

SUPERVISORS TONY BUFFINGTON & GEARY HIGGINS ADVANCE PROGRAMS TO PROTECT RURAL LOUDOUN

FULL STORY ON PAGE 3



JOE FARGIS: ALWAYS PUT THE HORSE FIRST

LAUREN R. GIANNINI

Joe Fargis is a world-class rider, trainer and teacher whose show jumping career earned his place in the elite category of Who's Who in world sports by way of two Summer Olympics. At the 1984 Los Angeles Games, Joe and Touch of Class earned team and individual gold medals in show jumping. Four years later at the Seoul Olympics, Joe piloted

ington International Horse Show welcomed Joe into the WIHS Hall of Fame for his many decades of involvement, contributions as competitor and judge, and for his service on the Board of Directors. The 60th anniversary of the prestigious indoor show also celebrated the historic performance by Touch of Class and Joe when, as newly minted gold-medal Olympians, they were victorious in the 1984 President's Cup Grand Prix.

There's so much more to Joe



Mill Pearl to garner team silver and 7th individually.

Joe's many accolades include being named the 1984 Horseman of the Year by the American Horse Shows Association, and Lifetime Achievement Awards from the US Equestrian Federation (formerly AHSA) and the US Hunter Jumper Association. He has been inducted into the Show Jumping Hall of Fame, Virginia Horse Show Association HOF, the Virginia Horse Center HOF, and the Pennsylvania National Horse Show HOF.

On Friday, October 26, Wash-

than his competitive record. He's articulate and his brain is as good as gold. For this thinking horseman, however, winning isn't the end all and be all.

"Of course, you're elated and happy when you win something, but on a day-to-day basis, if you can deal with the horse and have some success and deal with the rider and have some success, I think that's just as important as the biggest win possible," Joe said. "I mean, you have to survive on a daily basis with little victories. That's what I like — just every day doing something good for the horse and good for the rider."

Joe's next words raised the bar on cultivating an attitude of gratitude when he said, with his

CHRISTMAS IN MIDDLEBURG

PHOTOS PAGE 22 - 24



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Carole Miller

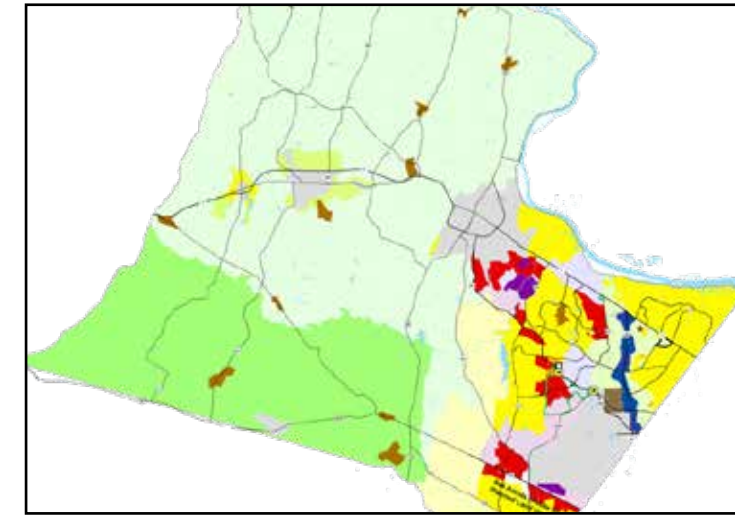


MIDDLEBURG, VIRGINIA

Three room office with Bath & Kitchenette plus parking in Federal Court complex. Internet access available. Water & Sewer included in condo fee. Great location. \$330,000
Carole Miller
Kevin Keane

NEWS OF NOTE

LEADERSHIP: SUPERVISORS TONY BUFFINGTON & GEARY HIGGINS ADVANCE PROGRAMS TO PROTECT RURAL LOUDOUN



This past week saw the passage of two Board of Supervisors initiatives to help protect and preserve the open spaces of Loudoun's rural countryside. They include the full passage of a conservation easement assistance program and a county study and assessment of implementing a transfer of devel-

opment rights program, known as TDR. Both programs will help citizens and county leaders preserve more of Loudoun's open spaces.

Conservation easements are an effective tool that are used to protect rural lands. Once in place they essentially prohibit any current or future land owner from

developing the property. The major issue with conservation easements however is the set-up costs. These can be as high as \$40,000 in many cases. This cost creates barriers for lower income land owners who wish to see their lands preserved but do not have the money to pay for the creation of the easement.

The newly adopted conservation easement assistance program, proposed earlier this year by Blue Ridge Supervisor Tony Buffington, is changing this! The program, passed last week by the Board of Supervisors with a vote of 8-1, set up a fund of \$150,000 to assist lower income land owners with grants that will help defray the cost of putting their land into conservation easement. Each applicant can receive up to \$15,000 toward to costs and they must have an annual household income of less than \$117,200. This is an exciting step forward to preservation of rural Loudoun.

The TDR program initiative,

led by Supervisor Geary Higgins and Supervisor Tony Buffington, is exciting and truly innovative. Successfully implemented in many counties, this program would allow a landowner in rural Loudoun to sell their rights to develop their land to a land owner in the east who would then be permitted to increase the density on their property. It is a win-win. This creates income for the "sending" land owner and the "receiving" land owner get additional density to build more houses on the same piece of land - hence the development rights to build more houses have been "transferred". Last week the Board approved an in depth study of how a TDR program could be implemented in Loudoun and staff is expected to report back early next year. We are excited to see this moving forward.

Lastly, it is important to note that both programs, one now implemented and the other under study, have broad support from the public and many members

of the Board. They offer tools, options and flexible solutions to preservation. Ironically, both programs have been routinely opposed by the Loudoun County Planning Commission. This commission is in the final drafting stages of writing Loudoun's new Comprehensive Land Use Plan. They have said many times they want a plan which has tools, options and flexible solutions for development. It is unfortunate the Commission does not feel this way when it comes to conservation of our natural resources and open spaces.

I want to thank Supervisors Buffington and Higgins for the continued leadership in pressing for ways in which the County can encourage and support the protection of our rural heritage. Action speaks volumes.

If you wish to contact the Board and express your support for these program, email them at: BOS@loudoun.gov

SEASON'S GREETINGS



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P.O. Box 1768
Middleburg, VA 20118
540-687-3200
news@mbec.com

Editor In Chief
Dee Dee Hubbard
editor@mbec.com

Production Director
Jay Hubbard
jay@mbec.com

Publisher
Dan Morrow

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NEWS OF NOTE

MIDDLEBURG AMERICAN LEGION POST 295 AWARDS

On Saturday, December 8, 2018, at the Middleburg American Legion Post 295 Christmas Party, awards were made to members of the Post and to one special member of our community.

Commander Eric Lindengren was recognized for his contribution and leadership over the past three years to the Post by being named Legionnaire of the Year.

Ricky Bell and his wife, Terry Bell were commended by the entire membership of Post 295 for their over four decades of Outstanding and Dedicated Service to the Legion in addition to their demonstrated Leadership, Patriotism, and Service to our Community, State, and Nation.

Ms. Catherine "Bundles" Murdock was recognized and commended for her over Four Decades of Outstanding Service, Leadership, Patriotism and Dedicated Service benefiting the American Legion, and in particular to our Community and Nation. Ms. Murdock served under President George H.W. Bush



CATHERINE "BUNDLES" MURDOCK AND JOHN MOLIERE

as a Director of Protocol and as Special Liaison to Kuwait, she has performed admirably on the Middleburg Town Council and

has been a long-time friend of the Middleburg American Legion. Her Grandfather, William Philander Hulbert known lo-

cally as "Pappy" was a member of the original caucus in Paris that founded the American Legion and instrumental in estab-

lishing the American Legion in Middleburg. A painting of him hangs proudly in the Legion Hall wearing his WWI uniform.

MIDDLEBURG TOWN COUNCIL REPORT

DAN MORROW

County Supports Conservation

The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, by an 8 to 1 vote, approved a proposal by Blue Ridge District Supervisor Tony Buffington to begin a program of small grants to help landowners cover some of the costs of putting acreage into conservation easements: 50% of the total cost, with an upper bound of \$15,000 per application.

The Board budgeted \$150,000 to kick off the program. After one year the county will re-evaluate funding. Applications for grants may be made online twice a year.

The Board also agreed to undertake a thorough study of a new Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program, initially proposed by Buffington and Catoctin Supervisor Geary Higgins. Formal review of the results is currently set for the February 21, 2019 Board of Supervisors business meeting.

Asbury Church for Sale

Middleburg is seeking an appropriate buyer for Asbury Church on 189-year-old church on Jay Street. The Town has owned the nearly two-hundred-year-old since December 2014 and has invested nearly \$175,000 in its preservation.

Zoned R-2, the property could, with appropriate restoration and permitting, be used as a single-family residence, an assisted living center, bed, and breakfast, child care center, library, museum, school, public safety center, antique shop, professional offices or a church.

February 1 is the current deadline for proposals from interested buyers.

A select Town Committee will review all applications, focusing on their: impact on Middleburg's town's economy; respect for the

historic integrity of the property; the applicant's ability to both get started and manage the project effectively; enhance the quality

of life in the Jay Street neighborhood; and drive "other economic, social and cultural development in town."

New Year's Eve Grand Party

December 31 | 9:00 p.m. – 2:00 a.m. | Living Room | \$119 Per Guest

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On December 4th the Mosby Heritage Area Association presented its' annual Heritage Hero and Educator of the Year awards in ceremonies held at the National Sporting Library and Museum in Middleburg.

Chuck Kuhn, the founder of JK Moving, the nation's largest independently owned and operated moving company was named

A portrait of a woman with short, wavy brown hair, wearing a black top and a colorful, patterned shawl. She is speaking into a microphone.

2018 Heritage Hero Kuhn and his wife, Stacy, who live at Egypt Farm near Lincoln, have been actively engaged in placing more than 4,000 acres into conservation easement in this area including the Middleburg Training Track (150 acres), the

2018 Heritage Hero
Kuhn and his wife, Stacy, who live at Egypt Farm near Lincoln, have been actively engaged in

Previous winners of the Heritage Hero Awards include Sen. John Warner, Karen Hughes White, Janet Whitehouse, Hope Porter, Linda Newton, Robert H. Smith, Su Webb, Lori Kimball, Bob Sinclair, Robert Lee, Walter Nicklin, John and Mary Fishback, Mitch Diamond, David Blake, Scott Kasprovicz, Gayle and Tom DeLashmatt, Paul Ziluca, Mary Thomason-Morris, Al Van Huyck, Fauquier-Loudoun Garden Club, and Friends of Balls Bluff.

Yoga classes come in a variety of shapes and sizes. There are so many different types of modern-day yoga, you are apt to find a practice suitable for you. One of the more popular yoga styles in today's fitness community is Hatha Yoga. Hatha Yoga is the ancient, classic yoga style that focuses on proper alignment of physical postures and encourages



Some of the more rigorous forms of yoga are Vinyasa and Hot Yoga. Vinyasa Yoga is often faster paced than traditional Hatha Yoga, and the postures are linked together in a series of

Yoga offers so many physical and mental benefits that many doctors and physical therapists recommend yoga to their patients. If you do not practice yoga regularly give it a try. **YOGA IS FOR EVERYONE!**

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NEWS OF NOTE

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StoneSprings Hospital Center has been awarded a 2018 Guardian of Excellence award for reaching the 95th percentile for patient experience. The Guardian of Excellence Award is given to organizations who sustain top performance for each reporting period for the award year.

"This recognition is due to the continuous efforts of the StoneSprings Hospital team to ensure that our patients receive the highest level of service and care," said Amy Paratore, Chief Nursing Officer. "I am very proud of this award and we will all continue to strive for excellence in everything we do."



