Middleburg Eccentric
Middleburg's Community Newspaper
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Middleburg Spring Races Page 24

Making Middleburg More Beautiful

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Full Story on Page 3

County Comprehensive Plan Amendment (Loudoun 2040)

Middleburg Town Council Report

Dan Morrow

At the Thursday, April 11, regular meeting of the Middleburg Town Council Mayor Bridge Littleton reminded those attending that the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors would hold public hearings on the County Comprehensive Plan amendment on April 24th and April 27th.

Littleton noted that he and Councilmember Leonard-Morgan was already signed up to speak and asked that all Council Members and members of the public sign up as well.

Noting that the Dulles Area Realtors Association and the Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce were pushing for more density in the plan, the Mayor said that people who could not appear in person could email their comments on the amendment to the County. It was critical for as many people opposed to the plan as possible to actually show up at the hearings, he continued. During the last meeting, he added, "approximately half of the people in the audience were associated with the Chamber of Commerce and were supporting growth."

COLT (the Coalition of Loudoun Towns), he said, was preparing a blueprint of the principles around which the County Comp Plan should be framed. He noted that all seven Mayors would be speaking in a row during the public hearing on April 24th.

Chief Panebianco Honored

On April 12, the Loudoun Chamber of Commerce presented its Lifesaving Award to Middleburg Police Chief A.J. Panebianco. Each year the Chamber recognizes outstanding service and acts of valor by Loudoun County Law Enforcement Officers and First Responders. Panebianco was recognized for his heroic response to a car crash that occurred just outside Middleburg PD headquarters. The driver of the crashed vehicle had suffered a heart attack, causing him to lose control of his car. By the time the Chief had extracted him from the wreck, according to the Chief, "He was gone." Panebianco then administered CPR for more than 20 minutes, reviving the victim prior to transport to nearby medical facilities. The Chief's patient, sadly, did not survive but did live long enough to say last goodbyes to his grateful family.

Increase in Real Property Tax Rate

At Council's Work session on Thursday, March 28, Council passed a motion by Councilmember Kevin Daly to adopt a real property tax rate of 15.3 cents per $100 of assessed value for the calendar year 2019.

Continued Page 19

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News of Note

Making Middleburg More Beautiful

Nancy Milburn Kleck

There is something very special about walking into the Safeway grocery store and have a veritable rainbow of flowers greet you at the door. "It's what I love about being the floral manager," Dennis Dodson described, "flowers make people happy."

Dennis has been Floral Manager for Safeway for four years, but his professional floral designer career has spanned over 35. Born in New Orleans, he moved to West Virginia with his family at a young age. He and his sister Corrine would visit Middleburg often. "My sister always said that I belonged here because I related so well to the people, the places, and the beauty of Middleburg."

As a kid, his innate artistic eye and sense of botanical aesthetics began in his own backyard, and over the years his craft developed working under other designers and in the floral industry. He loves to show how even basic flowers and greenery can make attractive arrangements. He teaches floral design and gives demonstrations; one in particular, at the Emmanuel Episcopal Church. Customers call upon him to provide floral arrangements for weddings, private parties, corporate functions, destination occasions, and church services.

Every week Dennis receives a shipment of fresh flowers, seasonal greenery, and roses of all colors. Lilies and roses are his biggest sellers but customers can always find a variety ranging from tulips, hydrangeas, calla lilies, stock, sunflowers, gerbera daisies, stock, and more lilies. Mingling among the buckets customers can find little pots of succulents, English ivy, lucky bamboo, pothos and aloe vera. Orchids are always a popular item and he insists "they be natural!" Outside you can always find a variety of seasonal hanging plants, ferns, begonias, pansies, and flowers for your window boxes. It's always changing, week to week.

Since its inception, Dennis has been involved in the Foxes on the Fence, the Middleburg Garden Club's creative fundraiser currently displayed on the fences in front of Safeway and the United Methodist Church. His entry this year is "Burr Fox", a very three-dimensional piece made from dried thistle that's turned a nice shade of brown. He explained, "it was a natural choice. I love using organic materials when I can." Occasionally he'll enter other competitions but "competing really isn't my goal," he said, "it's just being around others who share the love of floral designing."

Landscaping is also a passion. At home in West Virginia, he tries not to share too much of the garden with deer, but as we all know it can be exasperating. "What's your favorite flower?" I asked. "I love them all, but I suppose parrot tulips are my favorite." "And your favorite tree?" "The tri-colored beech." There's a common visual of multi-color presentation in both tulip and beech leaf.

The father of two grown children and on their own, he is now a grandfather. His youngest, a daughter, is about to enter UCLA. Basketball is a passion having inherited her height from her father and "book smarts from her mother", he said. "Modeling may be her future as well. She is also a wonderful photographer and has a great eye." The artistic apple never falls far from the tree.

He considers Middleburg his home away from home. "I don't even think about not going to work. I love my work, and I love the community." And we adore him too.

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News of Note

Banner Embarks On New Challenge

Lauren R. Giannini

If you don't know Great Meadow in The Plains, you're missing out on one of Fauquier County's greatest treasures— neigh, make that in all of Virginia and the entire USA.

Spectacular on every level, Great Meadow's amazing views provide an al fresco stage for year-round events of all kinds, especially horse sports and major competitions. Choices range from racing — Virginia Gold Cup and International Gold Cup — to world-class 3-Day Eventing. Plus, there's polo, show jumping, and hunter-jumper shows liberally sprinkled among the various other special events that require lots of ground and even air space; for example, Fourth of July Celebration with awesome fireworks and rocketry championship finals that scout talented high school students for NASA.

The vision that created this pastoral paradise, protected by the Great Meadow Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to preserving open space, sprang from Arthur W. Arundel, founder, and President, who passed a few years after he resigned in 2008. No one wanted to step up into his position, which involved leading officers, trustees, and other supporters to serve as guardians and stewards of this glorious piece of land — a task that requires mega-bucks and public support to maintain, protect and preserve it.

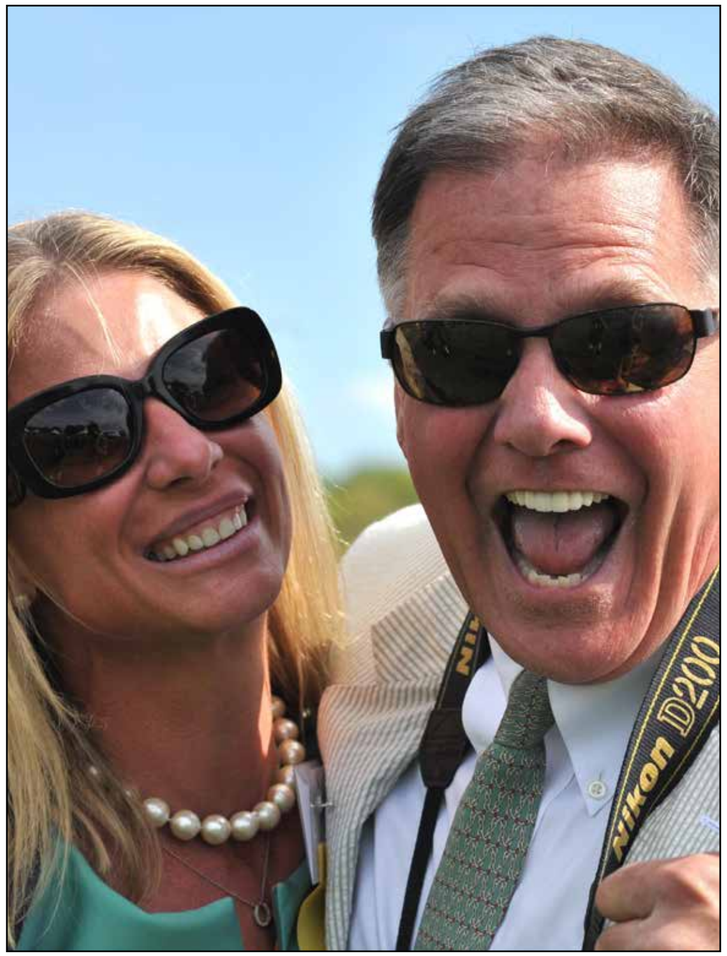
The Board approached Robert Banner, a 17-year veteran member who earned his place on the Executive committee. Banner, horseperson and diehard rural resident, knew Great Meadow inside out.

"When the board asked me to step down from the board and step up as President to help with the duties, I agreed, thinking that the job would last a couple of years," Banner recalled. "That was 11 years ago."

Banner's work experiences include 18 years as Publisher of The Chronicle of the Horse, where he represented the national equine newsweekly at steeplechases, horse shows and eventing competitions around the country. Prior to COTH, Banner spent 10 years as Ad Director, split pretty evenly between Equus, national equine health care monthly, and The Horsemen's Journal, a national racing monthly and his first position after earning his degree in English in 1980 from Vanderbilt University.

Three years at The Episcopal High School in Alexandria provided Banner with serious academic and social polish, especially to his communication skills; he's an articulate and interesting speaker. Best of all, throughout his life, Banner has been an avid horseman — foxhunting, competing in local shows, and racing in the popular owner-rider timber division at local point-to-point. By the time he succeeded Arundel, Banner knew everyone, local and international, from all walks of life, from many sports and disciplines, in and out of the horse world. His enthusiasm was — and still is — catching.

Banner's accomplishments can be summed up by his complex wish list of goals, which he helped Great Meadow to achieve. He shouldered the responsibility of the Fleming Farm project – a piece of land that had developers circling – and raised more than $5-million to secure the 180-acres adjacent to Great Meadow. He gathered substantial support from local philanthropists who shared his vision of constructing an Olympic-caliber riding arena to provide a stateside venue for elite equestrian competition. In 2016 Great Meadow hosted the first ever FEI Eventing Nations Cup™ held outside of Europe.



"The Board and I are thankful for Rob's years of service and leadership," said John Hochheimer, Chairman of the Great Meadow Board of Trustees. "We understand and support Rob's decision to step down in pursuit of other ventures and we are grateful for his many accomplishments. We wish him luck in his new position."

Banner's recent resignation as President of the Great Meadow Foundation has signaled the end of nearly 30 years of his service to strengthen the non-profit and protect its precious land. He will take his lifetime of experience to join ACRE Investment Management, located just up the road in The Plains, VA.

"ACRE is dedicated to building and scaling energy assets on private lands," Banner said. "From a focus on new forests and carbon to stream and water remediation, their goal is to repair, preserve and grow our nation's natively beautiful and spacious infrastructure for tomorrow's health. I can't think of more appropriate next steps for me to take."

Banner also stated: "I did what I came here to do. I promised that I would raise the funds necessary to carry Great Meadow into the future and all my goals have been met. We have doubled in size, constructed a new World class all-weather arena, brought High-Performance 3-Day Eventing to Great Meadow, built a Verizon cell tower, and placed a conversancy easement over the property to protect it long after we are all gone. I am eternally grateful to all the donors and supporters who have made all this possible."

It's necessary to finish with these Banner words: "I couldn't leave without profusely thanking the kind and generous donors who largely funded the vision that I carried out. Nothing could have been accomplished without their help. Our entire community owes them a large debt of gratitude for their staunch support of Great Meadow Foundation and the work that was accomplished after I became President and, at the same time, Henry A. "Buzz" Kievenaar became Chairman of the Board. We worked hard to retire debt and stabilize operational profit. We may all be long dead and gone, but because of them there will always be people at Great Meadow, enjoying Virginia's finest resources on beautifully preserved open space."

The Case for EV's

Go Green

Peter Leonard-Morgan

It has been just 13 years since the debut of the documentary film, Who Killed The Electric Car, which told a story of early Electric Car (EV) innovation by General Motors and its subsequent demise, primarily due to special interest group lobbying and the manufacturer's concern at a lack of potential profit.

Today, over one million EV's are driven in the United States with estimates that by 2030, that figure will have increased almost 20 fold.

Many hurdles have had to be overcome, and still, exist, in order to truly establish the EV as every day, viable alternative to the gasoline powered vehicle. General affordability is coming down, as economies of scale reduce unit prices, however, EV's are still considered in general to be a luxury purchase. That will change as long as battery cost continues the steep cost per unit decrease it has seen over the last few years (79% since 2010) and more manufacturers introduce increased numbers of everyday models to the market.

However, it is the concept of 'range anxiety' which instills fear into EV owners, a fear which will only be alleviated through a combination of increased vehicle range (i.e. technological advances) and an uninterrupted nationwide charging station network.

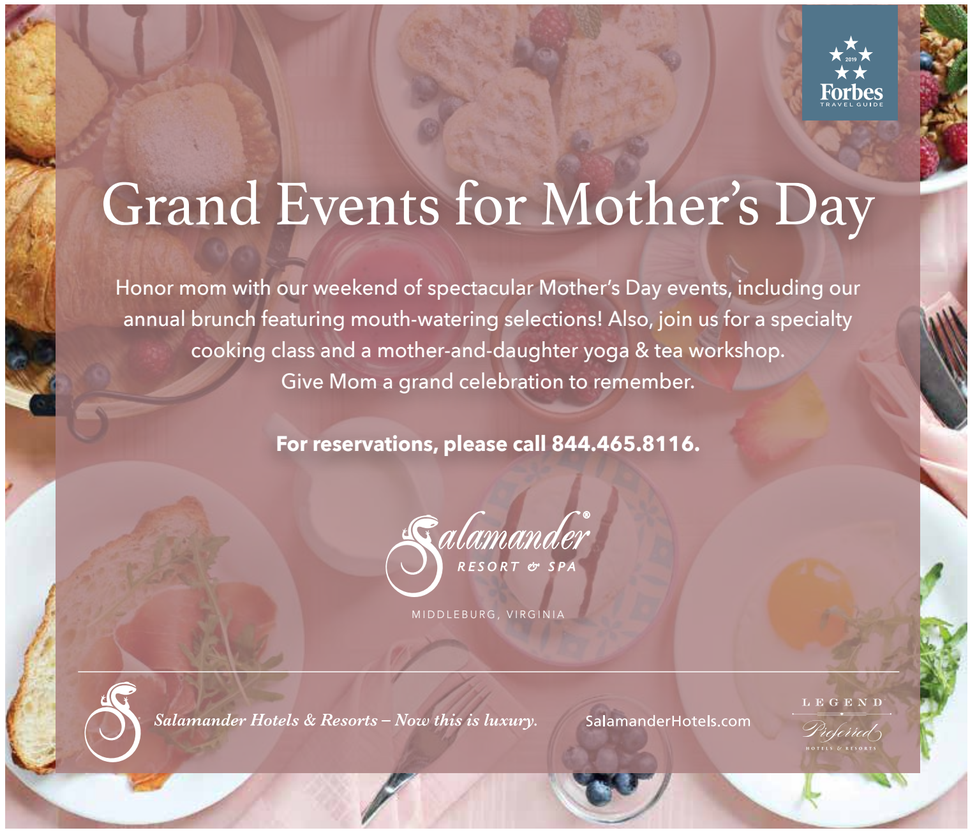
The Town of Middleburg has recognized the importance of providing an EV charging solution for its visitors and residents alike. Its Go Green Committee has spent the past year researching and analyzing the various options which exist today. Those include a potential 'free station' option, offered by Electrify America, which was formed following the Volkswagen Diesel emissions scandal and funded by part of the multi-billion dollar fine imposed on that company to create an EV charging network, and a five-year lease program with industry leader, ChargePoint.

Fulfilling the goal of establishing a dual port charging station in Middleburg will help to attract more shoppers and diners - an important element of economic development, however, it will also be another achievement for the town's environmental and sustainability mission, spearheaded by Go Green. As a Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) gold level town, we strive to find solutions which enhance the health and wellness of our citizens, staff, and visitors. Zero emission vehicles clearly do not emit harmful, toxic gases into the immediate environment, contributing to better health.

The greater argument may be about how the electricity used to charge these EV's is produced in the first place. Being on the Dominion Energy grid, we know that 70% of our electricity is produced by natural gas and nuclear power, while 13% is derived from coal, so arguably an EV charged in Middleburg is, in fact, responsible for an amount of fossil fuel emission, but we are moving in the right direction.

There are EV owners in the Middleburg area who have invested in solar panels and EV charging infrastructure who, as a result, truly are charging their vehicles using all renewable energy.

Rome wasn't built in a day, so pragmatically, and despite big government efforts to stifle the clean air movement, there's no turning back on this road to zero emissions. Kudos to all those who had the passion and drive to get us this far.



News of Note

Virginia Gold Cup Returns on May 4

Horse racing, spring fashions and Virginia hospitality highlight DC's premier spring event

After great success with pari-mutuel betting, the perk continues for racegoers to enjoy on-site. Ever since the Virginia Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association elected not to extend their contract with Colonial Downs, a race track in New Kent, the Virginia Gold Cup (and the International Gold Cup in October) has now become the only venue in Northern Virginia to offer sanctioned betting, so bring your cash as betting is not allowed with credit cards.

