Middleburg Eccentric™
MIDDLEBURG'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER
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MARY, MARY, QUITE CONTRARY
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TWILIGHT POLO AT GREAT MEADOW

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THE 4TH OF JULY

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FREE PARKING?

MIDDLEBURG TOWN COUNCIL REPORT

DAN MORROW

On July 9, Middleburg Police Chief A. J. Panebianco

Formally reported formally to Town Council on the results of his department's study of a month long experiment in which the town's parking meters were covered with bags that offered two hours of free parking.

Though neither Chief Panebianco nor Town Administrator Martha Semmes offered recommendations prior to Council's formal review, reactions to the experiment appear to have been overwhelmingly positive.

Vice Mayor Darlene Kirk was explicit, noting that she "did not see many cons, and mostly saw pros" in the report.

Turnover

Panebianco reiterated that the primary goal for Middleburg's parking enforcement program was to ensure turnover: to make sure that every citizen and visitor had a chance to find a parking place, and that prime spots were not monopolized all day by a single parker.

Parking meters worked, he admitted. They were less labor intensive than some options, and at any given time an officer could tell whether the driver of a vehicle had paid for parking. Unfortunately, with meters, he said, there was no way of knowing "whether the vehicle had been there all day or simply had not paid for five minutes."

"If the meters were removed and replaced with a technology-supported form of tire marking," Panebianco continued, turnover would be encourage and the Police Department would have a much better understanding of who was moving along and who was not."

Not having some system in place "to encourage the turnover of parking spaces" creates frustration and harms the economy by making it difficult for shoppers and restaurant patrons to park.

Appearances and Convenience

Another important consideration, the Chief noted, was how having meter posts at every space in the newly constructed areas of Route 50 would affect the Town's main street beautification agenda.

Another alternative, a metering system that issued parking permits from dispensers in the middle of a block would "work," Panebianco noted, but would be expensive and inconvenient for parkers.

Using such a system, motorists would either have to

"Walk to a box to secure a piece of paper and then walk back to put it on their dashboard." Cell phone based options could be used buy more time at the meter, but would create technology and manpower issues for the police force, and undermine the primary purpose of a two

Continued page 21

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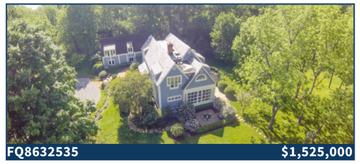
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FQ8590439 $6,500,000

7295 OLD CARTERS MILL RD, THE PLAINS, VA - Overlooking 149 acres in Orange County Hunt, Cloverland Farm is a true masterpiece. Highest quality, designed by William Lawrence Bottomley in 1932. Grand foyer, stately rooms, mohogany library, conservatory, chefs kitchen, indoor pool, tennis court, magnificent views!
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LO8425027 $1,695,000

18771 HAPS LN, PURCELLVILLE, VA - Reduced state of the art Turnkey equestrian facility for any equine discipline! Complete with: 2006 s8 stall double isle barn, office, kitchen, vet room, tack rooms, interlocking rubber flooring, 2 wash stalls, indoor arena, ceiling fan/stall, 1/2 mile track, 15 paddocks, pond, 50 acres...
Joy Thompson 540-729-3428


FQ8632535 $1,525,000

10005 POSSUM HOLLOW DR, DELAPLANE - Stunning custom colonial on approx. 25 acres in a gorgeous setting. Beautifully decorated and landscaped. High ceilings, sun-filled rooms - wood floors & fabulous windows capture magnificent views from every room. Ideal for horses or a gracious country lifestyle. Located in Piedmont Hunt.
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LO8488093 $1,495,000

PAEONIAN SPRINGS, VA - Privacy, elegance & comfort is found at Bittersweet Farm. Classic home w/ high ceilings & old world moldings paired w/ spectacular kitchen renovation & new metal roofs. Glorious 25 acres w/ great ride-out yet 7 minutes from downtown Leesburg. Fabulous barn w/ tack, water & Riding Ring. Back veranda holds 30 guests!
On the Market... with Sam Rees 703-408-4261

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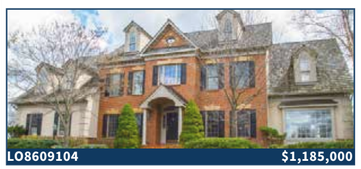
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LO8573523 $1,199,000

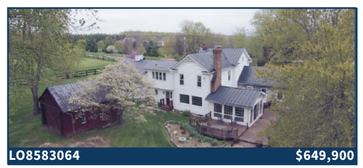
MANOR VIEW LN, PURCELLVILLE, VA -Stunning custom home in the heart of Loudoun County's Wine Country next-door to Hillsborough Vineyards. Beautiful sunset views! The grand foyer with hardwood floors opens into the living room and formal dining room. Enjoy the views from the gourmet kitchen!
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LO8609104 $1,185,000

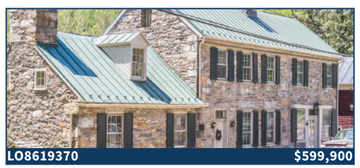
ROUND HILL - A long winding drive past a picturesque pond leads to exquisite brick & stucco colonial on 10 acres. 12 room residence boasts 4BRs and 5 1/2 baths; a stunning Family Rm w/ vaulted ceilings, full stone wall FP; tiled Sun Rm w/ wet bar, a luxurious Mstr Bedroom & bath; Beautiful heated pool & spa all in pristine condition!
Scott Buzzelli 540.454.1399 | Peter Pejacsevich 540.270.3835


LO8609131 $1,175,000

37072 ADAMS GREEN LN, MIDDLEBURG ~Middlebrook, in Melmore estates, 4 BR, 3+BA, 4100 sq.ft. Custom cabnets, wolf range, all new appl. 3 FPs, finshd bsmnt, pantry w/dbl oven, ctrl vac,pine flrs, columns, mldngs, unfnshed 3rd flr, 2 car Carriage hse w/ 2nd flr, 2 car garage, pond, pool, gazeebo, full trex deck, orchrd, pavd drve, prof. lndscpe.
Scott Buzzelli 540.454.1399 | Peter Pejacsevich 540.270.3835


LO8583064 $649,900

38068 COLONIAL HWY W, HAMILTON - For clients who want town & country lifestyle. Spectacular Period Home (1800s) Superior kitchen, master bath/garage & Mud room additions. Stunning setting! Sunroom w/ deck overlooking 3 acres: gardens, pond, lovely stable & fenced pastures. 3 wood burning fireplaces! Animal friendly property!
On the Market... with Sam Rees 703-470-0680


LO8619370 $599,900

CHARLES TOWN PIKE, PURCELLVILLE - Former B&B "Catoctin House". With sweeping views of lush lawn, gardens and rushing Catoctin Creek, this stunning home with original wood floors, deep window sills & wood burning fireplaces will steal your heart! Newer custom built detached post & beam 2 story studio sits overlooking the creek.
On the Market... with Sam Rees 703-470-0680


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.
Walter Woodson 703-499-4961

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News of Note

Land Rover US Eventing Team takes gold


US Equestrian Federation (USEF) by StockImageServices.com

Congratulations to the Land Rover US Eventing Team for winning the team gold medal at the Pan American Games, held recently in Toronto, Can. They also qualified the US 3-Day team for the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

The team (l-r): Marilyn Little (individual gold) & Raylyn Farm Inc. and Phoebe and Michael Manders' RF Scandalous; Boyd Martin (4th individually) & the Pancho Villa Syndicate's Pancho Villa; Phillip Dutton (10th individually) & Annie Jones' Fernhill Fugitive; Lauren Kieffer (7th individually) & Marie Le Menestrel's Meadowbrook's Scarlett.

An important element of the team's success is U.S. Eventing Chef d'Equipe, David O'Connor. The gold medal has very local connections with Kieffer based in Middleburg and O'Connor in The Plains.

The Pan Am 3-Day was closely contested from start to finish. Under great pressure – they had to win in order to secure the USA's Olympic qualification – the team produced four double-clear cross-country rounds and three double-clear show jumping rounds.

In June, the US team and alternates, along with Mexico's 3-Day team, coached by Karen O'Connor, competed in the Land Rover Great Meadow International Pan Am Prep. LRGMI also welcomed a stellar group of horses and riders who contested the CIC3-star. O'Connor continues to work with Great Meadow President Rob Banner to bring international 3-Day to Great Meadow. Plans are in the works for the Land Rover Great Meadow International Olympic Prep for the Land Rover U.S. Eventing Team, tentatively scheduled for July 9-10. 2016.

PROPERTIES IN HUNT COUNTRY

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An outstanding, well built 2 Bedroom, 3 Full Bath cottage on over **50 tranquil acres** in Markham, perfectly located minutes from I-66. This lovely home takes advantage of nature and privacy with views of Cobbler and Buck Mountains from the expansive rear porch with the rusting of Thumb Run Creek nearby. One level living with Stucco, Standing Seam Metal Roof and many exceptional details throughout. A must see! **$1,200,000**
Barrington Hall (540) 454-6601

EBENEZER CHURCH LAND



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. **$895,000**
Mary Ann McGowan (540) 687-5523

118 JAY STREET



Spacious stone townhome in Steeplechase Run with 4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, 2 gas fireplaces, hardwood floors throughout first floor. Open floorplan with multiple patio doors opening to double covered balconies and patio overlooking incredible pastoral and stream views. Fully finished walk out basement and 2 car garage. Quiet in town location within easy walking distance to all village amenities. GREAT NEW PRICE! **$699,000**
Cathy Bernache (540) 424-7066

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Immaculate Colonial on **2.7 acres**. Renovated & enlarged. Gourmet Kitchen w/high-end appls & granite, B-fast Rm, Formal Din Rm & Liv Rm, Family Rm w/fplce, Den, 1st flr Mstr wing w/lux Bath w/steam shwr & walk-in closet. Hardwood Flrs. 3 BRs +2 Full BAs up. Exten. landscaping, large yard, stone walls, porch, rear Trex deck, stone patio w/ fpl., 2-car det. garage w/room above. **$649,000**
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ROCK SPRINGS



Located on the western side of Warrenton this Virginia farmhouse sits on **19.58 Acres.** The main house has a New Furnace and Septic System installed in 2014 and has been recently painted. It includes a 6 stall center-aisle stable with 2 wash stalls, stairs to a loft, Riding Ring, 12 acres fenced with a Run-in shed. It also has a 2 Bedroom cottage that has been recently renovated. **$645,000**
Susie Ashcom (540) 729-1478

OZARK FARM



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9271 MAIDSTONE


Nestled amongst large farms, this fully renovated 3 Bedroom, 2.5 Bath cottage has a light filled, sunken Living Room with fireplace, hardwood floors, rear terrace overlooking creek below, covered front porch, Gourmet eat-in Kitchen with granite, stainless appliances & bay window. Finished basement with ceramic tile flooring, Rec. Room & Wine Cellar. Easy commute to Middleburg, Rte. 50 or I-66. **$549,000**
Cricket Bedford (540) 229-3201

671 REPUBLICAN STREET


Paris~ Newly renovated rambler, everything has been replaced! NEW roof, Pella windows, kitchen appliances, vanities/tub, new HVAC system & fresh paint inside & out! Interior stairs lead to full basement w/fireplace & space for another BR or Rec. Room. Door to outside & windows provide great light in basement. Mountain views, sweeping lawns & Shed! **$421,500**
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News of Note

What's All the Buzz About?

Salamander Resort & Spa Launches Honeybee Program



Photo by Reidar Hahn, FermiLab

Salamander Resort & Spa recently formed a partnership with local beekeeper Britt Thomas, owner of Britt's Bees, to develop the Salamander Honeybee Program.

Bringing in 20 hives with about 50,000 bees in each hive for a total of more than one million bees, Salamander will start producing its own honey before the end of summer.

Since its opening in August 2013, the resort has made every attempt to leave the land as natural and abundant as possible with indigenous trees, flowers, birds and wildlife – 200 of its 340 acres are in conservation easement. Additionally, the resort is committed to sourcing its food, wine and other products from as many local sources as possible.

"We are thrilled to have this program in place at Salamander and are excited to see it mature. Together, our goal is to have twenty or more colonies located around the property over the next few years. Although a small start, we are proud to make a positive impact in favor of honeybees and to continue to produce seasonal ingredients," says Chef de Cuisine Chris Edwards.

According to an annual survey released by the Bee Informed Partnership in May 2015, about 5,000 beekeepers reported losing 42.1 percent of their colonies over the last year. This represents the second-highest annual loss recorded since surveys began in 2010. With the colony located across the resort's Grand Lawn within guest view, Salamander hopes to increase awareness on the plight of honeybees and other pollinators.

The nearby honeybees will also benefit the resort's culinary garden where many of the vegetables and herbs featured on its restaurant menus are sourced. By the fall season, Salamander expects the bees to provide enough honey to meet all the restaurant demands and allow for its guests to take home a unique memento from their stay. The resort will also launch a Honey Dinner Series where guests can experience a multi-course dinner with drink pairings focused on honey along with demonstrations by Thomas and Salamander's culinary team.

"The Occupation Winter of 1865" at Mosby's Cavaliers, Courage & Coffee



The Mosby Heritage Area Association's highly respected Gray Ghost Interpretive Group (GGIG) will offer the next program of its *Cavaliers, Courage, and Coffee series* On Saturday, August 15th at 7:30 p.m. Entitled "***The Occupation Winter of 1865,***" the program was originally scheduled for February (for the 150th anniversary) but had to be rescheduled because of snow. It will take place at George's Mill Farm Bed & Breakfast, 11867 George's Mill Road, Lovettsville, VA 20180.

This installment of the popular *Cavaliers, Courage & Coffee Program* (now in its 11th season) will delve into the 1865 encampment of Union cavalry under General Thomas C. Devin at historic George's Mill and other Lovettsville-area sites in northern Loudoun County.

First-person accounts of this encampment (2,000 soldiers!) and its impact on life in Loudoun in the winter of 1865 and other stories from that hard, cold, final winter season of the Civil War will be presented in a series of vignettes by soldiers and civilians.

Sketches will include that of the George sisters, courted by both sides; John Mobberly, the Short Hill partisan; the Great Fox Hunt of February 1865 by Mosby's Rangers; and winter guerilla operations.

The Mosby Heritage Area Association works to inspire personal explorations of Loudoun by those who attend our programs. Booklets and guides will be provided for those attending.

Admission is $10 for adults and $5 students. Reservations are not required.






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Inova Loudoun Hospital's Emergency Department One of Four to Receive Top Performance Recognition



Part of the ED team. L to R: Nurse Manager Kim Klein, RN II Jamie Stephens, Director Emergency Departments April Brown, stroke coordinator Lynda J. Ariaban, Medical Director Emergency Departments Dr. Edward Puccio



The Emergency Nurses Association announced that four U.S. emergency departments were awarded the prestigious 2015 Lantern Award™. The award recognizes emergency departments that exemplify exceptional practice and innovative performance in the core areas of leadership, practice, education, advocacy and research. Recipients are considered the gold standard in emergency department excellence.

The Lantern Award is a symbol of an emergency department's commitment to quality, safety, presence of a healthy work environment and accomplishment in incorporating evidence-based practice and innovation into exceptional emergency care.

"In the two years as Director, I have seen the hard work, teamwork, and dedication of nursing, physicians, and ancillary staff displayed in the Emergency Department every day. They are driven, as a team, in providing excellence in every aspect of care giving for our community. Receiving the prestigious Lantern award is the culmination of all the aforementioned qualities, coming together. And I, the Director, have never been more proud to be a part of such an amazing team," said April Brown, director, Inova Loudoun Hospital Emergency Departments.

