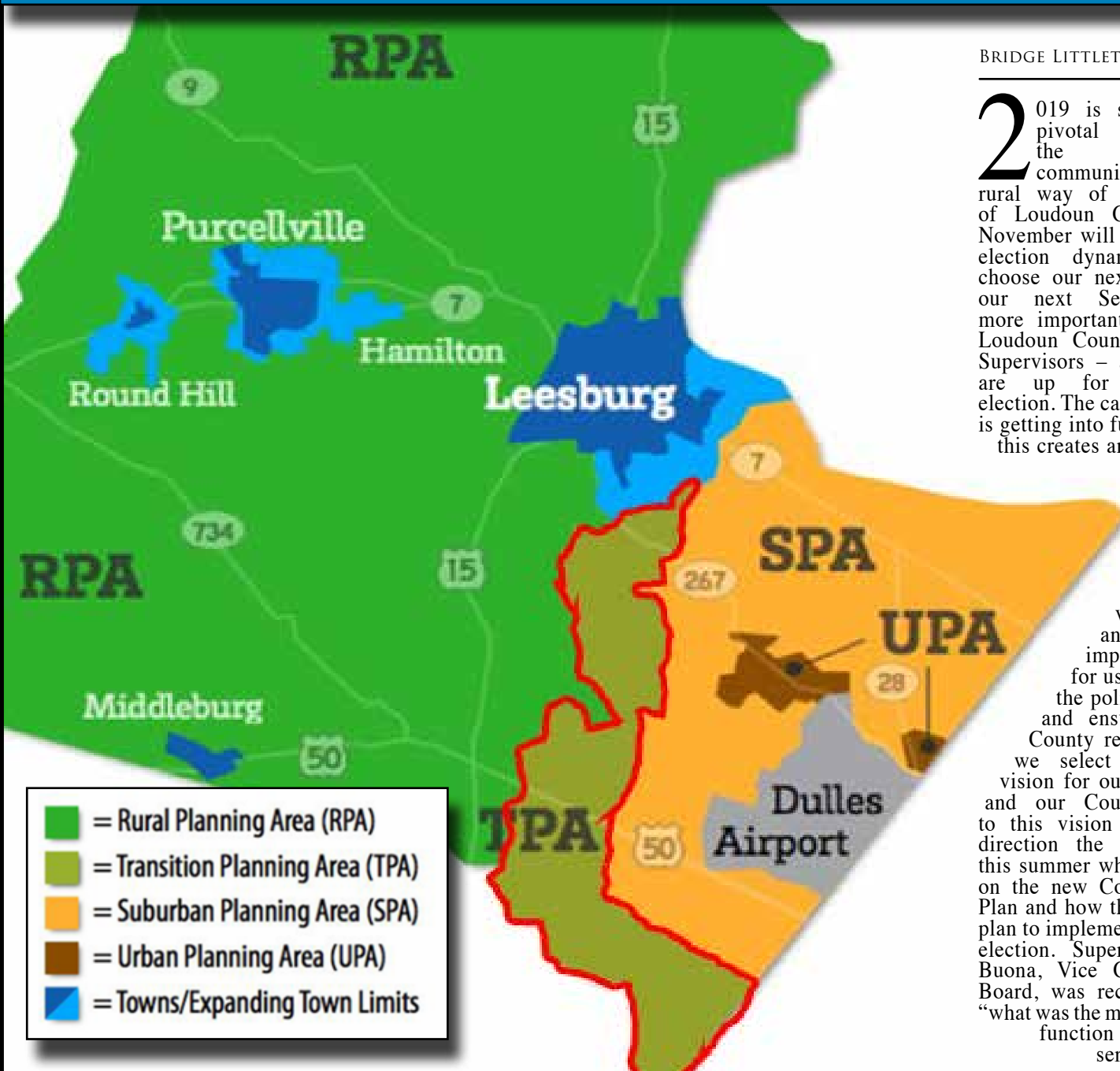


2019 ELECTION ISSUE: PRESERVING LOUDOUN COUNTY: A CALL TO ACTION



BRIDGE LITTLETON

2019 is set to be a pivotal year for the Middleburg community, our rural way of life and all of Loudoun County. This November will see a unique election dynamic as we choose our next Delegates, our next Senators, and more importantly, the next Loudoun County Board of Supervisors – all of whom are up for election/re-election. The campaign cycle is getting into full swing and this creates an opportunity for us all to be heard more than normal – by our vote. It is an incredibly important time for us to engage in the political process and ensure that the County representatives we select reflect our vision for our community and our County. Central to this vision will be the direction the Board takes this summer when they vote on the new Comprehensive Plan and how the candidates plan to implement it after the election. Supervisor Ralph Buona, Vice Chair of the Board, was recently asked: “what was the most important function the Board serves”.

He answered with no hesitation, “It’s not schools, it’s not roads. Without question, it’s land planning. It’s the single biggest thing we do for our residents. It touches everything.”

Supervisor Buona has it exactly right, and the foundation of that land planning is Loudoun’s

Comprehensive Plan. It’s the blueprint for our community for the next 20 years. What do we want our County to be? Do we want it to be a sprawling suburb of dense housing developments from east to west, filled with data centers and strip malls? Or, do we want it to be a dynamic, energetic and balanced County with the eastern suburban features that bring diversity and services for residents and a western rural area with a slower paced lifestyle that fosters open spaces, agriculture, tourism and a green economy for all residents and visitors to enjoy. The choice is clear and this plan will be the foundation of the vision.

The central elements to keeping western Loudoun rural will be in the fate of the Transition Policy Area (TPA). The TPA is the battle line, the north/south area in the center of the County that is the buffer zone between east and west (see map attached – TPA outlined in red). During the public input period for the Comp Plan 18 months ago, 80% of the 13,000 respondents stated they wanted NO additional growth in the TPA – a clear message was sent.

Unfortunately, the Loudoun County Planning Commission’s working drafts and fiscal impact studies for the new Comp Plan do not seem to reflect that vision. While we do not yet know what the Planning Commission will recommend in its final submission to the Board of Supervisors, it is clear from their statements and drafts so far that a majority wish to see greater suburban sprawl heading west and dense suburbanization of the TPA.

Here are some examples which cause enormous concern: From the recently released Fiscal Impact Report of the Planning Commission’s draft, the plan calls for an increase in the number of houses in the TPA of 200%, from 10,000 homes now authorized to nearly 30,000. It also proposes that over 10 million square feet of commercial space and data

SUPERVISOR RALPH BUONA, VICE CHAIR OF THE BOARD, WAS RECENTLY ASK, WHAT WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT FUNCTION THE BOARD SERVES. HE ANSWERED WITH NO HESITATION, “IT’S NOT SCHOOLS, IT’S NOT ROADS. WITHOUT QUESTION, ITS LAND PLANNING. IT’S THE SINGLE BIGGEST THING WE DO FOR OUR RESIDENTS. IT TOUCHES EVERYTHING.”

CONTINUED PAGE 25



540.687.6395

WFP.COM

**WATERFORD, VIRGINIA**

Hedgeland Manor offers a private and stunning setting with breathtaking sunsets on just under 40 acres. Hedgeland Manor dwellings offers 8 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms and 4 half baths and 10 car garage. \$3,500,000
Jim Lemon 703-203-9766

**DEPLANE, VIRGINIA**

Fox Meadows - Magnificent brick Georgian on 82 acres. Large patio, sound system & absolute quality throughout. Large 3BR tenant house compliments the property. \$1,950,000
Lynn Wiley 540-687-2224
540-454-1527

**PURCELLVILLE, VIRGINIA**

Well-appointed beautiful stone home, just under 25 acres on 2 lots, ideal horse farm. 4,000+ SF features stunning kit, HW floors both, 5 fireplaces, large rooms, enclosed sun room, pond, 6 stall horse barn. \$1,498,000
Jim Lemon 703-203-9766

**MIDDLEBURG, VIRGINIA**

50+ acre parcel less than 5 mins to the village of Middleburg on recently repaved Sam Fred Rd. Gently rolling topography w/ hardwoods surrounding the borders and 2 streams. \$1,300,000
Jim Thompson 540-687-2224
Sherry York 703-625-3377

**CATTERQUE, MARSHALL, VIRGINIA**

Charming updated 3BR, 2FBA, 2HBA farmhouse in sought after location (OCH Hunt) on 51 private acres. Convenient to Marshall, The Plains, and Middleburg. \$1,115,000
Kathryn Harrell 703-216-1118
Kevin Keane 540-454-0905

**BOYCE, VIRGINIA**

Turn-key home and ideal horse property on 25 acres. Amazing six stall barn, fenced paddocks, workshop machine buildings. Three finished levels with main level master suite addition. \$1,100,000
Jim Lemon 703-203-9766

**ENGLISH CHASE, MARSHALL, VIRGINIA**

7,000+ SF home offers 3BR, 3.5BA on main level & LL bedroom suite. Addition w/ kitchen, dining space & cozy seating area. Situated on 14 acres, mostly fenced back yard & several gathering spaces inside & out. \$1,050,000
Anne Michael Greene 540-364-9500

**WATERFORD, VIRGINIA**

Amazing high end renovation work completed. Main level master suite. 6 inch oak hardwood floors on all 3 levels, new kitchen transformation. Bathrooms redone and new one added on upper level. 4/5 beds, 5.5 baths. \$974,000
Jim Lemon 703-203-9766

**FOX KNOLL, MIDDLEBURG, VIRGINIA**

Dream home with 4BR/3.5BA, gourmet kitchen, 4,200+ SF, 6.5 acres, built in 2013 by Van Metre. Less than 5 miles to Middleburg. Internet Available. Small pond, equipment shed/run-in shed, chicken shed & run. \$875,000
Anne Michael Greene 540-364-9500

NEWS OF NOTE

TRUBAN MOTOR COMPANY UNVEILS THEIR PORSCHE GT2 RS

TOM NEEL

John and Charlene Truban, of Truban Motor Company in Winchester, VA., took delivery of their ultra-exclusive Porsche 911 GT2 RS and decided to share their experience by having an unveiling party at their showroom located at 60 W. Jubal Early Drive. This has been home to Truban Motors since May of 2011.

Guests arrived at 7 pm to a feeling of everything Porsche. Walls full of classic signage, display cases of memorabilia and parts, and a few of the Truban's award-winning collector cars on display. John shares, "We have the 1972 911S Coupe in Emerald Green that was John "Jack" Cook's Executive Car when he was the head of Porsche/Audi of North America. We have our 1989 Baltic Blue Speedster with a Linen Gray Interior, 1 of only 6 in that color in the U.S."

It was hard to miss the GT2 RS ceremoniously draped in the center of the showroom. Its high rear wing a dead giveaway! But with plenty of time to mingle, guests enjoyed the

Truban's hospitality and a delicious spread of hors d'oeuvres and beverages. This was topped off with Truban's own Peter Gartner's demonstration on making his home country's traditional Feuerzangenbowle; an authentic German holiday mulled wine.

Truban Motor's western Virginia location may make it one of a classic Porsche lovers' best-kept secrets. But John Truban, being the Porsche Club of America's Potomac region concourse chair, should not be. I encourage all to visit and share in his wealth of knowledge of classic and exotic cars, Porsche especially. "The first Porsche we ever sold as a dealer was a 1998 C4 Cabriolet in Arctic Silver with 14k miles. It went to Frankfurt, Germany."

John and Charlene addressed the crowd with a few short words, pulled back the cover and voila!, the handsome GT2 RS appeared! Its rare custom metallic orange "Zanzibar" color and glossy carbon fiber surfaces got instant applause from the crowd. A closer look revealed its two-toned black and cognac leather



interior and optional Weissach package, with lightweight magnesium wheels. John then brought the 3.8 liter, twin turbo six, with 700 horsepower, to life - VAROOOOM!!! There was ample time and accessibil-

ity for guests to get up close and personal with this special car. There were more photos taken in an hour than a semester's worth of selfies at a college dorm!

To learn more about the

Trubans, please visit trubanmotors.com or call 540-722-2567 and ask for John or Peter. You too can see this historically significant Porsche without having to travel all the way to Zanzibar!



TRUBAN MOTOR COMPANY

60 West Jubal Early Drive Winchester, Virginia 22601
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NEWS OF NOTE

MIDDLEBURG TOWN COUNCIL REPORT

DAN MORROW

Lukewarm Reception for Development Proposal

“Looks like a prison,” was Vice Mayor Darlene Kirk’s reaction to an initial architectural concept for the main building of a proposed new development, located on eight to ten acres adjacent to East Washington Street on the north side of Route 50, with its main access road directly across from The Cidery.

The facility, as currently proposed, would comprise “over 120” residences, “apportioned to independent living, assisted living, and memory care units,” designed to allow “residents to age comfortably in place, amongst family friends and community.” Cooking, dining and cleaning services would be available, as well as “skilled nursing at the ready.”

Submitted formally for discussion by Council at its February 14 regular monthly meeting by P. Daniel Orlich’s Townview Properties, the presentation was the latest iteration of an on-again/off-again series of discussions of the project by the Town’s legal, zoning, planning, and other relevant committees.

Building the facility, on land currently owned by Eric Prince, would require Council to grant a “special exception” for the project in the face of very specific language in the Town’s Comprehensive Plan, and other guidelines and regulations governing land use in the town, including provisions limiting an “assisted living facility” to a “maximum of about 24 units” and “independent living apartments” to a maximum of 20.

Mayor Bridge Littleton made clear at the beginning of the Orlich team’s presentation that any action by council would require significant prior review by staff and committee members.

Council’s questions centered on the “look and feel” of the early draft designs for the buildings, the amount of new traffic that would be produced by the comings and goings of residents, staff and suppliers; the safety of locating a main entrance for another 120 homes on a relatively blind curve; and the effect of such a project at the east entrance of town on the image of the village.

The prospective developers emphasized not only the need for such facilities but the economic benefits to the town and its business community.

Asked “Why here?” in a later interview, Orlich cited “personal preference.” He loved Middleburg, he said and would hate to have to leave the Town, his family, and friends, as he grew older. “Currently,” he noted, “there’s really no choice for most people other than leaving.” On a practical level the Town’s excellent water and sewer infrastructure

were particularly appealing for developers.

Asked about the degree to which the property would be energy-efficient/green, Orlich’s team indicated that cost would play a major role in those considerations.

Despite what could only be described as a “lukewarm” at best reception from the town to date, the Orlich team seemed confident that the project would move forward in the end. Noting the number of empty storefronts the Orlich team said, economically, a “yes” decision was “a no brainer.” Safety concerns, they were sure, could be addressed. Aesthetics, they noted, were negotiable, pointing out that the current Salamander facilities looked nothing like the designs originally submitted.

Discussions and negotiations with Town Staff will continue. Town Council expects to make no decisions on the project until it has been thoroughly vetted and formal recommendations submitted by Staff.

Water Issues Resolved

Early in the morning of a very cold January 25, IES, the firm subcontracted to manage Middleburg’s water and sewer treatment facilities, officially informed the Town of “low or no water conditions” throughout the village.

A valve in the Town’s Stone-wall Water Treatment Plant had become stuck open during the night, most likely as a result of power failures, and had failed to re-close. As a result, water ran “in a loop through the plant instead of serving the Town’s supply.”

As a result of the resulting low pressure in the Town’s water system, the Virginia Department of Health issued a “boil water notice” until water samples could be tested for bacteria.

Because there was no breach or break in the system, there was high confidence that there was little or no chance of contamination. Testing confirmed that the water was safe and the “boil water notice” was lifted around 9 AM on Sunday, January 27.

On Friday and Saturday, the Town helped local restaurants continue to serve customers, with an emergency delivery of some 240 one-gallon jugs of water and roughly two tons of ice.

Refuse and Recycling

The town has been closely monitoring new subcontractor Bates Trucking as the firm completes its first month of refuse and recycling collections. According to Middleburg’s new Deputy Town Administrator, Will Moore, “Relatively few issues have been encountered . . . and Bates has been very responsive in the limited instances where issues have been reported.”

Tree Removal

The Virginia Department of

CONTINUED PAGE 25

HORSE - CRAZY: PHOTO OF A LIFETIME



LAUREN R. GIANNINI
PHOTOS BY
ROBERT L. BANNER, JR.