But the event is not all about horse racing. As one of the Washington, D.C. region's largest and oldest outdoor events, more than 65,000 people come out in their race-day finest to socialize and entertain. The fashion at the event has become as popular with a variety of hats and a fiercely competitive hat contest. Celebrity judges will decide whose hats are the most impressive in the day's hat contest. There is also an equally competitive tailgate contest with prizes for the top three winners.

The Gold Cup's long-standing tradition beckons to national celebrities, local VIPs, DC politicians as well as visitors from around the world. Characterized by lavish tailgate spreads, sleek thoroughbreds, and exciting hoof-pounding competition, many companies have capitalized on what the day has to offer by getting involved with sponsorships, purchasing tents to entertain, and some actually end up doing business there.

Steeplechase and flat racing offer a fast-action sport in a refined social setting and, at the Gold Cup, some of the best horses and jockeys compete over hurdles, timber and on the flat. Held every year on the first Saturday in May, the Virginia Gold Cup enjoys a spectacular setting in the heart of Virginia's horse country with the Blue Ridge Mountains serving as the backdrop. It is Virginia's answer to the Kentucky Derby.

The 94th Annual Running of the Virginia Gold Cup will take place Saturday, May 4, at Great Meadow in The Plains. Gates open at 10 a.m. with pre-race entertainment starting at 11:30 a.m. with the Jack Russell Terrier Races. Opening ceremony performances at noon include the national anthem performed by Angela Knight and the color guard presented by the St. Andrew's Society Pipes and Drums. The first of nine horse races will be underway at 12:30 p.m. The Virginia Gold Cup Race, presented by the Virginia Gold Cup Association, is the sixth race and takes place at 4:00 p.m. The Kentucky Derby will be broadcast live at 6:50 p.m. General admission car passes are $100 (allows entry of car and up to six occupants). All of those entering the event grounds under General Admission and going to the north or south areas, must each have a wrist band. Wrist bands are $25 per person. No charge for children 12 and under when accompanied by an adult. Members Hill badges are $55 each (no charge for children 12 and under on Member's Hill). Allison explained, "Now everyone entering the Virginia Gold Cup must either have a Member's Hill badge or a wrist band, except for children 12 and under who must be accompanied by an adult."

Tickets are available at area Harris Teeter stores and discounted with a Harris Teeter VIC card.

Great Meadow is located just 55 minutes west of Washington, D.C. and is in close proximity to Dulles International Airport. To get there from Washington, D.C., take I-66 west to The Plains exit. Turn left at the end of the ramp onto The Plains Road (Route 245 south), follow signs to Great Meadow which will be on your left. Call 540-347-2612 for additional information or visit the web site at www.vagoldcup.com.

The 2019 Virginia Gold Cup Races are presented by Hogan Lovells, the Virginia Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association, the Virginia Thoroughbred Association, Virginia Equine Alliance, and Marriott Ranch.

Salamander Resort & Spa Puts A New Spin on Breakfast This Spring

New Package Highlights Resort's Gourmet Market Salamander and Historic Town of Middleburg

The Forbes Five-Star Salamander Resort & Spa encourages couples to skip breakfast in bed this spring and enjoy the new "Bike & Breakfast" package available now through June 30, 2019. As spring awakens the charming village of Middleburg, VA, a scenic morning bike ride culminates with a delicious breakfast at gourmet market, Market Salamander.

Bike & Breakfast

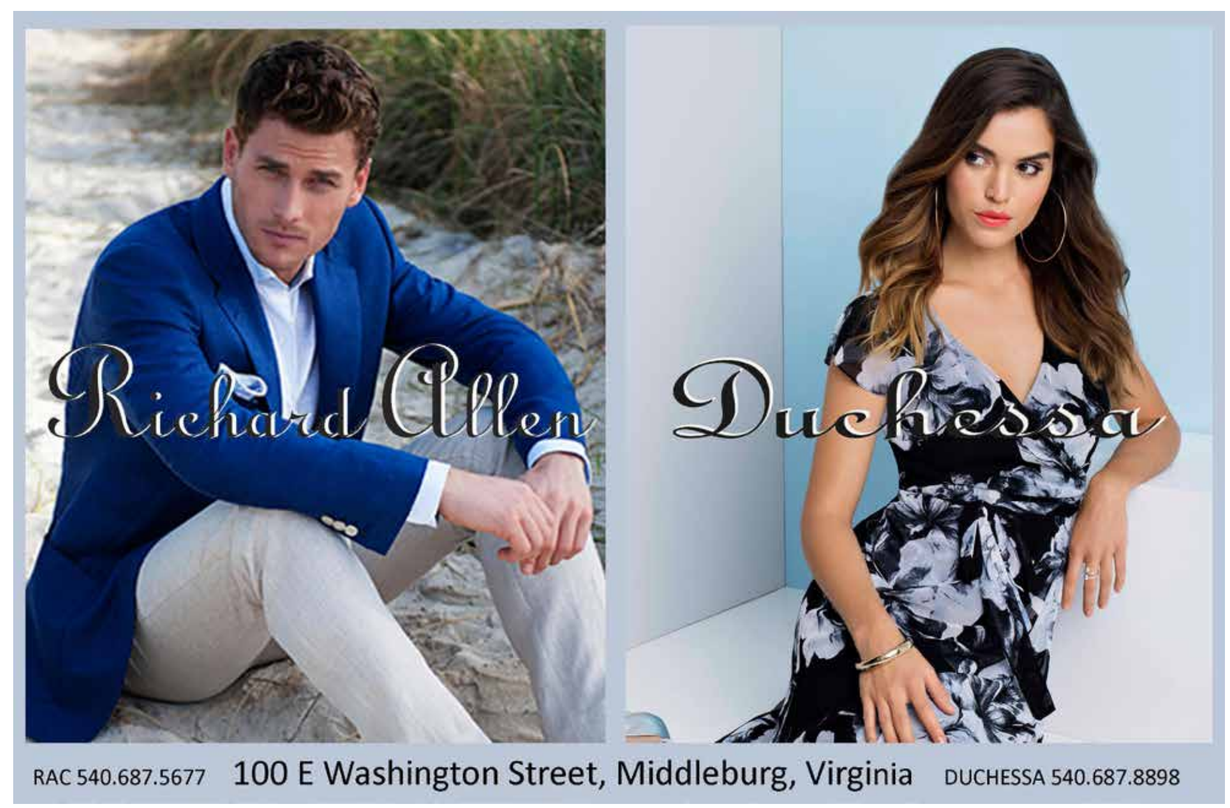
Available now – June 30, 2019

- Two bike rentals
- Breakfast for two at Market Salamander
- Luxury accommodations

Market Salamander is a charismatic market, reminiscent of the Italian Piedmont region, just steps from Salamander Resort & Spa. Aromas from the modern open kitchen greet guests, inviting sampling of daily specials and signature items served in the café or relaxing, outdoor patio. From handheld breakfast sandwiches and wraps to omelets and French toast, all ingredients are locally sourced and prepared fresh daily. In addition, Market Salamander offers lunch, gourmet picnics, off-premise catering, custom cakes and more.

Post-breakfast, couples can take a spin through the charming town to experience more than 100 local boutique shops and galleries, breathtaking vistas and area vineyards before returning to the resort grounds. Rich in history and Southern hospitality, Middleburg has captivated well-known personalities since its establishment in 1787 from the Kennedys and Firestones to Elizabeth Taylor – all of whom have called it home.

For more information on Salamander Resort & Spa or to book the Bike & Breakfast package, visit www.SalamanderResort.com.



News of Note

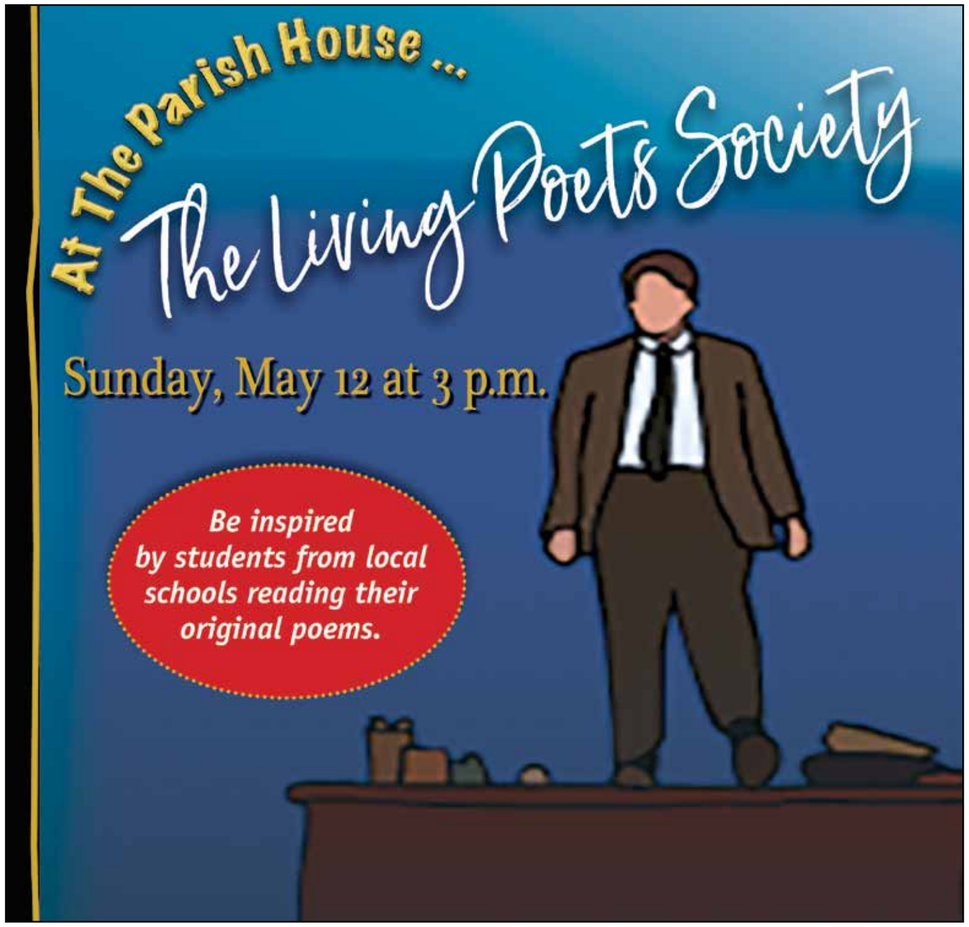
The Living Poets Society

Poetry is alive and well for the final event in the 2018-2019 performance series, At the Parish House, at Emmanuel Church, Middleburg, on Sunday, May 12, at 3:00 p.m. Come be inspired by student poets from local schools reading their original works.

The popular 1989 movie Dead Poets Society helped liberate the classic poems we read in school from the boring, elitist analysis. The passion of Robin Williams in the role of an innovative English teacher has inspired generations of students to find the joys of deep feeling in what they read and, increasingly, in what they write with daring originality rather than in pale imitation of traditional models. Poets no longer have to be dead to be seriously admired by modern readers. Indeed, contemporary poets had better be as alive as these times are!

Today many students astonish and delight their teachers and friends with original poems that are honest, funny, venturesome, and emotionally resonant. Their voices are fresh and prescient, full of insights and hopes that open many paths to a brighter future for our communities and our planet.

This event will feature a one-hour reading by a group of invited students, each student reading about 5 minutes in a small, informal setting, not a competition but an opportunity for all to enjoy the talent of local teenagers in a supportive atmosphere. All participants have been encouraged to invite friends and family to come and be the great audience that great poetry needs. The reading will be followed by a half-hour group discussion of the creative process and the future of poetry. Refreshments will be served.



The reading will be moderated by Perry Epes, an English and writing teacher for many years at Episcopal High School in Alexandria, VA. He coordinated the Young Poets Competition in DC for the Word Works, publisher of his book of poems, Nothing Happened.

The Living Poets Society reading is Sunday, May 12 at 3 p.m. at Emmanuel Episcopal Church's Parish House, 105 East Washington St. in Middleburg. At the Parish House events are for all ages and are family-friendly fare. Reservations are recommended but not required (540-687-6297).

Building an even stronger team.

We're excited to welcome Fletcher Slater as a Relationship Manager to our expanding Business Banking Team in Middleburg and Western Loudoun County. Fletcher, a well-known business professional in Middleburg, has a unique perspective on the banking industry from his previous real estate and legal services background.

"I am thrilled to join this accomplished team ... and eagerly anticipate the opportunity to help support business development in the ever-growing Middleburg market," Slater said. "With the added capabilities we'll provide as Atlantic Union Bank, business and personal banking customers will benefit in a host of new ways."

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Race Report & The Thrills of Horse Power

HORSE-CRAZY

Stretch duel between 2 maiden hurdle horses shows that moment of suspension common to canter and gallop, the leaping gaits. Photo by Lauren R Giannini

Lauren R. Giannini

Spring in horse country means redbud bursting into bloom, daffodils trumpeting revival of garden and lawn, unseasonably warm days amidst bone-chilling wind and rain. Spring means outdoor activities and horse competitions.

Thoroughbreds, magnificent in their athleticism and innate beauty, are the heart and soul of racing. Be sure to peruse the photo pages in this issue.

Virginia Point-to-Points: Middleburg Hunt stages the season's grand finale on Sunday, April 28th at Glenwood Park with 1 p.m. post time. Middleburg PTP's photos will appear in the May issue of the Eccentric. Orange County finished up the March racing calendar, and April's line-up included Old Dominion, Loudoun, and Blue Ridge.

If you're interested in complete results and standings, centralentryoffice.com is a treasure trove for Thoroughbred enthusiasts.

National Steeplechase governs the "major league" of Thoroughbred racing over fences. On Saturday, April 20, Middleburg Spring Races looked like a record-setting field day at Glenwood Park and general admission brought in many spectators. All parking areas were packed, and a festive air hung over the historic bowl of land that makes the Glenwood course very special on many levels. The weather was miraculously beautiful while foot traffic provided a fashion show and constant eddies of people meeting up with friends. And the horses — ahhh, the horses — were magnificent, of course. They are eye-candy, spirit-lifting, good for whatever ails you. Win-win, whinny…

You don't have to be knowledgeable to appreciate the beauty of a horse in motion, especially a Thoroughbred stretched out in full, ground-eating gallop. The accompanying photo (taken with a smart-phone and cropped from full-size 5MB jpeg) shows the stretch drive between two maiden hurdle horses (5th race). They're head and head, battling to win, charging together to the cheers of the crowd – an exciting finish. Out of frame are the other contenders pretty far off the pace, but driving hard to improve their positions.

The gallop is a four-beat gait, unlike the canter, which is three-beat. Both gaits include a moment of total suspension. Junonia and Leopard Cat, pictured, are both five, both maidens, but one will win the race. You can see their moment of suspension – the leaping gait. Looks exciting, but to ride at a gallop is to feel so alive, so much more than an ordinary human. It's amazing. Unforgettable. These horses are bred to run, to be athletic, to be versatile riding and competition horses. Thoroughbreds have wings in their DNA, and they're wonderful partners if you have a good foundation of basic but essential horsemanship skills.

Thoroughbreds who don't take to flat or jump racing will find their niche quite often as great steeds for horse-crazy kids of all ages – be they amateur or professional or pleasure riders in every area and level of equestrian endeavor. Hunters, jumpers, eventers, polo ponies, endurance, driving, dressage, Pony Club, trail riding – therapy horses!!! You name it, OTTBs can do it, especially if they enjoy what they're doing…

May's first Saturday, the 4th, showcases the Kentucky Derby's Run For The Roses and the Virginia Gold Cup races at Great Meadow in The Plains. They're mega-celebrations of the rites of spring racing. Best of all, the Gold Cup is right here in the heart of our renowned horse country.

Everyone needs their own ticket to get into the races. If Members Hill is your thing, you need to pre-purchase the appropriate ticket to get into the reserved areas. Be aware there's no "will call" the day of the Gold Cup. General Admission can be purchased at the gate, but be prepared for heavy traffic from what could be 50,000 spectators.

Gold Cup Day is a superlative outing for enthusiasts, families, friends and business associates. Bring your cameras, leave your pooches at home — venue and event rules, unless you're racing your Jack Russell and you're part of the program! Take photos, selfies, and bask in Great Meadow's views. Get into the action and pick your faves to win, place and show with pari-mutuel betting.

Enjoy!

For more information, reserved tickets, etc: 540-347-2612 or vagoldcup.com

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News of Note

Windy Hill Foundation opens 96 affordable housing Apartments at Heronview

This month, the Windy Hill Foundation and Flatiron Partners announce the official opening of Heronview Apartments, an affordable housing development located in the new Kincora planned community conveniently located where Route 28 meets Route 7 in Sterling, Virginia.