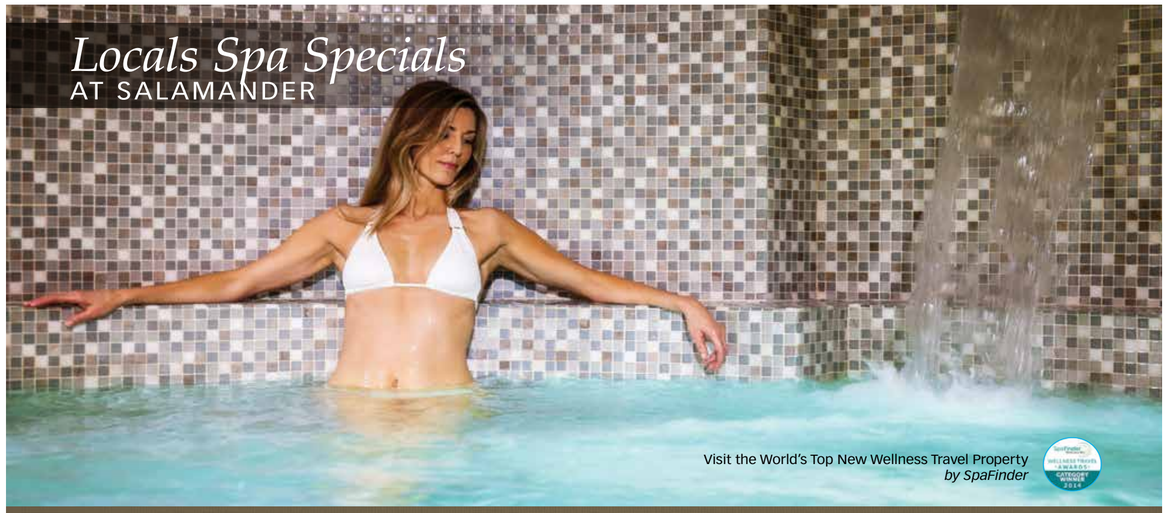
2015 Lantern Award recipients are:

- Inova Loudoun Emergency Department (Leesburg)
- Boston Children's Hospital Emergency Department (Boston)
- Pennsylvania Hospital Emergency Department – Penn Medicine (Philadelphia)
- Swedish Medical Center – Emergency Department – HCA-HealthONE (Englewood, Colo.)

"Congratulations to our 2015 Lantern Award recipients for their commitment to emergency nursing excellence," said ENA president Matthew F. Powers, MS, BSN, RN, MICP, CEN. "The Lantern Award application and review process is rigorous, as we're looking for the highest level of performance in emergency departments. These emergency departments go above and beyond to ensure quality safe practice and care."

All emergency departments are eligible to apply for the Lantern Award, but only a select few meet the highest excellence standards. Emergency departments are required to submit detailed performance metrics, narratives and exemplar responses. A team of reviewers thoroughly evaluate the submissions through a blinded review process.

The Lantern Award designation is valid for three years and recipients may re-apply after three years. The Lantern Award is named in honor of Florence Nightingale, who is credited with changing nursing from an untrained job to a skilled, science-based profession. She is referred to as the "Lady of the Lamp" for her actions during the Crimean War when she worked deep into the night, bringing a lantern with her as she tended to wounded British soldiers as they slept.



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News of Note

Middleburg Volunteer Fire and Rescue Goes Pro

In 1936, when the Middleburg Volunteer Fire Department was formally incorporated, the Department had only one fire truck to cover territory on both sides of Route 50, from Chantilly to the Loudoun Clarke County line at the top of Paris Mountain.

It became a volunteer "Fire and Rescue" department early in the 1950's, when it was given its first ambulance.

The early volunteers who served in Middleburg's Company C called themselves "The fightin' foxes."

This month the company announced that it would henceforth be part of the Loudoun County Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services under W. Keith Brower, Chief of the County's Combined Fire Rescue System.

As such it will be staffed with paid professional firefighting personnel employed by the County.

All mourned the passing of a nearly 80-year old volunteer-driven community institution, which at times mustered as many as 60 volunteers, on call around the clock

According to Middleburg Volunteer Fire Department President Edward Wallace, the department was simply not able to attract enough volunteer recruits with the free time necessary to meet county and state minimum requirements.

The Middleburg department's equipment and buildings will be taken over and maintained by the County.

Mayor Betsy Davis who had served both as a rescue volunteer and board member assured all those in the Company's service area that there would be "no difference" in either response times or the quality of service provided from the Middleburg station.

Terra Alpha Investments joins the Middleburg business community

Terra Alpha, a global equity investment firm that examines the environmental productivity of companies as part of its investment process, has opened offices in Middleburg.

"We look for environmentally productive, fundamentally sound, well managed companies around the world," explained Tim Dunn, founder of the firm, and resident of The Plains.

Terra Alpha is based on the belief that the earth's finite natural resources, including clean air and fresh water, are being depleted or negatively impacted by human activity at an unsustainable rate and that investors should align their portfolios with their beliefs.

Most importantly, companies that do track their environmental footprint are preparing for a resource constrained future, and should be a better investment over time. Terra Alpha recommends that corporate entities and other investors to join this perspective.

Andrew Geller, also a founding partner, is based in Los Angeles. The rest of the six-person team will be based in Middleburg.

"We look forward to being in the new space and building," noted Amy Dine, Director of Advocacy. "Middleburg is beautiful and takes land use seriously. Being in an environmentally thoughtful area seemed appropriate given our firm's mission."

Established in December 2014, the team brings 75 years of investing experience to the table, from well known investment houses such as Oppenheimer Inc. and Capital Group Companies which manages the American Funds mutual fund family.

Mr. Dunn was lead portfolio manager in four funds during his time at Capital.

"While at Capital, I was surrounded by some of the smartest, and most capable investors," he recalls, "but my personal belief that we all have a responsibility to help solve the great challenges of our day led me to establish this firm which advocates for more environmentally productive investments."

The team will be located in the new Middleburg Professional Center at 119 The Plains Road.

Help WAAAG Raise Funds for 'Kabins 4 K9's"



Plan to reserve Sunday, September 13th from 1 to 5 p.m. for an afternoon of fun with WAAAG, when the Delaplane Animal Shelter invites everyone from far and wide to help them raise funds for "Kabins 4 K9's."

Located in the beautiful Virginia countryside in Delaplane, Virginia, WAAAG is dedicated to rehabilitating and finding forever homes for dogs and cats from overcrowded local and out-of-state shelters. Founded and operated by military veterans, WAAG is a 501c3 charitable organization.

WAAAG needs to raise $25,000 for a new, temperature-controlled K-9 Kabin and Play Yard, and the plans for their fundraiser promise an exciting and fun-filled afternoon. Included in the festivities will be planes that transport rescued dogs; live music by Jerry Irwin, food, wine and cider and fun games for kids of all ages. A raffle will also take place with great prizes and fun things to win.

Animals that are sheltered by WAAAG often need extensive veterinary care before they can be adopted. WAAAG is dedicated to these animals and, although they began as a small facility, they are working to grow so they can help many more animals by bringing them back to good mental and physical health before they find them loving homes.

The WAAAG fundraiser will take place at the ProJet Building at Leesburg Airport, 1001 Sycolin Road, Leesburg.

Tickets may be purchased at www.waaag.org. They are $25 per adult with no charge for children eight years of age and under.



New Blue Ridge Hospice Thrift Shop Opens in Leesburg Plaza

Blue Ridge Hospice, a not-for-profit hospice serving eight counties, including Loudoun, will open its newest thrift shop on Friday, July 31, at 57 Catoctin Circle in the Leesburg Plaza Shopping Center. The shop is in the longtime location of the former Hallmark Treasure House.

A grand opening and open house is planned at 10 a.m. with state, county and town officials present for the ribbon cutting. The public is invited to join in the celebration and shop after the ribbon cutting.

"We are pleased to add the Leesburg location to our family of high-quality thrift shops, and to bring this new shopping experience to the residents of the Leesburg area," said Blue Ridge Hospice Executive Director Ernie Carnevale. He added that Hospice looks forward to partnering with Loudoun's existing thrift and consignment shops.

Blue Ridge Hospice also maintains a clinical/administrative office in the medical building at 224 Cornwall Street at the campus of Inova Loudoun Hospital.

It operates thrift shops in Purcellville, Winchester, Stephens City, Front Royal, Strasburg, Berryville, and Harrisonburg. Net proceeds from Blue Ridge Hospice's thrift shops are directed toward its patient care services. Volunteers to work in the new Leesburg shop and the Purcellville shop are welcomed.

Occupying 5,573 sq. feet, the Blue Ridge Hospice Shop will feature clothing, jewelry, household décor and accessories, as well as furniture, silent auctions, and weekly specials. Hours are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday to Friday; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday. "Our new location provides an excellent way for area residents to purchase quality items at reasonable costs and a trusted outlet to donate no longer needed items," said Jacki Mumm, Regional Director of the Blue Ridge Hospice Thrift Shops.

Blue Ridge Hospice is celebrating its 34th anniversary of serving Winchester and eight surrounding counties. Last year, Blue Ridge Hospice cared for 1,176 patients and assisted more than 2,000 family members through its grief and loss services. More than $313,000 was provided in charity care to the communities it serves.

For more information, visit blueridgehospice.org or call 540-313-9200.

Precarious Placement Exhibit at Oak View National Bank in Marshall

Oak View National Bank is pleased to present Daniel King's exhibit, "Precarious Placement " that will be on view through August 28th at 4174 Old Stockyard Road, Marshall, Virginia.

King's recently completed project was developed around the geographies of the highway, rural infrastructure, and industrial use of the land.

"I am especially interested in personally documenting the spaces left behind after the highway system "builds through" smaller communities and rural routes in Southeastern Ohio, in northern Appalachia," King said.

"A Dozen-or-so Images of Trees Replace my Family Album," is a new project also on view in which the artist replaces family pictures with prints pulled from his stored archives. The photographic image is explored as a site for the poetics of human space, shared-place narratives, and subjective geographic representation.

Daniel King is an artist/educator from Ohio, whose photographs, films and videos have been exhibited in the United States and Canada, including the Wexner Center for the Arts in Ohio, Anti-Matter Film Festival in Victoria, Canada, and Aurora Picture Show in Houston, Texas.

His work is presented in the form of prints, artist photobooks, experimental videos, as well as re-contextualized analog and digital objects and artifacts. He completed his BFA in Photography at the Columbus College of Art & Design, his MFA in Photography and Integrated Media at Ohio University, and served in the United States military.

He has taught photographic arts courses at Columbus Community College, Ohio University School of Art, and Columbus College of Art and Design.

For further information contact Daniel King at Contact.dking@gmail.com, or via phone at 614-516-9131. Find out what else the artist is doing on his website, www.danieljacobking.org. More images are available upon request.

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News of Note

Forrest Allen Continues His Recovery, Needs Help to Achieve His Goal to Help Others

After sustaining a catastrophic traumatic brain injury while snowboarding in 2011, Forrest Allen, son of Dr. Kent Allen and Dr. Rae Stone of The Plains, has spent over two years collectively in seven different hospitals, undergoing more than twenty complicated surgeries.

Music Therapy with Tom Sweitzer at A Place To Be in Middleburg was key to Forrest regaining his speech and gave him a new place to thrive, while a new best friend with four paws from Canine Companions for Independence (CCI) has helped him regain confidence and motivation.

July unfortunately found Forrest back at Johns Hopkins for more surgery and two more weeks of hospitalization. Determined to get his strength back, Forrest and his ever present Canine Companions Service Dog, Toliver, began training daily for the CCI Dog Fest Walk and Roll Fundraiser on September 12th in Arlington, VA.

Forrest will be walking with his life long friend Caroline Elgin, of The Plains, and her CCI Service Dog, Shelly, as co-chairs of the Middleburg Labradorables Fundraising Team.

While at Johns Hopkins Forrest and Toliver trained daily, walking more than 3400 steps each day up and down and all around the hospital corridors. They made frequent stops along the way to visit with other hospitalized patients in need of a special Labrador hug and kiss. Forrest and Toliver hope that together with Caroline and Shelly, "we can raise lots of money for CCI so that other people with special needs will find their best four legged friend through CCI too."

Canine Companions for Independence is a national nonprofit celebrating 40 years of enhancing the lives of people with disabilities by providing highly trained service dogs, like Toliver and Shelly to people like Forrest and Caroline. CCI breeds their own dogs in Santa Rosa, California (Labradors, goldens and crosses of the two) to try to start the puppies with the best temperaments, trainability and health factors possible.

The pups are then sent nation-wide to volunteer puppy raisers who generously pour their love and energy into the youngsters for 13-18 months. These kind people provide the puppies with basic obedience and socialization. Middleburg has a thriving puppy raising group that always welcomes people interested in giving back in this way. Forrest's older brother, Austin, has, in fact, taken on the joys and challenges of puppy raising a yellow lab cross named Martin while getting his Masters at Duke University.

At about a year and a half, the dogs are returned to one of five regional centers, where they receive extensive health and temperament testing. Those who are selected to continue get six to nine months of training with professional Canine Companion instructors. They learn over 40 specialized commands, including picking up dropped items, turning light switches on and off, opening and closing doors, etc., before being matched with their new, forever human. Only 40 per cent of the pups make it through the stringent process, ensuring truly skilled working dogs, while the others are offered back to the puppy raisers.

Canine Companions offers service dogs, hearing dogs, skilled companions for those unable to handle the dog independently, and facility dogs that are used in healthcare settings, court rooms, etc. CCI also has a special Veterans Initiative.

All of Canine Companions programs are absolutely free of charge to the recipients, thanks to the many volunteers and donors. But Forrest and Caroline want to do all they can to give back for the life-changing partners they have received, so more people with disabilities can benefit.

Last year the Middleburg Labradorables fund raising team raised more money at the Washington-area DogFest Walk and Roll than at any other.

Forrest and Caroline are looking for more team members to join them at the September 12th walk, and for people ready to make a donation to their Team.

Please go to www.cci.org to learn more, or to http://www.cci.org/dogfestwashingtondc/middleburglabradorables2015 to make a donation.



"The Balcony In Bloom"
by Tom Neel



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Salamander Receives U.S. Chamber's Centurion Medallion

Salamander Resort & Spa recently received The Centurion Medallion from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Committee of 100. The luxury Middleburg resort is owned by entrepreneur Sheila C. Johnson,

"We have the pleasure of working with some of the very best people in the hospitality industry and Salamander Resort & Spa embodies what a great hotel should be. Salamander now joins that list of iconic properties to host the Committee of 100 with both excellent service and accommodations," said Suzanne P. Clark, executive vice president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

For more than 40 years, leading association executives have gathered under the banner of the U.S. Chambers Association Committee of 100 to network, build partnerships and discuss current issues. The Committee also helps determine the benefits and services offered to association members; Salamander hosted the committee for its annual meeting at the 340-acre luxury resort.

"It was an honor to host the Chamber's Committee of 100 at Salamander and showcase the immersive experiences we have to offer as the East Coast's newest luxury destination," said the resort's General Manager Reggie Cooper.



The prestigious award is bestowed upon those hoteliers who have hosted the Association Committee of 100 Meeting with distinction. Past recipients include The Greenbrier in West Virginia, The Broadmoor in Colorado and The Resort at Pelican Hill on the coast of Newport Beach, CA.