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JUBILANT MUSIC TO LAUNCH THE NEW YEAR



On Sunday, January 13, the At the Parish House performance series of Middleburg's Emmanuel Church will showcase the keyboard brilliance of pianist Brian Woods. He has emerged as a promising soloist and collaborator in the United States and abroad, and is currently studying with John O'Connor at Shenandoah Conservatory.

His passionate and expressive performances attract a wide array of listeners, from aficionados to casual listeners, and his artistry has won him several piano competition awards.

Mr. Woods will perform varied selections that highlight his virtuosity. The concert will include Beethoven's surprise-filled Sonata in E-flat Major, Op. 31 No. 3, selections from Debussy's Préludes, and three of Chopin's

poetic Mazurkas. The concert concludes with Samuel Barber's stunning Sonata, Op. 26. The sonata was first performed by Vladimir Horowitz who declared it "the first truly great native work in the form."

Commenting on his interpretation of Beethoven, one music reviewer stated, "Woods plays with convincing technique and captures the music's dual sense of heroism and jubilation." For a sampling of this musician's impressive talent, search "Brian Woods piano" on YouTube.

The concert is Sunday, January 13 at 3 p.m. at Emmanuel Episcopal Church's Parish House, 105 East Washington St. in Middleburg. Reservations are recommended but not required (540-687-6297). A donation of \$10 is suggested but not required; all are welcome.

RICHARD KIRK HONORED FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE



On Nov. 8th, Gary M. Clemens, Clerk of the Loudoun County Circuit Court, presented a resolution from the Virginia Court Clerks Association honoring long time Middleburg resident Richard Kirk to Mr. Kirk's family for his many years of service.



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YEAR-OLD PROFESSOR, COMMUNITY LEADER, MOM

6

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1

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THE BEST YEARS OF HER CAREER ARE ABOUT TO BEGIN

Marie, 59, English professor, community leader, and mother of three. These should be the best years of her life, but she's been living with knee pain for the past six years. Six years of working long semesters, mentoring students, leading her department, and working through the pain. The fear of missing work and not being able to recover quickly made her put off surgery. One dedicated orthopedic team brought her relief.

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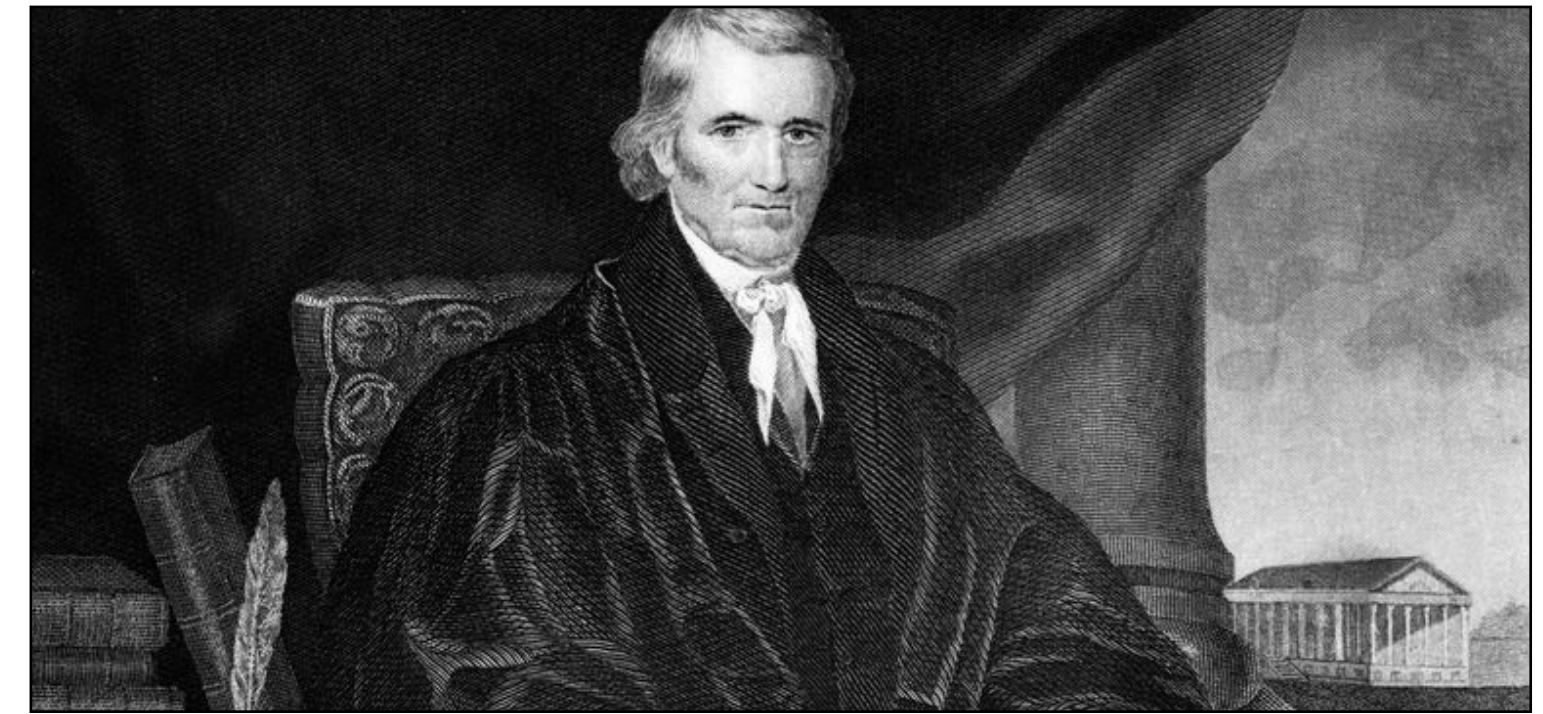
stonespringshospital.com/ortho

NEWS OF NOTE

MOSBY HERITAGE AREA ASSOCIATION NAMES 2019 "THE YEAR OF JOHN MARSHALL"

No American legal mind has had a greater impact on our judicial system than John Marshall. The Fauquier County native served as Chief Justice for more than 30 years, shaping the very nature of the Supreme Court and its role in government. To commemorate the bicentennial of the landmark case *McCulloch v. Maryland*, the Mosby Heritage Area Association is hosting a number of events throughout 2019 to celebrate John Marshall's life and legacy.

John Marshall was born in 1755 in a small log cabin near modern day Midland, Virginia. As a young man he served in the Continental Army through many battles and the winter at Valley Forge. He returned to Virginia to study law at the College of William and Mary. Following the Revolution, he represented Fauquier County in the Virginia Assembly and served in the US House of Representatives and as Secretary of State. His most important legacy, however, was in his role as the forth Chief Justice of the United States. Appointed in 1801 by John Adams, Marshall spent over three decades in the court, where he shaped the power of the Judiciary branch. Many of the best known and far reaching cases in American history were products of the Marshall court. *Marbury v. Madison* established the precedent of judicial review, while *McCulloch v. Maryland* introduced the concept of Congress holding implied powers not expressly presented in the Constitution. These decisions remain central to the Supreme Court and continue to influence law to this day.



Events:

Saturday March 23: John Marshall's Richmond: A Bus Tour— Follow in the footsteps of the great Chief Justice as we explore Richmond's historical sites. Highlights of the tour include a guided tour of the Virginia State Capitol, guided tour of the John Marshall House, a visit to the Virginia Museum of History and Culture to enjoy the new exhibit John Marshall, and Lunch at the Commonwealth Club.

Saturday April 6: The Life and Legacy of John Marshall: A Symposium— MHAA has invited scholars to present on every aspect of Marshall's life and career, from his legal legacy to his personal life and business connections. The symposium will be

held at historic Llangollen Farm, located on property once owned by the Marshall Family.

Fall 2019 Date TBD: The Marshalls and the Fauquier Free State – Although best remembered today for being a Chief

Justice, John Marshall was a prominent landowner in Fauquier County. Learn how his role as a landlord put him at odds with many of his tenants. Driven off by high rents some tenants fled to the more rugged parts of Marshall's vast holdings and formed

their own "free state" that retains its independent culture to this day.

For more information or to purchase tickets please visit www.mosbyheritagearea.org/events or call (540) 687-5578

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NEWS OF NOTE

MIDDLEBURG LIONS CLUB 2018 CITRUS SALE



The Middleburg Lions Club for over 35 years has conducted an annual citrus sale in the town of Middleburg. This year the sale will begin November 26th, the Monday after Thanksgiving. Available will be Navel Oranges, Florida Indian River Ruby Red Grapefruit and Florida Hamlin juice oranges. The state of

Florida has been experiencing a massive citrus disease known as the "Greening Disease". The disease impacts all Navel oranges and a few other specific varieties of Florida citrus. Florida navel oranges are no longer available, therefore this year all navel oranges will come from California. California produces some of the finest navel oranges in the world

and the fruit is expected to be fresh from the growers and delicious.

There are two ways to obtain citrus from the Lions Club. The Lions Club truck will be parked on Rt 50 in front of the Middleburg Safeway store from November 26 through December 9, 2018. Interested persons can also reserve citrus by going to the

Middleburglionsclub.org web site and follow the instructions. The Lions Club recommends using the web site because you are guaranteed to obtain the freshest fruit and the Club can order enough citrus to meet the community's needs.

All proceeds from the annual citrus sale are kept in the Middleburg area and are used to

support its many needy people and causes. The Middleburg Lions Club prides itself in not having overhead costs and applying all its fund raising efforts to assist Middleburg area residents. You can help by purchasing fresh citrus from the organization you have known to trust since 1946.

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SOUTHERN NATIONAL BANCORP OF VIRGINIA ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF NEW BOARD MEMBER DANIEL H. BURCH



Southern National Bancorp of Virginia, and its wholly-owned subsidiary Sonabank, announced today that it has appointed Daniel H. Burch to its Board of Directors. Mr. Burch is the co-founder, Chairman and CEO of MacKenzie Partners, Inc., where he is responsible for developing and implementing strategies and campaigns for clients involved in proxy contests, tender offers, mergers, financial restructurings and an array of corporate trans-

actions. Mr. Burch has over 40 years of experience in the proxy solicitation, mergers and acquisitions and financial consulting industry. His former experience includes serving as Executive Vice President and co-founder of the proxy and mergers-and-acquisition department at Dewe Rogerson, Inc., the predecessor firm to MacKenzie Partners, Inc. He also served as Senior Vice President of D. F. King & Co. Mr. Burch is a member of the National Investor Relations In-

stitute and the Society of Corporate Secretaries and Governance Professionals. He is a graduate of Lehigh University and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business and Economics with a major in Accounting. Georgia Derrico, Executive Chairman of Southern National, stated “I am excited to welcome Dan to the Southern National and Sonabank Board of Directors. We believe his experience and extensive knowledge will add tremendous value to the Board.”



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Ages range from 13 to late twenties. Breeds draft/qh cross, morgan/arab/ draft cross (both shown in far left photo), appaloosa, qu and a small mule (far right photo).

The owner is 74 and works, there willsoon come a day when I can no longer take care of them, or atleast all nine. If anyone could take one or two I will help with either feed/farrier costs, fending, addition run in sheds, etc. The horses are located between Shepherdstown and Harpers Ferry, WV

For further info or to make an appointment to meet these horses please call 304-876-2718. Thank you!

NEWS OF NOTE

JOE FARGIS: ALWAYS PUT THE HORSE FIRST

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



characteristic humility about success and accolades, “But I never feel deserving. I’m appreciative and I’m flattered. I’m not going to reject it” — he grinned — “but I’m always astounded. Always. Always. Always. I never feel I’m the better rider because I won whatever — there are plenty of good riders out there.”

It comes down to the horses: Joe puts them first and foremost. After all, riders are “wingless” without them, but the equestrian world — neigh, the entire globe — keeps changing. Showing used to be a fun sport, albeit seriously competitive, because everyone wants their horse to win, but as more people took up riding, showing turned into big business, evolving from being seasonal to a year-round circuit. Today’s expenses to compete hunters and jumpers, even on the lower levels of the A-circuit, add up to megabucks the higher you go. Although winning is everyone’s goal, Joe feels strongly about the horse’s role in sport and our responsibilities to these magnificent animals.

