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VOLUME 11 ISSUE 8 · WWW.MBECC.COM · DECEMBER 11, 2014 ~ JANUARY 22, 2015

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CHRISTMAS IN MIDDLEBURG PARADE

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BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION PRESENTS 2014 AWARDS

PAGE 12

TOM HAYS HELPS MRS. MELLON INSURE THAT HER OAK SPRING GARDEN LIBRARY WILL GROW AND FLOURISH

GLENDA CUDABACK

Tom Hays was honored when he answered the telephone in his Middleburg jewelry boutique and learned that the directors of the Oak Spring Library hoped he would help them evaluate Mrs. Bunny Mellon's jewelry collection.

"Let's just say the call came out of the blue," Tom explained smiling. "I was honored by the request and excited by the prospect as I drove to Oak Spring, the Mellon farm, for our first meeting."

Mrs. Mellon's jewels were carefully secured at the Oak Spring Library. Designed by Edward Larrabee Barnes, the library, a skylit structure of white-washed local stone, holds more than 13,000 garden-related books, many of them rare.

She provided for the Library in her will stipulating that the Library was to receive the proceeds of the Sotheby's auction.

Tom Hays discovered to his delight, that carefully boxed among hundreds of spectacular jewels, was a blue diamond, a 9.75ct, pear-shaped diamond of such clarity and depth of color that when Tom first saw it, he knew it was of astounding quality.

"When we began to go through the collection for valuation, two of Mrs. Mellon's staff and I were seated at a large table in the vault room of the garden library."

We were presented with one box after another, each lead-lined, that held gems that took my breath away. Each of these boxes was filled with jewelry boxes of all sizes. Some with personal notes from Mr. to Mrs. Mellon, another with a note from Jacqueline Kennedy to Mrs. Mellon and another with a note from Jean Schlumberger included in objects d'art."

"I discovered a treasure trove of Schlumberger jewelry, possibly unmatched in the world as a collection held by a single individual. Many of the pieces were created for Mrs. Mellon personally."

"Also among the hundreds of pieces I valued were three pieces that were so beautiful and important I really needed another professional's opinion to be certain my own instincts were correct."

The three pieces Tom wanted another's opinion of included a large pink diamond ring; an intense canary diamond ring and a pear-shaped blue diamond."

"They were all remarkable," Tom says quietly, but the blue diamond was astounding."

"I was immediately overwhelmed by its beauty," he recalled. I asked the director if I could drive it to a professional colleague whose experience I trust and respect for a second opinion. He not only agreed, but arranged for two security guards to accompany me."

So, Tom, the security guards and the small collection of jewels, including the blue diamond, took off in Tom's modest Suburu for a professional confirmation of the quality of the pieces."

There was absolutely no question about quality. In fact, the blue diamond was exceptional. Tom could see its value reflected in the amazement on his colleague's face when they first looked at it.

"Watching my professional colleague see the blue diamond for the first time was exciting. After a careful inspection, he was relatively certain that it was a natural intense blue diamond."

But without a valuation by the Gemological Institute of America, the blue diamond could not be priced for auction. So, off it went to Sotheby's for the GIA valuation.

Tom and his colleague had agreed on a value of $11 million for the blue diamond. Sotheby's valued it at $10-15 million.

Collectors agreed about the blue diamond's value. But Tom, his colleague and the GIA were a little low.

When bidding concluded, Mrs. Mellon's blue diamond sold for a staggering $32,645,000 to a Hong Kong bidder who competed with seven others for 20 tense minutes for the splendid stone. The sale set a new auction record for any blue diamond and for price-per-carat for any diamond.

Continued page 16

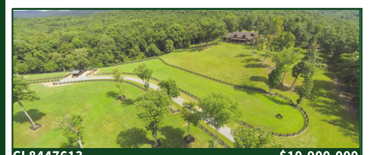
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Walter Woodson 703-499-4961


LO8268517 $1,400,000

BEAVERDAM BRIDGE RD, MIDDLEBURG, VA - Stone and stucco home on 10.88 acres 4 br, 5.5 ba. Main level bedroom, gourmet kitchen with granite and breakfast bar, custom bookshelves, 4 fireplaces, 3 car garage w/ 1 br 1 ba apartment, finished basement, pool. Mins to Middleburg.
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LO8226376 $1,380,000

MIDDLEBURG COUNTRY INN - c.1820 brick Federal style Building w/ C-1 zoning* prime location* east end main st. Middleburg* .25 landscaped acres*Off St. pkg.*uses inc Offices, antique shop* residence* other. 4,000 sq. ft.+bsmt. Currently operating as B&B. 30 Mins. from Dulles, 60 mins. from DC.
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LO8450912 $1,375,000

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FQ8200839 $1,099,000

CONDE RD, MARSHALL, VA - Unique property with magnificent views! Impressive archetectual rennovation offers approx 5000 sq ft fin liv space, 5 bdrms, state of art gourmet kitchen w/Miele & Wolf Appl. Custom cabinetry, 3 fpl, heated pool w/hot tub/waterfall, 4 stall barn, run-in shed, 6 paddocks, extensive fencing, 4 car garage. 2 ponds
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LO8245968 $990,000

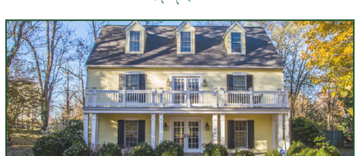
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CL8426041 $899,000

238 FOREST RIDGE LN, BLUEMONT - 95+ acres of PRIVACY in the woods with western VIEWS!!Attached 2 story workshop & Detached 3 story Woodshop w/ dust collection system & 5 horse power air compressor. Main level Master. Hardwood Floors thru most of home. Built in shelves & cabinetry. Dark Room in bsmnt. Decks, Covered Porches.
Marcy Cantatore 540.533.7453


LO8301075 $650,000

MIDDLEBURG - Outstanding opportunity to own a state of the art indoor rehabilitation swimming pool, designed for horses, also well suited for dogs. A 24 stall, 2 tack room belmont barn, a shed row barn converted to garage space, fencing, riding ring, machine shed, numerous run in sheds and a pond.
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FQ8503814 $595,000

3085 RECTORTOWN RD, MARSHALL - Charming cottage in historic Rectortown. 3 bdrm/2.5 bath home works well as a weekend retreat or full-time living. Viking range, soapstone countertops, exquisite HW floors, restful porches on 1st/2nd lvls, wood-burning fireplace, French doors on 1st/2nd lvls. Within 10 mins of Middleburg, Marshall.
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FQ8415944 $425,000

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Albert's Corner

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



It's happening again. December madness is upon us. Everyone is in a frenzy --doing, saying, and eating the strangest things. As a dog, it all seems like perfect nonsense, and I'm totally confused.

Please allow me to share a few observations:

1. Raindeer live at the North Pole, so they should be snowdeer.
2. Santa Claws should be a cat.
3. What on earth is a humbug?
4. Hard cider shouldn't be so easy to drink.
5. Fruitcake needs to decide if it's healthy or cake.
6. Likewise, eggnog needs to decide if it's breakfast or a cocktail.
7. Leaping seems like an un-Lordlike thing for 10 Lords to do.
8. Mistletoe sounds like a painful condition of the foot.
9. Don we now our gay apparel is not very PC. (Although gay apparel is usually the most stylish.)
10. Frankincense is not a suitable gift for anyone except Count Chocula.
11. Popcorn should be eaten, not strung around a tree.
12. Stockings are for wearing, not hanging.
13. Figgy is baby talk, not a name for pudding.
14. When visions of sugarplums dance through your head, see a doctor.

It's far more effective to trim a tree with pruning shears than with teeny tiny light bulbs.

Furthermore, chopping down a tree and bringing it into the house, only to tell the dog and cat that they absolutely cannot go near it is totally unreasonable. It's a tree! In the house! With a water bowl at the bottom! Of course we're going to sniff it, climb it, and drink from it!

And I will close with a personal note to my people: Leaving cookies and milk out for some tubby who doesn't need them is just wrong, especially when I don't get cookies and milk too. And also maybe give me a heads up next time you decide it's just peachy doodle dandy to let a random enormous guy in a red suit climb down our chimney and eat our cookies! Have a little respect. I'm a formidable guard dog with a job to do! I am super scary and vicious! Good luck getting by me! Thank goodness the big guy gave me a bite of his cookie so we could become instant best friends for life.

Happy holidays and keep it sane, people. I know you can do it, even if it is December!

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, Arlington, and Woodley Park.

PROPERTIES IN HUNT COUNTRY

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New Listing

Middleburg ~ Fully renovated cottage in historic village of Middleburg on quiet, dead-end street. Features 2-3 Bedrooms, 2 Full Baths, brand new Kitchen with all stainless & granite, new Bathrooms, hardwood floors, fresh paint & new carpet. New addition of spacious Master Bedroom Suite with Luxury Bath, lots of windows & doors that open to private, back yard. 2-car attached carport & small shed. Move-in ready! **$339,000**
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News of Note

Christmas in Middleburg

Dan Morrow

In spite of intermittent rain, the crowds attending this year's Christmas in Middleburg parades, from the morning Hunt parade to the afternoon's celebration of Santa's official arrival hovered around 6,000 and possibly more.

As promised major construction work at the tricky triangular intersection at North Madison and Marshall Streets posed no problem at all to the hunt and its hounds.

The hunt parade itself, one of the largest in recent memory despite the weather, went off without a problem.

With funding support from Town Council, Middleburg Police Chief A. J. Panebianco had sought and received help from many local law enforcement agencies, with many if not all coming from small towns and communities. The result was traffic and crowd control that gave horses, riders, hounds, and onlookers what was arguably the safest and most readily accessible parade ever.

With weather forecasts being worse than weather reality, Santa's afternoon parade saw a few units cancel late in the game, especially floats and other units that traditionally featured small children.

By all accounts the parades and the day were a success.

Middleburg Town Administrator Martha Semmes told the Eccentric she and the Town Staff were "very pleased" and said all credit was due to the events' "intrepid and hardy corps of volunteers" and the equally intrepid and hardy parade participants.

Mayor Betsy Davis and the members of Town Council not only participated in the parade, but greeted visitors from all over northern Virginia, Maryland and West Virginia.

Facebook posts and comments from visitors almost unanimously cited the family atmosphere and friendliness of everyone at the events and in the town's shops as one of the best reasons to make the event an annual tradition.

Parade Chairman Jim Herbert said, "Daunting forecasts and rain that, though intermittent, was quite heavy at times didn't seem to dampen anyone's spirits. Clearly, lots of people really love Christmas in Middleburg."

Middleburg Charter School Probation

In late November, Leesburg Today's Danielle Nadler reported that Loudoun County School Board's "Charter Committee" was "recommending that the Middleburg Community Charter School be placed on probation" because its Principal, Dr. Barbara Smith, did "not have a license to teach or serve as [a school] administrator in Virginia.

Even though Smith is not directly employed by the Loudoun County Public Schools, as Principal she is required, like her teachers and other key staff, to be licensed by the Virginia Department of Education.

Left unresolved the situation threatened to endanger the schools contract with Loudoun County and roughly $11,700 per student in county financial support

Smith, has a PhD from the University of Toronto and served most recently as Principal of the William E. Doar School for the Performing Arts, a public charter school in Washington, DC.

At its December 2 meeting, the Loudoun County School Board formally placed the school on probation because of Smith's "licensure deficiency" and asked the school for a formal plan outlining what it would do to remedy the situation.

Smith, according to the Washington Post, had applied for her license as soon as she was hired by the Middleburg Charter board. The State Education Board, the report continued, required that her Canadian degrees be verified by an accreditation agency. With accreditations in hand, in late November, Smith asked the Loudoun County Public Schools to re-submit an application.

Then things got complicated.

The Post reported that because Smith did not include documentation showing that she had served a teaching internship in the Commonwealth, her license application now required "a recommendation from a school superintendent."

No one at the state level had ever asked for such a recommendation, she said. And because she is not, and never has been employed by the Loudoun County Public Schools (she is formally an employee of the Middleburg Charter School), naturally enough she had not only not interned in the county or the Commonwealth, she had never worked for a Virginia School Superintendent.

On December 8, The Board of Directors of the Middleburg Community Charter School announced that Smith had received a letter dated December 5 from the Virginia Department of Education indicating that, in their view, she "does not meet the Virginia licensure requirements."

The Middleburg Board reports that it is " . . . evaluating the information in the letter. The board's understanding is that the decision is based on the VDOE's unwillingness to accept Dr. Smith's Certificate of Qualification and Registration (licensure credentials) from the Ontario College of Teachers qualifying her as a Principal, grade K-6 teacher (all subject areas) and grade 7-12 teacher (Geography, PE and Health Education).

The VDOE has evaluated and recognized her undergraduate and graduate coursework and PhD in Curriculum and Teacher Development from the University of Toronto and has accepted her educational credentials.

Smith, in response to that letter provided the VDOE further information clarifying her background and credentials.

Pending further developments The Middleburg Community Charter School Board continues to support Smith, saying that it " . . . is extremely grateful to have found someone with Dr. Smith's expertise in education to build the foundation for Middleburg Community Charter School and has full confidence in her leadership."

Salamander Developments

Discussions continue between the Town's Board of Zoning Appeals and the Salamander organization regarding what appears to be a critical and necessary amendment to the organizations amended proffer agreements originally dating to 2005.

After a decade Salamander is ready to begin building residences, streets and sidewalks on some 49 lots on its property on the north side of Middleburg.

Apparently, on the original plans, one of the streets serving the new development had been inadvertently traced through property that belongs to the Middleburg Community Center. No one wants that to happen, but a change requires formal approval.

Other issues to be resolved during the discussions include who will actually own the streets in the new development: The Virginia Department of Transportation (which owns and maintains Middleburg's streets) or the Salamander Organization (which would then become responsible for services currently provided by VDOT for the Town.)

Middleburg's Board of Zoning Appeals will work with Salamander over the next month or so to outline a plan, submit it for public hearings and comment, and then to Town Council for final approval.

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News of Note

AHT Insurance Announces Alexander Green's Retirement David Schaefer to be President & CEO

Armfield Harrison & Thomas, Inc. (AHT Insurance) recently announced that President and Chief Executive Officer Alexander Green will retire effective January 1, 2015.

Green has been with the firm for 36 years and will continue to support the company by serving on the Board of Directors. David Schaefer, current Executive Vice President who has been with the firm since 1987, will assume the role of President and Chief Executive Officer.

Commenting on his retirement. Green stated, "I want to thank AHT's employees for their many initiatives and support of me during my years with the firm. Our culture is the best you can imagine and our people make this possible today and in the future."

"Our business partners and our clients have contributed to our success; and for that, I will always be appreciative. I have enormous respect for David's leadership capabilities as he becomes the 6th President in AHT's 93 years of existence."

David Schaefer added, "It has been a privilege to work with Alex over so many years. His mentorship and leadership in developing our company and professionals has prepared and positioned AHT for continuing success."

"We will continue to benefit from Alex's experience and wisdom as he will remain on our Board of Directors. I know the entire firm joins me in personally thanking him for his leadership and guidance, wishing him the very best for the next chapter of his life."

Nutcracker

Begin a new holiday tradition with Manassas Ballet Theatre (MBT) as they present everyone's favorite classic ballet the Nutcracker, December 19-23 at the Hylton Performing Arts Center in Manassas. While there are many Nutcrackers to chose from in the Northern Virginia area, MBT's production has spectacular unique features, including 24 full-time, professional company dancers supported by an ensemble cast, live music provided by the Manassas Ballet Theatre Orchestra, and the stunning backdrop of the state-of-the-art Hylton theatre.

Fresh off the debut of Colin: Son, Marine, Hero, for which MBT received international media attention that included a segment on CBS Sunday Morning, the company continues it's tradition of support for military personnel and their families with the opening night Salute to the Military. Active duty and veterans are invited to the Friday, December 19 performance free of charge, with accompanying tickets 20% off. Active duty and veterans and their families are invited to any of the additional Nutcracker performances at a 20% discount.

