

MIDDLEBURG ELECTION DAY MAY 1ST



Piedmont foxhounds by Rev. Michael Tang

Celebrate "The Year of the Hound" with the Museum of Hounds and Hunting North America's 2018 Art Exhibition and Sale showcasing all 25 recognized Virginia Hunts

FULL STORY ON PAGE 23

MIDDLEBURG TOWN COUNCIL REPORT

DAN MORROW

Registered voters who are residents of the Town of Middleburg will cast ballots on May 1, 2018, at Town Hall, 10 West Marshall Street, in what has become the most highly contested Town election in living memory.

Where once it was difficult to find anyone willing to sacrifice the time and energy to run and serve, on May 1 voters will choose from three candidates for Mayor:

*Vincent Bataoel
Bridge Littleton
Mark Snyder*

Seven candidates for four open seats on Town Council:

*Kevin Hazard
Cindy Pearson
Peter Leonard-Morgan
Darlene Kirk
Mimi Stein
Kristin Noggle
Chris Bernard*

Campaigning ahead of the May 1 vote has been active, highly visible, and, in the words of one resident, "commendably civil."

For the first time in living memory intense local advertising, websites and social media pages, yard signs, door-to-door campaigning, and candidates openly banding together and promoting each other in "slates" have appeared.

All three candidates for Mayor and all seven candidates for Town Council also participated, for the first time, in an open-to-the-public "candidates forum" held before a standing-room-only crowd on April 11 at the Middleburg Community Center. The proceedings were streamed live on the web and recorded. Voters interested in seeing the candidates and hearing what they had to say about key issues facing the town may watch the forum on-

line at MBECC.COM. Click on the link marked:

UPDATED MEET THE CANDIDATES NIGHTS VIDEO

The new Mayor and Council will also be the first to have their regular meetings videoed and streamed, making proceedings instantaneously available to every citizen and Middleburg stakeholder with access to the web.

Town Budget

At Town Council's regular monthly meeting on April 12, Town Administrator Martha Semmes and Town Treasurer Ashley Bott, in response to ongoing Council debate and discussions, formally submitted their 4th revision of Middleburg's 2019 General Fund and Health Center Budget and the 3rd variant of the budget for the town's Utility Fund.

The Town's General Fund budget is, according to the report "in good shape" in spite of a few remaining "unknowns," among them the costs of a sidewalk improvement project on Marshall Street and a formal study of space needs for an expanded administrative building for Town Government.

Projected revenues and expenses total \$3.2 million, a projected increase of a tiny fraction of 1%

Local taxes are expected to raise \$2.3 million; nearly \$799,000 will be derived from local property taxes.

The four largest expense categories are:

*Police: \$868,000
Administration: \$795,000
Maintenance Costs: \$449,000
Economic Development: \$455,000*

Projected Revenues and Expenses for the Town's Utility Fund also show little change, with revenues and costs projected to increase from \$5.2 to less than \$5.3 million

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25



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LEESBURG, VIRGINIA

NEW PRICE! Resort-like 3+ acre estate in Creighton Farms, a sophisticated premier golf community. 7BR, 9BA home w/ pool & everything you could need \$4,998,000
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Tricia Messerschmitt 202-330-2275



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Betsy Schuman Dodek 301-996-8700



PHILOMONT, VIRGINIA

Beautiful Mortise & Tenon Timber Frame Home. Built in 2016 on 10.5 acres. Main floor master suite, elevator/wheelchair accessible. Oak floors, 80+ windows w/ views overlooking Beaverdam Creek. Barn. \$1,925,000
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OAK SPRING FARM, UPPERVILLE, VIRGINIA

Breathtaking 116 acre parcel part of iconic Mellon estate. Some of most beautiful land in Virginia Hunt Country. Mtn views, pond & existing well-maintained 3BR stone cottage. Additional acreage available. \$1,850,000
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Anne Michael Greene 540-364-9500
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FLINT HILL, VIRGINIA

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Amy L. Sloane Timbers 540-987-8668



CRUMMEYS RUN LANE, MIDDLEBURG, VA

Blossom Hill - A lovely 1 story 4BR, 4BA home on 1.9 acs. MBR w/ separate sitting room. HWY & parquet floors throughout. Large yard with mature plantings. Privacy! A great location! \$615,000
Carole Miller 540-729-7896
Kevin Keane 540-687-2221



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Kevin Keane 540-454-0905



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NEW PRICE! 4BR, 1,900+SF of living space! New kitchen, w/ SS, granite, maple cabinets. HWY floors, new baths w/ custom tile, new roof. Hot H2O heater. 4 acre lot, w/ custom design brick patio & deck. \$429,900
Debbie Meighan 571-439-4027

NEWS OF NOTE

A GOODBYE FROM MAYOR DAVIS



BETSY DAVIS

As my time serving on the Middleburg Town Council is quickly coming to an end, it is a great time to reflect on the last 20 years! It has been an honor and a privilege to have been allowed and trusted to help lead this wonderful Town that we all love and cherish. This is not a job that I have taken lightly and I have learned so much in the process.

I've learned that decisions that are made require a lot more time and thought than one may think. There are so many consequences to our actions and ALL must be considered..... it is not always simple.

I've learned that you are never going to always please everyone. No matter how hard we try to make the right decision, there will always be some people that will not be happy..... this is true in all aspects of life, but I have finally been able to accept this and know it's OK.

Once you have made a decision, know you've done the best you could and move on.

I've learned that if you treat people with respect, you will receive respect. We all have our own opinions, but it's how we express our opinion and how we treat others that make the difference.

I've learned that we must listen to others and don't have "tunnel vision". It's also important to make sure people have all of the information to understand why we are making certain decisions..... sometimes a simple explanation makes it easy to understand.

Middleburg is such a special place full of history, beauty, and energy. I am so very proud of how we have continued to grow and move forward with the times and yet have tried very hard to not lose our identity and our charm. I hear people that have grown up here and have moved away say the Town has changed and not the same and I understand that to

a point (I grew up here, too), but how much of that change is actually HOW we grew up and the wonderful simple lives we had when we were young. There are more buildings along the streets, so that certainly has changed the look, but we have worked very hard to maintain the character and appearance of the town. We are blessed to have a strong Planning Commission and Historic District Review Committee, as well as excellent staff to make sure all of these requirements are met. We also have many wonderful committees and volunteers that love our town and work so very hard to make our town so special. Yes, we have changed, but overall I think for the better. If we are not moving forward, we are going backward. We must continue to make sure we stay current and keep our Town healthy..... we must thrive and not just survive.

I am proud of the improvements we have made through the last 20 years....just to name a few:

We have added an economic development department that has given a strong voice to our business community and in return has helped to keep our tax rates low for our citizens. We have also been able to help many local events take place by helping them financially and giving them a boost to move forward and we have continued to support many of our established events. We are in the process of bringing new businesses to our town that will enhance what we have and offer even more for our residents and visitors.

Our utility systems are in excellent shape and we now have the money (through good financial planning and a great utilities committee) to upgrade all of our systems and water and sewer lines (which we are in the process of upgrading in our Ridgeview area right now). We also have added money to our budget to be able to continue to upgrade our systems through the years as the needs arise..... we are in great shape above and below ground!

This has been a long time coming! And contrary to what some think, our rates are quite reasonable.

Our streets have never looked better! Our power lines were buried; new water lines installed, new streetlights and crosswalks were upgraded. So again, below and above ground, we are in good shape! I hear from so many how good the town looks and business is strong.

Our budget is strong and well managed. Our council (past and present) has worked very hard to make sure we spend wisely and save money for our future.

I know that our future will be in strong and capable hands

and I have no doubt that future Mayors and Councils will continue to make the right and well thought out decisions for our Town and its citizens. We are so very blessed to have such caring, smart and dedicated employees. They make all of us look good! I know we will continue to have and hire the strong staff that we have now. The hiring process is long but finds us only the best to work for our Town.

It is a bittersweet time for me..... I will miss being part of the Middleburg Town Council and working with such great people, but I look forward to some more "me" time and doing more with my family.

I sincerely thank you for the trust you have placed in me..... it truly has been an honor. I have learned so much and also have made so many wonderful friendships. Not only have I worked with so many great people in our town, but in the County and the State. I will carry these friendships forward with me and for that, I am truly blessed.

I will cherish these last 20 years and will look forward to watching the exciting times of the next 20 for our wonderful town!

With love and thanks,
Betsy

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MIDDLEBURG CANDIDATES



KEVIN HAZARD
For Council



KRISTIN NOGGLE
For Council



VINCENT BATAOEL
For Mayor



MIMI STEIN
For Council



CINDY PEARSON
For Council

VOTE MAY 1 • MIDDLEBURG TOWN HALL (10 W. MARSHALL ST.) • 6AM - 7PM
PAID FOR AND AUTHORIZED BY VINCENT, KEVIN, KRISTIN, MIMI, AND CINDY FOR MIDDLEBURG

NEWS OF NOTE

IT PAYS TO BE THRIFTY

NANCY MILBURN KLECK

Spring is here! Commence your spring cleaning! Here in Middleburg and the surrounding area, we are fortunate to have a wide variety of “thrift” shops, places to which one can donate long unneeded but perfectly good items of all kinds, or consign, and destinations for those who enjoy the search for a great find at a great price

The Middleburg Humane Foundation thrift shop, formerly located next to Scruffy’s Ice Cream and Coffee Parlour on Washington Street, has moved to a bigger location on West Main Street in Marshall and has been renamed The Middleburg Humane Foundation Resale Boutique. A very fitting name for the improved quality of items, and with a bigger store, the variety is impressive. Funds raised go to the operation of the animal shelter and attending costs in helping our animal friends in need.

In Upperville sits a little gem named the Golden Rooster Thrift Shop. Lovingly referred to as the “Upperville Dollar Store”, this open on Saturday mornings only, 9 am to 12-noon shop is located on the Upperville Episcopal Church property. It’s literally chock full of bargains at dollar prices, and most notably boasts a terrific men’s section. An all-volunteer staff is lead by Cindy Thompson (Dougherty, MD), and Nancy Phenicie who do a herculean job of sorting the donations and bringing in new items each week. Their BIG fundraiser, the “Boutique Sale”, is May 26th and 27th, Memorial Day weekend, 9 am to 5 pm. Designer clothing, shoes, jewelry, accessories, is likened to a Filene’s Basement wedding dress sale. For those who want an early shopping opportunity, a preview party is on Friday, May 25th, from 6 - 9 pm, with a \$10 admittance donation. The funds raised go to those with immediate financial emergencies, among other types of assistance.

Fortunately, the old MHF space did not stay empty for long. Newly painted and appointed, Old Millstones Thrift Shop - Art and Antiques - offers a fabulous array of vintage, aged, historical and collectible: books, jewelry, china, metal, clothing, art, prints, memorabilia, antiques, and a little contemporary thrown in for good measure. Walking into the store is like walking back in time. Owner David Braun has an eye for the unique, interesting, and rare, and prices everything to go. This is not a donation business, per se, for it was David’s dream to have a place to display and offer things he has been collecting for years. There’s a story behind each item, ask him!

The White Elephant, on Federal Street, is a do not miss consignment store famous for brand new, mint, fashionable items and interesting things. And when you’re done shopping, enjoy the



DAVID BRAUN OLDE MILLSTONES THRIFT SHOP IN MIDDLEBURG

best ice cream (Hershey’s) ever at Scruffy’s. Now in its 30th year, shop owner Hilleary Bogley shares tip jar donations with several animal rescue groups and being pet-friendly, dog bones are plentiful for the hungry pooch.

In the area, Blue Ridge Hospice has nine locations from Winchester to Harrisonburg. The hospice organization supports patients and families needing end-of-life care regardless of ability to pay. Each store is well



CINDY THOMPSON AND NANCY PHENICIE OF UPPERVILLE’S GOLDEN ROOSTER THRIFT SHOP

organized, the easy to spot weekly discounts are color coded, and their dedicated staff makes for a very enjoyable day after you’ve brought your donations - hint, hint. It’s best to check with each business before donating items,

especially electronics, and many offer a pick-up service for larger items like furniture, even automobiles.

Paying it forward and giving back, with so many options, start your spring cleaning today!

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WE SUPPORT BRIDGE LITTLETON

WE ARE:

Residents of the town or surrounding community
Business owners, people who work in town
Current or former members of town committees.

THIS IS OUR COMMUNITY:

We are invested in the future of Middleburg.
We care about our Town.

We believe in informed, involved and caring leadership... THAT IS WHY WE SUPPORT BRIDGE LITTLETON FOR MAYOR!

Donna Baker
Jilann Brunett
Candis Cunningham
Page Dimos
Helen Donavan
John Donavan
Elizabeth Dubovsk
Kathy Fisher
Wendy Gate
Hilary Hyland
Ronald and Mary Jo Jackson
Morris Jacob
Virginia Jenkins
Thomas Kaugher
Fred Kohler
Sophie Langenberg
Punkin Lee
Trow and Margaret Littleton
Hunt and Sue Lyman
Catherine and Tal Mack
Mark Metzger
Philip & Jessica Miller
C. Bundles Murdock
Geraldine Napper
Melissa Neal
Will Nisbet
Ann Northrup

Tom and Lisa Patterson
Cynthia Plante
Judith and Steven Plescow
Tony and Kay Pierce
Joan Faville-Ramsey
Ken Reid
Eloise Repeczky
Will Rudy
Kathy jo Shea
Kim Shelly
Erik Sheps
Greg Sherman
Stephen Slade
Nina Sommerfelt
Allan and Donna Strama
Ray Trader
Dody Vehr
Viviane Warren
Julie Weir
Carol Evans & Tony Wells
Jack and Meredith Whiting
Helen Wiley
Barbara and Jim Wilson
Bridget and Brian Wilson
Jack Wood
Mary and Don Woodruff
Mark Wyatt

**May 1ST Middleburg's election
for Mayor and Town Council.
Remember to Vote!**



Dear Friends and Neighbors;

Middleburg is more than a set of buildings or paved streets, its more than dollars and cents, this is a community we proudly call home. We care deeply about where we live and those we call neighbor. That is the special nature of Middleburg. It is this community which has made me the person I am today, and I want to take this opportunity, above all, to thank you for what you have done for me and Middleburg.

Thank you to Juanita Fisher, Till and Smitty, Rev. and Mrs. Swann, Malvina and Blan Washington and everyone on Lincoln Road who taught me to appreciate each person for who they are.

Thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Allen for teaching me how much a smile and a kind word can change anyone (and for letting my play tag in their garden).

Thank you to Alice Edwards at the B&A for showing me the power of generosity and giving me a root beer on so many hot summers days.

Thank you to my father for showing me what pure kindness is and the importance of community service.

Thank you to Eura Lewis for showing me the power of perseverance in making her dream of the Middleburg Museum become a reality.

Thank you to my fellow Town Council Members; Kevin Daly, Mark Snyder, Peter Leonard-Morgan, Darlene Kirk, Philip Miller and Kevin Hazard, for bringing out the best in us all for our town.

Thank you to the Community Center for providing us all with a place to play and make lasting friendships. I still miss the bowling.

Thank you to Betsy Davis, for babysitting me as a small child and still doing so on Council, and for being an honorable and selfless leader for our Town.

Thank you to the Windy Hill Foundation for showing me the value of protecting members of our community when they need it most.

Thank you to our dedicated Town Staff and Police for inspiring me do my best for Middleburg, as they do.

Thank you to Mark Snyder and Vincent Bataoel for their commitment to our town and for reminding me to offer my best self throughout this campaign.

Finally, thanks each of you, my neighbors and friends, for trusting me as a Planning Commissioner and now as a member of Town Council. I sincerely hope I've earned your trust in taking this next step as Mayor of Middleburg. You are why I work so hard on these important issues. We will face them together and succeed as a community. Please vote May 1st.

Sincerely,

Bridge



NEWS OF NOTE

NEW STABLES ON THE MALL FOR PARK POLICE HORSES

LAUREN R. GIANNINI

Beautifully visible because of their horses, the U.S. Park Police mounted units attract a fair amount of attention from 36 million annual visitors to the National Mall in Washington, D.C. People love the horses whose strong yet very quiet presence helps to safeguard the public, whether assigned to routine patrol or events such as marches, demonstrations, and concerts.

Behind the scenes, however, it isn't so pretty. The stables, built in 1975 for temporary use during

the Bicentennial, have remained in service to facilitate the vital role of the Park Police on and around the Mall. In 2010, at the completion of the comprehensive National Mall Plan study, the stables were recognized as a critical project. Moisture and associated rot, mildew, and poor ventilation are among the problems posing safety concerns for horses and officers.

The Trust for the National Mall, a non-profit partner of the National Park Service, decided to build a brand new facility for the U.S. Park Police. One of the Trust's newer board members, Sheila Johnson, CEO and found-

er of Salamander Hotels and Resorts, is acting as project champion to raise the funds. An avid supporter of the arts and of horse sports and competitions, Johnson kick-started the fund-raising by pledging \$1 million, initiating the design process for the new stables.

"This is one of the most important projects I've ever taken on," Johnson said. "It's really important that we re-build the stables – not only for the mounted police but also to provide a better, healthy environment for the well-being and welfare of the horses. This is a project that this area can 'own.'"



OFFICER HARRIS USPP

Drawings by architect Tasos Kokoris, who specializes in equestrian design, are an impressive blend of form and function, creating a physical layout ideal for urban horse-keeping. The facility will have 20 stalls, improved turnout, heated wash stall and tack room, and other vital amenities that include proper drainage, secure police staff offices, and an educational area for visitors.

The U.S. Park Police Horse Mounted Unit, established in 1934, is one of the oldest police equestrian units in the country. Over the years, it expanded to an operational strength in order to patrol and provide protection to the National Mall and nearby areas. Horse-mounted units continue to prove their important contribution to law enforcement. One special duty is the celebration of Independence Day with its grand finale of fireworks – great bangs and booms from brilliant pyrotechnical explosions that light up the night sky – all part of the day's work for horses and officers, both trained to cope with all kinds of emergencies.

"The Trust is involved in many exciting projects on the National Mall, but the US Park Police horse stables is one that

has touched our hearts," said Teresa Durkin, Executive Vice-President of the Trust for the National Mall. "We are so grateful to Ms. Johnson for championing this important effort to rebuild the stables for the US Park Police and the amazing horses they work with every day. This project is also a rare and unique opportunity to educate visitors of all ages about the work and the rich history of the U.S. Park Police mounted unit on the National Mall."

Contributions to the building fund for the new Park Police Stables on the Mall are greatly appreciated and keep in mind that your donations to the Trust are tax-deductible. The plans include green building elements and environmentally-friendly materials, and the new facility will offer educational programs for all ages.

Watch the Youtube.com video: "Help Rebuild the U.S. Park Police Stables on the National Mall"

For info, to discuss your interest or commit your pledge:

Cheryl Bratz, Major Gift Officer, Trust for the National Mall:

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www.nationalmall.org

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NEWS OF NOTE

COFFEE WITH THE CURATOR ALWAYS A GOOD CUP

NANCY MILBURN KLECK

As the National Sporting Library & Museum opens its highly anticipated exhibition, "A Sporting Vision: The

Paul Mellon Collection of British Sporting Art from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts," sporting art lovers and local equestrians enjoyed a most informative Coffee with the Curator, Dr. Colleen Yager, Curatorial Research Spe-

cialist and Curatorial Assistant for the Paul Mellon Collections at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. Before the tour, excited guests enjoyed a delectable selection of croissants and muffins, and freshly brewed coffee.

Curators know intimately the collection about which they speak, and Dr. Yager was undeniably filled with joy and enthusiasm as she talked about her "many favorites" throughout the exhibition rooms, sharing interesting bits of information while answering questions. Surrounded by the works of George Stubbs, Alfred Munnings, Benjamin Marshall, and so many other great painters, the exhibition is simply breathtaking. It is a "needs two visits at least to take it all in".

Rarely, if ever, does the collection travel. VMFA exhibition room renovations prompted the question of "what do we do with, and where to house these works?" The natural answer was to go on tour, and the NSLM was the tour's first destination.