“I think this culture of winning needs to be more goal-oriented with the emphasis shifting to the journey,” said Joe. “The courses are more difficult and riders are getting better and right now it’s easy to buy a made horse and go in the biggest classes and be a good rider, but it’s not the whole picture. The world is changing. There are not so many people interested in the basics, the theory, the technique. It’s not at all about the winning — in the end, you realize it’s about the process.”

The goal is a partnership, but you don’t have to compete in the Olympics to win the trust of a horse and learn to communicate. You can experience that glorious bond, whatever your level or sport or discipline. You don’t have to aspire to the Olympics to be your very best with your horse.

That’s the journey. Over the years, Joe has helped an astronomical number

of horses. He might be in the saddle or on foot teaching a lesson or a clinic. He brings knowledge, experience, and common sense horsemanship — a priceless skill set — to each schooling ride, lesson, clinic, and every class no matter what level of importance of the competition.

Joe “gets” horses and starts each clinic setting the record straight to participants and auditors, whoever is in earshot. “It is never the horse’s fault — ever,” he reiterated. “The horse didn’t intend to get up in the morning, ask to be tacked up and go in the ring to jump. We ask them to do that. It’s never the horse’s fault. The horse has no agenda, period. It’s not out to “get you” so get that through your head.”

Then he added: “I wish everybody would consider the horse first — everybody.”

When asked how he would like to be remembered, Joe replied: “For being kind to horses. — well, to all animals, but especially kind to horses. In the end, the achievements are just your name on a trophy. I mean that. I wish I could impart to people that horses are incredibly generous and depend on us, that we should treat them with tremendous respect.”

Joe doesn’t just talk the talk; he walks the walk where horses are concerned and speaks the language of Horse fluently. He didn’t dream as a kid of a lifetime career in the saddle, but he got the best possible start right in Vienna, Virginia, when he was in second grade and accompanied a classmate home to the farm where he lived with his mother, Jane Dillon, founder of the Junior Equestrian School. Of course, Joe started taking lessons once a week and the rest, as they say, is history.

Unlike most pony-crazy kids, Joe, the ultimate working student, admits that he didn’t know at any point that he would focus his life on horses. “It just evolved,” he said. “I resisted school. I resisted everything else but horses. I had fun and horses

grew into a bigger and bigger part of my life. It all started with Mrs. Dillon, then I went to Frances Rowe [for 12 years], then I went to Bert de Nemethy [US Equestrian Team Coach, 1955-1980]. Everything just happened nicely. I didn’t plan it at all.”

Joe’s early equestrian education involved the school ponies and horses at the Junior Equestrian School. “I don’t know if I was good or bad, but I was having a good time,” he recalled. “I remember learning to deal with what we had and getting the horse to do the best it could without over-facilitating it. That’s a goal we all should have — trying to have the horse perform to the best of its ability and talent without too much interference from humans.”

Joe learned many valuable lessons from schoolmasters, whatever their level of proficiency. He’s humble about the many horses that turned sweet for him after being problems for others, explaining: “We as humans give them conflicting signals and maybe that human was giving the horse signals that it just didn’t understand. It isn’t that riders are good or bad. They just weren’t communicating with the horses.”

Communication and partnership are essential aspects of horsemanship. Over the decades Joe has helped a great many horses to improve from zero to a jumper level of 1.30meter or 1.40meter. Only horses with incredible heart, athleticism, soundness and work ethic achieve the highest level, Grand Prix. That 1.60meter (in jumper lingo: meter-60, etc), means leaping big, painted fences up to 5’3” in height with spreads to 6’7”.

Those grand prix classes are behind this horseman, who is busier than ever teaching and training from his Sandron base in Middleburg at Mary B. Schwab’s Stoneleigh Farm in Middleburg. They met in the 1995 and Mary B ended up owning several horses with Joe and they scored some impressive wins up and down the East Coast, from Florida to the Hampton Classic and beyond with such notables as Edgar 12 and Diams III, to name just two.

“What I appreciate most about Joe is his sensitivity to horses,” said Mary B, as she is known. “He’s a great horseman, and he’s there for the horses through the whole process. He’s willing to be there from the beginning through good times and bad, all the way to the very end.”

As an owner, Mary B has several favorite moments such as the first time Joe won a Grand Prix with Edgar 12 in Florida. He had been riding the horse for two years and, on this occasion, had a bad case of flu and considered scratching after he walked the course. They ended up one of two clears and won the jump-off. Mary B still owns a few horses, trained by Joe although he no longer competes in the big classes.

Asked about this change of pace, Joe said, “You get older and you get creakier. Life goes on and you get up and do what you do every day. It hasn’t been difficult transitioning from doing everything to doing not so much although the “not so much” part is that I’m not jumping high jumps anymore, but I’m doing a lot of stuff.”

He’s a respected clinician and enjoys teaching clinics all over North America and in 25 countries: “Thanks to horses I’ve traveled around the world.” He has a barn full of amateurs under his tutelage and also teaches locals who ship in for lessons. A staunch supporter and board member of Upperville Horse Show, Joe helped

change the face of the oldest show in the nation. It’s grown bigger and better on both sides of Route 50 with amenities and improvements such as great footing and more prize money to attract big-name riders and horses. On the jumper side, a spectacular grand prix and hunter derby ring boasts state of the art footing and drainage. Three FEI-rated 4-star jumper classes and a National Grand Prix lead up to Sunday’s finale, the \$216,000 FEI Grand Prix.

“Upperville’s more jumper-oriented — it’s just great, but I also think we shouldn’t forget the hunter side,” Joe said. “It’s been a tradition and we have to keep it going.”

Joe was 10 when he first showed a pony under the oaks with Mrs. Dillon’s mentorship. That’s when he fell in love with Upperville and, over the decades, he has won there riding hunters and jumpers. He learned “old-fashioned horsemanship from Mrs. Dillon and Frances Rowe, who got their riders and horses out of the ring. This old-fashioned concept, based in the horse’s versatility, is in danger of fading into the annals of equestrian history, which would be a serious loss to the horse world. Imagine growing up like Joe, riding ponies and horses who showed in the summer, hunted in fall and winter, sometimes even raced at point-to-points and sanctioned meets in the spring. Talk about schoolmasters on the hoof...

Joe didn’t just ride in the ring, he fox-hunted with several packs for many seasons, earning his colors with Fairfax Hunt whose country included what is now Dulles Airport during the formative Mrs. Dillon years. When he went to ride with Frances Rowe, her Foxwood Farm was in the heart of Deep Run Hunt’s country. He was 15 when he first galloped Thoroughbred racehorses belonging to Randy Rouse, the late Master of Fairfax Hunt, who had a racetrack on land that became Wolf Trap Farm Park. Joe rode in several races, winning once over timber at Glenwood Park. With all that mileage, it’s no wonder that he clicked with Touch of Class, a failed racehorse and mare who proved herself to be Olympic gold.

Soft-spoken and calm, Joe only shouts so people can hear him when he’s teaching. His wisdom is mind-boggling. He believes in consistency and keeping it simple. He never ever asks a horse to do something beyond its ability. An amazing teacher with the best attitude, he’s considered one of the best clinicians here in the USA and abroad. To aspire to ride like Joe is founded on treating each equine with kindness and respect.

One regular engagement on his busy calendar is judging at the Hampton Classic.

“I have judged leadline for as long as I can remember and there are always 100 kids in it although there weren’t that many, to begin with,” Joe said. “Some parents blame me because I gave their child a blue ribbon in leadline and they got hooked on riding because of it. The parents say ‘look what you’ve done to our family!’ I get that a lot.”

One thing for certain: Joe’s out there, doing what he does best and enjoying what he’s doing. Thinking first of the horses, he’s darn good at improving riders.

It’s never too late to ride like Joe. You don’t have to jump big fences — just be willing to get the barnacles scrubbed off your basics. It’s Horse and Rider, in that order — a gentle reminder to always put the horse first.



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MIDDLEBURG COMMUNITY CENTER 70TH ANNIVERSARY BALL

PHOTOS BY DEE DEE HUBBARD & NANCY MILBURN KLECK,



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KATIE TYRELL



STEWART & JIM HERBERT



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CHRISTMAS IN MIDDLEBURG

PHOTOS BY DEE DEE HUBBARD, JOHN ROBINSON & NANCY MILBURN KLECK



MASTERS OF THE MIDDLEBURG HUNT, PENNY DENEGRE, JEFF BLUE AND TIM HARMON



MARIYA KRUSECK



ANNE & PETER ARUNDEL AND ROBERT MILHBAUGH



HUGE OPENING HUNT FIELD



MASTERS JEFF BLUE, PENNY DENEGRE, JUNIOR CHARLENE NORRIS, AND MASTER TIM HARMON WITH KEVIN NORRIS



THE ASHLAND BASSETS



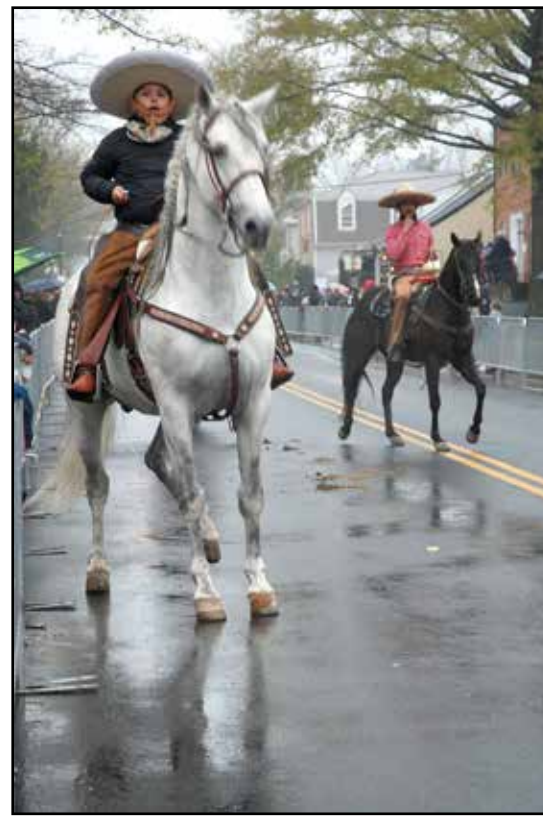
THE PINK BOX TREE LIGHTING AND CAROLING



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CHRISTMAS IN MIDDLEBURG

PHOTOS BY DEE DEE HUBBARD, JOHN ROBINSON & NANCY MILBURN KLECK



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MIDDLEBURG BUSINESS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL AWARDS

THE PARISH HALL OF THE EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH PHOTOS BY DEE DEE HUBBARD



THE LEVEN POWELL AWARD
BETSY DAVIS



THE POWER OF ONE AWARD
THE HILL SCHOOL



"EVENT OF THE YEAR"
FOXES ON THE FENCE



"FRESH FACE"
THE RED FOX



"CUSTOMER SERVICE"
THE SOUTHERN STATES STAFF



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JEN PINEAU



"RESILIENCE"
SECOND CHAPTER BOOKS



"BUSINESS"
KING STREET OYSTER BAR



"TOWN FIGURE"
HAZEL SWEITZER



HAPPY
HOLIDAYS!
FROM
THE MBPA

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SPOOKY STUFF HAUNTS MIDDLEBURG

THE PARISH HALL OF THE EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH



BANNER SCHOOL COOKS UP "SPIDER STEW"



MIDDLEBURG CHARTER'S SCARY SONG



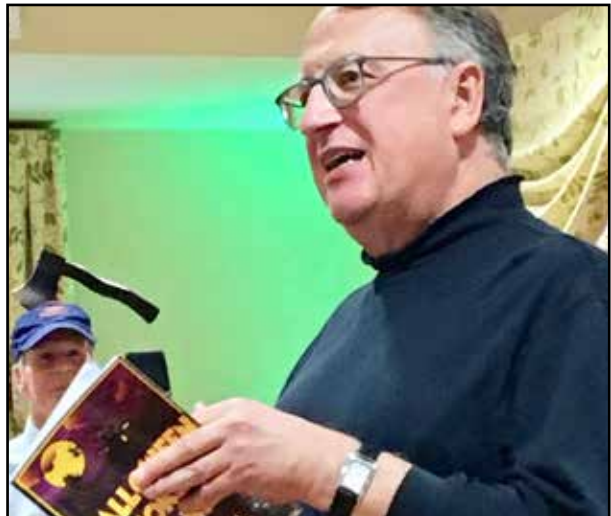
"CATIE DANCES TO "THRILLER"



ROMY CURTIS TELLS A DARK TALE



FLORA HANNUM'S GHOSTLY STORY



RIDDLES FROM RECTOR GENE



OLIVIA THE UNICORN



A GAME

PROGENY

JAMES ALLEN BLAND COMPETITION

The Community Music School of the Piedmont and the Middleburg Lions Club have partnered to host the James Allen Bland Competition on Sunday, February 3, 2019, at 2 p.m. at The Hill School in Middleburg, VA.