This year, Nutcracker is honored to salute Senator Charles Joseph Colgan, a World War II veteran and the longest serving Senator in Virginia state history. Senator Colgan and his family will be MBT's guests of honor December 19.

Join Clara on her magical holiday journey that begins with the family Christmas party in Germany, and leads her through the magical land of Snow, the battle of the Rat King and the Nutcracker Prince, the Sugar Plum Fairy and all the glorious entertainment offered Clara and the Prince, and finally back home, with her dreams and memories. Stunning custom scenery and costumes set the scene for a world class theater and dance experience with the convenience of Manassas.



Tickets are available at the Hylton box office, www.hyltoncenter.org, or by calling (888) 945-2468. For information, please visit www.manassasballet.org or call (703) 257-1811. The full performance schedule is:

- December 19, 2014 at 7:30 PM (Salute to the Military)
- December 20, 2014 at 3:00 PM and 7:30 PM
- December 21, 2014 at 3:00 PM
- December 22, 2014 at 3:00 PM
- December 23, 2014 at 3:00 PM

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Assistance Dog Rocco Makes the Grade

Pup raised by Middleburg Academy students now faithfully serving Massachusetts girl with disabilities



"Rocco is a wonderful addition to our life. He is helping Maeve build her independence, and he's already a great friend that is enriching her daily life". - Colleen Broderick- Maeve's Mother

For 10-year-old Maeve Broderick of Pembroke, Massachusetts, receiving an Assistance Dog from Canine Companions for Independence has been a wish come true.

Like most other 10-year-olds, Maeve loves being a Girl Scout, playing games like buddyball, soccer stars, and dance. But Maeve has Cerebral Palsy. This makes it harder for her to get around, and it hasn't been easy to find the kind of best friend she's always dreamed of.

Now that's all changed thanks to Rocco III, who was raised from a puppy by the Middleburg Academy Puppy Club for Canine Companions for Independence.

Rocco's journey began in 2012, when Librarian/Media Specialist Jane Banse learned about the Puppy Raising program for Canine Companions for Independence, the nation's largest non-profit providers of assistance dogs for children and adults with disabilities. Jane immediately recognized how the responsibility of raising a puppy that would one day become an Assistance dog, would teach students about challenges and responsibility.

Upon his arrival on campus as a nine-week old puppy, the Middleburg Academy "Puppy Club" worked with the yellow lab/golden retriever mix using positive reinforcement, and as the weeks turned into months, Rocco learned to sit, lie down, and drop items on command.

When he was just over a year and a half old, it was time for the students who came to love Rocco to say goodbye. It was time to find out if Rocco had what it takes to become a full-fledged working Assistance Dog. Jane Banse returned Rocco to the Canine Companions Northeast Regional Headquarters in New York after an emotional send-off from Middleburg students.

From there, Rocco spent six months with the organization's instructors learning over 50 advanced commands. Rocco worked hard, and all his earlier training and socialization taught lovingly by the Puppy Club at Middleburg Academy paid off.

In November of 2014, Rocco was matched with Maeve Broderick, whose mother Colleen says the dog is already making an amazing difference in her daughter's life. "Rocco has already helped Maeve gain more independence and is helping her socially. Rocco is an awesome companion who can help her pick up dropped items. We can't thank Jane Banse and the Middleburg Academy enough."

Rocco's training and placement was made possible by a generous gift from Middleburg residents and Canine Companions supporters Lisa and Zohar Ben-Dov. The donation covers costs related to breeding, training, placement and all follow-up services for Rocco's working life (8-10 years). Canine Companions receives no government funding, and depends on the generosity of donors like the Ben-Dov family to continue serving people with disabilities.

Saying goodbye was hard….but students at Middleburg Academy are overjoyed that Rocco is now making an amazing difference in the life of a 10 year old girl with special needs. Congratulations, Middleburg Academy! (And great work, Rocco!)

ABOUT CANINE COMPANIONS FOR INDEPENDENCE: Canine Companions for Independence is the largest non-profit provider of trained assistance dogs with five regional training centers across the country. Established in 1975, Canine Companions provides highly trained assistance dogs to children and adults with disabilities and is recognized worldwide for the excellence of its dogs, and quality and longevity of the matches it makes between dogs and people. There is no charge for the dog, its training and on-going follow-up services.

For more information, visit cci.org or call 1-800-572-BARK.

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News of Note

Fine Art & Design

Tom Neel



The 5th Annual Holiday Recital presented by A Place To Be, truly achieved its promise of being an inspiring night of courage, music and joy! Graciously hosted by Salamander Resort and Spa, even this year's event became standing room only, with the 300 in attendance not only enjoying delicious food and beverages - and goodies from the Popcorn Monkey, but heart warming performances by the talented group.

In a manner of trust, A Place To Be's Director, Tom Sweitzer, introduced the organization's many beloved pupils with a passionate, yet educational delivery.

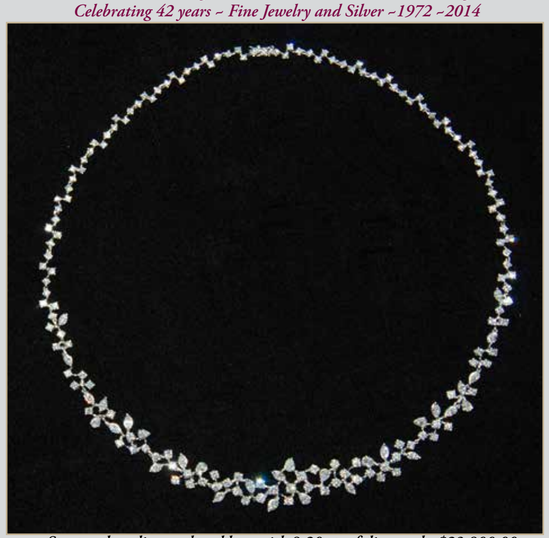
Performances by Ryan Lowry, Forrest Allen, Scott Meeker, Jack Wood, Amy Stone, Brendan, and Cameron Friedrich and so many more, shined with entertainment. The range of music covered holiday standards, all the way to a lively song and tap dance performance by Blake O'Brien and even a cute hip hop song sung by Diana Flannery in her dashing red dress, with Veronica Brown on drums! Dorothy Longwell did a wonderful job with "Let it Go" from Frozen and little crooner Jonny Curtis belted out his best to round up the holiday spirit in all of us.

Performer James Small gave his heartfelt appreciation to ardent supporter Maggie Bryant, as well as the evening's host Sheila C. Johnson, who brought the evening to a close with an helpful $5,000 donation.

There is an intimacy found in this show which Sweitzer so kindly gave credit to the support of the Middleburg community for. He, along with Kim Tapper, Angelle Cook, Ashley Jewell, Tracy Swope and Kyle Boardman, work with such a wide range of clients in their mission of helping people face, navigate, and overcome life's challenges using the therapeutic arts. But they always say A Place To Be is a place for everyone and especially encourage all of us to at least have a greater understanding and love for both those with challenges and their families and caregivers. For more information please visit - aplacetobe.org or call 540-687-6740

A Place To Be did an outstanding job of putting the happy in Happy Holidays!

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Santa Clause is Coming to Round Hill!

The Round Hill Volunteer Fire Dept. will escort Santa around the Town of Round Hill on Saturday and Sunday, December 20th and 21st beginning at around 10 AM (listen for the sirens!). Saturday's tour will cover South of town in the Stoneleigh, Fallswood and Lake Point subdivisions, while Sunday will cover the North section of the Villages and the rest of Round Hill. We will be accepting new, unwrapped Toys For Tots donations and non-perishable food donations for local food banks. Come see Santa!!

New Board Members Elected for Less Cancer

Tom Sherman, M.D. Chairman of LessCancer.org (Next Generation Choices Foundation 2004), has announced that Lawrence P. Fisher II of Chevy Chase, Md., Natalia (Ali) Pejacsevich of Middleburg, Va, and David MacDonald of Bluemont, Va were elected to the Board of Directors this week.

"We are thrilled and honored to have these three very talented individuals on our board," says Sherman. 'Larry, Ali, and David will provide much to the leadership that Less Cancer provides.



Larry Fisher is President, Family Wealth Services for Chevy Chase Trust and is responsible for providing comprehensive wealth planning advice and overseeing services to families, individuals, foundations, and endowments. Larry is a member of Beta Gamma Sigma. He is currently a member of the Suburban Hospital Foundation Board. Larry is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Atlantic Council of the United States, Teach for America - D.C. Region and Junior Achievement of the National Capital Area. He is also a former Treasurer and Executive Committee member of the Board of The National Symphony Orchestra at the John F. Kennedy Center. He is the former Chair of the Board of Directors of the Graduate Management Admissions Council (GMAC). From 1995 to 2009, he was a member of the Board of Visitors at Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business.



Natalia (Ali) Pejacsevich graduated from Georgetown University with a degree in English Literature. Following graduation, she lived between Kingston, Jamaica and Washington, DC curating for the Museum of the Americas at the Organization of American States. She then moved to Paris where she pursued her post graduate work at the Sorbonne. Moving from Paris to London, she began working in Film and TV Production for a UK based production company that was ultimately acquired by BBC Worldwide. Ali now resides in Middleburg, Virginia with her husband, three children, two dogs and various farm animals! She is passionate about bringing knowledge regarding cancer prevention and awareness to the general public.



David MacDonald is an advisor for the Trout Group. David has worked with Trout since 2004 and brought over 14 years of experience in healthcare banking, operations and consulting to Trout Capital. David has advised companies at all stages from start-up companies to large, public pharmaceutical companies and has executed transactions in hedge/venture fund placement, private company finance, and business development. David began his career as the CFO of Aptagen, Inc, a DNA and protein science company in Northern Virginia. He holds a BA in Economics and Philosophy from Skidmore College and an MPhil and Ph.D. from Cambridge University in Economic Theory.

Less Cancer is dedicated to the prevention of cancer by raising awareness, educating, and developing strategies, policies, and best practices to reduce cancer risk.

The Next Generation Board of Directors also includes: Thomas M. Sherman, MD, Chairman; Bill Couzens, Founder and President; Greg Lam, Vice President, Secretary ; KC Graham, Treasurer; Veronique Pittman; Margaret I. Cuomo, M.D., Stormy Stokes Hood; Miles O'Brien; John M. Couzens; and Maryann Donovan, PhD, MPH.

Interested in giving back to the community and making a dramatic difference in someone's life? Canine Companions for Independence, a national non-profit organization that trains assistance dogs for people with disabilities is looking for volunteer puppy raisers to shape young, curious pups into enthusiastic and responsive adult dogs, ready to meet the challenges of becoming assistance dogs.

JOIN US Wednesday, October 17th, to learn about Canine Companions for Independence Puppy Raising Program and how you can become involved. Meet local puppy raisers & observe training class. Location: American Legion Building, 111 The Plains Road, Middleburg, VA 20118

For more information visit cci.org or call 1-800-572-BARK(2275)

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News of Note

Senator Jill Vogel Joins Senators in Proposed Legislation to Assist Survivors of Sexual Assault on Virginia Campuses

Senator Jill Holtzman Vogel (R-27) is joining Senator Barbara Favola (D-31) and Senator Jennifer Wexton (D-33) to submit legislation to assist victims of sexual assault in college campuses.

The bill would require Virginia's Colleges and Universities to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with a local Sexual Assault Crisis Center to ensure that campus survivors of sexual assault have immediate access to a confidential advocate who can provide a trauma informed response that includes an explanation of options for moving forward. Informed consent increases the likelihood that survivors will participate in reporting to law enforcement and will participate in the adjudication process.

Colleges and Universities must also take steps to hold offenders accountable.

This Includes protocols that address the following:

--Provide an option for survivors who do not want to make an official report to make an anonymous report,

--Provide amnesty for survivors who are concerned that an official report might jeopardize their academic status,

--Provide clear guidance on linking victims to community resources.

"This legislation will significantly strengthen protections for sexual assault victims at our colleges and universities," declared Senator Jill Holtzman Vogel (R-Fauquier). "Moreover, the bill implements practical and workable safeguards that will aid in ensuring the perpetrators of these crimes will be brought to justice."

Senator Favola noted that "Survivors need to feel empowered to come forward and be supported in ways that enable them to fully participate in the prosecution of their attackers."

"This isn't a partisan issue, we all agree that more needs to be done to protect victims of sexual assault on Virginia's university campuses," stated Senator Wexton. "Putting victims in touch with independent advocates who are specially trained to provide advice and support is an important first step to make victims feel safe and empowered."

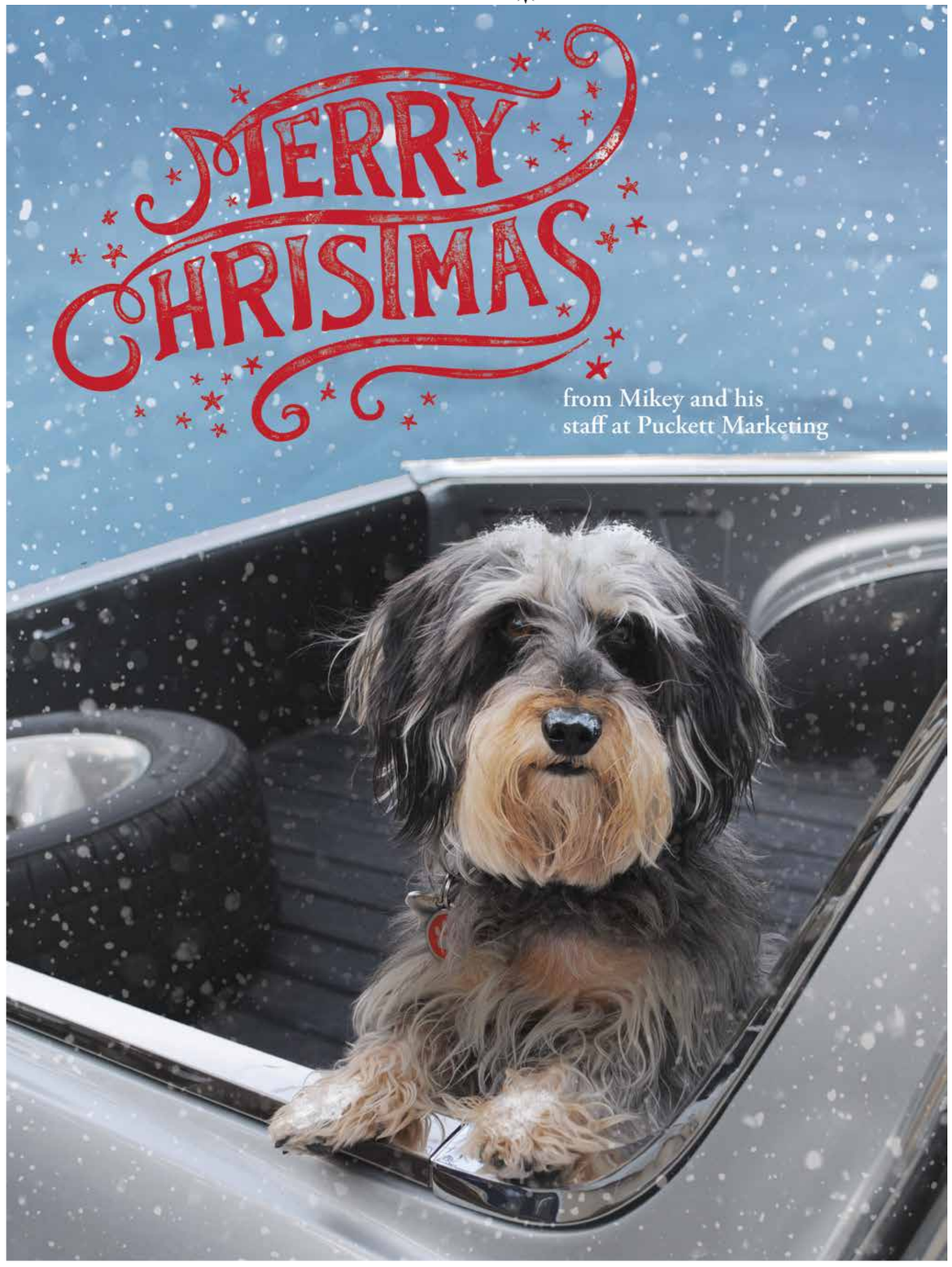
Recipients Named for James Peyton Atkins Memorial Award



The James Peyton Atkins Memorial Award was recently presented to Anya Parks from Wakefield School and Cady Eldredge from The Hill School. Not pictured was recipient Rowan Fuchs, from Wakefield School.