Hosting the second "Coffee with the Curator" during this exhibition will be the NSLM's George L. Ohrstrom, Jr. Curator of Art, Claudia Pfeiffer, to be held Saturday, May 19, 10-11:30 am. It was recently announced that Pfeiffer has been invited to



VMFA CURATOR COLLEEN YAGER DISCUSSING A BENJAMIN MARSHALL PAINTING

attend the Attingham Trust Study Programme in England on The Horse and The Country House.

Adding to the milestone of such a prestigious exhibition, the NSLM's Clarice & Robert H. Smith Educator, Anne Marie Paquette, has been nominated for the Virginia Association of Museums' Museum Educator of the Year. Frances Monroe, Membership & Events Manager, has been awarded a scholarship to attend the University of Richmond's Institute on Philanthropy. The recent exhibition catalogue for The Horse In Ancient Greek Art has been nominated for the American Horse Publications' Equine Media Awards. Facets of this mu-

seum's gems continue to sparkle.

An auspicious beginning to the year, indeed, for the NSLM. "A Sporting Vision" runs through July 22. In September, the NSLM will present "Sidesaddle, 1690-1935," an exhibition surely to generate immense interest among the ladies who ride aside here in Middleburg and around the world. Years of research for this exhibition culminate in a new catalogue with original scholarship on this style of riding that has seen renewed interest in recent years.

The NSLM is open Wednesday through Sunday, 10 am to 5 pm. For more information, visit www.NationalSporting.org

PHOTOS BY NANCY MILBURN KLECK



OFFICER HARRIS CLAUDIA PFEIFFER AND COLLEEN YAGER, PH.D. OF VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

RUNNING WITH THOSE THAT CAN'T



Cricket Bedford and daughter Louise Whitner run a half-marathon in the Czech Republic with team Smiling Crocodiles,

Virginian Scott Keel's charity that provides special needs children with a carriage and team to run road races in the Czech Republic. The charity also supports

complex needs and hearing impaired children living in poverty as far as Asia and Africa. Local gals making a difference.



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RE-ELECT DARLENE KIRK TO TOWN COUNCIL

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18 Years on Town Council
12 Years as Vice Mayor
Chair, Personnel & Finance Committee
Chair, Health Center Advisory Board
Chair, Ad-Hoc Property Committee
Former Planning Commissioner & Vice Chair

  **VOTE MAY 1: IT MATTERS**

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SATURDAY MAY 5, 2018

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NEWS OF NOTE

MIDDLEBURG STARTS CIGARETTE RECYCLING PROGRAM

The Town of Middleburg now has a cigarette recycling program. Many of the Town's trash cans have a new addition – a cigarette waste receptacle – to collect cigarette butts, filters, ash, and wrappers.

The Town collects the cigarette waste placed in the receptacles and sends it to TerraCycle for recycling. TerraCycle recycles that waste at no charge to the Town. For every pound of cigarette waste the Town recycles, TerraCycle also makes a \$1 donation to Keep America Beautiful.

The recycling process involves separating the tobacco and paper from the other waste. The tobacco and paper are composted. Filters and other plastic waste (yes, filters are made of thousands of tiny plastic fibers, not cotton) are cleaned, melted, and formed into pellets. The plastic pellets are then mixed with other plastics like polypropylene and polyethylene to make recycled plastic products like shipping pallets, plastic lumber, and ashtrays. If Middleburg's smokers faithfully use the cigarette waste receptacles, the Town expects to recycle over 250,000 cigarette butts per year.

The cigarette recycling program is designed to keep Middleburg cleaner and to keep residents, visitors, pets, and wildlife safer. Cigarette butts are the most frequently littered item in the world, and Middleburg is part of the world when it comes to cigarette litter. During Town clean-ups, volunteers find cigarette butts tossed on the street, in parking lots, in grassy areas, in bushes, and in planters. Cigarette butts are the item volunteers pick up most frequently, and cigarette butts probably outnumber all other types of litter by at least 20 to 1.

Cigarette filters are more than just unsightly litter. They contain nicotine as well as some mixture of up to 165 other toxic chemicals. Every year, infants and toddlers, pets, and wildlife are poisoned by trying to eat cigarette butts. As little as 1 milligram of nicotine can be toxic to an infant, and waste cigarette filters can contain 5-7 milligrams of nicotine. According to Professor Jonathan Folds at the Penn State College of Medicine, there are hundreds of cases of children being poisoned by cigarettes each year.

Putting cigarette waste in the new receptacles also protects the Town's water from the toxic chemicals contained in cigarette butts. We know that cigarette butts are a source of water pollution because clean-up volunteers find piles of dozens and sometimes hundreds of cigarette butts in areas where leaves or other debris block storm drains and roadside drainage areas. Rains push the other cigarette waste down the Town's storm drains and roads, into local creeks,



ponds and rivers, and eventually into the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean where they leach toxic chemicals into the water.

Studies conducted by Clean

Virginia Waterways showed that as little as one cigarette butt in two gallons of water leached enough toxic chemicals to kill water fleas (*Daphnia ambigua*). Water fleas are important micro-

scopic crustaceans that live in most Northern Virginia ponds, slow-moving streams, and lakes. Water fleas form the basic food source for small fish, tadpoles, salamanders, newts and aquatic

insects.

Please use and urge your friends to use the new cigarette receptacles and to participate in keeping Middleburg clean and safe.

Namaste close to home.

Spring into shape with Salamander Resort & Spa's new fitness classes, open to the public. Rest, destress and manifest with our Yin Yoga workshop on April 7, enjoy our Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy Charity Yoga workshop on April 22 to celebrate Earth Day and take to the water with our unique Aqua Yoga Workshop on April 28 to enhance your yoga practices.

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NEWS OF NOTE

JOIN TWO TERRIFIC YOUNG VOICES ON A MUSICAL TOUR

So, you like the singers on the show "The Voice," right? Well, get ready for the arrival of two young men with voices that can make any talent judge's jaw drop.

On Sunday, May 13 at 3 p.m. in Middleburg, tenor Julian Baldwin and bass Peter Barber will give a tour of solos and duets that spans

over 250 years. You'll hear pieces from Handel's Messiah and selections from Mozart's The Magic Flute and The Marriage of Figaro. Newer offerings draw from A Little Night Music, Into the

and The Last Five Years. Lots of variety and fun, and you'll not want to miss the world's beloved duet from Bizet's "The Pearl Fishers."

This concert is part of the At the Parish House performance series of Middleburg's Emmanuel Episcopal Church, where a wide variety of artists are showcased throughout the year.

This time Emmanuel welcomes Julian Baldwin, a 23-year-old tenor who has performed in musical theatre productions locally and on tour for many years. He has had several lead roles with The Same Sky Project, including a special engagement at the Kennedy Center. Also, he has starred in the title role of Willy Wonka and as the Wolf in Into The Woods.

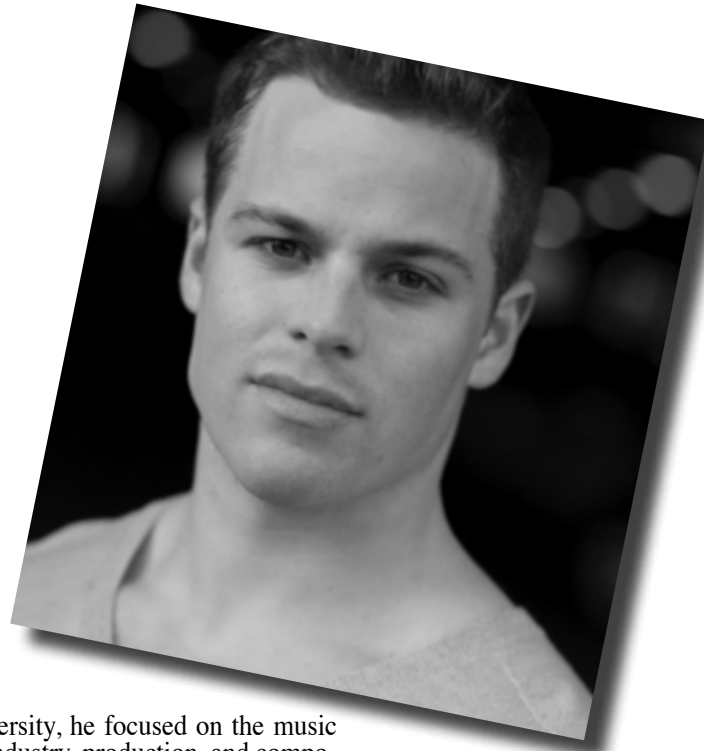
Joining Julian is 24-year-old bass Peter Barber, formerly a vocal performance major at the University of Miami. This led to many operatic roles, and with a transfer to James Madison Uni-

versity, he focused on the music industry, production, and composition. He has produced a wide range of music tracks, vocal arrangements, and original choral works. While at JMU, Peter has had operatic leads in The Barber of Seville, The Mikado, and Così fan tutte.

The concert will be held in the Parish House at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, located at 105 East

Washington Street in the heart of historic Middleburg. All are invited and light refreshments will be offered. Donations to support the series are always welcomed, and there will be time to talk with the artists. Seats may be reserved by calling (540) 687-6297.

For further information, contact Parishsecretary@emmanuelmiddleburg.org.



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NEWS OF NOTE

THE ARTIST AND THE SOLDIER

RYAN PERRY

Angelle Cook is the Program Director at A Place to Be, a certified and practicing drama therapist, and now, a published novelist, writing under the pen name, Angelle Petta. She was also my theatre professor at Lord Fairfax Community College, and as a friend and former student, I couldn't be more proud to see the release of her debut novel, *The Artist and the Soldier*.

Set against the backdrop of World War II, *The Artist and the Soldier* is a historical fiction story that follows two young men who fall in love amidst true, miraculous events that took place around the time of the war. Cook said that the inspiration for the story came to her while visiting Rome three years ago.

"When I heard these stories, I was like, 'how do I not know about this? How do people not know about this?'" Cook exclaimed. "So I decided that someone needs to tell these stories."

To ensure historical accuracy, Cook delved into an extensive research process.

"My first part of the process was research, but I knew I wanted to get into the characterization before digging into the history," Cook said. "So I spent about six months writing and researching, and then another six months of

just research. My research on World War II was very in-depth, specifically focusing on Rome. I knew some history of the war, but certainly not specific battles or events that would drive the plot forward."

Cook naturally approached the prospect of representing true events with some apprehension, but found a way to add her creative voice while still retaining the historical authenticity.

"I was definitely nervous about representing real people, which is why I wanted to make the main characters totally fictional," Cook said. "I was very hesitant to use real people, but because it's a real story, I had to use them in some context. When describing these characters, I had to be very careful with my words, and tried to use as much real information as I could. Something that someone might say in a casual conversation isn't exactly available for research, so I had to do some guessing for that. I hope that if anyone who is related to these people reads it, they are okay with my representation."

When asked what the book means to her, Cook movingly described love's ability to endure, and to outshine overwhelming ugliness.

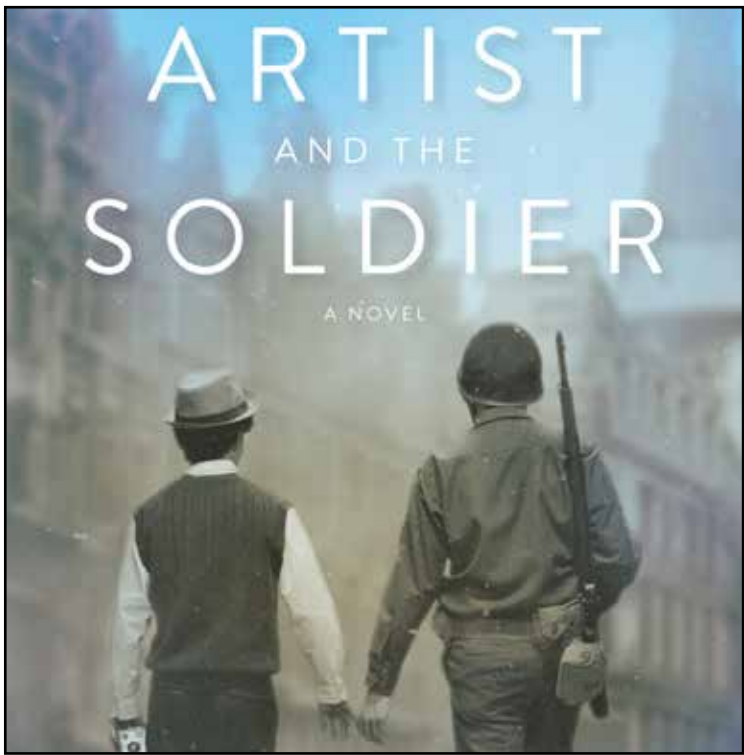
"It was really interesting to dive into the ugliness of World War II, and to come out of it having learned about the positivity of

human nature," Cook explained. And what does she hope that her readers draw from the story?

"I want other people to know about the things that happened, because I thought that these stories were fascinating," Cook said. "I read a ton of historical fiction in order to learn about history, and I think there is a great responsibility for writers of historical fiction to accurately portray what happened at that time, because it really is an educational tool."

Cook has written three books prior to this one, and in addition to valuing the responsibility to write authentically, has some sage advice for aspiring writers.

"Don't stop writing, and don't stop reading, because those are the most important things that a writer can do to learn," Cook advised. "One of the biggest things that I've taken for myself as a writer is as long as I know that I am trying my hardest on my own personal craft and putting everything into it, and I feel good about what I put out, it doesn't matter if someone else doesn't like it. You have to put your ego to the side, and just do what you know, and write what you know, and there's no right or wrong. You have to be able to stand up for the thing you created and say that it's worthwhile, but also have the humility to understand that there are a million things better than it."



With the writing process for her latest work behind her, Cook has described her current feeling as "overwhelming, but happy."

"I'm trying to stay in the moment, because I will only have one debut novel," Cook said. "In that way, this will never be harder, and it will never be easier; it will never be harder, because you only have to do it for the first time once. So I only have to navigate marketing and publishing once, but it will never be easier because the market is constantly changing, and where I place my next book may be totally different, and that's if I can even place it."

But amidst all of the exciting emotions, Cook has never forgotten her reasons for writing.

"As much as I wrote this novel for me, I also wrote it for the people who need a story like this," Cook said. "I hope people read it and take something from it that they can carry with them."

To receive a signed copy of *The Artist and the Soldier*, you can visit Angelle's book launch at A Place to Be on Sunday, May 6, from 5 - 7:30pm. The launch will consist of the opportunity to purchase signed books from 5 - 6, followed by a brief reading and Q&A session. For more information, visit Angelle's author site, angellepetta.com

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ARF SAYS GOODBY

Since it was founded eight years ago, the **ANIMAL RESCUE FUND (ARF)** has raised and distributed to animal rescue organizations more than one million dollars.

This has helped rescue and rehabilitate thousands of animals in need. But now it is time to pass the torch, and for my husband Ken and I to go back into retirement. We would like to thank the many people who assisted us along the way.

First, the ARF Board of Directors who guided the organization and worked so tirelessly as volunteers at each fundraising event: **Cathy Boswell, Mary Johnson, Karlane Kosjer, Sandal LaRose, Manisha Morris, Laura Neischel, Wendy Smith and Rhonda Wilkins.** As well as Former Board Members, **Karen Rockwood, Phillipa Lewis, Glenda Cudabaack, Patricia Bschorr, Gail Guirrerri, Jennifer Richards, Colleen Hahn, Christin Cotton, Carole Stadfield, Danielle Kazmier, Dede McClure, Kathy Durand and Angelic Webber.**

Many thanks to our Advisory Board: **Senator Jill Vogel, Mary Leigh McDaniel, Dr. Belinda Burwell, Rose Mary Bogley** and some of our hardest working Volunteers: **Sandy Schwalb, Holly Vandervort, Leslie DiNick, Pat Wellford, Shelley Brown, June Hughes, Karen Halver and K. C. Rietz**

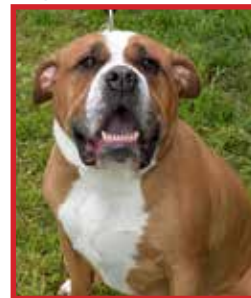
Underwriters who provided ARF's foundation allowing us to award Grants to the many Animal Rescue Organizations include: **Jacqueline Badger Mars, Michael and Wendy Smith, Manley and Mary Johnson, Zohar and Lisa Ben Dov, Ben Cooper and Polly Gault, David and Barbara Roux, Ken Rietz and Ursula Landsrath, Howard and Rhonda Wilkins, Greg and Candy Fazakerley, Rose Marie Bogley, Joyce Mullins, The Virginia-Maryland-Washington, DC Dog Magazine, Pedigree® by Mars, Wiseman & Associates, The Middleburg Eccentric, Discovery Publications, Holtzman Vogel Josefiak Torchinsky PLLC., Updegrave Combs & McDaniel PLC, and The Cynthia Dunn Charitable Trust,**

There is no way to list all the names of the many supporters who attended events, and donated funds as well as in-kind goods. They know who they are and it is they who were the reason the **ANIMAL RESCUE FUND** was able to help medicate, spay and neuter, feed and save thousands of lives.

Therefore, on behalf of all those animals, we **THANK YOU.**
Founder and former President, ARF
Ursula Landsrath

I am in favor of animal rights as well as human rights. That is the way of a whole human being."
Abraham Lincoln 1809-1865

"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated."
Mahatma Gandhi 1869-1948



NEWS OF NOTE

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NEWS OF NOTE

ACR PRESENTS ANNUAL AWARDS TO CELEBRATE OUTSTANDING ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENTS



plant over 500 million new trees for ecosystem repair and climate impact in the Mississippi Alluvial Valley, North America's largest rainforest and waterfowl migratory corridor. By partnering with close to 500 landowners on over 120,000 acres to date to reforest their degraded lands, GreenTrees has enhanced wildlife habitat, improved water and soil quality and delivered local economic development benefits in addition to generating over 2.5 million tonnes of verified carbon offsets for partners including Norfolk Southern, Duke Energy, United Airlines, Arbor Day Foundation, Blue Mountain Brewery and Skyway Air Taxi, among others.

Who knew that a little company in The Plains, Virginia would be "the world's largest reforestation project both in terms of volume of high-quality verified emissions reductions issued and number of participating landowners and acres." And to receive recognition along Mars, famed Paul Hawken, and Airlines For America (which is building the largest carbon market in the world set for 2021).

GreenTrees received ACR's Innovation award in recognition of exceptional implementation of the world's largest reforestation project both in terms of volume of high-quality verified emissions reductions issued and number of participating landowners and acres. The GreenTrees project is a one-million-acre conservation initiative that aims to

"We highly value this award and thank the American Carbon Registry for its keen understanding of research and market-based programs, our corporate clients and carbon buyers for endorsing our work, our conservation community friends for their wonderful counsel over the years, and our landowners as partners. Their stake as equity brokers with us is the chief factor creating the prairie fire of steadily expanding healthy forest ecosystems, which is the leading reforestation co-benefit for our time," said Jerry Van Voorhis, president and chief executive officer of GreenTrees. "We believe that ecosystem change in forestry alone will help bend the climate curve back most, replenish our earth, and let the tools of capitalism work for the greater good of the planet."

WHAT'S GOING ON IN TOWN?

Pastor Steve Weedling of the Middleburg United Methodist Church and Rectortown United Methodist Church will preach this year's ecumenical sermon at Middleburg's 42nd annual Free Church Homecoming, to be held on Sunday, June 10 at the Middleburg Baptist Church located at 209 East Federal Street in Middleburg.

The Free Church Homecoming began as a patriotic ecumenical service during the 1976 Bicentennial. It brought all of Middleburg's worshipping constituents together in a joint celebration at the site of the original "Free Church", constructed in the late 1700's and used at that time by the

Methodist, Baptist and Episcopal congregations.

This year we are beginning a series of three years of services preached by one of our local Pastors each year instead of bringing in an outside speaker. As we have new Pastors, we felt it would introduce each one to our community in a joint setting.

The service begins at 11:00 a.m. and will be followed by a potluck picnic lunch on the church grounds. Everyone is invited to provide a dessert or side dish for the picnic. Meats, rolls, and beverages will be provided by the host church. Childcare will be provided for the service. This event is open to the public.

