



## WINDY HILL FASHION SHOW

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## HONORING TWO OF LOUDOUN'S FINEST

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## MIDDLEBURG COUNCIL PLANS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

DANIEL MORROW

Planning continues apace for this year's December 1st celebration of Christmas in Middleburg, with the memorandum of understanding governing how responsibilities are shared between the independent Christmas in Middleburg non-profit, the Town, and the Middleburg Business Association still in force.

The popular Hunt Review is set for 11:00 AM. The parade, welcoming Santa to Hunt Country, steps off at 2:00 PM.

To handle traffic from the east a new 1,200-space parking lot with shuttle bus service will be set up on Route 50, just east of Middleburg, at Mickey Gordon Park.

Work on in-town traffic and crowd control is ongoing, according to Police Chief Panebianco and the celebration's key stakeholders.

### Religious Issues

In response to a number of verbal complaints and at least one formal letter, Council spent a good part of its most recent work session discussing the role of religion in the town's Christmas celebrations.

After reviewing the current memorandum of understanding governing the event, Council Member Kathy Jo Shea noted that "the idea of putting Bible quotes on the event's website" was not covered in the current agreement.

The non-profit Christmas in Middleburg website, at <http://www.christmasinmiddleburg.org>, contains a "pastoral page" which, at press time urged visitors to the site to:

Keep Christ in Christmas! Stop into any of our churches to see the Holy Season decorations and ask about our worship. "God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him". Come find what God's love means in our life today. "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest". Do you want to speak with a pastor during your visit? Call ahead and arrange a time, you will be welcome.

Council member Kevin Hazard told Council that, although he had not seen Bible quotes on the website, he had seen them on the organization's Facebook page, and, in the words of Council's draft minutes, "expressed an understanding of the concerns."

Mayor Davis confirmed that there had, indeed, been "Bible quotes on the event's website" and reported that she had received a letter from an unnamed source who said they would "not return to the Middleburg celebration this year because of it."

Davis said the author of the letter specifically questioned the propriety of Town giving money for the event given the requirement for the separation of church and state.

Economic Development Coordinator Cindy Pearson, agreed that there was religious content on the "pastoral page" and told Council that "the complaint the Mayor received was not the only one."

Council member Bundles Murdock observed that the Town did not own the celebra-

tion, but "was only a partner in the event."

Council member Shea then asked whether the Town was "supporting or promoting a religious activity given that the Town was giving the event money."

Hazard said that he thought "religion was not an over arching theme on the website" noting that such comments were "limited to one page."

When Hazard questioned the propriety of saying "that churches could not be a part of the celebration," Shea replied that she "had no objection to having Bible quotes on the pastoral page" but that they "should not be part of the event's general advertising," noting that "she did not want to offend people."

Bundles Murdock observed that the celebration was, after all "a Christmas parade."

Shea pointed out "that it was not held at Christmas."

Murdock countered that it was held "because of Christmas" noting that, "otherwise, it would be called something else"

Council member Mark Snyder at that point observed there was perhaps a way to maintain "a nominal separation."

Given, in his view, that the "Town did not want to take Christmas out of the event," Snyder suggested simply taking the religious quotes off the website's main pages, noting that once that was done people would have to deliberately click on the "pastoral" page to see the religious quotes.

Hazard, then noted that "religious quotes" were being posted on the Christmas in Middleburg Facebook page. Censorship of Facebook postings by the town would be, he suggested, problematic.

Council member David Stewart, an Associate Minister at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, said "he was not aware that there were religious quotes associated with this event" and told Council he needed "to look at the website."

When Hazard reiterated his view "that the Town should not change things because it received one letter out of ten thousand people," Council member Shea reminded him "that it was not just one letter" and said she had also received complaints.

Shea then reminded Council that the Christmas parade had its roots in the business community. The newfound emphasis on "Christ and religion was offensive to some people, she noted

At that point Middleburg's Town Administrator, Martha Semmes, noted that she had "also heard complaints about the overt Christian message" and in her view "some of them crossed the line."

Mark Snyder agreed, noting that he was "okay with having religious messages on the pastoral page" but "did not want to see overtly religious messages on the website's main page."

Economic Development Coordinator Cindy Pearson agreed to work with Christmas in Middleburg Chairman Jim Herbert to resolve the issue.

Continued Page 13

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Cover Photo by  
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## NEWS OF NOTE HONORING TWO OF LOUDOUN'S FINEST

ALEX CUDABACK

Fred Drummond

On Friday, October 19th, two of Loudoun's finest were feted by over 160 of their closest black-tied friends and family as Fred Drummond and Stanley Caulkins were recognized as the 2012 recipients of the Loudoun Laurels medal in Education and Lifetime Service, respectively.

The festivities took at Rose Hill Manor just north of Leesburg and were accompanied by the Hamilton Trio and a contingent of Loudoun County high school students on hand, in part, for the formal announcement of the Loudoun Laurels Stewardship Trust, its mentorship program with LCPS's CAMPUS and AVID programs, and one, special, surprise: the announcement of two, \$10,000 scholarships, that will be awarded annually starting in 2013.

And while the night was special in so many ways, everyone agreed that the best part was the recognition of, and opportunity to thank, two of Loudoun County's finest...

For 36 years, from 1953 to 1989, Fred Edgar Drummond served as assistant principal and principal in the Loudoun Country Public Schools, a service record still unbroken.

He helped manage, with singular grace, the difficult transition from segregation, through resistance sometimes forceful and sometimes comedic, to today's world-class K-12 school system open to all the children of Loudoun.

Born in Pleasantville, NJ, Drummond attended St. Paul's Polytechnic Institute in Lawrenceville, VA.

After serving for two years in the 477th Bombardment Group of the famed "Tuskegee Airmen," Drummond set out on the path that would prove his life's calling: educating and mentoring young people.

His wife, Peggy, herself a native of Loudoun's town of Purcellville, encouraged her husband to apply for jobs closer to her child-

hood home. Because of his relative lack of experience, however, Drummond's career began in Kentucky, where he spent five years teaching after earning his master's degree in administration and supervision from Indiana University.

Drummond's journey finally came full circle early in the 1950's when an administrative position in the Loudoun public schools became available. After serving as both principal and teacher, simultaneously, at the black elementary school in Middleburg, Drummond was offered the job that would change his life forever, becoming the first principal at Frederick Douglas Elementary in Leesburg in 1958.

After ten years at Douglas, Fred served shorter stints at Broad Run High School and Leesburg Elementary before settling in and finishing his illustrious career with an eighteen-year run at Catocin Elementary.

Today, the library at Catocin Elementary is named in his honor, as is the drive upon which the new



FRED DRUMMOND AND STANLEY CAULKINS

Frederick Douglas Elementary School sits in downtown Leesburg.

Drummond selflessly served Loudoun County, its schools and its students for nearly 40 years.

A proud father and grandfather, he and his wife, Peggy, have been married for more than 67 years.

His message for the students in the room?

"Always work to be your best. Don't just do enough to be mediocre. Work hard, challenge yourself, and strive to be the very best you can be."

**Stanley Caulkins**

Stanley Caulkins, originally born in Maine and one of four brothers, moved with his family to Virgin-

*Continued Page 11*



PHOTO BY SARAH HUNTINGTON

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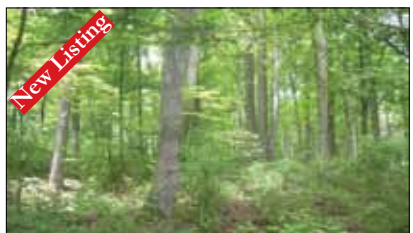
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# NEWS OF NOTE

## A SPECTACULAR CHRISTMAS IN HORSE COUNTRY

MIDDLEBURG TROTS OUT THE FINEST FOR HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES

Middleburg Virginia's traditional Christmas festivities against a backdrop of a classic Hunt Country Village have become a family tradition and essential part of the spirit of the holiday season for small children, world travelers and citizens far and wide.

Located in the heart of horse country, Middleburg, Virginia has been extolled as one of the most charming destinations on the east coast, and the annual Christmas in Middleburg festivities are a wonderful community event.

Festivities begin at 8:30 a.m., Saturday, December 1 with breakfast with Santa and a silent auction at Middleburg Elementary School.

At 11 a.m., the Middleburg Hunt Review takes to the streets

creating a spectacular event as approximately 100 horses, riders in red coats and dozens of hounds canter through the Village.

Throughout the day there are hayrides, choir performances, The LCPRCS Craft Fair at the Middleburg Community Center (300 West Washington Street), the Middleburg Garden Club's Christmas Flower & Greens Show at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, as well as shopping and dining in the town's many delightful shops and restaurants.

Back by popular demand is the Christmas in Middleburg Wine Crawl. The progressive wine tasting will feature Virginia wines at Middleburg Country Inn, Barrel Oak Tasting Room and Gallery, the Wine Cellar, Julien's, Red Fox Inn,

Salamander Market, Home Farm, and Olio.

The Middleburg Christmas Parade begins at 2 p.m. as spectators line the sidewalks along Washington Street (Route 50) to watch as a unique assortment of floats, troops, and bands march by. In keeping with the animal friendliness of the Village, the parade includes horses, llamas, alpacas and dogs.

Not to be missed are the antique fire trucks and of course, Santa brings up the rear riding on a beautiful horse drawn coach.

"Christmas in Middleburg is a wonderful family event," said Parade Organizer Jim Herbert. "This year's event will be especially exciting because the parade will feature many new additions; there will also be unique activities taking place

throughout the day for visitors to enjoy."

Getting there: Middleburg is located approximately 45 minutes from Washington, DC and is in close proximity to Dulles International Airport. To get there from metropolitan Washington, take I-66 West to Route 50 West (Exit 57B) toward Winchester. Drive approximately 25 miles to Middleburg. Free parking and shuttle will be at Mickey Gordon Park on Rte. 50 1 mile east of Middleburg, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For more information call the Pink Box Visitor Center at 540-687-8888 or email [Organizer@ChristmasinMiddleburg.org](mailto:Organizer@ChristmasinMiddleburg.org). Visit [www.ChristmasinMiddleburg.org](http://www.ChristmasinMiddleburg.org) to view an event schedule, list of activities, shop specials, and more.



## NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR WATERFORD FOUNDATION

The Waterford Foundation announced today that Kenneth W. Rosenfeld will be this award-winning preservation organization's new executive director.

"We are delighted that Ken Rosenfeld has enthusiastically accepted our offer of employment," says Foundation President Walter Music. "He brings 15 years of partnership development, community relations, and program administration to our organization, as well as the political experience

he gained as chief of staff for a member of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors earlier in his career."

Mr. Rosenfeld worked most recently with the National League of Cities, the nonpartisan association that represents the nation's 19,000 cities and towns. He served as the policy director and subsequently founded the organization's program on sustainability issues.

Prior to his tenure at NLC, Ken was the national advocacy

director at the nonprofit Rails-to-Trails Conservancy.

Historic preservation has been a recurring thread throughout his career, which began as a guide and supervisor at Monticello, the home of Thomas Jefferson. Ken holds an undergraduate degree in marketing from the University of Virginia, and a master's degree in government from the College of William and Mary.

