



LES BAL DES BETES AT AYRSHIRE FARM

PAGE 12



ALL THE KING'S MEN AND MORE

PAGE 14

MID-TERM BUDGET SO FAR SO GOOD!

DANIEL MORROW

This year's mid-year report on Middleburg's financial status "leaves the town in much better shape . . . than was the case at this time last year," Town Administrator Martha Mason Semmes told Council at its regular monthly meeting on February 10. "No major adjustments to the current budget are required."

New construction on the Salamander Inn and Spa accounted for almost a \$10 million increase in the value of the Town's taxable real estate, more than making up for a decline in the assessed value of single-family homes and personal property tax receipts.

Comparatively good weather has also helped. Semmes and the Council offered high praise for the street-and-sidewalk-clearing work done by Marvin Simms and Wines Construction during the January 26-27 snowstorm. That storm marked the first, and only time this year that supplemental staff and equipment had to be mobilized. As a result, some \$2,000 remains in the town's snow-removal budget.

The Case of the Missing Water

Town Administrator Semmes reports she is now working with no less than three

Continued Page 8

FOXCROFT'S THINK PINK TOURNAMENT MAKES CHERRY BLOSSOM FUND BIG WINNER

Although Foxcroft fought valiantly, they did not win their "Think Pink" Basketball Tournament, but their dedication to the fight against breast cancer made the Cherry Blossom Foundation a big winner when Foxcroft Athletic Director Michelle Woodruff announced that \$1,000 had been raised through T-shirt sales and donations.

Led by Division I recruit Markell Smith, Norfolk Collegiate School beat Fredericksburg Academy, 54-26, then defeated the Madeira School, 66-47, Saturday to win the second annual tournament.

"They are all champions in my mind," said Jim Atkins, founder and director of the Cherry Blossom Foundation. "We are extremely grateful for their support and help."

Foxcroft's Athletic Association, a student organization led by seniors Sarah Gilmmore of Middleburg, Effie Kilmer of Southampton, NY, and junior Maeve Couzens of Middleburg, ran the concession stand that handled the sales.

The event, which included junior varsity and middle school competitions, drew throngs of people to the School's beautiful Athletic/Student Center.

In the consolation game, host Foxcroft fell to Fredericksburg Academy, 50-29, despite a 14-point effort from senior center



Claire Andrews and 11 rebounds from senior forward Sylvia Onukwugha. Paige McDermott led the visitors with 16 points. In the preliminary round, Madeira, defeated Foxcroft, 28-14, building a 17-3 first-half lead and coasting home. Imani Thompson led Madeira with eight points and senior guard Markesha Burnett paced Foxcroft with six points on a pair of 3-point field goals.

The Hill School of Middleburg bested both Loudoun Country Day School and Norfolk Collegiate in the middle school round-robin competition, which brought many Middleburgers to the event.

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WENDY ANDREWS 703-408-0719 \$1,645,000



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SCOTT BUZZELLI 540-454-1399 \$1,200,000



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SCOTT BUZZELLI 540-454-1399 \$765,000

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WENDY ANDREWS 703-408-0719 \$ 4,795,000



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MARQUI SIMMOS 703-774-6109 \$1,395,000



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WENDY ANDREWS 703-408-0719



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CHARLIE WESTBROOK 703-447-9505 \$3,350,000



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PETER PEJACEVICH 540-270-3835 \$1,395,000



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GEORGE ROLL 703-606-6358 \$849,000



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GEORGE ROLL 703-606-6358 \$750,000

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NEWS OF NOTE

HUGH ROBERT CALLAWAY WILEY

MARCH 4, 2004, WINCHESTER, VIRGINIA – FEBRUARY 10, 2011 MIDDLEBURG, VIRGINIA



Hugh Robert Callaway Wiley fought a coura-geous battle against lymphoma, a battle that ended this last Thursday in his home surrounded by his loving and devoted parents..

Hugh was a first grader at Hill School in Middleburg, Vir-ginia where he was known for his insightful wisdom, good-na-tured sense of humor, his love of friends and of the playground. Hugh started playing polo at age 4; he was an accomplished and avid fisherman, golfer, skier, swimmer, bird hunter and poker player who shared his love of these sports with his father, big brother and friends.

Hugh enjoyed precious, quiet moments reading with his mother; and, yet, he relished leading fellow 6-year-olds and his dog Winston through imagi-

nary battles, before facing a real battle of his own.

He will be remembered for his extraordinary and brilliant spirit. He consistently inspired and awed his family and friends with his sparkling - and often startling - wisdom. His enthu-siastic character made a striking impression and a lasting imprint on everyone he met. Hugh's valor throughout his physical challenges positively influenced friends and supporters around the world.

Hugh is survived by his mother, Erica Stumvoll Wiley, his father James Carter Wiley and his older brother James Langhorne Wiley, III. Also surviving is his maternal grandfather, Richard O. Stumvoll, of Panama City, Pana-ma, and he was preceded by his maternal grandmother Dorothy Asparren Stumvoll. Hugh is also

survived by his paternal grand-mother, Jane Burgess Kelly and her husband Timothy A. Kelly of Salem, Virginia and his grandfa-ther James Langhorne Wiley, Jr. and his wife Lynn Wiley, of The Plains, Virginia. Hugh is also survived by his aunts, uncles, cousins, many friends and his loving community.

A memorial service to hon-or the life of Hugh Robert Calla-way Wiley took place Thursday, February 17th at Trinity Church, Upperville, Virginia. A recep-tion followed at The Hill School. Children were welcomed at both events to honor Hugh.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers that donations be made to The Hill School, Middleburg, Virginia and or to "Less Cancer" Next Generation Choices Foun-dation, Middleburg, Virginia.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE ONE HOUR AT A TIME

If you've got an hour or two a week that you just don't know what to do with, this message is for you.

If you've developed a hanker-ing for contributing more to the com-munity than paying your taxes and parking tickets on time, this message is for you.

If you've already lapsed on your New Year's resolution and are looking for a second chance before

next January, this message is for you.

If you like the smell of chalk-dust the way some folks love the smell of napalm in the morning, this message is for you.

If you believe that children re-ally are the future, tastes in music and fashion notwithstanding, this mes-sage is for you.

If you think there's more to helping those same children than

buying Girl Scout cookies and maga-zine subscriptions, this message is for you.

There are wonderful kids that go to Middleburg Elementary School and some of them need a little bit of extra help.

Every Monday and Thursday during the school year, from 3 to 4 in the afternoon, a group of students and local volunteers gather to work on homework and practice basic

math and reading.

That's where you come in.

Since 2004 the Windy Hill Foundation, in partnership with the Middleburg Elementary School Par-ent Teacher Organization, has spon-sored a one-to-one tutoring program known as the Study Buddy Pro-gram.

There's no quantum mechan-ics, string theory or non-Euclidean

Continued Page 16

PROPERTIES IN HUNT COUNTRY

PRESQU' ISLE



Circa 1815 • Used as Civil War Headquarters •Sited on a knoll over the Hazel River •Restored to its original elegance •Ornate Plaster and Carved Mantels •Flemish Bond 20" thick brick walls • 2 Stables •135 acres •Several Tenant Houses •Acreage is made up of very rich soils and is being leased and actively farmed. \$2,345,000
Susie Ashcom (540) 729-1478

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Circa 1770 •Stone and stucco gem sits at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains near Paris •20+ acres surrounded by protected lands •Meticulous exterior renovations include newly re-pointed stonework, new metal roof, 2 large additions, covered porch, buried electric, new basement, well and septic •Historic home is ready for your interior finishes! \$1,950,000
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Mary Ann McGowan (540) 270-1124

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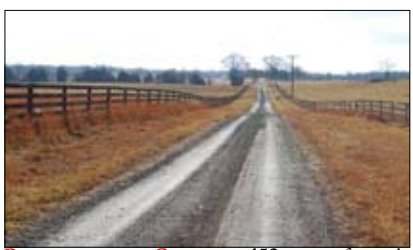
Middleburg Commercial Property •Ideally located overlooking the guest entrance of Salamander Resort and Spa •2 parcels, totaling 12,800 square feet zoned C-1 for offices or retail •Ample space for expansion of existing dwelling or build new with room for onsite parking •Perfectly situated in the center of town for high visibility •Excellent investment opportunity! \$799,000
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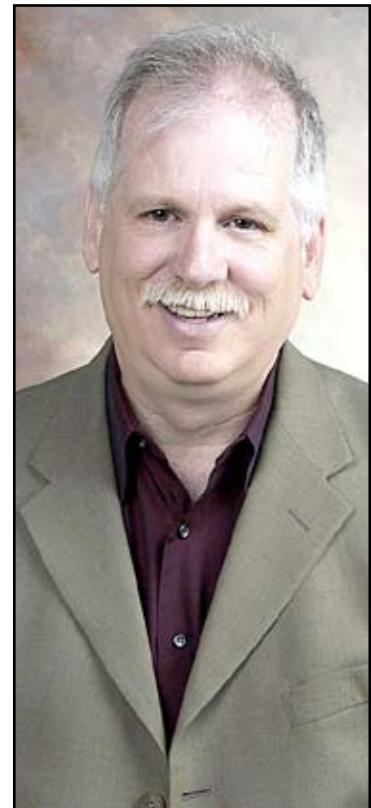
NEWS OF NOTE

MIDDLEBURG MORTGAGE HIRES STU PLITMAN

Middleburg Mortgage announced that Stu Plitman joined the company as senior mortgage consultant. With over twenty years of experience in mortgage lending in Northern Virginia, Mr. Plitman brings an in-depth understanding of the needs of both first-time and move-up home buyers. He is a sought-after facilitator of first-time homebuyer classes throughout Loudoun County and has consistently been a top producer for VHDA loans in Virginia.