This ethereal photo of dawn breaking golden over Great Meadow ran last month in the Middleburg Eccentric as an eye-catching illustration for a story about the Great Meadow Foundation. Alas, yours truly made a mistake on the photo credit: Robert L. Banner, Jr. is the sole owner of all copyrights and he’s generous about granting permission to use it, especially in connection with Great Meadow.

Rob took the photo on July 18, 2009, during the Merry Oak Olympics Overnight Trail Ride. That was an annual summertime event when 30 kids and ponies from Middleburg-Orange County Pony Club (MOC) got to stay up all night and horse around—with chaperones, of course—but seriously? Wow and whoa, because it gets even better.

For several years Rob served as head honcho and chaperone, assisted by his wife, Julie Banner, a couple other adult volunteers, and Arthur “Nick” Arundel, Great Meadow founder and patron of the MOC event. They rode for a couple hours until they reached the camp set up in a clearing on a bluff facing the Great Meadow racecourse and polo field. Pairs of kids took an hour-long shift through the night to make sure ponies on picket lines in the meadow didn’t get loose and wander off to find greener grazing. Most of the kids stayed up all night, along with their chaperones, safety first and all that.

“That overnight trail ride and the gymkhana and swim the next day is one of the most fun things I’ve ever done on the back of a horse,” said Rob. “It was late summer, approaching dawn, and I knew the race course would be filled with a nice mist. I had no idea that it would be such a beautiful backlit scene when the sun rose, but I could tell that it was getting ready to happen.”

The kids, awake and asleep, who responded to his urging—“Come on, you gotta see this, it’ll only last a couple minutes”—were sincere with their “Aw gee, Mr. Banner, that’s really pretty!” and other appreciative noises, but by then Rob had his eye on the eastern horizon.

“Of course, I was already shooting like crazy, trying to capture what it looked like every few seconds. The light was changing so quickly,” recalled Rob. “I had to pinch myself. I was looking through the lens, praying: ‘Oh my God, I hope I capture this because this will never happen again in my lifetime.’ The glimpses I got in the monitor were hysterically beautiful and breathtaking. Then, just as the sun rose, a light breeze blew the mist so that it moved like a wave. The depth of field was so tight that the trees on the far ridge were in focus.”

In an exchange of emails in December 2009, Rob wrote: “I was just lucky enough to be standing there with a camera, watching it unfold. As amazing as the photo is, the real thing was absolutely ethereal. It gave me chills up and down my spine.”

Rob shot his magical image with the old tried and true Nikon D200, a semi-pro digital body, and the very fast f2.8mm Nikkor 80-200mm zoom telephoto lens. With the D200 set for Program mode, the jpeg’s metadata cites a shutter speed of 1/320th second at f9.0 (great f-stop for depth of field), ISO 400 (digital “film” speed), at 200mm (more like 300mm on that D200).

“No tripod. It was all handheld,” Rob said. “Out of habit, I was holding my camera and lens against a handy tree to make it steady. I guess I have 35-40 frames of that moment and only two were “OMG” moments.”

Bitten by the horse bug early in life, Rob’s passion evolved in Tennessee where he grew up riding to hounds, showing hunters and jumpers, and competing in owner-rider timber races. After graduating from The Episcopal Academy, he earned his degree in English literature at Vanderbilt University in Nashville. His career track led inevitably into the world of equine and equestrian publishing where he started out as advertising director for Horseman’s Journal for five years, spent another five at Equus Magazine, then signed on as publisher of the Chronicle of the Horse from 1991 to early 2009.

Rob credits several people for improving his photography skills, such as Douglas Lees, Eclipse Award-winning photographer, who has helped many people to shoot better over the years. Tricia Booker, the former editor of the Chronicle of the Horse, taught Rob to

print and develop back when everyone was still using Tri-X; they also competed to see who got the better pix for the magazine at shows. Early in his career, Rob found himself greatly influenced by Katey Barrett, West Coast equestrian photographer, who still shoots with film and specializes in using backlighting to create artistic works.

In February 2009, after

serving on the board of the Great Meadow Foundation for 17 years, Rob succeeded Mr. Arundel as Great Meadow’s President, thus taking over the daily management of this unique 501(c)(3) non-profit. Great Meadow’s mission is the preservation of open land for community use, and the very existence of Rob’s photo, which is worth one thousand words, substantiates why and how Great Meadow inspires dedication in its board members and supporters and attracts more than 200,000 visitors annually to attend equestrian and other rural sporting events.

“I hope more people realize that many similar photogenic vistas are there for them to see firsthand throughout the Piedmont,” Rob said. “I hope also that these scenes help to fortify their commitment to preserve and protect.”

If anyone needs a reason for supporting Great Meadow Foundation, just study Rob’s surreal photo. Such a “once in a lifetime” photo serves as both reward and incentive, especially for someone whose job is to ensure that future generations will be able to enjoy all that Great Meadow and its “hallowed ground” has to offer.

“It was dawn and the view just unfolded,” Rob said. “There was no enhancement at all. No special effects. No filters. That was exactly the way it looked that dawn. But it wasn’t all me. I was lucky enough to be in the right place at the right time. In a lifetime of taking pictures, that was the best picture I’ve ever taken.”

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Sheila Johnson

Founder & CEO
Salamander Hotels & Resorts



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NEWS OF NOTE

FIVE STARS FOR SALAMANDER

Forbes Travel Guide has awarded Sheila Johnson's Salamander Resort & Spa in Middleburg its coveted and rare Five-Star Rating, making it one of only two new properties in the United States to receive the honor this year.

Only 210 properties in the entire world are ranked Five-Star and only 79 in all the United States.

Excellence Throughout

General Manager Reggie Cooper stated his team has been preparing internally by setting their own high standards for years to achieve Five-Stars. Formal training for new employees is rigorous and is backed by on-going coaching and review, including visits to the facility by the resort's own "secret shoppers."

Last year, Cooper said, he KNEW they had a good chance when a staff member greeted, what turned out to be a Forbes inspector, at the door and insisted on giving him his personal and very best attention.

Before the Five-Star announcement, Salamander Resort & Spa also was one of only three properties in the United States to be honored in Forbes' guide to the "World's Most Luxurious" list for both the spa AND hotel.

Getting the News

Salamander's Founder and CEO of Salamander Hotels & Resorts, Sheila Johnson, got the news while she was in Milan in mid-January.

Prem Devadas, President of Salamander Hotels & Resorts called her and asked if she "could be ready for a call from Forbes" in the next hour or so. Johnson requested that Reggie Cooper, Salamander Resort & Spa's General Manager was on the call as well.

When the call came, Johnson said, the Forbes' representative went on at length about quality of the resort while she, Devadas and Cooper waited for what seemed like hours (though probably only minutes) for whatever news was coming.

Spirits fell as Forbes told the team they were sorry, but the spa had "just missed" making the Five-Star level, though still ranked as one of the best spas in the world.

After a pause, Forbes then continued they were pleased to announce Salamander Resort & Spa has been awarded the Five-Star rating.

Celebrations followed but were limited for a time to members of the Executive Team as Forbes had insisted that the news be embargoed for five weeks, until February 20. Thus there could not be a note, whisper, tweet, Facebook post, anything revealing the Five-Star rating until this past week. That may have been the HARDEST part of getting the news, according to Cooper.

Secrets of Success

Both Johnson and Cooper

credited an extraordinary and devoted staff, without a moment's hesitation, as the secret of their success.

Johnson noted the special contributions of Prem Devadas, now President of Salamander Hotels & Resorts. She said he shepherded the Salamander project through the toughest days of its early existence, transforming the Middleburg project from something foreign and strange in the eyes of those who knew and loved the town, to an admired and respected partner and full member of the greater Middleburg community.

Fate and a keen eye for talent, she said, gave her Reggie Cooper as General Manager. His combination of experience, extraordinarily high standards, and easy grace made him perfect for Middleburg.

The managers and staff they sought out, recruited, trained and embrace reflect the best of both. They, of course, credit Johnson. They are all, of course, right.

Inspectors' Highlights

Forbes' inspectors were unimpressed in their praise.

"It's hard to be bored during a stay at Salamander Resort & Spa," they wrote, citing the facility's horse barns and trail rides, canopy tour, and 23,000 square

foot spa.

"Although the entire resort is technically 340 acres," they continued, "only 140 of those are cleared . . . leaving miles upon miles of hiking, biking and riding trails, not to mention 50 wineries within an hour's drive, the joys of strolling downtown Middleburg (only a seven minute walk away);

luxurious rooms; fine restaurants; culinary classes and wine tastings."

When it All Began

Sheila Johnson is known worldwide as the co-founder of BET, founder and CEO of Salamander Hotels & Resorts, founder of the Middleburg Film

Festival; co-owner of the Washington Mystics, Washington Wizards, and Stanley Cup Champion Washington Capitals; musician; educator; mother and grandmother. One of the things that pleases her most, she continued, was that her late mother, lived to see Middleburg's Salamander Resort & Spa open.



Get the Biz Buzz!

The Middleburg Business and Professional Association invites you to our February Mixer

Tuesday, February 12
5:30-7:30 p.m.

Hosted by
The Hill School
130 South Madison Street

We'll have a 10-minute Biz Buzz

Non-members will be charged \$10.00.



Please RSVP by email to:
info@visitmiddleburgva.com

NEWS OF NOTE

AB INBEV IS THE WINNER OF THE 2018 FOXCROFT ROAD TRASH TITLE

TALKIN’ TRASH

2018 was the sixteenth consecutive year of volunteer action to control trash on the Foxcroft Road. The author conducts this survey as a single observer. The numbers here noted are understated but true. In 2018 there was a record total of 1377 individual pieces of trash, which is 100 pieces greater than any previous year. For the sixteen years the total is 16,798. To aid those first time readers

Summary of Repetitive Trash: (% of total repetitive trash)								
Year	Tobacco	Fast Food	Beverage	Food-Like Edibles	Generic Cups/Bottles	Bags Plastic/Paper	Misc.	Total
2018	33 (2%)	190 (14%)	533 (39%)	96 (7%)	74 (5%)	108 (8%)	332 (24%)	1377
2017	41 (4%)	251 (23%)	342(33%)	67 (6%)	61(6%)	70(7%)	228 (22%)	1060
2016	39 (3%)	185 (15%)	456(36%)	102 (8%)	91 (7%)	57 (5%)	331 (26%)	1261
2015	65 (5%)	239 (19%)	470 (37%)	114 (9%)	68 (5%)	51(4%)	270(21%)	1277
2014	37 (4%)	127 (14%)	436 (49%)	21(2%)	60 (7%)	64 (7%)	146 (16%)	891
2013	97 (9%)	198 (19%)	421 (41%)	94(9%)	42 (4%)	63 (6%)	122 (12%)	1037
2012	96 (9%)	127 (12%)	534 (49%)	88(8%)	50 (4%)	60 (6%)	134(12%)	1089
2011	92 (8%)	144 (13%)	568 (52%)	61(6%)	35 (3%)	31 (3%)	154(14%)	1085
2010	70 (5%)	270 (21%)	729 (57%)	43(3%)	61 (5%)	29 (2%)	74(6%)	1276
2009	73 (7%)	163 (15%)	663(60%)	68(6%)	49 (4%)	25(2%)	64(6%)	1105
2008	63 (7%)	103 (11%)	472 (53%)	59(7%)	40 (4%)	21(2%)	141(16%)	899
2007	92 (8%)	146 (13%)	727 (64%)		88 (8%)		126(11%)	1143
2006	100 (8%)	127 (10%)	776 (64%)		80 (7%)		73 (6%)	1216
2005	61 (6%)	113 (10%)	765 (70%)		86 (8%)		22 (2%)	1099
2004	42 (4%)	124 (12%)	697 (67%)		78 (8%)			1033
2003	73 (8%)	104 (11%)	698 (74%)					950

Tobacco:

Brand: 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018

Marlboro	34	22	33	64	47	43	32	33	54	52	41	20	47	21	22	15
L&M											0	0	4	8	0	1
Newport	5	3	4	13	15	4	8	11	12	14	9	3	3	4	9	5
Camel	9	6	7	5	6	3	0	5	11	16	29	3	3	2	3	3
Parliament	2	0	5	1	2	5	4	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
Red Man	8	1	1	1	4	2	0	1	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0
Other										13	7	8	12	4	6	5

Fast Food:

Brand: 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018

McDonald’s	31	64	38	48	62	51	75	128	61	30	54	50	93	82	92	61
7-Eleven	35	34	39	29	32	23	15	36	34	34	25	26	30	32	43	50
Chic-Fil-A									14	12	4	13	21	20	16	
Wendy’s	5	4	0	4	3	5	25	27	5	3	30	14	32	11	3	5
Starbucks	16	6	6	1	11	2	7	7	6	3	9	5	22	12	5	6
Taco Bell	9	2	2	0	1	1	5	13	10	6	17	8	9	6	23	7
Popeye’s Louisiana Kitchen								30	2	2	1	0	9	0	11	2
Sheetz	6	4	4	8	4	4	3	4	2	5	11	1	5	5	10	15
Subway								8	14	3	8	0	2	0	2	0
Dunkin Donuts						1	5	3	3	2	3	1	7	9	9	10
Burger King	4	4	2	8	5	2	2	10	3	1	2	5	2	10	3	2
KFC					6	0	3	2	3	2	2	1	3	0	2	6
Others	12	12	23	23	23	13	23	10	15	17	18	18	6	8	32	10

New Age / Soft Drinks:

Brand: 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 1213 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018

PepsiCo (Pesi/Mtn Dew/Gatorade)																
	108	96	92	112	90	70	80	123	76	50	14	36	58	70	39	63
Coca Cola	73	87	87	80	98	81	76	73	102	53	58	49	44	43	30	39
7UP/Dr Ppr	20	13	20	12	10	10	11	13	13	17	14	13	23	12	9	14
Green Mtn													19	10	6	0
Red Bull	2	11	26	19	20	19	40	16	14	15	19	17	10	10	9	12
Arizona	2	4	3	1	3	4	18	7	6	10	4	7	7	5	6	6
Monster									1	3	7	2	7	9	14	11
Other	41	40	30	70	73	51	46	57	75	68	59	44	60	56	31	65

BOWA WINS LOCAL AND REGIONAL COTY AWARDS IN 2019 COMPETITION

BOWA is pleased to announce that it has won three Contractor of the Year (CoTY) Awards in this year’s local and regional competitions. The National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI) announced BOWA placed first in two local categories, Residential Kitchen over \$150,000 and Entire House over \$1,000,000, at their “Evening of Excellence” celebration on February 9th. NARI also announced BOWA’s entry for Residential Interior over \$150,000 earned top honors at the regional competition and will move on to the national level. Judging for this competition is based on problem solving, functionality, aesthetics, craftsmanship, innovation, and degree of difficulty by an impartial panel of industry experts.

“We’re honored to be recognized by our peers for these projects,” said David Flyer, BOWA’s President and Chief Operating Officer. “Over the past 30 years, we’ve been firmly committed to delivering our clients both superior construction quality and exceptional remodeling experiences. While ecstatic clients refer their friends and family are our ultimate measure of success, this type of recognition from the industry is so rewarding for the entire team.”

For the fourth year in a row, BOWA won the category Entire House over \$1,000,000. The winning design focused on connecting and opening existing spaces to create cohesion. The main level of the home received the largest transformation as the small, square kitchen was relocated to the area of the original family room, and an addition was built to connect the new kitchen to the existing sunroom. This created a free-flowing space from the back of the home to the front. Additional updates to the bathrooms, master suite, and dining room transformed the home into the open, light-filled house the client desired.

BOWA’s award-winning design for Residential Kitchen over \$150,000 focused on creating an open flow in a previously sectioned-off townhome in Leesburg, Virginia. The design, by BOWA’s In-House Design Team, features a 16-foot island, large reclaimed barnwood beams, and an aesthetic that balances modern loft and the character of Loudoun County farm country.

BOWA’s In-House Design Team also created the condo transformation that won Residential Interior Over \$150,000 in this year’s regional competition. In this Reston condominium, the original awkward and closed kitchen was redesigned to open to the rest of the common space with contemporary



design details. Sight lines and natural light now flow through the living and dining areas highlighting the custom display niches used for the client’s china and figurine collection.