He currently lives in the Alexandria section of Fairfax County with his wife, Jennifer, who

works at the Center for History and New Media at George Mason University.

"Waterford is one of the most special and unique places in the country, with a broad community of support that's dedicated to its preservation," Mr. Rosenfeld said. "I'm excited to join the Foundation, and I'm looking forward to building on its long track record of success."

The Waterford Foundation, Inc., founded in 1943, is dedicated to preserving the historic

buildings and open spaces of the National Historic Landmark District of Waterford, Virginia. The Waterford Foundation strives to increase public knowledge of life and work in an early American rural community through education. The Waterford Foundation is supported through grants, donor contributions, and proceeds from the annual Waterford Homes Tour and Crafts Exhibit.

For more information, please visit [www.waterfordfoundation.org](http://www.waterfordfoundation.org)

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# open house

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Date: **Sunday, November 11, 2012**  
Time: **1:30pm - 3:00pm**  
Where: **Highland School – Rice Theater**

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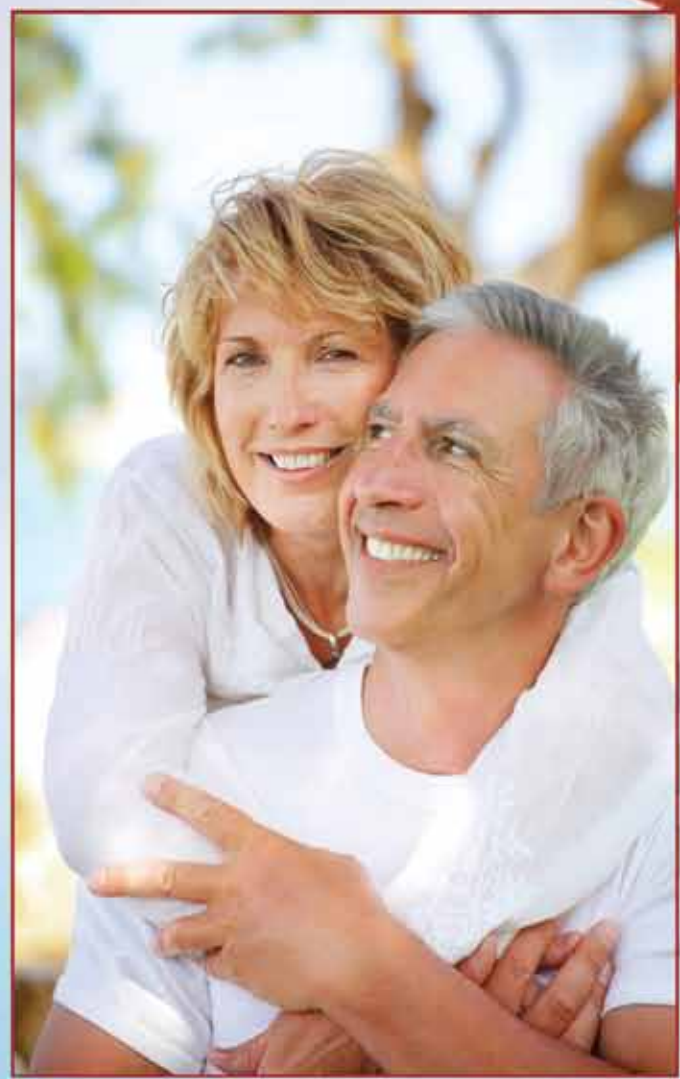
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# NEWS OF NOTE

## BATTLE OF UNISON & NEW UNISON BATTLEFIELD HISTORIC DISTRICT

SATURDAY, OCT. 27, NOON TO 4 P.M. IN THE VILLAGE OF UNISON

Unison Heritage Day this year will be a commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War Battle of Unison and a celebration of the new Unison Battlefield Historic District, already being called one of the nation's best preserved places.

The 8,000-acre, eight-mile-long battlefield, stretching from Philomont through Unison to Upperville, was placed on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic places last fall.

A reenactment of the Nov. 1-3, 1862 battle will fight through the village for over an hour, starting after 12:30 p.m., with Federal and Confederate cavalry, infantry, artillery and costumed civilians. The fighting, which left the village in flames in 1862, will take place largely on Unison Road going past the Unison Store, where the festival takes place.

Re-enactors from Valley Light Horse, Liberty Rifles, 1st Maine Cavalry, CVG, Kevin Yarzo Artillery and other living-history groups will camp in and

around Unison Friday, Saturday and Sunday, staging mock battles on all three days, starting near Philomont and ending near Upperville.

The annual fall festival, sponsored by the nonprofit Unison Preservation Society, will also feature the Blue Grass Band Willow Branch, barbecue by Red, Hot and Blue, oysters and clams on the half shell, a live auction and art show/sale.

Hounds and riders from the Piedmont Hounds, America's oldest Fox Hunting organization,

will arrive about noon as the festival opens, and mingle with the crowd.

The Battle of Unison reenactment will also include demonstrations of Civil War medical techniques, Civil War talks and tours of the 1832 Unison United Methodist Church, used as a hospital for wounded Union soldiers during and after the three-day battle. Graffiti left by those soldiers is still visible on upstairs walls of the church.

Admission, \$30 for adults, \$5 children ages 7-12 and free



for children 6 and under, includes free parking, food, beverages, auctions, talks and entertainment.

Advance tickets may be purchased by sending checks to Unison Preservation Society, P.O. Box 606, Middleburg, VA, 20118. More information about the event, the battlefield and the Battle of Unison can be seen on the UPS website: www.unisonva.org.

The annual village fall festival is sponsored by the nonprofit Unison Preservation Society, which created the Unison Village Historic District and the Unison Battlefield Historic District. The village, one of the first settlements in Loudoun in the 1730s, is at the crossroads of Foxcroft Road (Rte. 626) and Unison Road (Rte. 630) northwest of Middleburg.

The Battle of Unison, described in a 52-page illustrated history by National Park Service historian David Lowe, will be available for sale at the festival. The small, three-day Civil War battle after the Battle of Antietam, followed a plan by President Lincoln himself, which he hoped might capture the Confederate capital of Richmond and result in an early end to the war. When the plan and Gen. George B. McClellan failed, Lincoln immediately removed McClellan from command.

Historian Lowe says in his history "Thus, a small battle in Loudoun Valley had a disproportionate impact upon the course of the campaign and the war in Virginia." The battlefield today, with most of its roads the original dirt roads of 1862, is so well preserved says Lowe that if Union and Confederate troops who fought here were to see it today they would recognize the entire battlefield.



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## FOXCROFT HEAD OF SCHOOL TO RETIRE IN JUNE 2014

MARY LOUISE LEIPHEIMER WILL STEP DOWN AFTER 25 YEARS OF EXTRAORDINARY LEADERSHIP

Mary Louise Leipheimer, whose visionary leadership and dedication have guided Foxcroft School from a time of uncertainty to a position of extraordinary strength at the forefront of independent schools, announced Wednesday that she will retire as Head of School on June 30, 2014.

Her retirement date, which allows for a generous 22-month search and transition process, coincides with the celebration of Foxcroft's Centennial and the conclusion of Leipheimer's 25th year as Head.

"Foxcroft is incredibly well positioned not only for a second century, but also for the vision of new leadership to address the omnipresent challenges of an ever changing

world," said Leipheimer in a letter to Board of Trustees Chair Marco W. Hellman.

"From every corner of the Foxcroft world, that leader will find more talent, diversity, character, energy, creativity, and commitment than seem humanly imaginable. A new partner and a new century—together, they will, for certain, be a winning combination."

In a letter to the community, Hellman noted Leipheimer's extraordinary leadership. "She led Foxcroft from a period of acute social and financial turmoil into a period of substantial growth and development at every level," he said, "and when she departs, she will leave behind a stable, strong and vibrant school."

Looking ahead, he added,

"She will always be a part of our Foxcroft family. Embracing her legacy, let us move forward with the optimism, confidence and deep resolve she has fostered in us."

Leipheimer, who came to Foxcroft as an English teacher in 1967 and became Head of School in 1989, will spend the next two years continuing to lead the School and traveling the country celebrating Foxcroft's first 100 years with the entire community.

Leipheimer made the announcement Wednesday morning in meetings with the faculty and staff and, separately, "her girls" — the student body. The news was shared with alumnae, parents, and friends in special mailings sent at the same time.

During Leipheimer's tenure as Foxcroft's ninth Head of School, Foxcroft's endowment has more than tripled, from \$8 million to nearly \$28 million, and annual giving has doubled. She has overseen the adoption of a Campus Master Plan, the construction of a spacious maintenance facility, and opening of a \$14 million Athletic/Student Center. In July, Foxcroft broke ground on a 50-bed, LEED-certified ("green") dormitory that is the first step in an extensive residential project. All of this construction has been accomplished without incurring any long-term debt, an astounding accomplishment, especially in challenging economic times.

In the past two decades, Foxcroft's enrollment has grown,

with student support coming from the introduction of merit scholarships and an increase in the financial aid budget of more than 600 percent. The faculty is outstanding; more than 82 percent of classroom teachers hold advanced degrees.

In the classroom, Foxcroft's cutting-edge STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) program, innovative curriculum, and outstanding Advanced Placement Scholar record are exemplary. Students graduate not only with exceptional educational opportunities — the 37 members of the most recent graduating class were offered 134 acceptances and nearly \$1.2 million in merit scholarships from 94 colleges and universities — but also possessing a confidence and sense of self that enables them to meet challenges and make a difference.

The School draws strength and stability from its vibrant alumnae body, passionate faculty, and an Administrative Team that averages 18 years of experience in independent schools, including an average of more than 11 years at Foxcroft. In addition, Leipheimer's collaborative leadership and talent for identifying people's gifts and empowering them to do their jobs successfully has created a strong team ready to keep the School moving forward.

The search for Foxcroft's 10th Head of School will be led by Board members and alumnae Reggie Groves '76, and Sally Bartholomay



Downey '78. Carney, Sandoe & Associates, the leader in independent school recruitment, search and consulting services, has been retained to conduct the search.

Founded in 1914, Foxcroft School (www.foxcroft.org) is a college-preparatory boarding and day school for girls in grades 9-12 located in Middleburg VA. Its 2012-13 student body is comprised of 158 girls from 20 states, the District of Columbia, and nine countries. Thirty-three percent of current students receive merit- and need-based financial aid. Foxcroft offers 90 courses, including 15 Advanced Placement classes and an innovative STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) program. It fields athletic teams in nine sports, including a nationally-known riding program. The members of Foxcroft's most recent graduating class received 134 acceptances and \$1.2 million in merit scholarships from 94 colleges and universities, including Columbia, Northwestern, California, William and Mary, University of Virginia and Virginia Tech. For more information, please call 540.687.4340 or 1.800.858.2364.

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# NEWS OF NOTE

## GRACE CHURCH CONCERT SERIES OFFERS GREAT QUALITY & VARIETY

The 2012-13 season of the Grace Church Concert Series in The Plains showcases the high quality and greatly varied programming that has been its hallmark for many years. Returning to its longtime four-concert format, the series will make use not only of the church, but also the adjoining parish hall, which, as a complimentary venue, allows for a wider range of events.

