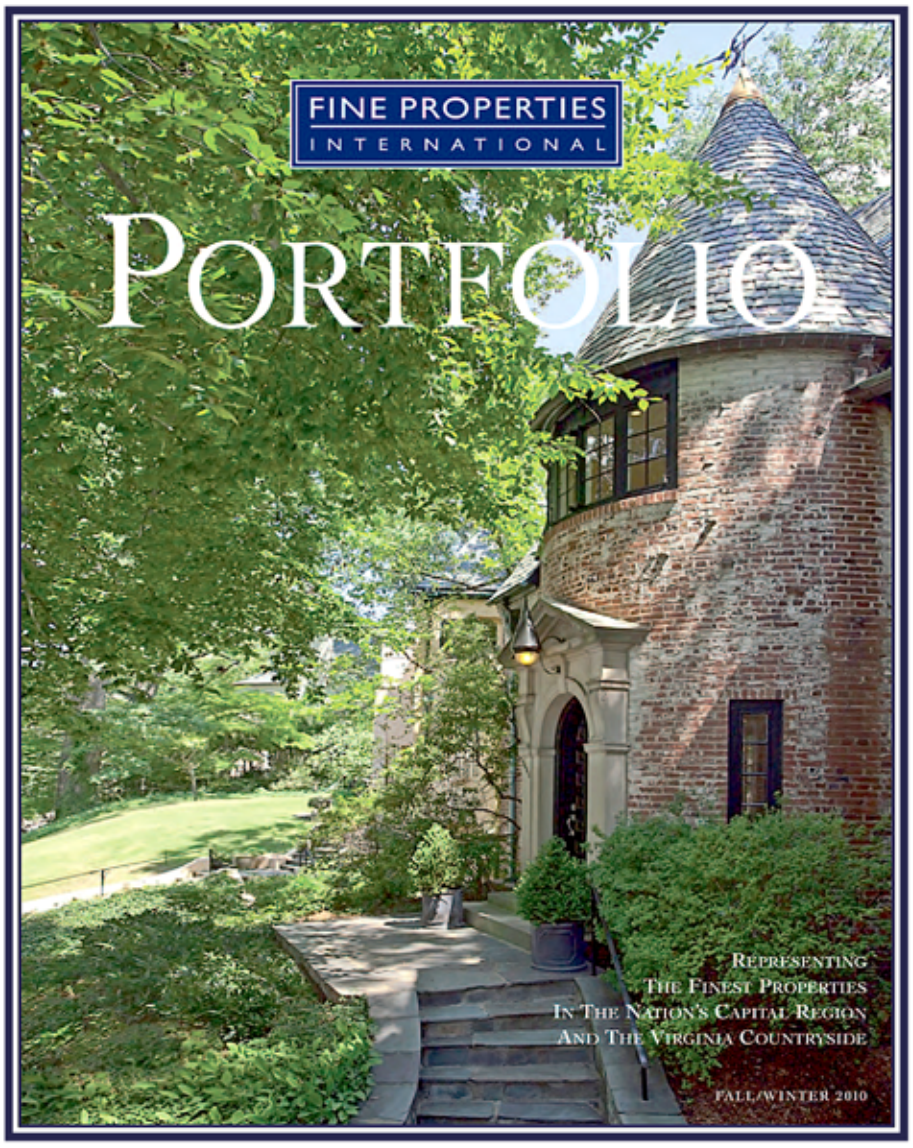


Blossom Hill, Middleburg, VA

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. $495,000.

Carole Miller 540-687-2233

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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
Alan Zuschlag 540-270-8150



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. 3 bedroom main house, fabulous kitchen. Garage with lovely office/guest quarters above. 2 stall barn with groom's quarters. Fenced paddocks with run-in shed. Price reduced. $1,550,000.

Ruth Ripley 540-687-2222
Lynn Wiley 540-454-1527



Wellesley, Delaplane, VA

Located in northern Fauquier Co., Wellesley is a small horse farm on 28 acres. The residence, nestled among towering trees, currently has three bedrooms but is perked for more and could be easily expanded. There are approximately 18 acres in paddocks and pasture and is surrounded by large farms. The large, center aisle barn has two finished stalls with room for an additional 8, plus a feed and tack room. $599,000

Carole Miller 540-687-2233



Frogtown Road, Rectortown, VA

Located near the hamlet of Rectortown in the Orange Co. Hunt. Sited on a 1 ac. parcel, the house overlooks 150 ac. of rolling fields & woodlands in a permanent conservation easement. Built in 1996 the house incorporates a number of energy items. The open dining & living area features a fireplace & has a large kitchen. The MBR suite is in a separate wing on the ground level. A second bedroom & full bath is on the upper level. $495,000.

Carole Miller 540-687-2233

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