A joint-partnership between Windy Hill Foundation and Flatiron Partners, Heronview will provide 96 units of affordable and workforce housing in the heart of Loudoun County. Heronview will offer spacious, energy efficient one, two-and three-bedroom apartment homes. Floorplans include both garden style and townhomes. Heronview amenities will include a smoke-free community, 24-hour fitness center, social gathering spaces, a community laundry room, computer lab, and on-site property management. In addition to the onsite amenities, Heronview residents will have access to all Kincora has to offer including miles of winding nature trails along the Broad Run.

Windy Hill Executive Director Bob Dale states "We are very excited to add another 96 units of affordable housing to Loudoun County. Heronview will be an important asset for the County by providing quality, sustainable, affordable housing in such a centralized location."

"Heronview Apartments is the first residential building to be completed in the Kincora development and has acted as a catalyst to generate new economic activity to Loudoun County", explains Hollis Fitch, Flatiron Partner's Managing Principal. "Heronview demonstrates that affordable housing can be both high quality and a changing force for positive economic growth."

Leasing is underway and has been met with a robust response. GEM Management has opened a leasing office at 21335 Signal Hill Plaza, Sterling, VA, and potential residents can call 571-926-8440 for application information. Occupancy is currently slated for April 2019. GEM Management is committed to fair housing, providing an equal opportunity for all people, in compliance with all federal, state and local fair housing laws.

Delaplane Strawberry Festival Celebrates 26 Years of Family Fun

Spend Memorial Day in the Virginia Countryside

The famous Delaplane Strawberry Festival returns on Saturday, May 25 and Sunday, May 26 for its 26th year. The event, held in the beautiful Virginia countryside at Sky Meadows State Park (11012 Edmonds Lane, Delaplane, Va., 20144) and run by the Emmanuel Episcopal Church, has continually supported over 100 organizations around the world.

Over the past 26 years, the Delaplane Strawberry Festival has raised $712,522 to fund a variety of programs including: Fauquier free clinic, Camp Love, The Boys Home, Fauquier Habitat for Humanity, Hospice, Literacy Volunteers, People Helping People, Leeds Ruritan Club, St. Marc's Trade school in Haiti, Marshall Fire Department, Fauquier Family Shelter, Clarke County and Fauquier County 4H, Piedmont Dispute Center, Fauquier Community Food Bank, Women of Wonder, Services to Abused Families, and Seven Loaves.

"This two-day festival takes all year to plan! Members of the Emmanuel Church meet monthly to bring it to life," said church rector Rev. Amanda Knouse. "Over 200 volunteers put in thousands of hours throughout the weekend to ensure it runs smoothly. This festival not only unites us as a church but also offers us the opportunity to lend a hand to those who could use one."

Each year 500 flats of strawberries are purchased for the festival, totaling over 10,000 pounds. They are available by the flat or pint, as a sundae, in a pie, or on your funnel cake. While the strawberries are not grown locally, the festival remains a celebration of the spring bounty and the coming of summer. The event also includes live musical entertainment, children's activities, raffles, food vendors, and crafters. Gates open at 10 a.m. and close at 5 p.m. both days, rain or shine.

Festival participants can visit the 4H petting farm, go for a hayride (over 300 rides given during the festival!), or take a guided tour of the circa-1860 Mt. Bleak House. Children can participate in old-fashioned games (three-legged races, tug-of-war, water balloon tosses, a cupcake walk, and more), ride a pony (additional fee), as well as have their faces painted. Visitors will also enjoy strolling entertainers including Jerry Brown and Django, Danimal the stiltwalker, and Mint Condition Barbershop Quartet. K9OLOGY will have a pool and agility course for your leashed canine friends both days and the Virginia Raptor Conservancy will also be on-site with some amazing birds. The Strong Person Tractor Pull competition is back again this year. Teams of four will pull a tractor 25 meters, quickest time wins! Other events include Strawberry Sundae Eating Contests, Park Ranger Demonstrations, and the Tasting Tent. Stop by the tent to try some local craft brews (additional fee).

Music entertainment on Saturday includes Americana, Nugrass and bluegrass band- HENRY; Jazzy classic rock with The Imaginary Blues Band; Enchanting Illusions magician Kevin Owens; The City of Winchester Pipes and Drums; SPOON MAN musical comedy act; and a mix of folk, blues, and Celtic music with Wicked Olde. Sunday's stage entertainment starts with a Coffee House assortment of folk musicians, The Imaginary Blues Band, Magician Kevin Owens, Spoon Man; and traditional old-timey country music, The Butcher's Family Band.

On Sunday morning at 9 a.m., there will be a 5K Trail Run/Walk to kick off the Delaplane Strawberry Festival that day. The race/walk fee is $25 per participant in advance (until May 20) and $30 after that up until the time of the race and includes admission for all occupants of the car to the festival for the day.

The per-day cost of the festival is $25 per car at the gate, or $20 in advance (purchase from the website www.delaplanestrawberryfestival.com. All of the activities and events (except pony rides and the tasting tent) are included in the per-car fee and include access to Sky Meadows State Park and the Appalachian Trail. (The Lost Mountain and Turner Pond access to Sky Meadows State Park will be open for normal park use and fees. Go to www.virginiastateparks.gov for more information.)

Sky Meadows State Park is located approximately 55 miles west of Washington, D.C. To get there, take Route 66 west to Exit 23 (Delaplane/Paris) and go approximately 6.8 miles to left on Edmonds Lane and to Sky Meadows State Park.

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News of Note

THE FOXHOLE

Middleburg American Legion Post 295

PHOTO BY JAY HUBBARD

Spring is breaking out all over the region and it is now time to give serious thought to choosing a location for those social and family gatherings. American Legion Post 295 located in Middleburg has recently completed several renovations to its "Patriots Hall" including a new roof, new HVAC system, new doors and windows and a fresh coat of paint. We would like to invite you to consider Patriots Hall as a venue for your future social events. If you need a quality low cost facility to rent for your wedding reception, birthday, bar or bat mitzvah, family reunion, post funeral gathering, or any other communal need; please consider the American Legion Post 295 Patriots Hall. For more information on dates and fees please contact Ricky Bell at (540) 364-3550 or by email at scruffy451@aol.com. We would also like to welcome all eligible service men and women to become a member of our Middleburg Post 295. The Middleburg Legion Post 295 is located on The Plains Road just south of town. The Post meets on the 2nd Wednesday each month at 7pm. If you are interested please give one of our local leaders, George Martel, a call at 540-687-6408.

Loudoun County Veterans Center

The Loudoun County Veterans Center (VETCEN) opened in February 2018 and is available to eligible Veterans and their families from across the region. Our VETCEN is a satellite office of the Martinsburg West Virginia VETCEN and is located on Miller Drive in Leesburg just adjacent to the Leesburg Executive Airport. VETCEN's are community-based counseling centers that provide a wide range of free social and psychological services, including professional readjustment counseling to eligible Veterans, active duty service members, including National Guard and Reserve components, and their families. Eligible veterans include any Veterans or active duty personnel, to include members of the National Guard and Reserve components, who have served on active military duty in any combat theater or area of hostility. Vet Center services are also provided to family members of Veterans and Service members for military related issues. This includes bereavement counseling for families who experience an active duty death. Readjustment counseling is offered to make a successful transition from military to civilian life or after a traumatic event experienced in the military. Individual, group, marriage and family counseling is offered in addition to referral and connection to other VA or community benefits and services. Vet Center counselors and outreach staff, many of whom are Veterans themselves, are experienced and prepared to discuss the tragedies of war, loss, grief and transition after trauma. For more information or to make an appointment please call 304-263-6776 and ask for an appointment at the Leesburg VETCEN office.

Memorial Day

As the weather begins to get warmer and the days get longer, we all know Memorial Day weekend must be right around the corner. This year we celebrate Memorial Day on Monday, May, 27, 2019. For most Americans the Memorial Day weekend marks the beginning of our summer and for our children, it means the end of the school year must not be far off. Beyond the family gatherings and the outdoor festivities, Memorial Day is a special day for most Americans as we take a moment to honor all of the U.S. military servicemen and women who gave their lives in defense of our great nation. According to historians and other sources, the first Memorial Day was observed on May 1, 1865 by freed slaves in Charleston, South Carolina. These African-American men, who had served in the Union Army, came together with their families to bury and honor their fellow Union soldiers. The unofficial tradition of recognizing our fallen service personnel continued for several years after 1865. In 1950, the U.S. Congress passed a resolution to mark Memorial Day which was followed by a law in 1968 which declared Memorial Day to occur on the final Monday in May with it becoming a federal holiday in 1971. So, this Memorial Day, we ask you to please take a few minutes out from the festivities and family outings to remember our fallen heroes and give thanks for our freedoms and our great nation.

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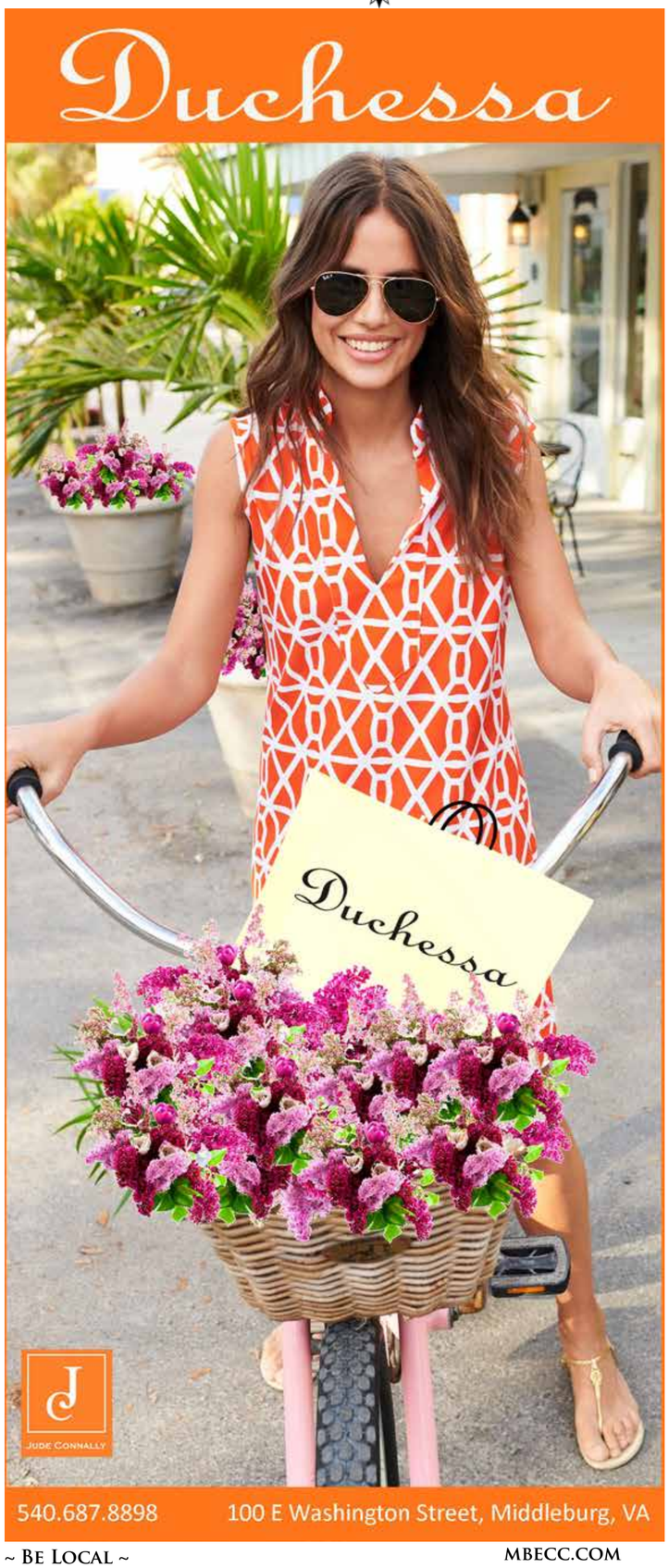

News of Note

A Great Day Predicted for the Middleburg Hunt's Point-to-Point

Weathermen just don't forecast weather. They live it. They breath it. And eat it. For over 15 years, WUSA Channel 9's chief meteorologist Topper Shutt has been called to duty to be a judge of the tailgates at the Middleburg Hunt's point-to-point at Glendale Park this Sunday, April 28.

Asked what events start spring for this weatherman, Topper's replied, "The cherry blossoms, of course, then the hunt's point-to-point. I love watching people, and you couldn't find a better course to watch the races."

"It's a lot of fun," Topper said, explaining a few things he looks for while going from tailgate to tailgate. "Food sticks out", referring to the lavish spreads. Giving away some clues, "flourless chocolate cake, salmon, and champagne" are high on his list. But a "warm welcome" and sociability are important too, especially when the offerings are less formal but no less tasty.

Seen on occasion with a stogie in one hand and a flute in the other, Topper epitomizes what tailgating is all about. "Are you recognized by many people?" I asked. "More as a guest than as a TV weatherman" he replied. That's a wonderful testament to the ambiance of the event. His wife and children love attending too. After months of bundling up over the winter, the point-to-points give everyone a way to entertain friends and family, and welcome guests in the warming, blooming countryside. Oh, and see some very fine steeplechasing.

Weather's been a fascination to Topper since he was a young boy of 8 or 9, and he loves his job. Three decades and counting, it never gets dull. Remote reporting and public appearances, hosting fundraisers, school visits and judging tail gates all make the adventure of predicting Mother Nature that much more weatherproof. Rain or shine, it's always a great day.

BCT Celebrates Good Works!

BCT - The Community's Bank has always been about community and doing all it can to help local people and businesses thrive. So when Kim Hart, the President of Good Works LP, and partner TM Associates approached BCT for a construction loan, they were all ears. Good Works LP is an organization founded by Kim Hart, which is dedicated to building, owning and operating affordable workforce apartments in Northern Virginia. When BCT took a look at Good Works and partner TM Associates' loan application for the construction of affordable workforce housing within the Ashburn Chase apartment complex, they were encouraged by the well conceived business plan and strong financials. A resounding "Yes" was the bank's answer. A 2.3 million dollar loan was just recently approved by BCT.

Good Works is now moving forward with another of many projects completed over recent years to make sure that positive growth includes affordable workforce housing. Housing that is important within communities to help decrease commuter traffic and provide support for local businesses and organizations. BCT is proud to play a role in our community's future and celebrates Good Works' commitment to supporting Northern Virginia's thoughtful plans for balanced growth.

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News of Note

Meet the Mistress of Oak Hill: First Lady Elizabeth Kortwright Monroe

One evening in 1785, a woman "made so brilliant and lovely an appearance" at a theater in New York City, that she caught the attention of a young congressman, James Monroe. By all accounts it was love at first sight, and within the year the future President and the woman—Elizabeth Kortwright– were married.

The youngest daughter of a wealthy New York merchant, Elizabeth spent the next four decades accompanying her husband to Europe on diplomatic missions, to the Governor's mansion in Richmond, and finally, to the White House, serving as the fifth First Lady of the United States.

Elizabeth Monroe was well known for being a gracious and culturally refined woman, and during her time in France earned the nickname "La Belle Américaine." By the time she became First Lady, however, poor health required her to retire from public life. As a result her legacy is largely overshadowed by her predecessor, Dolly Madison, and she is little remembered today.

On Sunday, June 2, join Sara Bon-Harper, Executive Director of James Monroe's Highland, as she examines the life of First Lady Elizabeth Kortwright Monroe.

The program will be held at Oak Hill, James and Elizabeth Monroe's country estate in Loudoun County.

Oak Hill served as a refuge for Elizabeth during the War of 1812, and again during her husband's presidency when ill health prevented her from taking a more active role in Washington. Finally, it was at Oak Hill that Elizabeth Monroe died in 1830.

Following the talk visitors will have a chance to enjoy refreshments and tour the gardens where Elizabeth spent so much of her time.

Tickets are $100 for MHAA members and $120 for non-members.

To reserve your tickets: See https://mosbyheritagearea.org/events/2019/6/2/the-mistress-of-oak-hill-first-lady-elizabeth-kortwright-monroe or call (540) 687-5578.

Sadie's Race

Sadie's Race is May 5, 2019 at the Train Station in downtown Purcellville. This year marks the eighth year of the race. Sadie Smile Foundation has raised $294,410. for Smile Train in memory of Sadie Ablard who passed away at age 5. Her mother, Sara Parella, is determined to meet her goal of raising money for one 'smile surgery' through Smile Train for each day Sadie lived. Smile Train provides cleft lip and palate repair surgery for children around the world for an average cost of $250. Sadie's mom Sara says; "We are moving steadily toward our goal of $478,250. It's a big goal in honor of Sadie's big heart. She wanted to help those who struggled, even at her young age."

Run or walk the chip-timed 5k with age group and raffle prizes, including a piece of professional grade gym equipment donated by Magic and Shari Kayhan, owners of Olympus Gym, Purcellville.