Mr. Plitman is also active in the local community, with 20 years service to the Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce, including fifteen years on the Board of Directors. He is the President and Founder of The Valor Foundation, a 501(c)(3) that raises funds for the First Responders throughout Loudoun County. Mr. Plitman currently serves as President of Bryce Resort, a four seasons resort in the heart of the Shenandoah Valley.

"Stu's extensive experience in mortgage lending, coupled with his focus on delivering outstanding customer service will enable Middleburg Mortgage to help clients find the right mortgage to fit their particular needs," said Steve Cowen,



Director of Mortgage Production for Middleburg Mortgage. "We are fortunate to have Stu on the team. He brings an exceptional level of client-focus, market knowledge and lending experience" added Mr. Cowen.

RICHARD HOLMES RETIRES AFTER 52 YEARS



JOE BOLING HONORS RICHARD HOLMES FOR HIS 52 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE MIDDLEBURG BANK.

SENIORS GET A LUCKY LUNCHEON

The Middleburg Community Center Board of Directors is hosting a St. Patrick's luncheon for seniors on Thursday, March 03, 2011, at noon, at the Middleburg Community Center. The event honors all seniors, our living

legacies, those who have lived here and worked here so long, making our community strong. We are lucky to have them! Last year more than one hundred seniors were served, giving them a chance to get out during the winter, to see and visit one another at a

fun hosted event. Invitation announcements are being made through local papers, local churches, and the Levis Hill House. Those wishing to attend can RSVP to 540-687-6373. A make-up date in case of weather postponement is Thursday, March 10, 2011.

TOMMIE MONEZ, MBA, CFP, CHFC NAMED SHAREHOLDER AT FOCUS WEALTH MANAGEMENT, LTD.

Tommie L. Monez, MBA, CFP, ChFC has been named a shareholder of Middleburg's Focus Wealth Management, Ltd. "Tommie has been instrumental in

building and expanding the client centered focus of our firm", stated president, Sandra Atkins. In addition to her duties as chief investment officer and portfolio manager, Tommie frequently

writes for other advisors, contributing to MorningstarAdvisor.com and Horsesmouth.com. She also serves on the board of directors for the Financial Planning Association-National Capital Area.

CINDY FENTON NAMED DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR AT MIDDLEBURG ACADEMY

Head of School Arnold Klingenberg has appointed Cindy Fenton Director of Development and Marketing for Middleburg Academy. A long-time Middleburg resident and former Director of Development for Foxcroft School, Ms. Fenton brings to her new position a strong background in independent school fundraising, marketing, communications, and alumni relations.

In making the announcement, Mr. Klingenberg stated, "We are delighted to welcome Cindy, with her outstanding experience, to Middleburg Academy. Her enthusiasm for our school's philosophy and its offerings - coupled with her commitment to our greater community - will be invaluable attributes as we forge our future as an independent college preparatory high school."

Charged with building the school's external affairs activities, Ms. Fenton will create and manage comprehensive annual giving and major gift programs, broaden community and alumni relations, and enhance communication and marketing efforts.

Prior to her tenure at Foxcroft, Cindy Fenton spent nearly a decade in business planning, marketing, and product development in the information and telecommunications industries.

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From left to right: Dr. Donald Campbell, Dr. Theo Batistas, Dr. Tony Chehade, Dr. Jason Abel, Dr. Faline Davenport, Dr. Carlos Aponte

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NEWS OF NOTE

MIDDLEBURG ACADEMY STUDENTS SHINE AT FRANKLIN PARK ART SHOW



Five Middleburg Academy students were recently awarded high-place ribbons, and two more received honorable mentions, at Franklin Park's "Past, Present and Future" Art Show. The annual event for Loudoun County youth, age preschool to high school, is in its twelfth year. Overall, there were ninety entries across a broad range of mediums. All works are on display in the lobby gallery of the Franklin Park Performing and Visual Arts Center in Purcellville through

Sunday, February 27th.

The judges, local artists Jan Blacka, Meredith Hilt and Jan Hundshamer, based their decisions on rendering, originality and overall presentation. Under the direction of Art Department Chair Wayne Paige, Middleburg Academy ribbon winners in the high school category were as follows. In First Place: Byung Won An, (grade 11), for a pen and ink drawing, "Android." Tying for Third Place: Kathy Kwak (grade 11), acrylic on paper, "Let's Go Party," and Gabby Pittaluga (grade 10),

markers on paper, "Dreamscape." April Yoo (grade 11), received Honorable Mention for a mixed media submission, "Lines."

Ceramics, instructed by Linda Northrup at Middleburg Academy, was its own category at the Franklin Park Show. In Second Place: Travis Kim, (grade 12), "Tribal Plate." Third Place: Mo Salih, (grade 9), "Tribal Bowl." Honorable Mention went to Mo Alie-Cox, (grade 11), "Tribal Bowl."

MARGARET BROWN IS NAMED NATIONAL MERIT FINALIST

BOYCE, VA, RESIDENT AMONG TOP ONE PERCENT OF U.S. STUDENTS

Foxcroft Head of School Mary Louise Leipheimer announced Wednesday that Margaret Brown, a senior at the Middleburg, VA, school, has been named a finalist in the 2011 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Being selected as a finalist from among the more than 1.55 million eligible students who took the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test in October 2009 puts Brown among the top one percent of high school students in the country. It also makes her eligible for the National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$36 million that will be awarded to these academically-talented students this spring.

The daughter of Dr. Stuart and Ms. Kate Brown of Boyce, VA, Margaret was named a National Merit Semifinalist last fall based on her performance in the 2009 PSAT/NMSQT, which was taken by 3,063,087 high school students. She earned finalist status after demonstrating that she had an outstanding academic record throughout her four years at Foxcroft, by, earning SAT scores that confirmed her performance on the PSAT/NMSQT, and being endorsed and recommended by



Leipheimer. Brown also submitted a detailed application, which included an essay and information about her participation and leadership in school and community activities.

An outstanding scholar who earned the rare honor of being inducted into Foxcroft's Cum Laude Society last spring as a junior, Brown has served in several school-wide leadership positions including as dormitory prefect, club head and spirit team officer.

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NEWS OF NOTE

COUNCIL FACES PUBLIC PROTEST

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

organization, including WR&A, to get to the bottom of the ongoing mystery of Middleburg's "lost" water. For years the Town has issued water bills for only about half the water pumped from the town's wells. What happens to the rest remains a mystery. Some is used during system cleaning and maintenance. Some simply leaks out of the system. The town's water meters may also be providing erroneous data. Whatever the case, the Town's auditors are not happy about the loss of potential water revenues and Town Council member Mark Snyder has made getting to the bottom of the issue a matter of personal pride.

The Middleburg Museum

Former Council Member, retired teacher, and Windy Hill Board member Eura Lewis continues to move forward in her ongoing efforts to establish, build and fund a Middleburg Museum. At the February regular session of Council she reported that she was in the midst of applying for Federal 501.c.3 non-profit status for her museum foundation, actively recruiting board members, and systematically reviewing potential sites for the facility, including "The Pink Box," Middleburg's current Visitor Center.

Though no Town funds

have yet been appropriated, Council has been generally supportive of the concept and Lewis's ongoing efforts.

The Webber Case

On January 24, 2011, Mayor Betsy Davis responded to a formal request from Middleburg Eccentric Publisher Dan Morrow that the Town investigate the role of Middleburg Police Chief Steve Webber in the events leading to the November 30 perp walk of the Co-Chair of Christmas in Middleburg, his newspaper's co-founder and Editor-in-Chief, Dee Dee Hubbard.