All concerts are on Sunday afternoons, followed by pleasant receptions to allow the audience and artists to mingle.

The opening concert on October 21 makes use of the parish hall for a top-flight piano recital by Sara Daneshpour. As the winner of several major

competitions in the last decade, she has already established herself as a rising star on the international scene.

A graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music (with Leon Fleisher), Ms. Daneshpour is currently pursuing her Master's degree at the Juilliard School. Please note that this first concert is at 6 p.m., the only one of the series scheduled at this special time.

On November 18th, the Washington Bach Consort, always a popular ensemble with this audience, returns to perform in the highly attractive acoustics of the church itself.

Led by founder Dr. J. Reilly Lewis (conductor of the Cathedral Chor-

al Society), who will also share his talent at the keyboard, the Consort brings its usual vocal and instrumental expertise to create a musical experience that is both beautiful and compassionate. The concert time returns to the usual hour of 5 PM for this and following events.

February 10 highlights a weekend of pre-Mardi Gras celebration featuring a jazz concert in the parish hall presented by the Bruce Swaim Quartet and guest blues vocalist Mary Ann Redmond. With Bruce Swaim playing sax, Paul Langosch on bass (Tony Bennett's longtime bassist), Jay Cooley at the piano, and Dominic Smith on drums, the quartet is considered one of DC's premiere jazz ensembles. It won the 2010 Washington Area Music Association's (WAMMA) award for Jazz Group of the Year, as well as Jazz Recording of the Year. Widely admired in their field, the group's style is both fun and engaging.

Another parish hall concert caps the season on April 14 with the appearance of the Apollo Chamber Orchestra. A fairly new ensemble based in the DC area, the orchestra is made up of young graduates from major conservatories and music schools blended with proven musicians from well-known local organizations. The Apollo experience is focused on intimacy and inclusiveness, so come and enjoy a personal connection with lots of bright youthful talent.

New brochures, tickets, and other information are available by contacting Grace Church at P.O. Box 32, The Plains, VA 20198; calling 540-253-5177, or visiting [www.graceintheplains.org](http://www.graceintheplains.org). Fortunately, subscriptions and individual ticket prices remain the same as ever: \$100 for a complete subscription (including one free ticket for a child under 12), or \$25 per ticket for any individual concert. The series helps support the music program at Grace Church, and is funded in part by Mrs. Jacqueline Mars in memory of her mother, Mrs. Forrest Mars, who was devoted to music and loved Grace Church.

## GIRASOLE OFFERS A DELICIOUS BIT OF ITALY



Everyone knows what makes a house a home. It's cozy, inviting, filled with loved ones, good food, and everyone's welcome, especially around the holidays. That's also what makes a great restaurant your home away from home, and that's what you'll find at Girasole, in The Plains.

Not only will you enjoy fantastic regional Italian food by Chef Lou Patierno, but you will applaud the special dinner events they offer.

There are wine tastings and wine dinners every month; sponsor trips to Italy; an aperitivo bar; and, during the holiday season special food baskets; catering; party hosting, wine sales; and gift certificates.

Chef Patierno uses locally grown produce and meats in his recipes including mushrooms from North Cove Mushrooms, figs from Ticonderoga Farms, and organic beef and chicken from Ayshire Farms.

"I was inspired by a trip to my aunt's house in Ferrara in Northern Italy, when I was a teenager," he explained.

"I fell in love with Italian cuisine."

Trained at the Culinary Insti-

tute of America at Hyde Park, and later at the famed Tiberio in Washington, DC, Chef Patierno brings passion and expertise to his cooking.

"My approach is straightforward. I want the natural flavors to come through which requires the very best ingredients. Securing fresh products, especially locally sourced, is a requirement therefore to make a successful dish," he emphasized.

Next month to celebrate truffle season, Chef Patierno and his wife, Lydia, who also trained at the Culinary Institute of America, will feature their annual Piedmont Truffle Dinner on Sunday, November 11 at 7 pm.

Hosted by their friend, Francesca Vaira of G.D. Vaira Wines, the seven courses will include tenderloin carpaccio with micro greens and shaved white truffles, Piedmontese camaroli truffle risotto, prosciutto wrapped Ayshire Farm rose veal and sweetbread studded agnolotti with shaved white truffles.

Other upcoming events include a Thanksgiving wine tasting on November 18 at 3 pm where fifteen wines will be offered to taste and to purchase to ensure that your Thanksgiving meal has perfect wine pairings. But if you don't want to cook on Thanksgiving, join the Patierno family for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner from noon to five. For only \$65 per person, you'll enjoy a traditional meal with optional Italian-inspired side dishes.

Locals will enjoy Girasole's new Aperitivo Bar. Small plate pastas, pizzas and other delectable bites and specialty cocktails are available each Sunday through Thursday from 4:30 to 6:30 in the lovely lounge area. For those who wish to learn from Chef Patierno, a cooking class, takes place periodically at the sister restaurant, Panino, in nearby Manassas, Virginia.

Lydia Patierno runs the dining area and she and her servers, that sometimes include her grown children and nephew, know how to ensure that everyone is treated exceptionally well and leaves happy.

Girasole is open everyday Monday through Saturday from 4:30 to 10 pm and Sunday from 11 am to 9 pm. They can be found on the web at [www.girasole-panino.com](http://www.girasole-panino.com) and on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/girasoleva](http://www.facebook.com/girasoleva). For more information or to make a reservation, call 540-253-5501.

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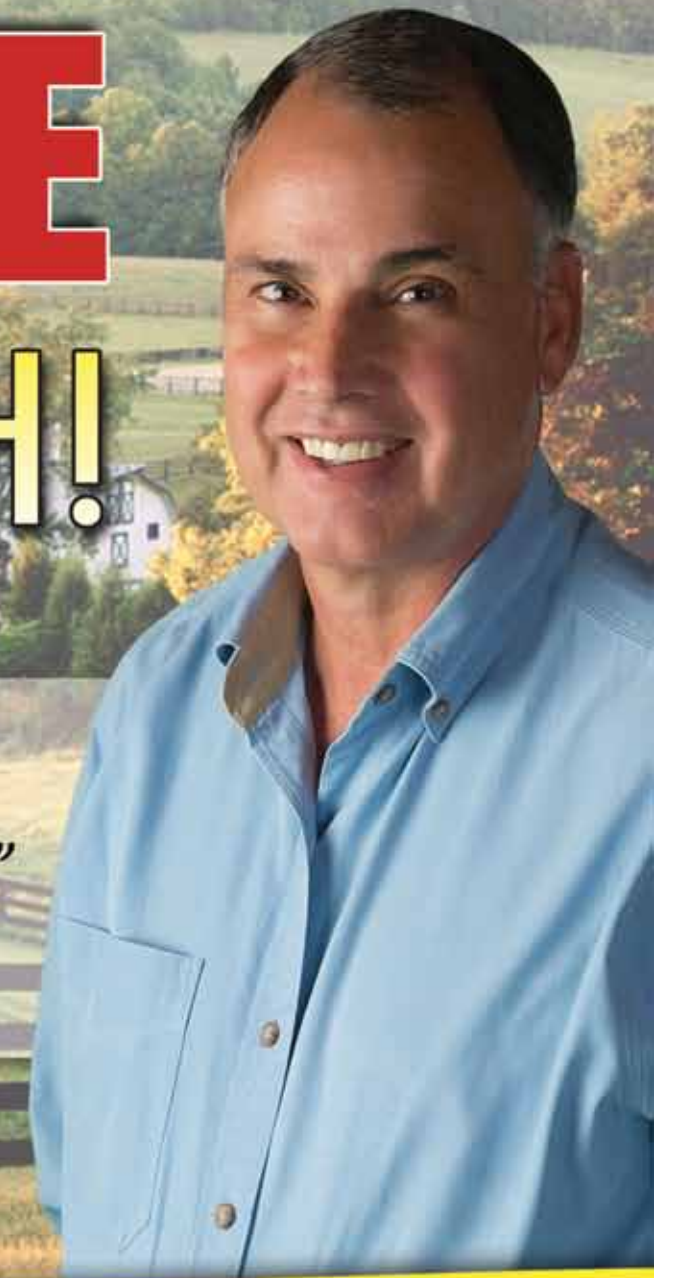


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# NEWS OF NOTE

## FAQs ABOUT PROPANE

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DALE SCHULZ

### Where does propane come from?

Propane is a by-product of drilling for oil and natural gas. Propane, along with methane, butane, and others are separated at the well head and furthered processed at a refinery. Virtually all propane currently used in North America is produced in North America. The day is rapidly approaching where the U.S. will be a net exporter of natural gas and propane.

### Why do I have propane and not natural gas?

Although propane and natural

gas are very similar, propane when placed under slight pressure in a container returns to its liquid form and can easily be transported by rail or truck. Natural gas is best transported via pipelines. If there is not enough density of homes or businesses in an area, the best alternative to natural gas is propane. Many gas appliances can easily be converted from operating on natural gas to propane.

### How is the price of propane determined?

Propane is a commodity. Its priced fluctuates on a daily and seasonal basis. Propane is generally cheapest in the warm weather

months when the demand is the weakest. It just takes a 5-minute call to see what your price is. We often suggest to Hunt Country Propane members they Pre-Buy their propane needs for a season and lock-in the lowest price.

### Why do most back-up residential back-up generators use propane?

Back-up generators go months, and even years, with only minimal use. Other fuels, such as gasoline and diesel, tend to degrade over time sitting in a tank. Propane can go years with no change in its characteristics. You need the generator to operate when you lose power

— every time.

### When I purchased my home I was told that my tank was owned by the propane company. I wasn't happy. How did that happen?

When the builder built your home rather than purchasing a 500 or 1,000 gallon tank he had your propane company provide it without charge with the requirement that you, the homeowner, must purchase propane from only that propane company indefinitely. If is similar to purchasing a new car, for example, a Ford, and being told that for the life of the auto you can only purchase gasoline from one company, for example, Shell. Typically, year after year homeowners who do not own their propane tank pay significantly more for propane than homeowners who own their tank. Company owned tanks were a good deal for your builder and the propane supplier, but a bad deal for you, the consumer. In over 25 years of building custom homes in the area we never installed a company owned tank. All the custom homes we built in the area the homeowner owned their tank when the home was completed.

### Can any propane company fill up my tank if I do not own it? What alternative do I have?

No, only the company who



owns your tank can fill it. Your best course of action is to negotiate the purchase of the tank with the company that owns your tank. Typically, your savings will pay for the tank purchase in a 2-3 year period. The sooner you own your own tank, the sooner you can start saving on your fuel bill.

### Question: Is propane clean energy?

Propane, along with natural gas, are two of the cleanest burning fossil-fuels. Electrical generation plants throughout the Country are slowing being converted from burning coal to natural gas and propane due to their abundance and price. Propane produces 50% harmful emissions as home heating oil.

About the Author: Dale Schulz is the President of Hunt Country Propane, [www.huntcountrypropane.com](http://www.huntcountrypropane.com). located here in Middleburg. Hunt Country Propane is a new, local, lower priced area propane supplier. You can contact them at 540.687.3608

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## MIDDLEBURG COUNCIL PLANS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

At press time the religious content remains on the "pastoral" page, along with contact information for a dozen Christian churches, sign up instructions for the organization's newsletter, a "click to contribute" feature, and a "Wine Crawl" promotion.