The scholarship, named in honor of James Peyton Atkins, is offered annually to students from The Hill School and Wakefield School. Applicants are asked to write an essay about the Civil War. James Peyton Atkins was James Atkins' grandfather who fought in the Civil War.

Award recipients receive a monetary award from James Atkins, along with a certificate of achievement from the Mosby Heritage Area Association.



News of Note

Business & Professional Association Presents 2014 Awards



New awards were announced recently when the Middleburg Business & Professional Association presented their annual awards to encourage, promote and support the business community. Recognized with the "Generations/ Noble Citizen Award" was Dee Dee Hubbard, co-founder and editor of the Middleburg Eccentric.

Designed to recognize an individual who has been a "key part of the community and who has shown extraordinary generosity and commitment in both time and investment to help our town flourish and prosper," the Noble Citizen Award presentation came as a wonderful surprise to Hubbard.

"I am immensely honored by this recognition," Dee Dee said. "I am devoted to Middleburg and to our community. Nothing gives me more pleasure than to help insure the Village's success and to contribute to the health and stability of our business sector."

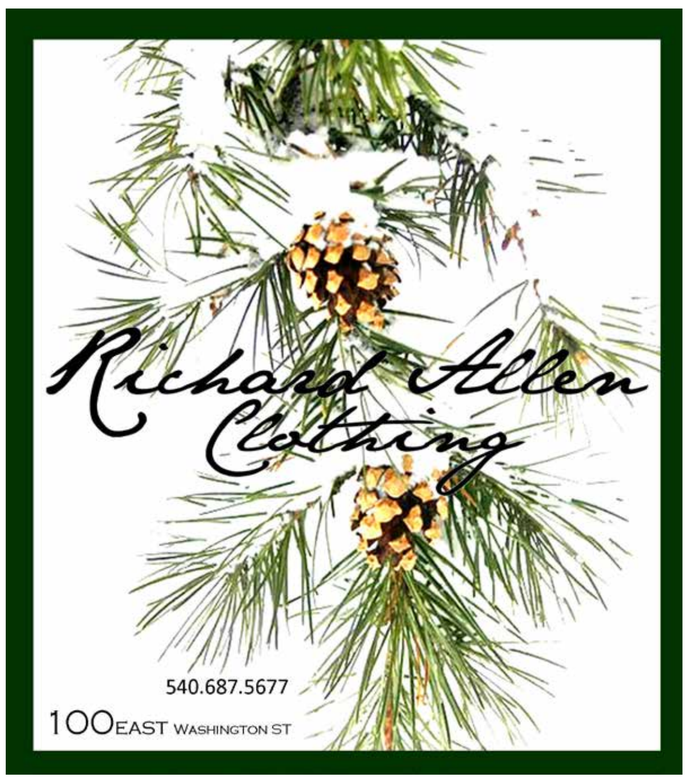
The first winner of this award is someone who is always the first to step up to help or support others who are trying to good things for our town, according to the MBPA.

This person is always present and accounted for when a need arises and is so much a part of the life of Middleburg that we have all bee guilty of taking her for granted, the presentation continued.

Also honored at the MBPA presentations were: For Community Spirit, Middleburg Charter School; for Customer Service, Hospitality, Julien's; for Customer Service Professional Services; Middleburg Smiles; for Outstanding Retail, Toni Gauthier; for Entrepreneur of the Year, Mt. Defiance Cidery and Distillery;

The inaugural Heritage Award was presented to Foxcroft School, and the new Traditions Award went to Christmas in Middleburg.

The annual Promotion and Marketing Award went to The Middleburg Film Festival.





David Blake and Scott Kasprowicz Honored by Mosby Heritage Area



The Mosby Heritage Area Association, the Northern Virginia Piedmont preservation and education organization, recently honored David Blake and Scott Kasprowicz with the organization's Heritage Hero Award.

The Heritage Hero award is given to individuals or groups in the Mosby Heritage Area who have made major contributions to the preservation and conservation of the natural and cultural resources in this area.

David Blake

David is the owner of historic, 550-acre Buckland Farm in Buckland. He has been active with the Buckland Preservation Society for fifteen years, serving as President and now as Chairman.

David is the recipient of the 2007 Stewardship Story award with the Cultural Landscape Foundation, a national organization promoting stewardship through preservation.

David's interests include farming, foxhunting, thoroughbred breeding, polo, pleasure driving, and historic architecture and preservation. He is a native Virginian.

Scott Kasprowicz

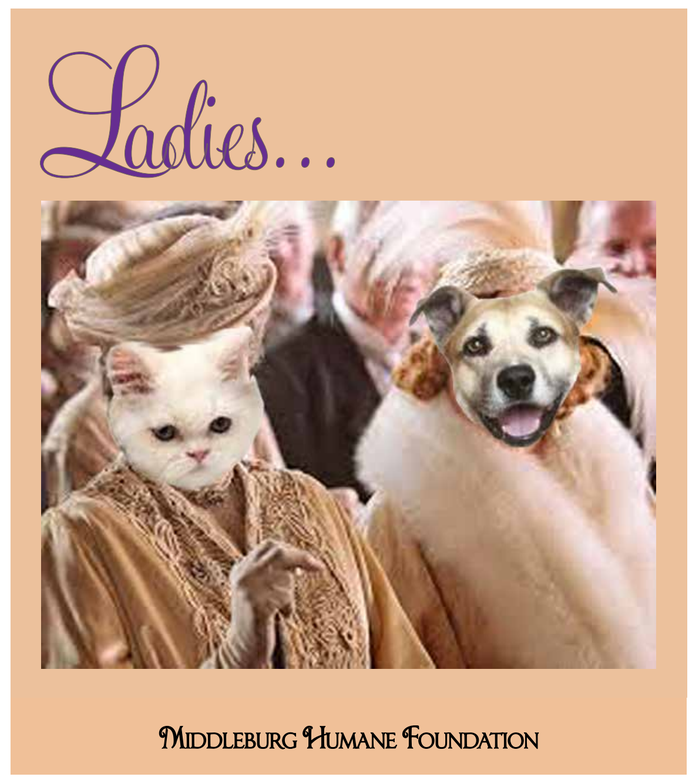
Scott serves as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of ADR Software, LLC, is a Co-Founder of NuRide Inc., and serves as Executive Vice Chairman of AVX Aircraft Company.

He is an avid conservationist, an environmental impact advocate, an entrepreneur, business and government leader, and community philanthropist. He served as Deputy Secretary of Transportation for the Commonwealth of Virginia as part of Governor Tim Kaine's administration and was influential in numerous planning and development initiatives including the advancement of the Dulles Rail project.

He serves on a number of boards, including the Piedmont Environmental Council, the Land Trust of Virginia, and the Virginia League of Conservation Voters.

Previous winners of the Heritage Hero Award, including Senator John Warner, Karen Hughes White, Janet Whitehouse, Hope Porter, Linda Newton, Robert H. Smith, Su Webb, Lori Kimball, Bob Sinclair, Robert Lee, Walter Nicklin, John Fishback, Mary Fishback, and Mitch Diamond.





MBPA

The Middleburg Business and Professional Association

Would like to thank the community for supporting our members in 2014.

We look forward to doing business with you in 2015.

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Now is the time to join MBPA for 2015!

For more information visit our website at
www.visitmiddleburgva.com
On Facebook & Twitter at Visit Middleburg

News of Note

How Safe are Dental X-rays?

Dr. Robert A. Gallegos



Radiographs (x-rays) are used in medicine and dentistry as part of an evaluation during periodic health screenings and for investigation of specific health issues. Comparing digital x-rays to conventional film is similar to comparing digital photography to conventional photography. Digital is generally preferred due to the ability to acquire an immediate image, elimination of environmentally hazardous chemicals, lower radiation and the ability to enhance the image. Digital x-rays, like digital photographs, can be enhanced to increase their clarity and diagnostic ability. It is also easy for the doctor to share digital images with other health care providers by sending an electronic file. In some situations conventional x-rays are still helpful, i.e., where the cost of purchasing digital sensors may be prohibitive or if digital sensors are not available.

Digital dental x-rays use a very small amount of radiation that is directed precisely to the site where it is needed. Radiographs play a critical role in dental examinations and treatment. The consequences of not taking x-rays are: missing a disease process in its early stages which leads to more expense, more treatment and increases the chance of a poor health outcome. The diagnostic advantage provided by radiographs far outweighs the exposure concern. Your x-ray frequency should be determined by your dentist who knows your dental health history. If you have healthy teeth and gums your x-rays will be less frequent than if you get cavities or have gum disease.

The following list will allow you to compare dental radiographs with other sources of radiation that you may encounter in your life. In the United States, radiation dose is usually measured in millirem (mREM). The average person in the U.S. is exposed to 300-360 mREM in background radiation each year, add 100 mREM if you live at high altitude like Denver, Colorado. Background radiation is the radiation we are constantly exposed to from the environment. As you can see, digital dental x-rays are very low exposure.

Dr. Robert A. Gallegos is a Fellow in the Academy of General Dentistry, he is on the faculty of Spear Education, a member the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry, the American Academy of Dental Sleep Medicine and the American Dental Association. Dr. Gallegos practices dentistry in Middleburg, VA. www.MiddleburgSmiles.com.

Dental	
Digital Bitewing X-rays (2)	0.65 mREM
Digital Fullmouth Series X-rays (18)	6.0 mREM
Digital Panoramic X-ray	1.0 mREM
Conebeam CT Scan	2.9-6.8 mREM
Film Baised X-ray (1)	1.0 mREM
Film Based Fullmouth Series (18)	18.0 mREM
Film Based Panoramic	2.0 mREM
Medical	
Brain Ct Scan	80-500 mREM
Head & Body CT Scan	1100-1800 mREM
Gastrointestinal X-ray series	800-1400 mREM
Mammogram	70-100 mREM
Chest X-ray	80 mREM
Miscellaneous	
Airport Scan	0.01 mREM
Cross Country Airline Flight	3-5 mREM
Cooking with Natural Gas	10 mREM/year
Smoking 30 cigarettes/day	1300-6000 mREM/year

Editor's Note
CORRECTION
November 20, 2014 Issue
Middleburg, Eccentric

The review of the film
Force Majeure was written by Elisabeth Arnold
But was incorrectly credited to Maddie Dargis
Our sincere apology to Ms. Arnold and Ms Dargis.

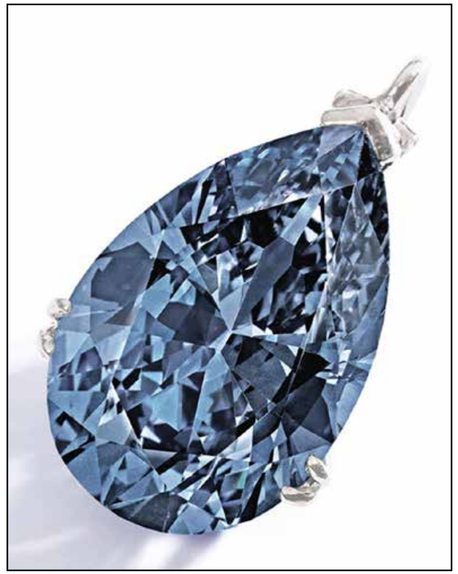




News of Note

Tom Hays Helps Mrs. Mellon

Continued from Page 1



Oak Spring Garden Library

Often described as one of the most compelling horticultural repositories in the nation, the Oak Spring Garden Library was Mrs. Mellon's proudest achievement, just as gardening was her greatest pleasure.

Recently described as "Bunny's Grand Finale" the Sotheby's Auctions drew $218 million for the Library. This will greatly benefit the Gerard B. Lambert Foundation, the foundation she created in 2002 in her father's name.

The Library includes Rachel Lambert Mellon's celebrated collection of rare books, manuscripts, works of art and artifacts relating to gardening, landscape design, horticulture, botany, natural history and travels. For those of you who have not yet visited the Garden Library, it is well worth investing a telephone call and a sunny afternoon in a trip there.

Five thousand visitors viewed her collection at Sotheby's Auction House and 98% of the 1,551 lots were sold.

In addition to jewelry, Mrs. Mellon's collection included art, furniture and decorative objects. Sotheby's estimate of $100 million was, in the end, more than doubled by the final sale of $218 million.

Tom Hays, whom no one would describe as "a country jeweler," reminds one of Dick Powell in The Thin Man mysteries. His modesty and charm, and the beautiful pieces he offers create a sophisticated and discrete atmosphere in which every customer feels well served and special.

A talented goldsmith, Tom creates pieces that gesture to times gone by, and his beautiful engagement and wedding rings are prized throughout the metropolitan area.

"Valuing Mrs. Mellon's jewelry was an experience far beyond my expectations, it is definitely the high point of my career" he concluded. "Her kind and devoted staff at Oak Spring honor her memory in everything they do. They were an invaluable help to me. Their civility is an absolutely accurate reflection of hers."

To contact The Oak Spring Garden Library, visit the website, www.oakspring.org.

To contact Tom Hays, please email www.thoshaysjewelers.com, or telephone 540 687 6997.

Loudoun Medical Group Opens 'Scrubs Plus' in Dulles Town Center



Loudoun Medical Group, P.C. (LMG), a group of 93 physician practice sites whose service areas span over 1,400 square miles throughout northern Virginia, recently expanded its presence in the local community by launching its first retail outlet.

LMG was formed in June 2000 by 13 physician practices that shared the goal of maintaining daily decision-making autonomy in their practices, while capitalizing on a "strength in numbers" approach to various long-term practice management activities.

LMG has since blossomed into one of the largest and most diverse physician-owned, multi-specialty group practices in Virginia, providing a highly sophisticated structure of management and clinical support services to its 983 employees, including 252 healthcare providers who render services throughout over 700,000 annual patient visits.

LMG's retail expansion was marked recently with the Grand Opening of Scrubs Plus by LMG at Dulles Town Center Mall in Sterling.. The retail outlet not only offers a diverse array of medical scrub selections, but LMG also uses the site to provide patient education, as well as enhance LMG's visibility within the community, offering "Find A Doctor" tools and other similar services to put patients in touch with healthcare services they need. Expanding into retail services is a natural extension for LMG, whose annual revenue from medical services exceeds $125 million.

In addition to LMG's provision of healthcare services and newly-developed retail services offered to the community, LMG oversees the Loudoun Medical Group Charitable Foundation, a not-for-profit organization established to facilitate the provision of healthcare services and economic aid to other charitable organizations and to charitable endeavors in general. The Loudoun Medical Group Charitable Foundation recently approved the distribution of $75,000 to local charities including the Loudoun Free Clinic; Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter; Loudoun County Fire & Rescue Department; Loudoun Therapeutic Riding; Loudoun Interfaith Relief Food Bank; Arlington Food Assistance Center; Loudoun Habitat for Humanity; Loudoun First Responder Foundation; Loudoun Laurels; and A Place To Be. Representatives from several of the current donation recipients were in attendance at the Grand Opening of Scrubs Plus by LMG in order to accept these donations.