THE PIEDMONT REGIONAL ART SHOW & SALE



The Piedmont Regional Art Show & Sale remains a must-see event, featuring more than 300 works in a variety of media. Grace Episcopal Church, 6507 Main Street, The Plains, VA, has hosted the show for 71 consecutive years.

The show and sale continue to grow every year and is a major fundraiser for the church. Over the past five years, the show has averaged 335 entries. This year's event will see extended sale hours.

This year's show and sale will kick off May 18 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. with the Opening Gala for artists and sponsors. Admission to the Gala opening is complementary to exhibiting artists and sponsors. There is a \$15 admission charge for additional guests.

The show continues May 19 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and May 20 from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. There is no admission fee, though donations are gratefully accepted.

"This is a nice local show," says Dana Thompson, last year's Best in Show winner for "Hound Study," an oil painting on board. The Midland, VA, resident will enter three paintings in this year's show, which is steeped in tradition.

The first art show at Grace Episcopal in 1947 was inspired by the Reverend Harold Peters, an artist himself. It began as a project of the Episcopal Church Women. Today, the show and sale has grown to involve volunteer efforts of the entire parish and is a favorite spring event in the region. Throughout its history, the art show has featured the works of artists of all media, ages, and levels of experience, including the work of established professionals.

Thompson has entered the Piedmont show the past 20 years. Her mother recently passed, and Thompson said she will dedicate her participation in this year's show to her mom. "My mom was a former member of Grace Church and always loved this show," she says. Thompson strictly paints wildlife, a reflection on her own menagerie of three dogs, a cat, two chickens and two goats. "I've always loved animals so it was the natural thing for me to paint."

Among this year's jurists are

David Williams and Cody Leaser. Williams has been a professional artist for 22 years. His paintings are immediately recognized for quiet composition and richly textured surfaces. His work has been exhibited nationally and is found in hundreds of collection throughout the United States and abroad. He currently resides and teaches oil and acrylic painting classes in The Plains.

Leaser, who lives in Orleans, started painting in 2010 when she began private lessons. Since then, her work is shown in most

local shows and has garnered numerous awards, including Best in Show at the Piedmont Regional. Leaser has an international following with paintings in private collections throughout Europe.

Caroline Nash-Helmly also will be a show judge. Born in Indiana and raised in Michigan, she always loved the country and the animals found in barnyards and on farms. An intellectual property attorney by trade, she's been painting all her life for relaxation. She loves watercolor, oils, and acrylics. The Middleburg

resident enjoys riding horses, hunting with the Piedmont Hunt, raising chickens and miniature horses.

Proceeds from the show benefit local ministries of Grace Church and help ensure the continuation of the show. This year's honorary co-chairs are Landon and Carol Butler.

For more details, visit www.gracetheplains.org, email artshow@gracetheplains.org, check out www.facebook.com/artshowatgrace or call 540-253-5177, Ext. 104.



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Art Exhibit / Sale

The Year of the Hound

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American Academy of Equine Art

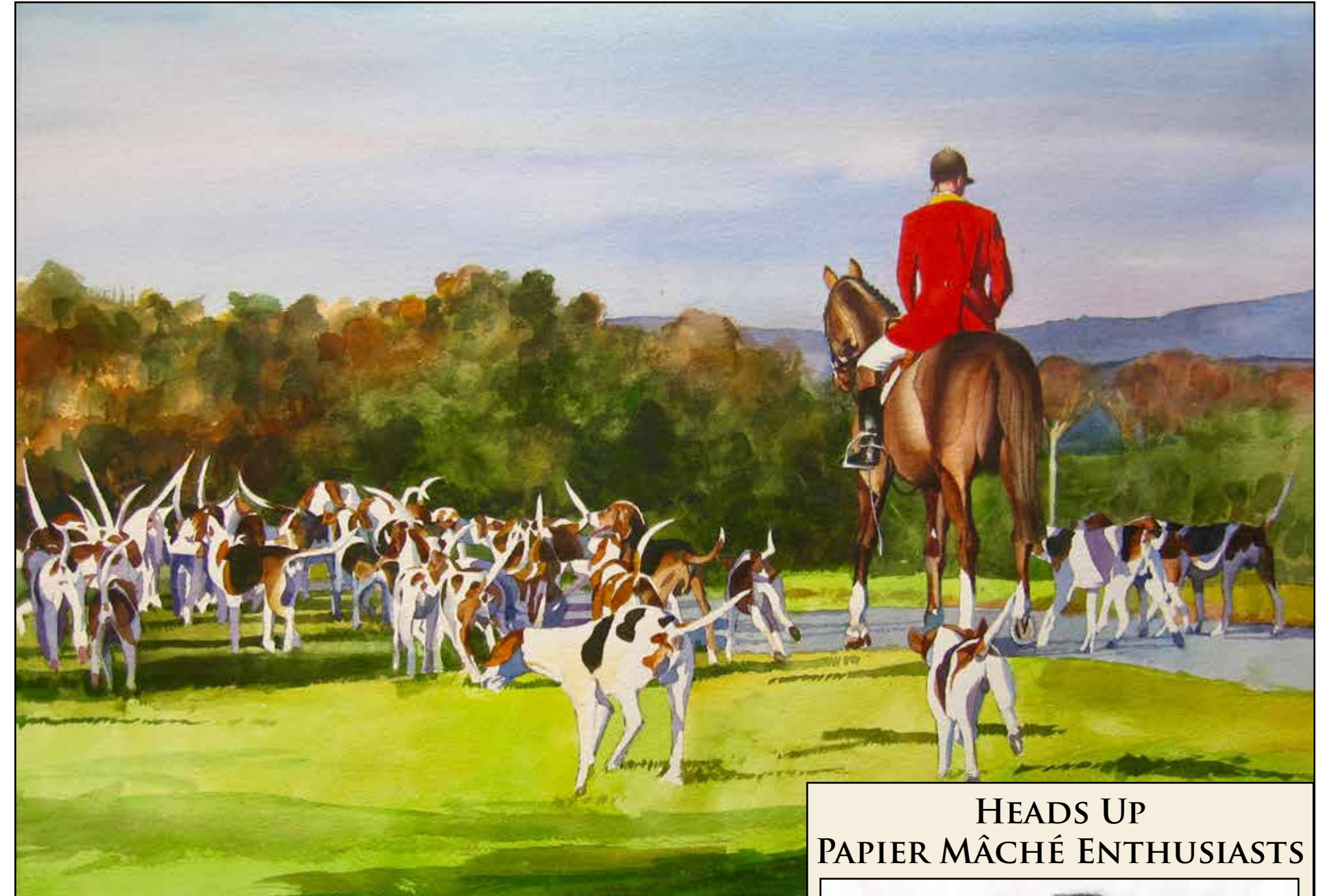
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NEWS OF NOTE

CELEBRATE "THE YEAR OF THE HOUND" WITH THE MUSEUM OF HOUNDS AND HUNTING



PIEDMONT FOXHOUNDS BY REV. MICHAEL TANG

LAUREN R. GIANNINI

If you thrill to the spectacular sporting pageant of fox hounds, horses, and breathtaking views, now's the time to make plans to join the celebration of "The Year of the Hound": Museum of Hounds and Hunting North America's 2018 Art Exhibition and Sale showcasing all 25 recognized Virginia Hunts. The grand opening for Museum members takes place on Saturday, May 26, 4 p.m. at the Morven Park Mansion, Leesburg.

On Sunday, May 27, during the annual Virginia Foxhound Show, the exhibition and sale will be open for everyone to enjoy (no admission charge) during the annual Virginia Foxhound Show. After that, MHHNA's art show welcomes visitors every Saturday and Sunday through June 26 from noon to 5 p.m.

"The Year of the Hound" features well-established artists, who are Signature members of the American Academy of Equine Art: Christine M. Cancelli, Kathleen S. Freidenberg (sculptor), Morgen Kilborn (sculptor), Booth Malone, Joanne Mehl, Sally Moren, Rev. Michael Tang, Linda Volrath, and Larry

Dodd Wheeler.

The focus on Virginia hunts is the brainchild of sporting artist, Rev. Michael Tang. His watercolors and oil paintings hang in many private and permanent collections throughout the U.S. and have graced covers of the Chronicle of the Horse, to name just one publication.

"I wanted to do something special to help rejuvenate the mission of the AAEA," Tang said. "Although it's not an official Academy exhibition, it has been greatly helped by the support of Nina Bonnie, who wrote a letter encouraging all the Virginia masters to get involved. We're all very excited about this exhibition."

Booth Malone, president of AAEA's Board of Directors, said: "The idea was to take nine seasoned equestrian artists from all over the country, put them in Virginia for one year, and see what happens. Our goal was to include every recognized Virginia hunt and despite wind, rain, blizzards and a few canceled meets, I think we accomplished our goal."

"I wish to thank the officers and members of the Virginia Fox Hound Club, along with numerous masters and huntsmen, for

their help and cooperation," continued Malone. "The artwork is spectacular, and I'm proud to be a part of it. I wager this show will be long remembered."

The Museum of Hounds and Hunting has a solid reputation for excellent exhibitions, and this latest entry is a winner. "The Year of the Hound" pays tribute in oil, watercolor, sketch, and sculpture to quintessential scenes, including hounds flowing like a multi-colored wave over a coop, crossing streams, the field checked motionless against backdrops of gorgeous open country, hounds in repose in kennels, puppies, huntsman with hounds, to name a few.

Best of all, these timeless and universal scenes will appeal to anyone from any part of the sporting cosmos. Enthusiasts can check out several previews on the Facebook event page, "Grand Opening! The Year of the Hound: Art Exhibition and Sale."

The purpose of the Museum of Hounds & Hunting North America, Inc. is to preserve the rich North American heritage of hunting with hounds, for today and for the future; acquire important artifacts before they are lost; provide a repository for pre-

HEADS UP PAPIER MÂCHÉ ENTHUSIASTS



An additional exhibit, running from May 26 to June 26, has joined MHHNA's year-round displays: Sarah Holmberg's whimsical sculptures delightfully rendered in papier mâché, an artistic medium with its roots in Persia and ancient Egypt. A dedicated horseperson, based in

Tryon, NC, she imbues her paintings and sculptures with her passion and lighthearted sense of humor, capturing moments in the sporting life of horse people. Holmberg's papier mâché are sophisticated Fine Artworks that are guaranteed to please enthusiasts of all ages.

cious objects; and, by developing educational exhibits through research projects, present hunting with hounds through the sport's historical, sociological, and cultural heritage. Everyone who values the sport of mounted hunting is encouraged to join in that effort. Memberships are available at a variety of levels, starting for

as little as \$50.00.

For more information, visit: www.MHHNA.org

For MHHNA memberships & tickets for the Members Reception: www.eventbrite.com/event/reception-featuring-the-year-of-the-hound-art-exhibition-and-sale-tickets-44776459596

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NEWS OF NOTE

GIVE FOR THE FOX



The Middleburg Arts Council is pleased to announce an initiative to have a large bronze sculpture commissioned of one of our most enduring town symbols, the fox. To learn more or to

make a donation, visit: <https://www.theartistsinmiddleburg.org/fox>

The clay fox sculpture shown in the photo will be on display at the National Sporting Library

& Museum Foyer this Saturday, April 21 from 12-5pm & Sunday 1-5pm. Artist, Goksin Carey will create the final six-foot sculpture at the Artists in Middleburg Gallery for anyone that would like to see the work as it progresses.

Don't Forget Mom
May 13th



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LAST CHANCE TO
SIGN UP FOR
GETTYSBURG TOUR

The Mosby Heritage Area Association reminds all that now is our last chance to sign up for their 2018 "Retreat from Gettysburg" bus tour.

Defeated at the Battle of Gettysburg in early July 1863, General Robert E. Lee was left with the difficult task of having to withdraw his battered army south, back across the Potomac River, to the relative safety of Virginia.

The MHAA bus tour follows the path of Lee's retreat and examines the aftermath of what is arguably the Civil War's most famous battle.

Noted historian Eric Wittenberg will lead a guided tour that visits some of the most significant locations of this often overlooked campaign.

Highlights of the tour include:

* A Friday evening reception at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick, MD

* A full day guided bus tour with Eric Wittenberg with stops at Gettysburg, Fairfield, Monterey Pass, Smithsburg, Williamsport and more.

* A signed copy of *One Continuous Fight: The Retreat from Gettysburg and the Pursuit of Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, July 4-14, 1863*

* Admission to the Donnelly House in Williamsport

* Saturday lunch

Tickets for the tour are \$175 for MHAA Members and \$195 for Non-Members. They can be purchased on line or by calling (540) 687-5578.

Your registration fee directly supports MHAA's free in-school history programs. Reserve today as seats are limited.

PUBLIC NOTICE
TOWN OF MIDDLEBURG COMMITTEE VACANCY

The Middleburg Town Council is accepting letters of interest from individuals who wish to be considered for service on the Middleburg Arts Council (MAC). The MAC is responsible for coordinating the community cultural and art events sponsored by the Town of

Middleburg, excluding the Christmas in Middleburg event. The MAC is responsible for staffing the events; for the formulation of the appropriate rules for the events; for organizing any entertainment associated with the events; and, for advertising, promoting and market-

ing the events. Members are encouraged to have an interest in arts and/or cultural activities; however, members are also needed whose strong suits are administrative related. Terms are for a two year-period. The MAC meets at 6:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each

month; and, in work session on an as-needed basis.

Anyone interested in serving on this Committee is asked to send a letter of interest, including any relevant qualifications, no later than June 15, 2018 to the following:

Mayor and Members of Town Council
Town of Middleburg
P. O. Box 187
10 W. Marshall Street
Middleburg, Virginia 20118
Attn: Committee Vacancies

MIDDLEBURG TOWN COUNCIL REPORT
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Municipal & Financial Services Group, retained by the Town to develop a water and sewer rate model for the town, estimated that a 3% increase in rates would be required for Middleburg to continue to own, operate and maintain the Town's utility systems.

Water Mains
Upgrade - \$975K

Town Administrator Semmes recommended Council accept a low bid of \$974,650 from Dulles-based A&M Concrete to carry out badly needed upgrades to the water mains in the Ridgeview section of Middleburg. A&M's bid, one of only two, was nearly \$130,000 less than its competitor's.

The bid, Semmes noted, was some 19% higher than initial estimates of the costs made by the town's utility engineers

Branding - \$65K

On April 12 Town Council authorized the signing of a \$64,610 "Contract Agreement for Professional Services" with Richmond-based Native Collaboration, LLC for "the development of a municipal/community brand identity." Estimates for developing a new Economic Development website decreased from \$50,000 to \$30,000

Cell Tower Legislation

The Virginia State Legislature has passed two amendments to its 5G Cell Tower Bills beneficial to Middleburg, exempting all Virginia cities and towns from the bill's reach.

Town Council member Bridge Littleton, who has been monitoring the proceedings in Richmond, calls it "a huge success for Middleburg and our rural communities" guaranteeing localities' rights and "independence to decide what can be built on our streets or sidewalks."

The bill would have given 5G cell towers "a free pass" in the name of extending high-speed service.

According to Littleton, "the

Middleburg community sent in over 400 letters of opposition to Governor Northam" State Senator Jill Vogel went directly to the Governor on the matter and Delegate Wendy Gooditis vigorously supported the amendment in the Virginia House of Delegates.

"The Virginia Municipal League (VML) and Middleburg Town Council," Littleton noted, "also worked tirelessly on this issue."

Bergner Center
Grant Request

The Andy Bergner Center, "a community ministry of Emmanuel Episcopal Church," has requested that it be added to Middleburg's list of potential non-profit grant recipients. On the third Friday of each month, the Center, located at the Church,

105 East Washington Street, provides, at no cost, what it describes as "a day of fund, food, fellowship, and life-enhancing information designed to stimulate the mind, body, heart, and soul of adults who want or need a spiritually uplifting day."

The Town of Middleburg provides grants to a small group of non-profit organizations serving the community as a result of a will, donating the "Health Center Building," (which once served, among other things, as headquarters for the Middleburg Police Department) to the Town.

The Town thus serves as a landlord, renting space in the building to businesses (as well as to itself) and bearing the costs of maintaining the facility.

"Profits" from this arrange-

ment were to be donated to local charities, many of which came to count on the grants thus provided.

The arrangement changed when the Town found it could no longer fully meet the demands of what it thought were deserving non-profits from Health Center "revenues" alone.

Provisions were first made to make up for "shortfalls" in Health Center grant funding from the Town's General Revenue budget.

That process has now become the norm.

Another Dangerous
Intersection

On April 12 Council discussed at some length yet another dangerous intersection in Middleburg, this one at the cor-

ner of South Madison and Federal Street.

Middleburger Mollie Bailey raised the issue in a letter to Council Member Mark Snyder, noting that "drivers on Federal Street heading east cannot see right down Madison Street for traffic unless they stop at the stop sign [there] and then creep forward a few feet." There is a traffic mirror at the intersection which helps if, as Bailey noted, "the mirror hasn't been knocked out of position."

Bailey speaks from experience, telling Snyder that she herself had been "hit there by an errant driver nearly totaling my car." She suggested adding two signs on Federal Street, warning drivers that "CROSS TRAFFIC DOES NOT STOP."

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Gretchen, Middleburg Smiles Patient

NEWS OF NOTE

... AND THEY'RE OFF!



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LAUREN R. GIANNINI

Point-to-points and sanctioned race meetings in Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania, sometimes both weekend days, offer an action-filled mid-Atlantic circuit to participants and spectators alike. April's been jam-packed with one more very local tradition: Middleburg Hunt Point-to-Point on Sunday, April 29 at Glenwood Park, first race at 1 p.m.

Now's the time to make plans, if you haven't already, to enjoy the Virginia Gold Cup on Saturday, May 5. It's a great day with spectacular racing, people-watching, tailgate partying, and Pari-Mutuel Betting at Great Meadow, The Plains. Gates open at 10 a.m., first race is 1 p.m., but try to get there earlier for the Terrier Races at 11:30—totally entertaining.

Last month, it was easy to run highlights of the two point-to-points, but this month's PTPs featured Orange County, Old Dominion, Loudoun, and Blue Ridge, plus the Middleburg Spring Races. Too much territory to cover in one little update, but there's good news that's very local on the National Steeplechase Association (NSA) front: Nina and Robert Bonnie's Stonelea Stables LLC is on top of the current NSA standings for Owners, Money Won, and Julie Gomena sits in 3rd for Trainers, Money Won, and inside the top 10 Trainers for Races Won.

As of April 24, Balance The Budget ranked #1 in Horses, Money Won in the NSA standings where graded races constitute big-time stakes for the best hurdle and timber horses, trainers, riders, and owners, all competing for the winner's share of the purse. With two graded wins under his girth, Balance The Budget made his debut in the first Grade 1 race of the new season and totally owned it to harvest the winner's share of the \$150,000 Marion DuPont Scott Colonial Cup (NC).

"My husband (Robert Bonnie) has developed a good eye for a horse, and when he saw this one in the paddock at Saratoga, he really liked him, but it took us a while to claim him — there were so many claiming slips put in on him and we kept losing the "shake" (draw)," Gomena said. "Budget went from Saratoga to race in Florida, then back to Kentucky where we put a claim in on him at Churchill Downs and won the shake on our fourth try."

Bonnie and Gomena both grew up with horses and fox-hunting. Gomena's horsemanship is an ever-growing treasure trove of experience from her many years engaging in multiple disciplines and sports: 3-Day Eventing (1994 winner Rolex Kentucky 4-star),

steeplechase jockey, foxhunter, and all-around horse person. She can really ride — ask 4-star eventing specialist Jim Wofford next time you see him — and, as it turns out, Julie can really train, too.

Budget's 3-win streak includes the recent prestigious Colonial Cup, last October's \$75,000 "Zeke" Ferguson Memorial Hurdle Gr. 2 Stakes at the 2017 International Gold Cup, and his first start of 2018 when he won going away on the flat at Warrenton Hunt PTP — marking his fourth consecutive year to win his first race of the new season. He also earned bragging rights as the Virginia-owned Steeplechase Horse of the Year in 2016 and 2017 as well as garnering the VSA Hurdle Championship.