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News of Note

Little Longears Miniature Donkeys Make Wonderful Companions

Mary Harris



The first question people ask when they find out I have donkeys is, "Why Donkeys?" The main reason is that we live up the road from a pair of mini donkeys and every day at feeding time, when we'd hear them bray, it always made me and my husband laugh.

It had been about a year since I lost my horse to a brain tumor and there was an empty spot in my heart that just wouldn't heal.

One day, a friend of mine liked http://www.littlelongears-miniaturedonkeyrescue.com/ on facebook so I went on their site to see what they were all about. That is when I fell in love with one of the baby donkeys on their website named Baby Joey.

Located in Westminster, Maryland, Little Longears Miniature Donkey Rescue is a 501(c)3 non-profit charity, dedicated to the rescue and rehabilitation of neglected, abused, and unwanted miniature donkeys.

Their primary goal is to rescue donkeys from neglectful or abusive situations, but they also accept owner surrender their miniature donkeys if someone is no longer able or willing to care for their animal. After providing all the necessary veterinary, dental and farrier work, they work hard to find new safe and loving homes for these donkeys.

We called and scheduled a visit to come meet Baby Joey.

We were told that Joey had bonded with another donkey named Teddy when he was weaned from his Mom so that they would probably be a package deal. I didn't say anything to my husband about adopting two donkeys, but off we went to meet them.

We were so impressed with their facility in Maryland. My husband instantly fell in love with Teddy as well as Joey. The next step was to schedule a barn visit.

The next week Valerie Lowe and Cheryl Pokorny, co founders of the rescue organization, came to inspect our barn and the property. They also call references as well as your vet and farrier.

Donkeys can live 40-50 years so they want good homes for them where the donkey doesn't get passed around. We were approved as adopters and they delivered our Burrito Boys (as we've nicknamed them) in September.

At first the horses weren't sure what to make of these strange looking little creatures. Donkeys are well versed in horse language and there really weren't any issues merging them in with our two horses. In fact, the mare took to baby Joey as if he were her own. Donkeys make wonderful companions for horses and they are extremely cost effective compared to the cost of caring for a horse.

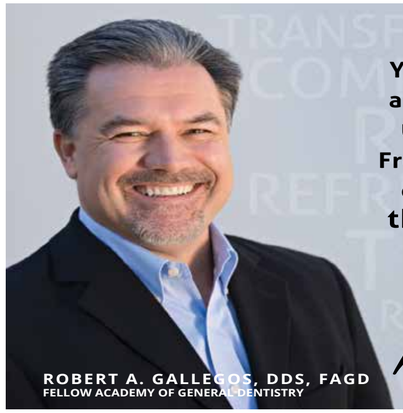
The rescue said the donkeys would give us hours of free entertainment and they were so right.

Donkeys love playing with each other as well as playing with toys. Our boys play with traffic cones, soccer balls, feed tubs, ropes, and hoses. They love to box each other, and in fact they sometimes look like kangaroos boxing on their hind legs.

It isn't unusual to see them chasing each other up and down the hills in our pasture at break neck speeds. In addition to being funny, the donkeys are the most loving animals we've ever had. You can't be down at the barn without them coming up to you to get loved on. They stand in line to be groomed. If I'm grooming the horse, I'll feel the soft nudge from one of the donkeys telling me they are next.

Teddy regularly gives out the best hugs I've ever gotten by putting his head on my shoulder if I bend down to pet his chest. I've never had pets that are so loving and sweet. We think donkeys are much more dog-like than horse-like in their behavior.

If you have a horse in need of a companion or just want some good company for yourself, adopting a donkey could be the perfect answer. Little Longears has many donkeys available for adoption just waiting for their perfect forever home. Visit www.littlelongearsminiaturedonkeyrescue.com for details on how to adopt or donate.



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Middleburg Concert Series Offers Varied Programs

Dr. Steven Cooksey

When the Middleburg Concert Series presented the second in its series of Sunday Afternoon concerts, the varied and interesting program put together by Dr. Alan Saucedo, consisted of vocal chamber music including vocal solos arranged for voice, strings and piano.

The almost full house was treated to a wide variety of music that included well known art songs, opera arias, American folk songs (Copland), as well as a group of lyric Japanese art songs expressively sung by Miho Sato, a native of that country.

In addition to the mostly vocal program, Dr. Alan Saucedo, cellist, performed a lyric Mendelssohn "Song Without Words," with a beautiful tone and graceful romantic expressiveness. Cynthia Saucedo, Alan's sister and violinist, expressively interpreted the well-known Intermezzo from Pietro Mascagni's opera, "Cavalleria Rusticana."

Michael Forest, professor of voice at Shenandoah University, and a regular performer at the Metropolitan Opera for over twenty years, opened and closed the program with the commanding professionalism for which he is well known.

Soprano Karen Chase's rendition of Copland's settings of American folk tunes was performed with appropriate enthusiasm.

Larry Correll, pianist, ably supported all instrumentalists and singers.

Concert goers in the region have much to look forward to, when the series resumes in the fall. Interesting programming with excelling performers are already being planned.

The final piece of the afternoon, "This Little Light of Mine" sung by Michael Forest, brought the audience to their feet. The message of the song could be taken as a harbinger of things to come for this new series - Let it shine, let it shine!

Middleburg Eccentric

Aug. 10th Deadline for Aug. 27th Issue

Media Kit Available at www.mbecc.com

Nancy Milburn Kleck

Equine and Pet Portraits - Fox and Foxhound Sketches - Drawings



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My paintings can be seen at The Shaggy Ram in Middleburg

Bargains Abound in Middleburg's August Sidewalk Sale

Middleburg, the quaint historic village nestled in Virginia horse country, is cleaning out closets and storage areas to move amazing bargains onto the sidewalks, July 31st to August 2nd , for the 9th annual Summer Sidewalk Sale.

Sponsored by the Middleburg branch of Union Bank & Trust, the Sidewalk Sale will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and on Sunday as posted by shops.

"We have found this to be a wonderful time of year for visitors to shop and find bargains throughout the town of Middleburg," said Middleburg Business and Professional Association President Punkin Lee.

"This year's event features a daily raffle for a beautiful gift basket filled with some of our favorite items from around town."

Many of the unique shops in the village will have discounts on everything from shoes to children's clothes to pottery, and there will be lots of specials in the local restaurants.

Arrive early to get the best bargains—or better yet, stay over at one of the inns in town (Middleburg Country Inn, 540-687-6082, www.middleburgcountryinn.com, Red Fox Inn, 540-687-6301, www.redfox.com, Goodstone Inn, 540-687-3333, www.goodstone.com or Salamander Resort & Spa, 540-687-3600, www.salamanderresort.com) and make a weekend of it.

Look for the colorful balloons outside participating stores.

Shops with fantastic bargains include Duchessa (women's clothing

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News of Note

A Farm By Any Other Name…

Deborah Jane Lamberton

What do a pegged stallion, a former NFL quarterback and a self-taught award-winning rider have in common? All play a role in the history of one of Middleburg's most famous equestrian landmarks, Fox Chase Farm. Purchased in 2000 by the Hanley family, Fox Chase Farm, like the rest of Hunt Country's environs, has witnessed many changes over the years—changes that include the farm's own name.

Historical records indicate the property, known as Mill Hill Farm, dates back to 1876. A hand-written deed in flowing script documents sale of the land to Henry T. Harrison on May 7, 1879, when it became "Cottage Farm." Despite changing ownership several times through the ensuing decades, both farm names persisted into the early 1950s.

Then in 1965, what was perhaps the most fateful purchase of the property was made by a young horseman named Benedict "Benny" Patrick O'Meara, who brought The Colony Corporation to Middleburg. From his start as a Brooklyn-born groom and blacksmith to legendary horse dealer, show rider and trainer, O'Meara's meteoric equestrian career was tragically cut short the following year, when the refurbished World War II fighter plane the 27-year-old was piloting crashed shortly after takeoff from the Leesburg airport.

Posthumously inducted into the Show Jumping Hall of Fame in 1989, Ben had successfully trained horses including Jacks Or Better and Untouchable, the horse that famed equestrian Kathy Kusner brought to the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, and three years later rode to the Ladies' European Championship. In a 1998 article for SPUR magazine, L.A. Pomeroy quoted USET chairman of the board emeritus Bill Steinkraus regarding O'Meara: "I don't think I ever saw anyone develop faster than he did, both as a rider and as a person, or in more original ways." And in a phone interview earlier this month, Benny's younger brother Frank O'Meara stated, "Benny could take a horse and in a matter of days turn him into another horse. He learned from watching the best, and won everything he ever did."

According to Frank, Benny died without a will or insurance, and the O'Meara family stepped in to run the farm until November, 1975, when a group of investors joined the O'Mearas to create the Virginia Stallion Station. NFL football stars Billy Kilmer and Pat Fischer, Leesburg-born trainer Stanley T. Greene, and Lucien Laurin, best known as Secretariat's trainer, were among the new owners. The sixty horses at the farm included the stallions Beau Marker, Issue, and the corporation's first purchase, Spanish Riddle, famous for sporting a leather brace and artificial hoof on his right foreleg after losing his foot in a racing mishap. After his death, the celebrated stallion was buried at the farm.

In mid-May, 1985, the farm's 115 acres were purchased by newspaper visionary Allan H. Neuharth, founder of USA TODAY, and the Virginia Stallion Station became Paper Chase Farms. It was during the Neuharth's ownership that the farm's focus changed from a strictly horse-centric barn to an instructional facility for equestrians and non-equestrians alike.

"Most of our clientele was not from the community, but from the DC area," said Al's daughter Jan Neuharth, an attorney, equestrian, and hunt country suspense novelist who makes her home in Middleburg with her husband, horseman Joseph Keusch. "Middleburgers already knew how to ride, so we taught adults who just wanted to learn, as well as those who wanted to ride better. It wasn't their career." In addition to lessons, Paper Chase Farms presented clinics, as well as offering individual training and boarding. "We got real fulfillment from sharing our love of equestrian activities," said Jan, adding that Paper Chase Farms became relevant to city folk who eventually moved to Loudoun County, owned horses, and even joined the area's Fox Hunts.

In 2000, the Neuharth family sold Paper Chase Farms to area business owners and horse enthusiasts Timothy and Eileen Hanley, who renamed it Fox Chase Farm. Their eldest daughter Maureen became director of operations, but once again the farm would witness the untimely death of its owner. Suffering a sudden brain aneurysm, Timothy Hanley died just eighteen months after acquiring the property, at the age of 67. A mere ten days later, the farm endured another setback as an outbreak of the EHV-1 virus, which lays dormant in most horses, ravaged the barn. "It was April," said Maureen, "and the temperature went from a bone-chilling 28 degrees up to the 80's within a week." According to her vet, the wild temperature fluctuation could have been the stressor that unleashed the virus in the barn.

Maureen immediately isolated the farm, receiving top marks from the state veterinarian for implementing procedures to contain the virus. But boarders were understandably wary of the historic farm's new owners, not realizing that Hanley had decades of equine experience, including as caretaker of the high-maintenance Olympic horse Calypso. It took an exhausting regimen of bleach baths, quarantine and round-the-clock vetting by Maureen and trainers Lauren Griffith and Judi DeMichele, who volunteered their time over several weeks, to finally arrest the outbreak and safely reopen the farm.

After this harrowing episode, Hanley, an experienced public broadcasting producer, realized she could manage the facility much better by staging events, horse shows, and clinics rather than concentrating on individual boarding. In 2009, she offered Fox Chase as the first farm in Virginia to sponsor a "Susan G. Koman Ride for the Cure," generating a then-record breaking $130,000 for the Komen breast cancer foundation. Soon after, Hanley instituted a division at her horse shows called The Benefit Hunter Division, with proceeds going to charities including the Robert Duvall Children's Fund.

Other major changes to the farm followed, with a total renovation of the main barn and replacement of the acrylic skylights which, for the first time in decades, brought natural daylight to the indoor arena. "What Benny O'Meara built was a Cadillac of an indoor," says Hanley. "The arena is over 50 years old, and we've only had to replace the roof and hip rafters."

Farm upgrades continue, including new footing, custom-made jumps, and the recent installation of a state-of-the-art watering system which, at the push of a button, can make any of the three arenas dust-free.

"Running Fox Chase Farm has been a labor of love," says Hanley. "It's a unique space in a great location—it's got a famed equine history with individuals who've all made significant contributions to both the farm and Hunt Country. My goal is to make Fox Chase accessible, not only to equestrians, but also to non-horse people who can see a signature facility, watch world-class athletes compete under the lights in our new Sunset Jumper shows, or take a special tour to experience the area's remarkable equestrian history. I'm grateful to continue the legacy of my father and that of all of the farm's owners, as Fox Chase Farm celebrates its fifteenth year, with many more to come."



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What You Don't Know About Propane – but Should

Answers and Insights that could save you $1,000s

Dale Schulz

Where Does Propane Come From?

Propane is a by-product of drilling for Natural Gas (Methane). All propane in our area comes from North America. The U.S. is a net exporter of propane, primarily to Central and South America. The propane is separated from the methane, butane, and ethane at the refinery. Propane is transported to our area via rail and pipelines. If propane did not exist, someone would have invent a similar product. It is that useful.

Is Propane less costly than home heating oil and diesel fuel?

Adjusted for BTUs, propane is about $1.00/gallon less than either home heating oil or diesel. This why school districts around the Country are converting their school bus fleets to operate on propane. It is not only saving them money, but equally important propane burns cleaner than diesel. Hunt Country Propane only sells clean burning propane.

We recently purchased a new home and were told that the tank was owned by the propane company. How did this happen?

Your builder, typically a production builder, struck a deal with the propane company where the propane company would provide the tank free of charge to the builder and the propane company would own the tank and lease it to you. It was a good deal for the propane company and the builder, but not for you. The problem is people who don't own their tank pay significantly more than those who own their tank -in some cases, $2.00/gallon more. In effect, people who don't own their tanks are subsidizing the price of those who do own their tank. In building custom homes for nearly 28-years in our area we never built a home that the owner did not own the tank when they moved in. Our clients would never have accepted such an arrangement. Over the lifetime of homeownership, you could pay $15,000 - $20,000 more for propane if you don't own your tank than your neighbors who do own their tank.

Question 4. What is a Minimum Usage Fee?

If you are leasing tank and don't use what the propane company has projected you should use, you will be charge a Minimum Usage Fee ("Muffie") at the end of the Winter season. The #1 reason for your not using the minimum is typically due to a warmer than normal Winter. This fee can be $200-$300. The Winter was milder than usual in 2011-2012 and thousands of propane users were billed for a Minimum Usage Fees in April. Hunt Country Propane does not have a MUF. Never has. Read your contract and see if you have a Minimum Usage Fee. It's not reasonable – you don't control the weather.

What areas does Hunt Country Propane deliver to?

We are small, local propane company who currently only delivers in Loudoun, Fauquier, Prince William, Clarke and Frederick Counties in Virginia. We are growing rapidly in this limited market area. We have no plans to expand beyond this area at this time. Every day we get calls from people wanting to become Hunt Country Propane members and save on propane. It only takes a 5-minute call to switch. It couldn't be easier.

Does your Hunt Country Propane provide other services?