### Financial Reporting

Following Council's discussion of the role of religion in the Town's holiday parade, Town Administrator Martha Semmes pointed out that the Christmas in Middleburg Organization still owed the Town a financial report from its 2011 event.

In the Memorandum of Understanding for the 2011 event, Town Council had, for the first time, pointedly demanded rigorous financial reporting. Vice Mayor Darlene Kirk at that point noted that the Town's auditors needed the information as well.

### Parking

In the course of discussing an amendment to Town Code pertaining to "Stopping, Standing and Parking" Police Chief A. J. Panebianco reported that his Department was running out of parking tickets. Before placing an order for more, he checked to make sure the Town's fines were in line with the Virginia State Code. He discovered that the Town's fine for illegally parking in handicapped slot was not. Henceforth, the minimum fine for a handicapped parking violation in Middleburg will be one hundred dollars.

Council also agreed that, subject to review after a public hearing, fines not paid within 72 hours would be subject to a \$25 surcharge.

### Investment of Town Funds

Town Administrator Martha Semmes and the town's auditors have been reviewing how much the town is paying in interest on the money it has borrowed, and how much it is earning on the cash it has on deposit with local financial institutions.

John Wells, Leesburg's Town Manager reported he has been seeing interest rates on government bonded debt as low as two percent. Middleburg, she noted, is currently paying five percent.

The town also keeps significant amounts of cash in "on call" accounts, which earn little or no interest. She is exploring plans to diverting some of that cash to secure accounts producing higher returns.

### Credit Cards

Without opposition Council moved, for the first time, to issue credit cards to Town Employees.

### Visioning

Town Planner David Beniamino reminded Council that the Planning Commission was scheduled to hold a community work shop on October 24th to help develop a vision for the future of Middleburg and suggested it would be appreciated if as many members as possible would attend.

At that meeting the commission will review for all stakeholders the Comprehensive Plan process, the results of the recent Middleburg stake-

Continued Page 14

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# NEWS OF NOTE

## MIDDLEBURG COUNCIL PLANS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

holder survey and allow members of the greater Middleburg community to speak directly with and to the Commission.

### Middleburg Museum

Town Council voted unanimously to rescind its ordinance establishing the Middleburg Museum Committee. The Museum is now formally organized as a federal 501.c.3 non-profit corporation.

### Noise Restrictions

Debate about a new ordinance governing the operation of "fitness centers" in Middleburg focused almost entirely on defining and monitoring acceptable noise levels outside such facilities.

After hearing that noise measured at sixty-five decibels "was on a level between a car alarm and an alarm clock" and that a level of forty-five decibels produced noise somewhere between "a moderate rain fall and a refrigerator" Council turned to non-audible vibration and a suggested standard 0.05 inches/second.

At that point Beniamino reminded Council that the Town had no way to measure either decibels or non-audible vibration. In the end the matter was referred back to the Planning Commission, with Council recommendation that the Police Department purchase a decimeter and not worry about non-audible vibrations.

A public hearing on the new standards will follow.

### Red Ribbon Week

Corporal Jarod Corder, a member of the Shenandoah Valley Young Marines, appeared before Council to promote Red Ribbon Week. Corder told Council that wearing the red ribbon hon-

ored Enriquee "Kiki" Camerena, a drug enforcement officer who was killed in the line of duty, and helped support eliminating demand for drugs.

Town Council unanimously passed a proclamation declaring October 23-31 as Red Ribbon Week.

### Crosswalks

Town Administrator Semmes reported VDOT had presented a preliminary schedule for constructing crosswalks in Middleburg, including a long-sought mid-block crosswalk in the vicinity of the Middleburg Bank and the Post Office.

According to Semmes actual construction would probably not begin before 2014.

### Half Open Doors at MPD

Police Chief A.J. Panebianco reported that the new Dutch door he had promised to install at Police headquarters was now, at last, in place.

Installed at the Chief's request so that his department actually looked like it was open when it was, in fact, open, the new door, much to the Chief's chagrin, had to remain closed, top and bottom, while a boiler was being replaced in the Health Center Building.

The department is now, however, open for business as it never has been open before.

### Editor's Note

In last month's Town Council story the Eccentric reported that Police Chief A. J. Panebianco told Town Council that nonpoisonous snakes had been safely and humanely removed from the town-owned Health Center Building. They were in fact safely and humanely removed from a private residence.

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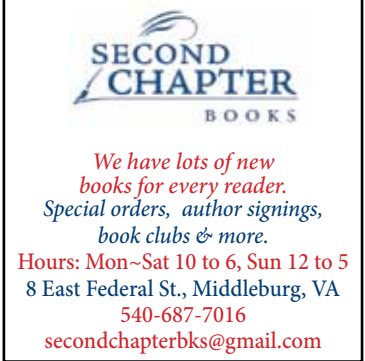
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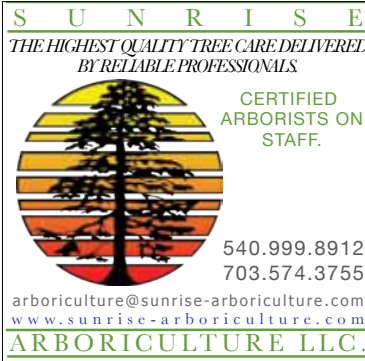
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# PHILLIP THOMAS. CELEBRATING 50 YEARS IN REAL ESTATE AND THE PRESERVATION OF LAND AND HISTORIC PROPERTIES IN HUNT COUNTRY.

Phil Thomas sits in his beautifully appointed office surrounded by shelves of wonderful mementos and memorabilia collected through the fifty years of success his company has realized in the real estate business. “Each object,” he says, “has meaning for me. Each has a story and is part of my history.” There’s even an original, framed contract that hangs just outside his door, with the signatures of John and Jacqueline Kennedy.



When asked what he thinks about the real estate market today, he smiles and says, “I’ve seen a number of recessions in my fifty years in business. It goes up and it goes down. And by the way, as the market starts to move again with these low interest rates, there’s never been a better time to buy or sell in Hunt Country. You see, real estate in this neck of the woods is unlike any in the D.C. area. You aren’t just buying a home, you are buying into a unique landscape and a special way of life. This real estate tends to retain its value because it offers so much more than a house.”

Phil Thomas and his agents have invested much time and energy into the preservtion of the countryside and the cultivation of long-term relationships with homeowners and homebuyers here. And Phil is proud of the fact that, over the years, his firm has bought and sold nearly every notable property in the area — many of them more than once. He’s also been instrumental in the protection of land. Phil worked hand-in-hand with the early champions of land preservation like Eve Fout, the Honorable Bruce Sundlun, James Rowley, George Horkan, Esq., the Honorable Charles Whitehouse and William Backer, among others.

A bill was passed in Congress in the 70’s establishing a state’s ability to create and hold easements. These efforts helped establish organizations like the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, the Piedmont Environmental Council and the Goose Creek Association. “My father, Reed Thomas, assembled many small parcels of land over many years around Paris, Virginia. He loved the land and it gave me enormous pleasure to fulfill his dream and convey the 1,250 acres of Ovoka Farm to the Piedmont Environmental Council for permanent conservation.” This resulted in Phil being the recipient of the Piedmont Environmental Council’s Land Conservation Award in 2001.

Phil was raised in the Middleburg area. Fifth generation. In the late 1950’s, after prep school, college and the Marine Corps, his first job was pulling a surveyor’s chain across a huge cleared field that today is Dulles Airport. A general contractor that had a quarry nearby approached him one day with knowledge that Phil had recently gotten his real estate license. He asked Phil if he would initiate the purchase of some very rocky land near the airport site to be quarried and turned into gravel for the miles of runways that were about to be laid down. Phil’s response was, “Sure, no problem.” Phil also had no problem cashing that commission check for \$14,000. Especially when, at the time, his surveyor’s salary was only \$8,500.



Phil’s first sales office 1964

Phil reflects on those times and laughs. “Real estate looked pretty good to me, even though my first year of business was conducted either in my car or in my hat.” He goes on to say, “It wasn’t long before I started hanging out with a real estate guy located in Middleburg, named John Talbot. We’d meet up at the Coach Stop restaurant, which was the local social hub in Middleburg at the time. I’d sit across from John and sponge up everything I could about real estate. One day, slightly



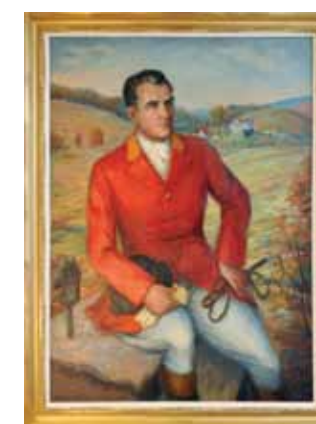
annoyed, John Talbot told me, as I scanned his big pile of papers on the table, ‘Hey, Phil, you see that guy across the street, headed towards the Red Fox? His name is Raymond Bates and he’s looking to buy a weekend house in the country. Get out there. He’s your client. Go find him something.’”



With that, Phil headed up the street. He introduced himself and told Bates that Talbot had referred him. It turned out that Bates didn’t just want to buy a house, he actually wanted to buy several properties for a new business venture with James Abrams of Allen & Company of New York. He had significant stock in a new pharmaceutical that had just been approved by the FDA, and he wanted to buy as many properties as he could, to fix up and resell. So within six weeks, Phil had him under contract on five area estates. Grateful for the contact, Phil approached a then dismayed John Talbot about formalizing their relationship. They were highly competitive with each other, back when land was going for three to five hundred dollars an acre, and joining forces made good sense.

They cut a deal and opened Thomas & Talbot Real Estate together in 1967. When Talbot moved on in 1979, it became Phil’s company, as he already owned the building.

Today, Phil reminisces. “In the early days, it was the era of the grandes dames of Hunt Country — Theo Randolph, Dorothy Jackson, Alice Mills, Mrs. Iselin, Mrs. Furness and others. I love all the characters of yesterday in this part of the world. You know, my father was a Master of Foxhounds in the 20’s and 30’s. Fox hunting was, and continues to be, an important part of this culture. The fox hunters of yesterday were actually the forerunners to today’s conservationists. It was vital to the fox hunting community to maintain large unspoiled tracts of land for fox hunting. Families such as the Phipps, the Warburgs, the Harrimans, the Guests and the like had the wherewithal to protect and promote Hunt Country. It’s all about this glorious landscape. “It’s why we love where we live.”



C. Reed Thomas, M.F.H.

Phil Thomas’ approach to buying and selling over the years hinges on the ethical and the practical. He insists, “I’m not going to tell a seller just anything they want to hear to get a listing. We’re going to establish a realistic price they can get today or we’re just wasting each other’s time. Same kind of approach goes for buyers, as well.

A buyer needs to have a budget that’s realistic to what they’re looking for. I’m not going to try and upsell them on something that’s out of their range. I certainly wouldn’t be in business fifty years operating like that.”