Visit www.sadiesmile.org to learn more about Sadie's story, and to see how you can get involved.

Middleburg Eye Center welcomes Barbara Masiello

Dr. Chip Stine, a Board Certified Optometrist in Middleburg, Virginia for more than 30 years, announced the addition of Barbara Masiello, Optometrist. Five doctors on staff including Emily Morin, Ophthalmologist, shall provide full time emergency, surgical and routine eye care. Crosen and Company Opticians, a separate optical department will be available for frame and lens selections, adjustment and repair needs.

Dr. Stine's office may be reached at 540-687-3634 or via our website: www.middleburgeyecenter.com, Monday through Friday for your convenience.

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27 JULY — BEACH NIGHT
3 AUG — ANTIQUE CAR NIGHT
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News of Note

Middleburg Town Council Report - Continued from Page 1

Mayor Littleton noted, "Middleburg's real tax rate was still the lowest in Loudoun County."

Praise for Salamander Resort & Spa

Vice Mayor Kirk moved, and Council unanimously approved a Resolution of Commendation for the Salamander Spa & Resort for attaining a Five Star Rating from Forbes Travel Guide.

Mayor Littleton read the resolution aloud and presented a signed copy to Sheila Johnson, Prem Devadas and Reggie Cooper of the Salamander Resort & Spa.

Ms. Johnson thanked the Town for standing behind her and believing in her vision. She noted that she loved Middleburg.

Middleburg Millwork's 50th

Councilmember Phil Miller's motion to adopt a Resolution of

Commendation recognizing the Middleburg Millwork on their 50th Anniversary was adopted unanimously by Council

Bob Ball and the Ball Family received a signed copy of the resolution, and

Mr. Ball recognized his father, David, his wife, Joyce, and his son, Robby. "They love serving the community," Ball said.

Matching Grant Application

On a motion by Vice Mayor Darlene Kirk, Council ordered the Town staff to submit an application to the Virginia Commission for the Arts' Creative Communities Partnership Grant Program in the amount of $4,500 to support the 2019 National Sporting Library & Museum Open Late Concert Series.

According to Business & Economic Development Director Jamie Gaucher, the Commission was accepting applications for grants for arts specific events or non-profit arts organizations.

The National Sporting Library & Museum had already filed an application with the Town for special events funding in the amount of $5,000, which would serve as the match for the VCA grant, providing a potential $9,500 nest egg for the program.

Loudoun Tourism

Councilmember Phil Miller moved and Council unanimously approved a motion to authorize Town staff to submit an application to the Loudoun County Tourism Grant Program in the amount of $60,000 to support efforts to attract

visitors to Middleburg in coordination with the Middleburg Business and Professional Association and the Middleburg Community Center.

Business & Economic Development Director Gaucher saw this as "a new opportunity for the Town to feature Middleburg through marketing," noting that if received, the focus would be on Middleburg as an overnight destination, specifically with a focus on the Middleburg Community Center's Fourth of July Celebration.

Gaucher also reported that Visit Loudoun was bringing their "Summer of Love Tour" to Middleburg on that date The theme plays off the 50th-anniversary celebration of the "Virginia is for Lovers" brand. Visit Loudoun, it was noted, had already acquired a VW bus to be "driven around the area by people in costume as advertising centered around 1969."

He explained that the source of the grant funding was tourism occupancy tax revenues, which must be used for marketing to bring visitors to the municipality.

Health Center 501(C)(3)

Town Administrator Danny Davis reported on the discussion of establishing a 501.c.3 non-profit organization to manage the funds to be derived from the Town's sale of its Health Center Building.

The current members of the Health Center Advisory Board, Davis said, suggested either "keeping things as they were," namely having Town Council manage the funds, engaging the Community Foundation of Loudoun and Northern Fauquier Counties to do so.

Vice Mayor Kirk, as Chair of the Health Center Advisory Board, noted that the members were concerned not only about having to pay out money to develop a 501(C)(3) but having the funds no longer under the direct auspices of the Town.

Howard Armfield and Erik Scheps, members of the Health Center Advisory Board, appeared before the Council to say they thought the Community Foundation of Loudoun and Northern Fauquier Counties deserved consideration.

Council agreed to hear a presentation from the Foundation before making a decision

Foxes on the Fence

Town Clerk Rhonda North reported that she received an email from the Chairman of the Middleburg Arts Council "announcing that they had been nominated for a Visit Loudoun Tourism New Event of the Year Award" for the Council's "Foxes on the Fence" fundraiser

Councilmember Chris Bernard noted that this year, for the first time, would also be hounded on the fence.

Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation

Andrew McClure, National Community Engagement Director for the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation informed Council on April 11 that his organization was about to dedicate a "mortgage-free home to Rob Jones,

The Foundation's missions are to build and give homes to service members who have been catastrophically injured while serving their country or to Gold Star families, including the spouses of a service member killed in action.

The Foundation is named for Stephen Siller, a firefighter who lost his life in New York during 911.

Asbury Church – Loudoun Freedom Center Proposal

Pastor Michelle Thomas, of the Loudoun Freedom Center, reported to Council on the projects their non-profit organization has done "in order to preserve, protect and promote African American history in Loudoun County " and said her organization was sincerely interested in helping restore Asbury Church, the oldest church building in Middleburg, and putting the facility to good use.

If possible, Thomas said, her organization " would keep the building as multi-use and would use it to tell the history of the African American community" noting it would be a great tourist attraction.

In furtherance of those goals, Pastor Thomas sought a deed of gift of the church from the Town to the Loudoun Freedom Center.

.Mayor Bridge Littleton told Council that he had "met with Pastor Thomas approximately a week earlier to discuss the project and thought that this would be a great opportunity to preserve the church."

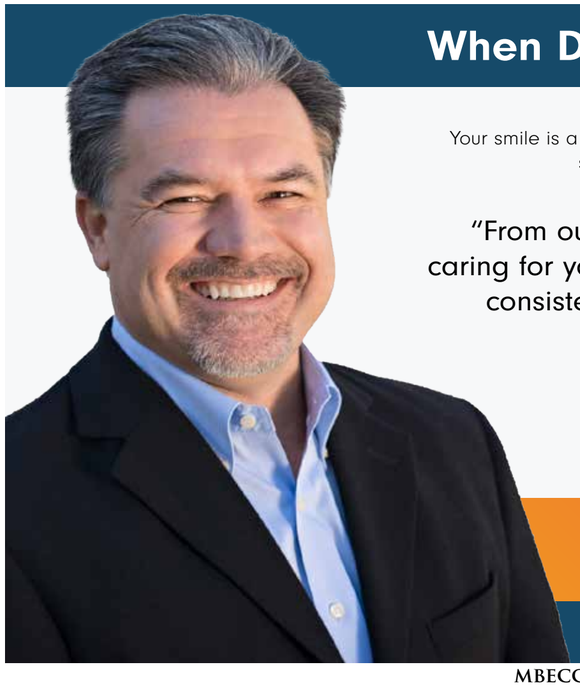
That said, he continued, he suggested, "more details on the Freedom Center's plans were needed" before Council could take action.

Funding for Middleburg Community Charter School

On April 11 Council approved a contribution of $5,000 to the Middleburg Community Charter School to support hiring a search firm to recruit a new Principal.

Mayor Littleton, who serves on the Board of Directors for the school explained that they needed assistance in finding a new principal, the school's fourth in just five years.

Board Chair Bob Lazaro reported that "the school was doing well; that attendance was based on a lottery system and there was a waiting list of children whose parents wanted them to attend there.



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Places & Faces

Middleburg's Community Clean Up

Middleburg, Virginia ~ Photos by Middleburg's Finest

Upperville daffodil Show

Upperville, Virginia ~ Photos by Nancy Kleck

Places & Faces

Middleburg Spring Races

Middleburg, Virginia ~ Photos by Nancy Kleck

Sporting Art of alred Munnings by Bonham's

Marlou Church-Gregory, Jeff Bowden and Jordan Wright.

The Moir - Polk Party

Middleburg Hunt Club Winner's Circle.

Summers Thomas and Glenn Johnston.JPG

Zachery Daniel and Nataliya Bettis

The University Club of Washington DC Hat Club

The Terwilliger Family

Kevin Ramundo and Anne D'Ignazio, Peter and Anne Arundel, Cathy Kerkam

The University Club of Washington DC

Places & Faces

Middleburg Spring Races

Photos by ancy Milburn Kleck

Spencer Toohill and Hardy Pemberton

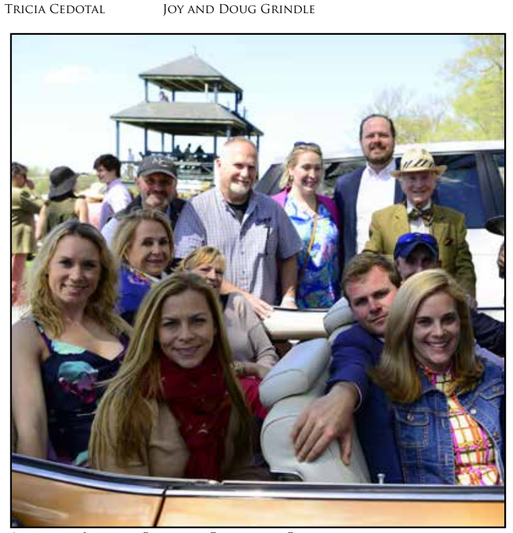
Martin Fleming, Ekaterini Malliou, Robert Mihlbaugh

Lisa McGinnis, Jeff Bowden, Cristy Bowden

Lysa Farah, Kathryn Caskey, Tricia Cedotal

Joy and Doug Grindle

Coleman Jackson, Julie and Charlie Matheson



Allen and Jennifer Richards Family and Friends

Carey Shefte and Cassie Kingsley

Brandy and Nick Greenwell and the twins

Chip Rodgers and Ken Kies

Cathy Kerkam and Cynthia Benitz

Ellen Dry, Susan Hensley, Charles Carroll, Katarina Ryan and Edward Ryan

Bob Martin, Carter Wiley and David Hartley

Sarah French-Fleming, Stuart Winestein-Bacall, Sharon Hess

Max Olivas, Kitty Dove, Robin Huntington

Places & Faces

Fauquier 4-H at Virginia Tech Block & Bridle Livestock Judging and Stockmen's Contests

Fauquier 4-H Livestock teams have been busy the past few months. At the end of February, three teams travelled to Blacksburg to compete in the Virginia Tech Block & Bridle Livestock Judging and Stockmen's Contests.

Livestock Judging consists of classes of 4 animals of the same species and age, hogs, goats, sheep, and cattle are all included. The Senior Advanced Livestock Judging team was made up of Megan Day, Ryann Bradshaw, Salem Sifford, and Madison Sifford. Madison placed 7th overall in cattle and 5th overall in reasons. The team placed 7th in cattle and reasons, and 9th overall. Our senior team was made up of Ayden Saffer, Meredith Lawrence, and Meredith Day. Our junior team of Gracie Campbell, Brian Figgins, Caroline Lawrence, and Aaron Locke placed 9th in swine, 2nd in cattle, 7th in sheep and goats, and 2nd overall. Gracie Campbell placed 2nd in Cattle and 4th overall. Brian Figgins placed 4th in swine and cattle and 7th overall.

In the Stockmen's Contest teams complete a team problem, a quiz, judge livestock classes and answer questions on those classes, identify meat, equipment, feed, and judge meat and hay. Our junior team of Gracie Campbell, Aaron Locke, Brian Figgins, and Caroline Lawrence placed 2nd in judging and questions, with Caroline placing 4th in the same category. Our senior teams were: Team A: Salem Sifford, Meredith Lawrence, and Megan Day. Senior Team B: Ryann Bradshaw, Meredith Day, and Ayden Saffer.

On March 27th, many of the same kids competed in the Regional Cattle Working Contest. A timed event that challenges teams of three to process 3 feeder calves. They are judged on their ability to perform the required tasks, complete and follow their processing plan, and of most importance is the safe and sound handling of the cattle. Our teams were Ryann Bradshaw, Meredith Lawrence, and Caroline Lawrence. Our team of Sammy Leach, Salem Sifford and Madison Sifford placed third in the contest with the second fastest time.

We could not compete in these contests without the continued support from local producers who take time out of their weekends to help with cattle working or livestock judging practice. We thank all those who helped us in the past few months and look forward to continuing to practice for the State Stockmen's Contest on April 18th and the State Livestock Judging Contest in June.

Foxcroft unveils new Turf Fields

This past Saturday was a historic day for Foxcroft when we held our ribbon-cutting for our new turf fields. By saying it was historic, I do not mean that this day will go down in Foxcroft's history as a turning point in our athletic program even though, certainly, our beautiful fields will help strengthen four of our interscholastic sports: field hockey, lacrosse, soccer, and softball, and will allow us to offer a new sport, track and field.

I mean that athletics has been a part of Foxcroft's history from the School's inception. Long before science confirmed the positive correlation between physical fitness and learning, our founder Miss Charlotte Haxall Noland knew the benefits of exercise and competitive sports. The motto she selected, Mens sana in corpore sano, meaning a healthy mind in a healthy body, reflects her belief. During a time when most girls did not play competitive sports, Miss Charlotte formed the Fox/Hound teams and held an annual basketball tournament. Well Miss Charlotte understood that being part of a team would teach character, determination, and sportsmanship as well as be a fun tradition for her students.

Today, The Girls and Sports Impact Report, surveying more than 10,000 girls across the country, shows that sports have a positive effect on young girls and their perceptions of themselves. Girls who play sports seem to have stronger friendships with other girls. They are 10 percent more likely to say they trust other girls and 7 percent more likely to get along well with other girls. Katy Kay and Claire Shipman, co-authors of The Confidence Code, write that for girls, sports can be a major confidence builder, something that women need at all stages of their career. "Playing competitive sports embodies the experience not just of winning, but the experience of losing. The losing is almost as critical," says Kay. "When you're playing sports and you do badly, you have no choice but to pick yourself up and carry on. That process really builds confidence. It's an incredibly useful proving ground for business and leadership."

Indeed, women who have been athletes in high school generally earn more when they enter the workforce, according to research by Betsey Stevenson, former Chief Economist at the U.S. Department of Labor and a professor of public policy at the University of Michigan. Athletics may foster the development of attributes that "include the ability to communicate, the ability to work well with others, competitiveness, assertiveness, and discipline."

An EY/espnW global study of senior women executives shows that sport is a positive determinant of leadership and achievement. The survey linked women in senior management positions to experience in sport, finding that 94% of women in the C-suite play a sport and 80% of Fortune 500 female executives played a sport in their earlier years.

Ellen Kullman, Former Chair and CEO of DuPont said, "What I think team sports do is teach you how to be a team with a very diverse group of people….Team sports really teach you how to collaborate across a broad spectrum of personalities or individual talents, and learn how to get the most out of what you have." We certainly know this is true at Foxcroft.

We aspire to utilize these fields not only to benefit our own students' experiences and to help them develop skills, confidence, and courage, but also to enhance the lives and opportunities of athletes in our region, particularly young girls, through making our facilities available to our community. It gave us great pleasure to welcome to campus the Hill School field hockey tournament, which included about 90 girls from five middle schools, when heavy rains made Hill's fields unplayable a few days after these fields were completed.

Finally, I believe that these fields will be history-making because our students themselves will make history. They are young women who dare and do, and they are part of a larger Foxcroft network of women who for over a century have been trailblazers in what they accomplish in their professions, in their communities and around the world, and through their leadership. We know that their playing team sports sets them up for greater success. Now we have the facility that will allow our students to play their best game on the field and in their futures.

Progeny

Soccer Standout Georgia Regas Named Foxcroft School Athlete of the Week

Georgia Regas

Freshman Georgia Regas, who scored two of Foxcroft School's three goals last week — including a game-tying score with seconds remaining — has been named Athlete of the Week for the period of March 31-April 6.

Georgia scored with 10 second remaining against Quantico (VA) Middle/High School on Thursday (April 4) to secure a 2-2 tie. Her constant vocal encouragement her teammates throughout the game to also played a big part in the outcome, according to Coach JJ Kern.

"She was a team leader and continued to inspire the team to the last second," said Coach JJ Kern said.

A Hinsdale, IL, resident who plays soccer year-round, Georgia She also scored Foxcroft's only goal in a 3-1 loss to Fresta Valley on Tuesday, April 2.

Agazinet Quantico, Foxcroft was trailing, 2-1, with time running out when senior Lily Fortsch sent a pass to Georgia through the opponents' defensive line. Georgia broke free and put the ball into the net with just 10 seconds remaining.

Prior to her game-tying goal, Georgia worked to motivate her team with her own determined play and with shouts encouragement. "We will not lose this game!" she yelled.