Loudoun Medical Group is dedicated to delivering high-quality patient care in the midst of unparalleled change in the medical field, and the LMG Board of Directors and Management Team invite the community to join the group in celebrating its recent expansion at the Grand Opening of Scrubs Plus by LMG on the second floor of Dulles Town Center.



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Places & Faces

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Middleburg, VA





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Places & Faces

Middleburg Hunt Parade

Middleburg, VA

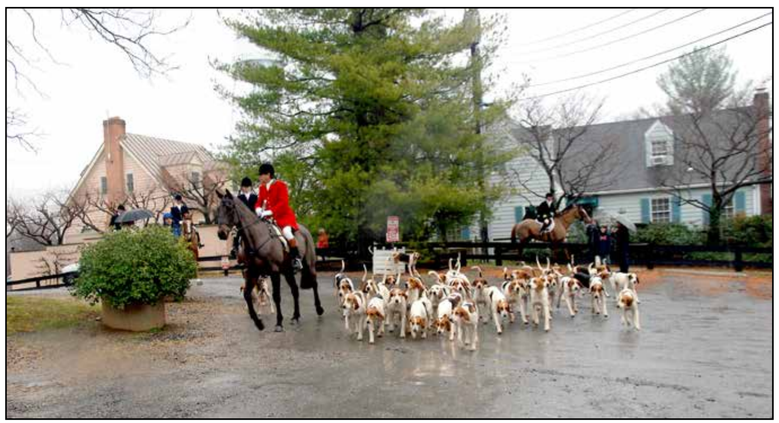


















Places & Faces

Christmas In Middleburg Parade

Middleburg, VA























Chris Malone 540-454-3775



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$1,295,000



51 acres of gently rolling wooded land, great privacy, water sources, on a quiet gravel lane, with stone walls and long road frontage . Improved by a perfectly maintained 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath house with working fireplace, first floor master, antique hardwood flooring, and other quality finishes- a perfect hunt box!



On 14+ acres in a very private setting yet minutes from 66 and Middleburg this elegant four bedroom, four and one half bath 7000 square foot house is in superb condition and is an exceptional value with: gourmet kitchen, spectacular post and beam "trophy" room with massive stone fireplace, lower level pub, gym, and steam room, gas log fireplace(s), 2 Koi ponds, perimeter board and wire dog fencing, invisible fencing, large professional workshop/garage, 2 car attached garage, security system, sprinkler system, generator, and wine room. Designed for entertaining and casual country living and extremely well landscaped.



Approximately 405 acres west of Warrenton in Fauquier County. Varied terrain with expansive views, deep woods, open,rolling fields, 2 ponds, and long state road frontage. In 3 parcels, carrying approximately 20 division rights, offering great conservation tax credit potential.

"Turner Mountain" ~ $649,000

Approximately 43 acres, with expansive views to the west and south, mix of open and wooded land, great elevations, stone walls, water, located between The Plains and Middleburg, Orange County Hunt territory, in scenic easement.

Contact Chris Malone
cell: 540.454.3775

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REAL ESTATE COMPANY
ThePlainsRealty.com

4301 Fauquier Avenue
The Plains, VA 20198
office: 540.253.5050

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1283 HORSEFIELDS LN, UPPERVILLE, VA
$7,900,000



PETER PEJACSEVICH 540.270.3835 SCOTT BUZZELLI 540.454.1399
13223 LOYALTY RD, LEESBURG
$5,500,000



PETER PEJACSEVICH 540.270.3835 SCOTT BUZZELLI 540.454.1399
36579 MOUNTVILLE RD, MIDDLEBURG, VA
$2,890,000



PETER PEJACSEVICH 540.270.3835 SCOTT BUZZELLI 540.454.1399
36727 LEITH LN, MIDDLEBURG, VA
$1,950,000



MARCY CANTATORE 540.533.7453 $950,000
19744 RIDGESIDE RD, BLUEMONT, VA



PETER PEJACSEVICH 540.270.3835 SCOTT BUZZELLI 540.454.1399
23368 PARSONS RD, MIDDLEBURG
$800,000



BILLIE VAN PAY 703.966.7036 $799,900
38284 JOHN WOLFORD RD, PURCELLVILLE



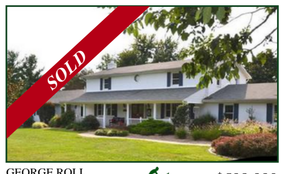
GEORGE ROLL 703.606.6358 $799,900
9510 BRIAR LN, DELAPLANE, VA



PETER PEJACSEVICH 540.270.3835 SCOTT BUZZELLI 540.454.1399
34855 WILLIAMS GAP RD, ROUND HILL
$649,000



PETER PEJACSEVICH 540.270.3835 SCOTT BUZZELLI 540.454.1399
19433 LOUDOUN ORCHARD RD, LEESBURG
$629,500



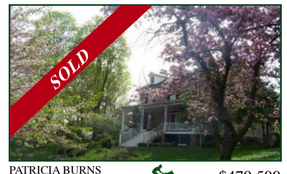
GEORGE ROLL 703.606.6358 $598,990
3660 DUNIGAN CT, CATHARPIN, VA



COLLEEN GUSTAVSON 703.296.2347 $574,000
21062 HOODED CROW DR, LEESBURG



COLLEEN GUSTAVSON 703.296.2347 $489,000
18153 LINCOLN RD, PURCELLVILLE



PATRICIA BURNS 540.454.6723 $479,500
203 BUCKMARSH ST S, BERRYVILLE, VA



TED ZIMMERMAN 540.905.5874 $350,000
12704 MOUNTAINHOUSE LN, PURCELLVILLE



PETER PEJACSEVICH 540.270.3835 SCOTT BUZZELLI 540.454.1399
LAND - - BLUEMONT, VA
$350,000



PETER PEJACSEVICH 540.270.3835 SCOTT BUZZELLI 540.454.1399
5 BURKE CIR, HAMILTON, VA
$317,000



PETER PEJACSEVICH 540.270.3835 SCOTT BUZZELLI 540.454.1399
1530 WESTON LN, MIDDLEBURG
$245,000



PETER PEJACSEVICH 540.270.3835 SCOTT BUZZELLI 540.454.1399
35900 ALLDER SCHOOL RD, ROUND HILL, VA
$1,490,000



MO CHATFIELD-TAYLOR 540.454.6500 $1,399,000
36974 NORTH FORK ROAD, PURCELLVILLE



PETER PEJACSEVICH 540.270.3835 SCOTT BUZZELLI 540.454.1399
37568 BERRYMAN LN, MIDDLEBURG
$1,250,000



ROCKY WESTFALL 540.219.2633 $1,100,000
12076 LEEDS CHAPEL LN, MARKHAM



PETER PEJACSEVICH 540.270.3835 SCOTT BUZZELLI 540.454.1399
37360 JOHN MOSBY HWY, MIDDLEBURG
$780,000



PETER PEJACSEVICH 540.270.3835 SCOTT BUZZELLI 540.454.1399
3115 FOX MILL RD, OAKTON, VA
$769,000



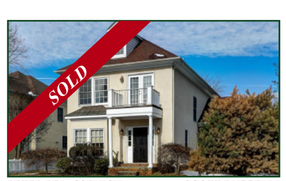
GEORGE ROLL 703.606.6358 $675,000
17792 BROOKWOOD WAY, PURCELLVILLE



MARCY CANTATORE 540.533.7453 $650,000
16764 HILLSBORO RD, PURCELLVILLE, VA



COLLEEN GUSTAVSON 703.296.2347 $625,000
37771 HUGHESVILLE RD, PURCELLVILLE



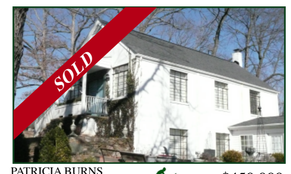
PETER PEJACSEVICH 540.270.3835 SCOTT BUZZELLI 540.454.1399
230 MARKET ST W, LEESBURG, VA
$599,000



PETER PEJACSEVICH 540.270.3835 SCOTT BUZZELLI 540.454.1399
308 HENDERSON CT, BERRYVILLE
$449,000



PETER PEJACSEVICH 540.270.3835 SCOTT BUZZELLI 540.454.1399
1285 ROKEBY RD, UPPERVILLE, VA
$475,000



PATRICIA BURNS 540.454.6723 $450,000
2851 DELAPLANE GRADE RD, DELAPLANE



PETER PEJACSEVICH 540.270.3835 SCOTT BUZZELLI 540.454.1399
21212 HIBBS BRIDGE RD, MIDDLEBURG
$399,900



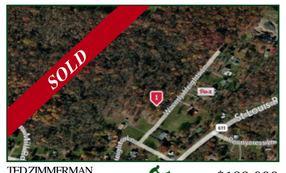
PETER PEJACSEVICH 540.270.3835 SCOTT BUZZELLI 540.454.1399
LAND - - ZULLA, MIDDLEBURG, VA
$225,000



ROCKY WESTFALL 540.219.2633 $223,000
109 O ST, PURCELLVILLE, VA



MARY ROTH 540.535.6854 $210,000
581 PINE GROVE RD, BLUEMONT, VA



TED ZIMMERMAN 540.905.5874 $199,000
LAND
WAVERLY HEIGHTS LN, MIDDLEBURG

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Places & Faces

Christmas In Middleburg Parade

Middleburg, VA























Christmas In Middleburg

Despite the Rain! Thanks to all volunteers, Town staff, trash monitors, parking assistants, police, sheriffs, troopers, gator donors, staging site and parking site contributors, angel sponsors, advertisers, hearty parade entrants and participants, retailers and restaurateurs opening their doors, and thanks to Everyone Who Came to Christmas in Middleburg. A joyous message of celebration got thousands of visitors to move their feet, despite the rain. Once they got here, **our thanks to everyone who moved their hearts!**

Volunteers

John	Bull	Browning	Herbert	J.T.	Moger
Bill	Carney	Jim	Herbert	Franklin	Payne
Jorge	Carvajal	J.J.	Herbert	Cindy	Pearson
Sheri	Conrad	Stewart	Herbert	Steve	Plescow
Gloria	Dawson	Tommie	Herbert	Ron	Poston
Reggie	Dawson	Dee Dee	Hubbard	Ken	Reid
Matt	Dost	Fritz	Hutchison	Tom	Sweitzer
Jo Ann	Hazard	Punkin	Lee	Donna	Strama
Kevin	Hazard	Rich	Luttrell	Jerry	Tumblin

Especial thanks for work and support above and beyond the call from Middleburg Police Officers; Loudoun County Sheriff's Department Deputies and Auxiliaries; Virginia State Police Troopers; Town of Middleburg staff Marvin Simms. GATORS/RTVs provided by; Locust Hill Farm, Dean Elgin at New Virginia Tractor; and Jeff Browning at Browning Equipment

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HALCYON CREST



Land nestled snugly between the past and the present, finding the best of both worlds in your own private haven of happiness. This extraordinary **82+ acre** property, with winding creeks and towering trees offers total privacy and seclusion in a gorgeous woodland setting. Original homestead ready for complete renovation and offered "as is" as a jewel in the rough. Located in the heart of "Hunt Country". **$1,399,900**

EBENEZER CHURCH



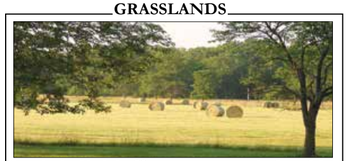
A spectacular **88 acre** parcel at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains on a quiet country lane.Surrounded by beautiful estates & picturesque horse farms, the property is ideally located just north of Middleburg & south of Bluemont. The land is open & rolling with a strong stream.It is presently used for pasture & hay. It is an ideal setting for a gracious country estate & perfect for equestrians. **$1,195,000**

ROKEBY ROAD



Beautifully sited in the heart of the Piedmont, this **48+ acre** parcel is surrounded by spectacular estates & offers total privacy & seclusion in a wonderful setting. Comprised of open meadows & lush woodlands, the property is bordered by Goose Creek. The hilltop building sites offer incredible views & sounds of the rushing water. Easy access to Routes 17 and 50 for commuting to DC. **Motivated Seller**

GRASSLANDS



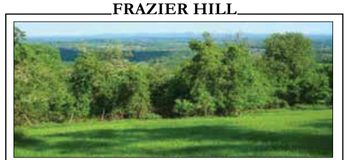
Stunning land includes **20 gorgeous acres** at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mtns. Lush fields bordered by mature trees & offering spectacular views. Located in the heart of the prestigious Piedmont Hunt Territioy, this is a perfect setting for a beautiful country estate. Accessed by a picturesque country road, yet with easy access to Route 7 or Route 50. Approved perc site, land in easement. **$480,000**

CROOKED BRIDGE



Beautiful **10 acre** parcel offering spectacular frontage and views of Goose Creek. Mature hardwood trees, private road and installed well are some of the features of this parcel. Convenient to Leesburg, Middleburg and Purcellville with easy access to the Dulles Greenway. Totally private in a glorius setting! **$399,000**

FRAZIER HILL



Two beautiful wooded parcels totaling **12.72 acres** offer spectacular views of the valley. Located on the eastern slope of the Blue Ridge Mountains in a private setting. Includes a 4 bedroom perc site that was previously approved by Loudoun County. **$200,000**

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Places & Faces

Hunt Country Christmas Ball

Salamander Inn & Resort, Middleburg, VA



Barry Magner and Autumn McCollough



Snook Bates and Gretchen Kuney.



Kate & Chet Fannon.



Deb Alexander and Su Webb Rainbow therapeutic riding program



Joan Antonelli, Charles Carroll, Sr. Helen Walker and Baker Johnson.



Betsy & Bob Burnett Warrenton Hunt



Stephen & Lisa Viella



Bridgette & Brian Wilson, Peter Pejacsevich, Jill Vogel and Ali Pejacsevich



Judy Allen & Nina Fox



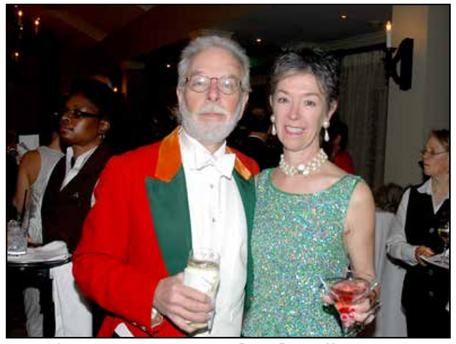
Al & Gray Carr Griffin



Heather Kamberg and Holly Bacal.



National Cathedral Choir Members



Author John Anderson and his wife Ellen, Fairfax Hunt



Chris & Shonna Call



Kristen Kirchner, Sam WM, Patty Bates Milligan and Nate Daley



Brianne & Ludington Sells and Nick & Brandy Greenwell



Gretchen Kuney and Rita Kaseman



Places & Faces

Virginia Horse Shows Association 2014 Hall of Fame and Year End Awards

The Homestead, Hot Springs, Va, Photos by Teresa Ramsay



Philip Bourassas, Marianna Wade, Glenn Moody and Jane Gaston



Barry Jackson, Jimmy Lee, Clyde Poarclt and Sandy Gerald



Diana Dodge, Oliver Brown, Miranda Scott and VHSA President Jimmy Lee



Claiborne Bishop, Gordon Reistrup, Maria Shannon, High Performance Working Hunter Champion



Trinity Hammerschmidt Grand Champion Pony Hunter



Diana Dodges "Sir Thomsom" was inducted into the VHSA Hall of Fame by Oliver Brown and Ernie Oare



Karen Zambrano and Gordon Reistrup



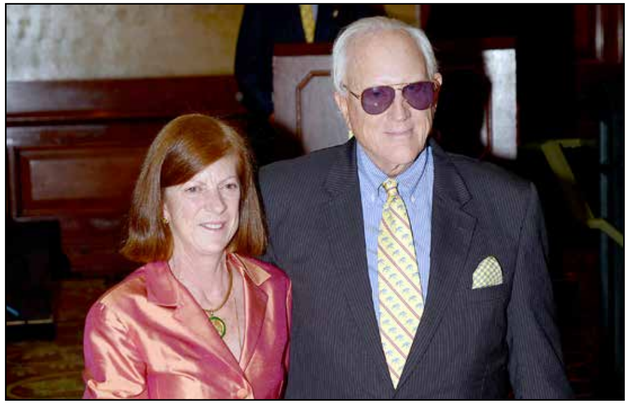
Denice Perry presents Elizabeth Wiley with the Amateur Sportsmanship Award



Stuart Landin, Jane Gaston and Grace Stuntz



Kenny Wheelerinducts Tommy Serio into the VHSA Hall of Fame



Jimmy Lee inducts Jane Gaston into the VHSA Hall of Fame



Chris Wynne presents Pam Baker with the Horse Person of the Year Award



Barbara Chappell, Teresa Ramsay and Lorretta Gray

Progeny

Foxcroft School Pageant

Live animals, Santa highlight afternoon of fun and tradition









Adults and children of all ages are invited to join Foxcroft School students in celebrating the holiday season Sunday, Dec. 7, with a spectacular Christmas Pageant," followed by a visit from Santa Claus, at the Middleburg, Va., school. The performance, which is free, will begin at 2pm in the Engelhard Gymnasium. Located in Foxcroft's Athletic/Student Center).