James A. Bland (1854-1911), an entertainer and a prolific composer, who wrote sentimental songs about the American south, is considered the greatest black writer of American Folk Songs.

With over 700 songs to his credit, his nostalgic ballad "Carry Me Back to Old Virginny." (1878) was his best-known song and his first major success as a composer. Impressed by the patriotic fervor and nostalgic quality of this lyric, the Lions of Virginia began a campaign that resulted in the adoption of the song as the Virginia State Anthem in 1940. As a sustained memorial, the Lions of Virginia established the James A. Bland Music Scholarship Program in 1948 to assist and promote cultural and educational opportunities for musically talented youth of Virginia.

Elementary, middle or high school students attending school or homeschooled in Western Loudoun and Northern Fauquier counties are eligible to participate. Near-by students who cannot find a Bland Competition but who wish to participate may also submit an application. We are seeking vocal and instrumental contestants for the competition.

Compositions may not exceed 8 minutes and must be memorized. A piano will be furnished for contestants who play the piano and for vocal accompanists. All other instrumentalists must provide their own instrument. Students are required to submit a completed application no later than January 18, 2019. Winners from the local competitions progress to District and State competitions held in March and April. To register and for additional information visit www.piedmont-music.org or www.blandfoundation.org.

We are looking forward to a wonderful event where family, friends, and community can enjoy the performances of our talented young people.

2018 Bland Scholarship Winners
Bryan Kim
Kendall Gonzales
Brook Miller

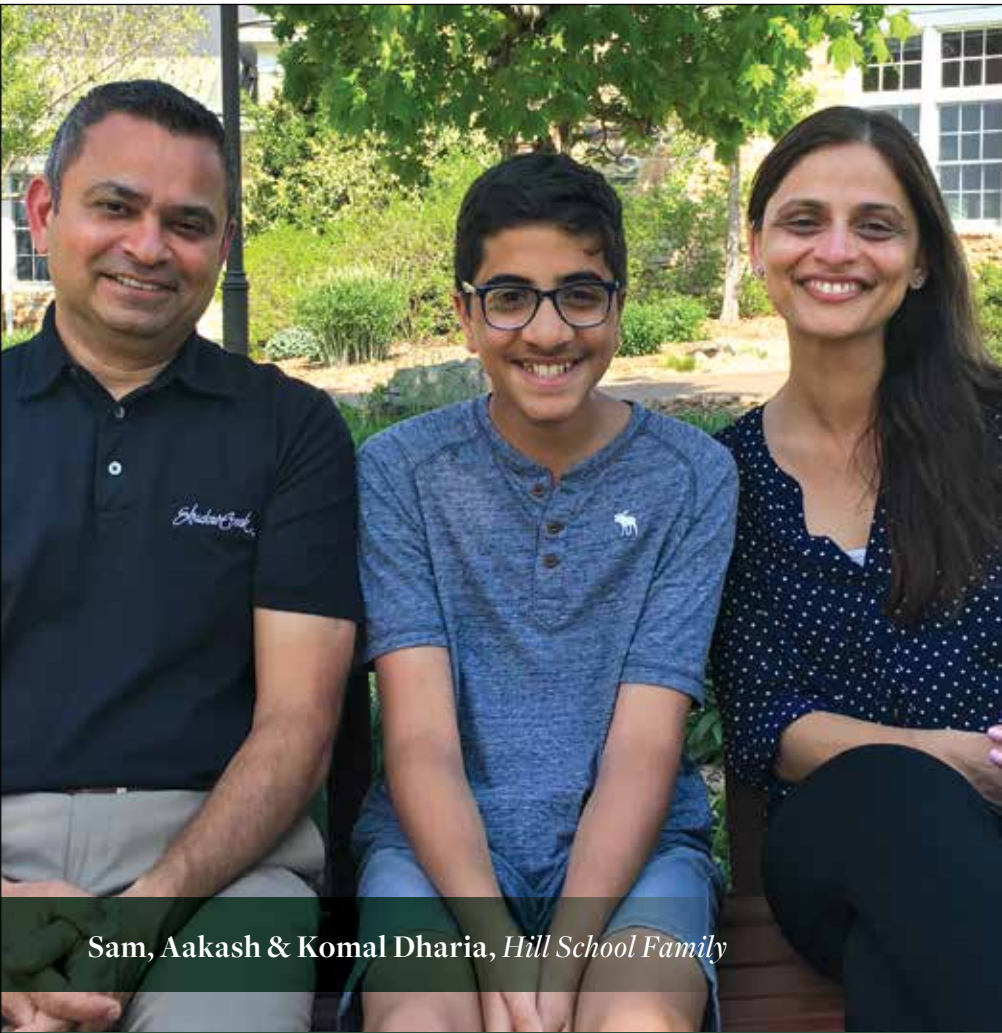
TWO FOXCROFT STUDENTS EARN NATIONAL MERIT HONORS

Foxcroft School seniors Chloe Green and Anne Kickert, both of Leesburg, received Letters of Commendation in recognition of their exceptional academic promise in the 64th annual National Merit Scholarship Program, Head of School Cathy McGehee announced Friday.

Kickert and Green placed among the top 5 percent of the more than 1.6 million students from 22,000 high schools who entered the 2019 competition by taking the 2017 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). Of those high scorers, about 34,000 receive letters of commendations.

The daughter of Joan and Howard Kickert of Leesburg, Anne is multi-talented honor student. An Advanced Placement Scholar, she was named Loudoun County's Youth Volunteer of the Year for her work with the Sunshine Brigade nonprofit that grew from a service project she started when she was in fifth grade called Sweets for Soldiers. She is also an exceptional flute player and has performed with the American Youth Philharmonic Orchestra Flute Ensemble, Loudoun Youth Symphony Orchestra, Flutopia Wind Ensemble, Cappies Gala Orchestra, and Honor Band of America.

Green is the daughter of Heidi and Micah Green of Leesburg and is equally impressive, having received a \$10,000 grant from the Smart Tech Challenges Foundation when she was 14 years old for her innovative gun safety idea. The only female and youngest individual to receive a grant, Chloe has since developed a smart gun magazine designed to prevent unauthorized gun use in schools and government buildings by allowing gun owners to control where their gun can and can't be used. Like Anne, Chloe is also a talented musician who she plays piano, teaches it at the Catoctin School of Music, and serves on the Kennedy Center's Youth Council. She is an AP Scholar with Distinction.



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PROGENY

WAKEFIELD'S OWN LAUREN BACCHUS LEADS AN EXTRAORDINARY LIFE



Lauren Bacchus, a member of the Loudoun Ballet Performing Arts Company and a junior at Wakefield School in The Plains, VA, has been dancing all of her life. Well, practically all of her life. Since the age of 2, Lauren has been dancing jazz, contemporary, Broadway, and her favorite—ballet.

"I love the endless imperfections and challenges that comes with ballet," Lauren explains.

This summer, Lauren trained at Houston Ballet in an intensive program that focused on perfecting a ballerina's skills. During the school year, Lauren practices nearly 25 hours/week; that includes private lessons, practicing techniques, and rehearsals. She is currently rehearsing for Loudoun Ballet Performing Arts Company's winter performance, The Nutcracker Ballet. Lauren will dance the roles of Lead Flower, Snow, and the Arabian Princess. And for the role of the Arabian

Prince? That will be for none other than the Washington Redskins' Cornerback Josh Norman.

The role of Arabian Princess has been a longtime favorite of Lauren's and she is delighted to be dancing it this year. "It has been a great experience working with Josh," Lauren said. "Opening night is going to be very exciting!"

As for what's next—Lauren will have a small "break" before she and the other company ballerinas

start to rehearse for the spring performance.

"Lauren is an amazingly talented dancer and an outstanding student," explains Gray Carr Bridgers, Lauren's faculty advisor and the Director of Admissions and Indexed Tuition at Wakefield School.

When asked how she balances ballet with academics, she said "Wakefield is very accommodating and allows me to adjust my schedule so that I can practice.

My teachers are always so supportive...they definitely try to help each and every student succeed no matter their passion."

Finally, Lauren's hope:

"One day, I hope to perform as White Swan in the ballet Swan Lake with a professional ballet company."

Lauren is a bright, charismatic student with an amazing talent and we are looking forward to her future endeavors.



FOXCROFT SCHOOL SENIORS SIGN LETTER OF INTENT



Foxcroft School seniors Haley Buffenbarger of Leesburg (left) and Teddy Segmuller of Haymarket sign letter of intent to play field hockey at the University of Vermont and swim at Manhattan College, respectively, next year.

32 FOXCROFT SCHOOL STUDENTS NAMED AP SCHOLARS; THREE EARN NATIONAL SCHOLAR STATUS

Three Foxcroft School students achieved the rare status of National Scholar to lead a record-setting group of 32 girls who earned 2018 Advanced Placement Scholar Awards for outstanding achievement on AP Exams, Academic Dean Courtney Ulmer announced recently.

Current senior Sylvia Yuan of Ningbo, China, and May 2018 graduates Melanie Fann of Purcellville, VA, who attends Vanderbilt University, and Emma Schmidt, a Warrenton, VA, resident attending the College of William & Mary, were among a select group — just 2.3 percent of the 2.8 million students who took AP Exams last May — of National AP Scholars. This is the second consecutive year that Foxcroft has had three National Scholars, who must achieve an average grade of at least 4 on all AP Exams taken and grades of 4 or higher on eight or more of the tests.

Worldwide, only about 22 percent of the 2.2 million students who took AP Exams last May

performed well enough to earn AP Scholar designation but Foxcroft's average is much higher: More than half of all the students in the Class of 2018 and nearly a quarter of the Class of 2019 were recognized for high achievement. The number of Foxcroft AP Scholars reached double digits for the 14th consecutive year—an impressive feat for such a small school.

Fann, Schmidt and Yuan were joined by current seniors Chloe Green of Leesburg and Kayla Lee of Austin, TX, and six members of the Class of 2018 in receiving AP Scholars of Distinction awards for achieving an average of at least 3.5 on all exams taken and scores of 3 or higher on at least five of them. The recent graduates are Emma Cao (Emory University), Elisa Chen (University of Virginia), Saylor Hart (Wake Forest), Hyeri Woo (University of Southern California), Zoey Xu (University of California, San Diego) and Yiming Zhao (Boston University) are the graduate honorees.

Their classmates Abby Jones

(Northeastern University), Sumi Lee (George Washington University) and Renee Xie (Parsons School of Design/The New School), and current seniors Grace MacDonald (Bluemont, VA) and Grace Chen (Nanjing, China) received AP Scholars with Honor awards. They achieved scores of 3 or better on at least four tests with an average of 3.25 on all exams taken.