When Phil reflects on where things are today, he has this to say, “Many who settle in this community have no idea what it has taken to preserve it. We take it upon ourselves, here at Thomas &

Talbot, to give everyone a little background, and encourage those who buy property here to continue the effort, to protect open land and this place that is so treasured.”

Phil is proud of his years in the real estate business here in Virginia’s Hunt Country. He has dealt with industry leaders, politicians, football players, new money, old money and just plain hard-working people who have earned a piece of this spectacular landscape. “I work for fun,” he says emphatically. He loves his life here and values the great relationships he has maintained. Phil’s quite serious when he says, “It’s actually taken fifty years to assemble my team of twenty agents, all of whom are recognized as among the best in the business. They share my ideals and love for this landscape and community. Maybe that’s why we’ve established a sales record of historic proportion.”



## PHILLIP THOMAS – A HIGH PROFILE REALTOR & COMMUNITY STEWARD

Phil is a member of the Greater Piedmont Area Association of Realtors (GPAAR), Virginia Association of Realtors (VAR), National Association of Realtors (NAR), Metropolitan Regional Information System (MRIS) and Northern Virginia Realtors Association (NVAR). Phil was named Top Residential Producer of the Year by the Loudoun Association of Realtors in 1987 and has received numerous other awards over the years.

Phil’s lineage in Fauquier and Loudoun Counties spans five generations and he has long been active in the civic, business and social affairs of southwest Loudoun County. Phil’s role in the Hunt Country community includes the following: member of the Board of Directors of the Middleburg Community Center, past Co-Chairman of the Middleburg Spring Races, sanctioned by the National Steeplechase Association of America (NSA) and held for the benefit of Loudoun County Hospital.

He is a past member of the Board of Directors of Grafton School for special education students in adjacent Clarke County. Phil served as board member of the Goose Creek Association, a watch committee for environmental issues affecting our area, a member of the Middleburg Business and Professional Association, and the Washington Dulles Task Force, an organization of business and community leaders dedicated to accommodating the economic and residential expansion centering on Washington Dulles International Airport. He has also served as a member of the Dulles South Advisory Planning Committee, and is a former member of the Clarke County Mountain Land Committee. Phil is a past Director of the Long Branch Foundation and a founding member of the Great Meadow Foundation.

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# FACES & PLACES

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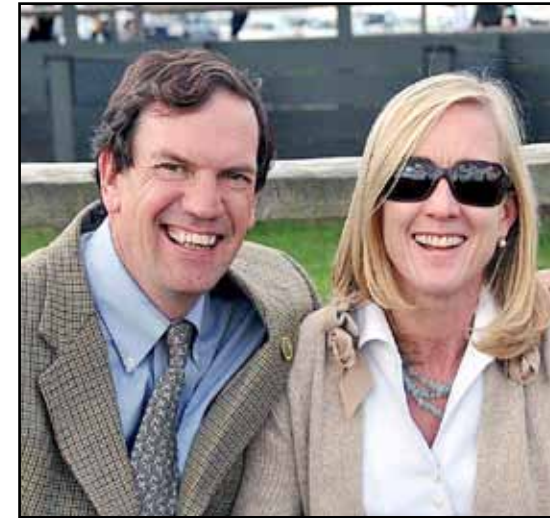
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# FACES & PLACES

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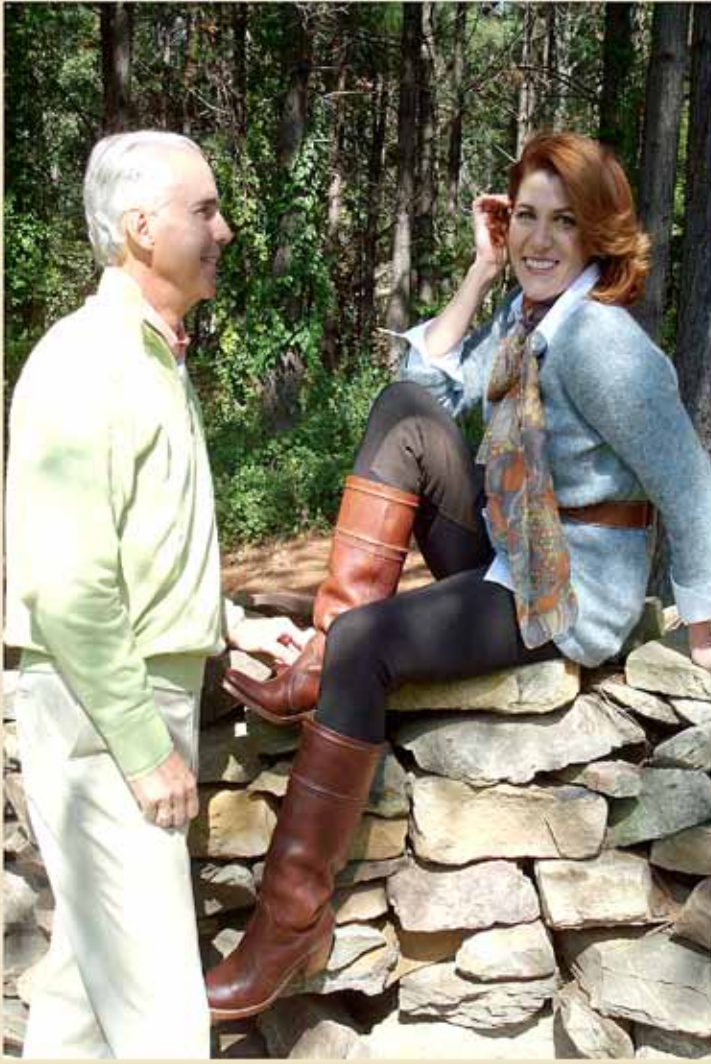
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# PASTIMES

## RIDE ON

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ALEX CUDABACK

The death-by-a-thousand-cuts of Lance Armstrong’s reputation and place among the gods in cycling’s Pantheon has been arrestingly horrifying to watch.

What’s been truly jaw-dropping, however, has been the reaction of UCI, the Union Cycliste Internationale, whose president, Pat McQuaid, this week asserted not only that Armstrong had “no place in cycling” and “deserves to be forgotten in cycling,” but also that “[b]y the decisions we have taken, it has given us the moral authority.”

If, indeed, Armstrong is guilty of the crimes he’s been accused, essentially running international cycling in general and the Tour de France in particular, like some spandex swathed Tony Montana, (and, at this point, even diehard fans such as myself really must begin to doubt our own rose-colored glasses), then I make the argument that forgetting Armstrong, while striking in a romantic ideal kind of way, further damages the credibility and legitimacy of any governing body trying to regain any kind of high-ground moving forward, moral or otherwise.

If Armstrong has no place in cycling then, goodness, tell me who does?

For the years Armstrong’s Tour victories are being stripped, why are no other riders being awarded those titles?

Could it have anything to do with the fact that of the 21 riders who followed immediately behind Armstrong in those 7 Tours, fully 20 of them have also been tied to

doping?

International competitive cycling had for years, and since well before Armstrong burst on the scene in 1999, been rife with dopers and users. While never officially endorsed, it was accepted, as part of the culture and part of the reality of the sport. Have you *seen* what these guys do?

And, ironically now, that was why Armstrong’s rise was so meteoric, so heroic. He’d not only escaped a broken home and beaten cancer, two hugely compelling narratives, but he was a clean kid dusting all those dopers at their own game.

Oh, and he was American. Can’t forget that.

So, yeah, we jumped on the bandwagon (even if we didn’t actually jump on our bikes) and we cheered as the Tour trophies piled up and thumbed our noses at our arrogant continental hosts and thumped our chests and poo-poo’d the myriad accusers.

And in the end, it looks like it really was all a lie. Which is sadder than I can tell you.

But what we can never forget, and what can never be taken away, is the incredible, superhuman work Armstrong and his Livestrong Foundation have done for those with cancer, the men and women, the girls and boys, who are struck daily by a disease we’ve been too slowly and ineffectually fighting for the past 60 years.

The Livestrong Foundation has raised nearly half a billion dollars for the fight against cancer since its inception in 1997. That’s billion with a “b.”

It’s still raising money, and awareness, today, advocating and pressing for more research, smarter thinking and more

commitment.

Armstrong has given tirelessly of himself to promote the Foundation and its fight to do something for the world as a whole.

Was a he secretly trying to atone for sins about which only he was aware?

Or was he just as pissed at the disease that tried to kill him as he always was at the other riders who wrote him off and said he had no chance?

Who knows. Frankly, for me at least, who cares.

Maybe Armstrong cheated in a sport rife with cheating. Maybe his self-respect and the respect he held for his sport wasn’t nearly as uncompromising as we all wanted it to be. Maybe he rode a bike and lied about what made him so good. Maybe he wasn’t any better than any of the people all around him in the peloton.

Maybe for you.

But for me, he was working to do something good, something lasting, something with impact, something bigger than any of us.

Something that could change the lives of millions, and maybe, just maybe, *save* the lives of millions more.

So if the cycling hypocrites don’t want him, if the sponsors who made millions off him don’t want him, if the UCI and Pat McQuaid and his predecessor Hein Verbruggen, the guy who ran UCI from 1991-2005, arguably the most drug-riddled era of any sport, don’t want him, fine.

I’ll take him.

And there are millions more who feel the same.

*Alex can be reached at  
cuda24@yahoo.com*



## REINVENTING YOUR FIGHT AGAINST CANCER

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CINDY BATTINO

It is time to attack cancer with both barrels. Western medicine can be very effective, but is limited to the physical body. Anyone challenged with cancer understands that this dis-ease assaults the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual aspects of self. When you complement Western medicine with Eastern medicine you have a recipe that heals the body, mind, and spirit. It also opens more opportunities for support for both the individual fighting cancer and their family.

There’s a lot you can do when diagnosed with cancer. There are books to read, healing places to go, professionals to see. The point is to bring positivity, hope, support, love, and relief to this journey. You must strive to balance the fear, grief, anger, and separateness.

### NCCAM

The National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine is an arm of NIH that helps people challenged with the diagnosis of cancer and other dis-eases by recommending a change in nutrition in addition to energy workers, acupuncturists, massage therapists, and supplementation. **This organization validates complementary and alternative medicine (Eastern medicine) as effective healing modalities.** There is sufficient evidence to prove that energy work, acupuncture, massage therapy, and specific diets (all raw, anti-inflammatory,

juicing) will reduce stress levels, encourage growth of healthy cells, discourage growth of cancer cells, decrease pain, inflammation, nausea, and toxicity of chemotherapy and radiation during this traumatic time for the body, mind and soul.

### Nutrition – Green yes. Sugar no.

Why change your diet? Ample research confirms that certain “foods” feed or starve cancer cells. In his book, The Anti-Cancer Diet, Dr. David Servan-Shreiber explains the correlation between sugar and cancer. Dark leafy vegetables are known to feed healthy cells and provide the body with essential nutrients to facilitate the therapeutic process. At the Institute for Living Foods and the Hippocrates Institute, they have studied the health and anti-cancer benefits of eating organic, vegan, raw and juicing. They teach you how to eat in a way that boosts your immune system and your body’s ability to heal.