The pageant is a tradition that was started by Foxcroft founder Charlotte Haxall Noland soon after the School was established in 1914. Each year, Foxcroft's new students and Chorale present the nativity story as a gift to the community using Miss Noland's script -- which includes several characters you won't find in the Bible along with some animals you will. Live donkeys, goats, bunnies, and birds have all made appearances in recent years. Non-stop music and beautiful costumes that have been part of the show for decades are also featured.

Karin Thorndike, Chair of the Fine Arts Department at Foxcroft, directs the performance, assisted by Chorale Director Eric Dombrowski. A committee of students, led by senior Allison Bejar and McKenna Andrews, comprise the Technical Crew.

For years, the Pageant was held during the week and Miss Noland would send a bus to pick up all the students at Middleburg and Banneker Elementary schools. "We went to the gym and sat on mats," recalls Jane Lockhart, a lifelong Middleburg resident who seen more than 50 Foxcroft pageants dating back to 1950. "After the Pageant we would all go to another building that is gone now and get in line at a window that had the letter of our last names posted above it. When I got up to the window I would get two presents: something to play with and something to wear. This would happen every year and clothes always fit."

While clothes and toys are no longer distributed, goodie bags, prepared by Foxcroft students, will be shared with all the children in attendance when Santa Claus arrives, following the Pageant. Photos of children with Santa and/or his three elf assistants are always fun too!

The pageant is the culmination of a weekend devoted to community outreach and holiday activities at Foxcroft. On Friday, the students and faculty forego dinner to buy and pack huge care packages for needy families in the area. They also make gifts for residents of the Loudoun Longterm Care Facility and cards for servicemen as well as the School's support staff. On Saturday, girls will assist at Breakfast with Santa at the Middleburg Charter Elementary School and Foxcroft's float will be a highlight of the Christmas in Middleburg Parade.

The highlight of the weekend, however, is the Pageant and all are invited! Foxcroft is located on Foxcroft Road (Route 626), four miles north of the center of Middleburg. For more information, call 540.687.4511.



I WONDER...

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Annual Leadership Conference at Highland School

Students from Foxcroft, Saint Anne's-Belfield, Flint Hill and Fredericksburg Academy joined Highland's Upper School students recently for the 6th annual Leadership Conference.

An integral component of Highland's Leadership program, this conference brings together students and faculty from different schools to engage in activities and share perspectives on the knowledge, skills, and qualities essential for effective leadership.

This year's student workshop topics, facilitated by Highland Leadership Studies students, included: Empathy and Social Change; Group Dynamics; and Models of Leadership. While students were in workshops, faculty from participating institutions had time to share best leadership development practices and curriculum ideas.

The day kicked off with a special assembly to welcome Jennifer Sheehy, Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), US Department of Labor. The mission of ODEP is to develop policy that increases job opportunities for youth and adults with disabilities.

Prior to her current position, Jennifer spent 10 years at the US Department of Education in many roles, including acting Director of the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, acting Deputy Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration and Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.

She came to the Department of Education from the Presidential Task Force on Employment of Adults with Disabilities where she was Senior Policy Advisor and served a detail as Associate Director in the White House Domestic Policy Council. Before she joined the task force staff, Jennifer was Vice President of the National Organization on Disability and Director of its CEO Council. Jennifer earned a B.A. from Cornell University and graduated with honors from Georgetown University, where she received her MBA.



Ms. Sheehy stayed to join Piedmont, Highland and Founders scholars in the Hazel Library for luncheon and an additional discussion on 'Advocacy and Leadership'.

Middleburg Marauders secure a 2nd place finish



The Middleburg Marauders, a U12 boys soccer team consisting of players from Blue Ridge Middle School, The Hill School, and Mercer Middle School participated in the Richmond Strikers Fall Classic Soccer Tournament Nov. 8-9, 2014. Over 250 teams across multiple age groups arrived for a weekend of non-stop soccer at Capital Park in Richmond, VA. The Marauders played some very talented teams from around the region and fought hard to secure a 2nd place finish in their division. Congratulations to:

Soren Roberts (#1), Ri Benefield (#4), Essa El Haj (#6), Aris Roberts (#8), Alden Long (#9), Tommy Jenkins (#10), Aidan McManamey (#12), Luke Haefner (#14), Thomas Gunnell (#15), Wright Morris (#17), Lewis Ince (#18), Grant Stewart (#19)

Thank you to Coach Kerrie Jenkins and Coach JJ Kern



Because "*What I Want to Be When I Grow Up*" Changes Daily

Childhood is about trying on lots of different ideas, identities and interests. The Hill School's academic and co-curricular programs let each child explore every subject and activity, so they can find out where they excel, and appreciate where others do. Through every lesson, we encourage the developmen of strong character, self-confidence, a sense of community and a love of lifelong learning.

Because a great education is not just about what they learn. It's about who they become.

We invite you to visit our unique village-style campus in Middleburg, VA to find out more. TheHillSchool.org

Grades JK-8 | Join us for our upcoming Information Session, Thursday, December 18th at 9:00am.

THE HILL SCHOOL
AD ASTRA PER ASPERA

Progeny

Highland School Thanksgiving Food Drive



The 2014 Thanksgiving Food Drive to benefit the Fauquier Community Food Bank at Highland School was a great success, thanks to the generosity of our Highland community. Highland's total school donation was 4,698 pounds, up from the 3,324 pounds donated to the food bank last year.

Additionally, Highland's Senior class continued their tradition of sponsoring one turkey per Senior with a donation of $660. As well as collecting wish list items for the food bank, student groups in each division hosted an assembly to generate awareness for the larger issue of hunger and poverty. In the Upper School, students heard from Mr. Tom Baccei, longtime volunteer and Board President for the Fauquier Food Bank who said they hope to offer Thanksgiving dinner baskets to 800 families in Fauquier, up from 650 last year.

Anthony Barham
Misia Broadhead
Lauren Bruce
Mary Champion
Donna Clark
Hwa Crawford
Teresa Duke
Gail Guirreri-Maslyk
Cody Leeser
Charles T. Matheson

ART of the PIEDMONT
Art Auction & Reception

please join us for the 4th annual auction & reception



Mary Champion
Unison Farm III

Middleburg Community Center

Friday
February 20
5:30–8:30 pm

Marcia Nadler
Stephanie O'Connor
Lilla Ohrstrom
Katherine Riedel
Brittany Beiersdorf Ross
Dana Lee Thompson
Antonia Walker
Diane R. Weiner
David Williams
Cathy Zimmerman

for auction info and inclement weather schedule

artofthepiedmont.org

a benefit for the Middleburg Montessori School

Wakefield eighth grader Spearheads Shop with A Cop donation



For the second year in a row, Wakefield School eighth grader Justine Jones raised money for Fauquier County Sheriff's Office Shop with a Cop program. But this year, she raised more than twice as much money as last year!

She and fellow middle school students Molly Cesanek and Gabby Handford raised the funds through a bake sale for all middle schoolers. Last week, Justine handed over a check for $370.72 to the Fauquier County Sheriff's Office during a middle school meeting.

The Shop with a Cop program is organized by volunteers from the law enforcement community to provide assistance and support to the youth of Fauquier County. The group's main goal is to provide an opportunity for a better Christmas for Fauquier children and teens who have been adversely affected by crime, abuse or other situations which required law enforcement action. Using donated funds, Deputies, Officers, and Troopers take each child or teen shopping at Wal-Mart. They are then treated to breakfast with fun social activities, a visit with Santa, and gift wrapping.

Next year, Justine plans to make the bake sale schoolwide in order to raise even more

Wakefield fifth grader raises more than $800 for Smile Train

Wakefield fifth grader Andrew Renz recently spearheaded a campaign that raised $873.25 for Smile Train, an organization that sends trained doctors to different countries to perform cleft palate surgery for free.

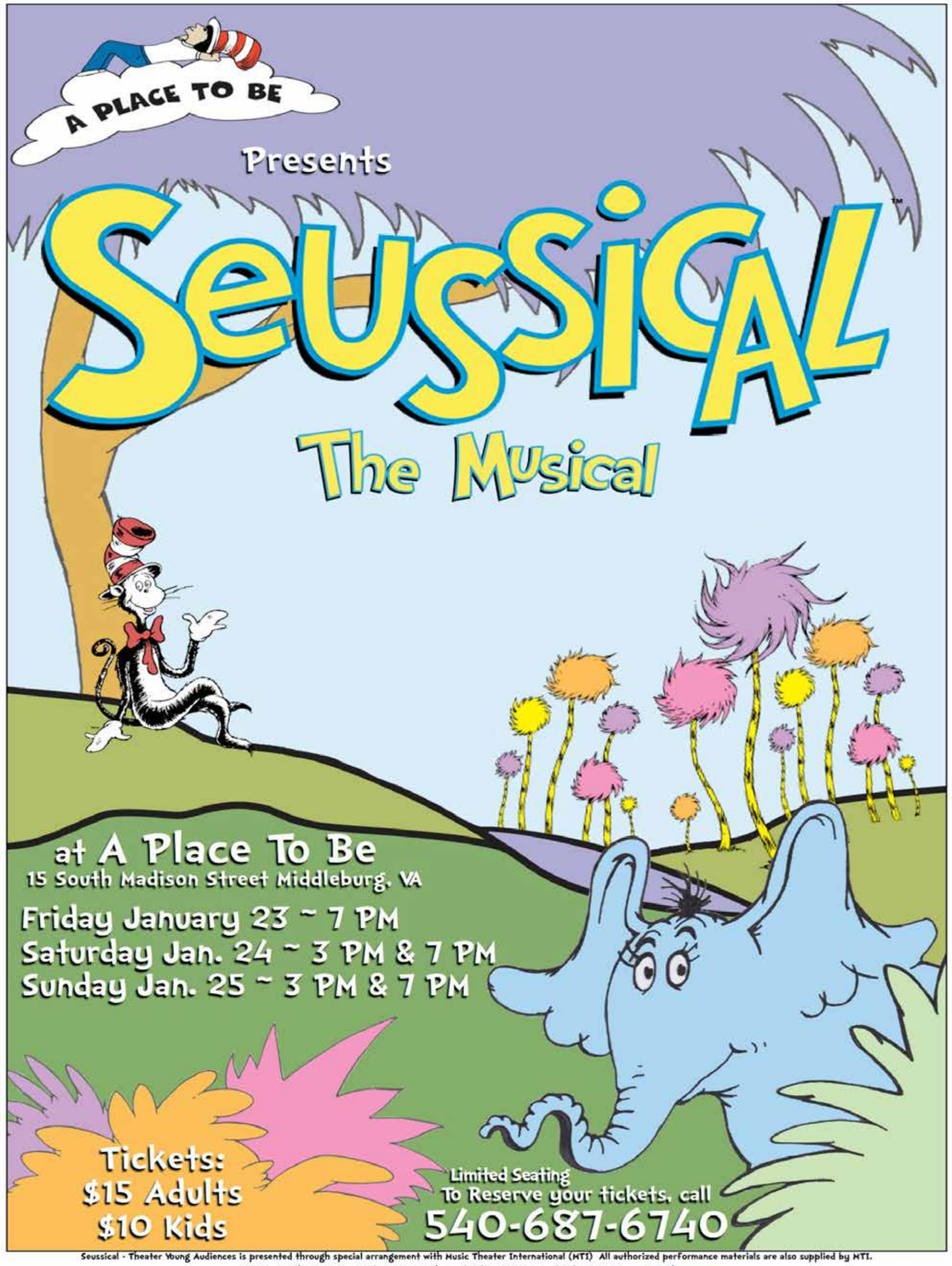
Renz was inspired to raise money from reading the fifth grade Literature book, Wonder, by R.J. Palacios. The main character in the book was born with extreme facial deformities.

With the support of his teachers, Andrew and his classmates organized a two-day bake sale that was held over six lunch periods to raise the money.

Wakefield eighth grader spearheads Shop with a Cop donation

For the second year in a row, Wakefield School eighth grader Justine Jones raised money for Fauquier County Sheriff's Office Shop with a Cop program. But this year, she raised more than twice as much money as last year!

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Seussical - Theater Young Audiences is presented through special arrangement with Music Theater International (MTI) All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.
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Lungeline

Hot Rize — Genuine "HOTY"

Lauren R. Giannini

In 2014, Hot Rize accomplished steeplechasing's version of the dream-come-true: the 10-year-old gelding, owned by Holston Hall, trained by Russell Haynes, and ridden by Willie McCarthy, started four times and won two timber stakes in stellar company to win the National Steeplechase Association's Timber Horse championship.

For all that it took years for the homebred to bloom, the young trainer – he's only 27 — never lost faith in the horse.

"Hot Rize is the last homebred we have left and my dad was high on him," said Haynes, who grew up around horses, riding races and galloping for his trainer father, the late Bruce Haynes. "After a good start, Hot Rize didn't do very well. He wasn't breathing. He couldn't relax and run the way we knew he could — he was a different horse at home. I think Hot Rize needed my father."

Several months after the young horse's racing debut in fall 2007, Bruce Haynes passed away. He was only 46. His wife Anne and the boys — Russell, Will and Aaron — carried on with the farm, but Hot Rize, who even at three had shown exceptional ability, remained a puzzle.

They sent him to trainer Karen Gray, also based in Tennessee. She started foxhunting Hot Rize, who learned to breathe and relax even as he learned to enjoy running and jumping following hounds in full cry. After a therapeutic year off, Hot Rize ran four times in spring 2011. At the Aiken Fall Meet (SC), he broke his maiden over hurdles with a nearly 30-length win in a field of 10. In November, at Callaway (GA), he finished second in his timber debut. Two weeks later, with Will in the irons, Hot Rize won the open timber at the Colonial Cup (SC).

After three timber starts in 2012, Hot Rize returned to Russell who was busy putting together Holston Hall, a syndicate of owners, comprised of himself, his mother Anne, and several like-minded foxhunting enthusiasts: Rob Banner, Ryan Broyles, Brian Ferrell, Bobby Kirk, and Charlie Nulsen.

"I met Russell foxhunting with Tennessee Valley Hunt about three years ago — we're two Tennessee boys who done good," said Broyles. Married to a small animal vet, they own three horses and both get out hunting whenever they can.

"But I had no idea I would be part owner of a timber Horse of the Year," added Broyles. "If you'd told me in college I'd own horses, I'd say you were crazy, but it's just been incredible. Anne and I went to the Middleburg Spring Races in 2013 at Glenwood Park. Hot Rize won the Middleburg Hunt Cup and that was our first trip to the winner's circle. What's so neat about Hot Rize is that his MO is to hang in the bank and in the last quarter- or half-mile, he makes his move. There is no feeling in the world like that."