Dear Mr. Morrow:

I am replying to your remarks to the Town Council on January 13 and to your request by January 22 email that the Town Council open a formal investigation into Chief Webber's role in the arrest of DeeDee Hubbard on charges now pending in the Circuit Court of Loudoun County.

Middleburg takes pride in being a small town that welcomes its citizens, neighbors and visitors alike to experience its charms and participate in its civic affairs. It is in this context that the Town, its elected officials and its police department subscribe to the philosophy of community policing that we intend to prevail

within the Town.

Nevertheless, given the unresolved status of the charges against Ms. Hubbard, it is the recommendation of the Town Attorney that an investigation into the Chief's role in Ms. Hubbard's arrest, its manner and timing be deferred until the conclusion of those charges, lacking exigent circumstances requiring earlier review of these topics. Review after disposition of the charges would be appropriate by the Town Council as the employer and supervising authority of the Chief and, ultimately, all officers and employees acting on behalf of the Town.

Thank you for your request. It cannot be honored at this time.

Betsy Allen Davis
Mayor

During the "public comment" session of the Council's next monthly meeting Morrow noted the Mayor's reply, what he believed to be the exigency of addressing Chief Webber's behavior in a timely fashion, and suggested that Town appoint an independent commission to investigate the matter.

The involvement of at least two members of Council in the upcoming campaign for Loudoun County Sheriff, he later noted, created an environment in

which any stance taken by those members, either in support of Webber, or in opposition, could be subject, fairly or unfairly, to negative interpretation. A neutral commission, made up of well respected outside experts would, he suggested, would also bring to the table expertise and training not readily available to Council.

Who's the Quarterback?

In other developments, the Police Department's formal chain of command now appears to be unclear, if not actually in dispute.

According to the Town Employee Handbook, the "Town Sergeant (Chief of Police)" is a "Charter Officer," along with the Town Administrator, Town Attorney, Town Clerk, and Town Treasurer.

Charter Officers "serve at the pleasure of the Town Council" and are "subject to dismissal at any time."

Most members of the Council, and by all indications the Police Chief and Town Administrator appear to have interpreted those clauses to mean that the Chief "reports" to the Council as a whole, and is in no way subordinate to the Town Administrator.

On the other hand, the "Rules and Regulations/General Orders" of the Middleburg Police

Department state clearly and unambiguously that "The Chief executive of the Police Department is the Chief of Police, appointed by and subordinate to the Town Administrator."

A table of organization in the same document shows the Chief reporting directly to the Town Administrator, with its "Public Safety Committee" within the Town Council given the role of "advising" the Town Administrator on police affairs.

At press time, the formal chain of command remains unclear.

By all accounts, at no time during Webber's active participation in the planning and execution of the perp walk of Hubbard, and at no time prior to his distribution of a press release on her arrest, were the Town Administrator nor any member of Council or Town Staff informed or consulted by the Chief.

Within the current Council, Bundles Murdock still serves as the Chair of the Council's Public Safety Committee. The committee, however, no longer exists. Under now retired Town Administrator Jerry Schiro, Middleburg's old committee structure was dissolved. The work of the old committees is now done by the entire Council meeting as a "Committee of the Whole."

Local Talent Wanted
Great Meadow seeks local amateur talent for 4th of July

Great Meadow Foundation is currently seeking local amateur talent for its annual 4th of July Celebration. The Foundation is looking for Pop or Rock Bands, Acapella groups, Barbershop Quartets, singing groups, high school bands, entertainers, puppeteers, as well as other types of local talents. Great Meadow Foundation is looking to entertain our 4th of July guests in a family friendly setting.

Please send your contact information, demo cd's, and other information. Performers will be required to provide all their own sound equipment.

We look forward to hearing the local talent!

Please send to Great Meadow Foundation, 5089 Old Tavern Road, The Plains VA 20198 attn Kim Shelly

FOXCROFT ASSISTANT HEAD OF SCHOOL TAPPED TO LEAD SCHOOL IN GEORGIA

Rebecca B. Gilmore, Assistant Head of School for External Affairs at Foxcroft School, has been named Head of School of Augusta Preparatory Day School in Augusta, GA, effective July 1, Robert C. Osborne, Chair of the school's Board of Trustees, and James Hull, Chair of the Search Committee, announced Tuesday. Gilmore, who has served Foxcroft in key positions since 1987, will succeed Jack Hall, who is moving to the Walker School near Atlanta after 12 years at Prep.

"On behalf of a unanimous Augusta Preparatory Day School Board of Trustees, we are delight-

ed to announce that Mrs. Rebecca Gilmore has been selected to be our tenth Head of School," Hull and Osborne said.

"Mrs. Gilmore made an outstanding impression on the Augusta Prep community during her visit to campus," they noted, adding that those who met with her found her to be "a natural and excellent communicator who understands the balance of academics, arts and athletics and has a strong vision for moving our school forward."

"We are thrilled that Becky Gilmore will join our school in July," they said.

Foxcroft's Head of School,

Mary Louise Leipheimer, commended the selection, even as she called Gilmore's impending departure bittersweet.

"No one here at Foxcroft is surprised at Augusta Prep's wisdom and everyone here is very proud of Becky," said Leipheimer. "Inside Foxcroft and throughout the independent school community, Becky is respected for her wisdom, her energy, and her fairness."

During her 23-year tenure at Foxcroft, Gilmore served as Director of Admission, Dean of External Affairs, and Director of Advancement. She was named an Assistant Head of School in July

2009. A native of North Carolina, Gilmore holds a B.A. from Duke University and a Master's of Education from the University of Virginia. Before coming to Foxcroft, she taught Biology and other sciences at The Madeira School in McLean, VA, and at Concord Academy in Concord, MA.

Gilmore and her husband, Roger, have two children, John, age 19, and Sarah, 18, a member of Foxcroft's Senior Class. The Gilmores have been active members of the community, both on the Foxcroft campus and in Middleburg and environs.



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EDITOR'S DESK

NICK ARUNDEL (1928 - 2011)

On February 8, 2011, Arthur W. "Nick" Arundel died at his home, "Merry Oak Farm" in The Plains.

An outstanding Virginian in every sense of the word, the list of honors awarded him is exceeded only by the list of his public achievements, and the chronicle of a lifetime of good works, known and, all too often, unknown: lives touched, lands saved, institutions created, restored, or rejuvenated

For all that he bought, built, created, changed and accomplished in this life, his true memorial remains his sense of honor, and the people and ongoing institutions he mentored and inspired.

We who are in your debt mourn your passing, and offer our heartfelt condolences to those who knew and loved you. We also celebrate your life, and take heart in the ongoing inspiration of its ideals and achievements.

For those of us in the news business, his articulation of the purpose of a newspaper still stands as both guide and goal.

Written in late 1964, just after he took the reins of the Loudoun

Times Mirror, it reads in part:

"This newspaper will never tolerate injustice or corruption; it will battle political demagogues; it will insure the right of each political faction to be heard; but will itself belong to no party.. It will defend state and individual rights, and will support existing laws while advocating better ones. This newspaper will also be a conscience to those in public office."

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It is almost as though the Egyptian people have given the world permission to ask the tough questions and stand up to government secrecy and wrong doings.

It maybe is a bit of guilty conscience that they did not ask tougher questions in the run up to the Iraq invasion, and have now been given permission to do just that.

The hypocrisy of President Obama and Secretary Clinton saying that the United States should not interfere in the politics of Egypt is that the United States has been interfering in Egypt's politics for decades. Over one billion dollars per year in arms support (which is really just a convenient way of laundering money back to the U.S. defense industry) is considerable interfer-

ence. But at last they did "interfere" on the side of democracy and called on Mubarak to resign.

Another far reaching effect of the events in Egypt is this: ever since 9/11 not only our government but many others have used that event to curb individual freedoms and personal rights in the name of fighting terrorism. It has also been the rationale and justification to support dictators and autocrats such as Mubarak because they would help fight the "war" on terror.

The question that must be asked is where are all the terrorists in Egypt (other than the governments hired thugs), where is Al Queda, where are the Jihadists, where are the Islamic militants?

Nowhere to be seen in Cairo, I posit.

I firmly believe that the Egyptian people would no more allow a group such as Al Queda to dictate to them than they would allow the Mubarak dictatorship to continue. I also believe that it will now be much more difficult to justify the alliances between the United States and other leaders of Mubarak's ilk.

This is an incredible moment in history. It is about time, people stand up for dignity and human rights and tear down repressive and despotic regimes.

Even here at home, the good people of Madison, Wisconsin, have taken to the streets to protest the governor's attempt to break their unions. I have great praise for the courage they have shown as well as for the 14 senators who have fled the state in solidarity with the workers and have blocked the attempt at disempowering the unions

As they say down under, "good on you" people of Egypt and Wisconsin.