We are one of the largest KOHLER generator installers in the area. As a propane company, we can provide a 500 and 1,000 gallon tanks for the generator which will allow the KOHLER generator to operate up to 8-16 days continuously should you lose power at your home. Our KOHLER generators are fully automatic. Being a propane company we can provide a turn-key solution. If there was a better standby-generator for residential use, we'd be selling it. Unlike others, KOHLER generators have commercial-rated engines.

What can I do to make my home significantly safer at minimal cost?

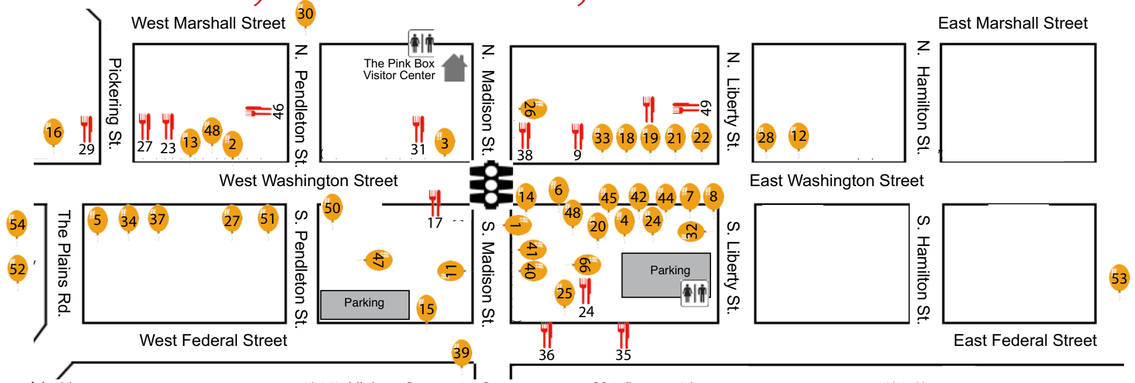


The number #1 thing you can do to improve the safety of your home is to purchase and install a combination CO/Propane detectors in areas of the home you have gas appliances, for example, the basement. These Carbon Monoxide/Propane detectors can be purchased local or online from Home Depot and Lowes. They cost approximately $40/each. Have a CO/Propane detector is as important, maybe even more important, than having smoke detectors in the home. If you have gas appliances in multiple locations propane detectors for all these locations. They could save your life!



Middleburg's 9th Annual Upscale Side Walk ★SALE★

July 31, August 1, & 2 ~ 10am~5pm



1.) Aliloo
2.) J McLaughlin
3.) Middleburg Humane Thrift Shop
4.) Beyond the Pale
5.) Mt. Defiance Cidery & Distillery
6.) Christmas Sleigh
7.) Country Classics
8.) Crème de la Crème
9.) Cuppa Giddy Up
10.) Middleburg Deli
11.) The Outpost
12.) Duchessa
13.) Highcliffe Clothiers
14.) Home Farm Store
15.) Journeymen
16.) Middleburg Community Center
17.) Julien's Restaurant
18.) Les Jardins De Bagatelle
19.) Trotters Perk Bistro
20.) Lou Lou
21.) Lou Lou II
22.) Native Barre Studios
23.) Middleburg Common Grounds
24.) Federal Street Cafe
24.) Olio Tasting Room
25.) Popcorn Monkey
26.) Red Fox Fine Art
27.) Red Horse Tavern
28.) Richard Allen Clothing
29.) Market Salamander
30.) Empower Adventures
31.) Scruffy's
32.) Second Chapter Books
33.) Shenandoah Fine Chocolates
34.) Southern States Cooperative
35.) Teddy's Pizza
36.) The French Hound
37.) The Fun Shop
38.) The Red Fox Inn & Tavern
39.) The Tack Box
40.) The Wine Cellar
41.) The Village Charm
42.) Three Crowns - Gifts
44.) Trace of Love
45.) Tully Rector, Apparel
46.) Uppercrust
47.) Watermelon Wishes
48.) Wylie Wagg for Pets
49.) Middleburg Deli
50.) Middleburg Methodist Church
51.) Union Bank (Receipt Raffle)

Not to be Missed Attractions

52.) Boxwood Winery
53.) Greenhill Winery & Vineyard
54.) National Sporting Library & Museum

Sponsored by: Union Bank & Trust, The Middleburg Business & Professional Association and The Town of Middleburg

News of Note

Loudoun Wine Awards Established



The Loudoun Wineries Association (LWA) has established a Loudoun Wine Awards Program this summer to recognize the county's high-quality wines and the extensive work of the local winemakers.

The program will culminate with a Wine Awards Reception at West Belmont Place at the National Conference Center, featuring the presentation and tasting of award- winning wines and a dinner buffet on September 3, 2015 to help kick-off Epicurience Virginia Weekend. The reception is open to the public at $60 per person and will provide a wonderful opportunity to sample Loudoun's best wines.

"Our goal is to showcase the breadth and depth of quality of Loudoun County wines while providing an opportunity for ongoing quality improvement", said Mark Fedor, Chair of the LWA Board and co- owner/winemaker of North Gate Vineyard. "This program achieves that goal in a unique way combining winemaker education and the perspective of wine consumers with traditional professional wine evaluation."

The program includes a two-part judging format that provides an educational element for county winemakers while including the public in the selection of the top wines.

The first part is the Winemakers' Evaluation round where winemaker panels will determine which wines go to the final Medal Round. The winemaker round will be moderated by internationally renowned enologist, Bruce Zoecklein and wines will be discussed from the standpoint of how they could be improved in future bottlings.

Part two will be the Medal Round. In this round, combined panels of both wine consumers and professional judges will score the wines. The consumer judges will be drawn from the public solicited by the wineries and event sponsors. The wine scores will be used to determine the medal winning wines.

The awards to be presented include: Chairman's Grand Award (top scoring wine); Chairman's Reserve Award (top scoring 100% Loudoun County grape-produced wine); Gold medals and Silver medals. In addition, Best of Category awards will be given. The wines recognized in this program will serve as the basis for public exposure in Epicurience Virginia, The Wine Tourism Conference coming to Loudoun County in November 2015, and other county public events during the course of the year.

The Loudoun Wine Awards Program is envisioned as an annual event in the county's future.

"This will continue to strengthen our wine tourism product," Visit Loudoun President & CEO Beth Erickson said. "We look forward to joining with additional partners and sponsors from the Loudoun business community in this worthy endeavor."

The LWA is a non-profit trade organization representing Loudoun County wineries. Its mission is to enable the success of the Loudoun County wine industry by promoting agriculture, social stewardship and by facilitating marketing, legislation, education, and communications between member wineries and their partners.

The LWA works with partnerships, creates cooperative opportunities, and integrates with other rural economy sectors in Loudoun to positively influence the Loudoun Wine industry.

Foxcroft School Presents "Most Likely to Succeed" Screening at Community Center

Public invited to view and discuss thought-provoking documentary on education

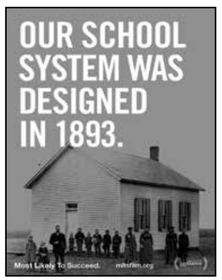
Foxcroft School will present a public screening of Most Likely to Succeed, the thought-provoking documentary on education in the 21st century, on Wednesday, August 19 at the Middleburg Community Center.

The event begins at 5 p.m. and is free. All are welcome but space is limited; please call 540.687.4322 or email Susan.Rhood@foxcroft.org to reserve a spot.

Directed by acclaimed documentarian Greg Whiteley, Most Likely to Succeed examines the history of education, demonstrating the growing shortcomings of the traditional school model in today's innovative world. The 90-minute film addresses critical issues affecting education and conveys the urgency of moving schools into the 21st century. By posing questions, rather than attempting to push a specific point of view, it has engaged and inspired people across a wide range of audiences.

"I saw Most Likely to Succeed last February and it struck me as a powerful conversation starter for our teachers to imagine how we can best prepare our students for their futures," says Foxcroft Head of School, Catherine S. McGehee, who has invited several area schools to bring their faculties. "The more people engaged in the discussion the better the ideas will be. That's why it's so important to share this event with the entire community."

Most Likely to Succeed is an official selection of the 2015 Sundance Film Festival and Tribeca Film Festival and has been called one of "the best edu-documentaries ever produced" by Education Week. The Huffington Post asserts that it "delivers a message Americans need to hear, and desperately," and Film Threat adds, "this film should be a required course for all parents and educators."



To view a trailer or learn more about the film, visit the Most Likely to Succeed website at mltsfilm.org.



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News of Note

Horses Health and Land Health Closely Tied

MARE Center & NSLM Partner to Preserve Both

The Middleburg Agricultural Research & Extension (MARE) Center and the National Sporting Library & Museum recently partnered to present "Spotlight on Stewardship: An Equine Land Management Symposium" that focused on the health of horses and the health of the land.

These two equine farming essentials are inextricably connected and, despite a downward trend in the overall number of farms in the Old Dominion, the number of horse farms is greater now than it was two decades ago. As the costs of feed, land, and infrastructure rise, horse owners need innovative, cost-effective solutions to maximize the well-being of their horses and preserve their land.

The symposium that took place on-site at both the MARE Center and the NSLM combined cutting-edge science with hands-on learning experiences and the inimitable richness of Middleburg's equestrian culture.

"Sharing the latest science-based information to improve equine and environmental health is at the heart of the MARE Center's mission and we are excited to serve as an educational resource for our community through events like the symposium.," explained Dr. Bridgett McIntosh, the Equine Extension Specialist at the MARE Center, who spearheaded the event.

"The MARE Center and the National Sporting Library were a natural fit for this new partnership," she continued.

The symposium covered a host of topics centered on equine and environmental health. Fittingly, all lecturers were MARE Center alumni.

Dr. Carey Williams of Rutgers University opened the event at National Sporting with a lecture addressing the basics of equine pasture management, from grass physiology to the basics of equine nutrition. A talk regarding best management practices for small acreage horse farms followed, presented by Dr. Amy Burk of the University of Maryland. Dr. Burk discussed grazing and land management strategies that maximize pasture productivity while minimizing negative environmental impacts.

Participants then enjoyed a tour of the National Sporting Library's collections, guided by John Connolly, the library's George L. Ohrstrom, Jr. Librarian.

"I was excited to learn that the library's collections are used all the time to inform modern equine research and give us a perspective on the horse industry through the ages. It's a dynamic and completely singular resource all horse enthusiasts should explore," said Shayan Ghajar, Equine Extension Program Coordinator at the MARE Center and an organizer for the event.



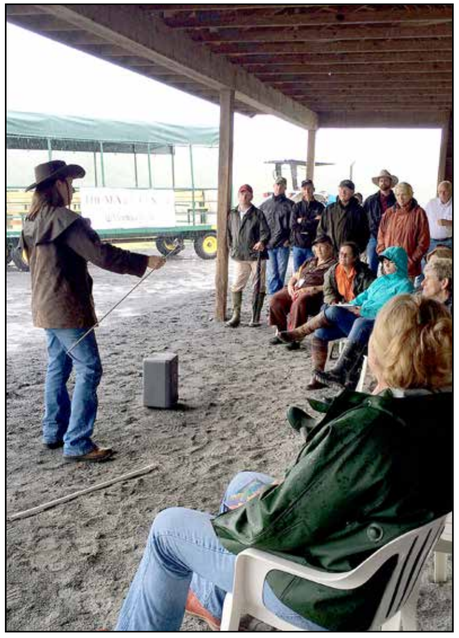
After a lunch from Upper Crust sponsored by Farm Credit of the Virginias, participants took a hayride to the MARE Center for hands-on workshops.

Mild weather favored the day, and participants learned about soil health, water quality, grazing management, and pasture plant identification in hands-on workshops led by agriculture and natural resources professionals from Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Spending a summer afternoon in a pasture is thirsty work, so in true wined-and-equined Hunt Country fashion, many participants and speakers embraced the evening cool with a group tasting at Boxwood Winery across the street from the MARE Center.

Participants who worked up an appetite and ended the day at NSLM's Open Late where it was Virginia Tech Alumni Night and they treated to barbecue and the sounds of the Piedmont Symphony Orchestra as the day faded.

Dr. Kathleen Crandell of Kentucky Equine Research, a John H. Daniels Fellow at NSLM, began the second day with a fascinating look at historical perspectives of pasture management and equine nutrition practices. Excerpts from books in the Sporting Library & Museum's collections highlighted many practices that have changed little over the centuries, and still more that have changed a great deal.



Pennsylvania State University's Dr. Burt Staniar gave a lecture discussing nutritional management for breeding farms, with special attention on how pasture quality influences foal growth and health. Fittingly, the final lecture, presented by Performance Horse Nutrition's Dr. Tania Cubitt, addressed nutritional needs beyond the pasture.

Dr. Cubitt provided participants with the basics of evaluating their horse's diet and nutritional requirements and concluded with the latest trends in equine nutrition research, including the use of low starch ration balancers for forages.

Platinum sponsor BUCKEYE Nutrition generously provided complimentary bags of their balancer product, "Gro 'n Win" to all participants.

Sadly, the weather refused to cooperate for the afternoon's workshops, as weather is wont to do in all things event or farm-related. A tremendous deluge began soon after participants arrived at the MARE Center for the second round of hands-on workshops.

Fortunately, the hayride, sponsored by Thomas & Talbot Real Estate, had an awning that kept the worst of the rain off attendees, earning its new sobriquet, "the Ark." Though conditions were uncomfortable for outdoors learning, the torrential downpour provided an excellent setting for the workshops, which centered on erosion control, manure storage, and facilities management for high-use areas on small acreages.

The symposium concluded with a tour of the National Sporting Library & Museum's galleries, led by Executive Director Melanie Mathewes. Most of the symposium's attendees were already members of the NSLM, but many of the remainder signed up on the spot, captivated by the breadth and beauty of the Museum's collection.

"At the National Sporting Library and Museum, we understand the importance of merging equestrian culture with scientific innovation. This symposium with the MARE Center is one great example," said Melanie Mathewes, NSLM executive director. "There is an increasing amount of change occurring within the equestrian landscape. These changes only add to the importance of our mission, which is to preserve, promote and share the culture of field sports, angling and equestrian pursuits."

A planned trip to Twilight Polo at Great Meadow that evening had to be rescheduled due to the rain, but that did nothing to dampen participants' spirits:

"I would deem every speaker, topic, and all materials absolutely first rate!" one participant concluded.

"It was fabulous! Presenters were great and there were loads of information that I can put to practical use straight away," said another.

Due to the overwhelmingly positive feedback, the MARE Center and the National Sporting Library & Museum are confident the Spotlight on Stewardship symposium will become an annual event.



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News of Note

Long & Foster Names Dave Wills asNew Sales

Real estate professional brings over 15 years of experience to new position Manager

Long & Foster Real Estate, the nation's No. 1 family-owned residential real estate brokerage, has named Dave Wills as the new sales manager of its Middleburg, Va., office. Wills has served in the real estate business for more than 15 years, and he previously worked as a sales associate at Long & Foster's Warrenton, Va., office. He brings significant career achievements to his new position and is well respected in the local real estate community.

"I look forward to taking on this new role at Long & Foster and to leading the exceptional team of real estate professionals at our Middleburg office," said Wills. "I have a passion for helping others—especially my fellow real estate agents and their clients—to achieve success, and I'm confident that my knowledge and experience in real estate and technology sales will greatly help our team in Middleburg to accomplish their real estate dreams and to even better support their buyers and sellers."