Rob Banner, president of the Great Meadow Foundation, would second that sentiment. He joined Holston Hall about a year ago to support Russell. He had no expectations, but he remembered that the Haynes family always had nice horses and generally beat him at shows. He still has the red and yellow ribbons.

"Russell's dad and I grew up together. We rode together and competed against each other in little family shows," recalled Banner. "Most everyone else did gaited horses. We were the odd men out, we did hunter-jumper. I didn't know it at the time, but it forged my relationship with the Haynes family.

"Hot Rize is a nice horse, but I didn't have the slightest clue he would be a national champion," continued Banner. "We were a one-horse syndicate, running against big owners like Irv and Diane Naylor, who came up to congratulate us when Hot Rize won the Gold Cup. It was crazy, like getting shot from a cannon."

Russell had always maintained that Hot Rize was a Gold Cup horse. In fact, the horse was tipped to win in May 2013, but he tied up earlier in the week and ran sixth. This year, Hot Rize went into the $75,000 Virginia Gold Cup timber stakes at odds of 10-1 and crossed the finish line three-quarters of a length in front of a game drive by Organisateur, followed by Kinross Farm's Old Timer. Grinding Speed, 2013 winner and favorite at 2-1 odds, finished fourth.

The Gold Cup win catapulted Hot Rize into first place for his first appearance in the sanctioned standings. On October 18, he cemented his bid to be Timber Horse of the Year in the NSA yearbook by driving to a one-half length win in the $50,000 New Jersey Hunt Cup. In his season finale, Hot Rize finished third in the Pennsylvania Hunt Cup, for total earnings of $79,400 and the Timber HOTY title.

Hot Rize owes part of his success to his pilot, Willie McCarthy, who dominated the jockey standings to garner the dual championship on earnings of $735,400 and 23 wins.

Charlie Nulsen, who hunts with Blue Ridge, joined Holston Hall because Russell and Teddy Mulligan, Hot Rize's trainer until last winter when he moved to Seattle, Washington, were convinced that the horse would win the Gold Cup. Nulsen, who didn't exactly feel their faith, especially after that sixth in 2013, figured he would chalk it up to experience. Two weeks later, Hot Rize missed the winner's circle by a nose in the $40,000 Radnor Hunt Cup.

"Russell, who I believe is truly gifted, put the training on himself," recalled Nulsen. "He raced Hot Rize carefully during the fall and trained under terrible conditions that winter. He remained very optimistic all spring, very committed to Hot Rize, and then did exactly what he said he would do and won the Virginia Gold Cup."

Nulsen was in England foxhunting when this story was written and sent his contribution by email. He summed up Russell Haynes quite neatly: gifted, optimistic, committed, and a very hard worker. Setting out to train a champion timber horse from the get-go is a tremendous undertaking,



Photos by Tod Marks

but Haynes uses hills and foxhunting to get the horses fit and understands the importance of not pounding on hard ground, of keeping the horses fresh, of them liking their jobs.

"The greatest lesson I learned from my father is hard work," Haynes said. "The most important thing is to do what you want to do, no matter what it is. He encouraged us to pursue our passions. There was never any pressure on us to do horses. He just wanted us to go all the way once we found it."

His "it" is training timber horses and Hot Rize provided the perfect opportunity to fulfill his legacy. "Accepting the award in South Carolina after the Colonial Cup meant everything to my family, my partners and to me," Haynes said. "Hot Rize is a homebred. That was my family's first championship. We all knew he had it in him. It was just a matter of time. He's a late bloomer, always has been. He's big. He had a problem with nerves. He learned to put it together mentally and finally physically. He's 10 coming on two."

Grand Champion Adult Amateur at the Jump for The Children Horse Show



Elizabeth Wiley and "Say Again", Grand Champion Adult Amateur at the Jump For the Children show in Raleigh NC.

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Theodora Randolph Field Hunter Champion: Stretch, A Very Special Horse

Lauren R. Giannini

Piedmont Foxhounds' Stretch and Laurie Ambrose won the finals of the 2014 Theodora A. Randolph Field Hunter Championship. After four days of qualifying hunt with Orange County, Blue Ridge, Loudoun Fairfax, and Piedmont, 74 horse-and-rider combinations from 23 hunts in Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and Tennessee had qualified for the finals, held the morning of the Virginia Fall Races, October 4, at Glenwood Park.

The championship is primarily all about the horses, because the right one can mean glorious days in the field, especially when hounds are in full cry. The rider is also key to being scored well in terms of a smooth performance and horsemanship skills. The judges included Helen Brettell, Middleburg Hunt; Snowden Clarke, Orange County Hounds; Liz McKnight, ex-MFH Elkridge Harford Hunt; Ginny Perrin, MFH Deep Run Hunt, Cameron Sadler, MFH Moore County Hounds; Lincoln Sadler, Moore County Hounds. Clark served as field master for the mock hunt over the historic racecourse. Kathleen O'Keefe, having won several titles over the years, judged Best Turned Out.

It was Ambrose's first time to enter the national championship. Ten years ago, she became President and CEO of Lung Cancer Alliance, managing its move from the West Coast to Washington, D.C. LCA is now recognized as the premier non-profit dedicated to patient support and advocacy for those living with or at risk for lung cancer.

"My husband Chris and I had a window in terms of our work and time. We've both been juggling a lot, but Chris said 'Let's go and enjoy the wonderful new country, meet new friends and see old friends' and I have always had such a wonderful horse," recalled Ambrose. "Such a proud but humbling honor to win, and I have really enjoyed this bucket list experience of a lifetime. I hope the championship continues to grow. It was such so special, particularly the level of the horses and riders."

Ambrose praised Stretch, her 14-year-old Quarter Horse–Thoroughbred gelding. "We have a wonderful, symbiotic relationship. I just let him do his job. I never worry. He knows intuitively what to do," she said. "We never have a bad day. I try to get out of his way. He's priceless — a horse who knows what to do, when and how. He's terrific."

Stretch and Ambrose have been hunting together for more than 10 years. She rode as a child growing up in New York State, mostly equitation, and didn't really have an opportunity to foxhunt until 20 years ago when she met and married Chris, who was hunting with Snickersville Hounds. The Ambroses have hunted with Piedmont since early 2000. By the way, Chris and Stretch also qualified for the finals.

The winning rider's mother, Rose Fenton of Charlottesville, had to be persuaded to attend the finals. "My mother said 'I always worry' — she thought that I was going to do a steeplechase — it was incredibly special to have her there. Mom has brushed Stretch, fed him carrots, and watched us go off hunting. It was a wonderful experience for all of us."

As for the photo caption errors: Casanova Hunt's Eduardo Coria and Denali earned the Reserve Championship Field Hunter and the Best Turned Out championship.



Photos by Lauren R. Giannini

Piedmont Foxhounds' Laurie Ambrose and Stretch, Champion of the 2014 Theodora Randolph Field Hunter Finals.

Middleburg Hunt's Devon Zebrovious, riding sidesaddle, and Quest were reserve champions in Best Turned Out. In the photo of the judges, that horse and rider were actually Rita Kaseman (Loudoun Fairfax) and Butterfly Painting, who earned Most Suitable, awarded in memory of Eve Fout, and seventh overall. Allie Lawaetz (Palm Beach Hounds, FL), riding her Schiller, took home the Sportsmanship Award in memory of Jan Ruetz.

For information: www.vafallraces.com/Field_Hunter_Championships

New Hope for Life-Threatening Laminitis



Dr. Tania D. Woerner

It was July 2011. I unloaded "Zahara" from the trailer for a trail ride with friends, and she was lame! After examination, I could find no reason for the mild lameness so I wrapped the foot and turned her back out.

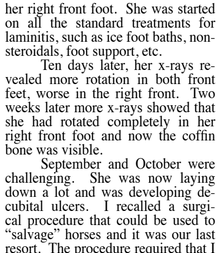
Zahara is a pinto, draft warmblood mare and at that time was about 75 pounds overweight with a slightly cresty neck. She was in regular work and was by most standards, relatively fit. I was sure this was a temporary set-back but I couldn't have been more wrong.

Two days later, she stood frozen, unable to move, lame in all four legs. Her right hind leg was swollen and painful. She had a fever, tested positive for a tick borne disease and was started on iv therapy. X-rays of her feet showed mild rotation only in her right front foot. She was started on all the standard treatments for laminitis, such as ice foot baths, nonsteroidals, foot support, etc.

Ten days later, her x-rays revealed more rotation in both front feet, worse in the right front. Two weeks later more x-rays showed that she had rotated completely in her right front foot and now the coffin bone was visible.

September and October were challenging. She was now laying down a lot and was developing decubital ulcers. I recalled a surgical procedure that could be used to "salvage" horses and it was our last resort. The procedure required that I sever the deep digital flexor tendons in both front legs.

In November of 2011, using ultrasound guidance, I performed the procedure on a horse that I delivered five years prior. I will never forget the sound of the flexor tendon releasing. In the days to come, it became apparent that the surgery had given her a huge amount of pain relief and had saved her life. X-rays taken two





months post-surgery showed that the coffin bones had realigned within the hoof capsules which signified success!

In May of 2012, xrays showed total realignment of the coffin bone within the new hoof capsule. So within a year of the initial event, Zahara was back in work. In December 2012 she was hunting in the first field!

Zahara and Tania hunting first field with Loudoun Fairfax Hunt: December 23, 2012

My purpose for writing this story is to spread the word that the deep digital flexor tenectomy surgery can offer hope when it seems that there is none.

Dr. Tania Woerner owns and operates Tally Oaks Veterinary Service. We have digital xray and perform the deep digital flexor tenectomy at a reasonable price. We also offer small animal services at our clinic or at your home. For more information, visit our website www.tallyoaksvet.com or email Dr. Woerner at DrTaniaWoerner@gmailcom.

My Way



Lauren Giannini

Mary King, British event rider and multiple medalist in six Olympics, three World Equestrian Games and three European Championships, taught a two-day clinic, presented by Kelly Gage of Team EnGage, at Morven Park, Nov. 20-21, that was well-attended by mounted participants, including Allison Springer, and auditors. King, who rode her horses, Kings Temptress and Fernhill, to first and second at the 2011 Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event, did not disappear. She is lively, articulate, extremely knowledgeable - a superb teacher. She tailored the flat and jumping exercises to suit the skill level of each group, which ranged from Young Horse, Training and Preliminary to Advanced.. Among King's points of concentration were rider position, vital in terms of stickability and balance on the cross-country phase, the horse's gaits, being active in its engine, working on adjustability through transitions, and just a whole slew of important elements. King was also promoting her book, Mary King - My Way, in which the author reveals "How I Train For Success" available through www.acanthuspress.co.uk

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SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS
5:00 pm Sunday, December 14, 2014
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CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
4:00 pm Family Service
with a children's homily, children's choir, and celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

8:00 pm Festival Service
with the full Trinity Choir, soloists, strings, and the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

11:00 pm Candlelight Service
with a more quiet and contemplative liturgy, a cappella music and the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE
10:30 am Celebration of the Holy Eucharist

Epiphany
Tuesday, January 6, 2014
7:15 pm Celebration of the Holy Eucharist



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Pastimes

Virginia Piedmont Shrimp & Grits

Vine & Dish



Ellen Kassoff Gray

This being December its fair to say there is a likely chance you'll be entertaining or going to someone's house for the holidays. This months Vine and Dish hopes to answer the sinister question of what to cook/bring? You'll want to prepare something that is well-liked but uncomplicated, easy to make and serve. Why not stick with a little southern tradition with low country style? Shrimp and Grits is the perfect dish for sharing family style. Its sophisticated due to its fame and status its achieved with top chefs and its is a nice break from all the meat laden tables you've probably sat at since Thanksgiving.

Like most trendy dishes shrimp and grits has a humble beginning. It started out as a dish that was typically eaten by fisherman in the coastal south. For obvious reasons it was most popular during shrimping season – typically from May to December.

Grits of course have a much longer history in the US – they started out as hominy, which came from corn and was at originally cultured by American Indians. They would coarsely grind corn to a "gritty" texture. Native Americans also used it as currency with new settlers in America in the 17th century. It was a unifier of people teaching them the love of indigenous foods as well as year round survival. Being that corn is a twelve-month crop its uses were countless throughout the year.

The simple low country seafood breakfast became symbolic of Southern cooking after Craig Claiborne wrote about a chef named Bill Neal of Crook's Corner Restaurant in North Carolina for the New York Times in 1985. The dish has had hundreds of incarnations since then from all regions of the south. This version is simple and creamy.

It pairs perfectly with the 2011 Chester Gap Cuvee from Chester Gap Cellars near Front Royal. The wine is a blend of about 2/3 Petit Manseng and 1/3 Viognier, it has a wonderful hint of pineapple which combines acidity to match the shrimp with richness of the mascarpone and the grits. The winery itself is located in the northern most tip of Rappahannock County. The winery sits tall with its elevation over 1000 feet giving dramatic views of the blue mountains and the hills of southeast Piedmont.

So happy holidays from The Dish – keep spreading the culinary love of Virginia. Till next year – Happy Cooking!

Virginia Piedmont Shrimp & Grits

This dish is a take on a low country classic. Shrimp and grits

3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
6 thyme sprigs
2 cloves garlic, peeled and sliced
24 16/20 (that's the size and there should be 16 – 20 ea per pound) shrimp, peeled and deveined
1 tablespoon freshly grated lemon zest
2 dozen brussels sprouts
1 cup Tamworth bacon or other smoked bacon, diced
1 cup shallots, sliced
3 tablespoons butter
Salt and pepper, to taste

For the mascarpone grits
2 cups milk
3 cups heavy cream



1 tablespoon butter
3 cups coarse ground Byrd Mill Grits or other coarse ground grits
1/2 cup mascarpone cheese
Salt and pepper, to taste

Prepare the shrimp: Take a baking sheet or half-sheet tray and drizzle with olive oil, then sprinkle with thyme sprigs and sliced garlic cloves.

Place shrimp onto the sheet and drizzle with additional olive oil, then sprinkle on the lemon zest. Season the shrimp with salt and pepper, and refrigerate while preparing the grits.

Prepare the grits: Bring milk, cream and butter to a simmer. Sprinkle in the grits and stir gently for 45 minutes on low heat until cooked.

Add seasoning and mascarpone cheese. Keep grits warm.

Finish the dish: Separate the leaves from the sprouts, tearing them from the root base. Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Add leaves and cook 1 minute, drain and shock in ice water. Drain again.

Heat a medium-sized sauté pan over medium heat. Add bacon, shallots and butter. Cook 3 minutes, then add the sprout petals and cook until warmed thoroughly.

Preheat a broiler to high. Place shrimp under broiler and cook until heads are pink and shrimp is firm to touch, approximately 4 minutes.

Take 4 large plates, spoon grits into center of each dish, top with sprouts and bacon. Place a set of 6 roasted shrimp on top of the sprouts and serve immediately. Serves 4.



Stop for a minute and take a breath

Kay Colgan
BS Certified Pilate's and Fitness Professional

This time of year can be exhausting. With a to do list that never ends and time that slips away, makes a hamster on a treadmill seem all too real. A lot is set to make a perfect holiday, whether it's the meal or the presents or just being a part of all the social events and religious opportunities. Running around can run havoc with the physical and mental self. Feeling depleted and overwhelmed and just wishing for January is an all too real observation. Many times the holidays seem more of a chore than enjoyment. Decorating the house is a task that is met with just get it done so the other things on the list can be checked off. Okay, stop for a minute and take a breath. Then put on your walking shoes and leave it all behind. This means leaving the list of what is left to do at home physically and mentally.