And now to another subject here at home.

Because of all the palaver over what would have been Ronald Reagan's one hundredth birthday, I thought I would list a few things his adoring followers fail to mention when they praise their icon. And I am happy to admit that a few of them I absolutely support, even if the Tea Partiers do not:

1. He raised taxes no less than 11 times during 7 of his 8 years in office.
2. He tripled the Federal budget
3. His administration caused massive unemployment after his one big tax cut, thinking the "trickle down" effect would create jobs. It did not!
4. He grew the size of government instead of shrinking it.
5. He gave amnesty to over 3 million undocumented immigrants
6. There was the messy Iran Contra affair.
7. Probably the most destructive element of his reign (other than possibly the massive deregulation of banks and corporations that has led to the financial crisis we now face) was the creation of the Taliban and Osama Bin Laden.

Because Reagan was so determined to challenge the Soviet Union in Afghanistan, he supported the Mujahidin fighters who then became the Taliban and Al Queda.

Quite a legacy for Ronald Reagan.

THE MIDDLEBURG MUSEUM

The Middleburg Town Council has consistently supported the efforts of former Town Council member Eura Lewis to find a home for some of the most endangered artifacts of Middleburg's history.

In times like these, the money, time, and talent necessary to establish a new museum are rare commodities and in high demand.

Lewis needs not only the support of the Town Council, but that

of all those who know and love the people and history of Middleburg.

If you can help, please do. Lewis is currently building a board of directors for a new non-profit organization.

Ms. Lewis can be reached at PO Box 473, Middleburg, Virginia 20118, or by phone at 540-687-6538.

Please help.

HYPOCRISY

TOM TRATT

The recent wonderful, startling, empowering events in Egypt have had wide and possibly unrecognized effects on much of the world including the so-called free western world.

For instance, I have noticed recently that journalists, especially television news presenters and anchors, have been asking much tougher questions of government officials during interviews. Wolf Blitzer of CNN was brutal in his questioning of P.J. Crowley, the Pentagon spokesperson, about the United States position on the Egyptian people's quest for freedom. Blitzer had him squirming and he was barely able to answer questions about whether the Obama administration should finally call for Mubarak's ouster.

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WHAT AMERICA NEEDS --- CLARITY AND CAPITAL

CHANDLER VAN VOORHIS

In a meeting recently with the Chamber of Commerce, President Obama said, "Now is the time to invest in America. Today, American companies have nearly \$2 trillion sitting on their balance sheets."

The give and take of our economy requires more than a President pleading for businesses to invest. It requires a government to say, "Yes We are Open for Business." The greatest thing government can give the private sector is clarity.

It is the lack of clarity coming out of Washington that is stymieing investments in America. For example, the Obama Administration has been holding up private investments into biomass power through the EPA via technical rules for biomass power generation. So while EPA announces it will study the biomass issue for the next three years, utilities like Oglethorpe Power announced they are indefinitely suspending their plan to build 300MW of new biomass power generation. To build 300MW of new biomass generation requires a total capital expenditure of \$1.2 to \$1.5 billion, creating 1500 new jobs. In addition, the ripple impact of such an investment would trigger an estimated at \$300m per year

in wood procurement, causing further economic stimulus.

Lack of clarity leads to a lack of capital invested. The effect is job creation is held at bay while Washington studies and high unemployment persists. The culture of big government forces the economy to regulate first, trade second and produce third. Mr. President, it is time to decide first, produce second and regulate third.

Only when Washington re-opens America for business will we see the flowing of capital and the abundance of human ingenuity return.

THIS AND THAT

DANIEL MORROW

Freshman Class Frolics

The NY Times credits the "large boisterous class of fiscally conservative Republican freshmen" for the budget bill that refused to raise taxes a penny on the richest 2% of Americans, while simultaneously cutting \$60 billion from the Federal budget.

Disproportionately representative of vocal minorities from states with the weakest economies, worst schools, worst health care, and worst civil rights records in America, they lead by example.

They also think, with similar keen insight, they represent "the American People."

Mississippi

Speaking of leadership from states at the bottom, Gov. Haley Barbour, is off and running to eliminate excessive government influence and control over "our" lives.

His state, by the way,

THE EMPLOYMENT DILEMMA

BRUCE SMART

US unemployment remains sluggishly above 9%, and would be greater if the statistics also counted potential workers who have quit searching for jobs. Being unemployed is traumatic for workers and their families, and idle human talent is also a national waste, especially when our economy needs an infusion of effort in education, basic research and infrastructure to enhance future competitiveness. As a result, demands that governments "do something" seem justified, but there are few comprehensive proposals from politicians suggesting what "doing something" should entail.

Let's examine the cause of today's unemployment. For three decades the US government and American consumers used debt to purchase goods and services they chose not to pay for currently -for wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, an expensive federal drug program, risky no-down-payment mortgages, and higher credit card balances - accompanied by massive tax cuts, greatly increasing national and personal debt.

This unsustainable surge of borrowing unleashed spending on goods and services, to meet which more employees were needed, creating a parallel debt-financed burst in jobs (here and abroad), all presumably to be paid back sometime. Not surprisingly, national employment grew from 61.6% of the population age 16 and older in 1976 to 66.2% in 2006. That's 10.5 million more jobs in 2006 than

we would have had if the work force had remained at the 1976 percentage of the age 16 and older population. As the bubble broke, the number of unemployed increased by 7.7 million from 2007 to 2010.

Simply stated, we borrowed demand from our future, filled it using jobs borrowed from the future, financed by borrowing money against future earnings. At the time, this Ponzi-like scheme of fiscal miss-management was politically entrancing. Most Americans enjoyed living high on the hog, as did the investors in Bernie Madoff's similarly constructed financial empire. The only real difference was that Madoff knew his actions were deceptive and fraudulent. Now reality has come due. Personal savings are up, state

and local governments are cutting back. The federal government knows it too must cut deficits, but remains hog-tied by partisan ideological differences that trump simple arithmetic. In Washington, agreeing on what to do is as dead-in-the-water as the unchanging national unemployment figures.

Today's reduced demand for goods and services remains below the level needed to employ all who want jobs. Absent demand, no business can responsibly hire more people or invest in added capacity. In fact, the pressure is to improve productivity and lower cost by investing in labor-saving (i.e. job cutting) options. To do otherwise in a slow growth environment would ignore corporate responsibility to produce valued

Voting on the Run

Conservative Republican Senator John Thune, says the Times, "has now expressed reservations about being the only [GOP] candidate who would have to vote on many of [the] issues while running a presidential campaign." Can't have THAT now, can we?

Negotiate? Not with YOU People!

Wisconsin GOP Governor

goods and services at minimum cost.

So Purple concludes that absent some unexpected change it will take time to move from where we are to full employment of, say, 5%. What might be a good strategy? Clearly we must reduce government deficits at all levels, cutting spending on ineffective programs and subsidies that have no current purpose, and streamlining entitlement programs. After taking on those politically difficult cuts, Purple believes we must also increase revenues, ideally by simplifying the tax code and making it more equitable, but no doubt also adding to the taxes paid by the most fortunate among us. As we bring our finances toward balance we need to add Americans to our work force first by increasing investments in future competitiveness - education (at all ages), basic research (especially energy and adaptation to climate change), and infrastructure (including broadband), areas short-changed during the recent decades of excess consumption.

Getting rid of the double curse of unemployment and deficits is the responsibility of those we elected to office, but it is our job, as voters, to see that they do so or forfeit their jobs at the next election. We must insist they think and act rationally as Americans, rather than ideologically as Republicans or Democrats. Adding to our national unemployment by retiring those politicians who cannot adapt would be a small price to pay for saving America's future.

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JOHN ZZUGSCHWERT AND SANDY LERNER



BILL WATKINS AND BELINDA BURWEL



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PASTIMES

ALL THE KING’S MEN AND MORE



Humpty Dumpty might have lived a long and happy life had he known Robert and Karin MacDowell. Sadly, he did not.

Happily for the rest of the fragile world hundreds of beautiful but damaged porcelain and pottery treasures are sitting pretty today because their owners sent them for a visit to the MacDowell Restoration Studio in Waterford, Virginia.

The White House, the Smithsonian Institution and many important museums and collectors know precisely whom to call when they hear the unforgettable sound of china crashing to the floor or the gasp of someone saying, “Oh, I’m so sorry!” Whether it is Ming, Minton, Lennox or something precious your son made,

these master restorers can turn the tragedy into a triumph.

“We never intended to be in this business,” explained Robert MacDowell, a debonnaire and fascinating gentleman. “I learned a lot about china restoration watching my mother, Gladys. She loved to restore dolls and china, and she was a genius with an airbrush. She became a quite famous restoration expert. When we decided we really wanted to open our own business, she encouraged us to consider china restoration.”