Ten seniors and six graduates collected AP Scholar honors for scoring 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams. Current students are Elizabeth Burns (Front Royal, VA), Amanda Clemente (Reston, VA), Sarah Elhilow (West Palm Beach, FL), Lily Fortsch (Alexandria, VA), Anne Kickert (Leesburg), Clair Newton (Leesburg), May Schulte (Middleburg), Jenna Torrance

(Leesburg), Wendy Xiu (Qingdao, China), and Annie Zimmerman (Haymarket, VA). 2018 graduates Rachel Brown (Colgate University), Morgan Hunt (University of Tampa), Connie Kang (Boston University), Anna Nottage (University of Miami), Pradyuta Padmanabhan (University of Pittsburgh), and Pia Scharfenberg (University of Texas) round out the list.

Calling all Vocalists and Instrumentalists!



2019 Bland Music Competition
Sunday February 3, 2019 at 2:00pm
The Hill School, Middleburg

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PASTIMES

WHO SHOULD WEAR ATHLETIC MOUTHGUARDS?



DR. ROBERT A. GALLEGOS

Athletes in all contact sports from football to basketball should wear a mouthguard. It's also advisable to wear a mouthguard when participating in any physical activity where there is a risk of jarring movement or injury to the face or jaw, like in skateboarding, skiing, or riding a scooter. Mouthguards serve to protect teeth, tongue, lips, gums, jaw bones and reduce concussions rates and severity. There

are three main types of mouthguards that range from least protective to most protective, they are: prefabricated, "boil and bite", and custom made. Stephen Curry of the Golden State Warriors basketball team is one of the best players in the National Basketball Association. He has gained some notoriety for chewing on his mouthguard during games making him the poster athlete of professional sports for wearing a properly fitted mouthguard. He started wearing the mouthguard after being hit in the mouth in college. He suffered an

injury requiring stitches that has left a scar but luckily, he did not lose any teeth or have a concussion. Prefabricated mouthguards are purchased in a store and are generally the least expensive option. The cons, however, are they come in a standard size, cannot be custom fitted, require the athlete to bite to hold in place, and can be uncomfortable. They may also interfere with breathing and speech. Bottom line: this option offers a low level of protection and can interfere with performance.

"Boil and bite" mouthguards are also purchased in a store, however, they are customized at home using heat and then molded to the teeth and trimmed. They offer a better level of protection and fit than prefabricated guards. However, they can be uncomfortable and can interfere with speech and breathing, which can adversely affect performance. If over trimmed for comfort they become ineffective. In addition, they may need to be replaced during a season if they get distorted, cracked or bit through but if made properly and replaced as



needed they can be sufficient for low-risk activities. Custom made guards offer maximum protection from trauma and concussion and maximum comfort without adversely affecting, breathing, speech or performance. They are made by a dentist from a mold of the teeth and are very accurate, made from an appropriate thickness of material and trimmed for comfort. The materials used are very durable and usually last a full season. They can be customized in different colors and logos and can be made to fit over braces. They are suitable for all activities.

In many professional, collegiate, high schools and youth league sports, mouthguards are required. These sports include more obvious contact sports like boxing, martial arts, football, rugby, ice hockey, and lacrosse. Athletes of all ages who participate in sports that are not necessarily considered contacts like basketball, baseball, gymnastics, skating, horseback riding, soccer, skiing, biking, and motocross can also experience significant injuries that can be lessened with a proper mouthguard.

In youth sports, mouthguards should be changed out after each season to allow for proper growth of the jaws and eruption of the teeth. They need to be kept away from pets and heat and should be washed in cold water with mild soap or toothpaste and stored in a case after each use.

All athletes would not be better protected by wearing a mouthguard, especially one that is properly fitted. The benefits of protection against tooth, tongue, gum, lip, jaw and concussion injuries far outweigh the minor inconvenience of wearing the appliance. It can be fun to get creative by making mouthguards with team logos and/or colors. Ask your dentist about athletic mouthguards. Most dentists can make them in their office or send to a lab to be fabricated.

Stay healthy by being active while at the same time being safe.

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

PHONY BALONEY

SINCERELY ME



BRANDY GREENWELL

We live in a world where people have fake hair, fake boobs, fake lashes, fake tans, fake nails, you name it and likely there is a fake for it, including fake products of all kinds.

There used to be a time in the not so distant past, like the 1980s, where you could spot fake luxury brands from a mile away. Rolex was labeled Rolox and the weight, or lack thereof, was the dead giveaway. Prada was Prado. The LV pattern on Louis Vuitton was upside down. And the Gucci "G"s were flipped. I used to consider myself a connoisseur on fake luxury products and how to identify them as well as how to pick out the 1:1 exact

replica, but these days, even I get stumped.

I have seen many Hermes belts with serial numbers, super authentic looking orange boxes with certificates of authenticity and perfect, I mean perfect, replication. The only give away would be the quality of the leather, but unless you are loaning out your Hermes, no one would know.

The linings and stitching of luxury purses used to be where you'd find a flaw, but now even the copycats have mastered the whole package. Again usually you can tell a phony by the quality of the leather but you generally wouldn't know it unless you had been in the presence of the real deal. The eye can convince you it is a real Chanel bag, but the hand will tell you the truth.

GRATITUDE AND HEALTH

FITNESS EXPERT



KAY COLGAN, CERTIFIED FITNESS PROFESSIONAL

What does gratitude have to do with health and fitness? After all, being grateful is hard to do when living in this modern world. Stress encapsulates lives that are always in motion on a never-ending hamster wheel. This time of year is so sad why be grateful, life has been hard. Yes, fitness is a priority, but being grateful not really. Why being grateful matters? Just 15 to 20 seconds a day could enhance lives.

Many scientific studies have been done on the benefits to health and well being just by being grateful. The results are in and yes "Virginia there is a Santa Claus." Being grateful elicits a sense of calmness. People who are grateful tend to be happier and healthier. Good news, being grateful can increase energy levels, enhance the immune system, reduce stress levels and promote heart health. Wow, just 15-20 seconds a

day of being grateful has this positive effect on bodies. Life hits all of us hard sometimes. It is hard to pick ourselves up when we've been knocked to our knees. But the studies show overwhelmingly, time and time again people who are grateful even in the midst of hardship are more resilient. They are better able to bounce back and continue to be optimistic. So the age-old wisdom of counting our blessings holds true today.

It's not hard to be grateful. There is always something to be grateful for. Start a gratitude challenge in the new year by writing in a gratitude journal or social media every day something you are grateful for. That's 365 awesome days of being grateful. I am grateful that each of you allows me the opportunity to share my thoughts on health and fitness. Wishing all of you good health and Happy Holidays. For more information about fitness, please contact Kay Colgan, Middleburg Pilates, and Personal Training, 14 S. Madison Street, Middleburg, Va. or call 540-687-6995.

it. I twirled with excitement and pressed "Buy It Now". The address from where it originated was listed as California, but when it didn't come right away I checked the tracking and it was being shipped from Beijing. Red flag number 1, but I still was optimistic that there was a Chinese lady selling her size UK14 Barbour. When it finally arrived, it was inauthentic looking Barbour packaging and tags and even had the Limited Addition Pin on the collar. The fabric and fit were not authentic and I realized I had been taken. Sigh.

I am an Amazon Prime customer and you can ask my UPS driver how frequently I order. I pride myself on finding great deals and have made a sport out of saving on Prime, until recently. I have been using the same three beauty products for ages and know the effects by heart. Well, I thought I would save a buck by



ordering them on Prime and low and behold, they made my eyelashes fall out. Yup. After doing a few consumer tests I discovered that they were fake products and they had an adverse effect on me. I filed a complaint and returned them, but it will take a while for my eyelashes to grow back along with my pride.

Fake products have evolved from luxury brands all the way down to mascara. At this time of year when everyone is shopping for the holidays, do your due diligence and research a product's authenticity. Don't be like me. Keep your eyelashes.

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PASTIMES

THE ARTIST'S PERSPECTIVE



TOM NEEL

I'm not sure how you accept change, but I think we all have to encounter it from time to time. Sometimes it's a small change or series of changes, and other times change can be life-altering. It's the life-

altering kind that can get a hold of your brain and twist it into knots because we as humans are pretty good with settling in. Getting comfortable is at least a little of what we do and who we are.

Of course, past big and small though, there's also that which is within your control and that which is not. In other words,

choice or no choice, but hopefully we still have options we can exercise with either and those options can at least allow us to feel some level of ownership.

Sometimes that change which feels out of our control is our life telling us we are too comfortable, as in being in a rut, as in - is this all there is? This type of change

tampers with our security, but it also often takes the old dog and teaches it new tricks! This type of change often forces a grand life interruption, and it may also bring a new and improved you!

My wife Linda and I have been not only thinking about this type of change; we have been purging in preparation. It's that time in life to ask ourselves, (with no kids); Who will want this when I'm gone? How does this or that contribute to our well being and future? What part of this is important to our identity, or even the validation of our identities? AND - What part of this is a boat anchor, mooring us in a safe harbor and not allowing us to engage in self-exploration?

Artistically I have accomplished quite a bit more than I originally set out to do, but along the way, I learned that ideas hit so fast that I will never be able to truthfully accomplish everything or bring every idea to reality. I've also learned that true artistic vision is all about change. It's all about growth and not only reaching a little further but even reaching in a new direction. Doing this, of course, always requires change. Maybe it's just some change, but it may just be a monumental change as well.

We all need to soul search. Sometimes we need to creatively search, and sometimes we just need to physically search. This



requires letting go, but hopefully being in balance before doing so. So as to not simply wobble about, but to have a reasonably firm footing as we make the jump or change.

Also, if the change is within your control, timing is everything. Timing is all about having a good rhythm and feeling the right time to move from getting prepared to change and implementing the change itself. An important point is to not let getting ready, put you into a perpetual getting ready mode, while never actually changing!

The great thing is, there are seasons of change, and winter and the coming new year make for one of the best times. It's a time when family and friend support is high, one year is ending and another is coming, out with the old - in with the new! Here goes!!!!

Live An Artful Life, Tom

HAVE SPACES FOR YOUR KIDS TO PLAY THIS WINTER?

ASK A REMODELER



TIM BURCH

The holiday season is officially upon us! With that comes busy kitchens, entertaining, and of course, kids home from school. Is your house ready for the additional indoor playtime? Here are some

design tips to make your space adult and child-approved for indoor fun.

Easy Weekend Updates

Control the chaos. Keep the clutter contained by designating specific kid zones. Add a table and chairs in your mudroom, playroom, basement or garage to

allow creative juices to flow in a crafting area, but not overflow into your entertaining spaces. Or really let the chaos run free by letting your kids color on the walls in that unused space under the stairs. Close the door to that area when guests come by, then repaint once the kids are back in school! To encourage quieter

time, set up a corner with comfy pillows and blankets for reading a great book this holiday...extra points if it's near a cozy fireplace. As long as there are designated areas to let loose, you'll have happy kids and a joyful home.

Time to Renovate or Re-Think your Space?

If you could use more space for entertaining your children or guests, you might be interested in some projects we completed for clients who had indoor fun on the mind. Our clients have wanted indoor sports courts, dance rooms, movie theaters, game rooms, craft areas, and even indoor pools. Having dedicated spaces for kids and teenagers to burn off extra energy and spend time with friends is a luxury, and could be key to making your home the place where everyone wants to gather. While these projects couldn't be ready in time for this holiday season, it's never too early to start designing for next year.

Don't think you have the space to create a kid-specific area? Let us help. We've developed plans that repurpose existing space, finish bonus spaces like attics or rooms over the garage, as well as new additions. With so many options, there's certainly a solution for creating a kid-centric space



where your kids' imaginations can run free.

I hope we are surrounded by family and friends this holiday season creating memories that will last a lifetime. Enjoy!