These awards are the latest recognition for BOWA, which

has received nearly 250 local and national awards honoring the company’s business excellence and design and construction expertise on projects ranging from master suites and kitchens to whole-house and whole-condo remodels.

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NEWS OF NOTE

MIDDLEBURG TO THE RESCUE!



Members of the Middleburg community have been helping George, a young adult vulture grounded with an injured wing—on the QT, because the big bird is still out in the wild. George's dedicated team includes local residents with help from the Safeway, all contributing greatly to George's diet and to keeping an eye on him as best they can. Safeway has been providing meats acceptable to vultures. They may be nature's sanitation crew, cleaning up all manner of decaying flesh, but these picky carnivores prefer to feast on recently demised herbivores. George's team has been careful to protect George from becoming a tourist attraction—you'll be able to visit him when he's safely in sanctuary. George isn't a pretty bird, but he has character and, like all vultures, his beauty is expressed in soaring flight, tracing graceful circles on thermals high in the sky. He can't fly with a broken wing, but he's clever and has evaded every effort to catch him.

However, special equipment, humane and safe and hysterically expensive, is being located. The plan to capture George and examine his injury is firming up, and the rescue team will include Hilleary Bogley. Wildlife veterinarian Belinda Burwell will determine the best treatment for George. He's lucky and plucky to have survived in the wild as long as he has, even with being snarked and bullied by his own kind. He will require sanctuary until he heals; if he's grounded for life or considered too tame to release, he will need safe shelter as long as he lives. Donations for George's treatment and care will be gratefully accepted and details about where to send your gift will be available in the near future via Middleburg Eccentric. A big feature on George and his rescue team is in the works.

Hunter's Head

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HEATHER BRIGGS RETURNS TO HER ROOTS AS SHOW SECRETARY FOR UPPERVILLE COLT & HORSE SHOW

The organizers of the esteemed Upperville Colt & Horse Show (UCHS) are proud to welcome Heather Briggs to the team as show secretary. The UCHS is looking forward to this year's event, scheduled to take place June 3-9, with Briggs on board.

Briggs' riding career originated in Virginia, where she first competed in hunter, jumper and American Saddlebred competitions. She brings an eclectic and diverse resume, from telecommunications and art restoration to technical training and equestrian entrepreneurship.

In 2008, Briggs started work in performance sport horse sales, training and breeding as the owner and operator of Belle Grey Farm in Upperville, Virginia. Traveling the world in search of horses broadened her knowledge and contacts in the equine industry. Her jumpers have had success at the Young Jumper through Nations Cup team levels.

Her love of history drew her to the driving sport, where she has had both national and international success. Spending two years training in the Netherlands and Germany, she has served as owner, sponsor, groom, and navigator for two U.S. team members at the 2013 and 2015 FEI World Driving Championships for Pairs. Briggs moved into the role of chef d'équipe in 2017 for the Italian team at the same event and in 2018 for the U.S. team at the FEI World Driving Championships for Singles. She holds an "R" combined driving course designer license, was a member of the US Equestrian (USEF) Driving Sports Committee and has created and taught the chef d'équipe combined driving training program for USEF.

Returning to her Upperville roots in 2014, Briggs was asked to serve on the UCHS board of directors.

"After being on the board for the past few years, I saw a lot of new growth, development, and energy in the event and I liked the direction that it was heading," said Briggs.

With her well-versed background in multiple areas of the industry at the highest levels of the sport, along with her business acumen, practical horse knowledge, and horse show management experience, Briggs is undoubtedly qualified for the position and looks forward to being a part of the continued success of the UCHS.

"Showing has changed in the United States and abroad," said Briggs. "We want to bring Upperville to the next level while protecting its heritage. We are a dynamic and energetic team and have a lot of strong people on our board of directors who are bringing their own flare and passions into the show."



HEATHER BRIGGS AND LARENT - PHOTO BY THE SCOUT

"Personally, I see strong parallels between Upperville and driving," continued Briggs. "Both have changed a great deal in the

past 100 years but their essence and traditions remain constant. I'm looking at trying to help balance cutting-edge sport for

competitors and horses with the dignity and tradition of days past. It's been nice to be able to come back home and focus a little bit

more on the grass, well actually it's world-class footing, in my own back yard."

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NEWS OF NOTE NOTHING BEATS OLD TIME RADIO!



Get ready Middleburg, The Golden Age of Radio is coming to town! On Sunday March 10, the At The Parish House performance series of Emmanuel Episcopal Church will recreate two favorite radio shows of the early 1940's. Local actors will bring the scripts to life using only their voices and sound effects.

The first show, "Fibber Gets Stuck in Fresh Tar" (April 1941), is from Fibber McGee and Molly, one of the most popular and enduring radio comedy series of all time. This series helped shape the full form of classic old-time radio. They are considered the pinnacle of American popular culture from their 1935 premiere until final broadcast in 1959. You'll laugh out loud at the adventures of Fibber and Molly (played by real-life couple Jim and Marian Jordon) and their colorful neighbors and acquaintances in the community of Wistful Vista.

Then brace yourselves for an episode from The Green Hornet

entitled "The Corpse That Wasn't There" (April 1943). Debuting in 1936, the The Green Hornet had a long, successful run, with final broadcast in 1952. We will follow Britt Reid, debonair newspaper publisher by day, crime-fighting masked hero by night, and his faithful valet, Kato. The Green Hornet matches wits with the denizens of the underworld, while risking his life to bring criminals to justice.

The aficionado will be delighted to be part of the live audience for these programs. Those new to radio theater, especially youngsters, will marvel at how a medium that had its prime in the 30s and 40s feels as new and vivid as the latest technotainment!

Join us Sunday, March 10 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.



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NEWS OF NOTE

SUPPORT THE PLAINS VOLUNTEER FIRE & RESCUE COMPANY NEW PUMPER-TANKER FUNDING



Eccentric readers passing through The Plains during the past few months will have noticed the extensive renovations to the ambulance bays on the side of the firehouse. In addition the Company has just acquired a new advanced life support unit. The photo shows this state of the art unit standing by 24/7 to respond to readers' needs. The Company needs to urgently acquire a new pumper-tanker to replace the existing very old unit that requires constant maintenance to sustain reliability. The new vehicle will be a major asset for many years and its cost is non trivial. Bids are currently out. This pumper tanker is a vital unit for our area in the event of a house, structure, barn, or other fire. This unit has to be funded 100% from non Fauquier County sources. The volunteers, who commit their time and energy to serving our community, and placing themselves at risk, deserve the best equipment to save lives and property. Please make a specific donation for the proposed new pumper tanker to The Plains Volunteer Fire & Rescue Company to help sustain this critical service for us all. Donations may be mailed to the Company at 4260, Loudoun Avenue, The Plains, Virginia, 20198, or please stop by to deliver a check, visit the station, and be shown the new advanced life support unit. Thank you.



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LADIES BOARD SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS



The Ladies Board of Inova Loudoun Hospital is accepting applications for nursing school tuition assistance. Scholarships are available to eligible students in various programs of study, including degrees at the associate, bachelor's, master's and doctoral levels.

Criteria for selection include all of the following:

- Residence or employment in Loudoun County
- Enrollment in or acceptance by an accredited school of nursing (acceptance letter required)
- Completion of one semester (nine credits) of nursing school or 30 undergraduate college credits

Students may be awarded only two consecutive Ladies Board scholarships.

Since the scholarship program's inception in 1959, The Ladies Board has offered almost 1,200 scholarships totaling over \$1,770,000. In 2018, \$110,500 was awarded to 51 students, including a \$1,000 scholarship for forensic nurse training. Scholarships ranged from \$1,000 to \$2,700.

Applications and additional information are available online at <http://www.ladiesboard.org> or by calling 703-777-6357. Applications are also available in Leesburg at The Gift Shop at Inova Loudoun Hospital, 44045 Riverside Parkway; Inova Loudoun Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, 235 Old Waterford Road, NW, and Twice Is Nice thrift shop, 305 E. Market Street. The deadline for applications is Tuesday, April 9.

Scholarships are funded by the Hospital Gift Shop, Twice Is Nice thrift shop, the Lights of Love program, and the Annual Ladies Board Rummage Sale.

For more information, check out the Ladies Board website under scholarships.

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NEWS OF NOTE

LOCAL ARTISTS BRING COLOR AGAIN TO THE STREETS OF MIDDLEBURG...



Watch out they are coming back...the amazing foxes are soon to be back in town. This will be Middleburg Garden Clubs second time of doing this exciting fund raiser that's done every other year. Foxes on the Fence is a wonderful collaboration between local businesses, schools, and talented local artists who donate their time to this project. This year they have had added four more foxes to the pack and even added several Hounds. Many of the sponsors have worked closely with their artist to create an interesting and unique fox. Artist Barbara Sharp knew instantly she wanted to do a hound. Inspector Highcliffe Hound was the vision of Mark Metzger who owns Highcliffe Clothiers and he had several challenges for

her. "I think he needs a vest oh and maybe a hat" Mark asked her. "I wasn't quite sure how I was going to pull this together, but I love the way he looks" said Barbara. Some of the female foxes new this year are very eye catching. Coco Fox, a creation of Liz Miller who owns Mystique Jewelers and artist Kerry Waters, has jewelry and ooh la la! All the Foxes and Hounds will be back up on the iron fence by March 31 for the official launch picnic. The entire brochure may be found around town soon and in the center of the Middleburg Eccentric March issue. The online bidding will run April 1-May 15. Please go to the Foxes on the Fence Facebook page for more details. For questions please contact DarcyJusten@gmail.com



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NEWS OF NOTE

A BEAUTIFUL PLACE CONSERVED FOREVER!



The Land Trust of Virginia is pleased to announce the donation of 101.46 acres of beautiful woodlands in the northeast section of Stafford County from businessman Andrew "Andy" S. Garrett. Garrett is President of The Garrett Companies, a large multi-state residential and commercial development organization based in Stafford. This is his second donation of land to the Land Trust of Virginia (LTV).

The Land Trust of Virginia, based in Middleburg, will place the property, now known as River Place, into conservation easement, which will forever protect the conservation values of the property, and then sell it to a landowner(s) interested in a gorgeous wooded property on Aquia Creek.

River Place had been planned for a rural residential subdivision containing 27 lots and a preliminary plan for the development of the property had been approved by Stafford County. This tract of unimproved land fronts on Aquia Creek on the east side of Aquia Creek Road, and contains a ridgeline and rock outcroppings that provide lovely views of the Creek. Aquia Creek waters are a direct tributary of the Potomac

River, which flows into the Chesapeake Bay.

Upon completion of the transaction, Garrett expressed his appreciation to executive director Sally Price and the team at LTV. "Their efforts and hard work do not go unnoticed," he said. "Their sincerity is very refreshing and welcoming in a very complex and challenging world. We applaud their efforts and support their good works of conservation. The Garrett Companies are strong proponents of a balanced approach to development and working together with all parties to make the Commonwealth a better place to live and work."

"Andy's generosity will help the Land Trust of Virginia build its capacity to do even more land conservation in the future," remarked LTV Chairman, Chris Dematatis. "His support is deeply appreciated, as is his trust in our organization."

David S. Lionberger, Esq., a partner of the Hirschler Law Firm, added, "When Andy approached me to discuss a possible conservation donation I thought LTV was a great choice based on my work with them over many years. Their dedication to conserving lands and to maintaining

a good working relationship with landowners ensure that properties are protected and that landowners have a good and informed experience conserving their properties, which facilitates future conservation

that benefits all Virginians."

With the addition of the Garrett donation and resulting easement, LTV will hold 175 easements protecting a total of 19,228 acres in 15 counties across Virginia. LTV's

mission, for its 27 years, is to help landowners conserve their properties through conservation easements. They hold more conservation easements than any other private land trust in the state.

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NEWS OF NOTE

2019 MIDDLEBURG H.E.A.LTH FAIR & 5K

On Saturday March 30th, 2019, the third annual Middleburg HEAL Fair & 5K race will kick off at town's Community Center on West Washington Street.

HEAL is an acronym for Healthy Eating Active Living, a Virginia, Maryland and Washington D.C. program spearheaded by the Institute for Public Health Innovation with Kaiser Permanente as its founding partner and major benefactor. HEAL Cities & Towns is an Institute for Public Health Innovation campaign which seeks to provide assistance to local governments, such as Middleburg, to help create 'healthy, prosperous community environments that promote healthy eating and active living in Maryland and Virginia's cities and towns'.

Through its Go Green town committee, Middleburg has championed HEAL and the principles for which it stands, in order to create a greater health and wellness awareness for its citizens. In fact, the town quickly attained a Gold level status with HEAL Cities & Towns, and is actively pursuing the coveted Platinum status, achievements which are celebrated at the Virginia Municipal League's annual convention.

Following registration and packet pick up at the Community Center's Terrace Room beginning at 7.00 a.m., the 5K race, which includes a more relaxed fun run, kicks off at 8.00 a.m. behind the Community Center, on Stonewall Avenue, with a medals ceremony



about an hour later, also in the Community Center. The race will take in the quaint eastern and western side streets

of Middleburg, plus the lovely grounds of the Salamander Resort & Spa.

Concurrently at 9.00 a.m., the fair itself opens its doors to the public, featuring around two dozen booths with a range of health and wellness focused exhibitors, including nutrition experts, medical screening and awareness, fitness apparel, community activity groups and so much more.

This year, the fair will feature an important movie, to be

screened in the Terrace Room, authored and produced by local Loudoun resident, Miriam Gennari, which investigates ugly truth about expanded polystyrene (Styrofoam), and its impact on our environment and our health.

You can keep updated regarding exhibitors, vendors and much more at the event's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/HEALExpo or at <https://heal.middleburg.com/>

There are a few booths still

available if you, or anyone you know locally, has an interest in contributing to the HEAL Fair with a health and wellness centered table, plus sponsorship opportunities including your business logo on reusable bags which will be given out to all attendees as well as on the banners in the Community Center and, of course, on the website - contact the organizers at HEALFAIR2019@GMAIL.COM. Booths cost \$25 each and a table is provided.

See you at the fair!!!



St. Jude Retreat Ministries

ADDICTIONS AND EMOTIONAL DISTRESS RETREAT

St. Jude Retreats, with their behavioral health instructors, will be hosting a weekend retreat April 26-April 27, 2019 at the National Conference Center in Leesburg. This retreat is for those facing challenges with addictions and emotional distress, personally or through association by family, spouse or friend.

For retreat details visit: www.stjuderetreatministries.com or contact George Matthews at (814) 207-7557 or email: stjuderetreat@yahoo.com

*MOVING FORWARD...St. Jude Retreats is planning to open an extended stay retreat house in Northern, VA. If you would like to help with this much needed project, please contact us.

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NEWS OF NOTE

A DOG NAMED COOPER



LAUREN R. GIANNINI

Note: BeeZee is on holiday, having a grand time with her beagle pals, while her human is in Pennsylvania, helping a friend. Although Lauren misses her CEO-BFF fur-baby very much, she's grateful for this first-ever opportunity to get to know a pit bull hybrid.

Standing in for longtime friend Cora May with her three dogs has been a learning experience. On the first Sunday in February, when I arrived on the city end of Philadelphia's Main Line, Cora introduced me to her welcoming committee of three dogs. Early the next morning, she departed for her hospital job up-country where she would stay until the weekend. The next morning, her dogs sought me out as soon as I headed downstairs for coffee and quickly wiggled and wagged their way into my affection.

Cora's oldest is a sweet, smart Jack Russell in her teens, cleverly named Jackie. Oliver, 5, is a neutered male Pug sweetheart whose brain never stops working

and whose heart of gold is masked by his mushed pug-mug grumpy expression. Then there's Cooper, 7 or 8: a very athletic, muscular, well-built creature weighing about 75 pounds, thanks to Boxer genes blending nicely with DNA donated by "pit bull" ancestors. He's also the lead hound, so to speak, of this household pack and they all dote on each other.

To get educated about Cooper, I went on-line. "Pit bull" is a generic term used for any dogs that are—or whose ancestry might include—American Pit Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, as well as mixes of those breeds, and any dogs that even look as if they might have pit bull blood. In fact, pit bull can be an umbrella term that includes Great Dane, Mastiff, Boston Terrier, and Pug, to name a few.

Cooper is an excellent companion and guardian. He adores his pack-mates, Jackie and Oliver, and they all worship the ground Cora walks on. Her dogs have accepted me and hang out with me when Cora's away at work during the week.