A Northern Virginia native, Wills entered the real estate industry after a successful career in information technology sales. After working with other local brokerages, he joined Long & Foster's team in 2006 and rose to become one of the top-producing agents in the region. Wills also has a decade of appraisal experience, and that knowledge combined with his real estate expertise, provides him with a unique insight into the home-buying and selling process that will benefit the team at Long & Foster's Middleburg office. Additionally, his passion for real estate, as well as his direct mentoring approach, will serve as an asset to his team.

"It takes a highly knowledgeable and skilled leader to support real estate agents in today's competitive environment, and we are confident that with Dave at the helm of our Middleburg office, we'll continue to achieve success for our agents and their clients," said Larry "Boomer" Foster, president of Long & Foster Real Estate. "Adding exceptional leaders to our team is how our company has helped local buyers and sellers meet their homeownership goals for over 45 years and how we'll continue to do so for the years to come."

Wills is active in the local Realtor community, and he has been a member of Long & Foster's Gold Team, an exclusive club for its top-producing agents, the last three years running. Wills is also a recipient of the Greater Piedmont Area Association of Realtors Honor Society. He is a graduate of Radford University, where he earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in management with a concentration on small business. In his spare time, he volunteers with the Fauquier Family Shelter Services, helping with fundraising and other promotional activities. Wills also enjoys spending time with his family, including wife, Fran, and daughters, Taylor, Abbey and Riley.

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News of Note

Nancy Lee Allen: 1922 - 2015

Nancy Lee Allen, who fulfilled a childhood dream of some day owning her own retail store when she opened Middleburg's iconic Fun Shop in 1956, passed away on July 2. She was 92.

Mrs. Allen, a native of Winchester, used to play "shop" with her friends in the neighborhood. She also spent many years observing her father, A. Lee Coble, who managed several businesses in Winchester.

Mrs. Allen and her husband, renowned photographer Howard Allen, moved to Middleburg in 1955 when Howard purchased the local photography studio. Mrs. Allen was frustrated because there was no place in town to buy children's clothes or toys. Her solution was to open her own store and sell those items.

The Fun Shop was born, christened by Howard's mother, Dorothy Gilpin Allen, who loaned the couple the funds to start the business. It originally was located in a small building near the current Safeway and primarily sold toys and infant clothing. It moved to its current location in 1960.

Mrs. Allen always used to talk about the early days of the shop when Middleburg was still a sleepy town. One day, she recalled, she took in a total of 10 cents in sales. But more customers began to patronize the shop and always were asking her to stock other products. Mrs. Allen added them little by little and today, the shop houses 6,000 square feet of merchandise, and has expanded from only children's products to all ranges of clothing, gifts and home decor.

Nancy Allen was born in Winchester on Christmas Day in 1922, the daughter of Adelaide Peery Coble and Alexander Lee Coble. She lived in New York and Florida before she and Howard Allen, who knew each other as children growing up in Winchester, were married on May 8, 1948.

"My mother would do anything for anyone," said her daughter, Betsy Allen Davis, the mayor of Middleburg who now runs the shop with her sister, Page. "And she never really retired! She was well into her 80s when she finally stopped doing real work, but always enjoyed coming to the shop and checking the merchandise and meeting new customers. She loved talking to them and listening to their stories. She was a great people person."

Vice Mayor Darlene Kirk said of her, "Mrs. Allen was always a gracious lady. When my own mother passed away, Mrs. Allen came to visit me, brought food and visited. I can't recall all she said but I remember feeling calmer and at peace as she talked. That's the kind of lady she was. She knew what to say and when. She always greeted everybody when she was at the Fun Shop and was so sweet. A very special lady who will be missed."

Town Council Member Bundles Murdock agreed. "Mrs. Allen repeatedly asked me to call her Nancy but I just couldn't," she said. "I respected and thought of her highly. She was one of the most thoughtful, kind and generous people I have known in my life.



And that smile! It would warm any dark day. But her best was her "wicked smile," the one she used when she tried to teach me poker and beat me hand after hand!"

Mrs. Allen loved her husband, her family and friends. She also enjoyed tennis, golf and gardening. And of course, The Fun Shop.

She is survived by her husband, Howard, and two daughters, Betsy Allen Davis of Middleburg and Dorothy Page Allen of Boyce; a sister, Helen Page Harry, and four grandchildren, Caroline Brooke Costin Kline, Elizabeth McKelvy Costin Taub, Whitney Allen Groseclose and Lauren Elizabeth Davis and four great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a sister, Adelaide Clark.

Memorial contributions may be sent to the Laurel Center, P.O. Box 14 , Winchester , VA 22604 or the Middleburg Museum Foundation, PO Box 106, Middleburg, VA 20118.

Pinky Rice

Billie Van Pay



The congregation of Aldie United Methodist Church on March 22 gathered to honor one of its members, Mrs. Stanley "Pinky" Rice, known to hundreds of friends and neighbors as Miss Pinky. She has been and will continue to be, one of the community's and the church's foremost

authorities, volunteers and supporting members. She and her husband of 54 years, Stanley Rice, live around the corner from the village and church in a country home they lovingly remodeled many years ago. Before, during and after most of the activities in Aldie, the couple is often seen contributing, working, helping or doing whatever needs to be done, not only for their church, but for their community.

Aldie United Methodist Church has greatly benefited from Miss Pinky's many talents. She has been the church's organist and music director for 56 years, as well as social coordinator whose duties include managing the kitchen, cooking and serving meals for a multitude of occasions through the years. Hers is the outstanding voice heard as she sings the hymns along with the congregation while playing the organ every Sunday. She served in a number of support positions. She has been Sunday school teacher, Bible school worker, treasurer, house keeper and anything the church needed to have done.

Amazingly, Miss Pinky is self-taught for almost everything she does – playing the organ, singing, cooking, catering, sewing, quilting, landscaping and crafting. However, being self-taught has not lessened the level of perfection in whatever she does; her work is top of the line. One of her exquisite wedding cakes was featured in the February edition of Virginia Living. Her catering provides entrees most chefs would envy. The food looks pretty and it tastes as good as it looks. Her handmade fashions are heirloom quality. She has taught many piano students who are now happy they had her for a teacher. One special thing of note – she designed and made a turban to donate to women who lost their hair due to medical treatments. A turban kit was designed and shared with other churches, and now the kits and patterns are copied in churches and organizations in many different places.

When asked about how she learned to do all these many things so well, Miss Pinky modestly credits her mother and her aunts, who, she says, could do all these things well and were hard-working, innovative and resourceful people. Her mother was of the Carter family, a name well-known in the area. Her family's lives were centered in their churches, just as the Rices' lives are. Her family stories reflect her family's contribution and devotion to their communities, just as the Rices' lives do.

During the church service, Pastor Robert Schoeman spoke of Miss Pinky's devotion and shining example. A church member and friend, Barbara Bull, presented her with a certificate of appreciation from the church. Another member and one of her best friends, Mary Lee, spoke to the congregation about Miss Pinky's years of service, and presented her with a letter of appreciation from the Winchester District Superintendent of the United Methodist Churches.

"Pinky and I have worked together for many years on different programs and projects; she is a wonderful friend – one in a million," Mary Lee said.

The church service was followed by a fellowship lunch and celebration in her honor.

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Middleburg Town Council Report

Continued from Page 1

hour limit, namely, turnover.

Council member Bundles Murdock noted that she "would love for there to be no meters on the main street," given both the Town's beautification agenda noting also the value of making more room for pedestrians on the Town's sidewalks. She had no problem, she said, keeping meters on side streets and in the Town's parking lots.

Enforcement

Council member Kathy Jo Shea spoke in favor of "a signed, time limited parking system," but suggested that "main street be treated differently than the side streets and that weekends be different than weekdays."

She also suggested that a part-time employee be hired dedicated to monitor the spaces, freeing up Chief Panebianco and his officers for other work.

Council member Kevin Hazard questioned whether "two hours was optimal as a time limit."

Panebianco noted that, based on his interviews and personal observations, it took a minimum of three hours to shop and eat on weekends."

Hazard also questioned "whether there was adequate parking for the employees of the businesses" noting the Town's parking pass program for the Liberty Street Parking Lot. Town Administrator Martha Semmes noted that she knew of at least one private parking lot that was underused and suggested talking to the owner about renting spaces for use by employees.

Cost

Council member Mark Snyder noted that he was "tired of spending Town money to replace the meters and noted that they always had operational issues." During his tenure on council the meters had been replaced, he said, three times and, in his view, "the cost was never balanced by the revenue."

The goal, Snyder insisted was for the Town to adopt a "system it could afford, that did not have to be constantly replaced, that did not require a large workforce to enforce and that did not cost a lot for maintenance."

Repeat Offenders

When Vice Mayor Kirk raised the issue of repeat offenders, Chief Panebianco agreed that something would have to be done discourage them. Without going into detail Panebianco noted that there were "several options" and that Town would have to "crack down on a few to ensure the needs were met for the majority."

Vice Mayor Kirk noted that she, personally, "did not like the free parking" and thought "motorists were abusing it.'

Chief Panebianco disagreed, noting that forty percent of the repeat offenders "were the same six people."

Council then asked Town staff "to develop a parking plan that addressed the entire picture for their review."

Town Administrator Semmes noted that the development of such a plan might require the Town to " hire consultants who were experts in parking."

Chief Panebianco suggested that he and Town Staff draft an overview plan, and if Council approved the general outline, "build it up to make it functional."

Historic District Review Committee

At Council's June 25 Work Session, Bill Turnure, Chairman of the Historic District Review Committee presented his team's annual report.

In his view, the Town " looked nice" thanks in large part "the renovation of buildings, some of which were built in the 1980s" observing that Chinn's Crossing and the Federal Street Office Building project had "worked out well."

Vice Mayor Darlene Kirk praised the committee, noting that it was "responsible for how the town looked . . . . they did all the hard work . . . and did a wonderful job.

Food Truck Issue

Council member Bundles Murdock then asked whether or the question of the propriety of a food truck that had been regularly appearing at The Cidery had come before the Historic District Review Committee.

HDRC Chairman Turnure said it had not.

Murdock said that although their food was "delicious" she thought the truck "did not fit in with what the HDRC was trying to accomplish."

When Council member Mark Snyder pointed out that this was a zoning issue, Kathy Jo Shea observed that the Town needed to "fix the zoning ordinance so this did not occur again."

Town Planner Will Moore told Council that this was the first time he had heard the word "complaint" used, preferring the term "inquiries" to "complaints. "

The Town Planning Commission was already looking at Middleburg's current "temporary use provisions", he said, but had been delayed by a sub-committee "that was looking at special events." The two, he said, were inextricably intertwined.

In Moore's view, there were some uses of zoned property "that would become something that would require Council approval rather than allowing them under an administrative permit."

Council member Kevin Hazard observe that Town staff "did the right thing in issuing the permit as the owner did what he had to do to comply with the ordinance, including opening an office in town."

He then asked "whether Council wanted something different."

In Hazard's view, the Middleburg clearly wanted to be able to allow food trucks in Town for special events.

Council member Kathy Jo Shea agreed, but noted that in her view, "allowing food trucks was intended for events only, which was why the ordinance was written as it was." She had not anticipated, she said, that such trucks would be used all summer, every weekend.

Traffic Calming

According to Town Administrator Semmes, bids for some parts of the Middleburg's Washington Street Project, a key part of VDOT's ongoing Route 50 Traffic Calming Committee project, had been delayed until July 22. She expressed hope that this would allow for more bids.

Harassment

Council member Kathy Jo Shea reported that she "observed workers on Liberty Street hassle a woman" and said she told the supervisor on the job that "this was not okay".

When Shea asked the staff to ensure there was a code of behavior for contractors Town Planner Moore noted that such "behavior on a government run job could carry serious consequences."

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Places & Faces

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The National Sporting Library & Museum, Middleburg, VA Photos By Nancy Kleck

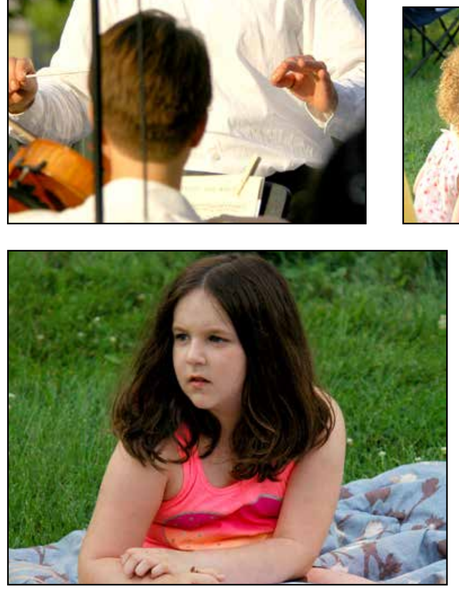














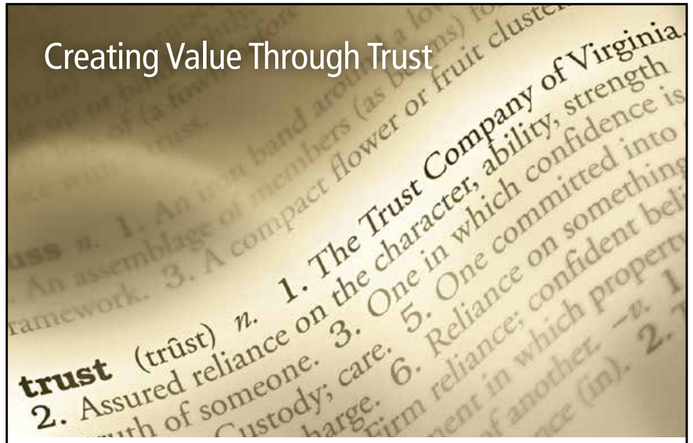








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Places & Faces

The 4th of July

Middleburg, VA Photos By Nancy Kleck, Timothy Hubbard & Remy Patterson

























Upcoming Events

Middleburg Community Center

August 2015

National Night Out

Middleburg Police Department
@Middleburg Community Center Ball Field
August, 4th 2015 | 6:00pm - 8:00pm
FREE public event.

Motown Soundz Featuring Bryan Fox



MGC Productions
@ Middleburg Community Center
August, 8th 2015 | 8:00pm - 11:00pm
Tickets are $35.00 and can be purchased at the door.

Cardboard Regatta



Loudoun County PR&CS
@Middleburg Community Center Pool & Field
August, 15th 2015 | 4:00pm - 6:00pm
$10 per entry: For more info., registration and rules, call Jennifer Sweigart 540-687-6375.

Movie Showing: "Most Likely to Succeed"



Hosted by Foxcroft School
Middleburg Community Center Ballroom
August, 19th 2015 | 5:00pm - 7:00pm
Free event open to the public.

Doc Saffer Series:Dinner & A Dive In Movie



MCC & Loudoun County PR&CS
@ Middleburg Community Center Pool
August, 21st 2015 | 6:30pm - 9:30pm
Free event open to the public! Dinner will be provided at 6:30pm, followed by the movie at dark, *Night At The Museum 3*. Rain or shine.