Tim Burch is a Vice President and Owner 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.

STARTING OVER AROUND THE TOWN



HAZEL SWEITZER

Hi everyone. It's Hazel, your favorite Middleburg canine! As I watch my human, Tom, go through changes in his life, I notice how common it is for humans to have to start over: your jobs, friendships or personal life.

Through the years, I have had to start over a few times. I have lost a few dog friends. Some moved away, some have gone to Doggie heaven, and some just don't want to play with me anymore. It makes me sad. Tom always says to me, and his therapy clients, "it's because our lives are like chapters in a book, and when people or dogs leave us, we need to start a new chapter with-

out them. We need to embrace change as a positive thing."

To be honest, I don't like change. Not many dogs do. We are animals of habit and condition. I can't even stand it when Tom leaves the house for more than 30 minutes! I know I am spoiled because I am not left alone very often. When I am, I feel lonely.

Before Tom, there were dogs and humans that were "toxic" in my life. Another word I learned from Tom. The humans I lived with would just leave me alone for days. They never came home! But when you don't know any better, you just accept what you are given. It was awful.

It took a long time to trust Tom. I have lived with him for over seven years now and I still have moments of insecurity. Tom explained, "that's because you experienced so much trauma before you moved to Middleburg and came to live with me. When I leave, you are reminded of those horrible days and when I come home, you feel the joy of being with your human again." He's right! Each time he comes back into the house, I am happy again.

It was scary, this change in life. But every day got better. Much better! Tom made me realize I deserved a better life, as all dogs do. A good meal, a warm bed, and lots of hugs. He loves

me, and boy, do I love him! And I trust him now. Starting over was a good thing. Don't be afraid to start over. It will be OK!

Remember, when you are loved, truly loved, they always come home. Wishing all dogs and their humans a Happy New Year!





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PASTIMES

PLANT SPEAK

THE PLANT LADY



KAREN REXRODE

Most, if not all, gardeners speak to their plants. Scientists say the only benefit they receive from our spoken words is carbon dioxide. Of course, we feel differently, our nurturing self believes our plants hear us, respond to us, maybe even think

(like they have a brain).

Recently I surveyed some friends with a question: do you talk to your plants? Given that all of my friends are gardeners, it was a resounding yes. Short sentences, mostly timed with boisterous growth or flowering, or the sad consoling when we've forgotten to water and the plant is wilted, these were the main

reason for dialog. I also asked if it differed by the plant, as in; do you speak differently to your outdoor hydrangea versus your indoor fancy orchid? No was the answer although there was a lot of gendering, male or female designations, some believing that all of their plants are male (or the alternative).

When it comes to scientific

facts about how a plant communicates with its surroundings, I believe that there may be more unknown than known. But I can cite some studies that highlight recent findings. It's been proven that a caterpillar eating a leaf will trigger surrounding plants to increase certain chemicals in their leaves so they are less palatable. Is it hearing, vibrations, or smell?

In 2013 a project showed that plants have memory, at least the sensitive plant or Mimosa pudica. This plant was the perfect subject for the test; when touched the leaves quickly fold up. They are small leaves, arranged on a stem and it's an intriguing thing to watch them turn upward from stem tip to trunk in a matter of milliseconds. The experiment took over 50 plants, dropped every five seconds, all rigged with mechanical devices for the drop to negate differences from potential human imperfections. In some cases, Mimosa pudica stopped closing after the fifth or sixth drop. Eventually, they all stopped reacting. A week later the same experiment was repeated and the plants ignored the stimuli. So it also went a month later. The sensitive plant remembered!

The Venus flytrap requires a certain, very precise set of movements before it snaps its jaws shut. Two small filaments must be touched together in less than

twenty seconds for it to close on its prey. This dual action also keeps it from closing when it's hit by raindrops, or a blowing leaf, or random environmental cues. Some may consider this thinking. I'm sure it's an adaptation developed over millions of years. If their jaws were constantly opening and closing, there would have to be a weakening. With evolutionary adaptation, those that opened less frequently would be stronger, better suited to thrive and displace the Venus flytrap, version 101.

Maybe the most exciting research shows that tree roots are connected by a network of mycorrhizal fungi. Both are rewarded in the relationship, trees give the fungi sugar, the tree is then rewarded with minerals and nutrients transferred by the fungus. An underground communication system is now set up, like a network of phone lines, even linking different species. When a tree is in trouble, it will alert others in its network. There is even proof that an ailing tree may release its reserves to other trees as it dies, even helping another species that may survive better in a changing environment. This sure seems like thinking.

So if you're talking to your plants, doling sweet nothings in their ears (ears!), don't stop. One day it may be proven that they are listening after all.



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OF DECKS, AND HALLS, AND HOLLIES

We began the holiday season “officially” here in Middleburg on the last day of November, at 5:00 PM with our traditional tree lighting ceremonies.

On Saturday, December 1, neither rain, nor snow, nor gloom of all too early night-fall, managed to spoil the

day.

Thousands joined us for horses and hounds, Santa and floats, and a great day of food, fun, and shopping on in what is (we admit our prejudices here) one of the most glorious places ANYWHERE to celebrate the holidays.

In this, our last edition until (gasp) next year we would all like to thank, you, our readers for your kind, loyal and vocal support for (good grief, Charlie Brown) FIFTEEN Christmases!

Kudos also to our Town Staff, Town Council, and all our local business people

for making Middleburg . . . Middleburg.

Nothing like it, thanks to you, ANYWHERE else on earth.

Best wishes and thanks to Martha Mason Semmes for her long, faithfu, and highly professionall service to the

Town of Middleburg. Don’t be a stranger !

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and a Joyous New Year!

Your Eccentric Friends and neighbors

LET US NOW PRAISE FAMOUS MEN . . .

DAN MORROW

“Never be afraid to raise your voice for honesty and truth and compassion against injustice and lying and greed. If people all over the world... would do this, it would change the earth.”

- William Faulkner

December is a month of celebration and mourning: a birth sacred to millions; the horrors of Pearl Harbor; the Festival of Lights; the slaughter of Battle of the Bulge; the birth of Beethoven; the death of Mozart.

This December we mourned the life and service of George H. W. Bush, 41st President of these United States.

He was the last of our Presidents belonging to what Tom Brokaw termed “The Greatest Generation,” a cohort of men and women who not only survived a global war, plague, and depression but, in Faulkner’s

words, prevailed.

Those who joined together to honor him and millions did, did so in a spirit that most, if not all, his compatriots would have surely understood: “The faults of our brothers we write upon the sands; their virtues upon the tablets of love and memory.”

What virtues? Those so eloquently expressed in eulogies by men who knew all too well his sometimes grievous faults, and loved him, including his son.

This is what George W said of his father. This is what he said:

As he aged, he taught us how to grow old with dignity, humor, and kindness – and, when the Good Lord finally called, how to meet Him with courage and with joy in the promise of what lies ahead.

He was a patriot. After high school, he put college on hold

and became a Navy fighter pilot as World War II broke out. Like many of his generation, he never talked about his service until his time as a public figure forced his hand.

He was a tolerant man . . . Dad could relate to people from all walks of life. He was an empathetic man. He valued character over pedigree. And he was no cynic. He looked for the good in each person – and usually found it.

Dad taught us that public service is noble and necessary; that one can serve with integrity and hold true to the important values, like faith and family. He strongly believed that it was important to give back to the community and country in which one lived. He recognized that serving others enriched the giver’s soul

In victory, he shared credit. When he lost, he shouldered the blame. He accepted that failure is part of living a full

life, but taught us never to be defined by failure. He showed us how setbacks can strengthen.

He loved to laugh, especially at himself. He could tease and needle, but never out of malice.

Finally, every day of his 73 years of marriage, Dad taught us all that it means to be a great husband. He married his sweetheart. He adored her. He laughed and cried with her. He was dedicated to her totally.

He showed me what it means to be a President who serves with integrity, leads with courage, and acts with love in his heart for the citizens of our country. When the history books are written, they will say that George H.W. Bush was a great President of the United States – a diplomat of unmatched skill, a Commander in Chief of formidable accomplishment, and a gentleman who executed the duties

of his office with dignity and honor.

In his Inaugural Address, the 41st President of the United States said this: “We cannot hope only to leave our children a bigger car, a bigger bank account. We must hope to give them a sense of what it means to be a loyal friend, a loving parent, a citizen who leaves his home, his neighborhood, and town better than he found it. What do we want the men and women who work with us to say when we are no longer there? That we were more driven to succeed than anyone around us? Or that we stopped to ask if a sick child had gotten better, and stayed a moment there to trade a word of friendship?”

George W. Bush’s last words to his father were, “I love you.” His father’s last words, in return, “I love you too.”

THE NEVER-ENDING STORY... RED

BRIAN VELLA

Last week my left-wing colleagues were excited, once again, by the prospect that Mr. Mueller would deliver damaging evidence against the President, this time via the arm-twisting of Mr. Trump’s former lawyer, Michael Cohen. As it turns out, Mr. Cohen is a New York lawyer with a big mouth (surprise) but apparently short on information of collusion between President Trump and the Russians. Oh well, hope springs eternal and next in Mr. Mueller sights seems to be Jerome Corsi, an author, and commentator who allegedly has ties to Roger Stone, a Trump advisor. To extract what he wants from Mr. Corsi, Mr. Mueller has threatened to indict the 72-year-old witness because Mr. Corsi did not correctly recall how he handled his emails in 2016 (I will forego the obvious comparison of the dissimilar treatment received by Mrs. Clinton with respect to her email). Mr. Corsi however, has filed a formal complaint with the Jus-

tice Department, accusing Mr. Mueller’s team of threatening to indict Dr. Corsi, and effectively put him in jail for the rest of his life unless Dr. Corsi “would provide the false testimony that [the Mueller team] demanded, even after being informed that the testimony desired would be false.”

Following Mr. Corsi’s complaint, Mr. Mueller’s defenders in the media immediately went into damage control mode, trotting out the usual suspects to declare Mr. Corsi’s complaint “outrageous”. But before rushing to judgment, anyone interested in Department of Justice practices should read Licensed to Lie, a book published in 2014, long before its author, Sidney Powell, could be accused of being a dupe for the administration. Ms. Powell served under 9 United States Attorneys from both political parties as an Assistant United States Attorney, and her book is an eye-opening dissertation on corruption and abusive tactics she witnessed while at the DOJ. Ms. Powell has been particularly

critical of Mr. Mueller’s lead prosecutor, Andrew Weissmann, a “pit bull” whose track record includes a prosecution that destroyed the accounting firm of Arthur Andersen LLP, and some 85,000 jobs worldwide — a “victory” that was later reversed by a rare unanimous decision by the U.S. Supreme Court. Mr. Weissmann was later involved in strong-arm tactics in the prosecution of four Merrill Lynch executives who were convicted and held in jail without bail pending appeal before the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals stepped in and reversed. Based on these examples and many others, it is clear that hardball tactics that skirt the limits of the law are not unknown within the Department of Justice and in particular to Mr. Weissmann, so the allegation that the Mueller team has solicited false testimony and threatened Mr. Corsi may be in keeping with those tactics. The larger point is that if the Trump campaign had colluded with the Russians, after more than 2 years of investigation by the DOJ and the FBI, includ-

ing electronic surveillance and spying by the intelligence community within the Trump organization, the evidence would surely be profound. There should be no need for the Mueller team to pursue bit players such as Jerome Corsi to make their case.