It's always upsetting to run across headlines about pit bulls attacking other dogs, small animals, and humans. Especially now that I know Cooper (all three are curled up on the twin bed where I'm finalizing this column). What about all the family dog breeds that include individuals so aggressive they try to kill other dogs, small animals, and humans? The best approach is laws that protect animals and people from any aggressive dog, whatever the breeding.

Early in his life with Cora, Cooper was attacked at a puppy park: once by a Labrador and once by a pair of Golden Retrievers, in front of their humans. The attacks left scars on Cooper's psyche. Until those two incidents, he was friendly and eager to play with other dogs at the park. Just like human kids, dogs can be spoiled and behave badly around other canines and people if they don't have proper training and socialization.

What I learned from research and recent experiences: dogs are dogs, and pit bull types are really just like any dog. Some want to play a lot, maybe they enjoy jogging with you while others prefer

to hang out and snooze on the furniture. They come in all sizes, shapes and colors with unique personalities. Some want to be the "only" dog and/or pet while others love being part of a big family with kids, other pets, etc.

Cooper does a canine "show and tell" of the breed traits he inherited from both sides of his pedigree. Cora says he was excitable when he first came to her as an older puppy. He's exuberant, but also mellow and his joie de vivre is almost contagious. He's so eager to please, he can get a little anxious, but a gentle hand on his shoulder and a good boy! or two and Coop's cool.

Here's the point: Cooper is not a fighter. He's loving, opinionated, sensitive, expressive, and funny. He's unbelievably intelligent. In fact, all three are like canine members of Mensa.

The key to re-homing rescues is finding the right match between dog and human(s). Research the breeds that interest you. Make sure you understand what you're getting into. Work with hands-on reputable shelters with competent staff and volunteers to handle the

dogs. If a dog was kennel-kept before being rescued, it will need ongoing supervision until it becomes reliably potty-trained and learns the ground rules for living in your house. That takes time. Every rescue comes with issues, but all canines need training in basic "good dog" behavior.

Learn as much as you can. Working with a professional obedience and/or agility trainer, who's experienced with rescues, will hone your skills in handling your dog, whatever its breed origins and background. It will strengthen the bond between you and your dog. Go slowly while you earn each other's trust. Learn to read your dog's expressions, facial and audible, and its body language and postures. It's so important to understand them. They express themselves all the time. Remember also that dogs have amazing senses and are very sensitive to changes in emotion, energy, atmosphere, etc., and that each new dog presents a new learning curve.

Please consider a rescue next time you need a "Best Friend Forever" dog.

.... ANNNNDDDDDD THEY'RE OFF!!!!!!



LAUREN R. GIANNINI

February's almost over, but March has plenty of time to roar like a lion. The point-to-points and race meets all have stories about extreme weather, and as long as safety isn't impacted for horses and riders, the racing continues. Mother Nature's Weather Wheel of Fortune contributes to the bucolic charm of racing over fences, but even on a cloudy day the views alone are one of the best parts of a day in the country. Sometimes you get fantastic frame-filling vistas of horses on course against backdrops of unimaginable splendor, like the mountains on the horizon. Come out and give it a try with your family, friends, colleagues. The air alone is so much cleaner in the country and all that oxygen will go straight to your head.

Extreme or inclement weather is why rural fashions include so many different functional yet stylish items to keep you dry and warm from head to toe. The odds totally

favor being prepared with waterproof hats, jackets and long coats, as well as your fave waterproof boots. Gloves are optional.

Last month's Middleburg Eccentric column on how to dress for races whatever the weather is available online for you to download and share with friends. Y'all want to be prepared to make plans for attending hunt-sponsored point-to-points and early spring meets.

One place to go for information is CentralEntryOffice.com — a treasure trove of information, overnights, results etc. You can download the 2019 Spring Condition book for Virginia Point-to-points and Hunter Pace Events, as well as access info online about what's happening in Maryland and Delaware Valley.

Hunter Pace Events are quite popular. Sometimes they're called pairs racing although there's only one fast time class where you can go like blazes. Everyone else tries to match the Optimum Time,

which is way harder than it sounds. You and your horse or pony must qualify out in the hunt field by riding to hounds at least six times during the current season with any fox-hunt, mounted beagle pack, or pony club. That's easy enough with a seasoned mount, and you'd probably have run over hounds or pass the Master or some other mortal sin of arse venatic to fail qualifying. Every hunt has enthusiasts who are happy to help newcomers get off to a good start.

On March 10, Blue Ridge kicks off the Hunter Pace season that runs through late April. Riders compete for season-end championships awarded in Adult Optimum Time over fences, Junior (16 & under) or Adult/Junior Optimum Time over fences, Fast Time Adults over fences, and Optimum Time on the Flat. Open Hunter Pace event divisions are open to pairs or teams of three, over fences and on the flat in the optimum time. Some people find the pace events a nice way to continue enjoying their field

hunters after most hunts wrap it up in mid to late March.

Just getting outdoors is awesome in the country, but racing over fences is an exciting spring tradition and worthy of a tailgate party to celebrate it. Here are some race meets to jot down. Go on mark your calendar. Might be fun...

Saturday, March 16: Warrenton Hunt Point to Point at Airlie outside Warrenton.

A week later on March 23, Piedmont Fox Hounds puts on a full day's program at the Salem Course in Upperville, starting at 8:30 in the morning with their Hunter Pace Event, and the afternoon's devoted to the Point to Point which sends horses to the start of the first race at 1 o'clock.

You can go racing last minute and park general admission at the point to points. Or you can get up a group of family, friends, colleagues, whatever, and purchase a reserved tailgate space. It's an exhilarating day of horse-and-people-watching.

To see out March, Orange

County Hounds will provide sport all weekend with the Hunter pace on Saturday and the Point to Point on Sunday at Locust Hill Farm, Middleburg. Old Dominion's Point to Point takes place at Ben Venue Farm in Ben Venue, on April 6, with their Hunter Pace Events happening on Sunday.

You can go racing casual or fancy, but putting on the Ritz is sort of de rigueur at the Middleburg Spring Races on April 30 at historic Glenwood park in Middleburg and the Virginia Gold Cup on the first Saturday in May. It's always good to start planning ahead for these two big local stops on the National Steeplechase circuit.

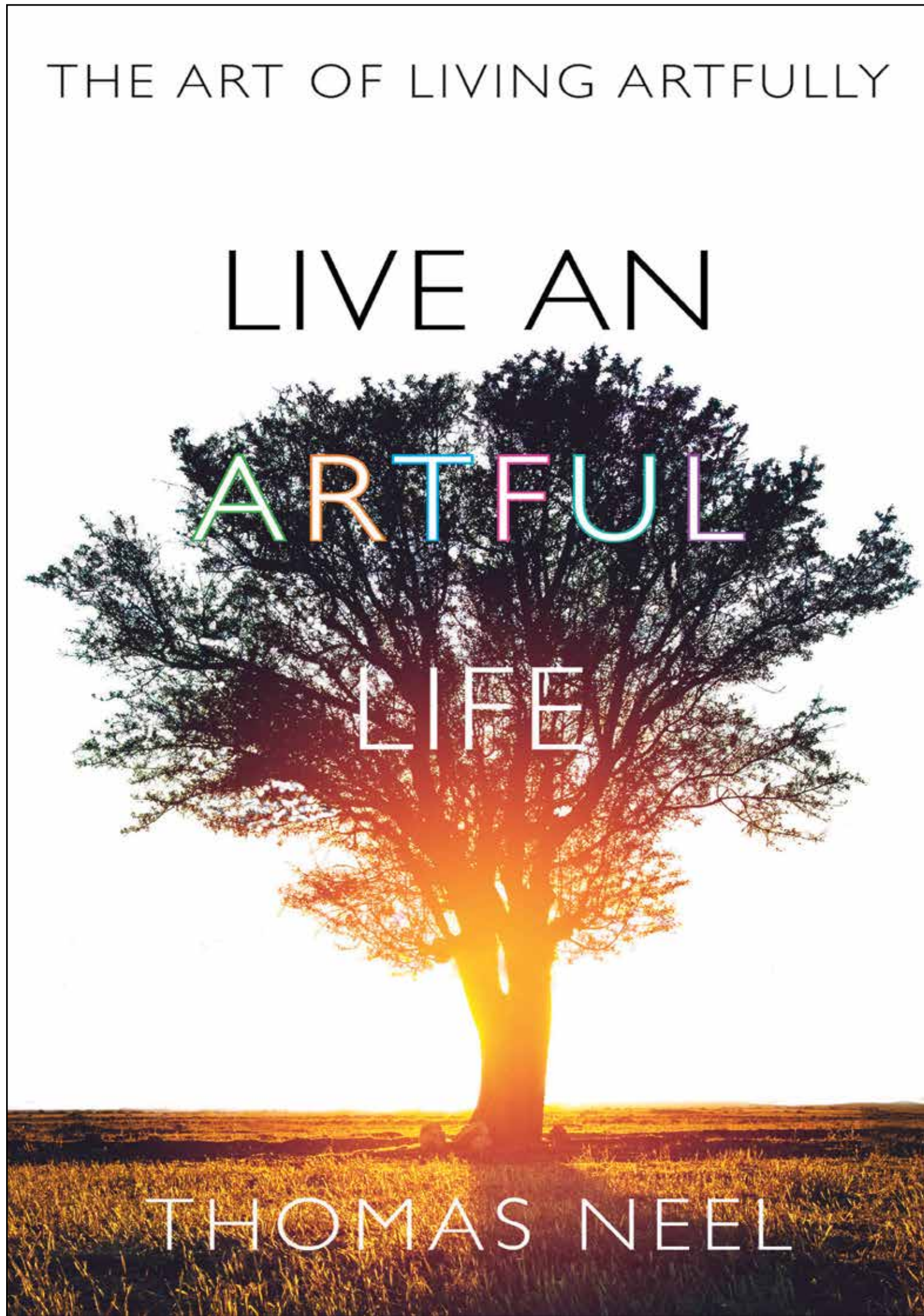
Magnificent horses, exciting races, beautiful people, tailgate parties, and all that fresh air—what's not to like?

For your information:
CentralEntryOffice.com
NationalSteeplechase.com

NEWS OF NOTE

TOM NEEL'S NEW BOOK - "LIVE AN ARTFUL LIFE"

BOOK SIGNING AT COMMON GROUNDS MARCH 9TH



The Art of Living Artfully, is the title of Tom Neel's latest book, and his first book signing will be at Middleburg Common Grounds

on Saturday, March 9th from 1-3 pm. Many of you know Tom Neel as an accomplished Piedmont artist. Just as many may also know him for his column - The Artist's Perspec-

tive, found monthly in The Middleburg Eccentric. With his wife Linda, the Neels also own the creative website - LiveAnArtfulLife.com, which was once also the name of

their gallery in The Plains.

Opening like a memoir, the book quickly becomes Tom's philosophical life approach to happiness and wellness, and

an artful guide for anyone in search of a new medium for growth. Each of the book's 17 chapters methodically take you through Tom's artful life approach towards happiness, appreciation, beauty, creative voice, action, putting yourself into art, overcoming obstacles, resourcefulness, practice, productivity, perception, growth, art and aging, and so much more.

As Tom explains, "To understand 'the tree' I'm presenting here, it's easier to have a look at its roots first. Let's look closer at the words Live An Artful Life. Live - Not to just exist, not just the time between birth and death, but to live and experience life. Artful - Showing creative skill, cleverness or taste. Life - Again, not to just exist, but to possess the capacity to grow! In other words, to Live An Artful Life is to grow through experiencing the power of creativity, the freedom of imagination and sharing your inspiration with others. It's not only knowing art exists, but it's also allowing artful things to live within and around you—there to inspire you and bring you joy, to be another language or voice."

Additionally, "LIVE AN ARTFUL LIFE" has been designed with specific enlarged quotes to be used as a quick reference and refresher guide. Once the book is read, you can thumb through the pages reading only the enlarged quotes, which highlight the importance of each chapter in a fraction of the time. An example of one such quote is - "After all, a great life is not measured by how old you can become, it's measured in how young you feel while aging."

Those that have read and enjoyed Tom's column will be at home here. Tom shares, "Breaking out of creative starvation can be the key to lowering stress and feeling more carefree. Many of us are simply so caught up in responsibility, that we no longer are capable of feeling a sense of carefreeness which allows us to truly relax and enjoy life. We have been so programmed to levels of achievement by grades, test scores, job titles and financial success, that we miscalculate what success really means." Live An Artful Life is an important re-boot for the middle-aged, a companion for those in retirement, and a stop and smell the roses guide for everyone.

Tom will be on hand to talk and autograph copies from 1-3pm at Middleburg Common Grounds, located at 114 W. Washington Street in Middleburg. For more information please visit ThomasNeel.com/Events. A Kindle version of the book is available now on Amazon.

50TH ANNUAL BLUEMONT FAIR SEEKS POSTER DESIGN

Organizers of the 50th ANNUAL BLUEMONT FAIR, to be held September 21& 22, 2019 in historic Western Loudoun County, VA, invite artists of all ages and abilities to submit designs for consideration for this year's unique poster: The theme is celebrating the 50th anniversary of his beloved old-timey fair.

When the first fair occurred in 1969 Nixon was President and the US was still actively involved in the Vietnam War, Neil Armstrong and Ed Aldrin walked on the moon, the Manson murders and the Stonewall riots shocked us; The Who released their rock opera "Tommy" and the Beatles released their Abbey Road album. And who can forget Woodstock! Meanwhile, in the little mountain village of Bluemont, residents banded together to figure out how to pay for their village's streetlights. Someone suggested that they put on a small country fair and the rest, as they say, is history.

Fifty years later Bluemont is still a small country village with a thriving historic district where not much has changed

in appearance from its early years. And Bluemont still hosts a country fair, although it has expanded and grown through the years with each generation of neighbors putting their own special stamp on it. This year's fair marks a significant milestone in the village's history, and yes, part of the proceeds still go toward paying for streetlights!

Designs should be rendered simply and with minimal color to facilitate replication on Bluemont Fair's distinctive poster. Artists should include their contact information and a brief biography for inclusion in publicity. The selected artist's name will be printed on the poster and his/her work acknowledged in Fair publicity. Multiple entries from individual artists are permitted.

Artwork should be mailed to: Bluemont Fair Poster Design Competition, P.O. Box 217, Bluemont, Virginia, 20135 and must be postmarked by April 3, 2019. Individuals requesting return of their submission should also include a self-addressed, stamped mailing receptacle.



For further information, or to arrange for in-person delivery of an entry call 540-

554-2367 (voice mail), or email chair@bluemontfair.org Visit www.bluemontfair.org

for examples of past designs.

2019 ELECTION ISSUE: PRESERVING LOUDOUN COUNTY: A CALL TO ACTION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

centers be placed in the TPA to pay for the roads and schools for the 20,000 additional homes. To give a comparison on how big 10 million square feet is, it is like building 3 Pentagons in the thin TPA. The further unhindered growth in the suburban area and the TPA would require the County to build a minimum of 15 new schools - with land costs alone for these schools of nearly \$300 million dollars. This push towards density by the Commission is underscored by the fact that recently two members of the Planning

Commission stated to me that they had wanted to see the TPA dissolved completely, and simply to have been absorbed by the eastern Suburban Policy Area, transforming it from its current state of sparse development to dense housing and commercial such as in Ashburn or Chantilly.

What can be done? The answer is simple - we all need to speak out and engage: often and loudly!! This process is a public one. And, with the forthcoming election, there is the opportunity to let all elected officials know, myself

included, how you feel about the plan at each step of the process and that all of us will be held accountable for what the Board adopts. There will be several opportunities for you to engage directly with the Board after they receive the Planning Commission's draft plan. There will be Public Comment Sessions on April 24th and 27th - Go to the County's website and sign up to speak, get your friends and neighbors involved. You can email the Planning Commission now, as well as the Board, with your concerns (emails below).

Lastly, and most importantly, engage not only with the Board but with all of the candidates running for the Board to tell them of your concerns and that it will be a strong factor in your voting. Do this until election day. This is not a partisan politics issue - it's a quality of life and values issue for the future of the special place that Loudoun is to all of us and what we want it to be for future generations.