### Acupuncture & Energy Work – no down side

Acupuncture and hands on healing have been recognized and practiced in the Eastern culture for centuries. Because they are new to the West you might be curious and skeptical. Both acupuncture and energy work focus on healing the whole person and help balance all aspects of self (physical, mental,

emotional, and spiritual). These (and other) alternative modalities can reduce inflammation, pain, nausea, stress, and anxiety. They are a safe place to vent, cry, and release emotional and mental pain. Alternative medicine will encourage you to look at all areas of your life. Where do you allow chaos to rule? Where do you need to create stronger and healthier boundaries? Where is your “no”? Prayer, meditation, and journaling will be encouraged to release stress and create a stronger bond with your higher power. When you join East with West you can fight cancer with greater vitality, strength, and energy. In these places every aspect of self is held in healing energy and love.

The best part of the complementary and alternative medicines expressed in this article: they can’t hurt you! They can only help. There is no down-side.

### Prevention

The best way to fight cancer is to prevent cancer. Make sure that you see a dermatologist regularly to have body checks. Have your mammograms, pap smears, and colonoscopies on time. Want an alternative to mammograms? Try thermography. It isn’t covered by insurance but is far less invasive. Reduce stress in your life by meditation, prayer, exercise, therapeutic massage. Every time you go to your dentist, remove



a metal filling to prevent metal toxicity. Finally, do what Kim Tapper, Kay Colgan, and I have been recommending for years and years, get healthy. Change your diet – limit junk food, fast food, and sugar. Exercise. Slather on sunscreen. Make sure you have enough emotional support in your life. See a therapist, coach or energy worker on a regular basis. When cancer is the ultimate enemy, living a lifestyle that promotes wellness is your best offensive strategy.

It is time to Reinvent Your Fight Against Cancer. Have East meet West for the most effective strategy to heal and stay strong during this journey.

*“Cindy is not just an energy worker. She is a healer of the body & soul, organizer of the mind and thoughts and a very personal data processor. I came to her, at a friend’s recommendation, when I was diagnosed with Stage 2b breast cancer. She not only helped guide me through this period of my life, she raised me up and got me excited about all the positive things that can come out of any crisis. Now that I have my health back I continue to see Cindy to stay on track. She is refreshingly real, open and honest.”* Courtney R., Client of Transformational Healing

Please contact Cindy at [cindy@transform-heal.com](mailto:cindy@transform-heal.com) to receive a list of resources – websites, books, blogs, health institutes for cancer.

## SAVE YOUR BULBS

THE PLANT LADY

KAREN REXRODE

If you want to save some of your tender bulbs by storing them for spring, there is a relatively new method that is easy and successful. In the past, if you wanted to save bulbs and roots, it usually meant layering them in large containers with peat moss. This was especially true for dahlias and it was the American Dahlia Society that first accepted this new method, something they don’t do on a whim. You will need sulfur, vermiculite and plastic wrap. Some of the bulbous rooted plants I have successfully stored with this technique are dahlias, cannas, alocasia, colocasia, tuberose, and acidanthera,so you see it works for a great many plants.

I prefer to dig up the roots before we have frost, so it’s definitely time to get going. You have to remember that many of these tender bulbs are tropical and cold soil temperatures can set them back. Today I dug my tuberoses, cannas, alocasias and colocasias. Wash off the roots and let them dry in the sun. The colocasia roots (elephant ears) will often have a rhizome with baby tuber on the end, you can keep it intact or separate them. The tuberose bulbs have become very expensive, the few I dug today would be worth about \$100.

come spring, so YES, I’m going to save them. Cannas need some wrestling to get them all out of

the ground. I love Canna ‘Bengal Tiger’ and it’s not always easy to find, so I dig them up every year.

Mix 1 part powdered sulfur to 8 parts vermiculite in a plastic bag. The vermiculite will help the sulfur stick to parts of the bulb and it will draw moisture away from the bulb. Using sulfur alone is not recommended, it can burn growing tips or eyes, so you want to mix the vermiculite and sulfur thoroughly. I also suggest you take off your jewelry or wear gloves because the sulfur turns all things silver - black (it’s temporary but alarming). Cut the leaves off, as low as you can, the remaining bulbs with roots are tossed in the bag and coated by shaking. The roots will come out looking very yellow and that’s good.

It’s important that you give the roots a night to dry, preferably in a warm place. I sometimes coat them again the next day, if I see places that were missed. Lastly you wrap them in plastic wrap individually, don’t let 2 bulbs or rhizomes touch. Masking tape works great to label what’s in each bundle. I prefer to store the tropical roots in a warm place. I have found that the wall beside my freezer works well. Dahlias can be stored on the cool side, like 40 degrees.

As you store your sulfur/vermiculite mix for next year, you will find that the mix usually needs more sulfur, it seems to stick to the roots more readily



than the vermiculite. I keep the bag in the garden shed, ready for the next fall, when my tuberose will be huge!



## Get the Biz Buzz!

*The Middleburg Business and Professional Association invites you to our November Mixer*

*Tuesday, November 13  
5:30-7:30 p.m.*

*Hosted by  
Middleburg Bank  
111 West Washington Street*

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*Non-members will be charged \$5.00.*



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# PASTIMES

## WATER RESOURCES CONCERNS... 2013 TO 2016

WATERWORLD

RICHARD A. ENGBERG

The presidential election is less than three weeks away as I write this. The winner will have enormous responsibilities in the next four years regarding jobs, taxes, foreign policy, energy issues and social issues. I hope that in spite of these concerns, the winner doesn't forget about our most important natural resource, water.

Dr. Peter Gleick of the Pacific Institute in Oakland, CA, recently issued a challenge to the next president to include water resources in his agenda. In Dr. Gleick's words, "Safe and adequate freshwater resources are central to the economy, foreign policy, and security of the United States." His article, published in Huff Post Green, provided 16 recommendations addressing water challenges for the next four years

and the future. They are summarized below:

- Appoint and convene a bipartisan Water Commission to evaluate and recommend changes in national water policy;
- Strengthen the national Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act;
- Reorganize and streamline federal agencies that have water resources responsibilities;
- Encourage investment in drinking water and wastewater systems through bonds and tax incentives;
- Promulgate legislation on incentives to improve water use productivity;
- Establish a process for setting and enforcing environmental flows for river systems;
- Monitor and track water-related threats to security and U.S. interests;
- Conduct workshops through

Homeland Security, the State Department and others on the vulnerability of U.S. water systems to terrorism and regional threats;

- Reduce risks of international water-related conflicts by expanding appropriate diplomatic resources within the State Department;
- Reduce risks of domestic water-related terrorism by working with local and regional water agencies to identify and reduce vulnerabilities;
- Refocus international aid toward basic water needs for humans and environmental systems;
- Increase efforts to monitor water quality and water-related diseases so that outbreaks can be quickly identified and addressed;
- Expand the scientific, educational and financial leadership of the U.S. in addressing unmet water needs;
- Expand efforts to assess

the growing impacts of climate change on water resources;

- Improve smart management of both energy and water resources;
- Integrate strategies for adapting to climate change into all federal planning and management.

Dr. Gleick's recommendations cover a wide range of activities and concerns. I agree with most of his recommendations particularly as those related to policy and security. National water policy is gridlocked by contradictory water laws and regulations, and by too many federal, state, and local agencies having water resources responsibilities. I also feel that water security is often overlooked particularly in relation to the vulnerability of our source water.

I would add a couple of my own recommendations. First, we



# THE ARTIST'S PERSPECTIVE

TOM NEEL

The fall seemed to sneak up on us this year. October for me is a month of reflection or better yet, calibration. The weather change reminds me most of the year has gone by, usually more quickly than I might have imagined and that it's time to re-align myself for accomplishing the goals I've set, the coming holidays and the year's end.

In reflection, the last thirty days alone have breezed by, filled with accomplishment and fulfillment. I completed a special project for Wolf Trap, created and co-signed a very limited reproduction print with golf legend Jack Nicklaus, in support of INOVA and Children's

Hospital. Then began my personal grant program for Loudoun Education Foundation, speaking with senior art students at Loudoun County Public High Schools about the importance of business with respect to their blossoming art futures.

All of these projects are meaningful and special to me. They all build on a foundation laid years ago and help me continue to grow creatively, as well as personally and professionally. Growth is important, but we all know it comes in many forms.

I think generally speaking, growth as a child is part physical, part mental and learning to form relationships. Then if you're lucky, growth as young adult adds to this in a professional and spiritual way. As an adult and or

maturing adult, comes more and more community or giving back.

The balancing of these forms of growth, some which you have control over and some not, is not only a must, it's a virtue. Almost like forms of currency: financial income, creative income, relationship income, spiritual income and moral income, require proper investment to not only secure one's self and family, but also community.

I enjoy what I do. I enjoy keeping what I do interesting by building new relationships, meeting new people and trying new creative things. All the while not forgetting to enjoy that which I have. A train may make the same stops and give passage to many old friends, but new

riders board the train as well and it makes the journey enjoyable an interesting for everyone.

As an example, meeting and working with Jack Nicklaus was a brilliant experience. First, he was a complete gentleman. Fun to talk with and he was a caring listener too. When he gives you his ear, you have his full attention. Not that he shouldn't, mind you, but so very nice that he did. I also found myself wondering what my late, golf loving father would be thinking? My father passed away in 1979 when Jack's career was in full swing. Here, years later I'm not only meeting this man that certainly consumed a lot of TV air time in the Neel household, but working on an art project with him. Very cool and I'm convinced these things



are suppose to happen by just dreaming big. In the end, it was fun, nostalgic and for a very good cause of helping children.

In keeping with that theme of helping children, came talking with high school art students in their classroom. This was something I dreamed up working with Loudoun education Foundation, but I frankly didn't know how it would go. My first time out, they grouped two classes together, so I ended up with a bigger group to speak with than originally planned. While certainly I had a presentation, for me the most important part was getting them to ask questions, which would allow us to interact. Being that I'm very likely older than most of these kid's parents, I didn't know what to expect of the generation gap. When I asked if there were any questions? I got nothing but stares. I said, come on, no one has a question? Then one hand goes half way up and from there the real meat and potatoes of my visit was able to develop. It was great for me to validate their passion, while telling them to follow their dream, but that they needed to learn business. Several students came up with encouraging words of appreciation afterwards. Boy, validation from both sides is a good thing.

So artists and others alike, take time to re-calibrate. Soon the turkey and gift giving will come and go, the ball will drop in Time Square and your sights will need to be set on a new year. Heck, in a few weeks we are even going to cram an election in there! Oh for joy!