Taking a break mentally and physically will allow you to refocus and put the JOY back in your holidays. After all, perfection is overrated and JOY is a wonderful gift. Walking whether for 15 minutes or an hour will give you the break you need. Enjoying the sounds of nature and allowing your mind to be in the moment will give you a sense of peace. The consistency of a walking program will allow your body to relax and make your list not seem all to over whelming. By adding a breathing element to your walking program will enhance the benefits. Example while you are walking breathe in for a count of 10 and slowly exhale for a count of 10. If this seems too much in the beginning breathe in for a count of 8 and exhale for a slow count of 8. Focus on the breath and slowly you will feel a relaxation state set in. As an added bonus, just breathe when you are stressed and the stress will melt away.

While nothing in life is perfect, having control over your stress is utmost important in steering the way for brighter days. This holiday season I wish each and every one to have more JOY in their lives and to carry that JOY into the New Year. Merry Christmas from my family to yours and hope the new year is filled with hope, peace and JOY. Give yourself the gift of peace this holiday season. It is truly the gift that keeps on giving.

For more information about health and fitness please contact Kay Colgan at Middleburg Pilates and Personal Training, 3224 Hunters Trail Drive, Amissville,Va or call 540-687-6995.

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Pastimes

The Artist's Perspective

Tom Neel

Tom Sweitzer and Kim Tapper are the magical duo of A Place To Be in Middleburg and both have been friends for years. Late this summer over dinner, they asked me to join their board of directors and with no surprise, I enthusiastically said, "yes!" I did so because our friendship, in part, has been born out of our deep mutual understanding of the power of creativity. This is not just the power of ideas, the power of visual communication or the power of expression in play here. It is just as importantly about the power of creative teaching, creative learning and certainly the most important of all, the power of creative healing.

I've always said and felt strongly that creativity is the ultimate freedom and while it can be suppressed externally, by law, aggression, opinion or even poor educational choices, it certainly lives on in every mind. Don't ever think you don't have a creative side, you do. As an artist I've been offered that challenge many times from those who think they are not creative and I've opened everyone of them up to an enlightened understanding of themselves. We all can be creative and to Tom and Kim's point, most certainly even those labeled as disabled. In fact music therapy, A Place To Be's specialty, is scientifically proven to work, which is likely why I feel so good when I see these kids sing!

The greatest thing that comes from this understanding though and spending time with those at A Place To Be, is knowing how able the disabled really are. It also allows you to take stock of yourself, your own health and blessings and perhaps this is a good time of year to do so. What those with challenges can teach us about how we live our lives, is not only an amazing holiday gift, it's an amazing life gift. So this year, if your ho, ho, ho, has become ho, ho, hum, load yourself up with those good old day to day problems and then call A Place To Be. Ask to volunteer for one hour there and watch how small your problems will have become and how big your heart feels. Everyone thinks A Place to Be is just for people with disabilities, when in reality, it's a place for everyone, especially those of us so called normal people. A Place To Be is a pretty good place to reboot the reality of ourselves. You'll find that the challenged at A Place To Be are the real teachers and most of us could use the things they can teach us at one point or another throughout the year. So, do you want to really feel blessed and relieved of stress? Want to make that New Year's resolution look 100% obtainable? Want to give thanks this year for the goodness in your life? Spend an hour at A Place To Be and you'll think you were shot out of the cannon of goodness. Here, I'll make it easy for you,



just call 540-687-6740 and tell them Santa's artistic helper sent you!

Happy Holidays Everyone!

Tom

Live An Artful Life, Tom

Meaningful Gifts

Sincerely, Me

Brandy Greenwell

I love to give gifts with meaning. I love to receive gifts into which someone has put diligent thought. I love to support local businesses, and we are fortunate to have a nice selection in Middleburg and the surrounding area. Here are a few of my favorite things:

Tri-County Feeds, Fashions and Finds is just that, one can really find something for everyone at there. Not only do they have an excellent selection for fashionable equestrians, they also have a fantastic gift section with goodies of all kinds. Ladies, for the hard to shop for outdoors man in your life, they have an excellent selection of clothes designed for shooting and hunting as well as unique, supporting accouterments. Let him know you acknowledge his hobby and find something wonderful to support it.

My husband and father do a tie exchange every year. They love the selection at Highcliffe Clothiers. They are both also very fond of their cufflink selection and covet their custom made dress shirts. What is better than something off the rack? Something that is specifically made for you. He will wonder what has taken him so long to get the perfect shirt.

For busy parents, I love to give a gift certificate to a fantastic restaurant. Your gift of a night out just might be the most needed, yet simple notion. There are plenty of great ones to choose from in Middleburg. I always have an amazing experience at The French Hound.

Staying with consumables, I also love giving a meaningful bottle of wine. Greenhill's Blanc de Blancs is out of this world as is Boxwood's Topiary. You cannot go wrong with either of them. For the non-alcoholic palate or gourmet in your life, visit Olio for specialty oils, vinegars and more. All of the above make great hostess gifts as well as to keep extras on hand for the person you forgot.

Who doesn't like to be pampered? One can rarely go wrong with a gift certificate for a facial, massage or pedicure. Some people won't splurge to pamper themselves and a gift of such decadence might be appreciated beyond belief. In Middleburg, even Fido can be gifted pampering at The Studio and is always appreciated by the dog lover.

For the cyber shopper, I think the two best things going are the iRobot Roomba and the Nutra Bullet. What better gift to give someone than a future without vacuuming? The Nutra Bullet brings health in blending and it also cuts down on dishes used. Score.

And if she is hinting hard for the vest on the mannequin outside of Duchessa, consider yourself lucky that that you need to look no further! It will create a beaming smile when opened and tried on with a twirl over her PJ's. (Can someone please call my husband to make sure he sees how I dropped my hint in print?)



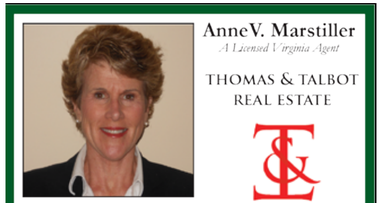
I wish each and every one of you a perfect Christmas.

Barbara and Teddy

Girls and Their Dogs

I always had a shepherd with my labs and the other dogs. We had to put our last shepherd down because of spinal myelopathy – it was really sad and we hadn't had one in a while. I saw a 9 month old puppy on the website for the Loudoun ASPCA Animal Shelter that someone turned in – a male, purebred and I said, 'Oh my God, I am going to call on that dog tomorrow.' Well interestingly enough, the Virginia German Shepherd Rescue grabbed it and it went to a really good home, but that was what kind of started it. I began to look at the websites and look at all the dogs – daily. And all of a sudden Teddy's picture came through. What it said was – new to Virginia German Shepherd Rescue, but not available for adoption yet. His name was Buddy. So I called and his foster mom's name was Mary Ann and in the first call she told me that they were just getting to know him and that they had pulled him from the Martinsburg, WVA Pound and they only thing we know about him is that he was dropped off with a Chow mix that was really nasty and that "Buddy" was very thin. Mary Ann said to me that she was going to bring the dog to the Pets Smart in Gainesville for a meet and greet and if I wanted to come and see him that he would be there the next Sunday. So….I am the first one there and I am waiting for her to arrive with Teddy. There was something in the pictures she had posted; there were five pictures and I still have them, plus he was that silver and black that I love and it's not as common as the black and tan so I go to Pets Smart and I just fell in love with him. There was a woman standing next to me and she says to Mary Ann regarding Teddy (whom I am basically following around petting the whole time because I wanted him and I was scared that someone else might adopt him) that her doctor wants her to exercise and start walking and by the way, is he crate trained? So I panicked that this woman is going to get this beautiful, young male dog! I am thinking that this woman has never had a dog before and she is going to pick (an expletive) German Shepherd! All I was thinking was – really? First-time dog owner? Maybe a lab would be a better choice? Apparently what Mary Ann liked about me was that I kept petting Teddy. I sort of ignored Mary Ann and kept interacting with the dog. Mary Ann noticed that and liked it. So I filled out my very detailed application – where you need so much information (which is kind of like adopting a child) - so I gave her all of my vet references, etc. I passed that and it was then time for Teddy to meet my lab, Nadia. It was important that those two got along. They brought Teddy to the Pet Expo in Chantilly. So we go and there are literally, 10,000 dogs. Nadia and I find the rescue booth. Nadia had never been in a situation like this and she was so good. You should see the pictures of the first meeting. You can see the whites of Nadia's eyes showing! There were so many dogs there. They got along great. I was able to take them both outside for a walk and that went well. The next step was our home visitation. I was concerned that we didn't have the typical chain-link fenced-in yard. However, this particular rescue didn't mandate that. I did reiterate that if I had a challenge with this dog because he had never been exposed to horses, had never been exposed to cats and they didn't really know how much he had been socialized that I was not a quitter and that if I needed help, I would get help because there was no way I was giving this dog back. So the home visitor came and beforehand I had dredged up all of the pictures of German Shepherds that I had in my past – from when Kendra was a baby – and created an album which I put up on my Facebook page. The day of the home visit came and I showed the representative every picture of all my past German Shepherds. We had two. One was a rescue and one we had raised from a pup. So she approved the house – and they walk through your whole house! They want to see where the dog is going to be. I am not a crate person; I am not against them, but it's just something I don't use. They insisted on it so I borrowed one from Julie Coles. It was a little small, but I propped it up in my bedroom. We had a challenge getting it up there since it wasn't broken down. It was more of a prop since I wasn't planning on using it unless there was an aggression issue. So Mary Ann came and got out of the car with Teddy and the first thing he did was bark at the horses. Mary Ann was a little panicked and was probably thinking that I would say forget it. It wasn't that at all; I was determined. So they drive off and leave Teddy with me and he was so smart and so easy to train. With the horses I did a lot of leash work and it was just him understanding what they were – he had no idea. I put him on a long training leash. We had one incident where one of the horses took off across the field and Teddy took off after him, but was on the outside of the fence. It scared me to death because I was worried he was going to get hurt. From that time I let him drag the long training leash when I was out with him. Whenever Teddy would show that piqued interest, I would just do a correction by saying, 'no' and I started to walk him through a neighbor's property because they have the babies and yearlings there and the babies are always really curious and come to the fence. I would correct him as he was walking along the fence. It was so easy and now they can gallop and play right next to him and it's no big deal. Teddy is the happiest doing farm chores. He loves going down to the barn. He knows our routine. He knows when we go down there at night – we close up. He is super loyal, but he is not one of these German Shepherds that is single minded. He is closest to me, but when I am gone he attaches to Claudia, when Chris comes home – he loves Chris. Teddy is very Labrador in that way. Teddy loves everyone in his family.





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Time for Cold Crops

The Plant Lady

Karen Rexrode



The simplest cold frame structure can produce delicious lettuce, kale and spinach through winter in our climate. A little protection from wind and extreme cold is easily done. Even bales of straw and old windows will provide an ideal environment and high quality yield. Spinach is quick, tasty, almost buttery when harvested fresh. Seeds need to be sown prior to days shortening to less than 10 hours. If not done in early November, sow in spring as soon as days lengthen, by the 1st of February we will reach days that exceed 10 hours. When buying seed, look for slow bolt varieties, I particularly like the Japanese or Asian types, super cold hard, although earlier to bolt. The taste is incredibly smooth, a bit more so than standard spinach.

Lettuce can be sown continually. Succession planting with short harvest varieties makes for incredible variability. In our climate, the highly divided leaves of mizuna are a quick harvest, so much so that bolting occurs by February with a November sowing. As plants begin to bolt or flower, the taste will decline, you will notice a bitterness. Once the greens are refrigerated, the bitterness tends to decline. Some of the best varieties for Virginia are the butterhead, romaine and buttercrunch. Standard head lettuce is not worth attempting in our shorter, milder winters. Leave those for more northern gardeners who don't have the ideal climate we have for so many others.

For variability, consider red mustard, its got quite a bite. The darkest leaves deliver a potent snap or bite, great for clearing the sinuses. Viola flowers make for a beautiful salad, rich in vitamin C, I love to sprinkle them in with my greens.

A good bed of clean compost makes for the best sowing and growing. Slugs tend to be a problem, both from their love of the environment you've created and their love for your greens. The compost should be laid down to cover the existing ground, 1 to 2 inches deep (this depth thwarts slug invasion). Sow in rows, mark your varieties and keep notes. As you nibble your way through winter and spring, you will want to know what varieties work best for your cold frame and your palate.



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Lorraine was emaciated, had large infected wounds all over her body, & was truly near death when she arrived at MHF. After weeks of intensive care, she recovered beautifully & weighs twice as much now. Lorraine is a sweetheart, loves everyone & everything, & would be the love of your life! Please consider giving our miracle girl a forever home!





Donna is a 10 yr. old Jenny (standard donkey). She stands quietly in cross ties & loves to be brushed. She stands for the vet & farrier. Donna gets along with everyone & would make a great babysitter.

Shay is a gorgeous teenager that was abandoned outside, overnight at MHF in a plastic bin with another cat. She is very sweet, gets along great with other cats, & would be a wonderful family friend.





Tiger is an adorable 6 yr. old Bulldog X with a fun personality. He is well mannered when indoors, likes most other dogs, & is house trained. Tiger would do best in a home where is not left alone for long periods of time as he loves having company.

Smith & Wesson were caught as tiny babies after they were born near IGA. They are 4 months old, very sweet, & have huge personalities. They were in a foster home with dogs, cats, & horses, so they would do well in any home.



Animal's Giving Tree



Please help us care for the animals by donating items from the Giving Tree. Donations accepted at our shelter or thrift shop.



Chubbs is a sweet gentleman of a dog that loves to learn. He thinks cats are to be chased so a home without kitties is best. He gets along with other mannerly dogs but doesn't prefer dogs that are too rambunctious. He's very sweet & would love a home of his own for the holidays.

Hercules is a 13 year old, healthy, 12H bay gelding pony. He is very sweet & gets along with everyone. He stands for the vet & farrier, is an easy keeper, & is current on all vaccines. Hercules has never been ridden, but he has good ground manners & would make a great companion/adorable lawn ornament/babysitter!

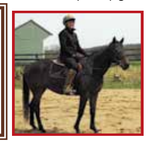




Zara is a 2 year old tripod (lost a hind leg due to a knee injury). She loves to play and is housebroken. She requires a home with a secure fenced yard as she needs to be able to get adequate exercise.

Abner is one cool cat! He's a mature guy but you wouldn't know by looking at him. His mature demeanor makes him a go with the flow kinda boy. He gets along with others & really likes to just hang out & soak up the sun. He's pretty game for anything.





Ellie is a 15H 4 yr old TB mare that is currently in training & shows great potential to be a Hunter or Low Level Eventer. She stands in cross ties for vet & farrier. She needs the right person to finish her training & give her a forever home.

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Editors Desk

What Rain?

"A law was made a distant moon ago here:
July and August cannot be too hot.
And there's a legal limit to the snow here
In Camelot.
The winter is forbidden till December
And exits March the second on the dot.
By order, summer lingers through September
In Camelot."

The cheering began as Santa rounded the curve from The Plains Road onto West Washington Street, from a sea of umbrellas, ponchos and rain hats that made the sidewalks appear covered by a sea of oversized Dots.

It never fails.

Neither rain, nor sleet nor snow nor even night have ever produced any gloom at all on the day marking the kickoff of Christmas in Middleburg . . . and this year was no exception.

The crowds who braved the weather from the morning's Hunt Parade to the afternoon arrival of Santa may have been smaller than last year's, but enthusiasm was not in short supply.

And as for friends, there are no fair weather friends in Middleburg.

Jim Herbert and his army of volunteers never faltered.

Chief A.J. Panebianco and his officers had recruited help from law enforcement organizations all over the county to control traffic and keep everyone safe and happy.

Town Council and staff could not have done a better job, welcoming the crowd and keeping enthusiasm high.

The food was great. The shopping better. And a great time was had by all.