“I was very reluctant,” Karin continued. “Gladys was a brilliant restorer and I was certain I could never meet her standards.”

The extremely attractive couple’s origins are quite different, but they complement each other beautifully in their restoration studio and in their life.

Bob is the studio’s dedicated, meticulous engineer and Karin is the pretty and sublimely talented artist. But both share a dedication and sense of responsibility for their work that is built on a foundation of “only the best will do.” If that means new adhesives must be created, Robert simply reaches back to his experience with technical adhesives (like those used on 747 windscreens) to create super strong and resilient bonding agents for the finest china and porcelain pieces.

Born in Kansas City, Missouri, Robert followed his father into electronics. Karin, who was born in Duesseldorf, Germany grew up in the very small village of Osterode.

“I still had two years of college to go,” she said as she remembered coming to the Washington D.C. area. “My plan was to finish in linguistics at Georgetown and become a translator at the United Nations.”

But she met Robert soon after her arrival and when he was transferred to Dallas, she followed her heart.

“MyDadwasabrilliantelectronic engineer,” Robert told the Eccentric. “He was a real communications whiz. His first job was Communications Officer on the JPMorgan yacht. He had his ham radio license when he was ten. It took me until I was 12!

“After the war, we left Texas where he was working and moved to Panama. My Dad was helping Central American countries set up radio navigation systems and my mother was restoring dolls and china when she wasn’t riding herd on my brother and me. While we were down there, my Dad and I built a radio to communicate with



the U.S.A. on the amateur network, and often, I watched intently as my mother did such delicate, seemingly impossible work.”

The MacDowell family moved back to the States when Robert’s dad took command of a desk in Washington, D.C.

Bob wanted to work a bit before college and landed a really good job for a neighboring firm who was building flight simulators for the Air Force.

“I worked in the model shop helping to build the most amazing pieces of electronics ever known to man, he said. “Somehow, I just never got around to a formal education.”

Robert worked for Dave Shephard, founder of Intelligent Machine Research Corporation, was recruited to go to Farrington Electronics where he became a character recognition expert and quickly was named Technology Manager of their OCR (Optical Character Recognition) Division in London, England.

During this time, he and Karin and their three sons lived in London, while Robert flew, sometimes undercover, from country to country to help them build their new technology systems.

The MacDowells returned to the United States to Loudoun County where Robert was offered yet another “black” job for the military. At first they lived in Fairfax, but their boys were growing up and they wanted them to have lots of room and a home in the country.

They found the perfect place on Bull Run Mountain, eventually moved to a lovely home in Aldie, and then built

their dream home in Waterford.

In 1970, Robert’s employer decided to re-locate their offices. He and Karin really did not want to move. Although Karin had been investigating several kinds of businesses they could start and run themselves, the china restoration business kept creeping back into their planning sessions.

“Bob’s mother was certain we would enjoy it and be very successful,” Karin explained. “No matter how worried I was about being able to paint and airbrush as well as she, we decided to give it a try.”

After much research through the International Institute for Conservation of Historic Works of Art, the American Institute of the same name and the Washington Restoration Guild, many professional meetings including private tutelage at Winterthur’s on the stabilization of colors and paint, and weeks of research on new adhesives and materials they could create to bring the business up to modern standards, they were ready to begin in 1970.

The MacDowell Studio’s reputation grew quickly. Within six months, a customer asked them to repair some porcelains that he had been told belonged to George Washington. Bob and Karin took them to the Smithsonian Institution’s curator to inquire about their origin.

“The curator did validate their origin, and the owner was delighted,” Karin said smiling.

“We were even more delighted when he asked if we would like to do restoration work for the Smithsonian,” Bob emphasized.

Ethical restoration work is very important to the MacDowells.

“We were once presented with a Meissen Bird that had an original firing crack in it. The client wanted us to hide the crack, and we refused the assignment. In situations when the piece has an original firing crack, it is simply unethical to hide the crack,” Karin explained.

More and more people began to hear of their work, and many complained that when they telephoned the studio their children would forget to give them their message. So, they purchased an answering machine. The very first message recorded on it was from the White House. The curator there had asked J. Jefferson Miller III, the curator at the Smithsonian, to recommend a restorer, and he referred him to the MacDowells. They worked steadily for the White House until 1986.

“We are very proud of our work,” Robert said. “And we have been very fortunate to have fabulous clients,” Karin added.

Although they first learned the restoration arts from Bob’s mother, he was determined to move forward from what he calls her “old fashioned ways.”

Their coatings, potting compounds and adhesives have set new standards in restoration. For many years they offered classes and trained restoration artists from all over the world in intense two-day sessions.

“It was wonderful to meet them and help them evolve their art,” Karin said. “We thoroughly enjoyed those classes, but it was very demanding to consistently meet our very high standards,” she continued. “We simply had to stop enrollment, although it made us very sad to do so.”

Many aspects of restoration are

highly complex, but, generally speaking the process begins by taking apart a piece that has been repaired previously. Then, each piece must be surgically cleaned to be certain no adhesive remains, and then the restoration begins.

Bob is the chemist and engineer. According to Karin, he is unbelievably patient and often takes hours to polish a piece with graduated abrasive cloths that are covered with grit that are as fine as 12,000 grains per inch.

Among her favorite restorations, Karin says, are rare dolls.

“We once had a French doll that was 36” tall. It was incredibly rare, and when its head cracked, someone poured concrete into it thinking it would stabilize the doll’s head and simply stuck bits and pieces back on.

“Sadly,” she continued, “concrete heats as it dries and expands.

“You can imagine how difficult it was to get all the concrete out, clean

the entire head and put her all back together again. It was very demanding and delicate, but she was extremely beautiful when we finished,” she explained.

“My very favorite might be a fancy, prancing Percheron horse, a very valuable piece that needed repair to its braided mane. Three tiny knots had broken off. The owner had found two, but one needed to be re-constructed,” Bob said. “I really loved re-creating that tiny piece and restoring that beautiful horse to its former glory.”

There is absolutely no question that Humpty Dumpty would have been put back together again perfectly if he or his king’s friends had known The MacDowell Restoration Studio. How sad that he did not.

If you would like a consultation with the MacDowells, please telephone 540 882 9000 or visit their website: www.macdowellrestorations.com.

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You Are Invited to Participate in The Goose Creek Association's 2011 Community Forum

Clean Water and Clear Streams:

A Decade of Progress & the Challenges Ahead

Wednesday, March 9, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Middleburg Community Center

Eight years ago a landmark assessment of water quality in the Goose Creek watershed, conducted by The Goose Creek Association and the Piedmont Environmental Council, concluded that Goose Creek was one of the healthiest waterways in the eastern United States. That good news was tempered, however, by fears that the region’s rapid development and population posed a serious threat to the Creek’s continued health.

This year’s 2011 Goose Creek Association Community Forum will focus on developments since that time and the circumstances, both local and regional, that are driving watershed activism today. Issues such as agricultural and residential runoff, the push for riparian buffers, new EPA regulations that affect all counties whose waterways feed into the Chesapeake Bay, alternative septic systems, and many others are creating a new climate for action. The challenge is to sort out which make sense from the Piedmont perspective, and which may be lesser priorities.

In northern Fauquier and western Loudoun, conservation-minded organizations and the vast memberships they represent have consistently advocated responsible stewardship of the land and its eco-systems. However, newly-surfaced elements of the clean water debate deserve our attention and call for renewed dedication. The Goose Creek Association is proud to partner with the Piedmont Environmental Council, the Fauquier and Loudoun Soil & Water Districts, Loudoun Water Watch, and others to showcase our achievements in watershed stewardship and to focus on the challenges ahead. We are especially delighted to announce that a featured speaker for the evening will be Anthony Caligiuri, executive director of the Mid-Atlantic Region of the National Wildlife Federation.

Attendance is free of charge. While pre-registration is not required, letting us know you plan to attend will help us plan in an eco-friendly manner for printing materials and for refreshments.

To register, call the Goose Creek Association office at 540-687-3073, or email to goosecreek@erols.com.

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PASTIMES

OUR VILLAGE GREEN

NEW ECCENTRIC FEATURE FOR A NEW ERA

Welcome to Our Village Green! Every month, beginning with the March issue of the Eccentric, we will highlight ideas, big and small, to help save our environment.

We are fortunate to be in an area where innovative people are helping create positive change every day. We all need to know how we can help and to do that, we must understand what is possible and what makes sense.

“Our Village Green” will introduce you to a network of individuals in Loudoun County, Virginia, the United States and the world who are rolling up their sleeves to build a better tomorrow. And we will tell you how you can help make a real difference in the future of our community.