"When we first got Budget, he was skinny, rangy — a nervous, unhappy kind of animal," recalled Gomena. "His basic conformation was very good. Budget just went along and tried to make the best of things. He's my best friend these days. He has developed into a giant, massive animal and he's so happy. He's very well aware he won the Colonial Cup!"

At the Middleburg Spring Meet, Gomena had two runners, both earned paychecks for their day at the office. Le Chevalier, owned by Mike Smith, placed second in the \$30,000 Middleburg Hunt Cup with Jack Doyle. Mo's In The House, piloted by Kieran Norris for Bon Nouvel Chasers LLC, took 3rd in the \$30,000 Virginia Equine Alliance Maiden Hurdle.

At Loudoun on April 15, Gomena saddled a winner for owner Gregg Ryan, MFH Piedmont Fox Hounds, and retired jump jockey, when Three Kingdoms (IRE) and Norris finished first by 6 lengths in the Land Trust of Virginia Open Hurdle. She also sent out Naval Gazer (Stonelea Stables LLC) who, with Norris in the irons, claimed 2nd place in Division 2 of the Trisepet Maiden Hurdle.

The spring season's winding down — go racing with your family and/or friends and have a blast. Virginia meets include: Foxfield Spring Races (Charlottesville), April 28; Middleburg Hunt PTP (Glenwood Park, Middleburg), April 29; and Virginia Gold Cup (Great Meadow, The Plains), May 5.

For all sorts of information, including calendars for Va, Md., and Pa.: www.centralentryoffice.com

NSA: www.nationalsteeplechase.com

For all sorts of information, including calendars for Va, Md., and Pa.: www.centralentryoffice.com

NSA: www.nationalsteeplechase.com

TIM BURCH AND ADAM WERTHEIMER JOIN BOWA'S OWNERSHIP GROUP

TWO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OWNERSHIP PROGRAM OPEN TO ALL EMPLOYEES



BOWA, an award-winning residential design and construction firm, is pleased to announce two new company owners, Tim Burch and Adam Wertheimer. With their additions, BOWA now has 19 owners, including a field technician, several project managers, customer service professionals, project leaders and early-on employees and founders.

In 1999, BOWA became one of the first remodelers in the nation to offer ownership shares to senior executives. Later, in 2007, the company broadened the Ownership Program making it available to all employees who have been with the firm for at least seven years, or in some cases less. The change was made in keeping with BOWA's Core Value of "Sharing the Success."

"I'm pleased to welcome Tim Burch and Adam Wertheimer to our growing Ownership Group," said Larry Weinberg, Founder and Co-Chairman. "Their hard work, valuable input and commitment to BOWA are exactly what we wanted to reward when we expanded our Ownership Program 11 years ago."

Tim Burch joined BOWA in

2012, and is the Vice President of BOWA's Middleburg office, which serves clients in the Loudoun and Fauquier County areas. A Northern Virginia native and third-generation builder, Tim is the Construction Advisor for The Mosby Heritage Area Association and sits on the Board of Building Appeals for Fauquier County. Prior to joining BOWA, Tim was the Lead Project Manager of Construction for the Emmy Award winning construction reality television show, Extreme Makeover Home Edition on ABC.

Adam Wertheimer also joined BOWA in 2012 and, as Project Leader, works predominantly with our single-family-home and condo clients throughout the Bethesda and Chevy Chase areas. Born and raised in Potomac, Adam has many years of experience in local residential construction and residential and commercial property management. He received his MBA from American University with a specialization in real estate and also holds a Bachelor of Science degree in real estate finance and marketing from American. He earned his NAHB Certified Green Professional designation in 2008.

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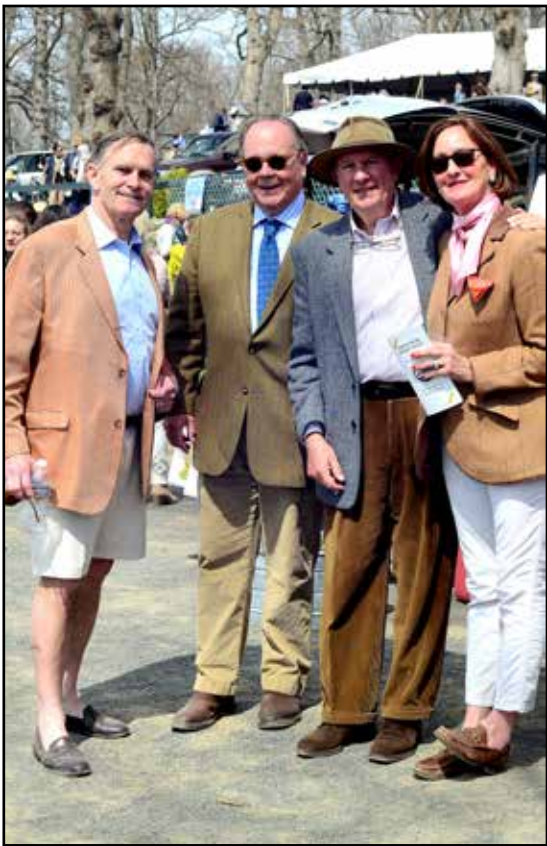
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Painting by Deb Cadenas

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Tina Staples, Town of Middleburg
tstaples@townofmiddleburg.org

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TRANQUILITY FARM, MIDDLEBURG, VA - PHOTOS BY NANCY KLECK



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NIGEL OGILVY AND LOUISA WOODVILLE.JPG



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BERNADETTE BOLAND AND PAT BURNS



SARAH HANSARD AND KAREN LAZAROU



GEORGE BETHEL AND ALEXANDRA ARABAK



SARAH HANSARD AND KAREN LAZAROU

PLACES & FACES

MIDDLEBURG HUNT BALL

FOXCHASE FARM, MIDDLEBURG, VA - PHOTOS BY NANCY MILBURN KLECK



TIM HARMON, ERIN MICHELE SMITH AND MARK DUFFELL



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JEREMY NOEL, CINDY POLK, BRANDY GREENWELL, MACKENZIE TAYLOR, AND LUD SELLS



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Poster graphics by pennypaint.com

PROGENY

PERSEVERANCE AND SUPPORT



On November 2015 Life Scout Noah Mamula submitted a proposal for his Eagle Scout Project—an Outdoor Classroom for the Middleburg Community Charter School (MCCS)—to the BSA District Commissioner for approval. This began the 28-month odyssey of permits, blueprints, fundraising, and construction to make the classroom a reality.

The first step came from the support of the MCCS Board of Directors, school principal, and the Town of Middleburg Historic Review Committee. These happened in April and May of 2016 and were the easy part. Next, the project had to go to Loudoun County Public School, Construction and Planning Division—this was the hard part.

Bill Tenure, of Tenure Architecture, took on this project as the principal architect and assigned Dave Stern to work with Noah in getting the plans ready for the county. By January 2017, after many emails, site visits, and multiple plan changes, approval appeared to be right around the corner, this signaled to Noah that fundraising was the next step.

Noah began to implement his fundraising efforts to raise the \$35,600 needed to pay for the outdoor classroom. On a suggestion from an MCCS board member, he decided to ask a local builder for a donation. His first call was to Piedmont Roofing, owner Stephanie Reed listened to his request. She would call him back the next day with a metal roof and installation donated in full!

This was just what this young man needed—a quick answer and support beyond his hopes. He was off to the races. Next stop was Southland Concrete, where a corporate officer and friend from Noah's church donated materials and installation for the concrete slab. Then he called D&S Groundworks who said yes to all the earthwork for the site excavation. Noah also did a letter campaign to friends and family and raised needed funds to finalize the project.

By March 2017 the county still had not issued final approval for the structure, but Noah forged on. Next, he needed to secure a construction manager for the project. This was a big one. He just walked into BOWA and Tim Burch in the Middleburg office graciously met with him. He explained to Tim what he needed—

i.e. that he was only looking for a construction manager. Tim told Noah that he would get back to him. After a week, Noah called and asked if he was able to think it over. Tim's reply: "Oh gosh, sorry Noah, I was going to call you back—yes BOWA will be your site manager, but I was working on getting the rest of your materials donated too!"

We had to pick Noah up off the floor. To say that the support from the business community was overwhelming is an understatement! But that is exactly what kept this young man going.

Noah graduated from high school in June and planned on a trip to Europe with his high school friend. He had all the materials and crews ready to build—but still no word from the county! On Friday, June 23rd he finally

received in the mail the approved plans for the outdoor classroom, and on the 25th of June, he was headed to Europe.

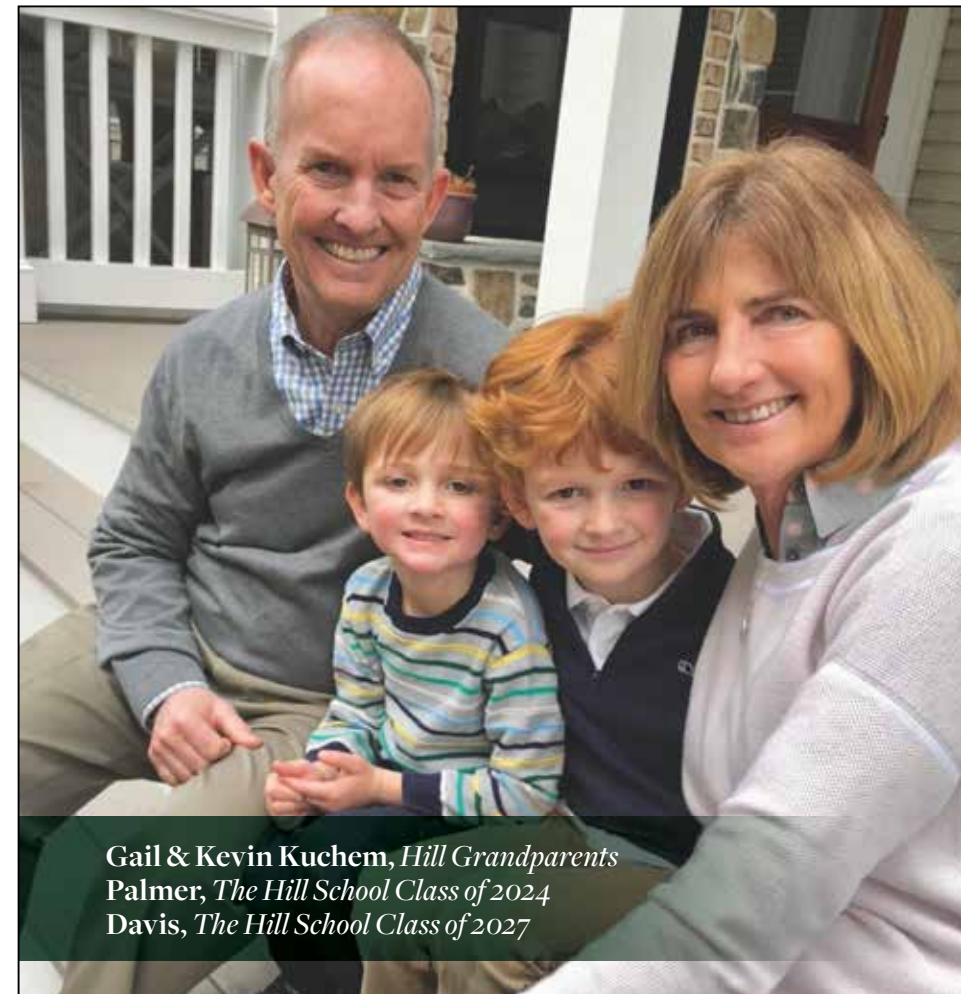
Upon his return, he moved forward with the project and in August began the last step, 6 months of construction, working around the school schedule, the winter weather and managing who needed to do what next. The outdoor classroom was finally finished on March 23, 2018.

The perseverance of one person and the support of key people in the Middleburg area business community who stepped up and supported this young man's vision made this possible.

On behalf of the Middleburg Community Charter School and Eagle Scout Noah Mamula, we thank you all more than you can know!

MBECC.COM

~ BE LOCAL ~



Gail & Kevin Kuchem, Hill Grandparents
Palmer, The Hill School Class of 2024
Davis, The Hill School Class of 2027

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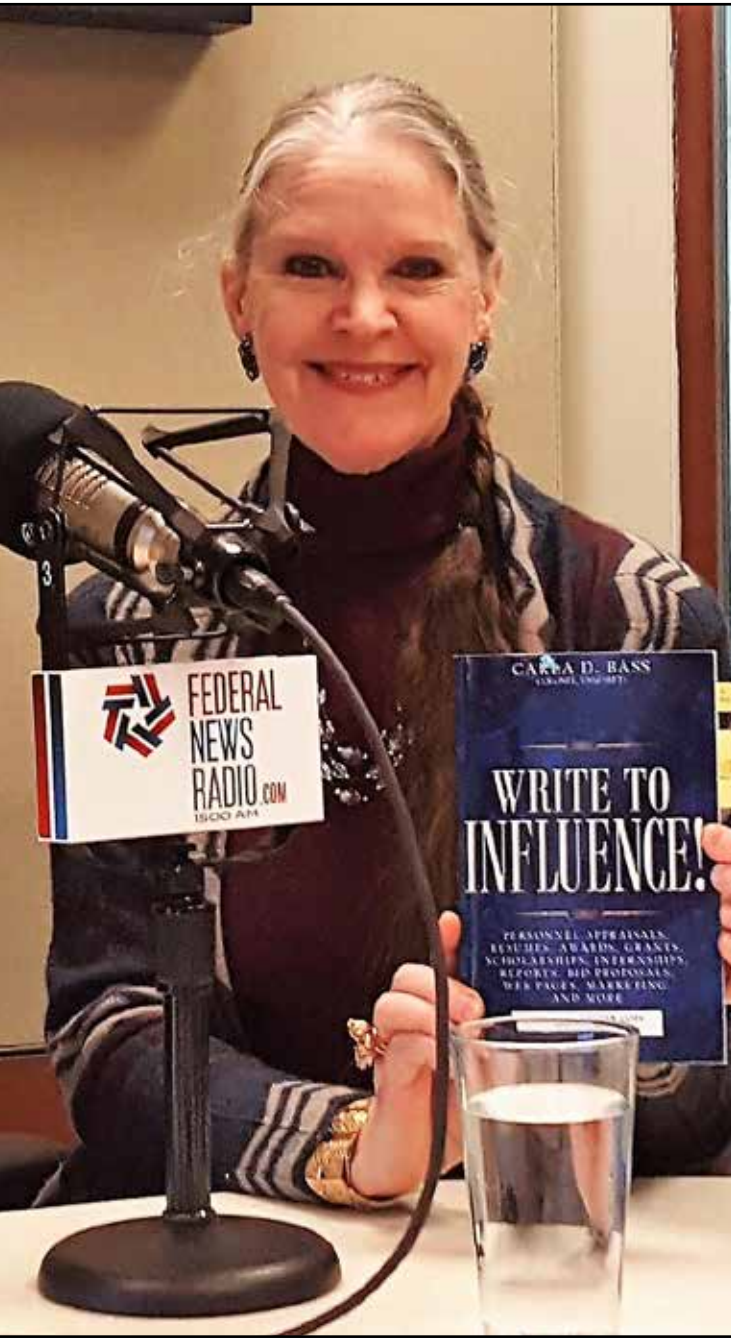
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PROGENY

WRITE TO INFLUENCE! -- THE COLLEGE APPLICATION

(PART 2)



CARLA D. BASS,
COLONEL, USAF (RET)
AUTHOR, AWARD-WINNING
BOOK, "WRITE TO INFLUENCE!"

Imagine an inverted triangle – macro to micro. Part 1 of this two-part series spoke to strategies by which to gather data; then develop, outline, and draft that all-important essay. To recap: 1) Inventory yourself 2) Share something personal 3) Reflect –don’t just report 4) Don’t tackle world problems 5) Develop a roadmap 6) Compose your essay like a gourmet meal.

Part 2 addresses the pointy end of that triangle – constructing hard-hitting, focused sentences. Powerful writing is constrained by time and space ... the reader’s time (measured in seconds) and space allocated to make your case. Your challenge is to make every word count and each second of the reader’s time play to your advantage.

You’ve drafted the essay. Like the sculptor contemplating at a 6-ft tall block of marble, you must now sculpt your text, discarding words that contribute nothing to and actually detract from your message. Here are three of my 10 “Word Sculpting” tools:

1. Useless Words -- Identify and Discard. This is the most important tool and transforms text from verbose to concise and crisp. It also generates additional space in which to make your case and influence the reader. In the following examples, I identify useless words in brackets: 1) provide [with] ... this is a transitive

verb (it takes a direct object) and doesn’t need [with]. I provide you a book. You provide me an opportunity – skip the [with] 2) [There is] or [There are] almost always mask the subject ... discard these and find the real subject. Test your skill—Can you reduce this to 10 words? The answer is at the article’s conclusion.

2. Redundancy – Once will suffice. Eschew redundancy. I highlight three types. First is double or triple tap There are many people who vacation at the beach to relax in the summer contains a triple subject: there are, people, and who. Revise to Many people. This also contains a double tap verb vacation and relax. Select one. We sculpt the sentence to Many people relax at the beach in the summer, trimmed from 71 to 44 spaces. The second type of redundancy is inferral. He might travel to Spain in the future. Might and future are redundant. My natural strengths are ... yep, natural and strengths. These critters are subtle, often surreptitiously sneaking into your writing. Did you find the redundancy in that last sentence? The third type is stating the obvious, Phase 1 is only the beginning of this great project or The state of Virginia has fabulous parks.
3. Verbs Are Your Friends – Rely on Them! Verbs invigorate your writing. Avoid overused, boring verbs such as assist, con-

tribute, or provide that obfuscate what really occurred. Shine the light on “hidden” verbs as these, too, waste space. For example, make a reservation equates to reserve. She needed a student card to gain entry into the building ... here, gain entry equates to enter. Finally, condense a multi-word verb into one ... ask for equates to request, take down equates to remove, replace give the ability to with enable and negatively impacts with hinder or impede. How would you replace would much rather? Prefer!

These tools are suited for students in middle school, too. With the generous cooperation of Hill School – notably Dr. Huntington Lyman, Academic Dean and Jill Beifuss, Chair of the English Department I developed and taught a prototype workshop for students in 7th and 8th grades. Inculcating these skills early and practicing them throughout high school and college, students will learn to leverage the power of their own written words, open doors to opportunity, and reap a lifetime of benefits.

Answer to the challenge— This is an exercise to identify and discard useless words.

Carla has taught powerful writing to thousands of people for the past 15 years. Her workshops are tailored to a variety of audiences: high school students thru professionals in the workforce. “Write to Influence!” is available as paperback and e-book at Amazon and other retailers. Additional information about Carla, her book, and workshops is at www.carladbass.com

FOXCROFT SCHOOL’S STEM CHAIR MARIA EVANS WINS CHRIST EDUCATOR PRIZE FROM NATIONAL COALITION OF GIRLS SCHOOLS



Former aerospace engineer recognized for teaching, program design, and curricular innovation

The National Coalition of Girls School (NCGS) has named Dr. Maria Evans of Foxcroft School as the recipient of the second annual H. William Christ Educator Prize, the organization announced recently.

Since joining the Foxcroft faculty in 2010, Evans — who serves as Chair of the STEM Department at the all-girls boarding and day school — has led the transformation of an already strong Math and Science curriculum into a signature STEM program. She has spearheaded the addition of engineering, AP computer science, and other new courses; the integration of technology across the curriculum; and the cultivation of relevant partnerships and extracurricular opportunities that have created a model program.

Established in 2016, the H. William Christ Educator Prize is presented annually to a man or woman who has demonstrated commitment to extraordinary teaching, program design, and/or curricular innovation in an NCGS school. This year’s presentation will take place on Tuesday, June 19, in Washington, DC, during the Global Forum on Girls’ Education.

Evans became a teacher after a lengthy career as an aerospace engineer, motivated by the opportunity to inspire and impact the lives of students. Since join-

ing the Foxcroft School faculty in 2010, she has served as a science teacher, math teacher, science department chair, and chair of the STEM department, which is a combination of the traditional Math and Science departments. She also has coached Odyssey of the Mind, Team America Rocketry Challenge, and volleyball teams.