Middleburg Eccentric

Send us your School News!
news@mbecc.com

Alejandro Ford Named Wakefield School's 2019-2020 Archwood Scholar

Alejandro Ford of Germantown, MD and Bristow, VA has been awarded the 2019-2020 Archwood Scholarship.

The Archwood Scholarship is awarded every year to a rising 9th grade student with a demonstrated commitment to engagement inside and outside the classroom. The scholarship provides an annual award of 50% off of the tuition for the four years of Upper School provided the recipient continues to live up to the values that characterize an Archwood Scholar. Those values include a passion for curiosity, an appreciation for scholarship, and a commitment to excellence.

"The Archwood Scholar embodies all that Wakefield School is looking for in a well-rounded student," explains Gray Carr Bridgers, Director of Admissions & Indexed Tuition. "Alejandro is a bright and successful young man and we look forward to seeing where his journey at Wakefield School takes him in the years to come."

Along with outstanding grades and stellar recommendations from his previous teachers, Alejandro is dedicated to his athletics, playing D-1 AAU basketball and participating in travel and club soccer. Alejandro participates on his school's math team and actively volunteers at his church. He is an avid reader and his favorite subjects in school are math and history.

The Archwood Scholar and all Wakefield students are given opportunities to explore and to discover their own passions. These opportunities include international travel, leadership building, internships, experiential learning, outlets for artistic expression, and competitive athletics.

Alejandro Ford (Class of 2022) remarks, "Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to come to such a great school and to have been given this scholarship so my dream can come easier. I can't wait to spend the next four years at Wakefield!"

Progeny

Let's Go Fly a Kite!

Joan Gardiner

Such a fabulous day with a group of 6 kids (5 competitors, one helper) and Tina Wallace (our laudable bus driver) & me. We got to Metro and got our Smartcards (that is always a daunting task but it was not yet crowded at all). Couple kids had never been on or had even heard of the Metro. We all got out at Smithsonian and the wind was just picking up. Found registration table and started testing kites. When competition begins I saw a worrisome sight: a young Japanese girl with a frilly cherry blossom shaped kite, wearing a matching sweater! When her turn came, you could see the years of growing up in a kite culture, she was the winner- hands down. But our kids did us proud, their kites lifted into the air and they flew them like professionals! It was a perfect day and even if none of them placed, just watching their kites climb, taking their full attention, pulling themselves into the sky with it- in the middle of a 2-acre field surrounded by hordes of people and kites -at the foot of the Washington Monument! That is worth more than any prize.

Afterward, we walked past cherry trees to the Castle to give our regards to Mr. Smithson. We eventually got back on Metro in a huge crowd of people! We didn't care, mission accomplished! Fly High, stay high.

Progeny

Wakefield Students Selected for Governor's Programs

William Brosnan

Dylan Fanico

Chelsea Mulkerin

Skyler Tolzien

Four of our Upper School students have been selected to attend the prestigious 2019 Summer Residential Governor's School Programs. The students are:

- William Brosnan ('20) – Spanish
- Dylan Fanico ('20) – French
- Chelsea Mulkerin ('20) – STEM
- Skyler Tolzien ('20) – Theatre

The Governor's School Program is highly selective and it's amazing that we have four juniors going this year! We have had students admitted for a long time, but we've been sending 3 students each year since 2016... and now this year is 4!

Summer Residential Governor's Schools provide gifted high school juniors and seniors with intensive educational experiences in visual and performing arts; humanities; mathematics, science, and technology; or through mentorships in marine science, medicine and health sciences, or engineering.

Each Summer Residential Governor's School focuses on one special area of interest. Students live on a college or university campus for up to four weeks each summer. During this time, students are involved in classroom and laboratory work, field studies, research, individual and group projects and performances, and seminars with noted scholars, visiting artists, and other professionals. In the three mentorships, students are selected to work side-by-side with research scientists, physicians, and a variety of other professionals. A director and a student-life staff provide supervision of students 24 hours a day, throughout the program.

Jeb Zaback made the 2019 All American Teams for Sporting Clays

2019 All American Sub Junior Team Sporting Clays
2019 Briley .410 bore All American Sub Junior Team
2019 Briley 20 gauge All American Sub Junior Team
2019 Briley 28 gauge All American Sub Junior Team
2019 Perazzi 12 gauge All American Sub Junior Team
2019 Blaser 12 gauge FITASC All American Sub Junior Team

BINGO
Aldie Ruritan BINGO Night
Saturday, May 18, 6:30 pm
Middleburg Community Center
Tickets: $35 per person
Includes 8 BINGO cards
1 50/50 Raffle ticket
Dinner by Hammerdown BBQ
1 ticket for Beer/Wine
Soda/water/coffee
Birthday Cake
Celebrating Sarah Douglass' 100th Birthday!
Reservations Recommended. Contact
Tommy 703.471.4911 tjsantmyer@verizon.net or
Tucker/Mary Ann 703.327.4206 withersfam@aol.com
Sponsored by Aldie Ruritan
Additional bingo cards, martinis/mixed drinks/beer/wine, and raffle tickets available for purchase on site
Lots of fabulous prizes for BINGO Winners!

Pastimes

Minivan Nation

Sincerely Me

Brandy Greenwell

In my life, I have driven sexy sports cars, trendy SUV's, suave imports and heavy-duty trucks meant for towing massive horse trailers but recently, I bought a minivan. A freaking minivan. Since the conception of my twins, I knew that we would need a new family car but hoped that any car with a 3rd-row seat would be sufficient. After two months of wedging my family of four into our Volvo like a clown car, I knew the writing was on the wall that we needed a change.

I generally keep my cars for their lifespan so I don't often shop for new vehicles. I sure did my research on minivans, mainly to try and find fault with them enough to wedge me into an SUV or station wagon. The shopper in me also wanted to find the best value and amenities available on the used market. Did you know that only one make of minivan has 4 wheel drive? Take note carmakers. I digress. The used market is tough to navigate sometimes, especially dealing with the sometimes stereotypically creepy salesmen. I could write another whole article about my recent experience in the used car industry, but I'll save that gem for later. I ended up finding a 2-year-old minivan with everything we wanted with the exception of 4 wheel drive and a moon roof for a great price.

Why is there a huge stigma against driving a minivan? The scoffs and snickers from my friends when they found out that's what we were shopping for made me at first just want to give in and become the stereotype: mom jeans, sensible shoes, at home hair color, bras without lace, juice boxes and Baby Shark. I used to think they handed you the keys with a box of Depends, custom orthotics' and blue plate special. I thought that every last bit of sensuality and youth I had would be robbed when I clicked the seatbelt but…I was wrong.

What I realized is that those who mock minis have never experienced the efficiency and ease of doors that open with a wave, parking with mirrors everywhere and the most sophisticated back up camera I've ever seen, climate control systems for each row and the ability to have all the seats fold down for date night with daddy. One that we test drove even had a refrigerated drawer below the dashboard! What is not to love about all of that?! All you critics need to drive one. We have embraced our new minivan as part of the family and loving call her Mrs. Doubtfire.

I may be the odd (wo)man out in Middleburg by embracing the minivan as I took the road less traveled by not going the Range Rover route to carry my family. So the next time in town you hear "Sweet Child O' Mine" rocking out of a black minivan, you'll know it is me and that I still wear high heels (or will when the swelling goes down in my feet), and that I'm damn proud of it.

The Wednesday Night Stitch

On Wednesday night, STITCH stays open late to host a gathering of stitchers, ranging in age from 25 to upwards of 70. (Some of our projects are in that age range too!) This group of 15-20 regulars — and another 20 or so drop-ins — is comprised of teachers, horsewomen, real estate agents and lenders, retired public servants, lobbyists and professionals, all with a passion for canvas and fiber.

Our new location on Federal Street is all about "the table" and what happens around it. We pick projects, share tips, teach each other stitches, and collaborate on design decisions. Needlepoint can be a relaxing flow activity or a challenging creation of intricate patterns, colors, and textures. It can be about the making of a gift for a friend or the completion of a journey started by stitchers from prior generations. The projects we create on Wednesday nights are truly the results of a team effort.

But needlepoint skills are not all we share. We also celebrate graduations, birthdays and toast the arrival of new grandchildren. We trade stories of our friends and knowledge of what's going on around town. We share opinions and ideas on gardening, etiquette, and politics. It seems we can't get enough time together — there is even a "dinner club" that frequents the local eateries after the stitching winds down.

STITCH is fortunate to be part of this strong community of stitchers who have grown to love time around "the table". Join us, won't you?

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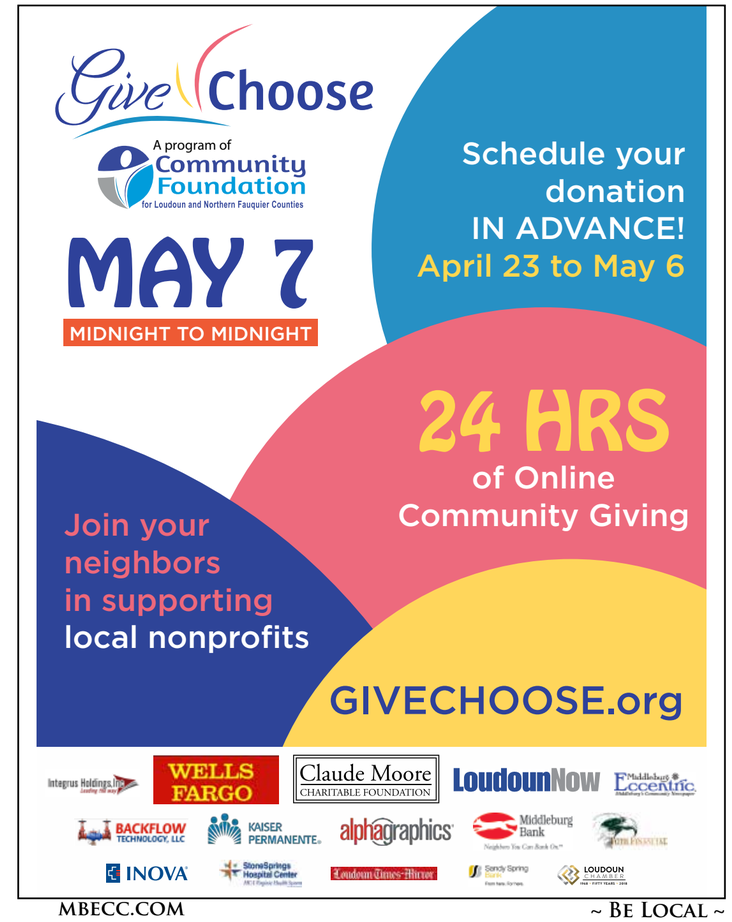


Pastimes

The Artist's Perspective

Tom Neel

When I decided thirty years ago to make my art career, I honestly had no idea how long the run would be for me. I might have fizzled out, but one thing that seemed certain, art would not. Technology moves on though and it brings obsolescence with it. The technology of painting with oils has been around a good 600 years. That's way longer than many technologies and inventions and it's held up pretty well. But seeing advertising illustration get clobbered in the 1960s by photography, and photography gets challenged by computer graphics, it leads one to wonder how traditional paintings will fair in the future.

Looking at how graphically amazing and realistic video games have become, their dynamic nature has made it easy for them to captivate especially the young viewer and make them a willing participant. A painting's static image requires the mind to interpret its narrative. Looking at paintings this way has been the gold standard of viewing art for centuries, but we must consider in the 1400s art was a pretty amazing thing to see. It was also the only way to document an image as there was no photography. Fast forward to the mid-1800s and there was still no radio, TV, or movies, much less the smartphones we all can't seem to live without. Back when the old masters were much younger and great composers were too, seeing a work of art was a very big deal. There was little else in the way of artificial visual stimulation. This is certainly not the case today. We have more sensory stimulation than we can handle.

We have become a world of movement and media. We have social movement and media, we have cars, and lit moving signs. Think how many illuminated signs in general that you see in a typical night out. All different colors, all wanting your attention. Then think about how many video advertisements you see in a day. We are not slow moving or a static society anymore. But paintings are static and for this reason, they may be harder for younger generations to understand. It's much like a new driver wondering why anyone would have a manual transmission.

First came the industrial age, then the information technology one, and soon the augmented reality age where experiences happen in a computer-generated world. Experiences in art may include entering it and even interacting with your favorite masterpiece. You begin to understand what traditional art is up against. Many saw the video of Van Gogh paintings brought to life on YouTube, where his paintings were put to motion using Oculus, Premiere and 3D Studio Max virtual reality software. Thirteen different paintings were given just a taste of added motion. There's little question this brought new life to old works of art and even made them more relatable to younger generations.

This brings me to a video I saw by Art Attack and artist George Peaslee recreating Van Gogh's iconic painting "Starry Night", using the Tilt Brush tool by Google. Tilt Brush lets you work in a visual 3D space, meaning Peaslee is creating the painting around himself. The way we creatively express ourselves has somewhat stayed the same for years and years. What is changing are the mediums. Just as music can be now be created synthetically, so too can art. Famed artist David Hockney has been using digital technology for some time now and was the first to truly embrace the iPad as a way of not only producing art but having become the completed artwork. His first iPad exhibition "A Bigger Picture" was in 2013.

One thing is for sure, the limits of art as we know it are constantly being redefined. Some traditions remain traditions and some become relics of the past, possibly only loved and appreciated by nostalgic souls. It's having the appreciation for both that I hope future generations will embrace.

Bleeding Gums

Dr. Robert A. Gallegos

Why gums bleed is a common question that patients ask their dentist and dental hygienist. It is a fitting question because it correctly assumes that bleeding gums are not healthy. Bleeding is a sign that the body is trying to fight off infection and has responded by creating an inflammatory response. Sometimes bleeding gums are not obvious to the patient but detected by the dentist or hygienist. They can occur for a number of reasons. The most common reasons that gums bleed are: poor oral hygiene (ineffective brushing or not flossing), crooked teeth that are hard to keep clean, mouth breathing that dries out the gums, smoking and chew tobacco, medical conditions like diabetes, medications (steroids, epilepsy drugs, cancer drugs, calcium channel blockers and oral contraceptives), vitamin deficiency, pregnancy and genetics.

The first step in diagnosing and treating bleeding gums is to determine if it is caused by a localized problem like food caught between the teeth or something more involved like a bacterial infection. Localized one-time problems can be easily solved with a proper dental cleaning and good home care, like using a soft bristle toothbrush, brushing at least twice a day and flossing once a day. If the problem is more involved, like an infection in the gums (gingivitis), the remedy will most likely require a visit or two with the dental hygienist and a discussion about what caused the infection. Most often the cause is poor oral hygiene but any one or a combination of the reasons listed in the previous paragraph may be the cause. It will take a careful evaluation of the situation by the dentist and dental hygienist to determine the cause, the best treatment, and ongoing care. These evaluations may include periodontal probing and x-rays of the teeth and jawbone. If gingivitis is not resolved it will progress to periodontal disease which can lead to irreversible bone loss, gum recession, loosening of teeth and possibly abscess and loss of teeth. Periodontal disease is often unnoticed by patients because it tends to not be painful in the early stages. Treatment may take place in a general dental office or with a specialist called a periodontist. One or more sessions may be needed consisting of deep scaling, medications and in some cases gum surgery.

Bacterial infections of the gums; gingivitis or periodontal disease are a health risk. Bacteria cause an inflammatory reaction; these bacteria will get into the bloodstream and circulate throughout the body. The body responds to the infection causing inflammatory cells to circulate throughout the body. Patients with gingivitis and periodontal disease have a higher incidence of heart attacks, high blood pressure, and diabetes. The causes and effects are not fully understood but we know there is a systemic link in our bodies, when one area is under attack (infection) other areas can become adversely affected or vulnerable.

Report bleeding gums to your dentist and dental hygienist. It may not seem important because it may not hurt but these symptoms are indications of a possibly more involved problem for the teeth and gums, but also for the health of your whole body.