Elevate You Conference



Jennifer Bradshaw, Well Woman Advocate & Founder of Personal Wellness Revolution, LLC
@ Middleburg Community Center
August, 22nd 2015 | 8:00am - 6:00pm
For tickets and registration go to www.eventbrite.com

And don't forget:

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Places & Faces

The 4th of July

Middleburg, VA Photos By Timothy Hubbard & Remy Patterson













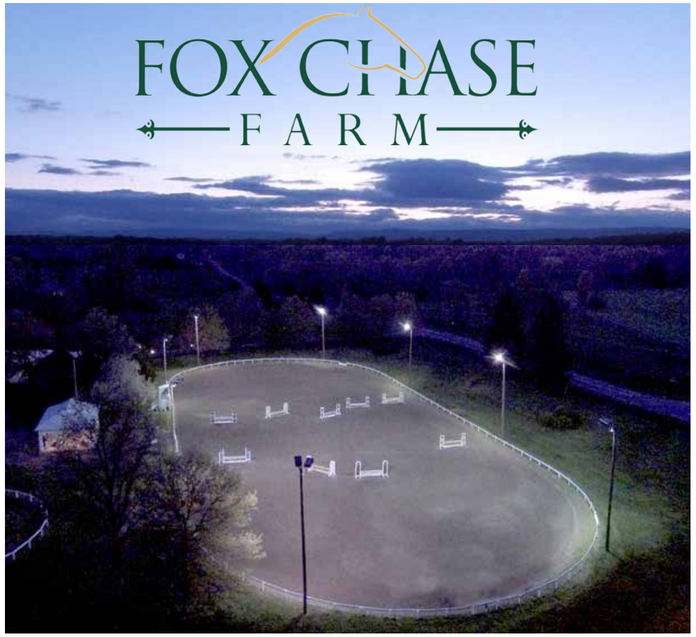












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September 11th (Friday 6:00 PM)

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Great Meadow, The Plains, VA ~ Photos by Val Durbon & Nancy Kleck

























Places & Faces

Mt. Zion Baptist Church St. Louis Celebrating 130 Years

Middleburg Community Center, Middleburg, VA Photos By Dee Dee Hubbard





























Progeny

Katherine "Kaki" Elgin pursuing a PhD at Princeton



Katherine "Kaki" Elgin, daughter of Dean and Carina Elgin of The Plains, will be pursuing a PhD in Security Studies this fall at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School.

Elgin, 24, attended the Parish House Pre School in Middleburg under Bryan Wright prior to spending many years with the Fauquier County Public School system. After a year at Fauquier High School, Elgin chose to follow her mother's footsteps and finished her high school education at Phillips Academy in Andover, MA.

Elgin graduated cum laude from Princeton University in 2013 with a degree in politics. As an undergraduate, Elgin played an active role on campus. She was a fellow with the Center for International Security Studies, a role in which she organized and participated in lectures on U.S. defense and foreign policy, crisis simulations, and military staff rides to Gettysburg and Normandy, France. She also served as photography editor for The Daily Princetonian, Princeton's only student-run daily newspaper; Co-President of the Princeton University Orchestra (in which she played the French horn); and a residential advisor in undergraduate dorms. Her culminating thesis, a substantial independent research paper, examined the effects of the U.S. military presence in Central Asia post-9/11 on U.S. relations with China and Russia in the region.

After graduating from Princeton University, Elgin spent the past two years conducting foreign policy research at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C., where she worked as the research assistant to Bruce Jones, interim vice president and director of the Foreign Policy Program at the Brookings Institution. With Jones, Elgin conducted research on a number of topics related to U.S. foreign policy, including grand strategy, emerging powers, and transnational threats.

As part of her PhD program, Elgin will be studying, among other things, military strategy, foreign policy, and civil-military relations at Princeton University's well-renowned school for public policy and international relations. Elgin is one of two students who will be commencing the PhD program in security studies this fall.

Elgin speaks French, Russian, and Swedish, and has traveled extensively. Her most recent trip brought her to the United Arab Emirates and Kazakhstan.

Kaki has maintained strong roots to the Middleburg area. She returns regularly, photographing hunt meets and other sporting events and remaining active in the community. Her photography can be found at www.KatherineElginPhotography.com. She also plays tennis.

At the conclusion of her PhD program, Elgin hopes to return to Washington, D.C. and influence U.S. defense and foreign policy decision-making.

The Hill School ~ Class of 2015



photo by: Middleburg Photo

Foxcroft's Leipheimer Teaching Award Goes to Eagen Boswell Receives Lockhart Service Award



Patty Boswell, who has enhanced academic, residential and extracurricular life at Foxcroft School for more than 20 years, and Dr. Maria Eagen, an aerospace engineer who brought her love of Science and teaching to campus five years ago, recently received special honors at the School's Annual Awards Assembly.

Head of School Catherine S. McGehee presented Eagen with the inaugural Mary Louise Leipheimer Award for Excellence in Teaching and Boswell became the fourth recipient of the Jane Lockhart Service Award. Both honors come with cash awards, and both honorees received standing ovations and enthusiastic applause from the gathering of 400+ students, faculty, family, and friends gathered in Engelhard Gymnasium on the eve of Foxcroft's 101st Commencement.

Boswell came to Foxcroft in 2000 when her husband, the late Earl Boswell, joined the staff. Before long she was working part-time in Schoolhouse and by 1994 she had become the School's registrar. In 2000, she became a housemother as well, serving in Court and then Applegate dormitories. Boswell has also been the "Hound Backer" (the faculty advisor) to one of two school-wide intramural teams that comprise Foxcroft's most beloved tradition and time-consuming extracurricular activity, Fox/Hound.

"It is my honor to present the Jane Lockhart service award to a member of our staff whose work crisscrosses the academic, residential and extra-curricular life of our school," said McGehee. "Her work [as registrar] directly upholds the rigorous academic reputation of our School. . . . [In the dormitory] she holds girls to high standards for their behavior and performance, while showing them unconditional love and accepting them for who they are. . . and as Hound Backer since 1999, she has helped to build leadership and school spirit, and to bring together Old Girls and New Girls."

The Lockhart Award was established in 2012 by Foxcroft parents and students in appreciation of the dedication, commitment, and passion of Jane Lockhart, who has worked at Foxcroft since 1966. It honors a staff or faculty member who "exemplifies a personal commitment to and understanding of all of our students," with an emphasis on all.

The Mary Louise Leipheimer Excellence in Teaching Award was established in 2014 by Foxcroft's Board of Trustees to honor the retiring Head of School who had spent 40+ years at Foxcroft as teacher and administrator. It recognizes a classroom teacher with a tenure of at least three years who" connects with and challenges each student to develop her analytical ability, critical and independent thinking, communication skills and personal integrity. "

Eagen is the inaugural recipient of the award and, as McGehee put it, "an outstanding teacher in and out of the classroom as well as a coach, club sponsor, and advisor."

After 25 years in the aerospace engineering industry, launching rockets and designing and analyzing satellite missions, Eagen discovered her passion for teaching. She joined the Foxcroft faculty in 2010 and became the Science Department chair a year later.

"[Maria's] real-world experience allows her to engage her students with hands-on applications that are relevant to careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (or STEM) fields," said McGehee. "She helps students see STEM subjects as accessible and fun, and encourages girls to gain confidence to pursue what are still male-dominated career fields."

Eagen has taught core science and math courses at all levels and brought Purdue University's Engineering Projects in Community Service (EPICS) program to Foxcroft. She also helps plan and host the annual K2M Summit STEM competition, initiated student participation the drone-building DaVinci Challenge, and has helped secure strategic partnerships with universities, corporations and other foundations that benefit Foxcroft students.

In addition, McGehee noted, Eagen serves as a volleyball coach, advisor of the community service club Banneker Buddies, and a wise and warm student advisor.

School's Outside *for Summer*

Children may be out of the classroom, but that doesn't mean they have to stop learning. Each day offers a lesson in exploration, adventure, inclusion and self-confidence. Campers at The Hill School are exposed to a mix of arts, sciences, sports and the natural environment, all designed to strengthen their skills, interests and character. You'll be amazed when you see how much a child can grow over one summer.



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Progeny

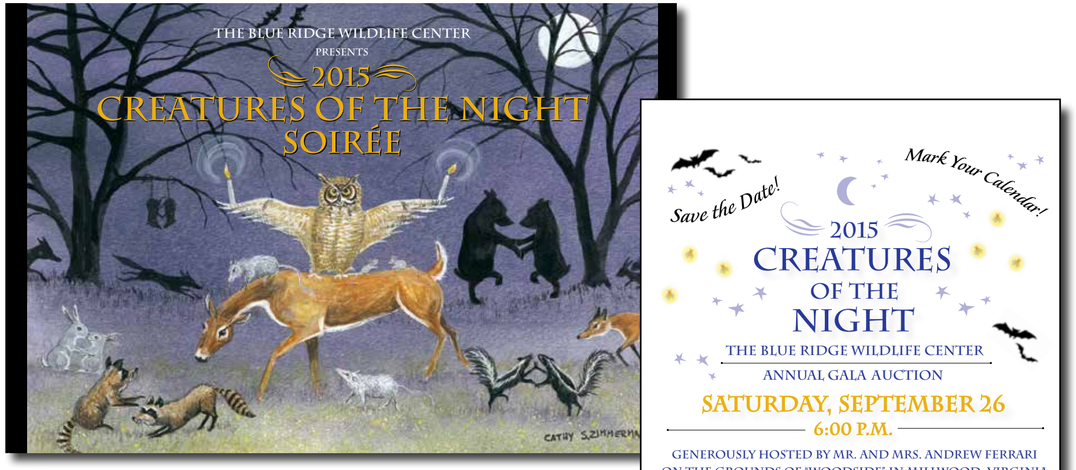
Friends of the Blue Ridge Mountains Present "Jane Pratt Blue Ridge Mountains Education Award" to LVHS Senior



Friends of the Blue Ridge Mountains (FBRM) presented the Jane Pratt Blue Ridge Mountains Education Award to LVHS senior Samantha Iliff at Loudoun Valley High School's "Evening of Honors" on June 4, 2015. The Award, established in 2014 in memory of founding FBRM member Dr. Jane Pratt, is bestowed upon a graduating senior who is: Currently enrolled in or has completed an environmental studies/biological sciences program with a B grade average or better; Demonstrates a clear commitment to environmental stewardship through participation in school projects, internships, and community activities; Has performed a minimum of 8 hours of volunteer service during their senior year working directly on projects on the Blue Ridge Mountains sponsored by FBRM or like-minded environmental organizations, and; Receives unanimous endorsement to receive the Award from representatives of the High School and FBRM.

Samantha's commitment to environmental issues includes working to improve the ecosystem on the Chapman Demary trail and volunteering on the Nature Generation Trail. Additionally, she won Science Fair awards for her project, "The effects of coliphage T4r+ on decontamination of streams infected with Escherichia coli". Her senior environmental project included hiking several days on the Appalachian Trail with her mother (who is currently through-hiking the AT) and assisting others on the trail. Samantha will continue her studies at Florida Atlantic University Honors College this fall and looks forward to studying issues that will support her strong interest in the environment. Jed Shilling, husband of the late Dr. Pratt and FBRM Board member, presented the award to Samantha. This year FBRM also presented the "Jane Pratt Blue Ridge Mountains Education Award" to Jefferson County High School (West Virginia) senior, Michael Long. Graduating high school seniors in the FBRM project area (Jefferson, Clarke, Loudoun, Fauquier, and Rappahannock counties) are eligible for the award, which includes a framed certificate and $1,000 scholarship toward college tuition. The future certainly looks bright when young adults like Samantha and Michael appreciate and are willing to commit themselves to maintaining and preserving our beautiful environment.

Friends of the Blue Ridge Mountains is a local non-profit 501(c)(3) environmental organization dedicated to preserving,enhancing, and celebrating the Blue Ridge at a time when it is threatened by encroaching development. For more information please visit: www.FriendsofBlueRidge.org



SAVE THE DATE!

It's amazing how far Middleburg Academy graduates can go.



We are proud to announce that our accomplished 2015 graduates have been accepted to the following colleges and universities. Which means there may be signs of Dragons from California to Paris, France in the coming months. Congratulations to all!

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University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University of California-Davis
University of Colorado at Boulder
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Pastimes

The Artist's Perspective

Tom Neel



I am not the avid reader my grandmother always wanted me to be. There, I've said it. I don't plop myself down in a comfy chair and chew away at a big old novel. But I have complete respect for those who do and even more for those authors who write them. Actually, I have amazing respect for writers in general. I have been writing most of my life, and for the Eccentric for years and a year ago my wife Linda and I started publishing a digital magazine, not surprisingly called Live An Artful Life Magazine. I must be honest that I wanted to push myself creatively. I wanted to purposely put myself under endless deadline duress for my love of writing, self expression, finding the story and presenting it.

Much like painting, there's blank space to fill and only you to do so. White space is white space, void of anything and some freeze at the sight of it. For me, painting is nothing more than writing with a brush and that wonderful feeling of conveying a message, be it in words or paint, it's the same. That doesn't make it easy all of the time and in fact, if you're really passionate about filling the blank space, you can be hard on yourself in doing so.

Painting for me was never just painting what I see. It's always been about painting how I feel about what I see and writing gives me the same inner reach and outer release, the same exploration of myself and the world around me. What I love about writing my column and for the magazine, is often a story presents itself as one thing, but turns out to be another. A recent case in point. Last month I wrote an article about William Waller Picture Framing and how after having his shop in Middleburg for many years, "Bill" moved everything to his home in Hume. That was the story right? Wrong. The story turned out to be so much more. It was a story of a man's life, one which could have well exceeded my allotted word count.

This brings me to another point, the importance of self edification, or how to take a big story and fit it into a small space or even scaling up a smaller one. Scale is important here, and as with painting, the artist needs to know how to scale that which they are representing in paint or words. Composition too, with a column, a song, a poem, a story, or a painting, is the backbone of why we stay visually interested. The words mean something mentally and that is almost always visual in the end right?

There are of course, many types of writing, just as there are many types of painting. Some of it I could never do. The magazine has allowed me to better understand what I'm capable of. Searching for stories, but just as often being surprised about what finds me instead. I've written a lot of things over the years, but over the last couple of years especially, I've written in the neighborhood of two dozen of these columns, at least that in other stories or articles, my book The Land Beneath My Feet, about twenty poems and a ton of copy. All by the way, which tests my lingering dyslexia and poor spelling to no end. It's like watching a battle. Sometimes a word like SOMETIMES, comes out soemtimes, or soemtmies, or however it wishes. Still I forge on, doing the best I can, learning about myself and others in the process.

So, I tip my hat to those talented authors, those novelists, for which filling pages with words is like a painter painting the Sistine Chapel. Oh it's one thing to sprint, it is very much yet another thing altogether to run a marathon of novel proportion. Until then, I'll keep pushing myself with my two finger typing, knowing verbal calisthenics won't help, though I run my mouth it like it does!

So, if you care to indulge yourself in more of this man's wordiness and help him keep his wife from thinking he's gone completely mad, it's LiveAnArtfulLifeMagazine.com. All digital, online and no trees uprooted in the process … so far!

Live An Artful Life, Tom

Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary

The Plant Lady





Karen Rexrode

High summer brings us many wonderful things, floral stems that bear fresh flowers at a time when the gardener is sometimes ready to give up. Some brilliant new hybrids have hit the market, setting their aim at the summer season, extending the show well beyond May and June. One such new selection comes from Hydrangea paniculata, the panicled hydrangea, this one an adorable dwarf version that only grows to three feet tall. Arriving with a matching adorable name 'Bobo', this little cultivar flowers for many months with white flowers that age to a nice pink in fall. With its short stature, it nestles in nicely with perennials, billowing and filling in spaces between Russian sage, lilies, and cone flower. The flowers are borne on new wood so a trimming in early spring will help grow more floral stalks. Cold winters or winter damage are of no consequence, unlike the lacecap and mophead hydrangeas. Best grown in full to part sun, the panicled hydrangeas are very garden worthy.