To email the full Board: bos@loudoun.gov

To email the Planning Commission: loudounpc@loudoun.gov

loudoun.gov

To Sign Up to speak to the Board: <https://www.loudoun.gov/4853/About-Board-of-Supervisors-Meetings>

TischlerBise Report Mentioned above: <https://lfportal.loudoun.gov/LFPortalinternet/0/edoc/317217/Loudoun20204020Comprehensive20Plan20PC-WS2002-07-19.pdf>

MIDDLEBURG TOWN COUNCIL REPORT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Building

Council continues to meet in closed sessions to discuss options for the construction of new Town Offices. Town Clerk Rhonda North reported that she had already "participated in viewing one potential site and arranged tours of [that] site for individual members of Council.

Online Payment System

Town Treasurer Ashley Bott reported that Town Staff is "in the testing phase" of a new Town

"online payment system" that promises to greatly improve the ease and efficiency of the Town's debt collection processes. According to Bott "All payments are working" but there remain some software integration issues to be ironed out with the Town's supplier, Southern Software." The system, she noted should be ready to "go live" in March.

Economic Development

Middleburg's Business and Economic Development Direc-

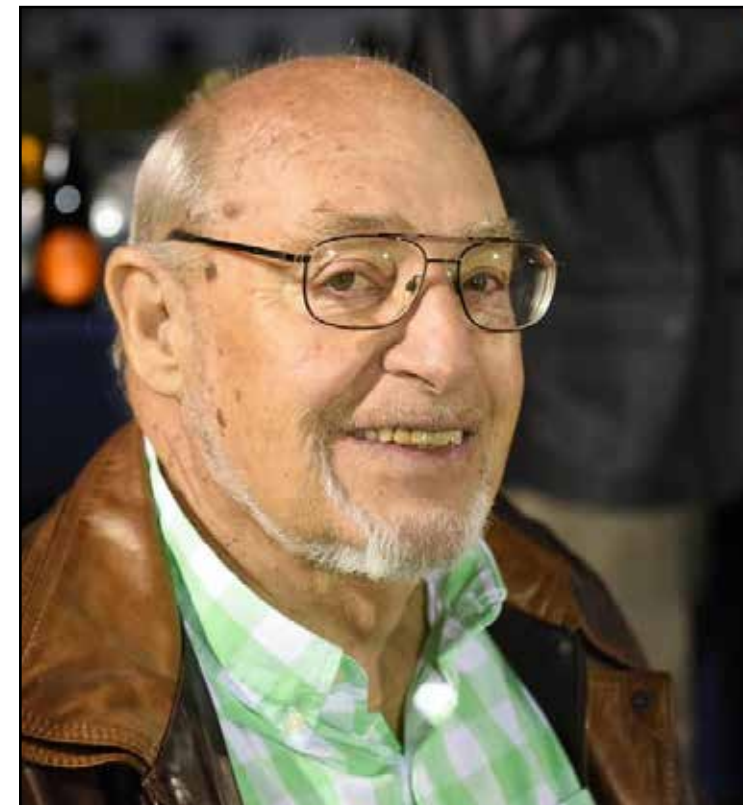
tor, Jamie Gaucher, reported that he was inactive and promising discussion with at least four businesses interested in moving to Middleburg and/or renting one of the empty storefronts scattered around town,

Gaucher also noted that his department's newly established Economic Develop Advisory Committee has been both active and enthusiastic in their advisory role, and has requested meeting once a month instead of quarterly.

At his request Council approved an amendment to the ordinance establishing the committee, formally establishing tenure on the committee at one year, beginning each January, identifying the industries represented by the members, and clarifying their role, namely to "adopt and execute a strategic plan focused on economic development strategies for the Town."

The Committee will report formally to Council once a quarter.

VINCENT JOSEPH PERRICONE JR.



Vince was the owner and op-

Tom Sweitzer, a longtime

Vince is survived by his wife, Wallene (Tutti) Smith Perricone of Marshall, and four children from a previous marriage, Beth Dobson (Bo), Manteo, NC; Sandy Perricone, Lynchburg, VA; Chris Perricone (Lisa), Manassas, VA; and Jennifer Perricone (Donavon), Nokesville, VA; two brothers, James Perricone (Janet), Port Angeles, WA, and Michael Perricone (Sabrina), Springhill, FL. He also leaves behind his faithful four-legged companion, Panda, a black lab mix.



DANE BEEMAN (VINCE'S GRANDSON), JENNIFER BEEMAN (VINCE'S DAUGHTER), TUTTI, CHRIS PERRICONE (VINCE'S SON), AND HIS WIFE LISA PERRICONE. (DONAVON), NOKESVILLE, VA;

Family and friends will be received on Friday, March 1st



2nd.
In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to The Capital Caring Adler Center, 24419 Millstream Drive, Aldie, VA 20105.

PLACES & FACES

BINGO NIGHT AT THE MIDDLEBURG COMMUNITY CENTER

PHOTOS BY NANCY KLECK



BINGO NIGHT STAFF OLIVIA ROGERS, CAROLYN SAFFER, JOANN HAZARD, CAULDER WITHERS AND TUCKER WITHERS



FIRST GAME WINNER BETH ANN BEEMAN



A LUCKY WINNER



MASTER OF CEREMONIES TUCKER WITHERS



WINNER ANDREW FRONKEL CHOOSES THE GIRL SCOUT COOKIES WITH CAULDER WITHERS



THE MIDDLEBURG UNCENSORED GROUP



GAME WINNER KATE BRANDENBURG



THE HILL SCHOOL GROUP



50-50 WINNER RICK WILLIS

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PHOTOS BY MARTHA COTTER



Instrumental, and Elise Brown, Senior Vocal. The winners of the Senior Division will advance to the Lions Regional Competition to be held in March in Fairfax. Congratulations to all the performers for an afternoon of wonderful music!

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MIDDLEBURG, VA**

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Cost: \$850

***PERFORMANCES
JUNE 28, 29, 30**

AGES 12 & UP



www.aplacetobe.org

To register, contact Sierra Roberts: sierra@aplacetobe.org

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Wanna star in
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music video?

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July 12th @ 2pm

10 am - 3 pm

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Fusion Academy
Leesburg, VA



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A Place To Be
Middleburg, VA

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Ages 7 - 12
Cost: \$200

A PLACE TO BE

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August 5 - 9
1 pm - 4 pm
A Place To Be
Middleburg, VA

Ages 12 & up
\$200

To register, contact Sierra Roberts
Sierra@aplacetobeva.org or (540) 689-6740

aplacetobeva.org/summercamps

PROGENY

NINE STUDENTS NAMED TO FOXCROFT SCHOOL CUM LAUDE SOCIETY



JUNIORS (FRONT, L-R) NELL NICASTRO, TAM LE, MAYA YUAN AND MACKENZIE GREEN RECENTLY WERE SELECTED TO JOIN SENIORS (BACK, L-R) GRACE MACDONALD, KAYLA LEE, JENNA TORRANCE, HALEY BUFFENBARGER, LILY FORTSCH, CHLOE GREEN, GRACE CHEN, SYLVIA YUAN AND (MISSING FROM PHOTO) ANNE KICKERT IN THE FOXCROFT SCHOOL CHAPTER OF THE CUM LAUDE SOCIETY.

Five seniors and four juniors have been elected to the Foxcroft School Chapter of the Cum Laude Society President Matthew Mohler announced recently. They join four members of the Senior Class who were named to the national high school scholastic honor society a year ago.

Senior Lily Fortsch of Alexandria, VA, and Haley Buffenbarger, Chloe Green, Anne Kickert, and Jenna Torrance, all residents of Leesburg, VA, were elected to Cum Laude, which is modeled on the collegiate Phi Beta Kappa. In addition, McKenzie Green of Leesburg; Nell Nicastro of Middleburg, VA; Tam Le of Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam; and Maya Yuan of Beijing were accorded the special distinction of being selected during their junior year.

Current seniors who were inducted last year include Grace MacDonald of Bluemont, VA; Kayla Lee of Austin, TX; Grace Chen of

Nanjing, China; and Sylvia Yuan of Ningbo, China. Together with the six faculty members of the chapter, they will officially welcome the new members into the Society at the Cum Laude induction ceremony held during Foxcroft's annual Awards Assembly in May.

Those faculty members are Head of School Cathy McGehee, Academic Dean Courtney Ulmer, Athletic Director Michelle Woodruff, Director of Educational Technol-

ogy and History Department Chair Alex Northrop, STEM teachers Lindsey Bowser, and Mohler.

The presence of a Cum Laude chapter at a secondary school is an indication of commitment to outstanding scholastic achievement. Students selected for induction must have superior academic records, as reflected in their course load, grade point average, and other factors. They must also demonstrate a serious interest in the pursuit

of knowledge and academic integrity. National guidelines limit membership to 20 percent of a senior class; up to half of those students are eligible to be elected in the junior year.

The Cum Laude Society was founded in 1906 and has grown to include 382 chapters, the vast majority of which are located at independent schools in the United States. Foxcroft's chapter was established in 1958.

MIDDLEBURG ACADEMY STUDENT CHOSEN FOR SOUTHEAST HONORS STRING FESTIVAL

Congratulations to Sam Justen of Middleburg Academy who was chosen to be a participant in the Southeast Honors String Festival the weekend of January 25 at UNC. A prestigious accomplishment for him to audition and be selected from over 160 applicants. There were several string workshops and private lessons concluding with a final concert on Sunday.





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PROGENY

KRISTEN GUINEY SIGNS WITH WEST POINT



On Wednesday, February 6, 2019, Kristen Guiney, Wakefield School Class of 2019, officially signed her letter of intent to play Division 1 women's soccer at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

"As both a talented athlete

and a dedicated scholar, Kristen Guiney embodies a Wakefield student and athlete: she is capable, ethical and articulate and gives her best effort each and every day," says Tee Summers, Athletic Director at Wakefield School.

For Kristen, it was important

to find a school that allowed her to pursue her passion of science and math; she is interested in majoring in Biomedical Engineering.

"I've always loved playing soccer, but it wasn't something I had ever seriously thought I'd go to college for."

Fortunately, it happened to be that West Point could foster her love of both academics and athletics.

Last winter, Adrian Blewitt, Head Women's Soccer Coach, reached out to Kristen after seeing her play in a Florida showcase. From there, Kristen was in-

vited by Coach Blewitt to a camp to play. After the camp, Kristen was offered a place on the West Point Women's Soccer team as their next outside back.

Now, Kristen had to start the official application process for West Point. One of the most important steps in the process is receiving a congressional nomination. This includes writing essays and conducting an interview. Kristen was one of ten chosen to be nominated by Rep. Barbara Comstock.

Guiney has been playing soccer since she was four years old and has attended Wakefield School for eleven years.

For Kristen, West Point shares a lot of unique qualities with Wakefield:

"I love how West Point has small class sizes which lead to a good relationship with professors and students. That's something that I've loved at Wakefield - and the camaraderie and support that comes with a small school."

Overall, she is looking forward to the challenges at West Point and knows she has the tools and foundation to take on those challenges. In the classroom, Kristen is most looking forward to pursuing her interest in Biomedical Engineering as she sees this field is growing within the military. On the field, Kristen is excited to play soccer in a new environment with teammates from around the country.

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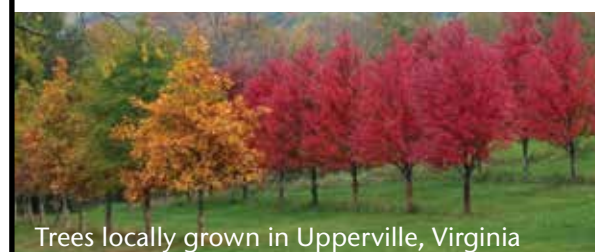
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PASTIMES

HOSPITAL TALES

SINCERELY ME

BRANDY GREENWELL

I have recently done some time in the High Risk Perinatal Unit (HRP) at INOVA Fairfax (Hotel INOVA). I spent a total of 8 weeks in the same four walls on bed rest due to pregnancy complications and post partum. It was a very small price to pay to have the assurance that my babies and me had the best care around at the top National facility. I will forever be grateful to the Doctors, Nurses and all the staff that took care of me while I was incarcerated, but time in the hospital isn't as easy as you'd think.

Hospital Food. I had a full

menu to choose from and delivery three times a day during 6:30am and 7:30 PM. You get to know the operators that take your orders daily and if you say "Please" and "Thank You" a lot, I found that you get the cookies fresh out of the oven rather than the dried up ones from the previous batch. You also learn to order early or late so the cooks can put thought, and maybe a little extra love into your meal. I had an egg white and veggie omelet during rush hour one morning that you could wring the grease out of. It made eating healthy a little challenging when even the vegetables were covered it what seemed like a processed film.

I learned a little too late dur-

ing my stay that the best water pressure and hot water supply was at about 5am before the rest of the floor awoke. It was a treat to get a quiet, hot, powerful shower. A question I was too embarrassed to ask was about the spray wand attached to the toilet that projected water when in place and flushed. One would think initially it was some kind of bidet, but the water sprayed into the toilet and not up like a bidet would. I guess I'll never know.

The hospital beds have two ultra florescent lights above them; one is full power, one is about 1/3 strength. When either one is on it will make you feel a little bit like a lab rat in a cage being observed for odd symptoms.

I never liked it with the lights on. There is also a louvered window in every room so the nurses can spy on you without coming in which works great unless you are awake.

If you accidentally pull an alarm, it's all hands on deck. My husband learned this the hard way when he took a shower on one of his overnight visits and accidentally pulled the alert. Five nurses came running to assist thinking that patient 6 was having a baby in the toilet and found a wet, naked man instead.

Friendships are built on the floor like a bunch of freshman at boarding school and stories can be passed around from room to room. My favorite tales were



about nurses walking in on oral sexual behavior between patient and visitor and Jerry Springer like domestic spats where security had to be called.

I will forever remember my experience at Hotel INOVA with fond and fun memories waiting for my babies to arrive, but I wouldn't be eager to do it again.

TOOTH REPLACEMENT: WHAT ARE THE OPTIONS?



DR. ROBERT A. GALLEGOS

Losing teeth is a traumatic event. We do not take it lightly in the dental office. When teeth are lost it is important to know where that person is in their understanding of the problem and the possible

solutions. There are four options: do nothing, make a removable denture, make a fixed bridge or place a dental implant(s) and crown(s).

Do nothing: This option may leave an undesirable esthetic effect with a gap somewhere in the smile. A missing tooth will also

adversely affect chewing. Most people will chew on the side that is more effective, causing wear and tear on that may also cause some joint (TMJ) pain. When teeth do not touch another tooth they will usually drift which can change the bite. When a space is left it will catch more food mak-

ing it harder to clean which will leave the area more susceptible to decay and gum disease. This option starts out as the least expensive but fixing the problems caused by not replacing the tooth will cost more time and money in the long run.

Make a removable denture: This was the option of choice many years ago before we had more stable means to replace teeth. It is the least costly replacement option. It can function well for chewing but it has some significant drawbacks. The biggest problem is that dentures always move which puts pressure on the gums and adjacent teeth to which they are attached. This movement can lead to problems with the adjacent teeth. Metal clasps are used on the adjacent teeth to hold the denture in place and may be esthetically unappealing. Removable dentures need to be removed for cleaning both the denture and the teeth. They will catch food while eating which can be uncomfortable and unsightly.

The fixed bridge option: Until implants became available this was the most desirable option for tooth replacement because it was cemented into place, no movement. Bridges are traditionally made of metal with porcelain over the metal for esthetics, however, today some bridges can be made of all ceramic materials. Bridges can be very esthetic and can be long lasting. The biggest drawback is that to make a bridge other teeth need to be cut back to support the bridge and cleaning is difficult. Cleaning under the bridge is very challenging especially in the back of the mouth. This leads to an increased incidence of decay and gum disease.

The dental implant option: Dental implants are strong, long lasting tooth replacement option. Implants have now been in regular use for 30 years. Implants can be used to replace single teeth, multiple teeth or all of the teeth. The implant option is usually more expensive than the other



options but may save money in the long run. Let me explain that, replacing a single tooth with an implant and crown is more expensive than a bridge or removable denture the first time it is done. However, if we live long enough, all dental materials will need to be replaced at some time. Usually the implant does not need to be replaced but the crown may. If you have to replace one crown on an implant that will cost less than a fixed bridge. If you are young enough you may need to replace a crown or bridge several times. At some point the teeth supporting a bridge or a removable denture may break to the point that they cannot be used any more and the area of treatment has now become larger and more expensive.