Finally, since we now know that raiding the office of a political candidate’s attorney in search of evidence of collusion with a foreign power is an acceptable tactic, as Mr. Mueller did with Mr. Cohen, I suggest Mr. Mueller obtain a warrant for Marc Elias, general counsel for Hillary Clinton’s 2016 presidential campaign. After Mr. Elias denied that the Clinton campaign funded the infamous “Russian dossier” that was the launch-point for the “collusion” allegations against President Trump, both the New York Times and the Washington Post reported over a year ago that the Clinton campaign and the Democratic National Committee had in fact funneled money through Mr. Elias to pay foreign sources to develop the

Russian dossier. What has Mr. Mueller done with this information over the past year? It is obvious that if the goal of Mr. Mueller’s investigation is to determine whether foreign operatives colluded with anyone in the U.S. to influence the 2016 presidential election, following the money trail from the Clinton campaign through its attorney would surely be obvious to Mr. Mueller’s team of “pit bull” prosecutors. If safeguarding our electoral system against those who would collude with foreign powers to influence our elections was truly the objective of the Mueller investigation, Mr. Elias and others within the Clinton campaign and the DNC would already be under indictment. The lack of interest by the Mueller team in the real evidence of collusion, while they instead attempt to build a case against the President confirms that the investigation from the start has been a political operation and has nothing to do with safeguarding our electoral system and ferreting out “collusion” with the Russians.

EXOFFICIO

MARK SNYDER

Hello Middleburg! I speak here, I hope simply, as a citizen. I examined infrastructure in previous columns, and am now moving on.

It is now winter. Council slows down in November and December, in terms of meetings, but budgeting also begins during this period. Under state law, the fiscal year (FY) 2020 begins July 1, 2018, and ends on June 30, 2020.

Unlike previous years, Middleburg is coordinating the timing of setting tax rates with Loudoun County. Loudoun County will include Middleburg’s real estate tax in the County billing. Thus, unified billing begins for the County and the towns that adopted unified billing. Starting

next year, in-town property owners in Middleburg will not receive a separate real estate tax bill from Middleburg.

The Middleburg budgeting process begins with town staff. The Town Administrator (TA) typically solicits input from all of the staff. This year, Danny Davis will start the fiscal year 2020 budget process, with Martha Semmes supporting him for a few weeks until she retires.

Once Danny gets input from staff, including police, utilities, planning & zoning, economic development and so on, he also needs revenue projections from the treasurer. Current tax rates and factors, such as current real estate evaluations factor into and project the current baselines. The TA then looks at budget

requests from staff and at revenue to begin a new budget. The new projected budget revenues must match projected expenses.

The TA has the utility projections from the utility committee. (I continue to attend these monthly meetings.)

Council typically also has varying degrees of input as well, by the Mayor and vice mayor at least. Apparently, this year council plans a strategic finance committee meeting for this purpose, as I see a December 11 meeting on the town calendar. The budget process is an extensive one and can take weeks, and the TA produces the first draft budget for council.

The first draft budget is typically for the general fund, but may also encompass the

utility fund (two budgets). He will also examine the utility rate model to look at the next FY. If he has not already, he will also get final cost input from IES, the firm that operates and maintains our water and sewer systems.

Council considers the first draft budgets in its regular and/or work session meetings beginning after the New Year. State law requires Middleburg to adopt its budgets no later than June 30, but typically, council does so much earlier.

If council decides to raise tax or utility rates, it must hold public hearings before it may do so. Alternatively, council may adopt an “equalized tax” rate; the tax rate is lower but does not increase the tax burden for the current property valuation. Council

typically asks the TA to adjust rates, etc. until it has consensus. The town then advertises the proposed budget for a public hearing in a future council meeting.

The process typically takes weeks from when the first draft budgets from the TA and to an advertisement. Council faces a new urgency to adopt budgets and rates this year so that Loudoun County can incorporate its real estate tax into the unified billing.

That is my opinion of at least the highlights of the budget process. Do you find this informative? Do you have questions about this or ideas you want me to address in a future column? I would love to hear your comments, suggestions, and questions, so please send them to the Eccentric!

CLIMATE CHANGE REVISITED

WATERWORLD

RICHARD A. ENGBERG

Climate change is real. It is happening right now and is happening quickly in terms of geologic time.

Climate change is not a new phenomenon. It has happened over the eons of earth’s existence. For example, over the last one million years as the climate cooled, glaciers advanced over much of what is now Canada and into the United States. Each glacial advance halted when the climate began to warm and the glaciers began to retreat. We are now in an interglacial period.

But what is different now? Nearly all world climate scientists are in accord that carbon emissions from human activity are responsible for a more rapid escalation of climate change that would be happening naturally. As global tem-

peratures rise, Ice sheets in the Antarctic and Greenland are melting and sea level is rising more rapidly than it would without the carbon emissions. An average world temperature increase of three to five degree Celsius as some predict for the end of the 21st century will result in a serious crisis for the world human population because a significant percentage of the earth’s population lives in coastal areas.

So what is being done, if anything? An agreement hammered out in Paris, France, in 2015 by representatives from nearly all the nations in the world is an effort to combat climate change and adapt to its effects on a global basis. Its primary agenda is to try to keep the global temperature rise this century to less than two degrees Celsius.

The Paris Agreement was opened for ratification on Earth Day 2016. It entered

into force in November 2016 after enough countries ratified it to account for more than 55 percent of global carbon emissions. To date (December 2018), 184 nations have ratified it.

The most significant nation not to ratify, however, is whom? You guessed it, the United States. If our national leadership doesn’t accept the premise that climate change is accelerating faster because of man’s activities (carbon releases), why would they sign on to an agreement that would likely involve a significant financial commitment for this country? I can’t answer that question.

What I do know is that many states, cities, communities, NGO’s and other groups in the United States, some 3,000 strong, believe that the problem is serious enough that they support the Paris Agreement. Whether this grassroots

support for the Paris Agreement will be adequate for the federal government to change its tune is unknown.

So why is a water guy concerned? With increasing, global temperatures have come an increase in significant damaging climatic events nearly all of which include a major water component. Hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes, excessive rainfall, droughts, wildfires all are water-related – either too much or too little water. Couple that with the fact that more than one billion people on our planet at present do not have access to clean drinking water and the concern increases.

What is the answer? I wish I knew. I do know that this year the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a group of eminent climate scientists from around the world released a report in which they state that the use of fossil fuels

must be curtailed because they believe we are within about 12 years of a disastrous environmental breakdown. This is concerning. I hope they are not correct but I’m afraid they are. If action is not taken, I guess all we can do is wait and see.

This will be my last regular Water World column for the Eccentric after almost eight years of writing. I’ve been retired for more than three years and it is becoming increasingly difficult for me to come up with subject matter that I think will be of interest to my readers. I may still do an occasional column if interesting and controversial water-related events occur. I wish to thank Daniel Morrow and Dee Dee Hubbard for giving me the opportunity to write this column, and also a heartfelt thanks to you, my readers.

LETTER FROM THE PLAINS

ANTHONY WELLS

As a young person, I grew up opposite a Church of England vicarage, where the vicar was a family friend. I went to the local parish church as well as a school where we held morning and evening prayers. So, like many Eccentric readers, I was greatly influenced by my environment and the culture and traditions of where I was born.

Later, at the Queen’s expense, I traveled the world in the “Grey Funnel Line”, the Royal Navy. By the time I was 18, I appreciated vastly different cultures, languages, and religions.

By the time I had been further educated to doctoral level

at King’s College in London, I began to rethink not just my upbringing but the intellectual and cultural underpinnings of Christianity and the other great faiths. I became familiar, via very good translations, with the Koran, the Torah, the Pali Canon, the Mahayana Sutras, and the Tibetan Book of the Dead.

Then my advanced technical education took me into modern physics, where the writings of Galileo, Copernicus, Isaac Newton, Maxwell, Einstein, and several others opened my mind, and heart.

By the time I was thirty I reflected that the solar system had been formed about 4.6 billion years ago, so I began to consider why God took so long to send Jesus and other

key prophets, and why, in particular, to very specific geographic locations.

Then, in recent times theoretical physicists and cosmologists, like Stephen Hawking, in his “A Brief History of Time” took us from the original Big Bang to Black Holes. Before he passed away Hawking was still searching through that brilliant mind of his for “The mind of God”, to explain how it all happened, and why.

So the small boy who brought up opposite an English country vicarage was left challenging his own inheritance. What if I had been born opposite a mosque, or a synagogue, or a temple in a different country? Like Stephen Hawking, I have no answers to the great questions.

OBITUARIES

STEPHEN BRUCE SMART JR. - 1923 - 2018



PHOTO BY DOUGLAS LEES

Stephen Bruce Smart, Jr., former CEO of the Continental Group and Undersecretary of Commerce for International Trade, died on Thanksgiving Day at his home in Middleburg, VA. He was 95.

Mr. Smart, known as Bruce, worked for Continental Group (formerly Continental Can Company) for more than 30 years, rising through various sales and management positions to become Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. In 1985 he was appointed Undersecretary of Commerce for International Trade by President Ronald Reagan, a position he held until 1988.

A lifelong outdoorsman and conservationist, he was Vice Chairman of the Nature Conservancy and went on to become a senior fellow and board member of the World Resources Institute and a member of the board of directors of the League of Conservation Voters. He wrote extensively on business, ethics and the environment. His 1992 book, Beyond Compliance: A New Industry View of the Environment, pointed the way for companies to adapt to climate change.

In 1987 Bruce and his wife,

Edith (Merrill) Smart, moved to Upperville, VA, where he owned and managed a horse and cattle farm. There, his lifelong passion for competition, incubated on schoolboy hockey teams and honed on racing sailboats, found an outlet in thoroughbred steeplechasing. He inherited a love of antiques and history from his mother and strongly believed that an appreciation of the past was necessary to forge a sustainable future.

In Virginia, he served as a member of Loudoun County's Zoning Ordinance Working Group and the county's Tax Equity Committee. He was Chairman and Trustee Emeritus of Middleburg Academy (formerly Notre Dame Academy), Senior Warden of Trinity Episcopal Church of Upperville, and a member of the Virginia Governor's Commission on Climate Change. He is the author of two memoirs and a trilogy about the people and culture of his beloved community.

Bruce attended Milton Academy. He is a graduate of Harvard College and earned a master's degree in Civil Engineering from MIT. When his academic career was interrupted by World War II, he

served in the U.S. Army Medical Department, returning to service during the Korean War as a First Lieutenant in the Army Corps of Engineers.

He was born in New York City on February 7, 1923, to Beatrice (Cobb) Smart and Stephen Bruce Smart, former president and chairman of Fruit of the Loom, Inc. Soon after, the family moved to Bedford, NY, where he grew up.

Besides Edie, his wife of 69 years, he is survived by his sister, Katharine Place; his four children, Edith Moore of Scottsdale, AZ, William Smart of Bainbridge Island, WA, Charlotte Rogan of Westport, CT, and Priscilla Schwarzenbach of Marblehead, MA; eleven grandchildren; and thirteen great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at Trinity Episcopal Church, 9108 John S. Mosby Highway, Upperville, VA, on Saturday, December 8 at 10:00 AM. A reception will follow the service at Buchanan Hall, 8459 John S. Mosby Highway, Upperville, VA.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the conservation organization of your choice.

LETTER FROM THE PLAINS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 45

the terror in the name of God inflicted by ISIS and the destruction of, for example, Aztec culture and peoples.

This leads me to my next Letter in January 2019, to examine the unaddressed issues in all the ancient religious texts, institutionalized religions, and evolved theocracies that have been dominated by men, that modern society and our advancement from the Dark and Middle Ages require that we address.

I still believe that we human beings, and indeed the great prophets like Jesus, are imbued with a spirit, supported indeed by one of the key facts of my schoolboy physics lessons, that “Matter is neither created nor destroyed”. It is transformed.

Meanwhile, my family and I will enjoy, as always, Christmas Carols and the Christmas Spirit of Giving, and I hope that our wonderful Jewish friends have a great

Hanukkah.

Happy Holidays Eccentric readers.