Among the many new courses introduced under Dr. Evans’ leadership are Aerodynamics, AP Computer Science Principles, AP Environmental Science, Explorations in Engineering, STEM Applications and Technology, Forensic Science, and Computer Programming Logic and Design. The driving principle behind these course additions is to deliver content using exciting, engaging, and active learning approaches. Students are exposed to a breadth of technology across the curriculum, enabling them to learn how to be successful with any new tool or software product.

Evans is particularly proud of the Explorations in Engineering course, a service learning course modeled on Purdue University’s EPICS K-12 (Engineering Projects in Community Service) program. In eight years, more than 15 projects have been designed, built, and delivered to area non-profits including therapeutic riding centers, local elementary schools, area nature preserves, a history museum, and the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute.

Several strategic partnerships to support Foxcroft School’s annual Expedition K2M (a STEM competition for middle and high school girls) and Jump into Game Design (a programming night for middle school girls) have been nurtured by Evans. At Expedition K2M, sponsored by Leesburg biomedical engineering firm, K2M Inc., 160 girls compete in events that challenge them with physics, biology, chemistry, math, and logic problems created by Foxcroft’s STEM faculty, as well as meet female engineers from K2M. A partnership with the Scalable Game Design team at the University of Colorado has helped Foxcroft computer science students introduce over 70 middle school girls to computer game design at the Jump into Game Design events.

By fostering the introduction of curricular and co-curricular programs that grab the interest of the students, Evans has grown the girls’ interest in fields where women are traditionally under-represented, and Foxcroft has seen a higher percentage of graduates exploring STEM majors in college.

Evans was recognized for her excellence in teaching in 2015 when she received Foxcroft’s inaugural Mary Louise Leipheimer Excellence in Teaching Award. She is a longtime resident of Loudoun County and the mother of three, Kate (Foxcroft Class of 2014, UVA 2018), Sean, and Hayes Eagen.

SUMMER PLANNING: MEANINGFUL SUMMER OPTIONS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

THE COLLEGE COUNSELOR

BARBARA CONNER

Each year, parents of freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors ask me what they should be doing during the summer months. Sometimes they ask what will “look good” to colleges during the admissions application process. My answer is always the same: students should do what interests them. They should do what they enjoy!

Some students travel with family. Others participate in mission trips and community service projects. Many students get jobs. Some students test drive careers through internships and job shadowing. A number of students take classes either through high school summer schools or at local colleges. Many colleges across the country offer enrichment classes on their campuses each summer.

The list of possibilities is endless and is only bounded by the student’s imagination.

Students should spend some time relaxing – hanging out at the pool, reading, and socializing with friends are all worthwhile and important. The school year is a very structured and busy time for most students and it is important that they have the sense that summer can be a time to recharge their energy levels. The reality is that for most of our students who are busy during the school year (academics, athletics, clubs, leadership, community service, jobs, etc.) they tend to stay busy through the summer months as well. Learning about time management and priorities are valuable lessons which can be further explored during the summer months.

If your daughter wants to get a summer job, she should begin



by creating or updating her resume and polishing her interview skills. Encourage her to visit us

in the College Counseling Office to help her draft her resume and practice her interview skills.

Although the application deadlines for most of the competitive summer programs which

involve doing research and studying on college campuses across the country may have

passed, many programs are still accepting students. Students can research these opportunities on

as they make plans for next summer. College credit is available through some of these campus-based programs – but it is important to remember that while organizations may give college credit for completion of a summer program, it is up to the college the student actually attends to determine if they will accept those credits.

For students who enjoy science and engineering, there are space camps. For those students who relish the world of politics and government, there are many programs in towns, cities, state government and in the nation’s capital. For those students who want to run their own radio/television stations, there are summer programs specializing in those areas. There are summer programs for students with interests in virtually every area from archeology to zoology!

Some students want to begin exploring career options through job shadowing and internships. Internships are formal opportunities for students to participate in an organization/company on a regular basis (typically for one to four months – with students spending two to eight hours per week at the job site) learning about what it is like to work in that career field. Job shadowing typically happens in one two-to-four hour visit to an organization or company. Although most internships for high school-aged students are unpaid, there are some that offer stipends. Either way, the experience can be invaluable in helping a student determine if this area is one worth pursuing through high school electives, summer work, college majors, and career.

PASTIMES

DESIGN A FAVORITE SPACE IN YOUR HOME



TIM BURCH

Many people have a favorite space in their home, be it a cozy nook for reading, a luxurious bath for escaping the hassles of a long day or a gourmet kitchen ideally suited for preparing meals the whole family can enjoy. If you don't already have your favorite space picked

Glass windows now encase the room, showing off the beautiful view of the distant skyline, while a set of doors still make a balcony accessible. The ceiling beams and planks add texture, while the custom-built entertainment cabinet serves as another focal point of the room.

Family-Friendly Sports Court: Kids and adults alike are big fans of having a sports court in the home. With a multipurpose recreational room, you can have family basketball games, a volleyball tournament, birthday party area, or an exercise room for getting in shape for that upcoming vacation. Common elements of these rooms are padded walls, sport court markings, unbreakable glass, and real athletic wood or cushioned flooring.

A Lofty Idea: When planning their recent addition, one couple envisioned a sitting area adjacent to their master suite. The solution was an award-winning "eagle's nest" loft addition complete with a wooden ship's ladder. This type of staircase not only saved space but also fit nicely into the nautical theme of the room. Today, the couple happily plans their boating trips in this map room, which features spectacular views of the Washington monument in the distance.

out keep in mind a well-planned home renovation can turn an ordinary space into something truly extraordinary. Following are some of our clients' favorites.

Light-Filled Family Room: One Leesburg family had an existing rooftop terrace that was causing leaks and other problems in their home. This problematic space was transformed into a cozy upper-level family room.

A Tranquil Oasis: Turning a master bath into a spa-like retreat is all about creating a space focused on comfort, warmth, and relaxation. This expanded master bath is inspired by the homeowner's love of spa get-aways and features a soaking tub, glass-walled steam shower, a morning bar, her dressing area and sleek, clean finishes. As an added bonus, sliding doors lead to a rooftop balcony overlooking a beautiful outdoor renovation. While the floor looks like hardwood and gives the room a warm finish, it is actually heated ceramic tile perfect for those cold winter mornings!

Stu, Stu, Studio: Whatever your passion is, be it your life's work or just a hobby, creating a studio in your own home offers many benefits. By working closely with our design team, one professional photographer was able to create a space in his home that suited his technical photography needs, but also provided an area to meet with his clients and display his work. Perhaps you have a budding singer or dancer in your family. If so, instead consider creating a recording studio or a dance room for your young ballerina. Whatever your craft may be, a design-build contractor can help create the perfect area to



nurture your family's talents.

And, to round out the list, we even have at least one client who says the colorful, new laundry room is her favorite space in her home. Imagine that.

Tim Burch is a Vice President of BOWA, an award-winning design, and construction firm specializing in renovations ranging from master suites and kitchens to whole-house remodels. A Northern Virginia native and third-generation builder, Tim enjoys calling on his 30 years of design-build experience to solve clients' home-related challenges. He is the Construction Advisor for The Mosby Heritage Area Association and sits on the Board of Building Appeals for Fauquier County. Prior to joining BOWA, Tim was the Lead Project Manager of Construction for the Emmy Award-winning construction reality television show, Extreme Makeover Home Edition on ABC Television. For more information on Tim and the BOWA team, visit bowa.com or call 540-687-6771.

A MUSIC TECHNOLOGY TALE IN UNISON



STEVE CHASE

I remember when I needed to get some music for a job I had high on Mt. Adams in New Hampshire's White Mountains. Even if I could lug them up the three-mile, 3000-foot up trail, my vinyl records just would not work in a cabin without electricity, so I settled for a buying a small, used boom box from a friend. Only one problem, the thing only played

eight-track tapes. Cassettes were just becoming the real deal, but they were still too expensive. So with my \$15 boom box and some blank eight tracks that I picked some records to record. In the end, it worked out alright. I had my music and great radio reception for the next four months. A few years later the eight-track was overwhelmed by the cassette tape, and it quickly became obsolete. Fast-forward almost ten years, and the compact disc was the next hot tech topic. Of

course, back then the discs were \$25 and the players \$500, so my economic focus was still on cassettes (the Sony Walkman being the preferred delivery device). I waited patiently, and by 1996, the cassette began its exit dance into technological oblivion. The compact disc became the norm, with even the Walkman awkwardly moving to that format. I spent many hours scouring the racks at Tower Records in Foggy Bottom, looking for obscure and wonderful music that I had yet to

listen to.

And so it went, technology evolved--the Internet, MP3s, Apple, and iTunes came along, making it easier than ever to listen to digital music files on the computer, and eventually on this new gadget, the iPod. I began collecting this digital music and storing it--hundreds and hundreds of live concerts from a global community of music aficionados. This digital music revolution made quick work of the compact disc, and services like iTunes became the norm. I can't throw them out yet, but when is the last time you played a cd? Pay \$9.99, download the album, and then listen to it on the reimagined and vastly cheaper stereo setup anchored by the personal computer and the iPod.

Then came Spotify, and other less capable streaming services, that would deliver music to your computer or cell phone. Now, on a road trip, if an album or song was discussed, in a matter of seconds, it could be found and played via Spotify -- something that was unimaginable only ten years before.

And now it is 2018. The music business has transformed, and now Apple iTunes, the largest place that you can purchase and download music, has announced that by 2019, they will stop selling downloadable music. And why not? With most areas having the infrastructure in place, this transformation of technology is logical and inevitable. At each

point of change, I would feel a little sad to lose what we had. But I have to admit, I'll take access to millions of albums in an instant over a few self-recorded eight tracks any day. Niche music and media focuses have emerged involving many musical genres and media like vinyl records and cassettes, and I even buy a vinyl record every now and then -- they sound great. I still have my digital music collection to draw on, now exceeding three terabytes of (mostly live) music. That said, streaming services are where I go for most of my listening nowadays, and you should too.

Whether it's Apple Music, Spotify, or the great Etree and Nugs.net apps that supply thousands of live concerts right to your phone, the state of technology for the listener is better than it has ever been -- we should all take advantage of it.

My playlist this month, "Gray Knob Pop," is a nostalgia trip back to 1981 and '82, when I worked at that cabin high in the White Mountains. I listened exclusively to those eight tracks, along with CHOM-FM from Montreal, and WTOS "The Mountain" from Sugarloaf Maine. We're talking 80's rock here -- from Red Rider to Asia, to Phil Collins, and everything else.

The list is good for that next 300-mile road trip. Get it here: <https://tinyurl.com/yboq2cz6>

Steve Chase lives in Unison and streams his music loud.

NATIVE FERNS

THE PLANT LADY



KAREN REXRODE

With their sights on the sun and lengthening days, the spring ephemerals rise. Triggered by warming soil and more hours and minutes in each day, their agenda is set. Pollen, nectar, and odor are delivered

with precision, such that we mortals are still trying to understand the mechanics of how, why, and when. Like a ritual that rejoices in life, the delivery of key components is survival, if not timed perfectly, the plant risks everything.

The word ephemeral has several meanings. From the Greek

word ephemeros, meaning "lasting a day", gardeners consider it part of their spring vocabulary. In Virginia we have many native spring ephemerals; the most popular is probably the Virginia bluebell or Mertensia virginica.

I often think of ephemerals and their challenges. Life above ground can be incredibly fleet-

ing, the actual process of flowering may last only three days. The goal is twofold; set seed and send energy to the subterranean root system. It's almost like a ratio of life above ground balanced by the underground storage unit; the shorter the active growth span, the larger the holding bin. So these fleeting flowers all have some form of bulbous root, maybe a tuber, possibly a true bulb, somewhere to deposit the well gained energy to see them through another year. Much like the saying "Make hay while the sun shines".

Natives like claytonia or spring beauties and bluets or houstonia are marvels. Dainty flowers are held on the thinnest of stems, almost threadlike, especially so with bluets. Wind will bob and blow the flowers, so frail in appearance, how can this be so successful?

The flowers are equipped with nectar guides and so begins the process of pollination. Nectar and pollen are balanced, higher amounts for birds and butterflies. The color of the flower lures one or the other; bees are more attracted to bright white, yellow and blue. They seek both nectar and pollen, the latter stickier and

sometimes scented. Both birds and butterflies go to bright flowers; orange, red and purple are the colors they seek.

Subsequent seed is almost always coated or marked with elaisome. This gel-like substance is sometimes easy to spot, other times almost invisible. There to lure ants, they eat the elaisome, which makes them seed distributors on a large scale. It's not unusual to find spring ephemerals sprouting around the periphery of an ant hill. Here the soil is loose, all the better for a seed to sprout and grow.

As the days warm and trees come to life, the ephemerals begin to decline. Floral stems with a seed pod will wither last. Now the roots of the tree will be active, buried within their fibrous web, the ephemerals sleep. They have packed their suitcase for another year. Nothing will wake them but the required chilling hours, which they count as fall begins. Not nearly as fragile as they appear, gardeners are all the richer for their spring presence.



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PASTIMES

PLAY

FITNESS PROFESSIONAL

KAY COLGAN, ACE CERTIFIED
FITNESS PROFESSIONAL

When was the last time you kicked a ball? Just for the fun of it, not competition. How about sliding down a sliding board or exploring the jungle gym at your local park? Even just plain old swinging. Maybe riding a bike just to cruise, not to get a certain number of miles in. Remember those days when playing outside was the norm? Just having fun with no goal in mind and no structure, just doing whatever purely for the fun of it. Unfortunately, as we age, we create to-do lists that end up being too long to add any play.

Now I admit if your not with children, playing on the jungle gym might raise a few eyebrows. Even so, the point is to be outside and be active for the fun of it. This really connects us to our surroundings and somehow enlivens our spirits. Technology is amazing but it does have downfalls. We can be connected to phones, tablets, computers, and TV for hours. I have never heard someone say that they feel energized after being in front of a screen for hours on end. In fact,

it really does seem to deplete our well being. It does not fulfill us like being outside and being active. I love exercise, but when everything is structured all the time, it is destined to leave us with a sense of feeling unsatisfied. Adding a day where there is no schedule and you can play might just energize your fitness regime. Getting some friends together to shoot hoops or a weekly fun volleyball game outside. The important word here is fun. Having fun sets us free from our very long structured to do lists. In fact, the to-do list might not feel so overwhelming if you find some time to have fun. Studies have shown having fun decreases stress and improves moods. Also, just being out in the environment grounds us and gives us vitamin D and fresh air. This spring find some fun activities you like to do and build it into your week. Play is not just for kids, it's for all of us.

Enjoy your spring and embrace the child in you. For more information about fitness and health, please contact Kay Colgan at Middleburg Pilates and Personal Training, 14 S. Madison Street, Middleburg, Va. Or call 540-687-6995.

THE IMPORTANCE OF KINDNESS

AROUND THE TOWN



HAZEL SWEITZER

Since this is my second article for Middleburg Eccentric I thought I would dig a little deeper. Get it? Dig? I'm a dog?

Anyways, I wanted to talk about something I've noticed in the last couple years. Years ago when I walked in town there was never a chance you'd see someone not smile or say a kind word. Now, to be honest, I get a lot of compliments, but I am talking more about humans. I recently have seen many more people with sad faces or worried. We dogs can feel these things. Any animal loving human knows this.

My human, Tom even starts his day differently. He used to watch the news and get the latest updates on what is happening beyond our town. He now wakes up and watches the news for 10 minutes and spends the rest of the morning with classical music in

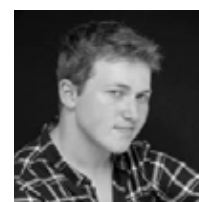
the background or sometimes he plays music himself. I overheard him tell a friend he needed to change his routine because hearing too much sad news made it impossible for him to go help people in his job.

Part of our job as dogs is to help human-beings process and feel emotions and to be there when someone needs comfort or a laugh. I am worried that there is too much worry and that stops us from greeting each other with a smile. It's amazing what one smile can do for someone and sometimes we have to remind ourselves that we have to think beyond ourselves even for a second because it can make a huge difference in someone's day. Middleburg is a perfect place to practice this. Let's never forget to hold the door open, drive slowly so you don't hurt someone, smile when you are walking by and always, always lean down and pet a really cute dog.



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PASTIMES

THE ARTIST’S PERSPECTIVE

TOM NEEL

This is a story about thinking outside of the box. Artists and photographers are no strangers to the term - standard sizes. Those easy to find pre-stretched canvas sizes and frames that seem to have begun their existence in the 17th Century as canvas became the support of choice among established artists. When you try to

ture products. If those making stretcher bars were doing something different than those making standard picture frames, we would have a mess on our hands. Frankly, this still does happen to some degree. As an example, you can find an abundance of 1.5" depth heavy duty stretchers, but you don't find nearly as many floater frames with a 1.5" rabbit to accommodate this popular gallery wrap style stretcher. Go

concept. If the first thing you're thinking when you look at your subject matter is what standard size will fit what I see? It's not a great beginning. Your canvas size, no, more specifically, the format you choose, is a very important tool. It allows you in many cases to better tell your story. So both size AND shape matter.

As artists, we find all sorts of ways to convey a sense of dis-

trying to tell is your job as an artist. You are basically offering a static point of view, often one you are trying to convey a message with. Cropping not only removes what may be seen as useless information, as in too much sky, it can force the eye to absorb the information left in a more powerful way.

Think about a bird in a tall tree. If the story is to convey height, what would make the



Yes, this technique can create additional expense and customization in framing, but your artwork is worth it when the time calls for it. This technique can also be overused as well. But I



nailed down the exact reasons sizes such as 8" X 10", 11" X 14", 18" X 24" and 24" X 36", you can quickly find yourself in a tailspin of different countries, systems of measurements, roll sizes, and subject matter, all complicating the box we are in today.

One thing we know is that art suppliers have been trying to please you the artist while being able to systematically manufac-

figure.

As it is, this is the box many artists live in today. A standard one and I don't know about you, but standard doesn't sound very creative for several reasons. The first of which, that it can make art into a bit of a spec series. One where most artists find themselves conforming to a size, rather than having their canvas size and shape conform to their

tance, height, lowness, speed, focus, width, panorama, depth and so forth. We can do this with paint color, application, values, movement of the focal point, lines and edges and more. But what if cropping your image, or maybe more accurately, making your canvas or photo the right size in the first place, could help advance your cause? Bringing energy by forcing the viewer to more easily see the story you are

tree look taller, a vertical 24" X 36" canvas, or a 12" X 36" one? The narrow tall one, right? The same would apply horizontally, in making a lake look wider, or a car look faster. This technique can also be used with the creation of interesting diptych and triptych images, whereby one broad panel conveys the forest and another narrow panel conveys a single tree.

think you'll find that busting out of the box now and then will go along way in waking up your artwork and getting your point across more powerfully. I have posted the full version of this story with example photos at LiveAnArtfulLife.com - under, Cropping - the freedom to explore.

Live An Artful Life, Tom

GIRL CODE

SINCERELY ME



BRANDY GREENWELL

At times, women can be seriously catty individuals. Remember the movie "Mean Girls?" I wish that script was all Hollywood, but in reality, there is not a woman I know who hasn't been

the target of some sort of bitchy alpha moment among her female counterparts. Ladies, we don't need to be BFF's with everyone, but we do need to stick together. Help a sister out instead of tearing her down; we need to look out for each other.

Always let your friend know when there is a "bat in the cave".

No one wants to walk around with a booger hanging out of her nose. The same goes for lipstick on the teeth, run away mascara and leftovers in between your grill. Recently a girlfriend thoughtfully came up to me with a napkin when unbeknownst to me I had a pucker stain on my cheek after greeting a friend at

the races. Thank you!!

A true friend is always honest about outfit checks. Before going out, if the genuine answer to the "Do I look ok in this?" question is "No", be honest with your pal and help them find an alternative. If they are already out in a poorly chosen ensemble, the answer is "You look fabulous" as you don't want to deflate a friend when there is nothing that can be done. Just give her a confidence boost and let her inner light shine. This is where the karma Gods could really mess with you the next time you want to dress to impress.