Should you lose a tooth or teeth be sure to explore all of these options with your dentist and the short and long term expenses associated with each. Esthetics are certainly a concern but most importantly a full set of functioning teeth is crucial for your overall health.

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

BACK PAIN AND EXERCISE

FITNESS EXPERT



KAY COLGAN, ACE CERTIFIED FITNESS PROFESSIONAL

How is it possible you are fine one minute and the next you have radiating pain coming from your back? Nothing seemed to cause it. You woke up and your back was stiff and tight. Should you get a massage, rest or head to your doctor? It all depends on your symptoms and severity.

A massage that targets the Quadratus lumborum and gluteus medius can greatly help lower back pain. A dysfunction in these two muscles can cause

lower back pain.

Lower back stretches when done correctly offer relief from tight and overused muscles. The following stretches might be helpful in relieving lower back pain. Knee to chest stretch: lying flat on floor with legs stretched out in front of you. Bring one knee into chest. Hold for 30 seconds. Repeat with other leg.

Figure four stretch: lying flat on back on floor, knees bent, feet flat on floor. Cross left foot just above knee on right leg, reach behind right thigh and pull leg towards chest. If it is difficult to reach thigh, a towel can be used behind thigh and pull the end to-

wards you. Head and shoulders stay flat on ground. Hold for 30 seconds, repeat other side.

Cross and twist stretch: cross right leg over left, drop left leg towards right. Right leg stays crossed and drops to right as well. Hold for 30 seconds. Repeat with other side. Always check with your doctor to make sure your back pain is muscular. If you are experiencing excruciating sharp pain, see a doc-

tor first before doing a massage or stretches.

Most of the time it's more beneficial to do light exercises and stretches even during episodes of back pain. Blood flow to the areas affected by back pain keep the area nourished. The way to increase the blood flow is through massage and exercise. Be smart about your back pain. While massage, light stretches and exercise are beneficial, it is

always a good idea to check with your physician about what steps to take to relieve your back pain, especially if you feel sharp excruciating pain. Back pain is very common and a lot of the time it is musculature. Tight muscles that need gentle stretching. For more information about health and fitness, please contact Kay Colgan at Middleburg Pilates and personal training, 14 S Madison Street or call 540-687-6995.

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PASTIMES

THE ARTIST’S PERSPECTIVE



TOM NEEL

Invention, Growth, and Re-invention. Michael Jackson changed his face more than his music throughout his 50-year long career, and his music changed a lot! Ditto that of Madonna and now with Lady GaGa. This for pop artists is artistic growth and re-invention. Sometimes we expect this from the music business, but I think their influence is healthy for all creative types, especially those that call themselves artists. The word artist takes a broad swath. So conveniently aimed at those with a paint set, but ascending to imaginative, visual and audible geniuses. It's the later of these two which really gives us something meaty, something of real substance to chew on and follow. When you become an artist, you become a free creative spirit with not only the ability to go to new places, its sort of your responsibility to explore the outer fringes of you. Imagine being a race car driver getting comfortable with one speed and never testing

yourself to gain the extra tenth of a second in a corner to become faster. Fast enough, isn't even in a racer's DNA. Nor should creative enough be in an artist's. But for that racer, faster is deeply rooted, and for artists, deeply exploring their creativity by re-invention should be too. Do you know the term pigeonholed? You might see this as your schtick, your thing, what you do. But the term is truthfully more like being put into prison. No one should seek being pigeonholed. Michael Jackson was raised in the loving arms of Motown music. So many great artists had blazed that trail like The Four Tops, The Temptations, The Supremes, Smokey Robinson, and The Imperials, a list that goes on and on, even to include The Jackson Five. ABC, easy as one, two, three, and Stop the love you save may be your own, were great lyrical works of art. But were they masterpieces to the likes of Thriller? No, they were not. Jackson not only had to re-invent himself to make Thriller happen, he actually had to do it twice, and he had to leave

Motown Records, and re-team himself with a master producer like Quincy Jones. THAT'S RE-INVENTION!

In the process, he partnered with director John Landis to create Thriller in what was actually a theatrical short film (15 minutes long), and which would not only go on to make Thriller a bigger record-breaking hit AGAIN a year later, it would make MTV a household name. Jackson went from a Motown child star, to pop star, to the king of pop, and he sure as hell didn't do it by remaining the same. He didn't do it by being comfortable. He did it with constant artistic growth and reinvention. The same can be said of Taylor Swift. She began as a young country songwriter, who became a country singing sensation, and is now one of the most played and listened to powerhouse pop stars on the planet. Constant artistic growth and reinvention. Lady GaGa? Not only the same, but she also read the book on reinvention. She learned in her business of music that growth is not only good

for an artist; it's essential. I think the best reason for a reinvention of all though, is expanding the languages for your creative voice. This not only allows you to express yourself in new ways; it allows your work to reach new audiences. If you paint, and you only paint one thing, you will likely master it. But watch out, because it may become the master of you! You'll become comfortable, and creating will become easier and easier, and as you end up doing the same things over and over again, your work will become less and less original. One day you're not an artist anymore, you are simply a renderer. So what drives a lack of growth? I say it's laziness or fear. Laziness is hard to fix, but fear can be conquered. Fear can be based in - If I stop doing my bread and butter thing, I'll starve. Is this realistic? You bet it is. It's not easy "for most" to make a living with their art. So when we find that thing that works, we do it until we're trapped by it artistically. Hopefully not. How do you venture away from security



then? Well, one way is to simply try new things at the same time. Using my band analogy, there are many bands touring the country repeating their hits from the past. Does it make them money? Yes. But I'm sure most would much rather be making new music. Instead, they've been pigeonholed into the past.

If you've been feeling like you need a change, you owe it to your artistic self to explore and embrace change. Seek an improved you!

Live An Artful Life, Tom

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HOW TO CREATE A SPACE THAT INCORPORATES YOUR INDIVIDUAL STYLE

ASK A REMODELER



TIM BURCH

In the remodeling world, we talk about design trends yearly, monthly, even weekly. You can read five design magazines that will give you five different answers on the best colors, selections, and floorplans for your new space. Ultimately, it's your space and your investment. We have created spaces for families and couples with a wide array of styles and needs. Here are a few ways individual style preferences and creative solutions have been incorporated into our renovations for local families:

His and Hers Bathroom

In a recent master bathroom remodel, our clients each wanted to express their individual design styles, in one shared space. BOWA's In-House Design Team created a bathroom design featuring separate his and hers vanities,

toilet rooms, and walk-in closets, that met in the middle with a shared shower. This gave the husband and wife the opportunity to choose unique, but complementary, fixtures and design elements for their respective areas. The consistent color scheme and finishes serve to unite the space. For instance, while her side featured plenty of storage around her vanity, he chose a vanity with open shelving and exposed plumbing. Since they both stayed

with the cream color scheme, the selections perfectly address each person's unique style and needs in a lovely, cohesive way.

Industrial Loft Meets Farm Country

Two worlds collide. From reclaimed barn wood to large windows, our client's vision was inspired by his surroundings. The rustic beams reflected the charm and character of Loudoun County farm country, right out-



side his door. While the black window frames and rough, urban light fixtures added the industrial loft twist he desired. Contrasting countertops and cabinetry added another dimension to the design with clean white cabinetry set against the strong gray island. While you wouldn't expect to find an urban loft in the middle of farm country, these design elements work together beautifully in this large kitchen.

Storage Innovations for Smaller Spaces

Storage solutions are something most clients put at the top of their list, especially when renovating smaller spaces. In this Reston condo, both visible and creatively camouflaged storage was added throughout to house the owner's expansive china collection. Custom niches with display lighting exhibit her favorite pieces, and, in the kitchen, plentiful wall cabinetry and large drawers at the end of the island are used to safely store and organize dishes and serving pieces.

When beginning your remodeling experience, talk with your design team and explain your vision. If you don't have a detailed vision just yet, no worries. Start by conveying your likes, dislikes, needs and "must haves". Professionals can walk you through the design process and ultimately deliver a space you'll love more than any of the photos you see in design magazines.

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. For more information on Tim and the BOWA team, visit bowa.com or call 540-687-6771.

LOVE THY NEIGHBOR AROUND THE TOWN

HAZEL SWEITZER

I moved into Middleburg with my human Tom in 2012 and spent most of my time at his center, A Place To Be Music Therapy. At that time the center was at 130 South Madison Street. A Place To be was hardly 2 years old, but busting with people with disabilities who had Music Therapy. We have grown a lot since 2012, but one of my favorite memories of our old space was out neighbors, especially our neighbor next door, Sonny. He and his wife owned the Middleburg Pharmacy and he was always outside talking to

mans, especially recently have become less curious about people and how to make the world kinder. Sonny was always curious; he constantly asked questions and had something to say about making the world a little better. He talked about his love for his children and America. Tom and I were stopped several times by his white car and most of the time it was just Sonny asking about how the people at A Place To Be were doing and if he could do anything to help.

One time after Sonny stopped and talked to Tom, Tom spoke out loud, (which is common for humans to do around dogs) and said Sonny is one of the nicest people

in the whole world. I think Tom and I both felt that he was special because he was always sincere and authentic and never in a rush. Tom is in a rush often, but I know one thing Tom appreciated about Sonny was how he took time with people. I have met a lot of nice humans since I moved to Middleburg, but Sonny had to be one of the kindest, most gentle humans someone could meet on the street or as a neighbor. Since I am a dog I have a very clear idea of what happens to all of us after we leave the earth. Sonny is in a beautiful place filled with blue sky and green grass, driving his big white car and asking people how they are doing. I hope we all



can remember to take our time to talk to our neighbors because you never know when they may not be here any longer.

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PASTIMES

MAPLE SYRUP

THE PLANT LADY



KAREN REXRODE

On the cusp of spring, closer to winter, across a broad swath of northern North America, maple trees are being tapped for sap. Quebec, Canada is the highest producer of maple syrup, followed by the state of Vermont, a product that is unique to this continent.

The sugar maple or *Acer saccharum* is not the only maple that produces sweet sap, but the one with the highest sugar content. Occasionally I have icicles where sapsuckers have drilled into my tree, and these are mildly sweet, which is a nice treat on a cold day. The southern most regions of maple syrup production are in

the mountains of West Virginia and Virginia with a Maple Syrup Festival in Monterey, Virginia. This year's dates are March 9-10 and 16-17.

The flow of sap relies on two events, nights below 32 degrees followed by a day of 40 degrees or more. The entire process ends when freezing nights stop, so February and early March are the only months for maple sap harvests. Naturally there is a longer freeze cycle in northern climates, where the harvest is extended. Either way, production will vary from year to year, region to region.

Historically the trees were tapped with metal spouts that held a bucket. Each large tree can hold numerous buckets and be

repeatedly tapped. The tree will heal and seal over past drill sites over the course of a year. Modern collecting uses tubes that connect the trees and flow with gravity or incorporate a vacuum to speed up the process.

The raw sap is 98% water, which is boiled off, the steam escaping through open roofs in sugar shacks. To avoid burning, more sap is gradually added in large vats which are heated with wood fires that burn day and night. The process is labor and time intensive with a goal of 6% sugar content.

In recent years a process has been developed which separates water from sugar by forcing the sap through filters with high pressure, reducing the amount

of liquid to boil down. Both time and wood for fires are reduced, with the extra water often diverted and stored in tanks for alternative uses.

Outside of Monterey, Virginia in the small town of Hightown there is a sugar camp, the Rexrode Sugar Orchard produce 9 gallons of maple syrup each. Rarely enough for the surge of visitors which also come for the concentrated maple sugar candy, which is left in the bottom of the vat once the liquid is removed. They called them clinkers, which is probably a local term because I find no mention of them on the internet. In my case, clinkers don't make it home, so tasty and delicious, they are consumed with delight.

like home and decided to stay. Conventional agriculture is challenging, most farmers raise sheep with some cattle and/or turkeys.

In the sugar shacks it's warm and steamy. Large vats filled with sap boil away; the vats on in the Rexrode Sugar Orchard produce 9 gallons of maple syrup each. Rarely enough for the surge of visitors which also come for the concentrated maple sugar candy, which is left in the bottom of the vat once the liquid is removed. They called them clinkers, which is probably a local term because I find no mention of them on the internet. In my case, clinkers don't make it home, so tasty and delicious, they are consumed with delight.

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MARCH 2019

IN UNISON



STEVE CHASE

Fifty years ago was an important time for music. Many of the great rock bands were in their glory years; Woodstock blew the minds of square America; and ECM Records was born in Munich. It took me another ten years or so to discover the unique sounds of Edition of Contemporary Music (the full name of ECM) that Manfred Eicher and company produced, and I'll bet that most folks today have never heard of the label. With a few notable exceptions, every ECM album is produced under a certain set of sonic sideboards, creating a subtle linkage between each work. Some might call ECM "soft jazz", and that would not be correct. Soft jazz is the lifeless pablum of the jazz world that is best ignored, and I assure you, that ECM albums, filled with complexity, imagination, and virtuosity, are not soft jazz.

ECM's first album, *Free At Last* by Max Waldron Trio was released in 1969. I won't recommend starting with this one, with its strident, sometimes cacophonous piano. I would instead head to many of the subsequent releases by great jazz artists like

Chick Corea, Keith Jarrett, John Abercrombie, Pat Metheny, Gary Burton, Egberto Gismonti, and Steve Swallow. There are also a number of special series of classical music, from baroque like Handel, to the mathematical rhythms of Steve Reich, to post modern noise from John Cage. It is really an amazing catalog that you should explore and enjoy. For a long time, ECM refused to offer their music on my preferred streaming platform, Spotify, but about a year ago they finally jumped on, providing the entire catalog.

In the spirit of introducing you to new music that you can really enjoy, here's a six pack of some ECM albums from the seventies for you to try out, I think you will like them and maybe come back to some of them again and again. John Abercrombie—*Timeless* (1975) A good friend of mine passed this album to me in the early eighties, and oh boy, it blew my mind. The trio, made up of guitarist John Abercrombie, keyboardist Jan Hammer, and drummer Jack DeJohnette create an extraordinary set with complex polyrhythms, pounding jazz organ and synth, and jazz rock guitar different from anything else from the time. This one really smokes, even when they play a ballad. The title track is a magnum opus best enjoyed on headphones.

Gary Burton Quartet—*Pasengers* (1977)—Starting as an apprentice playing with Gary Burton, twenty three year old guitarist Pat Metheny defined himself fully on this album, the true predecessor album to his seminal *Pat Metheny Group White Album*. Leader and mentor Gary Burton, the great vibraphonist, is also joined by bassists Steve Swallow and Eberhard Weber, and the great drummer, Danny Gottlieb,

to perform one of the great jazz albums of the seventies. I cannot get enough of this one and it sounds as fresh today as it was on the turntable more than 40 years ago.

Steve Reich—*Music for Eighteen Musicians* (1978) This minimalist, 52 minute meditation is made up of eleven distinct parts. Each section on its own is perhaps unremarkable, but woven together, a fascinating work emerges that was nothing short of a post modern classical breakthrough at the time. A listen requires some attention, with perhaps a glass of Copper Fox Rye.

Egberto Gismonti—*Solo* (1979) I was once at a John McLaughlin concert where a third of the tunes played were written by the great Brazilian multi-instrumentalist Egberto Gismonti. This set provides a palate of solo compositions, featuring the killed and melodic piano and guitar playing of Gismonti. These are joyous and accessible compositions that will bring a smile to your face and wipe away the drudgery of a bad day. Really good stuff here, great for a dinner party.

Pat Metheny Group—*American Garage* (1979)—that ECM

sound was held firm throughout the seventies until Pat Metheny and his band showed up at the farm in North Brookfield, Massachusetts to record a new album. The unique ECM sound has been called contemplative by critics, and Metheny felt Eicher's production aesthetic was "restrictive", so he produced *American Garage* himself to make a break in that ECM tradition. The result is a set of freewheeling but structured fusion tunes, filled with rock riffs, powerful synthesizer, fretless bass grooves, and a powerful rhythm set down by Danny Gottlieb. Keyboardist Lyle Mays also introduces his seminal ocarina sound on the Oberheim synthesizer, a tone that would thread together future Metheny Group albums. I saw this album tour half a dozen times, and they were some of the most exuberant live shows I have ever seen. Savor all of the tunes on this record, especially *The Search*, one of the Group's very best.