Another new introduction is a summer flowering veronica, one of a series, a hybrid of V. longifolia named Veronica 'First Love'. Hybridized by the Dutch breeder Rene van Gaalen, his work includes summer phlox and eringiums. This particular collection of veronicas (pink, blue, and white) makes a nice show in summer, rather than spring, the typical time for veronica bloom. Low growing, only a foot tall, nestle some in with the little Hydrangea 'Bobo' and you're good to go for a nice long spell.

Dog Days of Summer and Exercise Home



Photo courtesy of corefirstfitness.com

Kay Colgan
BS, Certified Pilates and Fitness Professional

As the temperature rises, it might be best to leave Fido home on your afternoon jog. Dogs suffer heat exhaustion and worse yet, heat stroke faster than we do. Awareness of hot surfaces such as asphalt and cement is important when walking or jogging with your dog. Understanding the risks is important to keep your best friend safe.

We all love being with our dogs, so it just seems natural to want them to go for a jog with us. Why not, it is healthy for us and our pup too. However, when the heat index rises it could mean injury to your beloved friend. Here is what you need to know. Dogs can only cool themselves by panting. We as humans sweat, which is released onto the skin as it evaporates it helps to decrease the excess heat on our bodies. Our pups cooling system is mainly through its tongue. In simplistic terms, the dog cools its body by literally cooling the fluid in its mouth by providing a steady stream of air through its mouth, known as panting. To keep this cooling system working efficiently our pup needs lots of water. They do have sweat pads in their feet, but do not have the ability to have rapid heat loss through sweat.

Heat stroke is a reality for our pets and it happens quickly. Our pets want to keep up with us, so they will keep running when their body systems start to fail. As a rule, professionals recommend that if the temperature and humidity are greater than 150, it is best to leave your dog at home. In other words, if the humidity is at 80% and the temperature is 84 than its feeling like 164 to your pet. Remember, it's your choice to jog in hot temperatures, your pet can not say no. Imagine running with a fur coat on in temperatures greater than 150 and you will be able to relate a little to what your dog feels. Even if the temperature is 70 degrees, but the humidity is at 80% you're looking at a reading of 150 which is just too hot for your dog. Dogs can suffer pad abrasions, pad burns and soreness on their paws too.

Heat stroke can come on quickly and be deadly. If your pup exhibits, vomiting, malaise, excessive panting, dark red or dark pink gums, collapse, elevated heart rate, diarrhea, bruising, kidney failure, difficulty breathing, they may be in heat stroke. Quickly cooling your pup down and immediately seeking veterinarian care is utmost important. Better yet, just be safe and leave your pup home during the hottest part of the day. Exercise early morning and late evening when the heat index tends to fall.

It is a great thing to bond and exercise with our pets. They love it, but just like children they look to us to make the right decisions for them. Be smart and safe this summer and plan your outdoor workouts for a time that is good for you and your pet.

For more information about fitness, please contact Kay Colgan, Middleburg Pilates and Personal training at 540-687-6995 or 14 S. Madison Street, Middleburg, Virginia.







Pastimes

Albert's Corner

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



Albert P. Clark

We're experiencing the sweltering time of the year frequently deemed "the dog days of summer". Since my species somehow got associated with oppressive heat, I wanted to find out why. The answer to that question led me on a larger quest to determine the origin of other canine phrases. What follows is a list of my findings. Please keep in mind that stories change over time, so it's impossible to know the accuracy of my research. To the best of my ability, however, I think I've found some answers.

Dog Days of Summer: This one has celestial roots. Centuries ago, people thought that the hottest period of the year was the result of Sirius, the "Dog Star" of the Canis Major constellation, rising in conjunction with the sun. There is some debate over whether the phrase should be attributed to Romans, Greeks, or Egyptians, but actual dogs were not involved.

Going to the Dogs: Some scholars believe this one originated in China, where dogs typically lived outside of the city walls. Social outcasts and criminals were often sent outside of the city walls as punishment. When these unfortunate people met their fates, it was said that they were going to the dogs.

Let Sleeping Dogs Lie: The closest early reference seems to be by Chaucer, who wrote, "It is nought good a slepyng hound to wake". Similar advice, however, shows up in 14th century French literature and in the Christian Bible.

Hair of the Dog: In 19th century Scotland, it was not uncommon for a rabid dog to bite a person. It was thought that putting some of the dog's hair into the wound could lessen the reaction to the bite. But the idea of "like cures like" goes back to Hypocrites.

It's a Dog Eat Dog World: A Roman scholar in 43 BC is said to have stated that even "a dog will not eat dog." The concept came to mean ruthless competition by the 16th century, and became very popular during the industrial revolution.

Every Dog Has Its Day: Many famous people have used this term, including Shakespeare and Elizabeth I. But it probably dates back to 405 BC when the Greek playwright Euripides was killed by dogs sent by a rival. The event came to mean that even the lowliest person could get revenge on an oppressor.

There are so many more idioms out there that refer to us. Falling ill is being "sick as a dog"; a heavy downpour means it's "raining cats and dogs"; exhaustion is being "dog tired"; you "can't teach an old dog new tricks"; when you're misguided, you're "barking up the wrong tree"; when roles reverse, the "tail is wagging the dog"; and being in charge is being the "top dog". The list goes on and on.

Figuring out how and when these phrases came to be is rarely an exact science. It's thought that the earliest domestic dogs emerged in Europe as many as 32,000 years ago, so who knows how long dogs have appeared in human language? All I know is that I had better finish this column and get it to my editor, or I'm going to be "in the doghouse" for sure!

Albert, a Jack Russell Terrier, is Chairman of the Board of Wylie Wagg, a Middleburg-founded company for dogs, cats, and their people. (wyliewagg.com)

The Salton Sea: Live or Let Die The First of Two Parts

Waterworld

Richard A. Engberg

We've all heard of Death Valley and the fact that it's lowest point is 282 feet below sea level. But did you know that there is a large water body in Southern California that lies about 240 feet below sea level? The Salton Sea is its name. It is between the Imperial Valley to the south and the Coachella Valley to the north. Its southern shore is some 40 miles north of the U. S.-Mexican border.

What you may not know is that it hasn't always been there. In 1900, the area was a desert. About the same time, engineers were building canals to divert water from the Colorado River to support irrigation of crops in the Imperial Valley and Northern Mexico. These canals filled rapidly with silt from the River.

In spring 2006, engineers were attempting to build a new diversion from the River when high flows overwhelmed their digging and for more than two years **ALL** the discharge of the Colorado River flowed west to the desert and the Salton Sea was formed. It was a shallow sea, about 40 miles long and 6 miles wide.

People are attracted to water.

Very shortly after the sea was formed, investors bought up land adjacent to the sea. Houses and businesses including marinas and resorts were built particularly along its west side. Also, after the failed Colorado River diversion was finally repaired, the All American Canal was completed along the border to bring more irrigation water to the Imperial Valley.

Birds are attracted to water.

Very shortly, the Salton Sea became an important stopover for migratory waterfowl and other birds on the Pacific Flyway. The Sea was stocked with fish and they thrived.

The area surrounding the Salton Sea is desert. It is hot and dry. The Sea has no outflow and the meager rainfall plus inflow of irrigation drainage from the irrigated valleys does not equal the evaporation from the surface of the Sea. What this means is that the Sea began to shrink in size and to become more saline.

Within 50 years, many of the resorts, some of which were very high class for their time were no longer located on the water's edge but instead were as far as a half mile away, a situation not conducive to drawing tourists. By the late 20th century, most of the resorts were out of business and were rotting hulks. Add to this the fact that the Sea has become 20 percent more saline than ocean water.

So we have a sea that was essentially man-made and that is shrinking and getting saltier, that is a favorite stopping place for birds and that contains an abundant fishery.

Now, add to this equation its primary source of water, agriculture return flow. What does return flow contain? Among other things it contains fertilizer and pesticides that were washed from the irrigated land and carried to the sea. And what do fertilizer and pesticide have the potential to cause? I'll name two things, algae growth and fish kills. In recent years, a number of serious fish kills have occurred whether from algae, pesticides, or fertilizer.

The Salton Sea is still important as a fishery and as a migratory bird stopover, but for how long? There are efforts underway to "save" the Sea. Others feel it is beyond saving. Next month, the second part of *Live or Let Die* will explore these options. Stay tuned!

Being 40 is fabulous

Sincerely, Me

Brandy Greenwell



Happy birthday, Cancers!!! Most of my family are Cancers. Apparently the summer months were just for practice and the amorous early fall weather proved most successful for expanding our clan. My mother, cousin and maternal grandfather are all June 29th, I am July 2nd, my maternal great-grandmother is July 12, my paternal grandmother is July 14th and my father and aunt are July 15th. So we are a bunch of emotional, moody homebodies that are fiercely protective. This can be quite kumbaya-ish at holiday dinners if we are all in the same mood. If we disagree, plates can be thrown. I love being a Cancer and I have been told more than once that I am a very stereotypical one by my astrology studying friends.

This year, I had a big birthday. The big 4-0. Insert appropriate (or inappropriate) "over the hill" joke. So far, "being 40 is fabulous", said in my best Carrie Bradshaw voiceover, but at times, I can definitely tell that Toto ain't in her 20's anymore. So what changes when we hit 40?

Well, I would say that grey hairs could pop at 40, but thanks to the fabulous talents of my stylist and friend Christophe Jouenne, I have the exact same hair color I did when I was 6. It's my natural color, just maybe not at 40. I have absolutely no idea if I am greying and I plan to keep it that way. Thanks, Christophe!

Speaking of hair, does anyone remember when Rosie O'Donnell had her talk show and one season grew a chin hair? She had the ability to laugh at her aging self and made her chin hair a punchline. She even tried to put a bead on it. Not that the 40 year old me has sprung a grove of chin hairs, but I feel like since I spent most of the 1990's over plucking my eyebrows to the point that they won't grow back, my long lost eyebrows may reappear on my chin.

I have laughed a lot in my 40 years and have the lines to prove it. I have also basked in the sun and love those healing rays we are now supposed to avoid without protection. Modern cosmetics help me maintain what I think is a youthful glow, and my 40 year old face and décolletage loves being pampered with them. Lines and freckles don't bother me a bit as each generally tells a fabulous story.

Sometimes I feel like I need to take jumper cables to my metabolism but I still make it to the finish line with perhaps more enthusiasm than in my youth. But of course the 40 year old version does it with more fiber, less french fries and a better appreciation for top shelf alcohol and fine wine.

Some things may have started to shift, but my bust line still makes it in the selfie so nothing has flown south thus far. This is totally fine as I hear when you reach 50 and beyond you pee a little when you laugh. Which in my world, is certainly going to cause problems.

So to answer my question, what changes when you hit 40? Don't sweat it, just keep being beautiful you and never mind the number.

Cosmetic Dentistry Update: Veneers

Dr. Robert A. Gallegos



Dental veneers are used to improve the appearance of teeth. First applied to teeth of actors in Hollywood nearly one hundred years ago, veneers have become one of the more popular cosmetic treatment for discolored, misshaped and/or malpositioned teeth. Veneers are thin layers of tooth-colored material bonded to the tooth to achieve an improved appearance and/or function. The veneer material used is either resin or porcelain. Bonded porcelain is stronger than resin, often more esthetic and longer lasting than bonded resin; however, in some cases bonded resin can be very esthetic, done more conservatively (preserving tooth structure), involve fewer visits and is usually less costly than porcelain.

Both materials can achieve a beautiful result if done properly. The construction of veneers requires a great deal of skill from both the dentist and lab technician. For the most natural appearance, esthetics, and strength, porcelain is preferable to resin. The construction of porcelain veneers is truly an art form and can be fabricated in a lab or in a dental office that has a lab. For the best esthetics and most natural appearance, porcelain veneers need to be fabricated in layers so they mimic the layering and characteristics found in natural teeth. Veneers made from a single layer of material tend to look fake. The layering process is very time consuming and cannot be finished the same day as the preparation of the teeth. While awaiting final delivery of porcelain veneers, nice looking and well-made temporaries are applied.

Resin can be a good alternative to porcelain in some cases when minimal changes are needed, finances are a concern or when a second visit is not possible. Like porcelain, resin needs to be layered to achieve natural looking results. Usually 3-5 layers of resin material are applied in one office visit.

Why veneers instead of crowns? Crowns cover the whole tooth and involve more reduction of tooth structure than veneers. Conservation of healthy tooth structure is important to the long-term health of your teeth. That being said sometimes a crown is the best option to restore shape and size or cosmetically change the appearance, and/or color of teeth.

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.

























Friends for Life

Middleburg Humane Foundation
A Friend to All Animals

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



Ned is 25 year old, 15H QH X gelding. He is very sweet & stands for the vet & farrier. He would make a great lawn ornament/companion.





Laverne is a 10 year old, healthy & sound, 14.2h gaited Arabian cross mare. She was rescued from a starvation case and is now ready to find her forever home. Laverne is sassy with other horses/top dog in the field! We have not yet tried her under saddle.



Lola is a 1 year old Beagle. She is a beautiful girl that is typical of her breed, she loves to chase a scent. She will need a secure fenced in yard where she can run & play safely otherwise her nose could get her into trouble. Lola gets along with other dogs.

Kittens! We have 26 adorable, healthy kittens that are available or will soon be available for adoption. Ask about our 2 for 1 Buddy Program-Help keep Friends together!



Cheyenne is an 9 year old 14.2 H chestnut QH X mare. Cheyenne has been through a 30 day training program & has good ground manners but should not be ridden. She would make a terrific babysitter/companion horse.





Gertrude is a sweet girl that was found wandering with a collar & leash attached. No one came claimed her so she's now available for adoption. She has limited hearing, therefore a home without small children that could startle her would be best. She doesn't mind other dogs with her activity level. We think she's about 10 years old but is in great shape for a senior! She loves to snuggle & hang out with us in our office.

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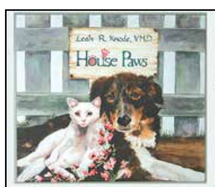


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Editors Desk

Wrong Way !

Drivers headed east into Middleburg along Rout 50's e short stretch of divided highway just west of town all too often encounter a deadly threat: vehicles on the wrong side of the divieded highway, headed west and into the path of cars, trucks, trailers and even school buses topping the rise at Mount Defiance and speeding downhill to the intersection at Zulla Road.

No one seems to remember why that short stretch of Route 50 was divided. Was it to provide a stretch of road where passing was not only allowed, but possible with some safety?

Whatever the case, drivers exiting Zulla Road onto Route 50 all too often, and especially at night when it is MOST dangerous, turn LEFT immediately and into the face of oncoming traffic in the eastbound lanes of Route 50

There have been many suggestions about what to do: flashing lights; lane markers that clearly forbid left turns; turning the eastbound lanes of Route 50 into an access road.

We should do something before someone is badly hurt or worse.

Free Parking !

After a month long study nearly everyone involved in Middleburg's experimental switch from parking meters to two-hour time-limited parking appear to favor the Free Parking Option.

Parkers love not having to scrounge for change and seeing parking spaces open up more often.

Business people love seeing parking spaces turn over, making it easier for shoppers and diners to park.

Town staff love not having to constantly empty, repair and service the meters.

Fans of a more open and pedestrian friendly Middleburg streetscape love the idea of removing the meters and opening up the sidewalks.