Kudos and thanks to all for, once again, making Christmas in Middleburg, well . . . Christmas . . . in Middleburg !

Middleburg Charter School

Our newly chartered school has run into some unexpected accreditation trouble as it soldiers through its first and always most difficult year. . . . trouble that appears to this newspaper to be more a matter of well-meant but counterproductive rules, undotted "I's" and uncrossed "T's" than truly substantive.

A lot of hard work, blood, sweat and tears have brought our school to this point.

Its students, their parents and their teachers seem happy with what they have seen and experienced so far.

We are certain that we will soon get past these difficulties quickly and move forward to making Middleburg Charter School one of the best schools in the county.

The school and its founders have earned our support.

Let's stand behind them.

Christmas

Blue

Daniel Morrow

December, 1948, was the year of our Norman Rockwell Christmas..

For my parents, and grandparents, and my aunt and uncle, the war seemed truly over.

Korea had not begun.

Three generations of the family were alive, and well, and employed and happy and in one house, my grandparents house, for Christmas.

The house smelled of pine and apples and cinnamon. My grandmother had baked bread, and rolls, and my favorite pinwheel cookies.

God was in his heaven and I was the only child.

On Christmas Eve, Santa himself called me, long distance, from the pole, on the black bakelite phone, still without a dial, that sat on a table in the hallway beside the stairs.

A long night followed.

On Christmas morning , the first thing I saw under the Christmas tree, was a small Ferris wheel, made of Tinker Toys, turned by a hand crank fashioned from the spring of a wooden clothes pin. My dad and uncle had stayed up half the night putting it together.

Beside it was a cowboy suit. No. THE cowboy suit:.

Hat, vest, chaps, and a matched pair of pistols, holstered in a two-gun rig that would have made the Lone Ranger proud.

Shedding pajamas, I immediately donned hat, vest, chaps and pistols . . . only to notice a cool breeze across my bare bottom.

Chaps.

Who knew?

The Lone Ranger never wore chaps.

Christmas dinner was truly a scene from the cover of the Saturday Evening Post. Turkey, trimmings, aprons, perfect.

On that very day, as I remember, my uncle began a family tradition of breaking the silence after grace by asking politely but firmly . . . for catsup.

The day after Christmas that year was a Sunday.

After church the family gathered for the reading of the Funny Papers (forbidden until after church). There was of course no TV.

Cowboy attire was permitted, but all holsters and pistols (namely, mine) were to be hung on the hall coat rack for the duration.

My grandmother kept me busy by reading stories, including one from a book she had bought two years earlier, in 1946, when I was two and my dad and Uncle came just home from the war.

It was, she said, about a small boy and a present.

The boy who gave it, she said, was about my age, an angel (she didn't explain why) living with many other angels, with God, in heaven.

At four the boy was a terrible angel. Always dirty. Always singing out of tune. Forever wiping a runny nose on his robe and losing control of an inevitably tarnished halo.

One December, shortly after he had arrived, there was a great celebration, a birthday, for God's new son.

All the angels had gathered round the throne of God, and one by one, brought gifts: works of gold and silver, great symphonies and poems, paintings and other things too glorious to describe.

Embarrassed that he had little, and certainly nothing worthy to give the son of God, the small, bad, littlest angel slipped hidden behind the robes of the senior angels and left at God's feet his present. A small rough wooden box

When God saw it there a great silence fell over the heavenly host. No one seemed to know what to do or say. A wooden box. For God's son. On this day.

God himself, my grandmother read on, spoke first . . . and declared that he found the littlest angel's gift, the rough wooden box, the most perfect of them all.

"What was in it," I wanted to know. "What was it?"

With both her sons safe and home from the worst of wars, her first grandchild on her lap, and a catch in her voice that I noticed but did not understand until many years later, she read to me the answer from Charles Tazewell's little book.

Inside, she said, was ". . . a golden butterfly captured in the hills of Judea one summer afternoon; a tiny blue egg from the bird's nest outside his mother's window; two white stones worn smooth by the running waters of a brook; and a chewed leather thong that had been his dog's collar. . . .the collar of a dog who died . . . . as he had lived . . . faithful and true . . . ."

They are all gone now: grandparents, parents, uncles and aunts, but they all as alive as we were on that special Christmas.

And still, after seventy Christmases, that small rough wooden box remains for me the most perfect of presents: selfless, generous, and yes, faithful, and true.







The Meaning of Christmas

Red

James Morgan

The dictionary defines Christmas as "the annual Christian festival celebrating Christ's birth, held on December 25 in the Western Church." Straightforward and dry, this tells us what Christmas is, but not what it means.

The question comes up every year and is discussed, of course, in churches. But we see it bandied about on talk shows and in newspaper columns like this one. Yet, even as our smug, self-satisfied, highly secular society tries to explain away the Christmas story, it demonstrates an understanding that the story still matters.

It probably is not possible to say anything about Christmas that hasn't already been said but some things need to be repeated so here we go.

Christians naturally focus on the Incarnation, the moment when "the Word was made Flesh," that is, when God took on human form and came into the physical world to suffer and die as a sacrifice for the purpose of our salvation. Quite an amazing thing for an all-powerful being to do for creatures he didn't have to create in the first place.

Luke's biblical narrative of the event is almost as dry as the dictionary definition:

"And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem: because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary his espoused wife, who was with child. And it came to pass, that when they were there, her days were accomplished, that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him up in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. "

So a woman had a baby. Such an ordinary thing (which is part of the point), yet so extraordinary because it was, we Christians believe, the first step in the fulfillment of the glorious promise of Judaism.

Inevitably in discussions about the meaning of Christmas, someone will bemoan its commercialization. And, indeed, that aspect of it has thoroughly dominated the Christmas season since early in the 20th century though its origins go back several decades farther. Santa Claus was popularized by Thomas Nast's editorial drawings during the Civil War. Christmas trees came into general use in the 1870s. The growth of department stores in the late 19th century really gave commercialization a push into prominence.

But commercialization is about "the holidays," not about the holy day that is Christmas itself. And the very word "holiday" stems from "holy day" just as Santa Claus stems from the religious figure of St. Nicholas. Commercialization, thus, is a kind of separation of church and state. It is what happens when a holy day becomes a holiday.

Worse than commercialization, however, is the very real assault on the holy day. People now routinely say "Happy Holidays" instead of "Merry Christmas" (though, in my experience, saying "Merry Christmas" usually gets a very positive, if surprised, response). Schools now have Winter vacation and Winter pageants. Christmas carols are "holiday songs" and must be cleansed of any actual references to Christ. And, of course, no Nativity scenes can be on courthouse lawns because someone, somewhere will be offended.

All of this reflects the "progressive" view of culture which requires that we respect all traditions but our own. Alas, there is not room here to delve into that particular lunacy other than to call attention to it.

Even in the commercialization of the holiday, however, there is a reflection, albeit a pale one, of the true meaning of the holy day. Giving gifts reminds us, or should, of the unselfishness of the ultimate sacrificial gift that was the Incarnation. And, whatever the meaning, if any, of the secularized version, the Incarnation remains the true meaning of Christ's Mass.

So Merry Christmas to all. And, as Tiny Tim said, "God bless us, every one."

Hypocrisy

Tom Pratt

In past columns I have questioned how both military and mercenary personnel are able to commit horrendous atrocities in countries where they have been posted. I think dehumanizing targeted individuals is one way to carry out attacks on fellow humans.

It makes little difference if you are sitting in a comfortable chair in Syracuse flying an unmanned drone that targets a militant and innocent civilians are killed (recent reports show that 28 civilians are killed for every suspect), or if you are part of a raid on an Afghan village where a door is kicked open in the middle of the night and you and your family are either killed, severely injured or arrested.

I bring this up again because I believe the recent killings of black men by white officers, and the refusal of Grand Juries to indict has reached epic proportions here in the United States. I also believe the extreme militarization of the police forces contributes to the problem. If you give the police armored vehicles and military assault weapons they are bound to start seeing themselves as military forces at war instead of protectors of civilians.

Eric Garner the black man who was choked to death by police officers on Staten Island is another extreme case of man's inhumanity to man. I am sure nearly all have seen the video of Mr. Garner being held on the ground in a choke hold by a police officer while he cries "I can't breathe" for almost 6 minutes. But a second little seen video is even worse. In the other video Mr. Garner lies dying on the sidewalk as police officers and medics do nothing to help. Onlookers start to question the EMT's and officers about giving CPR and are ignored. The only response is an order for a citizen to stop videoing.

Finally they pick up Mr. Garner and drop him on a gurney with still no attempt to clear his airway or attempt to resuscitate. It is very probable that if given any kind of help he could have survived the brutal treatment by police. All of this because he was suspected of selling loose cigarettes, seems very trite when white collar criminals who bankrupt thousands upon thousands of innocent people because of shady bank dealings walk free.

In another case that was mostly overlooked by the media because of Ferguson, is that of Akai Gurley.

Apparently Akai and his girlfriend were walking up the dark stairs of their public housing building because the elevator was inoperable and unknown to them a pair of rookie cops were on the roof checking out the building.

Akai opens a door from the stairwell and one of the cops shoots and hits him, Akai does not immediately know he has been shot and runs down the stairs where he dies. The cops, aware that they have shot someone run back up the stairs and instead of calling 911 or any kind of help, call their Union Rep to try and save their careers.

Finally a resident of the building does call 911 and they find Akai dead. Another tragic part of this is that the cops were not even supposed to be in the building conducting what is called a "vertical patrol" where they start from the roof and patrol down stairways presumably looking for illegal acts in public housing.

Another case in Cleveland: a 12-year-old black boy holding a toy gun is shot to death by police after someone calls the police about a robbery in the area. That particular policeman was on report as being totally incompetent and should not have been patrolling the streets.

It is right and fitting that people take to the streets and commit civil disobedience in order to make their voices heard but all should be done without violence, destruction of property or injuries and the local, state and federal authorities should recognize the right of peaceful protest.

Water and Music 2

Waterworld

Richard A. Engberg

For several years I've thought about the interrelationship between water and music and a couple of years ago I did a column about water and music. As I stated then, I love water and I love music and there are hundreds of songs about water.

Both music and water can be cathartic and, perhaps if you combine them, the effect is synergistic. Restating what I said in the earlier column, who wouldn't be able to relax while sitting in an easy chair listening to the sound of water on a table top fountain while at the same time, listening to your favorite music? Of course, a glass of your favorite wine and the presence of your favorite person or pet wouldn't hurt.

The songs that follow, for the most part, didn't make it into print during the column in 2012. Those that did then were classical, easy listening, and new age. This time we'll try pop/rock and country/western.

Help me out, there have to be many more in these two categories. If you think of some I've missed, my e-mail address is rengberg@verizon.net.

Happy holidays everyone.

Pop/Rock:

Purple Rain	Prince
Black Water	Doobie Brothers
Smoke on the Water	Deep Purple
Who'll Stop the Rain	Creedence Clearwater Revival
Sittin' on the Dock of the Bay	Otis Redding
Raindrops Keep Falling….	B. J. Thomas (Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid – great movie)
Rain on the Roof	Lovin' Spoonful
Rain	Beatles
Wind on the Water	Crosby and Nash
Tears in Heaven	Eric Clapton
Crying Song	Pink Floyd
Tears of a Clown	Smokey Robinson
Surfin' USA	Beach Boys
Surfer Girl	Beach Boys (One of their best)
Catch a Wave	Beach Boys
Surfin' Safari	Beach Boys
Sloop John B	Beach Boys

Country/Western:

Big River	Johnny Cash (The greatest!)
Blue Eyes Cryin' in the Rain	Willie Nelson (Also the greatest!)
Cryin'	Roy Orbison
Georgia Rain	Trisha Yearwood
Let it Rain	David Nail
Smoky Mountain Rain	Ronnie Milsap
Raining on Sunday	Keith Urban
I'm No Stranger to Rain	Keith Whitley
The Thunder Rolls	Garth Brooks (Scary song – may be Garth's best)
Ocean Front Property	George Strait
Cool Water	Sons of the Pioneers (Now that's a classic!)









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Oakfield

Upperville, Virginia • $4,900,000

Stone manor house in spectacular setting • 86.81 acres • Highly protected area in prime Piedmont Hunt • Gourmet kitchen • Wonderful detail throughout • 5 BR • 5 BA • 3 half BA • 3 fireplaces, classic pine paneled library • Tenant house • Stable • Riding ring • Heated saltwater pool • Pergola • Full house generator

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Flint Hill Farm

Middleburg, Virginia • $3,800,000

Circa 1789 masterpiece • Stunning site is unmatched in the region • 15 acres amidst 400 protected acres • Main house has 3 BR, amazing kitchen, limestone floors, mahogany doors, 4 FP • 3 BR guest cottage • 2 BR carriage house • Charming guest quarters • Stunning views, exquisite detail • Rare find, fantastic value

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Faraway Farm

Middleburg Area • $3,350,000

Solid stone home with copper roof on 70 acres • Original portions dating from the 1700's • First floor bedroom & 3 additional suites • Original floors • 8 fireplaces • Formal living room • Gourmet kitchen • 2 ponds • Mountain views • Stone walls • Mature gardens • Pool • Primitive log cabin • Piedmont Hunt

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Wood Hill

Middleburg, Virginia • $3,300,000

3 miles from Middleburg • 49 acres • Elegant 1940's brick colonial home • Stable • Cottage • Apartment • Pool • Tennis court • Mature trees and sweeping lawn to Goose Creek which surrounds most of the property

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Trough Hill Farm

Middleburg, Virginia • $2,950,000

A pastoral 5 bedroom c. 1830 farmhouse and a grand stone pavilion • Elegant but unfussy • 103 acres of open farmland • The pavilion serves as a pool house, greenhouse, banquet room, and guest quarters • Great location

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The Haven

The Plains, Virginia • $2,495,000

Fabulous equestrian property • High efficiency low maintenance home with state of the art geothermal and solar systems • Stone fireplaces, pool, cabana • Great kitchen and bathrooms • Huge front porch overlooking pond • 7 stall stable with apartment • Euro felt arena • 4 paddocks and prime ride out location

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Lions Lane

Boyce, Virginia • $1,299,900

109 mountain top acres • Unbelievable western views • Hunters' paradise • Over 2.5 miles of walking, hiking and/or ATV trials • 3 bedrooms • 2 fireplaces • Updated gourmet kitchen • 3 car garage • Energy efficient

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Stonewood

Middleburg, Virginia • $970,000

Charming stucco, log and frame home • 10 acres • 3-4 bedrooms • 3 1/2 baths • 2 fireplaces (one in the kitchen with antique brick floor) • Beautiful reclaimed pine flooring • Bright and sunny family room opens to bluestone terrace • Master bedroom opens to private balcony • 2 car garage • 4 stall barn with tack room with 2 paddocks • 2 recorded lots

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Elmore Farm

Markham, Virginia • $895,000

c. 1820's gracious old Virginia home • 40 acres bound by Goose Creek • Original floors and stone fireplaces • High ceilings • Huge back porch, 4+ bedrooms and in law suite • Bright and modern kitchen with family room addition for today's living • Great views, open pasture & pond

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Sunken Lane

Upperville, Virginia • $749,000

Prime Upperville location on 11.43 acres • Piedmont Hunt Country • Surrounded by properties in easement • Contemporary home • Stucco exterior • 3 BR • 2 full & 2 1/2 BA, 2 fireplaces • Spiral staircase leads to 8 stall barn • Tack room & office • Property fenced & cross fenced

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The Corner Garden Building

Middleburg, Virginia • $650,000

Classic old Middleburg fixture • Zoned C-2 which allows retail, restaurant or personal services • Lovely large front porch and old stone walls - nice visibility one block south of the main street • Extensive plantings, room for expansion and full of charm • Approximately 2,300 sf building on .11 acre lot • Front portion dates from 1870's

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