We welcome writers and advertisers who would like to partner with us as we help build a new sustainable foundation for our community and our world.

Over the past few years, we have often covered innovators in Hunt Country who have embraced and re-shaped their businesses to reflect environmental needs. Although many do not realize it, our area is a center of commitment, innovation and brilliant thinking about how to make the world a better place.

Many have asked us to formalize this coverage as a regular multi-page feature. As of our next issue, that is what we intend to do.

Ideas Matter at “Our Village Green” because the intelligent application of ideas will change society. By casting a light on continuous innovation, and building equity in our natural resources we will compound the value that surrounds us. In a world of scarcity, ideas and the ingenuity of the human spirit are abundant resources to be tapped.

First and foremost, we believe it is time to expand the notion of the Declaration of Independence. For just as for Thomas Jefferson and

the other founding fathers who set out to address the remote tyranny of their day, so too do we need to address a new form of tyranny -- one that is imbedded in our daily actions.

We need to declare a Declaration of Inter-independence, that liberates us from the traditional ways of doing things that are compromising our future. More importantly, we must adopt a new approach to living for our children. We can do this by ripping off the shackles of our bad habits, poorly designed processes and products and ineffective rules and regulations.

Just as Jefferson championed the notion of ‘generational sovereignty’ by asking, “whether one generation of men have the right to bind another?” We must accept that one generation has no right to tyrannize the generations that will follow us?

Help make Our Village Green. And watch for it in the March issue of the Eccentric.

As Jefferson said in a letter to his friend James Madison, “The Earth belongs in usufruct to the living; the dead have neither rights nor powers over it.” With this awesome right comes a major responsibility --- that of passing on a world as good, if not better, than the one we inherited.

What we have to work with today is a series of complex regulations and rules that breed a state of dependence that puts us squarely in opposition to the spirit of this country.

How we are tyrannizing future generations? By pumping billions of tons of pollution into the air, making products with cancer causing agents, clear cutting our forests, ditching our wetlands, paving our land, over fertilizing our farms and choking our rivers, lakes and streams. We are treating our resources as though we were in the liquidation business.

As a consequence, our economy has not truly benefited from the natural assets around us. But as the balance of the earth’s

resources shrink, in a context of steadily higher human consumption and accelerating population growth, we cannot rely on, technology alone to replace extracted resources quickly enough to ensure the health of the planet.

Meanwhile, the planet’s health is increasingly jeopardized and thrown into a margin of ever-greater risk by the known claims of science that document the dangers of climate change.

Suddenly, a new reality is taking hold. This reality is that the frontier of greatest economic opportunity will be for those enterprises that do the following:

- Put more into the earth than they take out
- Engineer products that have no waste
- Reduce carbon emissions whose future costs are steep.
- Gain shareholder value through competitive market share growth based on sound environmental practice
- Invest in assets that are closely correlated to traditional bonds and equities
- Exercise innovative and entrepreneurial responsibility to meet resource shortages
- Embrace the force of natural capitalism over industrial capitalism

This revolution is about investing in our natural capital, increasing resource efficiency and designing a future that produces no waste or pollution, while maximizing profits. Please join us. Our beautiful area can and should be a model for the nation and the world.

Dee Dee Hubbard & Chandler Van Voorhis

BATTER UP 7TH INNING STRETCH

ALEX CUDABACK

Alex Rodriguez got caught on camera being fed popcorn by one Cameron Diaz during the Super Bowl earlier this month.

According to reports A-Rod, who was sitting in stadium and Cowboys owner Jerry Jones’ suite at the time, pitched a fit that Fox would so rudely plaster the footage of his PDA across millions of television screens across the country.

Dude.

If I somehow got my hands on footage of Cameron Diaz feeding me popcorn, I’d make it like a theme song, like a formal announcement every time I entered a room.

If I somehow got hold of footage of Cameron Diaz feeding me anything, I’d make it my mission to ensure those precious seconds of digital imagery became more instantly recognizable than the Zapruder film.

A-Rod wants it stricken from the record.

Me, I’d want it playing on a loop at my funeral.

And then on a little screen set into the ground next to my tombstone.

To combat all the negative babes-feed-me-snacks-while-I’m-watching-football coverage the Yankees let everyone know A-Rod reported to spring training after having dropped his body fat from 12.5 percent to 9 percent in the off-season.

He’s also, according to reports, “leaner” and “more flexible.”

Good for him. That’s almost as awesome as watching the Super Bowl, Nero-style.

Cripes. Speaking of baseball, Phillies shortstop Jimmie Rollins recently predicted the boys from the city of brotherly love will win 100 games this coming season.

Which is a bold prediction coming from a guy whose team used the off-season to put together what should be the best starting rotation since the Braves’ of 1993. That team was led by Greg Maddux and his 20 wins and 2.36 ERA. Tom Glavine, John Smoltz and Steve Avery pitched in with another 45 wins between them and Smoltz’s 3.62 ERA was the most unsightly of the bunch.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

geometry involved.

What is involved is giving the students a bit of extra time to work on basic skills: reading, writing, spelling and math.

You can do this.

Trust me.

The program is always looking for tutors, and now is no different. You don’t have to go twice a week, though a number of tutors do. I go once a week; you could do that. Some people sign up as subs; you could do that. The point is it’s remarkably easy to help.

So you can do this.

Really.

Teachers notice the results. The kids notice the results. It makes a difference. The program works. That’s the bottom line.

And you can be part of it.

Ask yourself if there was someone who made a difference in your life when

So yeah, I’d say the Phillies should win 100 games. If a team led by Roy Halladay, Cliff Lee, Roy Oswalt and Cole Hamels somehow managed *not* to win at least 100 games I’d say that was a lot more interesting.

When did the Phillies become the Yankees of the National League anyway? Seriously? It used to be you had to have a real good reason to root against them, like being a Mets fan. Now it’s just sort of a no-brainer.

Funny you mention the Mets.... The continued blowback from the Bernie Madoff scandal has most recently centered on the ownership group of New York’s “other” baseball team. Irving Piccard, the trustee for Madoff’s Ponzi scheme victims, has filed a \$1 billion suit against Fred Wilpon and Mets’ ownership alleging they knew of Madoff’s scheme and actively conned other investors into turning money over to Madoff. Wilpon and Sterling Equities partner Saul Katz’s primary defense seems to be based on the premise that they were just as ignorant of the nefarious behavior that was going on right in front of them as everyone else.

Which, if you’re a Mets fan, is entirely plausible.

The good news for ownership reached a high-water mark just the other day when Madoff, from prison, confirmed their claims of innocence. According to Madoff the Wilpons “knew nothing” about what was going on.

Which is great.

If you like having Wall Street’s version of Benedict Arnold sitting in your corner come trial-time.

The good news, if you’re a Mets fan, is that the Wilpons have started looking around for minority investors to purchase up to 25 percent of the team. Donald Trump is the person who’s most recently been bandied about as a potential investor.

Which could be come in handy. Especially if somebody had to be fired.

I’d pay to watch that. And I’d pay double if Ms. Diaz wanted to keep me nourished while I watched.

Alex can be reached at cuda24@yahoo.com



Middleburg Elementary Wins Award, Designated “Pathways” School

Middleburg Elementary School is one of Loudoun County Public Schools that has been honored by Gov. Bob McDonnell and the Virginia Board of Education as part of the 2011 Virginia Index of Performance (VIP) awards for advanced learning and achievement. Middleburg Elementary has been awarded the 2011 Board of Education Excellence Award, one of 25 Loudoun County Public School recognized. This award is for meeting state and federal standards for two years and making significant progress toward goals of increased student achievement and expanded educational offerings.

Middleburg Elementary has been designated a “Pathways to Reading and Writing” school from Loudoun County Public Schools. This program provides training to Kindergarten, First and Second Grade teachers for comprehensive reading and writing instruction. This initiative will also provide students with new instructional materials for both reading and writing. Some of the skills that are focused on in the program are: word study, phonics, independent reading, shared reading, guided reading and writer’s workshops. This program helps teachers achieve comprehensive and consistent reading and writing instruction from grade to grade and from school to school.

Middleburg Elementary is hosting an Open House

Middleburg Elementary is hosting an Open House for their open enrollment for all Loudoun County residents through the Special Permission for Under Enrolled Schools Policy, including rising kindergartners and all grade levels.

Middleburg Elementary School is holding an open house for prospective students for grades Kindergarten through 5th on Tuesday, March 8th, 2011 from 7:30 – 9:30 AM and 4:00 – 6:00 PM.

Middleburg Elementary is a small school that offers open enrollment to any grade level through the Special Permission for Under Enrolled Schools Policy of Loudoun County Public Schools. Because Middleburg Elementary has rural demographics, it is under enrolled from time to time. If you reside in Loudoun County, but live outside the Middleburg Elementary boundary, you may request your child to enroll at Middleburg Elementary through this Special Permission Policy.