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.

windyhill FOUNDATION

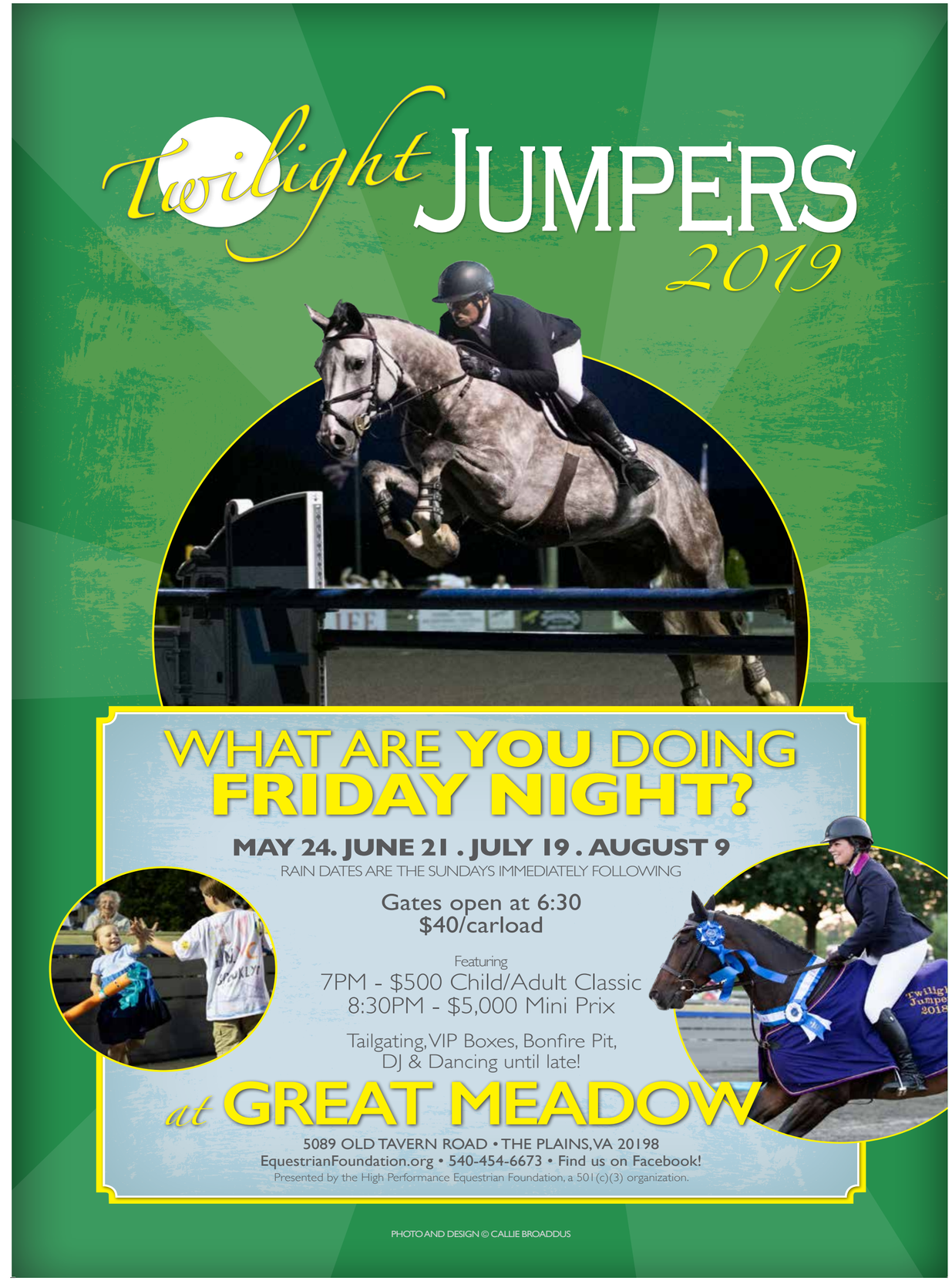
Windy Hill Foundation
Friday Feast call for volunteers!

Windy Hill Foundation volunteer Donna Gravely has been coordinating the Friday Feast program for over 13 years bringing fresh, healthy meals to the older adult residents of Levis Hill House every other Friday. Middleburg residents & the Middleburg Boy Scout Troop #2950 help every other week! Will you help us expand Friday Feast to every Friday?

Over 550 meals were served in 2018!

If you are interested in being a volunteer for this program, please contact Donna at donnagravely0000@gmail.com

or call the Windy Hill office at 540-687-3997.



Pastimes

Tomato Time

The Plant Lady

Karen Rexrode

Back in the days of the plant farm, there was a field in the back that was home to tomato plants. Leftover plants from spring sales ended up here; we picked and sold all summer. There was little in the way of urgency in our field patch, it was another stream of income and a source for tomatoes for us as well, although we had a large garden with special varieties at home too.

In summer there would be a tomato tasting party. Fruit from home, our employee's garden patches, and our own field grown plants became the reason to gather and rank the best of the best we had to offer. A necessary practice in the scheme of things, this would decide what tomatoes to drop from our ever growing seed list to make room for others.

For our tasting parties, sliced tomatoes would be placed on plates, the names hidden underneath; this was a non-biased way to find the best red, yellow, cherry, etc. Among our favorites were 'Brandywine', 'Kellogg's Breakfast', Cherokee Purple', 'Black Krim', and 'Sun Gold'. Most of these are labeled heirlooms, passed down from family to family or open-pollinated varieties introduced before 1940, which pre-dates the modern hybrid era. Often thin-skinned, easily bruised, but delicious in varied ways, one of my employees confessed that she didn't even like tomatoes before our tasting parties.

Fast forward to 2019, I was intrigued by podcast coverage of a new book titled "Epic Tomatoes" by Craig LeHoullier last summer and began following him on various social media platforms. He is the current "Tomato Man", with his own breeding program and a desire to introduce dwarf heirloom varieties. Both 'Black Krim' and 'Cherokee Purple' were named by Craig, the seed sent to him, the man that wants to prove that heirloom tomatoes are not difficult to grow or less productive.

His garden or driveway of containerized plants is located in Raleigh, NC. He uses straw bales and two to five-gallon containers for all of his plants. Hundreds of plants are evaluated each year; he keeps a running spreadsheet on growth, color, taste, yields, and weight of fruit. His book grades the flavor of 73 varieties with grades of A to B-.

As his spring list of available plants was sent, my plotting began. This tomato venture had to include a drive to Raleigh, NC since he doesn't ship. My choices were based on my desire for sweetness in tomato taste, but it was hard to ignore his ten favorites. I was also keen on trying dwarf plants, especially if they were heirlooms. And so the great tomato caper went, up early to beat traffic (the Saturday before Easter), I made a great time and had a delightful time talking tomatoes with Craig. Six plants were added to my purchase as I am now part of his testing of new hybrids, unnamed plants to report on and send seed of.

Twenty-five plants later and a very long drive home, I am now planning on how to stake them and keep them labeled, which is not as easy as it sounds. I am already regretting a few that I didn't pick up, but there's always next year, and the year after, and...

Your brain on exercise

Fitness Expert

Kay Colgan ACE Certified Fitness Professional

What's the one thing you can do to help improve your memory? Crossword puzzles are helpful. But if you really want to improve your memory, start exercising. Yes working your body will make you smarter.

Exercise can help the brain in many ways. First, just merely increasing the heart rate allows more oxygen throughout the body including the brain. Studies have shown that exercise actually can change the brain to improve memory and thinking skills. Basically, aerobic exercise is the gold standard for improving brain function. Benefits such as reduced inflammation, reduced insulin resistance as well as overall cognitive health are improved with regular aerobic exercise. Another bonus, aerobic exercise can boost your mood as well as lower stress and anxiety. For many, aerobic exercise improves sleep. Most of the studies have been based on walking exercise.

Its pretty simple to get started. Just try to walk 30 minutes at a moderate intensity most days of the week. At least 150 minutes a week to see improvements. If walking is not your exercise of choice, try swimming, biking, tennis or any other moderate-intensity aerobic exercise to reap the benefits. Commit to a program that will work for you and enjoy all the benefits to your body and brain. For more information about health and fitness, contact Kay Colgan, Middleburg Pilates, and personal training, 14 S Madison Street, Middleburg, Va or call 540-687-6995.

ART IN THE BURG

2019 MIDDLEBURG ANNUAL SPRING ARTS CELEBRATION!

Local and Regional Artists offering their artwork for sale

SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2019
10AM-5PM
Madison Street · Middleburg · Virginia

Live music from the *The Glimpses*

Sponsored by
Town of Middleburg and Middleburg Arts Council

The Great Countertop Debate

Ask a Remodeler

Tim Burch

The sun is shining, the trees are blooming, your nose may be running, and your car is now covered in a dusting of that pesky green film that signals the beginning of spring. Don't let the woes of allergies and having to rinse your car everyday get you down this season. Here are a few tips to keep the annoyances of pollen down.

Pollen Count

An easy way to manage your expectations is to download a pollen count app. Zyrtec AllergyCast, WebMD Allergy, and WeatherBug all offer insights to how much pollen you can expect to encounter each day. These apps can also help you schedule the best time to rinse your car and outdoor spaces or wait until the count is down or for a rain shower to do the work for you.

Outdoor Spaces

Spring is the perfect season to enjoy your outdoor spaces, but unfortunately pollen can make it unbearable. When prepping outdoor living areas, start from the top. In porches that feature ceiling fans, clean the arms first so it doesn't rain green on your freshly cleaned space. Remove the slipcovers from your furniture and deep clean. To avoid having to do this every weekend, place a bedsheet over your furniture while not in use, then remove to enjoy a pollen-free patio. Power washers work great for concrete areas but avoid the leaf blower. They will spread the pollen into the air, and it will ultimately land right where it started.

Indoor Spaces

As nice as the weather is outside, avoid opening your windows and keep doors shut unless you want a layer of green film all over your indoor spaces! If you look at pollen under a microscope, you'll see barbs and other structures that have evolved to latch on to everything. Until the pollen count is at a manageable level, dust often and when entering from the outdoors, ditch your shoes at the door and wash all your clothes quickly. Remember that your pets are the perfect vehicle for pollen to enter your home. Wipe them down every time they enter from outside to avoid green carpet and furniture.

While it's currently miserable, April showers will wash away the pollen season and bring us beautiful flowers and warm summer weather. Hang in there and follow these tips to get the most out of spring!

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.

In Unison

Steve Chase

There is a good vibe when you walk through the camping area at Watermelon Park in Berryville. It is a serene scene that is framed by the smells of wood smoke and BBQ; the bright assemblies of tents and trailers; and the camp music that flows through the fields in harmony with the Shenandoah, which runs past the eastern boundary of the place. In the background comes the sound of the stage acts, and kids playing ball or swimming in the river. It really has to be experienced, and it is pure Virginia Americana.

The promoters of the Watermelon Festival just announced the lineup for this September's Festival, held this year on September 19-22. The lineup thus far looks great, with Sam Bush Band headlining, supported by bluegrass great Tim O'Brien, and Fauquier's own guitar wizard Larry Keel and his band.

I had the chance to chat with the great Sam Bush (www.sambush.com) at the Watermelon Park Festival a few years back. I thought I would share some excerpts from that interview to get you psyched for Sam's September appearance in Berryville.

Sam Bush is a fiddler, mandolinist, singer, and bandleader and is the founder of the seminal New Grass Revival as well as being a several time Grammy winner. He is also known as the King of New Grass; is a sought-after Country, Bluegrass, and Jam Band guest artist; and will attend Telluride Bluegrass Festival for his 46th consecutive appearance.

SC: The last time you played here at Watermelon was with the New Grass Revival in 1973. What do you remember about that gig? And how does it feel to be back so many years later?

SB: It was great. Back then we were still camping out at festivals. And you know, that's one of those things where you pick until like, 3 or 4 in the morning, jamming with your friends around a campfire and then you know, crawl in your tent about 4 am and by 7:30 the sun is beating down on the tent, and you're like 'I gotta get outta there'. So, you never slept and you picked all day and night.

SC: In the New Grass/Jam Band world you're definitely one of the most desired guests. You bring everybody up a full notch when you play with them, and I'm wondering whom you've sat in with recently who really got you fired up and whom might you want to sit in with in the future?

SB: Larry Keel and I did a set together with Jenny Keel on the bass (at Lock'n). It was hard work because it was just Larry and I taking on the solos, but it was really fun. And I really enjoyed his "royal-Keelness". I am fortunate. When our band's not playing, I often get invitations to sit in--Leftover Salmon, The Infamous Stringdusters, Yonder Mountain String Band, String Cheese, and Greensky Bluegrass. So, it's a fortunate situation for me-- as my wife once said, "you know if you don't get out and jam with the young boys, you're not gonna be jamming." I'm one of the oldest young guys I know, and so it's a fortunate situation, cause they've grown up listening to the music I've been part of, and now I get to play with them.

SC: You are on the road all of the time, how are you with that?

SB: We're employed, and we're here, and we get to play. What we do is travel for a living. Our bonus is that we play music. Seriously, our time is spent traveling, that's what you're really doing. The musical part, that's the perk, totally the perk.

SC: Who inspires you today in music-- who are you listening to on your iPod?

SB: Whew, all kinds of things. It's amazing. I go through phases, but a constant staple that I go to is the fun years of Los Lobos. When I listen to bluegrass, I like to listen to the masters, who I grew up learning from, like Bill Monroe and the Flatt and Scruggs; the Osborne Brothers; Jim and Jesse; and the Dillards.

As far as things I get inspired by right now, I was always a J.J. Cale fan, I knew him a little bit from hanging out in Tulsa. I like the Cale tribute record that Clapton put out, I love the way they did it because it sounds like Cale is in the room. They do a few songs off that Cale record, Okie, that I've always loved, and Reggie Young's lead guitar on Cajun Moon. I like the Tom Petty, Clapton version of (Sam sings)"rock and roll records for a dime, makin' my living just to feed my children..." Yeah, I love Cale.

I have recently gone through a rediscovery of my love for Jean-Luc Ponty's records. I've always loved Jean-Luc. He recorded New Country with us on my record Laps in Seven. That was a lifetime thrill.

I find myself going back to the staples of Clapton and Jeff Beck. As of late, I've been into some of the Jethro Burns solo mandolin records, he was my friend and mentor. I've been listening to is, gosh, I don't even know what year it was, 1969?--The Birds Live at the Fillmore. Clarence White is just, absolutely mind shredding to me, still to this day.

And I also find myself going back and listening to Doc Watson. I miss Doc. And not necessarily songs that I've played, that's got nothing to do with it, it's just there's a place that I go to in my mind when I hear Doc's voice that's a safe place to be. I love Doc.

SC: Thanks, Sam.

So, go see Sam Bush at Watermelon Park in September, and do some preparatory listening to any his great music on your favorite streaming service.

Steve Chase is on the back porch with his mandolin playing along with Sam (I wish).

STITCH
Middleburg

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OBITUARIES

Mary Swan Sprague Iselin

Mary Swan Sprague Iselin died peacefully at her home in Middleburg Virginia on March 15th, 2019. She was 86.

Swannie, as she was known to her family and friends, was born in Savannah Georgia. She was the daughter of William Wallace Sprague and Mary Swan Crowther Sprague. She attended the St. Timothy's school in Towson, Maryland and graduated with a BA in Mathematics from Wellesley College in Wellesley, Massachusetts.

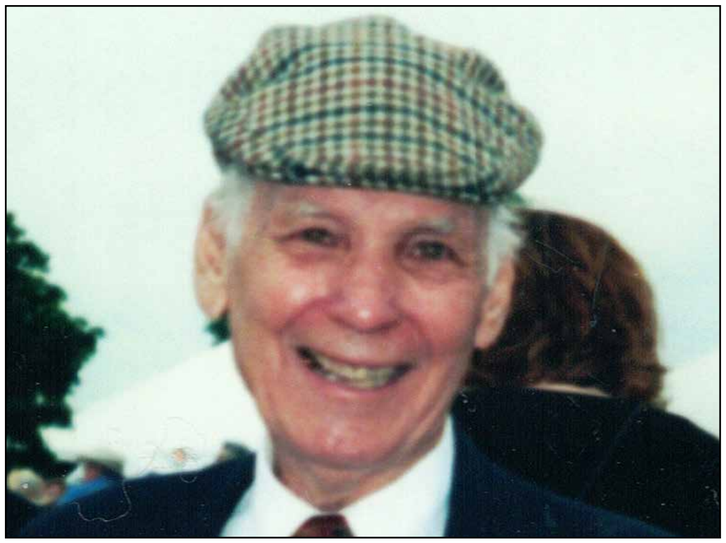
After graduating from college Swannie moved to the hunt country of Virginia where she lived for the rest of her life. She was an avid outdoorswoman, whose passions included foxhunting, fishing, upland hunting and breeding, as well as showing and racingthoroughbreds. She established a successful show hunter stable in Warrenton with her first husband, the beloved Hall of Fame horseman Gene Cunningham. She owned and rode the iconic Cap and Gown who was inducted to the Show Hunter Hall of fame in 1997.

In 1978 Swannie married C. Oliver Iselin lll and moved to Middleburg, VA. She bred racehorses for the next four decades with great success culminating with her being awarded the Leading Breeder in Virginia in 2017, the same year that her horse Old Dominion was also inducted into The Show Hunter Hall of Fame. Swannie loved her friends, family, dogs and horses.

Her husband C. Oliver Iselin III, her brother William W. Sprague Jr, and her sister Isabel Sprague Lamar predeceased Swannie. She is survived by her sister-in-law Elizabeth Carr Sprague, her step daughter Julie Iselin Diehl, six nieces and nephews Courtney Sprague Flexon (Phillip), Elizabeth Sprague O'Meara (Gerard), Lauren D Sprague (Mary Ellen), William W. Sprague III, Mary Swan Lamar, and Wayland W. Lamar (Lori), as well as 12 great nieces and nephews. A memorial service for her will be held at the Royston Funeral Home in Middleburg, VA at 3:00 pm on Saturday the 27thof April 2019.