Bathroom blunders. Please pass the TP under the stall when requested, share an extra feminine hygiene product to a stained sister, stop the white trailing train stuck underfoot and always, always let your stall mate know if she has her ensemble tucked into her knickers before she struts her wardrobe malfunction in public. It's common courtesy.

Don't body shame. Ever. Anyone with an ovary knows there will inevitably be a point where your weight swings like a pendulum. You never know what someone has gone through for a change in the scale number or size. It often may not be what



you think and it is never appropriate to judge based on size. We are all beautiful.

Ladies, keep your mitts off of OPP. Men can sometimes be the predators here, but if you find out they are married or taken, step back. If you are a single lady who intentionally seeks married men, remember what goes around comes around when someone eventually puts a ring on your finger.

Rumors. Don't start them. Don't spread them.

As much as we think our divine inner Goddess is flawless, I assure you a mistake will be made at some point. Apologize. It takes a strong, genuine woman to say she's sorry and admit fault. Listen, accept and forgive if appropriate.

Lastly, throw a random, genuine compliment to friend or foe. We can be emotionally charged beasts and sometimes an "atta girl" goes a long way.

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4/12: Nat'l Grilled Cheese Day Lunch
4/14: MCC Spring Auction
4/20 & 5/18: Concert on the Steps
4/28: MHF Gala
4/29: Loudoun Ballet Mad Hatter Tea
5/3: Cinco De Mayo Dinner
5/5-10/27: Middleburg Farmers Market
5/16: MBPA Job Fair
5/26: MCC Pool Opens

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MEET THE CANDIDATES

MAYORAL CANDIDATES

VINCENT BATAOEL

A plan to fill our empty storefronts.

Middleburg's economy can't be based on tourism alone. In order to fill up our empty storefronts, we have to get back to being a seven-day-per-week town, with stores that sell items at all price points. We also need to get more competitive. Our meals tax in Middleburg is 4%. The meals tax in Leesburg is 3.5%. The business license tax in Middleburg is 10% higher than Leesburg for professional and service businesses. If we want to fill our empty storefronts then we have to get more competitive on recruiting new and keeping existing businesses.

A time for progress in the community.

Middleburg used to be in dire straits, but it's not anymore. The Town Treasurer has recommended to hold \$800,000-\$1million in reserve to be prepared for the future. We currently have \$4million in reserve. A responsible amount of

the surplus could and should be used for good. A few ideas: restore Ashbury Church, fence in a park for our dogs to run, support programs for seniors and those with disabilities, make improvements to our utility system.

The utility fund question.

Someone is going around scaring people, saying the utility fund is not in good shape. This is not the truth. Our utilities consultant has said that we are unique among small towns in the financial health of our system. The system needs upgrades, but these upgrades can be paid for with the resources that the Town already has: \$4million in General Fund Reserve, \$1.8million in Utility Fund Reserve, or through long-term financing at a low interest rate.

A way to reduce water rates.

Our water rates are the highest in the County, and these high rates are hurting our seniors, single parents, and families on fixed incomes.

The current proposal is to raise all of the rates for all of the customers by 3% per year for the next five years. I've also discovered that 33% of our customers are being charged for more water than they are using in the month. Rather than turning a blind eye, or drumming up problems, we should be looking for solutions. For example, we can restructure our minimum charge, so people are not charged for more water than they are using.

State and local relationships.

I'm endorsed by Democrats including State Delegate Wendy Gooditis, and Loudoun County Chair Phyllis Randall, the first African American woman to be elected Chair of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors. One of the other candidates for Mayor is endorsed by Republican State Senator Vogel and Republican Supervisor Buffington. The other is not endorsed by any officials. We will all work with

each other, but I believe the community has the right to know who is endorsed by who, so as to vote with full transparency.

With this campaign coming to a close, I'd like to thank you for your time, thank the Eccentric for this space, and thank my wife and team for their support. Please get out and vote on May 1st to do what is best for the humble, civil, hardworking, Town of Middleburg.

Phone: 540-441-4011

vincent@middleburg.com

PS. Correction to last week's op-ed. I helped to recruit the Oyster Bar. The first contact was made by Peter Leonard Morgan, and it was a total effort by Town Staff, Mayor, and Council.

vincent@middleburg.com

TROWBRIDGE "BRIDGE" LITTLETON

One of the greatest character traits that maGetting Things Done for Middleburg

We live in a community of concerned citizens who are ready to muster to protect the town we call home. It's an exciting thing to be a part of, especially in spite of what we see on the news and the negative national style politics of rancor. Middleburg is about unity and consensus not division and party politics. We all have a responsibility to ensure that this special quality of our town is never taken for granted or seen as common place, because it is anything but. If we become complacent, then we will lose it. Today this sense of community is vibrant. Here are some examples from just the past year where I've had the great pleasure of working with many of you on some important issues facing Middleburg.

Two weeks ago, on a sunny and early Saturday morning you may have seen a peculiar sight, 45 bright and cheerful volunteers gathered in front of the Community Center for the Middleburg Clean Up. Not a single person was forced to be there. That's what made it special. This group of energized and dedicated citizens stormed the streets of Middleburg cloaked in safety vests and armed with recycling bags, trash cans and cigarette butt containers. Two

hours later there were 18 bags of trash, 14 bags of recyclables and 3,000 cigarette butts off our streets. This would not have happened without the hard work of those volunteers and of our civic leaders that brought it together in the first place. I am proud to have worked with the Go Green Committee, Chief Panebianco and Council Member Peter Leonard-Morgan to help organize this event. We have now made this a staple event, twice yearly.

Another recent example of how this community comes together and acts was what we all achieved in stopping the 5G Cell Tower Bills. To some sealing envelopes and mailing letters is repetitive and monotonous, but it can be an effective leadership tool as we proved by sending more than 400 letters opposing the bills which would have allowed corporate wireless providers to dictate where towers would be located in our neighborhoods, on our streets and sidewalks. Having spent much of my work career in government contracts and as a Planning Commissioner, these bills were of great concern to me because of the drastic impact they would have had on Middleburg and towns like it. I was determined to change these bills, but more importantly, so were you. Once we got the word out, we saw a groundswell of

activism and the results were staggering. Of the 1,000 letters Governor Ralph Northam's office received, over 400 came from Middleburg, a town of 786. That says something truly remarkable about the character of our community. I am proud to say that on April 9th, the Governor amended the bills to preserve the rights of cities and towns to decide what goes on their streets and sidewalks, and it was voted into law on April 18th. Had we not spoken, the result would have been different. We achieved this by working together and I thank you for your help.

Lastly, In the mid-1990's Middleburg eliminated the several hundred-dollar car tax we all remember paying. Unfortunately, at the time the Town did not actually have the authority to eliminate this tax, which was recently discovered. It put us in the position of either re-imposing the car tax on everyone, or seeking a new law from the State empowering Middleburg to keep this tax cut. This was an uphill battle, but we chose to fight for it for our citizens. We partnered with Senator Jill Vogel and Delegate Wendy Gooditis in the best traditions of bipartisanship to do what was right for Middleburg. They sponsored companion bills to right this error, but that was only the beginning. To get this over the finish line required

engaged advocacy from Middleburg. I was determined to represent to best of Middleburg in Richmond. I testified to the House and Senate committees on how important this tax cut was to our citizens on multiple occasions. With the hard work from all we carried the day and were able to pass this into law and save our tax cut. It was supported by more than 70% of the State legislature. This is when Middleburg is at its best. There were no party politics, just facts, hard work and results.

These incredible outcomes are because of you. Middleburg mobilized. Our voices were heard. We made change happen by working side by side without thought of partisanship. That's what excites me about Middleburg. These efforts remind me of a quote, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful and committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has". That is the story of Middleburg and is what I am committed to doing as Mayor. Rest assured there are many other issues we face, and I promise to face them with the same diligence and openness I have in these efforts. Thank you for your trust and be sure to vote on May 1.

bridgeformiddleburg.com

MARK SNYDER

Hello Middleburg! I was pleased to see the great turnout for the Meet the Candidates night. I am grateful to the Eccentric for hosting this event. Please vote at the town office Tuesday May 1!

I am about two years away from retiring from my "day" job, so afterwards will be able to devote my time to mayoral duties by a second term, if you elect me. I will devote my first term to completing the improvements I have advocated for over many years to the utility system. I will also discuss the idea with council of setting up an annual town-hall style event with council. I am sure we can agree, and discuss ground rules to allow back and forth discussion with council and possibly applicable members of staff.

Another issue facing the council too soon is retirement, potentially Martha Semmes, the Town Administrator, and AJ Panebianco, the Police Chief. They are both highly valued, beloved and not easily replaced. Of council members, only Darlene Kirk and I have experience

with the process of interviewing candidates for these two positions. It is imperative that we find quality candidates who are honest and familiar with the work and preferably Middleburg to fill these key positions.

I have two more issues, namely the Health Center, vis-à-vis town facilities, and leash laws.

Council is currently discussing the facilities we use to house staff and police, as well as council and its many committee meetings. Ideally, we will find a way to collocate all of these groups in an affordable manner. I have heard comments about taking the Health Center on Madison Street to re-purpose it for this.

As many of you know, the Health Center was a gift to Middleburg from the late Paul Mellon many years ago. This generous gift came with conditions. The primary one is that the gift must benefit charitable purposes. If Middleburg ever sells (or repurposes) it, the proceeds must benefit charity, such as by establishing an endowment. Current and future councils must take this commitment seriously

and act honorably!

I am eager to do everything possible to help steer council towards modest, affordable ways to achieve our goals to provide improvements in an honorable and sustainable manner. I do not think we need to spend huge sums to solve every need we might have over twenty or more years. We only require a solution flexible enough to solve the needs we have today and with the potential to grow slowly over time.

I mention leash laws because my dog and I were attacked April 14, when someone failed to observe them. I truly love dogs and appreciate that we are an animal-centric community. I was walking my dog, Lexie, on a leash from my home on Stonewall Avenue to the Community Center for the Go Green town cleanup event. This young man had two aggressive dogs (one about 75 pounds the other about 50 pounds). One of the dogs was unleashed. That dog attacked Lexie, lunging at her neck. When the owner arrived with the leashed dog, it also tried to attack Lexie. I was able to kick them

away until their owner wrestled them to the ground. Please remember - always keep your dog leashed when off your own property! Keep our dogs, other animals and neighbors safe.

I spent the last few weeks knocking on doors. This is difficult for me, as I snapped an ankle about 30 years ago. It can only take an hour or two before it starts to ache, potentially swelling up, requiring crutches for a while. I have toured about half the town as of April 14. If I have not yet knocked on your door, or if you were not home when I did, I hope to soon. Please email me at mark.snyder@ngc.com if you have any issues you want to discuss, so I can make sure to get back to you quickly. I would also be happy to meet a group of people, if someone wants to host an evening for this.

That is my opinion - what do you think? Do you have ideas to improve Middleburg? I would love to hear your comments, suggestions and questions!

mark.snyder@ngc.com

TOWN COUNCIL CANDIDATES

KEVIN HAZARD

This has been an intense and exciting campaign for the voters and the candidates. I think that we all have learned from each other. From being at the candidates' forum, to knocking on doors, I know that I have.

This campaign has helped us to drill down to the key issues facing our town. Significant concerns include budget, economic development and utilities. We need to be extremely flexible in facing these issues and weigh all al-

ternatives including innovative approaches to problems.

We are looking at an uncommitted budget surplus in our general fund of over \$4,000,000 dollars. The new Town Council needs to look at this surplus with our accounting experts and develop a plan to safely utilize a portion of it to better serve our residents.

We need to attack our empty storefronts

wisely and focus on businesses that not only serve the burgeoning tourist industry but also our residents. Kennedy Smith addressed this in a study that the town paid for in 2015. One of the conclusions of her study is that we need to have more focus on our resident's needs. We should use this study as a baseline going forward,

If we have a utility rate problem, we can look for innovative ways to solve it including

finding businesses that could use some of our excess water capacity. Having more customer will spread out fixed costs and bring rates down.

We have a wonderful caring community. Together we can solve any problem. Please vote on May 1st.

k hazard25@gmail.com

PETER LEONARD-MORGAN

A few days from now, citizens of the Town of Middleburg will head to the polls to elect its new mayor, and four council members.

Anyone who does not already know this must have been living under a proverbial rock, or simply has had enough of divisive politics and negativity we see on the larger stage these days.

But, I am saddened that even here in our charming, quaint and historic special place we know as Middleburg, we seem to have been bombarded with an aggressive form of campaigning designed to belittle and downplay the volunteer efforts of men and women who have selflessly put their hands up and said they will serve their community, through thick and thin.

Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing mayor, Betsy Davis,

for having stewarded our town through some pretty tough times as well as much brighter ones. Furthermore, gratitude is due to all the council members who, recently and over the decades, have worked tirelessly to navigate hurdles and barriers to ensure Middleburg's safe arrival to where it is today.

Were there mistakes along the way? Sure, there were. Of course, there were. Because, as was drummed in to me growing up by far smarter people than I, a person who can't make a mistake can't make anything.

It's easy for someone who has not held public office to castigate the efforts of those who do hold office, or who have held office, for decisions which may not always be 100% unanimous, or entirely popular. But isn't it far more productive to provide positive criticism rather

than to lambast all and sundry simply because you disagree with a particular stance.

One thing is for sure; a new mayor and new council members will be voted in on May 1st. My experience thus far, in the year and a half during which I have had the honor or serving on council, is that there has been a healthy and cordial atmosphere, and a feeling of mutual respect among the council members, which ultimately manifests itself with informed debate and argument, and well considered decision making. The new council will have to work together and form a bond with the primary goal being to make sure the citizens and businesses of Middleburg thrive. Some of the current rhetoric risks leading to discord on council. Let's make sure this does not happen, please.

On Tuesday May 1st, 2018, you the citizens

CINDY PEARSON

After retiring from Town last October, I felt there was still more for me to offer. Over the years I've seen things that really work well, some that didn't, and when we need new ideas or change. I'd really like to be on Council to help with those decisions.

Some people have asked me about running in a team and I tell everyone the same thing, that it's helpful. Campaigning is new to most of us. Vincent organized the group, gave us debate prep, has given us gentle nudges to keep going, and kept us moving forward.

DARLENE KIRK

Town Council elections are Tuesday, May 1st. I am one of seven Middleburgers seeking one of the four seats for Town Council. I have lived in Middleburg all my life and I want our town to remain the town we all love - friendly, loving, kind, safe, and fiscally sound. I want to help it stay that way.

You've trusted me to serve you for 18 years and as Vice Mayor for 12 years. The town now has the healthiest reserve in its history. When I started on Council it wasn't that way. They were some very scary times. I'm not claiming the current reserves as my doing alone, even though I am Chairman of Personal and Finance Committee, but I've committed myself

self to making certain we prevent wasteful spending. I want to keep our town financially healthy.

Many projects are on the horizon for our home. I really feel I have so much more to give on these critical projects. It's also important to me that I help instill a bit of historical perspective to our new and motivated council members. We're about to start the following improvements: new water lines in Ridgeview, water facility improvements, sidewalk continuation on Marshall St., planning for a new Town Hall and Police Station and our comprehensive land use plan is in being updated. We also have Town employees nearing their retirement.

"MIMI" DALE STEIN

It's been a lot of fun to see and be a part of all of the campaigning. I've never seen so much activity and I don't know who all to thank for it but thank you Eccentric for giving us all space to voice our opinions.

I've been a part of the community for a long time and seen many ups and downs. But I think

we have an opportunity now to make some changes that are due for the Town.

I've worked with a lot of the candidates either on Council or Committees. I'm with Vincent and the team in keeping Middleburg a place for everyone, giving back to the residents, and revitalizing our downtown.

KRISTIN KAY NOGGLE

Team Middleburg

Each candidate in this election needs the ability to work as a team with town council, the mayor, our capable staff, police department and all the committees. A good team player will have integrity, the desire to listen, an openness to new ideas, and will include the needs and ideas of all the residents of Middleburg. Having been a member of many teams, I understand the selfless dedication it requires and the great rewards that come from combining strengths. It is also more fun than going it alone.

My experience as a team member began with competing on 44 different teams over my 7 year career in Pony Club, an educational non-profit with 12,000 members. Every team had to work together to plan and prepare them-

selves, their horses and the shared equipment for a weekend of competition with no parental supervision. Team captains, like mayors, had to delegate tasks and everyone had to trust each other to do their best. Sometimes we failed, but we always learned and looked forward to the next challenge. We gained great respect for the volunteers who organized the camps and competitions and ran the clubs. Later, I became one of those volunteers, and spent 20 years in local, regional and national positions, including six years as leader of Middleburg-Orange County Pony Club. My team of club officers carried out the Pony Club mission by engaging and inspiring both kids and their parents, who learned horse care, independence and a sense of community. This meant many rewarding hours of

hard work, on top of my full time, physical job.

Now, as HOA President for my condo association, I delegate tasks to the board, collect bids for improvement and maintenance projects, and listen to the needs of owners and tenants. While not as rewarding as my Pony Club involvement, I appreciate the importance of fiscal responsibility and contemplating decisions thoroughly and efficiently.

Good teams are made of people who have been inspired by a good leader. Kevin, Cindy, Mimi and myself joined up with Vincent because of his leadership style, listening skills and his compassion for the people of our town. Teamwork is not a new thing for any of us, but working together has helped us to think creatively and focus our vision for Middleburg.

CHRIS BERNARD

Dear Neighbors,

This election process has been an educational and truly humbling experience. Meeting all sorts of new people, digging deeper into the relationships I already had, and learning more about the ins-and-outs of how Middleburg operates have all reinforced how much I really love this place. Sure, the warm weather and beautiful streetscape on Washington Street are wonderful, but it's the people that live and work here that make it so special. It's a place that we all care deeply about, and are all searching for ways to get involved and make it even better.

I have chosen to get involved by getting my name on the election ballot to serve on the Town Council. One of the main reasons for this is that I believe it is one of the most effective ways to make a difference in both the short and long-term future of Middleburg. I bring a lot of experience in complex problem-solving using objective data analytics, project management, and organizational development, and I feel these are all great strengths that benefit any team.

There are countless issues that the town staff and council deal with on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis, but there are a few large ones that stick out to me as the cornerstones of what we're trying to accomplish:

1. Economic & Business Development: We need to be creative and aggressive about filling our empty storefronts. Visitors won't return if they don't have great experiences here, and having a well-rounded, diverse, business community will lead to more return visitors. Maintaining the existing businesses is also a priority; we can't spend a ton of effort bringing in new businesses if we're not going to support the ones we have. I hope to really engage business owners/operators in town to find out what the underlying problems are and make our decisions from there.

2. Town Utilities: We have spent a lot of time and money on updating our water system, and are going to continue to do so. I'm not making promises to cut utility costs or reduce funding for the utility systems. What I'm proposing is that we look at ways to find a healthy balance between the cost and quality of utilities. We cannot compromise on quality and safety, so if we're going to pay a premium for these services, we need to make sure they are worth the cost.

3. Development: Growing up in Fauquier County, the idea of mitigating rapid development is not new to me. We live in a beautiful country town that is both fortunately and unfortunately located in one of the richest and most rapidly growing counties in America. Fortu-

nate, because we are in such close proximity to shopping, entertainment, and all the cultural benefits of DC and Northern Virginia. Unfortunately, because there seems to be no end to the sprawl of development. We have done a great job with ensuring that our town remains beautiful and quaint, but we need to partner with the surrounding area to make our voice heard and ensure that our way of life is not threatened.

4. Financial Sustainability: We are fortunate to be in a good current financial situation, but I think we need to be careful and look ahead to when times might not be so good. Part of this is diversifying the town's revenue stream so we aren't so reliant on one industry (tourism/luxury), but another part is saving and investing for the future. There are things that our cash reserves can buy us today, but I'm also very concerned about what they're going to buy us in an economic downturn... when we really need them.