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**Middleburg** - Magnificent farmhouse, Eastern Mburg. Gracious living space offering gourmet kitchen opens to FR, casual dining w/French doors to backyard, pool and porch. Formal DR and LR, large butler's pantry, wet-bar, walk-out lower level with gym, library, rec room and FBA. BR suite on main floor w/4 more BRs & BAs upstairs. Plus a 2BR/2BA carriage house.  
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**Middleburg** - "Locochee Farm" is a gorgeous 95 ac equestrian property. Exquisite manor is meticulously updated to include a 1<sup>st</sup> flr MBR suite, sunroom, and state-of-the-art kitchen. Property also features a beautifully constructed 18-stall center-aisle barn, 100' x 200' indoor arena, 150' x 180' outdoor arena, lrg paddocks, riding trails, ponds, cottage, and more.  
**\$3,400,000 Marci Welsh 703.906.5802**



**Leesburg** - River Creek's Flagship House on the Lake, designed by one of DC's best architects, constructed by award winning builder. Over-looking the fountain spray on the 5th-hole-lake with views sweeping across the golf course. Every dream list amenity built right in; every Country Club privilege right outside, awaiting your membership. Conveniently located.  
**\$1,199,000 Lilian Jorgenson 703.407.0766**

### Focus On: Loudoun & Fauquier Housing Markets

#### September 2012

*Sales are up - Inventory is down!*  
*Contact us to list your home...*

#### Loudoun County Housing Market Statistics (vs year ago - Sept 2011)

| Units Sold   | Active Inventory  | Median Sale Price  | Days On Market   |
|--------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 429          | 1,431             | \$387,500          | 48               |
| Up 12%       | Down 26%          | Up 6%              | Down 26%         |
| New Listings | Current Contracts | Sold vs List Price | Months of Supply |
| 603          | 451               | 98.2%              | 3.3              |
| Down 2%      | Up 35%            | No Change          | Down 34%         |

#### Fauquier County Housing Market Statistics (vs year ago - Sept 2011)

| Units Sold   | Active Inventory  | Median Sale Price  | Days On Market   |
|--------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 77           | 405               | \$289,000          | 92               |
| Up 31%       | Down 25%          | Up 3%              | Up 14%           |
| New Listings | Current Contracts | Sold vs List Price | Months of Supply |
| 115          | 70                | 95.9%              | 5.3              |
| Down 2%      | Up 17%            | Up 1.5%            | Down 42%         |

*The information provided is based on data supplied by MRIS and its member Associations of REALTORS, who are not responsible for its accuracy.*



**Paeonian Springs** - On a beautiful site, two historic homes plus a huge barn dismantled, piece-by-piece, then re-constructed and joined to create a one-of-a-kind residence. Colonial in every way w/towering ceilings, double-hung windows, and hand-crafted details. And modern in every way w/new technology, gourmet kitchen, ultra baths, and even a media room.  
**\$1,049,000 Lilian Jorgenson 703.407.0766**



**Bluemont** - One of a kind opportunity! A 50 year family-owned business. Includes 98% of machinery, tools and supplies, 2 firing ranges (above & under ground), 2400sf steel building, 5 acres, pond, 3BR residence w/1744sf (main level), retail shop w/2100sf (lower level). Located minutes from Mount Weather Government Installation. A rare find indeed!  
**\$600,000 Bobby Kirk 703.728.8602**



**Aldie** - Incredible opportunity to own well-built country home on almost 7 rolling ac, located conveniently between Middleburg & Leesburg. 4 BRs and 3.5 BAs, 3 levels w/large walk-out lower level apt, attached 2-car garage, plus a detached 2-car garage w/upper level storage. Peaceful and private setting. Wildlife abounds. Surrounded by large farms. Farmette potential.  
**\$544,900 Michele Stevens 703.568.0721**



**Purcellville** - This beautiful 3.59 acres with 4BR/2.5BA Colonial is located in desirable Philomont! Gorgeous new hardwood floors, new carpet, family room w/fireplace, full basement with lots of windows and walk-out, paved drive-way, fenced back yard, landscaping, lovely in-ground pool w/privacy fence. Great location, 3 miles south of Purcellville.  
**\$519,000 Joy Thompson 540.729.3428**



**Boyce** - Potential hunt-box, bring your barn and fencing. Conveniently located, completely renovated! 3BR/4BA, spacious floor plan, bamboo flooring, 2-car garage. Separate 2BR studio/in-law/nanny suite has kitchen and it's own septic. 6 acres, beautiful mature landscaping. Geothermal heat/AC throughout. Close to schools, Berryville & Millville. Additional DUR.  
**\$495,000 Bobby Kirk 703.728.8602**



**Round Hill** - Wow! Affordable farmette on historic Snickersville Tpk. Grass riding ring, paddocks and run-in. Brand new barn w/H2O and office. Remodeled home just needs your touches. New kitchen, laundry, new bamboo floors. Open floor plan w/layout to maximize space and fuel efficiency. Lrg backyard boasts tall trees, hen house, veg garden and privacy.  
**\$399,000 Kimberly Hurst 703.932.9651**

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**Sprinkles** is a super cute Lab X Beagle born June 2012. She loves people and gets along with other dog and cats. She loves to play, enjoys going on walks & rides well in the car. Sprinkles is a very outgoing & happy girl!



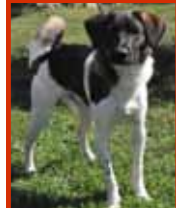
**Gypsy** is a 16.3H, 17 yr, chestnut Thoroughbred. She is healthy, energetic, stands for farrier & vet, loves grooming & attention. She was in foster with a Parelli trainer & would make a great companion!



**Chepie** is an out-of-this-world cute Pekingese. She gets along with cats & other dogs, but is fearful with some men & cannot live with small children. Once she knows you she can't get enough attention & loves to be held & snuggled. Her people definitely make her world go around!



**Diesel** is a 1 yr. old Border Collie X that is very happy-go-lucky. He is energetic & loves to play with other dogs. He would make a great addition to your family!



**Middleburg Humane Foundation**  
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## Middleburg Humane Foundations' Grooming Salon

Liz Washington groomed at the Middleburg Animal Hospital for over 25 years. Since the hospital has closed, Liz is now grooming full time at Middleburg Humanes' Grooming Salon in Marshall. Liz does a terrific job & truly has a special way with all animals. The grooming salon is a great source of income for the shelter as well. Please call for an appointment!

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## ALBERT'S CORNER

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

ALBERT P. CLARK

I've been watching the debates and following the news, just as any intrepid canine journalist should. But to be honest, I'm a little tired of the whole election thing. It's contentious, the commercials are annoying, and I just don't care about it because I can't vote. What I do know, however, is that the winner gets to have a live-in chef and all the food he wants. That's enough for me to be sure that this is a dream job. Therefore, I'm announcing my candidacy for President of the United States, starting immediately.

Of course, having a dog run the country will be a first, so let me assure you that I am qualified. Please note that I'm a lone wolf in this race, not affiliated with any party. Now, let's talk platform:

In short, I believe in equal play for cats and dogs. I fully support stray marriage. I think every pet in America should have access to affordable vet care. I think we should welcome citizens of all countries: the German Shepherd, the Irish Wolfhound, the Italian Greyhound, the Mexican Hairless, the Persian cat. And on the important issue of spay and neuter, I support a pet's right to choose.

But my views aren't always liberal. For instance, I love, love, love to dig. "Dig, Baby, Dig!" I say. For oil, for bones, whatever. Digging is fun. Also, I absolutely do not want the government getting involved in my business. When I go outside to do my business, it's personal. I don't want anybody involved. And actually, I can't imagine why anyone would

want to be.

Furthermore, I'm not soft on war. Well, to be specific, I'm not soft on tug-of-war. I will never, ever, ever back down on that issue. If there's a potential tug-of-war anywhere near me, I'm definitely getting involved. Peace lovers, beware. I am one tough pup.

With the war discussion behind us, let's talk about how horrible the economy is. The supposed "working dogs" out there know exactly what I mean. It's tough to be a working dog without a job. Don't worry, I'll create jobs, if only because I'm too stubborn to accept the alternative. I am a terrier, after all.

Finally, I guess I have to address taxies. Let's get something straight: taxies are a great way to get from one place to another. Some people are saying that rich people should have less taxies, but those people deserve a ride too! My plan is to keep the taxies going for everyone to enjoy!

So there it is: my comprehensive plan for making sure America stays strong. I know there's very little time left until election day, but it's not too late to make the right choice. People have been in power for so many years, why not try a canine on Capitol Hill? I really, really want to win and I promise to be loyal. But hey, I'm not going to beg for your vote. Oh wait a minute ... yes I am. Begging is what I do best!

*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.*

## Fabulous Annual Estate Sale 2012

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**We are still gratefully accepting your tax deductible donations for the sale.** If you have items to contribute, please call 540-364-9123 for pick up at your earliest convenience.

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# EDITOR'S DESK

## THE RIGHT TO VOTE – AND THE RESPONSIBILITY

It has long been the policy of this newspaper not to endorse candidates for public office.

On the other hand, it has always been the policy of this newspaper to endorse VOTING and to support any and all efforts to make exercising what is arguably a citizens most important right and duty as convenient as humanly possible.

In that spirit we extend our sincere thanks to the Board of Trustee of the Loudoun County Public Library for their vote to continue to make our public libraries available to third party voter registration organizations, so long as long as they follow the already strict rules of non-partisanship.

Happily there appears to have been no attempt at voter suppression here in Loudoun.

What appears to have been a clear violation of the non-partisanship rules, produced both a protest, and a big mistake

In response to a protest, County government, apparently by mistake, created the impression that the libraries had to follow the same voter-registration activity rules as any other Loudoun County government building.

That, of course, was not the case.

The Library Board of Trustees rose to the occasion, and voted without dissent to continue its decades-long support of voter registration.

Now the ball is in our court.

Vote.

It counts.

## HYPOCRISY

TOM PRATT

When this column hits the streets there will be less than 2 weeks to voting day.

You have two clear choices: to reelect a person who has done an admirable job considering what he took over from the disastrous and most ruinous presidency in the history of this country, Iraq, the subprime mortgage crimes leading to unprecedented home foreclosures, unemployment, collapsing banks and other major industries. And this is just a partial list of the inherited nightmares President Obama has had to deal with. He also had an opposition party who announced shortly after the inauguration that their chief focus was to make sure this was going to be a one term presidency even by obstructing bills beneficial to the American people in order not to allow President Obama to look good come reelection time.

The other choice you have is a combination of Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan who have not given any specific means to accomplish their agenda other than to slash public funding to the most needy, cut health care, education and even public broadcasting funds, to name just a few of their budget balancing ideas while all the time refusing to raise taxes on the most wealthy.

Recently the Salt Lake Tribune has endorsed Presi-

dent Obama, citing the following reasons that I will paraphrase. His (Romney's) saving of the Winter Olympics, his political and religious pedigrees, his bipartisan governorship of a Democratic state and his head for business should make him the darling of Utah, a largely Mormon, Republican and business friendly state. But they have come to realize that in his quest for the White House (in their words) "his servile courtship of the tea party, his embrace of the party's radical right-wing and portraying himself as a moderate champion of the middle class have people asking who is this guy and what does he truly believe" Also troubling, they cite, is his refusal to share specifics of his radical plan to reduce the debt, repeal the Affordable Health Care Act, make Medicare a voucher program, slash taxes by doing away with deductions that he will not specify and balance a budget without revealing how.

The paper goes on to say how Obama on the other hand did a good job with what he inherited, as I have said above, and for those and other reasons they have decided to endorse the President. You can go online and read the full article at The Salt Lake Tribune.

Another must 'read before' voting can be found at The Nation Magazine. The article is by Greg Palast, award winning investigative journalist, about how the Romney

family profited by hundreds of millions of dollars when the auto industry was near bankruptcy and about the person who advises him on fiscal policy. An interesting article indeed.