In lieu of flowers please send a donation to the Loudon County Adult Protective Services (Loudoun Volunteer Caregivers)

Lee Cross



Elder Lee Cross of The Plains, VA died on March 16, 2019 at Fauquier Hospital, Warrenton, VA. Born in Atlanta, GA on September 29, 1926 to the late Pierce Allen and Alma Mahalda Caroline Cross,he was preceded in death by his siblings and his wife of 71 years, Ann Lane Cross. Lee served in the Army in Panama prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor and in the Army Air Corp during WWII. Trained as a hand engraver after the war, he and Ann moved to Northern Virginia where he was the engraver for Garfinckel's flagship store in DC for over 40 years, rising to the position of manager of the Silver and Jewelry Repair Department. He met and engraved for many celebrities and famous politicians. As a Master Hand Engraver, he was in great demand by local jewelry stores in DC. metropolitan area and Northern Virginia.

After moving to The Plains in 1974, he owned his own store in Middleburg for almost thirty years. He engraved many of the trophies for the local fox hunting and equestrian events such as horse shows, point to point races and the Gold Cup races. Lee was an active and longtime member and Deacon of Long Branch Baptist Church of Halfway Virginia. It could be said of him that he was truly a people person who never met a stranger. He is survived by his children, Peggy Kovacs and Charles Cross and his wife Joanne of The Plains, VA and his grandchildren, Dr. Lee Michael Cross, Carter Allen Cross, Danny Kovacs and Delaney Kovacs.

A memorial service will be held on April 13 at 11:00 A.M. at Long Branch Baptist Church on Halfway Road in Halfway, VA. Parking will be tight so please carpool where possible. Memorial contributions may be made to Long Branch Baptist Church for the Branch of Hope Mission, P.O. Box 289, The Plains, VA 20198.

Online condolences may be made at www.moserfuneralhome.com.

Michael Edward Kirkland

Michael Edward Kirkland, born October 21,1948, died April 9, 2019 at his home in Middleburg, VA.

Mike had a long career as a Legal Affairs Correspondent for United Press International covering the Supreme Court, Justice Department, and the FBI.

Mike is survived by his wife Gaila Poston; his daughter Lou (Ben) Gilmore and four grandchildren, Mia, AJ, Wes, and Audrey; sisters Janice (Danny) Dodrill and Tina (Lee) Booten; and twin brothers Larry and Garry. He was predeceased by brothers David (Ruth) and Robert.

Mike also leaves behind his cherished Cairn Terrier Jackie and cat Penny.

He will be remembered most for his love of family, culinary skills, and love of literature; especially Roman History.

Funeral services will be private.

Jonatha Jeanine

Jonatha Jeanine(formerly Jonathan) died March 13 , 2019 while skiing in Vermont. Her parents were Harry and June Ruhsam of The Plains, VA. Jonatha lived in the Middleburg area 60s, 70s and 80s where she foxhunted, rode steeplechase races and trained racehorses.She became legally female in 2013. A memorial will be held for her on May 22 at Colby-Sawyer College in New Hampshire where she taught after receiving her PhD. For more information contact Chadwick Funeral and Cremation Service LLC. : New London, New Hampshire (NH)

Monster Monster

Robert L. Banner

Say a prayer for all good horses, today. Today, I have to say goodbye to Monster Monster a favorite owner-rider timber horse that carried me to victory and all the fun I could handle. I spent some of the most magical moments in my life on top of him. We saw it all together. I may have owned better, but none ever had his verve, determination and personality. He was one of the most generous horses I've ever known. 23 years ago, he came to live and train with me. Today, at age 30, I must say goodbye to my friend. Godspeed Monster Monster. I don't know where good horses go, but I pray to end up there with him.

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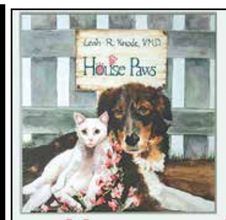

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Middleburg and Earth Day

The world celebrated its first "Earth Day" in 1970. It has now done so every year for 49 years, with events coordinated by an Earth Day Network in more than 190 countries.

Bill McKibben's "End of Nature" was first serialized in the New Yorker, and then published as a book in 1989. His latest book posits that, without radical action, we have now, without question, passed a point of no return.

While others are less pessimistic, nearly all reputable climate scientists now agree that action must be taken to prevent further human contributions to the warming of the planet and that those actions must happen NOW, if not sooner.

Greater Middleburg has, of course, been "green-minded" for nearly all of his long history.

Government, non-profits and private citizens have been dedicated to protecting the environment on general principles, long before the emergence of what is now seen as a truly existential environmental crisis. Windy Hill Foundation's approach to new construction is but one case in point.

In the days, weeks, months and year ahead Middleburg will have many new opportunities to set new standards of environmental responsibility and to serve as a role model for small towns across the county, state, and nation.

Those opportunities go far beyond the Town's traditional support of initiatives like Arbor Day, responsible zoning and planning, and its own institutional environmentally sound practices and principles.

Its leadership role in COLT (the Coalition of Loudoun Towns), standing in opposition to County support of what is essentially unbridled and irresponsible development is symbolic of its new, transcendent mindset.

And while Middleburg cannot create, much less enforce, building standards above and beyond those established by the county, it can and should make its preferences well known to all those seeking the Town's support for rezoning, exceptions, new construction or renovation.

Most important, however, will be the highly visible example it sets in the planning and construction of its own new Town Hall.

"Go Green" is the name of one of Town Council's most dynamic committees. It should make the name of that committee the goal and motto of any and all the Town's new construction projects . . .. especially its new Town Hall.

Letter to the Editor

Ron Lang
Captain USN (ret)
The Plains, VA

There he goes again. Our opinionated neighbor on The Plains road continues to demonstrate that his view is more myopic than prescient. In April Mr. Wells put forth his treatise that freedom of speech is an important right and then proceeded to conflate historical events with events happening in our country today. Of course, free speech is a critical element for a free people, few would disagree, but then Wells flies off the rails and reveals his real intent. The President of the United States is evil and he alone is trying to destroy the free press and therefore free speech in our country.

I would like to remind Dr. Wells of a few things. The first amendment to our Constitution is important but does not stand alone as our most important amendment, certainly no more important or cherished than the other nine amendments comprising the Bill of Rights or for that matter any of the other twenty-six amendments that with the original document make up the guiding principles for our government. Our President is not attacking nor destroying those principles. He is, from the stature of his bully pulpit alerting the citizens of the potential damage a dishonest press can inflict upon our country. The media is a for-profit business, it relies on income to remain in business. Half-truths and stories made from whole cloth generate public interest and therefore revenue. It is not un-American to challenge the veracity of today's press. Several of today's media outlets are wholly owned by wealthy and politically motivated interest groups. It is wise to be skeptical in our news, our politics and our personal lives. Those who have studied history will remember that W.R. Hearst told his on the scene print reporters "You provide the pictures and I will provide the war" thus egging the US into the unnecessary Spanish-American war. A public opinion is a powerful tool that can greatly influence public policy. As Ben Franklin rightly said democracy can easily deteriorate into mob rule. History is full of such events and a responsible free press can always help society determine truth.

Free speech is far more extensive in life than just the written word. Our President is doing nothing to inhibit the exchange of ideas. He is not spying on journalists like the Obama Administration did nor locking up journalists for not revealing sources like others have or intimidating them like the FBI's J.Edgar Hoover once did several decades ago. His Administration is not muffling speech or communication. He is publicly voicing his opinion for the American people so they can assess both sides of this important issue. So fear not the loss of the first amendment, while you can legitimately fear the potential loss of other Constitutional freedoms.

Finally, Mr. Wells tries to win his point by evoking the words of a respected military leader Bill McRaven. Whatever his military experiences are, when he veers out of his professional swim lane and enters politics, McRaven's personal opinion is no more valuable or correct than any other citizen, in fact, such opinion can harm the reputation of the military community as Lt General Clapper, Gen Hayden and VADM Poindexter have proven. So, Tony, we know you dislike our President, you try to remind us every month and yes our first amendment gives you the right to do so but a responsible man would cherish the truth and not attempt to spin half-truths as gospel.

Does Loudoun's Plan Gas Its Citizens?

Al D. Upperburger

If America's towns and counties don't take action to offset federal and state government inaction on climate change, there will be deadly consequences. Currently, most local elected officials are complicit in allowing for the ruination of life as we know it on this planet by not prioritizing renewable energy to replace fossil-fueled development.

Local governments are major culprits in creating climate change emissions, so it is particularly egregious that they are dodging responsibility. For the last half-century, localities approved houses, roads, shopping malls, airports, power plants, and other development, that made America the leading contributor to global emissions. Further, by overdeveloping counties like Loudoun, American-style mega population growth and sprawl has also decimated the world's bird and mammal populations. Loudoun added almost 300,000 residents in the last three decades, blanketing a once rural landscape with sprawl. To pay for the costs of schools for the housing developments, Loudoun encouraged data center development using as much energy as 800,000 single-family homes!

Whereas the draft Loudoun plan reveals how the pro-development American land planning profession has dropped the ball on climate change, Costa Rican and other ethical planners around the world have taken the helm to address climate change and save biodiversity by instituting renewable energy systems. Smart growth planning consultants abound in this region to write Loudoun-style plans to deceive the public into believing that densifying existing suburbs will address climate change. Facts prove otherwise. Tysons Corner's coal and gas-fueled high rises are all flanked with huge parking garages.

Further, there is a great cause for concern over the expansion of the natural gas industry. Used as a short-term solution to pollution because it burns cleaner than coal, natural gas crowds out long-term renewable energy development. Its expanded use and export could create permanent dependency. For instance, by failing to require that high rise mixed-use centers be designed with solar and geothermal energy (which architects can do), counties, regional planning agencies and smart growth advocates in effect deliver new and potentially permanent gas customers to the utility investors. Is the publicly subsidized 100% gas-powered Hudson Yards, New York mixed-use project a harbinger of what developers want to propose nationwide in the name of smart growth? Half of U.S. natural gas is fracked with undisclosed chemicals. All of it emits methane which is 84 times more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. Indeed, campaign finance reform and fossil fuel divestment actions are imperative to fully contend with the growing influence of the combined domestic energy and real estate development interests.

All said, Loudoun County's draft 2040 plan is not a plan to prevent the climate change the county helps to create, but rather, it is a plan to help make catastrophic climate change occur! The plan is not "sustainable," because it does not meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Let's do the math. Fossil-fueled (existing residential and commercial development + existing and additional data centers + more scattered development in the rural areas eliminating wildlife habitat + net density around transit centers that doesn't transfer any density from rural area + expanded villages and towns + dense redevelopment of older areas) = environmental devastation of the local and global environment. Add in the county's promotion and reliance on the polluting airport, and voila, we have a special Loudoun County how to end the world plan.

Parents and children have the most political capital to change this equation in every county and town. Activate in your neighborhood to tell your representatives to revamp this deadly plan to prioritize renewable energy solutions. We can't wait for states and the fed government. This situation is dire and urgent, but fighting climate change in many ways can improve our quality of life. Now, that sounds like a plan!

Tic Toc

Blue

Dan Morrow

Some college basketball fans still remember "The Four Corners," legendary UNC basketball Coach Dean Smith's infuriating tactical response to having a team with little or no talent, facing ACC opponents not suffering the same disadvantages.

Smith's response? Hold the ball. Use up the clock. Draw fouls. Shoot only free throws or easy layups. And win . . . nearly always in games in which ten points or less were scored. . . total . . . no kidding

The tactic led to fan outrage . . . and to rules changes that transformed modern basketball.

Both before and after the release of the long-anticipated Mueller report, Donald John Trump found himself in a nightmarish analog to Smith's position at UNC, with formidable foes and even less talent of his own on the court

His answer, like Smith's, was, is, and will be, to stall.

Like Smith, he will infuriate fans (read "voters") including some of his own.

Like Smith, his behavior will lead to transformative changes in the rules (read "laws") governing Presidential behavior.

Unlike Smith . . . he will lose... a lot.

Trump's "four corners" began well before Mueller was appointed with clumsy lies, efforts to get others to lie, and efforts to install "referees (read "judges," and "attorneys-general," with pro-Trump prejudices.

Sworn testimony outlined in Mueller's report documented, confirmed and re-confirmed a dozen of the most egregious examples of Trump's stalling tactics, known outside of basketball circles as "obstruction of justice."

Trump's new Attorney General played the role of prejudiced ref to perfection, only seeing what his President wanted him to see. Only in this case "charge" "block" and "foul" will lead either to impeachment (while Trump sits in the Oval Office) or conviction of obstruction of justice after he is turned out.

And the Mueller game is only ONE of those on Trump's schedule. He, his family and a long list of business associates already have "away" games scheduled on tough federal and states courts, with no doubt more to be scheduled.

Trump and his cronies are stuck in a game with no one to pass to and the clock running down.

Tic Toc

Groundhog Day

Red

Brian Vella

Writing this column on the Muller Report (again) feels like being in the movie Groundhog Day, reliving the same "get Trump" storyline over and over. In last month's column, I reviewed the various investigations into the "Russia collusion" narrative and recounted that 4 separate investigations: (i) the FBI investigation, (ii) the House Intelligence Committee (iii) the Senate Intelligence Committee and (iv) the Special Counsel, have each come to the same unremarkable conclusion: no evidence to support any charge of wrongdoing on behalf of the President or anyone affiliated with his campaign. Just because there was unanimity on the conclusions of these four separate investigations, however, does not mean the Democrats would accept the truth. It has long been a policy of the left not to let the facts get in the way of their narrative, and since the Mueller report and the prior investigations do not support the "Trump collusion" narrative, the Democrats are determined to re-re-reinvestigate. The first response by the Dems to the conclusions of the Muller report was to shoot the messenger, in this case, Attorney General William Barr. The smear campaign against Attorney General Barr is a familiar kabuki dance between the Democrats and their media allies, where it is often difficult to tell which players are the partisan politicians and which are the "objective" journalists. The echo chamber the Democrats and the media have created for themselves is so insular and devoid of facts that not only was the "no collusion" conclusion of the Muller investigation a surprise, but the look for befuddlement was profound on the faces of Democrat members of Congress when Attorney General Barr testified that he intended to investigate the spying that the Obama administration undertook with respect to the Trump campaign. When confronted with the fact that they had fed the public a steady stream of disinformation about Trump collusion, the media showed no signs of contrition. Instead, they joined with Democrats to disparage Attorney General Barr and continue to be utterly disinterested in knowing how the Obama administration weaponization the FBI and the DOJ for political purposes to spy on the Trump campaign. Image how much larger Trump's victory might have been if not for such tactics.

With no finding of collusion in the Mueller report, the emphasis by critics of the President has shifted to allegations of obstruction of justice, despite the fact that there is no evidence that the Mueller investigation was obstructed by anyone in any way. To the contrary, the President did not invoke executive privilege or withhold documents, even though it would have been perfectly legal for him to have done so. Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein had oversight of the Mueller investigation. Rosenstein is no fan of President Trump and Mueller's team of investigators were decidedly anti-Trump, yet even this partisan group could not conjure up evidence of collusion or obstruction. Instead, Mr. Rosenstein joined in Attorney General Barr's assessment that there was not sufficient evidence to support the obstruction allegations against the President. Those critical of President Trump have cherry-picked language from the Mueller report, citing the President's reaction to the appointment of the Special Counsel and his characterization of the investigation as a witch hunt. I suppose they feel the President should have been more gracious in how he responded to the patently false accusations against him of treason, the attempts to undermine his presidency and the threats to jail him and his family. Actions are the things that count, and there is no evidence of any action by the President that obstructed the Mueller investigation into a non-existent crime. It is not as though the President withheld subpoenaed emails and destroyed computers and hard drives- those types of actions are clear evidence of obstruction of justice.

For two years we have been subjected to the same tired narratives against the President, unsupported by facts. Like Bill Murray's character in Groundhog Day, it is time to wake up to reality and move on.

ExOfficio

Mark Snyder

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

I would like to commend the Middleburg Planning Commission for a job well done! The commissioners recently reviewed a request for a rezoning that, if approved would have harmed our town. You probably remember the flier the applicant, Daniel Orlich, sent out remonstrating Middleburg for not building senior housing as he applied to change the zoning rules so he could build a large one. That was false, as demonstrated by Levis Hill House located next to the fire station on West Washington Street. The Windy Hill Foundation opened this senior living facility in 2008, a goal of the 2000 Comprehensive Plan.

I was optimistically hoping that the Planning Commission would recommend rejecting the application to the Town Council. The Planning Commission came through and correctly judged the application as outside the intentions of the Comprehensive Plan. The proposed property was part of the Pettibone farm located on the eastern side of town. As such, it is in the Agricultural Conservancy district. This district plays a critical role in maintaining Middleburg's place in rural western Loudoun County and preserving agricultural open space here in town.