There has been a lot of talk about "teams" and "slates" recently, and I wanted to offer my thoughts. Playing and coaching competitive sports my whole life and working with and building teams in the business world, I understand the value and importance of collaboration and teamwork as well as anyone, but in a town the size of Middleburg, I think it has to work a little differently. The mayor or the town

will be the ones who decide who will make up the next Middleburg Town Council. It's critical that as many registered voters get to the voting booth and so, if you know any voters who may be on the fence about making the trip to the Town Office to cast their ballots, I implore you to encourage them to do so.

I very much hope that Middleburg's citizens will re-elect me to build upon my initial 18-month tenure - I was elected to fill an unexpired four-year term in the November 2016 election - but if that doesn't happen, I will respect the decision of the people who matter and support a new council, and continue to help drive environmental and health initiatives and improvements as a member of our Go Green committee - if they'll still have me!!

pleonardmorgan@gmail.com

to be a part of the Big Team, and hope you will all get out and vote on May 1.

cindypearson102017@gmail.com

18 years on Council may seem like a long time, but to me, it seems like just yesterday. I love looking out for our town in good times and bad. I love hearing from citizens about issues that seem unresolvable, even late at night. I love helping long-time citizens here in town and encouraging newcomers to move here. It is the best place in the world to live! Thank you for the honor of having served you to this point.

I encourage all citizens to please vote on May 1. I ask that you please support me in my bid for re-election. Middleburg is not just where I live, it's my heart! Thank you.

darlenkrk@aol.com

Council I will promise to be receptive and to be a good representative of everyone, especially if you need help. I look forward to seeing you all come and vote for your new Mayor and Council on May 1.

mimi@certifiedhumane.org

We have enjoyed supporting each other, sharing resources, time, energy and stories.

Middleburg sets an example in our area for how to maintain character and history, just steps from suburbia and the IT hub of the east coast. Now, more than ever, the town government team, whoever that may be, will need to draw in all the residents, seek out experts and information for optimal decision-making and know when tradition is getting in the way of innovation. In this election year, we are all members of the same team in moving Middleburg toward a sustainably successful future. If you have not been involved yet, please think about what small thing you could do for town, in addition to

knogg3@me.com

government does not get to pick the teams; you (the voters) do. The goal should be to pick a group of individuals who bring their own diverse ideas, skills, and experiences to the table and who are eager and willing to work together towards the common goal of bettering our home. It's pretty basic; we all want to live in a safe, beautiful, and thriving community. The question should be: who is going to lead us there?

I'm a team player, and I bring a lot of creativity, common sense, and business experience to the table. I hope you see fit to trust me with your vote on May 1st, because on May 2nd, we all need to wake up and move forward together on whatever path we're on and with whatever team the voters have chosen, and I'm ready to do just that. Please feel free to reach out with any questions, ideas, or comments you may have. I'm always happy to talk strategy or just shoot the breeze. It will take all of our collective ideas, skills, experience, and an open dialog to accomplish big things over the years to come, and whether I'm on the Town Council, one of the various committees, or just a concerned citizen, I am excited about being a part of it all and sharing this great place with all of you.

bernardcw9@gmail.com



VOTE MAY 1ST THERE'S NEVER BEEN AN ELECTION LIKE IT

Every registered Middleburg voter has an opportunity to cast an important and historic vote in the Town Elections on May 1st.

Why is this vote important? Middleburg will not only choose a new MAYOR to replace the retiring and much-honored Betsy Davis, but will fill A MAJORITY OF THE SEATS ON TOWN COUNCIL.

Why is it historic? NEVER in the history of the Town of Middleburg have we been able to choose from so many,

and so many well-qualified, candidates.

There are no less than THREE candidates running for Mayor: Vincent Bataoel; Bridge Littleton; and Mark Snyder.

There are no less than SEVEN candidates running for the four open seats on Town Council: Kevin Hazard; Cindy Pearson; Peter Leonard-Morgan; Darlene Kirk; Mimi Stein; Kristin Noggle; and Chris Bernard.

You can see ALL of them answering questions posed at the recent (and

first) Middleburg Town Council Forum on line at MBECC.com. Click on the link, in blue, at the top of the page marked: UPDATED MEET THE CANDIDATES NIGHTS VIDEO

These men and women will have more impact on our day-to-day life and experience in Middleburg than any other candidates we will have an opportunity to choose, up to and including the President of the United States.

They set our Town budget and levy the tax-

es and fees to pay for it. Their zoning legislation determines what can be built here, where it can be built, and to what standards. They keep our drinking water safe and running. They hire and fire our Police force. They (and especially our Mayor) represent us and our interests at the County, State, Regional and National level. They select beneficiaries and distribute significant supporting grants to local non-profit organizations. Their staff and other committees protect our

historic architecture and ambience; our natural environment; and our general safety and well-being on a day to day basis in ways that many of us will never see or appreciate, precisely because such work is only noticed if it is not done, or done badly.

GO TO THE TOWN OFFICES ON MAY 1 AND VOTE.

You owe it to yourself, your friends and family, and to those who can't vote but know and love Middleburg.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

Mayoral candidate Vincent Bataoel recently sent Town residents a letter outlining his priority issues for the Town's future. He has some interesting ideas, and for that we commend him.

His letter's attempt to inject partisan politics into the race, however, is a problem. Our Town's political contests usually have been free of the kind of political rancor currently dividing

our country. Mr. Bataoel's letter implies the he alone has the kind of "progressive" political relationships to advance the Town's goals, while his main opponent, presumably Bridge Littleton, does not. This demonstrates a fundamental lack of understanding of the social and political environment in which our Town's elected officials operate. Middleburg's success has hinged largely upon the ability of our representatives to work with one another and Richmond,

not just on a bipartisan basis, but a nonpartisan one.

The letter also states that Mr. Bataoel is not a professional politician, but it strongly suggests he is prepared to act like one. Where he sees his opponent's long "political resume," others discern a lifelong dedication to the Town and its people, and a willingness to take sometimes unpopular decisions to help achieve important goals.

I would note in this regard that

Mr. Littleton, and not Mr. Bataoel, has closely followed and dealt productively with County Board Chairman Phyllis Randall on the many difficulties associated with the County's draft of its next Comprehensive Plan. Perhaps more than any of the issues discussed during this campaign, Middleburg's future may be determined by what the County does in its next 20-year planning exercise, starting with the possible abolition of county Transition Areas. Mr.

Bataoel does not seem to grasp the critical importance of this issue, or he has remained silent on it. We would hope that if Mr. Bataoel is elected, he will use his "progressive" political connections to fight the County's plans and protect our Town from encroaching development and the destruction of Loudoun's rural areas.

Respectfully,
M.E. Bud Jacobs
Middleburg, Va.

FACEBOOK FRIENDS AND RELATIONS BLUE

DAN MORROW

*When she was good,
She was very good indeed,
But when she was bad
she was horrid.*

*Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
(1807-1882)*

Facebook's roots lie in the ancient traditions once linked to the fevered (and all too often tasteless and cruel) search for true love-and-luck coincident in ancient times with the appearance on college campuses each year of little paper-bound booklets containing, among other things, the pictures of incoming students: the original "Face Books."

In thousands of pre-vaping smoke-filled dorm rooms, in fraternity and sorority houses everywhere, young people pored over the volumes and "rated" the pictures there.

The founders of Facebook figured a way to do it online.

The rest is history or at least history in the making.

As is the case with new technologies, or in this case, many new "applications" of technology,

people who have used or exploited Facebook and the sites that sought to emulate it have produced results both good and evil.

For Facebook, the good things need no exegesis. Because of those good things more than a billion people worldwide use Facebook alone. Variants abound. Indeed, nearly everyone with online access in the entire world participates in electronic "social networking" of one kind or another.

In the hands of the wrong people Facebook and its kin, like all technologies, can be used to negative or even destructive effect. Those tales too need no exegesis here.

Like printing, the telegraph, movies, the telephone, radio, television, and all other forms of technologically amplified communication, Facebook, its friends and relations enable both the best and worst of us.

Only this time it's not only what's said, videoed, or otherwise communicated directly that's powerful . . . its also what the technology allows us to know about who is saying what, to whom, and even why.

That profound and newly accessible knowledge, in turn, gives the best and worst of us the ability

to communicate with very carefully targeted groups of people, based on what they've told us about themselves, sometimes willingly, sometimes inadvertently.

This new found ability to seek out and mobilize "friends and relations" thus bring us Agnieszka Golec de Zavalala's article, "Why Collective Narcissists Are So Politically Volatile," published under the auspices of the University of London's PrejudiceLab.

The Labs researchers (and others in leading universities around the world) identify "Collective Narcissists" as those who "... are particularly sensitive to even the smallest offences to their group's image."

In contrast to "individual" narcissists, who "maintain inflated views of themselves," these folks "exaggerate offenses to their group's image, and respond to them aggressively."

They think "their group's importance and worth are not sufficiently recognized by others . . . " and "... insist that it gets the recognition and respect it deserves." They believe, in other words, "in the exaggerated greatness" of their group and demand "external validation."

They demand "privileged treat-

ment", not "equal rights."

They are radically different from those who "simply hold positive feelings" about a group to which they belong.

They exhibit, instead, "a need for continuous external validation of the groups' inflated image."

"When their own group is involved, " the author notes, "collective narcissists have no sense of humor. They are disproportionately punitive in responding to what they perceive as an insult to their group, even when the insult is debatable, not perceived by others, or not intended"

Collective narcissism, they continue, "... is so toxic it explains phenomena such as anti-Semitism and perhaps even two world wars"

It was strongly predictive, multiple studies indicate, of voting behavior among those who, in 2016, both voted for Donald Trump in the United States and for Brexit in Great Britain.

We see it among local defenders of the "lost cause" and prejudice against religious minorities, women, immigrants, and others.

Of all the dangers of social media, whether Facebook or variants thereof, the empowerment of such

people is arguably the greatest, most dangerous and most difficult-to-control downside problem.

Given the ability of exploiters of such technology to not only communicate with the openly like-minded, but target potential friends, allies, contributors for direct or indirect recruitment, regulation is in order.

The trick, of course, is to regulate the media without destroying them, given the constitutionally protected inarguable positives they provide and will continue to provide.

Book burnings don't work.

Neither will overbearing censorship of the web and its content.

A combination of regulation protecting the public against the most egregious dangers and voluntary efforts by both providers and users to govern what's written and what personal information is exposed is clearly the answer. Europe has made a start with its "right to be forgotten" legislation, which gives every user control of his or her personal data.

We're still working on print, movies, the telephone, radio, and television.

This will not be easy . . . but it must be done.

SOCIAL MEDIA... FACEBOOK, TWITTER AND ALL THE REST

RED

BRIAN VELLA

I am not a tech person, and I have neither a Facebook nor Twitter account, so the topic this month is somewhat out of my comfort zone. I have never understood the urge by some people to divulge every aspect of their personal lives online, but the ability of social media companies to track every communication and transaction and to develop a database for each user is, or should be, alarming to everyone regardless of their decision to use social media or their political views. All that said, I will admit I am conflicted about this topic. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and other services are extraordinarily popular because people want the services they provide. As a free-market advocate, I applaud the entrepre-

neurship that has made these companies successful, and I appreciate that the founders of these companies are modern-day visionaries. Like many others, however, I have concerns about overreach. Leaving aside for this column recent data on the unhealthy "addiction" by many users to social media and the efforts by those companies to promote greater and greater use by ever-younger customers, the involvement of these companies in our electoral process demonstrates once again that politics has penetrated every aspect of our lives.

The recent furor over Cambridge Analytica should come as no surprise. Political operatives have long understood the power of accessing information collected from the internet. In an interview in 2013, Maxine Waters explained that the Obama administration

had put together a database having "information about everything on every individual in ways that have never been done before..." Not coincidentally, according to White House visitor logs Johanna Shelton, director of public policy for Google, visited Obama White House officials over 120 times. I do not think any journalist ever bothered to ask the Google representative exactly who she was meeting with or why, but on June 20, 2013, the New York Times ran an article that heaped praise on "The Obama Campaign's Digital Masterminds" who had collected and used internet data successfully in their primary campaign against Hillary Clinton. We all have reason to fear the power these companies wield, and how the information they control can be sold and used, apparently without restric-

tion. Although there are laws and regulations that screen and limit the sale or transfer of sensitive technology to foreign powers, it seems there are no safeguards on the sale or transfer of information on American citizens to those who seek to exploit such information, whether foreign or domestic.

While the problem is obvious, the correct course of action is not. It is a precarious balancing act to allow social media sites the freedom to provide the services that customers want, but at the same time put effective limits on the use of information these sites solicit and collect in ever more subtle ways. As recent Congressional hearings demonstrated, companies such as Facebook have not only been ineffective safeguarding data but worse, their internal policies have allowed practices such

as shadow banning and shadow blocking to censor speech with which they disagree. Trusting the government to impartially divine the correct answer, however, is also betting on a long shot, a few legislators have the technical knowledge to address cutting-edge advances in information technology. Moreover, the federal government's recent history is no better than the private sector social media companies when it comes to protecting data, as demonstrated by the government's failure to protect and its misuse of information gathered by agencies such as the IRS, the FBI, the OPM and the NSA. We live now in an information age, and as is often the case, our laws cannot keep pace with technology.

INTERNET INNOVATION AND PRIVACY, A SCIENTIST'S VIEW A SCIENTIST'S PERSPECTIVE

DR. ART POLAND, PHD

There has been so much discussion recently about the Internet, Facebook in particular, and individual privacy that I thought I would discuss this from the viewpoint of a scientist who sometimes gets involved with advances in technology.

An article in one of last month's Washington Post compared what Zuckerberg's Facebook has done for/to society is comparable to what Gutenberg's printing press did. In each case, the intent was to improve society. In each case, there were some really bad unforeseen consequences.

I will focus on Facebook, since that is something that most people are familiar with, and something I have quite a bit of experience with. For curiosity I downloaded the file with my information on it - this is what companies buy from Facebook. My file was over 60 Megabytes compressed (that is a lot of data). In looking through it on a superficial basis I could see how they could easily determine who I voted for in the last election, how strongly I supported my choice, and all sorts of other personal information - much of it

from private messages I had sent to friends. In deciding which types of political ads or stories should be sent to me, I can see that with today's technology their computers could make those decisions in a few seconds at most. The whole system is very ingenious.

The article struck a chord with me as a scientist because we focus so much on what we can discover and rarely look at possible consequences. We generally consider anything we can discover as being "good" for humanity. While what Zuckerberg and Gutenberg did was not science, it is very much a parallel to science, an idea, a discovery, and an implementation.

We usually stop there except in very rare cases. The "atom bomb" is an example where many scientists involved in its development had serious reservations about its use. After it was used, they became very active in attempting to stop its further use.

I would argue that the same thoughts should be considered with respect to Facebook and its "cousins". We have seen that incorrect or subversive use of it can lead to devastating results - for example, people being harassed through its use by extremists, or people's thoughts being manipulated by unscrupulous organizations - Russia, White Supremacist groups, etc. According to the Post article, Gutenberg's press has been accused by historians as causing great unrest in Europe after it came into extensive use. Facebook has obviously been causing problems in our democracy.

Listening to Zuckerberg's testimony to Congress the other day left me very concerned. My first impression was that our congresspeople want to pretend that they actually understand what is happening. They don't. Given the lack of understanding in Congress, how can they regulate/protect?

As Zuckerberg said, he is in a cat and mouse game, as he builds protections, the other side is working around them. He already has around 10,000 employees working on protection; that is a lot of money. The simple problem of blocking bullying or untrue stories quickly is extremely difficult but important. It is my opinion that the government actually needs to step in and help with this problem, possibly using the NSA expertise to help.

The magnitude of the problem is large. I don't know how many times I've seen a story or post that I really liked or disliked. I've had

the sense to do some fact checking only to find out the story is false. There are fairly simple methods that can be used to check a story or post and determine its veracity. However, the automatic implementation is expensive and most people don't seem to be sufficiently critical of what they read.

For Zuckerberg or Gutenberg to have been able to predict these unintended consequences before they occurred is totally unreasonable. His apologies are not required. As the saying goes, hindsight is 20/20. Seeing into the future is not so good. Hopefully, a reasonable solution to these unintended consequences will be found soon, because they are very serious. For now, it would be very helpful if people thought critically about what they read . . . and do some fact checking.

THE ORBIT OF CAPITALISM THE PUBLIC SQUARE

JERRY VAN VOORHIS
CHANDLER VAN VOORHIS

A more populous, closer trading world makes connections across distant spaces more necessary. As trading distances shrink and ties strengthen, however, resources - air, land, minerals, water - all become more available while growth in population is making them daily more scarce.

Paying nature's costs is becoming vital. At a time like Earth Day especially, we need to assess the role of government and business in this evolving environmental age. The situation as it is cannot continue.

Any new era of expected business growth cannot remain an empty vessel of progress, divorced from the public good. Government today holds business at bay. Its "guardian state" function, for example, largely exempts corporations from having to internalize costs with planetary assets.

Keeping business "off bounds" is poor stewardship, a negative role which is not, itself, sustainable. Business, on the other hand, as part of the "commercial state" in our time, brilliantly fulfills

many of our dreams but has failed at times to align its goals to the broader interests of civilization as well as it could.

A new paradigm for government and business, each operating from strength rather than from weakness, can heal this divide. Government and business both must grow into new roles.

They must learn to face energetically and ruggedly the truth of environmental costs together. Only more responsibility ahead by each party can let them move from realms of failure to a partnership of success.

In such a collaboration, the mechanism of price would not be ignored as now, but become a vital tool for valuing nature's precious assets. Why is price so essential?

1. Price is a magical instrument. Through prices, we do many things: create choice; determine value; buy one good over another; rule some things in, others out. Price creates a system that verifies choice, thus priority.

2. Price forces change. As resources become precious, we do without or find substitutes. Price affects the flow of funds across society, arbitrates how they move,

then are combined, spent, or saved.

3. Price is a lubricator - a point of passage which guides changing habits from past to future behaviors. Price, for people, the market, and earth's goods, mirrors humanity's very opinion of itself.

4. Price often is the best means for showing trust and sparing conflict. It sharpens rather than dulls the power of concentration - or compromise. Through price, we efficiently trade and negotiate. As price settles transaction values, we sort differences, then make a deal.

5. Price by nature spurs transactions and drives innovation. Rather than the guardian and commercial cultures of society warring, price lets us take responsibility as a people for the earth's future.

6. Price, then, is a colossal mediator. By people working across vast layers and patterns of daily activities embedded in the marketplace, price moves the environment straight onto our collective shoulders. Our education into morality, as a public, then prevails.

7. Price as a principle has pushed us forward as a civilization. But it has not yet included nature yet within its orbit. Until that happens Nature, as a free

good, is demeaned.

The pressure on resources means business must not get them free in the future but pay for all its needs. Companies may soon have to move from utility discounting ("a polite expression for rapacity and the conquest of reason by passion," Roy Harrod) to consumption dis-counting, which puts the higher value on the goods of tomorrow over those consumed today.

The orbit of capitalism ahead should not be smaller, but larger. Without a more integrated path for capitalism, nature's assets will only further constrict.

The future will become a downward funnel - and the answer is to end the slide, and build a fount. The way to do this is to put equity back into nature. Nature, we know, is abundant.

The air we breathe, and the water we use is there for all of us. By ending a default price of nature of zero and what it says about us, can we not use the tools of price, transaction, negotiation, contracts, and, yes, profit can accomplish for nature's assets?

If businesses use capitalistic forms or resource enhancement,

ranging from new forms of product "dematerialization" to embracing resource substitutions, they can widen the productive use, cost, spread, and reach of a more equitable distribution of goods across the planet.

Once government and business account for nature's abundance correctly, we can make a new sphere of prosperity more available than only a finitely captured one does now.

A fusion rather than separateness would unite the spirit of capitalism to more liberal principles.

The Public Square believes expanding the orbit of capitalism will bring greater dispersals of abundance, and organization of supply, and a culture of equity to the future and, yes, therefore, value. They will do more than today's financial climate is prepared to do or a governing culture allows.

The vigor of price would energize a currently static, or punitive at best, bureaucratic inertia. We would create a partnership of ecological price sensitivity, built on a more expansive law of public supply and demand - where future economic growth would carry a purpose beyond consumer expansion goals alone.