Middleburg Elementary School, consistently an award winning school, is known for its strong academic curriculum, as well as the lowest student to teacher ratio in the LCPS system. Middleburg Elementary’s programs are well rounded, with an emphasis in art, music, foreign language and physical education.

Kindergarten registration will begin April 12th, 2011. Any child who will be five on or before September 30th, 2011 is eligible to enroll. Parents should bring the original birth certificate and proof of Loudoun residency. For details about the open enrollment policy for kindergarten or any grade, please visit the LCPS Web site and click on Special Permission on the main page.

For more information, please contact Middleburg Elementary Principal, Mrs. Karen Roche, at 540-751-2490.



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IN DIRR WE TRUST

THE PLANT LADY

KAREN REXRODE

Michael Dirr spoke in Charlottesville, Virginia for the Piedmont Landscape Association recently. The author of the Manual of Woody Landscape Plants, he is the most respected expert on trees and shrubs in the United States. Author of 7 books and hundreds of articles, Dirr travels here and abroad, observing every nuance of growth habit, hardiness and distinction in our woody plants. Dirr’s manual, in it’s 6th edition, is behind every counter of every nursery that sells woody plants in the United States. A reference source unequalled in the field.

“In Praise of Noble Trees” was his first presentation. In short, it encourages the audience to plant trees of stature. These might include oaks, his favorite (particularly white oak), tupelo or nyssa, bald cypress, linden or tillia and new selections of tulip poplar. His list was extensive and there are several large nurseries he works with to test and bring the best to market. Naturally testing of a tree can take several decades, but many are available. What breeders are looking for are columnar growers, better fall color, an abundance of flowers, as well as weeping habits and cold hardiness. At 76 years of age, Dirr seems tireless in his quest to bring better trees to the home gardener.

Dirr’s second lecture was on the marketing of garden worthy

shrubs. His question, “How long should a plant be tested?”. Most are brought to market too quickly, the logic being, beat the other guy to the punch and earn the royalties from patents as soon as possible. Clearly this hampers the process, many are not worthy, a trend that has disappointed gardeners for along time. Point being, if it’s the



lecture on gardening with natives that I have ever heard. As a speaker for the Middleburg Horticultural Symposium on February 26th, he will gain much respect locally. If our birds could speak, Mr. Tallamy



first pink flowering Hydrangea arborescens on the market, maybe it’s not the best. A good plant will be more tolerant of drought, have strong upright stems and perform with consistency year and year. These are the plants we learn to love and covet in the landscape.

Doug Tallamy was also a presenter in Charlottesville. This man offers the most compelling

would be their voice. Catch him where ever you can. If you miss him, he has authored a book titled Bringing Nature Home.

If you are not familiar with Michael Dirr’s books, I would strongly encourage you to look into them. He has a wonderful book on just hydrangeas and another on viburnums. There is also an iPhone and iPad app based on his Manual

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Upperville - c1853 restored estate near polo and show grounds. 60 manageable acs, manor house, stone barns, cottages, pool, paddocks, gardens, views. VOF easement. \$5,850,000 Andy Stevens 703.568.0727	Aldie - Privacy and security abound on 31 lovely acres. Bright and cheerful 4BR custom home with gardens, pool, new barn, and fencing. Call Kimberly Hurst. \$1,430,000 Homes4HorseLovers.com 703.932.9651	Round Hill - Charming 4BR horse property. 28 acres surrounded by more land in easement. Barn, beautiful inground pool, pond, ring and 3 paddocks w/run-ins. \$1,050,000 Marci Welsh 703.906.5802	Middleburg - 5BR/4.5BA, 20 acres, great views. Main level MBR with deck. Private, pool, hot tub, pavilion, great for entertaining. Some fence, bring horses. East of village. \$899,900 Belinda Hyde 703.431.4620
Marshall - Gorgeous colonial near I66 on almost 14 acres. Private and picturesque. 4BR/3.5BA, main level master, HW flrs, gourmet kit, lrg deck, screened porch, many upgrades. \$795K Janet Rahane 540.229.8200 / Patti Brown 703.401.5798	Philomont - Bright and open floor plan with main-level master suite plus au-pair flat nicely situated on 6.5 private acres with hardwoods, fruit trees and open meadow. \$699,000 Homes4HorseLovers.com 703.932.9651	Purcellville - 7+ pvt ac w/incredible views in every direction. Pristine cond, 5BR/3.5BA, gourmet kitchen, new HW floors, stone FP, 3-car garage, fenced, barn/run-in, 3 paddocks. \$725,000 Joy Thompson 540.729.3428	Boyce - 100% stone home/retreat, renovated in 2006 has 3-4 BRs & 2.5BAs with stone garage on 15 private acres. Mtn property, postcard vistas, 30 mile views. Sub-dividable. \$560,000 Bobby Kirk 703.728.8602

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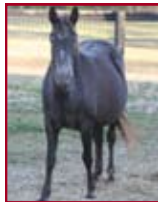
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Cooper is a very sweet & smart 9 mo. old Pitbull who is great with other dogs. He is very energetic & would love to run with you or just have a nice play session with a dog buddy.

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.



Bruce is a very sweet, calm, super special, Bull Terrier mix. He has an absolutely wonderful temperament & is great with people, kids & other dogs. Bruce is always a perfect gentleman!

Checkers is an energetic Lab/Border Collie mix born in July '10. He loves to play & gets along great with other dogs. He is very friendly & loves people.



Sunny is a 2 1/2 year old kitty who is friendly, playful and great with other cats. He loves attention and has the cutest ear tufts too!

Honey a 4 yr old Border Terrier/Pit Bull X, is excellent with kids & dogs, and is very sweet but needs a structured home. She must be leashed walked or in a home with acreage.



Middleburg Humane Foundation

Join Middleburg Humane Foundation at:



Super Pet Expo

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4368 Chantilly Shopping Center Chantilly, VA 20153

Friday, March 18, 2011 4 PM - 9 PM

Saturday, March 19, 2011 10 AM - 7 PM

Sunday, March 20, 2011 10 AM - 5 PM



"Spring at Last!" Wine Tasting

A Fundraiser for Middleburg Humane Foundation Shelter

Hosted by Terry and Wally, The Aldie Peddler Shoppes

39494 John Mosby Hwy (Route 50) Aldie, VA 20105

703-327-6743

Saturday, March 26, 12:00 noon - 4:00 PM

Suggested donation of \$20 per person will directly benefit MHF.



Middleburg Humane Foundation

P.O. Box 1238 Middleburg VA 20118

mhfdtn@earthlink.net (540) 364-3272

www.middleburghumane.com



Leroy is a very laid back kitty who is friendly & gets along well with other kitties. He would be happy as an indoor, indoor/outdoor or barn kitty.

Mattie is a cute 2 yr old Beagle mix. She is very sweet and really wants to find her lifelong people.



Bunnies We have 3 adorable bunnies available of various ages and personalities that were found on the side of the road.

"Got Mice?"

Wendy a 1 yr old kitty who is friendly, loves to play with her toys, and would be a great mouser. She would be happy in a house or a barn.



Boomer is a 19 yr old Chestnut TB/Warmblood X who thinks he is a dog! He loves attention & other horses. A perfect gentleman, easy keeper-a great companion!

Lilah is a charming 4 yr old Beagle X with a stocky body & little short legs. She is very sweet, good with all people, & has a great calm personality.



ALBERT'S CORNER

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

Rather than wait for someone to start a support group, I'm just going to use this column to confess my sins. Hello, my name is Albert P. Clark and I love Tallie, the family cat. There, I said it. And there's no taking it back.

I know there are lots of us out there, secretly (or not so secretly) harboring good will towards the kitty in the house. We're supposed to be fighting like, well, cats and dogs ... but occasionally we play, sometimes we gaze at each other with deep affection, sometimes we touch noses and sometimes (gasp!) we snuggle. Tallie won't snuggle with me, but I've heard that it happens and I haven't lost hope.

While there are lots of cat-loving canines in the world, there are some dogs striking terror in the hearts of Tabbies (hence the bad reputation and lingering stereotypes). It's a real problem in some households, and one that can have pretty dire outcomes - usually far worse for the dog than the cat.

So what's an animal-lover to do if he or she wants one of each pet? Well, it turns out that scientists at Tel Aviv University conducted research and discovered that if a cat comes into the home before a dog and if they are introduced while they are young (less than 6 months for felines and one year for canines), the

two pets will probably become fast friends.