This month's playlist is a selection of tunes from these six ECM albums, you can hear it on Spotify here: tinyurl.com/y28mgyc4

Steve Chase is chillin' to some ECM in Unison.

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LOUDOUN’S MAYORS IN MIDDLEBURG

One of the most often reKudos to Middleburg’s Mayor, Bridge Littleton, and his fellow mayors across the county, for their untiring and ongoing efforts to unite Loudoun County’s seven towns - Hamilton, Hillsboro, Leesburg, Lovettsville, Middleburg, Purcellville and Round Hill - in a coordinated effort to “ground the county in cultural ways, drive public policy through advocacy and provide an array of business opportunities.”

On Wednesday, March 13, 2019, from 8 AM to 10 AM all seven mayors will appear together at the Middleburg Community Center, 300 West Washington Street, as part of the Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce’s “Policy Makers” series, entitled, “The State of Loudoun’s Towns”

The Mayors, according to the Chamber, promise to 1. Keep their individual remarks brief and 2. to engage in a free-wheeling, well-moderated panel discussion in which each will be able to “dive into a discussion of [the Chamber’s] priorities of economic development, quality of life for Loudoun’s workforce, and transportation.

We would hope that they also discuss the impact of those policies on the County’s air, land and water; how County economic development policies can be inextricably linked to efforts to mitigate climate change, and how further meeting of this sort may be made accessible to the general public for less than the \$60 to \$80 price tag for a ticket.

For more on the event, and prices for sponsored tables see: <https://www.loudounchamber.org/events/policymaker-series-state-of-loudouns-towns/>

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir or Madam, I am writing to express how much I enjoy and respect the editorials written by Mr. Brian Vella. His editorials are to the point, factual and written without the rancor of most that appear on political topics today. The vitriolic, palpable hate now extruding through most of the media today, makes editorials by Mr. Vella stand out above the rest in professionalism, intellect, and tone. It is a singular example of how political debate and discourse should be conducted. I believe this is true whether you agree with his concluding political views or not.

Please pass on my sentiments and kudos on to him
Thank You
Dr. Ron Jackson
Middleburg, Va

THE NORTHAM PROBLEM BLUE

DAN MORROW

“Honor is a debt . . . behavior one owes . . . to those whose esteem one cherishes”
with apologies to
Tom Clancey

When the news first broke that Dr. Ralph Northam, Democrat, 73rd Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, had posed in blackface while in medical school and allowed the image to be published in his medical school yearbook, I, like many his fellow liberal Democrats, called for his resignation.

Things only got worse when the Commonwealth’s Attorney General admitted to doing the same thing.

I then remembered a boy I knew in Danville, Virginia, the “Last Capitol of the Confederacy” and, in its day, “The World’s Best Tobacco Market.”

Born during the last years of World War Two he learned from his family, John Wayne, and other people, near and far, and oh so worthy of “respect” to call Germans “Krauts” and the Japanese “Japs” and hate them.

By 1953 he had earned from family, friends, movies and that new medium, television, that Koreans were “Gooks,” and their godless Chinese allies “Chinks.” He learned to hate them as well

In church, he learned that his 4th-grade Jewish classmates were all damned for their ancestors’ roles in killing Christ.

He learned that black people, then referred to as “Negroes” in polite society, were also damned by God, speaking to us through the same verses of scripture used to justify slavery.

In Danville that meant water fountains, waiting rooms, hospitals, schools, and nearly everywhere else except for some strange reason, the public library, then housed in the all but sacred Sutherlin Mansion, the actual site of Jefferson Davis’s last cabinet meeting. The City Fathers got around THAT problem by simply removing tables and chairs from the library.

He thought the slaves in “Gone with the Wind” were both funny and real.

He listened to Amos ‘n’ Andy (played by two white men) on the radio, and then watched the “Catfish” and his friends on TV.

He thought “Satchmo” and Bing Crosby’s on-screen relationship was just dandy.

Everyone laughed at Polish jokes.

By the time he was in high school, he’d met friends and teachers whose esteem he treasured, and who pointed out the errors of his ways

By the time he was in his second year at UVA, he knew better and began to try to make up for things he’d thought, and said, and done earlier.

I was that boy. And without the help of others, friends, wives, pastors, teachers, I tremble at what I might have become.

Intellectually I think I know the roots of my easy surrender to the prejudices I grew up with. I also know that they never really go away. One learns to recognize them when they rear their ugly heads and do the best one can to do better than one did before.

So, what about Northam?

His behavior, like my own, was, is and will remain contemptible.

I know it, and I truly believe he knows it as well and has spent a good portion of his life trying to do better, all the while knowing deep in his heart that there is no wiping away the past.

My Roman Catholic friends call that penance . . . and there’s a sacrament that usually follows . . . if one asks.

Instead one apologizes to those one has offended and tries to earn forgiveness through one’s life and work.

In Northmans’ case, if polls are to be believed, the offended parties, members of Virginia’s black community, are disproportionately willing to forgive Northam.

I know I am. I also know that’s easy for one in need of forgiveness for his own sins.

So I’m with Northam in his refusal to resign. He and I will live the rest of our lives bearing a burden, his by far the heavier and his the greater opportunity to do good.

He’ll do more good as Governor than not, I am sure. . . and every day he’ll be reminded of who he is and what he did . . . and he’ll soldier on, doing the best he can.

While this capability greatly expands human capability in many ways, I find it

WHAT GOES AROUND... RED

BRIAN VELLA

Having spent at least the past 10 years or more with Democrats constantly referring to Republicans generally, and more recently referring to President Trump and his supporters specifically, as racists, it is with no small sense of irony that it was revealed that our Democrat governor was featured in a photograph from his medical school days dressed as a Ku Klux Klan member (I realize that there were two individuals in the photograph, but the Governor has assured us that he was not the individual appearing in black-face, leaving only one alternative). It is particularly ~ BE LOCAL ~

depressing to see the Governor of the state I have always been proud to call home to adopt the Klan symbolism of the not too distant past. It is a blemish on our Virginia history that segregationists Democrats in Virginia passed “Jim Crow” laws and endorsed segregated schools while the Ku Klux Klan enforced the racists’ views of the Democrat party through intimidation and lynching of Republicans-both black and white. The Democrats have long sought to pull off one of the great hoaxes of all time by claiming that racists within the Democrat party had long since defected, and like magic, had become Republicans (notwithstanding MBECC.COM

that it was the Republican party that literally fought to end slavery and later to overcome Democrat opposition to pass voting rights and civil rights legislation). While ignoring and twisting their Party’s history, Democrats have opted to pursue “identity politics” and inflaming racial passions has become standard operating procedure. During the last election cycle, the Democrats ran a TV ad depicting a fictionalized white man in a pickup truck chasing down minority children as a way to demonize the Republican candidate and instill racial fear. It is a party that searches out every possible slight and inference to stoke racial tensions

and suspicion, and then subjects those of us considered “deplorable” to sanctimonious lectures on race and tolerance. It has been satisfying to watch as the photographic evidence of Gov. Northam and the confession of Attorney General Mark Herring has revealed the hypocrisy of the Democrat Party and its willingness to countenance truly deplorable behavior within the Party at its highest levels for the sake of political expediency.

The response to these revelations about our Governor and Attorney General by the Democrats and the national media has been predictable. After a bit of mock outrage followed by a self-serving

apology or two, the Democrats have closed ranks to protect their own, and all is forgiven. And in truth, why would the Party and their media allies demand accountability from these two public servants? After all, they were simply following in the footsteps of those the Democrat Party has for so long honored such as Democrat Senator Robert Byrd, founder of the KKK in West Virginia, segregationist Democrat Senators Richard Russel and William Fulbright, and a host of segregationist governors including Virginia’s Harry F. Byrd. It seems Democrat Party traditions die hard.

Space within this column does not permit a discussion

of the Governor’s radio interview in which he endorsed an abominable view on late-term abortion and even infanticide. Nor is there space to address the multiple allegations of sexual assault involving the Lieutenant Governor, except to say that he deserves the presumption of innocence. But at least as of today it appears he will be spared any real investigation or tough questions by the media, as well as the selective anger of the #Me Too movement. Finally, in an apparent effort to mirror the views of the national Democrat Party, the Democrats in Virginia recently and successfully campaigned Ibraheem Samirah for the Virginia General Assembly, a man with a history of excoriating Jews and Israel, themes common to Democrats on the national scene such as Keith Ellison, Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib.

The silver lining is that in the next state-wide election, this rogues gallery should provide voters with a clear picture of the principles the modern-day Democrat party stands for in Virginia.

EXOFFICIO

MARK SNYDER

Hello Middleburg! I speak here, I hope simply, as a citizen, not just a former official.

I write this in February, which is Black History Month. Disconcertingly, or fittingly, depending on your viewpoint, the news from Richmond explodes with racist stories of blackface and accusations of rape by our leading public officials. Memories of the racist event on August 12, 2017, in Charlottesville have not faded.

The topic of race contains many nuances and is difficult to address properly, but I will try. However, I will not try to address the political mess.

How did we get here? Are things improving for people of color (and all of us) or are they deteriorating? Can Virginia (and America) resolve this, or are we doomed to take one step forward and fall back?

I experienced culture shock when my family moved from California to Fairfax County Virginia in 1966. Yes, I had seen the Watts riot in Los Angeles about a year before (where a black man arrested for drunken driving experienced severe police brutality in 1965). Many here were then obsessed with on-going school desegregation and the stirring civil rights movement, and yes, the Civil War and Jim Crow. For me, this peaked in 1968 with the assassinations of Martin Luther King. The racist reactions to King’s brutal assassination floored me, and I came close to fistfights with a few stridently racist middle school boys.

I see improved attitudes recently, but still. Seeming progress and personal events lulled me as I entered adulthood. However, something would always pop up, forcing me to question race relations. Sadly, I occasionally witnessed racism after moving to Middleburg in 1983.

At first, things seemed normal, as I also witnessed positive interaction. I am certainly not trying to imply that Middleburg exemplifies more racial problems than any other town, rather that we should care more to ease or eliminate them. I definitely do not mean to impugn anyone in the Middleburg community.

Is improvement a mirage? How do we get to real interaction by all people – one-on-one and in groups (and both genders)? Can we have serious discussions of racial fragmentation to get to respect and

opportunity for all people, unencumbered by skin color or gender without getting defensive? I do believe that white and people of color need to engage each other, meeting more often and to discuss these issues in order to improve. Gender attitudes also show much room for improvement. Do local churches or other groups encourage these discussions and interactions?

Can we also discuss the memorials to slavery – Civil War monuments and statues largely erected during the Jim Crow era all over Virginia and throughout the south? Can we understand that these are not simply historical artifacts, but offensive celebrations of slavery and racism to people of color? Some of us white folks may think of them as history (and removal as erasing history), but people of color see in them the intimidation many intended them to be when erected during Jim Crow.

I have hope but yearn for optimism. We need genuine interaction (and respect) among all groups of people to break down barriers and to make progress. When we isolate ourselves, stereotypes, misunderstanding, and fear of those we exclude are the natural result.

Please try to reach out and engage. Allowing any of this ugliness to fester, rather than improve is unbearable.

That is my opinion. Do you find this informative? Do you have questions 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!

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

A SCIENTIST’S PERSPECTIVE
ART POLAND, PHD

The headline on a Washington Post article the other day read “Work computer use alerted Coast Guard to lieutenant’s terror plans, prosecutors say”. The story then started, “Christopher P. Hasson used his computer at Coast Guard headquarters to study mass shooters, according to investigators. An internal program, they said, picked up his suspicious computer activity.” To a large extent, this “internal program” is what we call artificial intelligence. Computers are used to scan information on other computers to find something “interesting”.

While this capability greatly expands human capability in many ways, I find it a misnomer to refer to this as intelligence. The computer, with these programs, is giving us capabilities well beyond what is humanly possible. The above story is an example where the computer was used to scan everyone’s email and look for something suspicious. That is data gathering and filtering. A human must look at those results and decide yes or no on importance. That is intelligence. The difference is subtle but important. We do not yet have computer programs that can or programs we actually want, to make the final decision. The line from the astronaut in Hidden Figures really struck me as right on. There was a discussion as to whether to launch or not and the engineers were saying that the computers were saying it was OK. The astronaut wanted to know what the lady had to say.

As a scientist, I do not want to diminish the importance of what we call artificial intelligence. It is giving us capabilities beyond what was possible before. Computers can now be used to examine extremely large data sets and present information to scientists that allow discoveries that were not possible before. However, you still need the scientist to make the discovery.

Let me give an example of a possibility that relates to my field of research. Let’s say there is a storm on the Sun, solar flare. The question is, what is the impact of this storm on Earth systems? We could have an “artificial intelligence” program that goes out and searches all the information on all computers throughout the world, everything that happened on Earth, during the next few days. The computer could then give the results of any anomalies like there were 10 times more automobile accidents during that time. And, there were 10 times more power outages. The computer might say that solar storms cause automobile accidents. The scientist might do some more research on none solar storm power outages and find that the power outage is what causes the increase in accidents. So, you need the scientist to do the final analysis that says solar storms cause power outages, and those outages lead to accidents. This type of artificial intelligence is a great tool. It allows humans to be more intelligent, but it is not intelligence by itself.

There is another type of artificial intelligence being tested at George Mason University that may really be artificial intelligence. They are using robots to deliver food to individuals. These robots move around campus like a person. They “decide” to take the handicap ramps instead of the stairs. They move out of the way of people. They stop at crosswalks and wait for a person to cross and then follow that person. I hear that one even made a mistake and got hit by a car. I’m not sure exactly how they are controlled, but it may really be built in artificial intelligence.

LETTER FROM THE PLAINS

ANTHONY WELLS

During and since World War Two the United States has held together the western democracies through a series of key alliances, of which the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is preeminent. The result has been the winning of the Cold War and in spite of various perturbations between individual allies and the US over bi-lateral issues, the alliances have remained rock solid.

Peace has been maintained without a major global confrontation on the scale of World War Two, and we have avoided the ultimate crisis of nuclear Armageddon. The US and its allies, under United Nations auspices, saved South Korea from annihilation in 1950. The US has led, and funded, a significant part of what it takes to keep the world safe for classical democracy, whatever the ups and downs in the Middle East, the Balkans, African genocides, and the impact of terrorism, piracy, international drug and human trafficking, illicit arms transfers, and associated money laundering.

There were times when things went array without counteractions, such as the Soviet invasion of Hungary in 1956, Czechoslovakia in 1968, and the Soviet-Afghan war from December 1979 to February 1989. However, the US and its allies stood firm and they came through and saw the ultimate triumph with the demise of the Soviet Union.

Our allies still look to us as the leader, the key nation in a new era of a resurgent China and Russia, with additional threats from despotisms in North Korea, Iran, and their associated surrogates, and the use of terrorism and cyber warfare, echoing Clausewitz’s maxim, “War is the continuation of politics by other means”.

Then there is a threat that I consider insidious, and a long term continuing attack on ours and our allies well being – the theft of critical intellectual property by espionage and cyber theft in order to gain commercial and military advantages. So, the question I ask is simple: Do we want the US to continue to maintain our role as the leader of the Free World in the 21st century when for many of us it will be our children, grandchildren, and for some readers, great-grand-

children, who will be impacted? Fact checking is the buzz phrase of the modern media world. What’s truth and reality versus rhetoric, bias, distortion or, worst case, flat out deliberate misrepresentation and lying? In certain circumstances, it may entail perjury by another name, particularly if given under oath. One of the great positive things about the Internet is that at the click of a mouse we can find the truth most of the time, if not all of the time, delving into the most evasive data and digging out the most inscrutable facts.

Can we afford to be the leader of the Free World? To examine the world GDP national rankings for 2018, and then look at the individual per capita GDPs for each nation. It’s going to be a long

time before the average Chinese has anything even resembling the income of the average American family. California alone has a larger GDP than the whole of Russia, but Russia has nuclear weapons, an evil ex KGB despot at the helm, and a cyber army to create havoc with the West.