The running mate, Ryan, furthered the deceptive practices of the team by bursting into a Cleveland area St. Vincent de Paul soup kitchen and staging a photo op ostensibly to show voters that he and Romney care about the less fortunate and I would guess to try and ameliorate some of the damage down by the now famous 47% secret tape courtesy of his hope to be boss. The problem arose when the kitchen was closed and had finished serving, not to be troubled with that Ryan instructed his crew to film him washing clean pans. The president of the soup kitchen was enraged and told the Washington Post about how the false event has caused the kitchen to lose funding as they are to be apolitical. The Ryan team retaliated by harassing the president and his volunteers for telling the truth.

So you have a choice; vote for someone who has trouble identifying himself who will say anything to any audience he thinks will vote for him. Or an incumbent who may now be able to add to an already strong list of accomplishments without the obstructionists whose goal to make him a one term president has failed.

## GOING ONCE

BLUE NOTES

DANIEL MORROW

As their friends from the world of private planes, and capital gains huddle in fear of unannounced raids on the Caymans, Mitt and his pals from Las Vegas remain busy at the sales game.

Mitt's good at it. He's been buying since he was a child and selling since he was a teenager.

At first it made him a "good boy."

Then it paid off with his "peers."

Then it made him rich. Now, he hopes, it will make him powerful.

He has practiced "qualifying" his clients, "tailoring" his pitches, overcoming objections, and always, always asking for the close.

As an evangelist of the irrational he's Elmer Gantry wrapped up in a true believer tricked out with an MBA.

He believes in himself, and his product. . . or worse, knows how to make himself look like he does.

No matter. What he is selling remains . . . malarkey.

Whatever you want it be. What will you get? Whatever you need? How will he deliver it? Don't ask.

For most of his life he has sold a view of this world and the next he can't possibly believe in.

He's sold companies that were worthless, and parts that were worth even less.

Now, he sells Medicare by voucher, except when he doesn't.

He's good. He's for a woman's right to chose, except when he isn't.

He believes everyone who doesn't pay income taxes is a parasite . . . except for those whose accountants are clever . . . and those he has to look in the face.

He really does like to fire

people . . . for fun and profit.

He believes in universal health care . . . in places like Massachusetts . . . but probably not for you.

He believes that serious decisions should be left to the states . . . like Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana.

He believes all men are equal, except for those who aren't.

He's for equal pay for equal work, except when it comes to women or actually measuring the work

He believes in free enterprise . . . except when hurts.

He'd see government wither away . . . except when he needs a bail out on a winter Olympic scale.

He is imbued with special insight into the mind of God, except when it's embarrassing.

He's a job creator, except when he's a job exporter.

He's a sycophantic panderer . . . except when he's in charge.

He builds companies, except when he dismembers them and sells the body parts. (He makes money either way)

He believes in a level playing field . . . except for the rich and their relations. They get a hill, and an elevator, and several cars, with dogs on top.

As for people who really work, he believes in making life so unbearably miserable for millions of them . . . that they will "self deport."

He knows how to balance a budget, except when it requires that the numbers add up.

He likes Ayn Rand, and Rand Paul, and Paul the Evangelist (especially when it comes to women.)

He talks loudly because he's not really carrying a stick.

And Romania is not really his problem.

He REMEMBERS what he said.

He just doesn't SAY what he remembers . . . unless it helps him close the sale.

## RED SKY

PURPLE

BRUCE SMART

My wife Edie and I are retired sailboat racers, and devotees of the coast of Maine, which Edie has visited every summer for 75 years.

This summer, as we drove by the local boatyard, we noticed an extremely tall mast rising from the pier along which boats were moored. We parked and went down to the dock. There we found a huge 105 foot long bright red sloop. Her stern bore the name Red Sky. Under that was her hail port – "C.I." (for Cayman Islands, a tax haven). A workman reported that the owner was "in the hedge fund business", and that Red Sky spent summers in Maine but wintered in the Caribbean. This "toy" probably cost its owner between five and ten million dollars.

I do not know the Yankee workman's thoughts, but as a former manufacturer of necessary products and a competitive sailor of 30 foot boats, Purple found this display of hedge fund wealth and tax evasion somewhere between ridiculous and shameful.

The other evening a group of us listened to noted economist Alice Rivlin discuss the nation's fiscal problems - deficits, debt and unemployment. She added to those obvious problems her concern for the growing inequality in personal wealth (think Red Sky) and the partisan politics which prevents government from functioning to solve the nation's difficulties. She added climate change as a dangerous longer term threat to our civilization.

An election now impends. We must choose between two parties, with very different ideas on how America should function.

One – color it Red – believes in freedom for each individual to work hard for himself, a "winner take all" philosophy inspiring each player to do his / her best, thus benefiting society as well. The other – color it

Blue – believes that Americans are all in it together, that we enter life with varied abilities, and that by cooperating we can create a prosperous and just society for all.

Purple believes in blending the best of each concept. Here's how a Purple candidate might think:

America cannot go back to some happy past; too much has changed. We must face today's realities.

The world now has 7 billion people, compared to about 2 billion a century ago. Many aspire to America's material-intensive lifestyle. Our human habitat is already overburdened, as evidenced by global warming, rising sea levels, over-fishing, species extinction, fresh water shortages, and conflicts over scarce resources and cultural differences.

U.S. population is older, and culturally and ethnically more diverse than before.

Americans represent less than 5% of the world's population. Our share of the global economy is shrinking. Though we remain the most powerful nation, economically, scientifically and militarily our comparative edge has diminished.

Globalization has increased dependence on other nations, economically and in addressing global problems cooperatively.

Others also have good ideas. We need to listen, and lead by ideas and example, not by arrogance and force.

Our finances are in disarray. Repair requires both cost savings and added revenue (think Red Sky) to overcome past tendencies to "consume now, pay later." That bill has now come due.

Health care costs, elevated by an aging population, are a major financial problem, as is our gimmick-ridden tax code.

We must invest heavily in America's future - better education from birth for our young, and mid-career retraining for

those displaced by technological or economic changes. Teachers' unions must be a partner in improving education, not a defender of ineffective teachers.

We should address past illegal immigration with compassionate common sense, allowing many of these residents to become productive citizens, while enforcing future immigration policies vigorously.

We must invest in basic research and in improved infrastructure.

We should align our military to carry out today's and tomorrow's missions, and avoid making unnecessary weapons or maintaining obsolete bases in some influential congressman's district.

Finally, we should reduce the corrupting influence of money in elections.

Respectful negotiations between political parties is a prerequisite to solving governmental problems. The legislative process has been gravely damaged by a flight to ideologies of the extreme right and left. That damage has been amplified by the Citizens United Supreme Court case, which unleashed a flood of anonymous money used to inject negative and often untruthful attack advertising into today's campaigns.

Purple's most fundamental election questions are:

Who can best restore civility and collegiality to the legislative process?

Who can promote a social ethic under which those benefiting most from the economy accept responsibility to give back more than those less fortunate?

Who can represent America most effectively in working with other nations to solve international problems?

Purple has made his choice, independent of past party affiliation and in accord with the above criteria. He urges others to do the same, even if it leads some to a different conclusion.

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# THE BLACKBURN MURDER

DANIEL MORROW

## Into the Dark

Julia Junkin, Tom Blackburn’s “date” for church, was eighteen, and by all accounts “bright, energetic, amiable and very pretty.” Her father was not only President of Washington College, but a Presbyterian minister. He would, in fact, be preaching at evening services. At the Junkin house Blackburn would also run into his old nemesis, VMI professor Major Thomas Jonathan Jackson. Jackson had married Junkin’s eldest daughter, Ellie, in August and had been living with her, in her father’s house, ever since. Jackson and his wife, Dr. Junkin and his wife, Junkin’s brilliant middle daughter, Margaret, and “the entire Junkin clan” thus formed something of a family parade to evening services, with Blackburn and Julia bringing up the rear. They were joined along the way by an equally informal parade of VMI cadets. Among them were Cadet Richard Taylor and Cadet First Captain Charles Edward Lightfoot, who had arranged to escort “young ladies” of their own to evening services. Unfortunately for Taylor (or perhaps because Blackburn was only half teasing about alienated her affections) Taylor’s “Miss Lewis” was “not there,” when the group arrived. Taylor thus tagged along with Lightfoot and a “Miss May” as they moved towards the Presbyterian church. As Lightfoot and his friends approached the church, they would have no doubt noticed Cadet John Howard Sharp, seated alone on the front stone steps as the flock was gathering” not far from Cadets. Thomas Phillip Mathews of Watkins Church and Robert M. McKinney of Lynchburg. They, in turn, would have seen Tom Blackburn, wearing “kid gloves” and his “heavy army overcoat buttoned well up” arrive with Julia Junkin on his arm. Julia remember that they had been discussing “predestination” as they walked. It was perhaps less unlikely topic than one might have expected, given that she was the daughter of a Presbyterian minister and Blackburn the son of a Ruling Elder, and inclined, some said, to be somewhat “skeptical.” As Blackburn and Julia entered the vestibule, Cadets Matthews and McKinney fell in a “few paces” behind them. According to Matthews, Julia had just passed through one of the inner vestibule doors and into the church sanctuary, when Blackburn stopped and muttered something to the two of them. Neither would remember what he said. At precisely that moment, according to John Howard

Sharp, Charles Burks Christian “waylaid Blackburn at the church door” touching him on the shoulder and asking “to speak with him for a moment.” Christian’s voice was “polite, but serious,” according to another witness, though somewhat “constrained.” His face was pale and he was clearly “agitated.” Blackburn apparently hadn’t noticed Christian when he entered the church and by all accounts was clearly surprised to see him.. Witnesses said he never lost his composure, certainly did not seem afraid, and “readily assented” to Christian’s request for an “interview,” replying with a bow and the words, “Very well, Sir.” As he left he handed Julia a book, most likely a hymnal he had been carrying for her. “You know better how to use it than I do,” he told her. That said, Blackburn turned and followed Christian, out of the vestibule, onto the front porch, down the front steps of the church and onto Lexington’s Main Street, the Plank Road. Christian walked on Blackburn’s left, wearing his sack coat buttoned up to the throat, with Lurty’s hickory stick stuck under his arm. Both hands were in his pockets. When Cadets Matthews and McKinney noticed that Christian had a stick, both said they thought seriously about



JULIA JUNKIN’S SISTER, ELEANOR, THE WIFE OF THOMAS J. JACKSON

following the two young men, just in case there was a fight. But they didn’t. They waited, instead, on the porch where they had first noticed Christian, and watches as the two young men disappeared from view. Both later told Samuel McDowell Moore that, at the time, they weren’t all that worried. Blackburn, they said, seemed well able to take care of himself and Christian, as they all knew, was a coward. Thus, as Matthews and McKinney stood and watched, Christian and Blackburn walked north to the corner of Main and Nelson, turned right and headed east, down Nelson Street, quickly disappearing from view. After walking down Nelson Street, “about the length of the church to where a pair of cattle scales stood” Blackburn stopped and reportedly asked Christian, “Haven’t we gone far enough for our interview?” They had, indeed.

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