Part of the success of early introduction, researchers believe, lies in our native languages. Cats and dogs use different physical and verbal signals to indicate different emotions and moods. If we are unfamiliar with those signals, we can misinterpret them. The good news is that dogs and cats can learn each other's languages under the right conditions. Exposure at a very young age helps us to learn more quickly. Even older dogs and cats, however, can eventually learn to coexist, but true "friendship" happens most easily when animals grow up together.

There can be peace even when pets are brought together later in life, but the risks of aggression are much higher. To mitigate these risks, it's essential to proceed with caution, never forcing introductions if any stress is apparent. Never leave a dog and cat alone together until it is absolutely certain that they are completely at ease with each other. While a dog and cat are getting to know each other, it may help to put the dog on a short leash, behind a gate or in a crate so the introduction is well controlled. Also, the cat's litter box and food should be out of the dog's reach.

Most importantly, use common sense and introduce animals slowly over a period of weeks and

even months if necessary. Let the relationship evolve and watch it closely. In some cases, it may never reach an acceptable level of comfort, but those cases are rare. In those instances, however, it is important for people to realize that their cat could be in significant danger. These unusual circumstances require creative living arrangements to insure peace and tranquility at home.

Among a survey of 200 owners of both cats and dogs, about 65% said their pets got along very well. Indifference was reported by 25% of respondents, and aggression was an issue in 10% of households. Those are pretty favorable odds, indicating that most people can build a happy home including both cats and dogs.

But who knows? Maybe I'm just pushing the whole dog and cat togetherness concept because I don't want to be alone in my shame. It's a little embarrassing to have a crush on the cat. It's just not right. And for a dog of my breed, it's downright humiliating. And yet there's just something about Tallie that makes me want to make bad puns about her purr-fectness. Okay. I need to stop writing. Immediately.

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.

"Spring at Last!" Wine Tasting

A Fundraiser for
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Humane Foundation
Shelter

Hosted by
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12:00 noon - 4:00 PM

Suggested Donation
\$20 at the door

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

For More information about MHF go to www.middleburghumane.com
For directions to The Aldie Peddler go to www.aldiepeddler.com
The Aldie Peddler will be donating a portion of their wine sales to the MHF

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Middleburg Hunt Country

Truly have it all with 10 acres, barn, workshop, creek, mature trees and ready to move in today. This magnificent custom built home boasts high ceilings, sun room, media room, large deck and finished basement. The professional chef's kitchen with its Viking ovens, Sub-Zero refrigerator, built in wine cooler, walk-in pantry, large island with dropdown vent and timeless craftsman cabinets puts this home in a class of its own. \$1,099,000

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(An unusual performance.)

Poster design and illustration courtesy
Laura Tymanski/Horluka Graphic Design

See it. Save it. Pass it on.



A Gardener's Approach to History: Book Signing by Andrea Wulf

Tuesday, April 26, 3:00 p.m.
Oak Hill, Leesburg, Virginia

Andrea Wulf, noted author and gardener, will give a talk as part of her United States tour for her latest garden history book *Founding Gardeners: The Revolutionary Generation, Nature and the Shaping of the American Nation*. Tickets for the event are \$100.

Book Launch: Lafayette: Lessons in Leadership from the Idealist General

Sunday, March 20, 3:00 p.m.
Oak Hill, Leesburg, Virginia

MHAA will help Marc Leepson launch his latest book, a concise biography of the famed Marquis de Lafayette. President Monroe will make an appearance during the afternoon. Tickets for the reception, talk and book signing are \$75.

Reservations can be made online at www.mosbyheritagearea.org



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LIMITED SEATING



Patrickswell

Middleburg, Virginia

Estate consisting of 213.83 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 four bedrooms, four full baths, two half baths, an in-law suite and four fireplaces. Improvements include pool, tennis court, 20 stall center aisle stable, office, tack, 2 wash stalls with 1/16 mile indoor track, and 2 bedroom guest house. \$10,500,000.

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. \$1,695,000.

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905



Canongate

Leesburg, Virginia

Circa 1760's stone farm house on 6.45 beautifully fenced acres. Beautiful wood floors, wood burning fireplaces, country kitchen with granite countertops, bathrooms all updated. Fenced paddocks, two stables and a machine shed. \$735,000.

Margaret Carroll (540) 454-0650



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. \$5,000,000.

Ann MacMahon (540) 687-5588

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Keepsake Farm

The Plains, Virginia

Classic farm house in Orange County Hunt. Charming log and clapboard well-maintained residence surrounded by pristine protected land. Spacious master bedroom with elegant en suite bath. Beautiful family room/den with exposed beams. Kitchen equipped with updated stainless appliances. Two stall barn with water and electric and run-in shed. Great ride-out. \$1,295,000.

Helen MacMahon (540) 454-1930

Alix Coolidge (703) 625-1724



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. \$589,000.

Helen MacMahon (540) 454-1930



White Horse Farm

Near Charlottesville, Virginia

Prime Albemarle County location, main house circa 1780 in excellent condition, completely updated. 4 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, 10 fireplaces with hardwood floors throughout and high ceilings. Improvements include 6 car garage, 8 stall stable, tenant house and sports barn with basketball court, hitting and pitching areas for baseball, bedroom area, full bath & locker room. 278.80 acres fenced & crossed fenced, ample water and numerous ponds. \$4,200,000.

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The Warren House

Upperville, Virginia

Turn of the century gem in heart of Upperville. Classic front porch leads into beautifully restored home, traditional parlor with Bellfire fireplace with original mantel; lovely dining room. First floor master. New kitchen has large island, custom cherry cabinets, farm sink, handmade backsplash, six burner Wolf range. Stunning porch gallery with wetbar; custom paneled doors to terrace. Oak and heart pine floors. \$860,000.

Walter Woodson (703) 499-4961



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. \$520,000.

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. Attractive 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. \$2,500,000.

Helen MacMahon (540) 454-1930



Conde Road

Marshall, Virginia

Stunning home 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. \$845,000.

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River Dell

Boyce, Virginia

Private, well-maintained 2 story home on Shenandoah River, with private, easy access to river, surrounded by horse farms. Lovely outdoor setting combines open space with partially wooded acres. Wildlife abounds. Home very energy efficient. Basement includes comfortable family room with gas fireplace and separate game room. Great retreat from the city. \$479,900.

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SACRED SPRINGS FARM, FLINT HILL, VA

Sacred Springs Farm is located on North Poes Rd. in Northern Rappahannock County boasting 140 acres with frontage on the Jordan River. Beautiful, absolutely private, French country stone & stucco manor house with 5 bedrooms, 5 1/2 baths, 5 fireplaces with approx. 10,000 sq. ft. of finished living space. 6 stall barn, attached 3 bedroom cottage, pond, fenced pastures and ring. \$4,495,000.

Lynn Wiley 540-454-1527
Anita Sisney 703-973-1987



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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#10 & #14 E. FEDERAL ST., MIDDLEBURG, VA

Two Commercial Buildings zoned C-2 on a 6,700+ sq. ft. parcel - no subdivision. #10 is a 2 story 3,200+ sq. ft. building, housing 2 shops with 2 rented apartments on the 2nd floor. #14 is a 2,200+ sq. ft. 2 1/2 story rented residence. Buildings are exempt from Middleburg parking regulations. Parking on the street and the adjacent municipal parking lot. \$1,400,000.

Carole Miller 540-687-2233



29 EDGEWOOD, FRONT ROYAL, VA

Spacious 3-4 bedroom custom built all brick home. Prime in-town location high on a hill with spectacular views and adjacent to Randolph Macon Academy. Many upgrades and custom features, immaculate condition. \$575,000.

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INTERNATIONAL OFFERING

8 NORTH JAY STREET, MIDDLEBURG, VA

8 North Jay Street - an office building built in 1990 with approximately 9,000+ sq. ft. of space on three levels. Frame construction with a cinder block foundation. Parking area = 17 spaces. Lot is 0.31 acres. Each level metered separately. Excellent Middleburg location. Rental information available. \$2,200,000.

Carole Miller 540-687-2233



LAUREL HILL, HAYMARKET, VA

Beautiful stone and frame 5 bedroom and 4 1/2 bath home with over 4,500 square feet of living space on 24+ private acres. Fully renovated gourmet kitchen. Lovely screened porch with stone walls, flagstone floors and fireplace. Large rec room over garage with full bath. Charming den with fireplace, large family room with fireplace. Beautiful grounds, new pool and hot tub. \$1,395,000.

Jim Thompson 540-687-2224



28 ACRES, DELAPLANE, VA

Beautiful views in all directions. 28+ acres of rolling open land perfect for horses, cows, grapes, or just enjoying. Small stream and some woods, several house sites to select from two 4 bedroom perks. Minutes to I-66 just west of Marshall. Surrounded by other large parcels. Plats available. \$595,000.

Lynn Wiley 540-454-1527



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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