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR WATER

WATERWORLD

RICHARD A. ENGBERG

As world population reaches nine billion by 2050, the number of people in the world without safe drinking water will continue to increase. A report released on March 18, 2018, by the UNESCO World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) at the World Water Forum in Brazil, indicates that at present more than two billion people do not have consistent access to safe drinking water.

The report, Nature-Based Solutions for Water, indicates that increasing population coupled with climate change is exacerbating the safe drinking water problem. That said, it postulates that natural solutions, some of which have been around many years, can provide help with this problem. According to Au-

drey Azoulay, the Director-General of UNESCO, "Demand for water is set to increase in all sectors. The challenge we must face is meeting this demand in a way that does not exacerbate negative impacts on ecosystems."

Stephen Uhlenbrook, WWAP Coordinator, and Richard Connor, Editor-in-Chief of the report state in the preface that the report "focuses on opportunities to harness the natural processes that regulate various elements of the water cycle which have become collectively known as nature-based solutions (NBS) for water."

Presently there are a variety of types of NBS for water from personnel such as dry toilets, to landscape-level such as conservation agriculture. Nevertheless, water resource management relies greatly

on human-built or the so-called grey infrastructure. The report states that it's idea "is not necessarily to replace grey infrastructure with green infrastructure but to identify the most appropriate, cost-effective and sustainable balance between grey infrastructure and NBS considering multiple objectives and benefits."

How can these objectives be met? One possibility is to re-examine indigenous/traditional knowledge and approaches that tend to rely less on construction and more on greener approaches and to incorporate these approaches into infrastructure. "Working with nature rather than against it would enhance natural capital and support a resource-efficient and competitive and circular economy."

Uhlenbrook and Connor further state "There are a number of mechanisms that can be used to accelerate

the uptake of NBS for water. Payment for environmental services schemes and green bonds have been shown interesting returns on investments while lowering the need (and costs) for larger, often more expensive infrastructure required for water resources management and the delivery of water supply and sanitation services."

The report recognizes that a greater reliance on NBS will not necessarily be easy. "Implementation of NBS involves the participation of many different stakeholder groups, thus encouraging consensus-building and helping to raise awareness about what NBS can truly offer to improve water security." Uhlenbrook and Connor further state that the report has endeavored "to produce a balanced fact-based and neutral account of the current state of knowledge,

covering the most recent developments pertaining to NBS for water, and the various benefits and opportunities they offer in terms of improving the sustainable water resources management."

I personally believe that WWAP is on the right track. I believe that incorporating NBS with grey infrastructure, while it may be ultimately overwhelmed by the combined specters of rapid population growth and climate change, represents a way to at least slow down the problem and, perhaps, to solve it.

Citation: WWAP (United Nations World Water Assessment Programme) UN-Water, 2018. The United Nations World Water Development Report 2018: Nature-Based Solutions for Water. Paris, UNESCO.

STOP METRO WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT'S FORCE FED POPULATION GROWTH

ELIZA DREW

Please sit down when reading this. Did you know all your local elected officials tacitly support the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government's plan to force-feed two million more people into Northern Virginia by 2050?

Now you should probably lie down. Regional planning agencies, called Council of Governments (COGs), primarily base their population forecasts on prior population growth trends. This means, theoretically, that population growth begets additional growth at the same general rates, and in the same locations. Close your eyes. The U.S. population

more than doubled since 1950, from 150 to 326 million people!

Now, put a cool washcloth on your forehead. The COGs and your local government officials are ensuring that the forecasted population growth becomes a reality. They closely coordinate zoning for housing and taxpayer-funded new roads to accommodate forecasted future population increases.

Of course, you are nauseous and upset about this COG-mandated pro-development and pro-population growth decree. This skewed process eviscerates our ability to modify population growth and future development through elections, education, immigration changes, downzoning, land conservation, and other mea-

sures.

When you can stand up again, please email your local and state representatives. Tell them to revoke their support for Washington Metro "Region Forward Plan." Below are some other comments you might include.

1. Population growth and real estate development are not prerequisites for economic development. Population growth does not improve job quality. Over 52% of American jobs pay less than \$30,000; 60% less than \$40,000; and 72% less than \$50,000. Jobs spawned by the Federal government create higher paying jobs in this region, not population growth.

2. Replace Smart Growth with

a new planning paradigm. "Smart Growth" was supposed to allow density in lieu of suburban sprawl, elsewhere. It is now being abused by most jurisdictions to allow unlimited and dense infill development absent concurrent levels of land conservation. Sprawl and dense housing projects are both happening. In contrast, in order to keep taxes low, preserve farmland, and sustain its quality of life, Calvert County, Maryland has been incrementally reducing its total planned number of residential units.

3. Demand Campaign Finance Reform. As long as developer money infiltrates local and state elections, there will be little successful local planning, scant focus on good job creation, and significant additional

environmental degradation.

One last point. People who make money from population growth and development in areas other than where they live are called "Growth Elites." Some inhabitants of this region's low-density zoned areas became wealthy from national and worldwide population growth and development over the last several decades.

Go for a walk and consider how it would be a class act of historic proportions if, with just a fraction of the money they've amassed, Growth Elites bought and turned into parkland all remaining undeveloped Northern Virginia land.

LETTER FROM THE PLAINS

ANTHONY WELLS

The Tweet that former Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, John Brennan, sent out on Saturday, March 17, 2018, ushered in St. Patrick's Day in unprecedented ways. His comments, coming after the earlier firing of the Deputy Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation by the Attorney General of the United States, blasted a sitting President of the United States in ways that have never before, to my best knowledge, been written about a President not just in office, but ever at all.

The implications for American democracy in the President's attack on the FBI palls in comparison with the challenges ahead for the US to rally its Allies to successfully work with North Korea and Iran over nuclear weapons.

At home, the economy is strong thanks to the eight years of solid nurturing by President Obama after the economic disaster of 2008, precipitated by irresponsible house buying and banking policies that were steered by a White House that could not and did not see the consequences of its actions.

Today, after eight years of financial stability, the nation has a House of Representative, led by Speaker Paul Ryan, who had been calling daily during the Obama years for spending restraint and lowering the deficit. Now the nation has been precipitously pushed into historically greater debt by those very politicians who

"cried wolf" for eight solid years. This has been done all in the name of tax cuts when every distinguished US economist has argued that tax cuts do not lead to higher incomes for the American middle class.

The level to which political hypocrisy has sunk since January 2017 is egregious. What can we all do? How can Eccentric readers make a difference?

District 5 in the US House of Representatives is ready to be occupied by someone who does not and will not in office submit themselves to the level of political demagoguery and chicanery that we now all endure on a daily basis. The issues are staring us in the face, at a local level in our District and Town, at a national level, and in the global environment in which the US is losing rapidly its preeminence, its status, and international respect. Meanwhile, Putin and the Russian Oligarchs, and the new elite in Beijing make hay as they see the sun shining more brightly for their national self-interests, and political self-preservation, as the United States staggers like a drunken man from one political misstep to another.

The issues in our District encompass immigration, health care, gun rights, never before seen attacks on the core deliverables of the New Deal, Russia, China, cyber attacks, the environment, and the conservation of our wonderful countryside through proper controls. If the current incumbent of District 5 has his way watch what will happen to Medicare and Medicaid, and those of

your families and loved ones in nursing homes who need care.

Candidate Leslie Cockburn is an incredibly able and accomplished person to be our next US Representative, based not on some outdated party affiliations and rhetoric, but upon one simple concept - quality. She has an extraordinarily successful track record, including by the way more time in combat zones in both Iraq and Afghanistan than the incumbent, who spent, to use the naval parlance, "half a dog watch" in the US Army.

This is not in any way to demean his service but to place the facts in context. Look carefully at Representative Garrett's Congressional record and background, in stark contrast to Ms. Cockburn's online biographical details - the facts are incontestable. Tom Garrett voted against "stream protection" in the conservation debate and his vote against mental health controls for gun buyers place him not just in the NRA camp, but his actions also place him against those who, for example, want to clean up methane emissions in Buckingham County.

Ms. Cockburn understands that without a solid immigrant community, underpinned by caring immigration reform, the Virginia Department of Forestry will not be able to sustain its reforestation plans. There will be no one to do the tree work, along with sustaining Virginia's vibrant agriculture, viticulture, and equestrian economy without properly controlled and administered immigrant labor.

MBECC.COM



Mount Gordon Farm
The Plains, Virginia
\$9,850,000

128 acres and immaculate 3 level, 13,000+ sq ft stone & shingle main house • 5 BR • 8 FP • Exceptional finishes on every floor • Caterer's kitchen • Elevator • Spa • Separate guest cottage • Pool • Farm manager residence • 3 additional tenant houses • 12 stall center-aisle stable • Pond • Extraordinary land w/incomparable views extending beyond the Blue Ridge Mts • Orange County Hunt

Helen MacMahon (540) 454-1930



Old Goose Creek Farm
Middleburg, Virginia
\$4,500,000

Immaculate equestrian property in turnkey condition • Exceptional location • Stone home expanded to approx. 7,000 sf. includes 4 main level suites • Lovely gardens, pool, garage apartment & pond • Blackburn designed 6 stall stable w/70x210 indoor arena includes observation deck, tack room, 2 wash stalls & office • Additional 4 stall barn • Entire property is fenced and cross fenced on 26 acres & 8 paddocks

Helen MacMahon (540) 454-1930



Mayapple Farm
Middleburg, Virginia
\$3,400,000

"Mayapple Farm," purist delight • Original portion of house built in 1790 in Preston City, CT • House was dismantled and rebuilt at current site • Detail of work is museum quality • Log wing moved to site from Western Virginia circa 1830 • 4 BR, 4 full BA, 2 half BA, 9 FP & detached 2-car garage • Historic stone bank barn and log shed moved from Leesburg, VA • Private, minutes from town • Frontage on Goose Creek • 37.65 acres

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905



Stage Coach
The Plains, Virginia
\$2,480,000

52 acres, 3 miles from Middleburg within the Little River Historic District • Original 1780's farmhouse has been completely renovated w/an impressive kitchen, old charm, porches & stone fireplaces • 3 bay garage has space above for overflow guests or home office • Extensive site work has been completed to an excellent building site w/views of Bull Run & Blue Ridge Mts • Well & septic installed • New board fencing • Original stone walls, old growth hardwood trees & multiple outbuildings

Helen MacMahon (540) 454-1930



Belvedere
Middleburg, Virginia
\$1,950,000

Gracious home with 5 BRs • Gourmet kitchen • Two-story floor-to-ceiling window display of the Blue Ridge Mountains • 3 FPs, coffered ceilings, random width rustic cherry floors • Large home office, gym, rec room, multiple porches and patios • Three finished stories, approx. 10,000 sf. • Carriage house • Garage • 27 acres

Helen MacMahon (540) 454-1930
Margaret Carroll (540) 454-0650



Gileswood Farm
Purcellville, Virginia
\$1,950,000

Immaculate custom-built craftsman home with gorgeous finishes • Gourmet kitchen • Vaulted ceilings • Open floor plan maximizes light & views • 1st floor master suite • Home office • Large family room opens to impressive pool area with cabana and extensive stone terrace overlooking neighboring lake • Large barn easily built out for horses • Land fenced & prepared for 2 acre vineyard

Helen MacMahon (540) 454-1930



Marley Grange
Millwood, Virginia
\$1,875,000

Understated elegance • Finely appointed home built in 1997 on 76 acres • 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2 half baths, 5600+ sq. ft. • Very private • 10 stall barn • 224 ft. X 128 ft. blue stone ring • Fine horse property • Choice ride-out • In conservation easement, bordered by farms in conservation easement

Tom Cammack (540) 247-5408



Twin Creek Farm
Aldie, Virginia
\$1,395,000

Quiet country living on 33 acres with great proximity to the conveniences of nearby shopping, restaurants, schools and hospital • Rare find to get this acreage and have FIOS - work from home while enjoying the privacy of your own farm • Rolling acreage, stable, fencing and a bold creek • 5 BR home has been well maintained • Southern exposure with great light and lovely views • Main floor master suite and 2 car garage

Helen MacMahon (540) 454-1930



Stoneway
The Plains, Virginia
\$1,195,000

Well designed stucco single story • 3 BR • 4 full BA • 2 half BA • Master bedroom w/his and hers dressing room/bathroom en suite • Library • Sun-filled sitting room-dining room • Kitchen with breakfast nook and chef's caliber appliances • 2 FP • Large mudroom off 2 car garage • Cutting garden • Nestled on 10 private wooded acres in sought after Orange County hunt

Alix Coolidge (703) 625-1724



Winchester Road
Marshall, Virginia
\$895,000

1.69 acres with frontage on Route 17, right off Route 66, currently zoned R-4 • New Marshall code zoning calls for Gateway District, potential office building, etc. • Solid stone house on property • Sold in "As Is" condition • Owner licensed real estate agent in VA

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905



Grasty Place
Middleburg, Virginia
\$800,000

Charming home in desirable Melmore • Adjacent to the town of Middleburg offering proximity to town & privacy of almost 4 acres • High ceilings, light-filled rooms, new kitchen w/granite counters & stainless appliances • Family room w/fireplace, screened-in porch • 3 BR including bright master suite w/bay window • Home office (Verizon high speed internet) & finished LL & 2 car garage

Helen MacMahon (540) 454-1930



Woodward Road
Marshall, Virginia
\$699,000

1-level living in this energy efficient home • 10+ acres just 2 miles from I-66 • 3 BR, 2.5 bath house w/2 car garage • Office, sunken living room w/10' ceiling • 28'x14' sunroom w/views of garden & rock out cropping • Over sized 38'x40' three bay heated workshop w/auto lift • Great for collectors • 2 small barns & 2 paddocks & spring fed pond

Helen MacMahon (540) 454-1930



Hunts End Place
Leesburg, Virginia
\$697,000

Mt. Gilead location, minutes to Leesburg & Greenway • Major upgrades to home since 2010 • 4BR with great master suite • 2 1/2 BA, 3 FP, high ceilings, wood floors throughout • Pool w/brick & stone terrace, paved driveway • 5-stall brick barn, tack room, hay storage • New board fencing, run-in shed

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905



Oak Ridge
Warrenton, Virginia
\$655,000

Prime location, off Springs Road • Surrounded by large farms & estates • House circa 1890 with 2 BR, 1 1/2 BA, FP, hardwood floors, new kitchen • Garage • 2 sheds/studio potential • Tenant house • Property shares large spring fed pond • Private setting on 13.21 acres

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905



Kinsky Lane
Berryville, Virginia
\$525,000

Comfortable 3000+ sq ft, one level house • Immaculate • Quiet location in eastern Clarke • Beautiful mountain views • Convenient to Rt 7 • Mature trees & landscaping • 5.44 acres • Peace, quiet • Updated kitchen • Freshly painted throughout • Oak hardwood floors • Large sunroom, oversized screened porch • Shenandoah River access

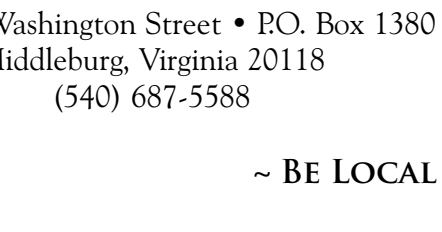
Tom Cammack (540) 247-5408



Free State Place
Marshall, Virginia
\$415,000

Quintessential Weekend Getaway • 2 BR, 2 BA, on 6+ acres • Nestled amongst treetops, privacy abounds • LR w/fireplace, wood floors throughout • Perfect retreat from the city • Large wrap around deck, hot tub and lovely landscape outdoor space for entertaining • 1 hour to DC, minutes to Marshall, Warrenton and 66

Alix Coolidge (703) 625-1724



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PROPERTIES IN HUNT COUNTRY

CLOVERLAND



This gracious and charming manor is a masterpiece, offering luxurious country living in a truly idyllic setting. This historic estate encompasses **149+ acres** of magnificent rolling countryside and brilliant gardens and breathtaking mountain views. Ideally located just minutes from the charming village of Middleburg. The gorgeous stone Georgian manor was designed and built with extraordinary quality and craftsmanship. **\$6,250,000**

Mary Ann McGowan (540) 687-5523

STONYHURST



Middleburg ~ Meticulously renovated c.1890 VA fieldstone Manor house on **94 acs.** Less than 1 mile from Middleburg. Formal Living Room, Dining Room, Family Room, gourmet kitchen, 3+ Bedrooms, 3.5 Baths, separate Office & 2 porches. Hardwood floors, 5 fireplaces & custom cabinetry thru-out. Extensive landscaping 200+ new trees, rebuilt stonewalls & new driveway. Gardens, pool, 2 barns, workshop, old tenant house & 4-board fencing. 1 subdivision allowed. **\$4,425,000**

Cricket Bedford (540) 229-3201

BIRCHWOOD



The extraordinary Birchwood Estate boasts **38 acres** with the most beautiful private arboretum in Virginia! The English Country manor is a masterpiece of the finest quality & design, elegant & charming with incredible mountain views, brilliant gardens & a simply "magical setting". Exquisite stone, slate roofing, fieldstone terraces, a luxurious pool & spa, wine cellar. Additional acreage available. **\$3,300,000**

Mary Ann McGowan (540) 687-5523

KENTHURST LANE



The Plains ~ Exceptional custom Federal style residence w/6 BRs, 7 BAs on **2.43 acres.** High ceilings, hardwood & antique ceramic tile floors, 7 fireplaces & custom trim. Clive Christian Kitchen w/ La Cornue stove & light filled B-fast Room. Formal Living Rm & Dining Rm, Library, Great Rm, Master BR Suite w/ fireplace, luxury Bath, His & Her Closets. Guest BR suite on 3rd level. Walkout LL has Family Rm, Media Rm, Music Rm, Weight Rm, Wine Cellar, 2nd Kitchen, Guest BR Suite & storage. 3-car garage with 1 BR Apt. above. **\$2,195,000**

Cricket Bedford (540) 229-3201

LIBERTY HALL



Paris ~ Circa 1770, Lovely Stone and Stucco Farmhouse sits at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains, **20+ acres** surrounded by Protected Lands. Spectacular protected views of Paris valley, Meticulous exterior renovations include Re-Pointed Stonework, Metal Roof, 2 Large Additions, Covered Porch, Basement, Buried Electric, Well and Septic, Fully Fenced, Mature Trees, Boxwoods, Ready for all your interior finishes. **\$1,550,000**

Rebecca Poston (540) 771-7520

7 WASHINGTON STREET



Main Street ~ Middleburg Beautiful commercial building (C-1) available in prime location in the center of historic Middleburg. High ceilings, large display windows, tile flooring and charming detail. Currently an ideal antique shop, but excellent space for a variety of uses as retail shop, restaurant, etc. Parking in the rear. **\$1,250,000**

Mary Ann McGowan (540) 687-5523

MAPLE SPRING



Broad Run ~ Move in ready small farm just North of Warrenton. Beautiful all custom brick home, first floor master suite with soaking /spa tub, walk in closets, spacious open kitchen, breakfasts room, dining room, high ceilings, geothermal heat. Open and screened in porches, tranquil setting with lovely garden, stream, pond and springs. 3 fenced paddocks. Small Stable with water & electric. **6.65 AC** on no through street. Wildlife Heaven. **\$640,000**

Rein duPont (540) 454-3355

1122 POPLAR ROW



Upperville ~ Lovely restored 3 Bedroom home on **Over An Acre of Cleared, Open Land.** Very Private, Great Location, Master Bedroom on Main Level, Large Living Room, Spacious Kitchen with new Stainless-Steel Appliances, Newly Renovated Baths Large Recreational Room on Lower Level with Bedroom, Bath and Exercise Room/Office. Must see to appreciate. **\$420,000**

Barrington Hall (540) 454-6601

CLOVER COURT



Marshall ~ Pristine 3 Bedroom, 2 bath rambler freshly painted inside and out. new roof, new kitchen appliances, washer/dryer 3/4 years old, new Heat Pump in 2015. Tile floors and new crown molding throughout. Bright open floorplan and move-in ready! **\$279,000**

Cathy Bernache (540) 454-6601

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