As a former commissioner (I served on the Planning Commission from 1996 until July 2006), I helped write the current Comprehensive Plan that council adopted in 2000 (the commission is currently working on a revision). The Comprehensive Plan and the zoning map determine how Middleburg develops – and to what extent. I took my efforts to write the plan seriously. I am proud that the plan helped Middleburg become what it is today while maintaining important aspects of our historic past.

As proposed, the development would have completely changed the agricultural nature of the property to a residential density that would have dramatically changed the eastern side of town – the side most visitors see when they come into Middleburg. As most readers know, Middleburg does not lack for elderly residents, but the proposed development would have further skewed this by doubling the elder residents in town. Finally, this huge development proposal was just not Middleburg.

When appointed to the commission, my first step was signing up for the state training (that the town pays for). I studied this coursework and became a certified planning commissioner. This course provided a solid basis for the Commonwealth of Virginia planning laws as they pertain to state and municipal governments under the state code of Virginia. I highly recommend this crucial and invaluable training to all commissioners. It is my understanding that all current commissioners have this training. If council again appointed me to the commission, I would immediately sign up to retake this training, since my last course was over 20 years ago.

The Middleburg Planning Commission provides an invaluable service in protecting the town from unwanted types of development, a development that is out of character (as defined in the plan, zoning map, and ordinances) and other changes that would irrevocably alter the rural village style atmosphere we all strive to maintain. Members of this important body put in much good and difficult work. Their hard work and thoughtful dedication certainly earn my gratitude!

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!

Editors Desk

Micro Plastics

A Scientist's Perspective

Art Poland, PhD

Since there is nothing to say about the Mueller report from a science perspective, I chose to search the recent literature for something of significance. An article that caught my interest was about the measurement of microplastics in the French Pyrenees. I have known about the great Pacific plastic gyre which is about twice the size of Texas and is deadly to ocean life, but this one is completely new.

The measurements were made in a pristine area of the French Pyrenees near the border with Spain. The area is far from any population center and is high enough in altitude that the air should be about as clean as it can be. From November 2017 to March 2018 researchers gathered water from the weather station's collectors and searched for microplastics. They found approximately 365 particles in each square yard. They speculate that the source is big cities like Barcelona, which is approximately 100 miles to the south.

It has been known that microplastics can hang in the air of big cities, like Paris, or New York, but it was not suspected that they were ubiquitous. Verification of the problem being ubiquitous will require measurements in more remote locations. The new measurements point to the need for more data from a verity of locations.

The problem with plastic is that it continually breaks up into smaller pieces and takes a thousand years or more to decompose, building up in the environment. Something like a plastic bottle or straw breaks up into small pieces fairly quickly. It then breaks up to even smaller microplastics with time and then into nano plastics. These microplastics and nano plastics make their way into other organisms, and people fairly easily, we end up eating and breathing them continually.

Researchers have found that nano plastics can be a danger to living organisms. One study found that when a nano plastic was introduced to an animal's system, it had spread throughout the animal in 6 hours. They have also found that these plastics absorb all of the chemicals they pass through, such as pesticides, and heavy metals. According to Deonie Allen (look her up on Google), "Nanoplastics look a lot like the nanoparticles used in medicine to deliver drugs in the human body. "So they can go through the blood-brain barrier potentially in exactly the same way but carrying their toxins, and, this is really worrying." To be clear, though, this idea has not been backed up with data."

The article discussed several more aspects of the plastics we use, even in our clothing, and their impact on the environment. It appears to me to be an issue of concern.

Some people have made fun of the ban on plastic straws asking why are they illegal and marijuana is becoming legal. My answer is that perhaps plastic is more threatening to our long-term survival. There are little things we can do to help alleviate the problem. For example, if I can carry out of the store whatever I have bought, I refuse the plastic bag. When I do take a plastic bag, I try to reuse it. It appears that our overuse of plastic is a health risk.

Letter From the Plains

Anthony Wells

May I request that Eccentric readers do one small thing before reading further? Go online and Google, "Pale Blue Dot"' by Carl Sagan, and then please spend 3 minutes on YouTube looking at his enchanting video that reminds us of our most precious home – Planet Earth.

I look at this to reflect on where we truly are, "on our Pale Blue Dot", and what we need to do in order to preserve our most cherished possession, together with our loved ones. The two are indeed symbiotic, in both the biological and philosophical sense – we are mutually interactive with our environment.

The image of "the only home we've ever known" was taken by Voyager 1 on February 14, 1990, 4 billion miles away from "the earth, where we make our stand". At this distance, our planet is only 0.12 pixel in size. We are spending billions on national defense while our planet is threatened by the undeniable scientific evidence of climate change.

So the question is, will the international community be able to mobilize resources to counter this threat before the cascading effects destabilize highly vulnerable regions and tens, and likely hundreds, of millions of people, including large centers of the urban population in the United States?

We walked away from the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement, and without United States leadership and investment in countering the effects of climate change then our future generations are in deep trouble.

Let me provide some key scientific evidence:

The glaciers in Antarctica and the Himalaya mountains are melting and these effects alone will significantly impact our planet. The melting "Thwaites Glacier" in Antarctica is the size of Florida and if it melts completely scientists estimate that global ocean levels will rise by 2 feet.

January 2019 was the hottest month ever recorded in Australia, with 2017 and 2018 the hottest years ever recorded.

Rising temperatures are estimated to melt one-third of the glaciers in the Hindu Kush region of the Himalayas.

National Security and climate change are intimately linked. The US Department of Defense includes climate change in its threat data and analytics, while the current White House challenges the global scientific community. The White House is at total variance with our nation's Director of National Intelligence who has stated that" global environmental and ecological degradation, as well as climate change, are likely to fuel competition for resources, economic distress, and social discontent." The US military and intelligence community are being therefore totally responsible. Not so the White House. What is clearly required is international commitment and agreement.

The United States' scientific legitimacy is currently being called into question across the globe with the appointment of William Happer by the President's Director of Science and Technology Policy, Kelvin Droegemeier, to head a climate change panel. Scientists throughout the world are appalled. Mr. Happer is on the record as stating that carbon dioxide is, "a benefit to the world". Of course, CO_2 has certain benefits that are well known, but it's about the increasing quantity, distribution, and environmental effects.

I obtained my Ph.D. from a university that produced Maxwell's Equations, several Nobel Laureates, let alone the lady DNA co-discoverer (Rosalind Franklin), and the more recent discoverer of the Higgs Boson and, like many around the world, I am, very simply, horrified. It's corruption in a new and frightening guise, trying to fit the facts to support an unsupportable position and policy.

Let me conclude by reminding readers of some of Carl Sagan's memorable quotes, (1934-1996, Ph.D. University of Chicago, and distinguished astrophysicist and cosmologist at Cornell, Harvard, and UC Berkeley).

He characterized our planet as," A mote of dust suspended in a sunbeam", and, "A lonely speck in the great enveloping cosmic dark". I for one identify with this wonderful departed human being who said that we need all the "help to save us from ourselves". We all indeed have to stand together and, "Preserve and cherish the pale blue dot, the only home we've ever known". Drastic change is needed. The young people of our fine country are leading the way, with an energetic commitment to address climate change, and maybe providing the older generation with a new oath, "To support, and defend, the Pale Blue Dot".

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FIDELIO
THE PLAINS, VIRGINIA
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
$8,750,000
Paul MacMahon 703.609.1905

SPRING GLADE
MIDDLEBURG, VIRGINIA
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
$3,900,000
Paul MacMahon 703.609.1905
Helen MacMahon 540.454.1930

SALEM HILL
MARSHALL, VIRGINIA
Well protected Fauquier location | 6 bedrooms | 4 full and 2 half baths | 3 fireplaces | Great views | Pool with large flagstone terrace | Large county kitchen | 4-car detached garage with apartment/office | 9-stall barn | Covered arena | Outdoor ring | 4 stall shed row barn | 51 fenced acres
$3,690,000
Paul MacMahon 703.609.1905

CREST HILL
HUME, VIRGINIA
203 acres in Fauquier w/nearly 1 mile of Rappahannock River frontage | Elegant stone & clapboard house | 5 BR, 4 full & 3 1/2 BA | 4 FP | Wood floors | Gourmet kitchen | Gunnite pool with stunning views overlooking Blue Ridge Mtns and private pond | Situated amongst protected properties | 5 stall Jim Fletcher barn with pristinely maintained paddocks, pasture and grlns | 2-car garage with in-law suite | Old Dominion Hunt territory | VOF Easement
$3,600,000
Alix Coolidge 703.625.1724

WAVERLY
THE PLAINS, VIRGINIA
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
$2,950,000
Paul MacMahon 703.609.1905

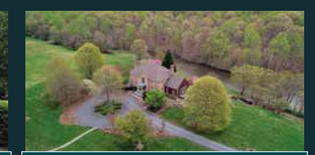
GAME CREEK
MIDDLEBURG, VIRGINIA
A remarkable property located within a private enclave just minutes from town | Stone and stucco manor house with main level master suite | 7 additional BR | 5 stone FP | Beautiful gardens, terraces, salt water pool, cabana, carriage house & stable with 2 paddocks | Lovely finishes throughout & sweeping lawn to private trails to Goose Creek | 31 acres | Private, elegant & convenient
$2,650,000
Helen MacMahon 540.454.1930

HALCYON HILL
RECTORTOWN, VIRGINIA
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 bath, 1 half bath, 2 fireplaces | Heated pool & spa | 2 bedroom guest house | Large shed & 2-car garage
$2,475,000
Paul MacMahon 703.609.1905
Helen MacMahon 540.454.1930

INGLEWOOD
DELAPLANE, VIRGINIA
Circa 1850's log and frame home moved and rebuilt at site | 3 bedrooms, 2 baths | Exposed beams and interior log walls | Stone fireplace | Barn also moved and rebuilt, has approved 2 bedroom perc site | Large pond, many streams, multiple building sites | Private Fauquier location outside village of Scuffleburg | 305 acres
$1,935,000
Paul MacMahon 703.609.1905

HARMONY CREEK
HUME, VIRGINIA
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
$1,650,000
Paul MacMahon 703.609.1905

PEACE, LOVE & JOY FARM
WARRENTON, VIRGINIA
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
$1,550,000
Paul MacMahon 703.609.1905


PIECE OF HEAVEN
MARSHALL, VIRGINIA
Absolutely impeccable custom home on 50 acres with lake frontage 10 minutes from Marshall | Beautiful millwork, extensive plantings, porches & terraces | Fantastic mountain views from oversized windows, rolling pasture & private dock | 5 BRs, 3 FPs, hardwood floors | Extremely well built home with endless amenities | Very special home in pristine condition
$1,490,000
Helen MacMahon 540.454.1930

PICNIC WOODS
LOVETTSVILLE, VIRGINIA
circa 1890 frame and log home completely updated and restored | Interior log walls exposed | Vaulted ceiling in great room with exposed beams, stone fireplace | Beautiful floors, 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths and 1 half bath | Guest house, active stone spring house, numerous outbuildings, old stone walled barn all overlooking 3 acre pond with island | Mountain views | 29.69 acres
$1,290,000
Paul MacMahon 703.609.1905

GRASTY PLACE
MIDDLEBURG, VIRGINIA
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
$725,000
Helen MacMahon 540.454.1930

2 CHINN LANE
MIDDLEBURG, VIRGINIA
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
$680,000
Paul MacMahon 703.609.1905

ASHBY HOUSE
RECTORTOWN, VIRGINIA
circa 1800 | Living room with FP | Exposed log outbuilding | Original wood floors | Well proportioned rooms | Master BR addition in 2000 with ample storage | Large screened in porch off kitchen overlooking private yard | Mature trees, garden, incredible western views of the Blue Ridge Mountains | All the perks of quiet village living, with privacy and convenient access to Routes 50, 17 and 66
$645,000
Helen MacMahon 540.454.1930

OAK RIDGE
WARRENTON, VIRGINIA
Prime location, off Springs Road | Surrounded by large farms & estates | House circa 1890 with 2 BR, 1 1/2 BA, FP, hardwood floors, new kitchen | Garage | 2 sheds/studio potential | Tenant house | Property shares large spring fed pond | Private setting on 13.21 acres
$550,000
Paul MacMahon 703.609.1905

THE GRANGE

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

Cricket Bedford 540-229-3201

POT HOUSE CORNER

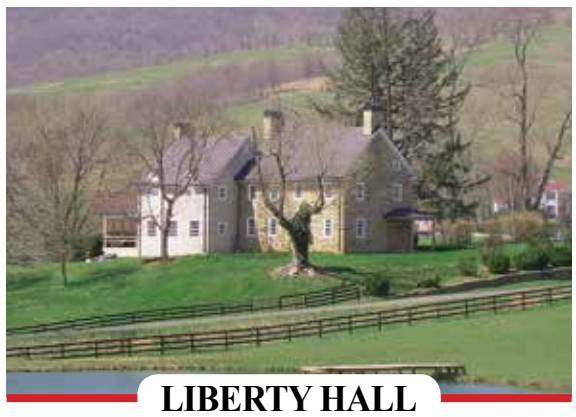
Middleburg ~ One of a kind property with great INCOME POTENTIAL on **11+ acres** only minutes to town. Renovated 2 BR/2.5 BA brick Main House with 4 updated dwellings: 2 matching 2 BR/1 BA detached cottages, 1 BR/1 BA Barn Apartment, 1 BR/1 BA Gate House and Studio. Includes English gardens, green house, stonewalls, sweeping lawns, 3-stall barn, fenced paddocks, pond and mature trees. **$2,150,000**

Cricket Bedford 540-229-3201

FOX FORD FARM

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

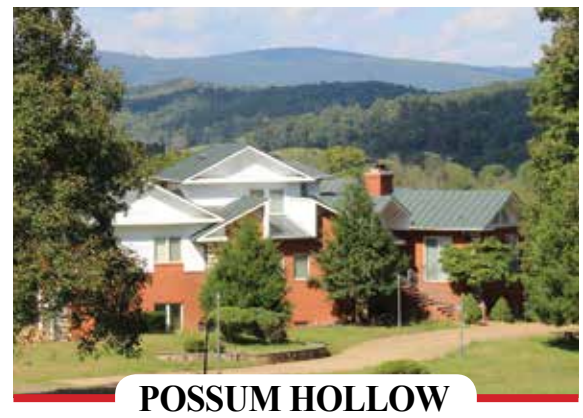
Rein duPont 540-454-3355



LIBERTY HALL

Paris ~ Circa 1770, Lovely Stone and Stucco Farm house sits at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains, **20+ acres** surrounded by Protected Lands, Spectacular protected views of Paris valley, Meticulous exterior renovations include Re-Pointed Stonework, Metal Roof, 2 Large additions, Covered Porch, Basement, Buried Electric, well and Septic, Fully Fenced, Mature Trees, Boxwoods, Ready for all your interior finishes. **$1,300,000**

Rebecca Poston (540) 771-7520



POSSUM HOLLOW

Delaplane ~ Estate on **27 acres** of rolling countryside with views of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The all brick 3 level residence features 5 BR and 5 BA, spacious rooms and huge floor to ceiling windows. The grounds include a pool with stone terraces, a center aisle stable, a huge indoor riding arena and a tenant/guest house. Ideally located with easy access to to the nation's Capital. **$1,150,000**

Mary Ann McGowan 540-270-1124

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 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 detached Carriage House with two garage spaces and 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

SUMMERLAND SOUTH

Rixeyville ~ 23 acre horse property. New center aisle stable with rubber tiles in center aisle & 4 matted stalls, wash stall & tack room. Big new arena. Two Story 4 BR colonial with new Kitchen appliances, new HVAC & waterfall feature at swimming pool. Stone flooring in First Floor Master Suite. Hardwood through out Living Room, Dining Room and Kitchen. **$875,000**

Susie Ashcom 540-729-1478

CAMPBELL ESTATES

The Plains ~ Custom built Colonial located between villages of Marshall & The Plains. Open floor plan and an incredible number of windows. This family home has 4 bedrooms and 3.5 baths on 2 finished levels. Gourmet Kitchen with stainless steel appliances and a Breakfast Room. Formal Living Room, Dining Room and separate Office. Luxury Master Suite. Hardwood floors, floor to ceiling stone fireplace in Family Room, Solarium/ Game Room and wrap around deck. 2 car garage. **$649,000**

Cricket Bedford 540-229-3201

ROCK HILL MILL

The Plains ~ Hard to find **9.8 private acres** in Orange County Territory on charming scenic country road. 4 bedroom perc. Located between Middleburg and The Plains, surrounded by properties in easement. Beautiful old hardwood trees. Excellent house site and perfect pond location. A rare find! **$449,000**

Snowden Clarke 540-229-1452

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