Should the US and our allies roll over and play dead? I don’t think so. After 50 years plus membership of The Five Eyes intelligence community I can say with total conviction that the US, UK, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand stand as firm today as they did in the darkest days of World War Two and the Cold War. Add our myriad of additional alliances and friends the United States has a global network of extraordinary relationships all dedicated to one

CONTINUED ON PAGE 46

A VIEW FROM THE VILLAGE

For almost two years in the mid-seventies, I had the good fortune to serve as a Russian-speaking guide for a US cultural exhibit touring the USSR. Our exhibit showcased American home technology, but this was mostly a pretext. Its real purpose was to provide an opportunity for exhibit visitors in six Soviet cities – Tashkent, Leningrad, Moscow, Minsk, Zaporozhe, and Baku -- to talk with a real live American, something very few Soviet citizens in those years could experience. Every day several thousand visitors flocked to the exhibit, which for the month it was open in each city was the biggest show in town.

Some of the discussions that took place on the exhibit floor were memorable. Our show opened in January 1975 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, now an independent country, but then one of 15 Soviet republics. This was only a few months after the resignation of Richard Nixon, and we guides frequently were asked to explain Nixon's downfall to a skeptical but very interested audience.

We found different reactions among our exhibit visitors. Many, of course, did not understand why Nixon's offenses were so serious. "Why, these things happen all the time in so-called 'democracies.'

There are many causes for

What's the big deal?" they might ask. Others, however, seemed almost wistful that such an event could so dramatically alter the political landscape of a country, let alone the United States. I remember one jokerster declaring: "Every nation in the world has the government they deserve. Except the Americans!" The implication, of course, was that we deserve much worse. Judging by the appreciative chuckles from the audience, there seemed to be pretty broad agreement with this sentiment.

Reflecting on the first two years of the Trump presidency, I wonder if that long-ago observer might think that Americans finally do have the government we deserve. He might marvel at how we managed to elect someone who is clearly incapable of serving as the US leader -- or that voters could have chosen a man who may in his own right present a threat to US national security. Recently, in fact, a participant in a Russian TV political talk show suggested -- only half in jest, I think -- that Putin no longer had to work very hard to achieve longstanding Russian objectives, including the weakening of NATO and the EU, because Trump would do all that for him.

how we got here, I suppose, and scholars will be dissecting this for years to come. What is important for me, though, is a different question: Now that we're in this mess, how do we get out of it?

Many Americans want Congress to impeach Trump. If it is demonstrated that the president committed impeachable -- or criminal -- offenses, then I suppose the constitutional remedy must come into play. But I don't believe it's the most desirable outcome. Removing Trump from office would confirm his supporters' suspicions about the "Deep State." Echoes of this mindless support for him would reverberate in our politics for years to come.

It would be far better to repudiate Trump at the ballot box. He might still become a political martyr for his added fans, but he would also be diminished as a self-defined "loser" who could not maintain the power he had gained in 2016. More important, electoral rejection of Trump would prove that his political tendencies and prejudices are unacceptable to the majority of Americans.

Of course, for this to happen, Trump's opponent would actually have to win the election. Recent polling indicates

that a solid majority (56 percent at this writing) of Americans would not vote for Trump in 2020. There are signs his support may be faltering even among his base; another recent survey shows only 28 percent of Americans would definitely vote for him. It's tempting to believe that this is the beginning of the end of his presidency.

That view, however, fails to take into account the Democratic Party's tendency to get in its own way (see Northam, Ralph; Fairfax, Justin; and Herring, Mark) and its penchant for circular firing squads. It is unclear what kind of nominee will emerge from a messy primary scrum -- or whether a third party candidate will split the vote. Most of the recently-declared candidates are pandering to the party's left wing, just as Trump does to his base. To further complicate things, a potential independent candidate claiming to represent moderates has appeared. This individual's approach so far seems to be to attack Democrats rather than Trump. None of this looks like a winning strategy.

Polls suggest that conservatives and progressives constitute about one-third of the electorate. According to one 2018 study, "Hidden Tribes: A

Study of America's Polarized Landscape," the remaining two-thirds are the "exhausted majority," people who "share a sense of fatigue with our polarized national conversation, a willingness to be flexible in their political viewpoints, and a lack of voice in the national conversation." Most of us, I think, probably fall somewhere in this group, regardless of political affiliation -- or lack of it.

Our civil institutions, politics, and alliances are resilient enough to stagger through two more years of Trump, but four more years of chaos after that could do lasting damage. If Democrats can avoid a hard left turn, there is hope that 2020 will see the beginning of a return to political sanity and civility, an expiration date for nativism and tribalism, and a government built on compromise. To beat Trump, Democrats must put forward a candidate who speaks to the majority of Americans and offers realistic policies on such issues as climate change, rebuilding our dilapidated infrastructure, health care, taxes, immigration, trade, and foreign policy. The race is theirs to lose, but if they fail, it is the American people who will bear the cost. We do deserve better.

Morris Jacobs
Middleburg, Va

A VIEW FROM THE VILLAGE

SHANNON VALLIE

"The great enemy of truth is very often not the lie--deliberate, contrived and dishonest--but the myth--persistent, persuasive and unrealistic. " John F. Kennedy

"Loudon 2040 General Plan" deliberations are underway and the ensuing draft reveals America's misguided land planning in the age of climate change, plummeting biodiversity, increasingly poor job quality, and gross income inequity. This non-visionary draft perpetuates the foolish myth real estate development equates to economic development, even though solid, well-paying jobs have vanished nationwide concurrent with skyrocketing levels of development and population growth.

Most, unfortunately, a wide range of our political spectrum espouses the wrong-headed ideology that unlimited development produces beneficial economic outcomes, which

The nation's best land use plans have growth limits. If everyone lives where they want, many great places are ruined. Good planning and

supportive public policy is not about jamming the population into "desirable locales," but instead applying enlightened development policies that improve the environment and enhance the employment scene throughout the nation and the world.

Good planning, in light of the dangerous acceleration of climate change, now requires local governments to advance the renewable energy economy to mitigate the pollution created by their plans and zones. "Climate change" appears once in the draft plan, at the end of a sentence.

Below is text citizens might employ to oppose this plan.

Dear Sirs and Madams,
Strong Letter!

We are Loudon County parents trusting our local government to safeguard public health, safety, and welfare, which this plan does not do. This plan is a gift to developers at the expense of the citizens, resulting in heavy

traffic, air pollution, fewer trees, climate change, and an overdeveloped county.

Of necessity, our family is becoming increasingly energy conscious. We want to put solar panels on our home to save \$150 or more a month. Panels have never been cheaper and we like to support green job creation.

After significant research, we now understand how corrupt state officials allow Dominion to restrict the amount of residential and commercial solar in the state. This allows Dominion to expand its fossil fuel empire by consciously stymying renewable energy options. Utilities construct industrial solar projects on farmland because this cynical practice grows their profits and accelerates their hidden control over the energy system.

Communities then oppose the solar farms, in part, because plans like this continue to eliminate vital farmland. This perfect storm halts the advancement of renewable energy, which is Dominion's primary objective.

All Maryland and Virginia

counties should be collaborating to seize greater control over the utility monopolies and to decentralize the energy system. Local officials must initiate solar retrofitting plans and zoning incentives. They should freeze property taxes at current levels on buildings that are expanded or rebuilt if the entire structure is solarized. This measure alone would financially aid citizens while fostering a solar construction economic boom.

These are the types of policies the Loudon plan should propose, instead of massive new numbers of dense high rises extending way out from D.C. This is mixed-use abuse that will make eastern Loudon look just like the cities in the Blade Runner movie.

Smart growth and historic and land preservation groups, citizens, and environmentalists must oppose land plans continuing and expanding fossil-fueled development (yes, even on transit) or there will be real permanent climate change rains just like those once eerily featured in sci-fi movies.

LETTER FROM THE PLAINS - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 45

maxim -- peace, prosperity, and security.

Please think about these issues and recall the words of President Theodore Roosevelt that our best defenses are not a provocation to war, but the sur-

est guarantee of peace. In the modern era, the United States cannot go it alone, disbanding our alliances, not making it "great again" by ignoring those with whom we have stood together for generations and driv-

ing wedges "by Tweets" that announce critical changes without prior consultation with our allies.

The amalgam of all our allies, developed initially when Franklin Roosevelt and Winston

Churchill shook hands on board HMS Prince of Wales in Placentia Bay, off Newfoundland, on August 10, 1941, is the bedrock of our national security and well being, in every sense - economically, culturally, militarily, dip-

lomatically, and underpinned by an enduring mutual value system. Within this system lie extraordinary strength, determination, and resilience for the next generation.



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



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

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



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



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 with granite counters & stainless appliances • Family room with fireplace, screened-in porch • 3 BR including bright master suite • Home office, finished LL and 2-car garage

Helen MacMahon (540) 454-1930



Mount Gordon Farm
The Plains, Virginia
\$8,900,000

128 acres and immaculate 3 level, stone & shingle main house • 5 BR • 8 FP • Exceptional finishes on every floor • Elevator • Spa • Separate guest cottage • Pool • Farm manager residence • 3 additional tenant houses • 12 stall center-aisle stable • Pond • Extraordinary land with incomparable views extending beyond the Blue Ridge Mts • Conservation Easement potential

Helen MacMahon (540) 454-1930



Waverly
The Plains, Virginia
\$2,950,000

circa 1755 • 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



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



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



Spring Glade
Middleburg, Virginia
\$3,900,000

French Country home, with renovations in 1999 & 2017 • 4 BR, 5 full & 2 half BA, 5 FP; hardwood floors, flagstone terrace • Beautiful drive to hilltop stetting overlooking pond, lake & mountains • Improvements include pool, 2-car garage, 2 BR guest house & apartment • Lovely boxwood gardens • Kitchen allowance to be provided • 79.89 acres

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905



Game Creek
Middleburg, Virginia
\$2,650,000

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



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 • 3-bay equipment shed/work shop, guest house, 4-stall barn complex, riding ring, spring-fed pond and stream

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



Salem Hill
Marshall, Virginia
\$3,690,000

Well protected Fauquier location • 6 bedrooms • 4 full and 2 half baths • 3 fireplaces • Great views • Pool with large flagstone terrace • Large country 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



Halcyon Hill
Rectortown, Virginia
\$2,475,000

17 acres of rolling pasture land in the village of Rectortown • Convenient to both Routes 50 & 66 • Newly renovated • Private setting with magnificent mountain views • 4 bedrooms, 4 full baths, 1 half bath, 2 fireplaces • Heated pool & spa • 2 bedroom guest house • Large shed & 2-car garage

Paul MacMahon (703) 609-1905



Peace, Love & Joy Farm
Warrenton, Virginia
\$1,550,000

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



Patrick Street
Upperville, Virginia
\$340,000

Charming stucco bungalow on a quiet lane • Hardwood floors • Flagstone patio • Updated kitchen and baths • Home office and first floor master with sitting room • Large fenced back yard • Very well cared for turn-key home and a great value

Helen MacMahon (540) 454-1930

110 East Washington Street • P.O. Box 1380
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POT HOUSE CORNER

Middleburg ~ Fully renovated 2 BR/2.5 BA brick Main House on the corner of Pot House and Foxcroft Roads. Includes 4 completely renovated dwellings: two matching 2 BR/1 BA detached frame cottages, 1 BR/1 BA Barn Apartment along with a 3-stall barn with copper roof and fenced paddocks, a 1 BR/1 BA Gate House, and an Artist's Studio - which was the original building where potters kilned bricks as far back as the 1700's for nearby homes at Foxcroft School, Huntland and Farmer's Delight. Property includes lovely English gardens, stonewalls, hedges, sweeping lawns, a pond and mature trees all in a storybook setting on **11.37 acres**. Great income potential! **\$2,195,000**

Cricket Bedford 540-229-3201



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 an Apartment above. **\$1,795,000**

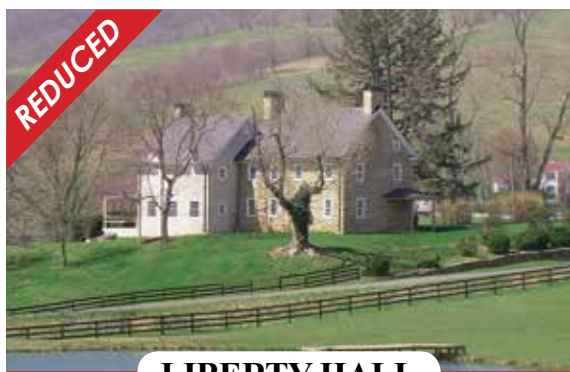
Cricket Bedford (540) 229-3201



WISDOM GALLERY

Middleburg ~ HANDSOME COMMERCIAL BUILDING + TURN-KEY ESTABLISHED BUSINESS & INVENTORY in the center of Historic Middleburg. Stunning upscale home items, crystal, unique gifts, cards, custom stationery, gourmet chocolates & much more. Approx. 1/2 of inventory is offsite and is included in the sale. **\$1,400,000**

Rebecca Poston (540) 771-7520



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 with spectacular 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. Potential uses include B&B, Antiques or Farm Winery, subject to Fauquier Co. zoning requirements. **\$1,300,000**

Rebecca Poston (540) 771-7520



WHEATFIELDS

Hume ~ Fully renovated in 2014 this c.1867 farmhouse sits on **50+ acres**. Over 4,000 sq. ft. of living space which includes a gourmet kitchen with island & fireplace, family rooms on both levels, Living Room, Library, formal Dining Room and lots of windows to enjoy the views. 3 BR upstairs of which two are Master Suites with luxury bathrooms. Hardwood floors throughout all levels. 4-stall barn with attached 1 BR/1 BA apartment. The farm also features fenced paddocks, small barn, run-in sheds, old log building, old frame storage shed, a pond and a stream. **\$1,250,000**

Cricket Bedford 540-229-3201



MIDDLEBROOK

Middleburg ~ Beautiful traditional all brick center hall Colonial on **3.36 professionally landscaped acres** just minutes to historic village of Middleburg. Meticulously cared for by the owners makes this home 'move-in' ready. All the major systems have been upgraded. In addition to the spectacular home, there is a 2-car attached garage, a separate Carriage House with 2 additional garage spaces and an unfinished space above, a fenced in swimming pool with a gazebo, mature plantings, established hardwood and fruit trees along with a spring fed pond. **\$1,125,000**

Cricket Bedford 540-229-3201



WHISPERING PINES

Bluemont ~ A long winding drive leads to a beautifully renovated, single story residence in a secluded setting. Gleaming wood floors grace the main rooms, multiple windows & glass doors bathe the rooms in natural light, a fabulous gourmet county kitchen is a true chef's delight, the luxurious master suite is a dream retreat. Barn & newly fenced paddocks make this a perfect hunt box. Excellent ride-out! **\$549,000**

Mary Ann McGowan (540) 270-1124



GORDONSDALE - 255 acres of rolling land in Virginia horse country. In 2 parcels. **255 acres: \$1,900,000 OR 173.348 acres: \$1,300,000 and 82.091 acres: \$625,000**
Emily Ristau 540-454-9083

SALLY MILL ROAD - 3 Lots! 3 or 4+ acre separate parcels just East of Middleburg. **\$285,000 - \$299,000**
Cricket Bedford (540) 229-3201

WEAVERSVILLE ROAD - REDUCED 29.25 acres of open and rolling land bordered by woods. **\$295,000**
Catherine Bernache (540) 424-7066

FOREST HILL Two wooded parcels totaling 27.4 acres in the heart of Loudoun County. **\$225,000**
Mary Ann McGowan (540) 270-1124



PICKETT STREET

The Plains ~ 2 Bedroom, small charming cottage on a quiet street. Newly renovated. New bathroom, updated kitchen, new windows, AC, all hardwood floors cathedral ceiling. Many extras and special communications upgrades installed. Small garden, back porch. Town water and sewer are included. One year minimum. **\$1,500/mo +electric**

Rein duPont 540-454-3355

A SALES RECORD OF HISTORIC PROPORTION

THOMAS & TALBOT REAL ESTATE

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1967 LAND AND ESTATE AGENTS 2019
Middleburg, VA 20118 (540) 687-6500

Phillip S. Thomas, Sr. Celebrating his 57th year in Real Estate

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