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Fidelio

The Plains, Virginia

\$9,500,000

Prime Fauquier County location minutes from Middleburg • Unbelievable finishes throughout • Antique floors and mantels, vaulted ceilings • 6 BR, 5 full, 2 half BA • 6 FP; gourmet kitchen • Improvements include office/studio, stone cottage with office, spa, guest house, pool and lighted tennis court • Landscaped grounds with stream, waterfalls, boxwood and special plantings • 61 acres

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905

Mount Gordon Farm

The Plains, Virginia

\$8,900,000

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

Langhorne Farm

Upperville, Virginia

\$3,990,000

266 acres in Piedmont Hunt • Panoramic views of the Blue Ridge, Bull Run and Clobber mountains which surround the whole property • Improvements include 4 farmhouses, an iconic red dairy barn and many agricultural buildings • Ponds and traditional stone walls • This working farm is protected by a Virginia Outdoors Foundation conservation easement which allows 2 parcels

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905

Salem Hill

Marshall, Virginia

\$3,690,000

Prime Fauquier location, well protected • 6 bedrooms • 4 full and 2 half baths • 3 fireplaces • Great views • Pool with large flagstone terrace • Large county kitchen • 4-car detached garage with apartment/office • 9-stall barn • Covered arena • Outdoor ring • 4 stall shed row barn • 51 fenced acres

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905

Crest Hill

Hume, Virginia

\$3,600,000

203 acres in Fauquier w/nearly 1 mile of Rappahannock river frontage • Elegant stone & clapboard house • 5 BR, 4 full & 3 1/2 BA • 4 FP • Wood floors • Gourmet kitchen • Gunnite pool w/stunning views overlooking Blue Ridge Mtns and private pond • Situated amongst protected properties • 5 stall Jim Fletcher barn w/pristinely maintained paddocks, pasture and gins • 2 car garage w/in-law suite • Old Dominion Hunt territory • VOF Easement

Alix Coolidge (703) 625-1724

Mayapple Farm

Middleburg, Virginia

\$3,400,000

A purist's 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

Game Creek

Middleburg, Virginia

\$2,985,000

A remarkable property located within a private enclave just minutes from town • Stone and stucco manor house with main level master suite • 7 additional BR • 5 stone FP • Beautiful gardens, terraces, salt water pool, cabana, carriage house & stable with 2 paddocks • Lovely finishes throughout & sweeping lawn to private trails to Goose Creek • 31 acres • Private, elegant & convenient

Helen MacMahon (540) 454-1930

Waverly

The Plains, Virginia

\$2,950,000

Circa 1755, prime Fauquier County location, between Middleburg and The Plains • Additions in early 1800's & 1943 • Home recently restored • 62 gently rolling acres in Orange County Hunt • 4 bedrooms, 4 1/2 baths, 6 fireplaces • Improvements include salt water pool, pool house, large party house/studio, 2 tenant houses, stone walls and pond

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905

Arborvitae

Warrenton, Virginia

\$2,200,000

A rare example of late medieval architecture, circa 1890 & 1935 with massive central chimneys, steep roof lines, and unusual brick patterns • Five BR and 3 full & 2 half BA • Double barreled ceilings, winding staircase, generous sized rooms & decorative fireplaces • Situated on 111.74 acres • Strong stream, stable with cottage & stone-walled terrace gardens

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905

Belvedere

Middleburg, Virginia

\$1,850,000

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

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905

Harmony Creek

Hume, Virginia

\$1,650,000

Hilltop setting with beautiful distant views • Farm house circa 1920, completely restored and enlarged • 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2 fireplaces, wood floors, large country kitchen • 129.15 rolling & useable acres • Improvements include 3-bay equipment shed/work shop, guest house, 4-stall barn complex, riding ring, spring-fed pond and stream

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905

Peace, Love & Joy Farm

Warrenton, Virginia

\$1,550,000

A long hard surfaced driveway leads to this special home built in 1985 • 6 bedrooms, 5 1/2 baths, 5 fireplaces • High ceilings, large rooms with good flow • Formal garden overlooks Cedar Run • Large pond • Pool with pool house • Barn could have 4 stalls • Rolling land, very private - yet very close to Warrenton

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905

Grasty Place

Middleburg, Virginia

\$750,000

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

2 Chinn Lane

Middleburg, Virginia

\$680,000

Village Hamlet • 3 bedrooms • 2 1/2 baths • Main level master bedroom • Fireplace • Gourmet kitchen with granite counters • Hardwood floors throughout • Lovely terrace and gardens • Garage with workshop • Freshly painted

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905

Potts Mill Cottage

Middleburg, Virginia

\$649,500

2+ acres just east of town • Complete renovation • Immaculate & charming home with 3 BRs & 3 full BAs • Main level master BR • Oversized windows with excellent natural light • Quality finishes, wood floors, standing seam metal roof, stonework & large deck overlooking open yard, stone walls & pond • Move in ready • Close to town • Owner/agent

Helen MacMahon (540) 454-1930

Forest Hill

Bluemont, Virginia

\$625,000

10 acres & a beautifully maintained retreat with views across the valley • Post & beam home with open floor plan • Gorgeous floors, main level master suite, huge stone FP, fantastic loft/home office • 2 additional BR on main level • Many options with BR & full BA in finished space below, with walk out • Tons of storage, 2 car garage & large workshop

Helen MacMahon (540) 454-1930

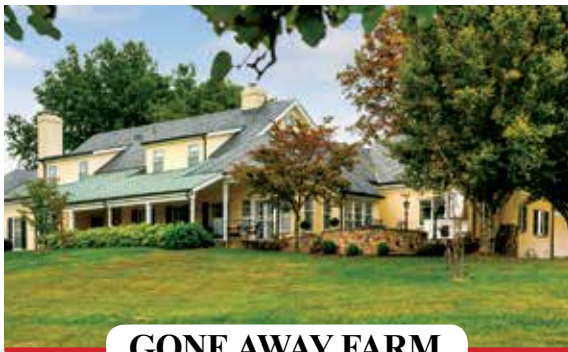
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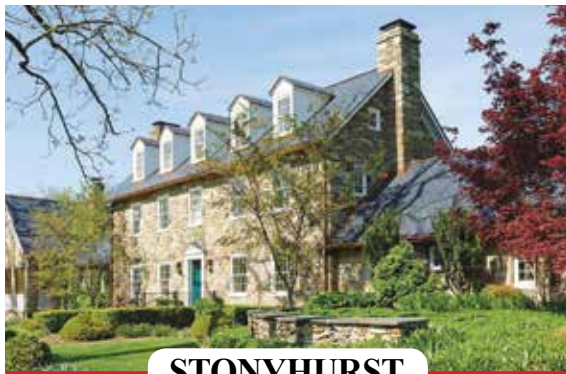
PROPERTIES IN HUNT COUNTRY



GONE AWAY FARM

Zulla Road, The Plains ~ Set on a knoll with views of the Blue Ridge Mtns, this **83 acre** farm is well designed, offering every amenity. The main house has 4 BR, 7 BA, 4 fireplaces, gourmet kitchen & gracious entertaining spaces inside and out. 3 BR, 1 1/2 BA tenant house; charming guest house; swimming pool; covered terrace; outdoor kitchen; 4 ponds; fruit trees and mature gardens. Newer 4 stall barn with heated tack, feed and wash stall; 2 - 2 stall shed row barns; 3 run in sheds. In Orange County Hunt territory. **\$4,495,000**

Emily Ristau (540) 454-9083



STONYHURST

Middleburg ~ Own a piece of local history. Meticulously renovated c.1890 VA fieldstone manor house set on **94 acres** only 1 mile from town. Features formal LR & DR, gourmet kitchen, 3+Bedrooms, 3 1/2 Baths, Office & 2 porches. Original hardwood floors, 5 fireplaces & custom cabinetry throughout. Extensive landscaping, rebuilt stonewalls and new driveway. Pool, 2 barns, workshop, old tenant house & 4-board fencing. 1 division allowed. **\$4,425,000**

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THE GRANGE

Stunning 2012 addition and complete restoration created a classic and elegant Virginia manor house. Attention to detail throughout including a custom designed kitchen open to the family room. Property also includes pool, guest house, 4 stall barn on **18 acres** located in the Orange County Hunt Territory. Convenient access to I- 66, Rt. 50 and Dulles International Airport. **\$2,675,000**

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KENTHURST LANE

The Plains ~ Custom Federal style residence with 6 Bedrooms, 7 Baths on **2+ acres**. Features high ceilings, hardwood, marble and antique ceramic tile floors, 7 fireplaces and exquisite details. Clive Christian Kitchen with LaCornue stove and light-filled Breakfast Room. Formal Living Room, Dining Room, Library, Great Room, Master Bedroom Suite with fireplace, luxury Bath, Walk-in Closets. Guest Bedroom suite on 3rd level. Walkout lower level has Family Room, Media Room, Music Room, Weight Room, Wine Cellar, 2nd Kitchen, Guest Bedroom Suite. Attached 3-car garage with Apartment. **\$1,999,000**

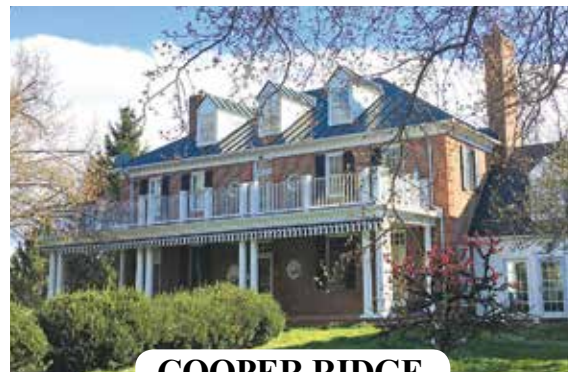
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Jeffersonton ~ Unique 4 BR country house with pool and out-buildings. One and 1/2 mile of Rappahannock river frontage. Open, rolling fields. Investment, horse farm, brewery, B&B, farming or winery potential. All around views, flowering gardens, privacy and peace. 15 minutes to Warrenton. **\$1,991,000 on 239+acres or \$1,443,000 on 142 acres**

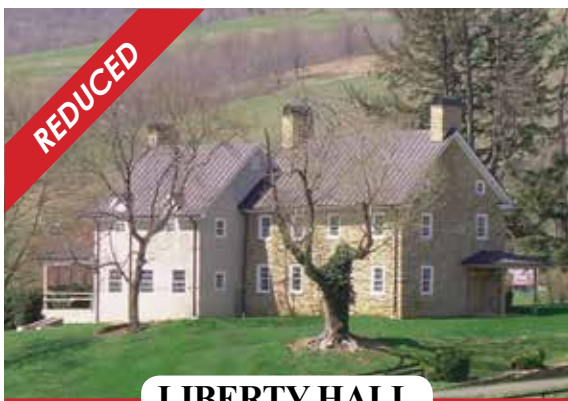
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COOPER RIDGE

Off Atoka Rd, Marshall ~ Completely renovated brick home on **22+ acres** in a private, park like setting. 4 BR and 4 1/2 BA, including a separate au pair or guest suite with fireplace. Hardwood floors, antique mantles, 10 foot ceilings, 5 fireplaces and custom woodwork. 2 level 13 x 49 porch. Full basement with work out room & sauna; play room; 2nd laundry and storage. 2 car garage. New 20 x 24 run in. shed. In Orange County Hunt territory. **\$1,987,500**

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LIBERTY HALL

Paris ~ Circa 1770, Lovely Stone and Stucco Farm house 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. **\$1,300,000**

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ASHBY GAP

Paris ~ Great location, Rte 50 on top of Paris Mountain. Over 3,000+ Sq. Ft. of useable commercial work space on 2 floors. Plenty of parking, Zoned Commercial/Industrial. Large reception area & room for a conference table, a spacious side office is filled with windows, 2 BA and 2 storage rooms. The 2nd Floor can serve as an apartment as office space with a company employee kitchen and sitting area. Negotiable Commercial Lease prepared by Landlord. Use subject to Clarke County approval. No smokers. Security deposit, credit report & references required. **\$2,200**

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