A part time Police staffer, with a device that allows him or her to snap a picture of a license plate, assign it a parking spot number and time stamp, would free up our regular officers for other duties.

Although Chief of Police Panebianco and Town Administrator Semmes have been unwilling to formally recommend the move to free parking, pending council review, they appear to favor the idea, as do most if not all Town Council members, business owners and parkers.

Let's do it.

Transformations: Image and Reality

Blue

Dan Morrow

Things are not always what they seem and, for many, that makes life difficult and hard to explain.

Caitlin Jenner now is what she seems to be: a woman. She has explained, eloquently and at length, how difficult it was for her to live as a man, especially a man who by dint of his own hard work and determination, became an international symbol of manhood . . . and not just any manhood; manhood on an Olympic scale; the living embodiment of the pinnacle of masculine physical and athletic perfection . . . for the entire world.

She has also addressed, eloquently and at length, how difficult it was, for her and for those close to her, at first, to understand.

Happily, for her and us, the social and cultural norms of her youth are, for an increasing number of people, not the social and cultural norms of today.

We have learned that one's sex and one's gender identification can be different. Nature, we have learned, not only determines our DNA and our X-Y chromosome configuration, it determines how our neurons fire and interact with each other and to stimuli, and thus how we feel about ourselves and others.

We have also learned that being open and accepting about these realities of human nature harms no one in any way.

Indeed, the more open and accepting we are, the less pain and suffering we inflict on innocent people who, as human beings (not to mention our fellow Americans) have a right to be not only protected from baseless, self-righteous, all too often mean-spirited discrimination and harm, but a right to equal justice under the law.

The same is true of "racial" self-identification.

Biologically there are no clear bright lines that determine "races." The notion is a human cultural construct that, throughout history, has done more harm than good . . . some of it murderous on a what was once an unimaginable scale.

Rachel Dolezal, once President of the Spokane Chapter of the NAACP, consciously decided that her cultural affinities were "black" rather than "white."

What conceivable difference to anyone does that make?

There was once a time when a single drop of "black" blood condemned one to slavery. Now we know we all have the moral equivalent of that one "drop." We are all descended from sub-Saharan African ancestors.

German laws, based on similar Virginia laws, defined who was "Jewish" and who was not, with deadly consequences.

We now know that such distinctions were and are as absurd as they were unspeakably cruel.

We've come a long way in the three-score and ten since my own birth . . . a year in which Jim Crow prevailed, Jews and Catholics alike were banned from County Clubs, universities and law firms, women were kept in their well-defined "places," being gay was illegal, and innocent men, women and children were being incinerated "to serve one or another permutation of the notion of the greater good" throughout the Far East, Western Europe, and in the death camps of the Holocaust.

There is still a long way to go







Transformers

Red

Jim Morgan

It's getting hard to keep track of all the transformations happening nowadays. A white woman transforms herself into a black woman. A man transforms himself into a woman. Our society transforms itself into a twisted self-caricature.

First, Rachel Dolezal.

Some biologists claim that race doesn't exist in a biological sense at all while others insist that it does. For a summary of this rather curious debate, see this article: http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/evolution/does-race-exist.html. Whether or not race exists biologically, however, it does exist culturally.

Dolezal's story may be illustrated by an example from the world of fiction. Lt. John Dunbar, the main character in "Dances With Wolves" came to self-identify as a Sioux Indian. He took on all of the cultural accoutrements of those people and, in effect if not in reality, became a Sioux. But he did so with the full knowledge and acceptance of the people whose cultural identity he adopted. Dolezal did not. In fact, she lied about it repeatedly, even bouncing back and forth between races when it suited her. She's a fraud, though apparently a well-intentioned one, and she may also be delusional.

And, speaking of delusional, there's Bruce Jenner.

All human embryos automatically develop female unless the "SRY" gene carried in embryos with a Y chromosome tells them to develop male by producing a specific protein. This doesn't apply to XX genotypes (females) but is critical for XY genotypes (males). If the gene or the Y chromosome receptors are defective, the message doesn't get through and the body develops as female despite the XY chromosome pattern. This condition is extremely rare but those who have it, while genetically male, will physically develop as females. They, and those suffering from other equally rare conditions like Complete Androgen Insensitivity Syndrome (CAIS) are truly "transgendered" because their bodies have made a genetic mistake.

Individuals whose genes function properly, however, yet who still self-identify as the other sex, are not transgendered no matter what they think or feel. Their minds, not their bodies, have made the mistake. As he apparently does not have a genetic disorder, Jenner is simply a crossdresser who has had a lot of surgery. His fake breasts don't make him a woman any more than his mental confusion does. That normal Y chromosome says otherwise. But, in our transformed society, one may suggest therapy for Jenner's obvious mental problem only at the risk of being attacked as a bigot. Instead, we're supposed to "celebrate" Jenner's feelings, and even praise him for his "courage." Nonetheless, his Y chromosome isn't a bigot. And Bruce Jenner isn't a woman.

Amusingly, however, he's a Republican which really bugs progressives because it negates part of their victimhood fable.

And so we come to another transformation, the tragic oxymoron of "same-sex marriage."

Today's trendy narrative is that marriage has no inherent male-female structure and is mostly just about the "feelings" of the participants. Until now, humanity has known better. Even the ancient Greeks, comfortable with open homosexuality, never understood marriage as anything other than a male-female union with a fundamental procreative function for society. But, hey, we've progressed beyond that primitive thinking, right?

Wrong. That thinking is eminently sensible. But five "progressive" Transformers on the Supreme Court, Decepticons all, went with ideology over Constitutional responsibility and redefined this most ancient of human institutions. Their decision is as broken as a defective SRY gene and every bit as harmful. And American society is as confused as Bruce Jenner.

Alas, our historical, traditional understanding of marriage is now legally irrelevant, and even is condemned as bigotry. The predictable efforts to silence criticism and demand "marriage equality" for polygamy, group marriage, and other perversions have already begun. Supreme Court logic says they must be accepted. Can the first transgendered Episcopalian bishop be far behind?

Our Decepticon-in-Chief said he would fundamentally transform America. And has he ever!

Where are the Autobots when we really need them?

Hypocrisy

Tom Pratt

Van Jones recently said that the next "Unchained" movie should be "Obama Unchained" instead of Jango. And he is correct.

President Obama is finally acting like the person we worked for and voted to elect. His accomplishments recently are really startling.

Starting with the Iran deal. The opponents are so short sighted in their opposition that it makes one wonder how they can keep their jobs, it so blatantly political. Sec. Kerry made the best point on the matter when he said if Congress blocks this agreement there will be no more negotiations and then what the opponents say they fear could become a reality as Iran will then be free to pursue anything they wish without any interference from the West.

And, on the subject of Iran, when I visited there several years ago I was struck by how open and friendly the Iranian people were, none of them want war with Israel or anyone else, they are not a warring society unlike Israel, the United States and Saudi Arabia to name just a few countries who are always involved in one war or another.

President Obama's second momentous act is the start of prison reform. We have more people incarcerated than all of Europe combined and unlike the European model of incarceration we punish, torture and abuse our prisoners and then when released make sure it is almost impossible for them to get jobs and re-enter society as productive citizens.

In Europe they try to rehabilitate them so they do not return to a life of crime.

Third: Setting the tone so the Supreme Court made same- sex marriage the law of the land.

Fourth: The only president in history to finally create health care for the citizens of this country, although not perfect, it is a certain step in the right direction.

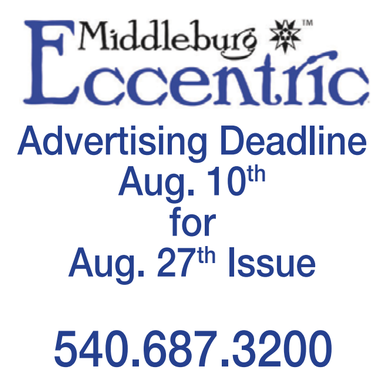
Five: His non-denial of climate change is a breath of fresh air in the "climate" of climate deniers who are much more concerned with having no restrictions on polluting industries' profits than with saving the planet from ecological disaster.

Six: Restoring relations with Cuba, long, long overdue, so good on him for that.

There are many things I wish he would have done differently including banning drone strikes and refusing further aid to Israel unless they treat the Palestinians as human beings but one president cannot do everything, so high marks for all the good he has been able to accomplish.

If you want the good to continue support the next president BERNIE SANDERS, who I am sure will go even further to make this country great once again by reversing all the damage done by President Obama's recent predecessors.









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Greystone
The Plains, Virginia
$2,200,000

Circa 1807 • 33 acres ideally located between Middleburg & The Plains • Rare quarried stone exterior, 10-foot ceilings • Period mantels, original wood floors, two-story front porch • 3 bedrooms/3 baths, each a private suite • Historic stone barn includes one bedroom/bath apt, heated tack room, 6 stalls • Carriage barn • 3 paddocks, large turnout field, run-in sheds, auto waterers • Whole farm generator • Pond • Orange County Hunt

Helen MacMahon (540) 454-1930



Liberty Hill
Boyce, Virginia
$1,775,000

Mountain top retreat with 60 mile panoramic views of the Shenandoah Valley • 215 acres • 1/3 pasture • Main house circa 1787 • 3 BR, 1 BA • 2 fireplaces • Random width pine floors • 2 BR, 1 BA guest cottage • Stone & frame barn circa 1787 • Remnants of formal garden • Old cemetery • Spring fed pond • Gazebo

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905
Helen MacMahon (540) 454-1930



Pohick Farm
Delaplane, Virginia
$1,850,000

78-acre farm in sought after Fauquier County • One-of-a-kind pastoral hill-top setting • Dramatic private postcard valley views of Cobbler Mountains • 4 bedroom home • Pool • Poolhouse • Guest/tenant cottage and pond • Ideal for horses, cattle, hay, row crops, vineyards • Additional land available

Helen MacMahon (540) 454-1930



Echo Hill
The Plains, Virginia
$1,500,000

Stone English country home in top location between Middleburg & The Plains on 13 acres • Large boxwoods & classically planted gardens • 4 BR home with new kitchen & main level master suite • Hardwood floors, built-in book cases, fireplaces & bright open family room • Bluestone terrace overlooks new pool & entertaining area • Separate guest cottage/pool house & garage • Whole-house generator

Helen MacMahon (540) 454-1930



Stonewood
Middleburg, Virginia
$930,000

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

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905



The Corner Garden
Middleburg, Virginia
$650,000

Classic old Middleburg fixture • Zoned C-2 which allows retail or restaurant • 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

Helen MacMahon (540) 454-1930



Sunken Lane
Upperville, Virginia
$649,000

11.43 ACRES, TREMENDOUS VALUE IN PRESTIGIOUS PIEDMONT HUNT LOCATION • Surrounded by protected properties in conservation easement • Contemporary stone & stucco home, 3 bedrooms, 2 full and 2 1/2 baths, 2 fireplaces • Spiral staircase leads to 8 stall barn • Tack room and office • Property fenced & cross fenced

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905



Cobbler Lane
Delaplane, Virginia
$545,000

Own your own valley • 25.21 acres recorded in 3 parcels, private • Small cottage in excellent condition, ability to add on or use as a guest house • Approximately 7 acres open, balance wooded • Stream

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905



Cliffside
Round Hill, Virginia
$498,000

7 acres and a bright unique home • Overlooking Butcher's Branch of Beaverdam Creek • Large deck off kitchen and family room • Great for entertaining and grilling • 2/3 bedrooms and large basement • Nice value and well priced home in a great setting • Large windows bring the outdoors in • Cute playhouse or potting shed

Helen MacMahon (540) 454-1930



Federal Hill
Middleburg, Virginia
$350,000

Historic Civil War battle site • 2.01 acres • Improved by partially finished gate house which could be a home office or guest house • Potentially another building site on property • One large room with fireplace, corner cabinets, metal roof

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905

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INTERNATIONAL OFFERING

RALLYWOOD, MIDDLEBURG, VIRGINIA

Architectural masterpiece: 54 acre equestrian estate. Private A+ location. Magnificent stable, indoor & outdoor arenas, house, apts, river. Orange Co Hunt. More land avail. 1 hr to DC. $4,500,000

Cindy Polk 703-966-9480



INTERNATIONAL OFFERING

HAGUE-HOUGH HOUSE, WATERFORD, VA

72 acres. One of Loudoun County's most important historic houses dating to 1747. 5BR, pool, pool house, bank barn with apartment. $2,400,000

Carole Miller 540-729-7896
Kevin Keane 540-687-2221



INTERNATIONAL OFFERING

HASTENING FARM, MIDDLEBURG AREA, VA

Renovated 1750s brick & stone farm house. 40+ acres with guest cottage, apt, workshops, barn, paddocks, arena & pond. Idyllic setting with Mt. & pastoral views. 8 miles to Middleburg. Piedmont Hunt. $2,295,000

Cindy Polk 703-966-9480



INTERNATIONAL OFFERING

SPRING HILL FARM, THE PLAINS, VIRGINIA

Absolutely charming log and stucco English Cottage style residence on private 20.19 acres. 3 Bedroom main residence with 2 guest cottages. Fenced pasture. Orange County Fox Hunt Territory. $2,195,000

Anita Sisney 703-973-1987



BROADVIEW, WARRENTON, VIRGINIA

A manor house of history & distinction. Once the site of VA Gold Cup Races, now an elegant Georgian style home of stone construction. Detail & molding work from 1700's incorporated in original plan. $1,595,000

Lynn Wiley 540-454-1527



UPPERVILLE, VIRGINIA

Private 50+ acres in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mtns. 4BR, 3.5BA home beautifully sited providing fabulous views! Pool. Piedmont Hunt. $1,475,000

Carol Fochtman 540-272-4334
Isobel Ziluca 540-454-2041



OAKHILL FARM, DELAPLANE, VIRGINIA

Gracious country living with all the amenities, min to I66 on quiet country road. Easy access to pool surrounded by lovely terracing & hardscaping. Mtn Views. $1,299,000

Lynn Wiley 540-454-1527
Jim Thompson 540-687-2224



MIDDLEBURG, VIRGINIA

Exquisite custom home on 10 private wooded acres near Middleburg. 4 season prop: large interior gathering spaces; prof landscaped heated pool/hottub, stone walls, brick patio, trails. Wine cellar. $1,229,000

Carol Fochtman 540-272-4334



POSSUM HOLLOW, DELAPLANE, VIRGINIA

Lovely brick 5BR on 25 mainly wooded acres. Stunning cherry floors, superb views to the southeast, professionally landscaped. $1,195,000

Carole Miller 540-729-7896
Kevin Keane 540-687-2221



HALFWAY, THE PLAINS, VIRGINIA

Farmhouse style 3BR & 2.5BA home + 2-3BR 2.5BA guest house is attached via breezeway. Both offer country kitchens, spacious masters. 3 acres. $679,000

Lynn Wiley 540-454-1527
Trowbridge Littleton 540-272-2032



COBBLER RIDGE, MARSHALL, VIRGINIA

Classic, turn-of-the-century farm house; 3BR, 2.5BA on 5 pastoral acres including pond. Crest Hill location convenient to I66. $430,000

Kevin Keane 540-454-0905
Betsy Green Hille 540-937-7902



UPPERVILLE, VIRGINIA

Unique stucco with old hardwood floors, doors, woodwork, fireplace mantel & wood burning fireplace. Western side of the Village. Large lot with space for gardens & parking. Sold "AS IS". $339,000

Lynn Wiley 540-454-1527

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