

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



PHOTO BY DEE DEE HUBBARD

MIDDLEBURG TOWN COUNCIL REPORT

JAY HUBBARD

Public interviews for Vacant Council Seat

Public interviews were held to fill the inner room vacancy on the town council, a seat left by Keven Hazard. Three town residents submitted their interest in filling the vacant seat, Susan Hensley, Bud Jacobs, and Don Woodruff. After deliberation, the council choose Bud Jacobs to fill the vacant council seat until the special election on May 5, 2020.

Update from VDOT Crosswalk Repairs

Danny Davis, Middleburg Town Administrator opened with a short background of the situation. Due to cracking concrete on the retaining edges of 16 of 22 crosswalks installed by VDOT three years ago, the town asked VDOT in June to review the situation in depth to figure out what was going with the crosswalks. VDOT presented the Council with its findings in a report.

VDOT found that all the crosswalks that were failing had been patched shortly after there installation, three years prior. The reason the patches were made in the first place was due to esthetic concerns, nicks in the concrete that were made by an asphalt milling machine. The patch consisted of removing the nicked sections of concrete from the newly poured crosswalks and laminating a new slab of concrete to the removed section.

The council raised major concerns over the patching vs. replac-

ing of the crosswalks and time the repairs would take, do to the disruption of business the construction would cause. VDOT estimated that the road around the repairs would have to be closed for a minimum of 36 hours and the patching the crosswalks was a better chouse given VDOT's proven track record with this type of repair.

Well "L"

The town is currently looking at the pricing to bring well "L" back online, they are considering the use of stainless steel piping that has a life expressivity two to three times that of galvanized piping. Well "L", located in the northwest section of the town, suffered a piping failure in the last few weeks. The existing piping failed and dropped the pump and the piping to the bottom of the well casing. Several attempts were made to recover the pump and piping with no avail. It was determined it could be left where it was and cause no issues in the hanging a new pump. The town is hoping to have well "L" back online in the next few weeks.

Community Shred

The Town held a community shred on the 9th of November. A majority of the shredding was Town documents that were eligible for destruction under state regulations. There were quite a few citizens that took advantage of the shred. All toll 8,000 pounds of documents were shredded.

Fiscal Policies and Financing Plan Amendment

The Strategic Finance committee has

CONTINUED PAGE 8

AN AMAZING BRONZE FOX SCULPTURE FINDS A HOME IN MIDDLEBURG

FULL STORY ON PAGE 3

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NEWS OF NOTE

THE AMAZING BRONZE FOX SCULPTURE FINDS A HOME IN MIDDLEBURG

It all started with a vision of The Middleburg Arts Council, and the town of Middleburg to bring more art and sculpture to the streets of this small town. The initiative to commission a large bronze fox sculpture was born, one of our most enduring symbols of our town. One person came to mind for this endeavor, a teacher, a sculptor and resident artist, Goksin Carey. She is truly loved and admired by all and has put her heart and soul into this project. The AIM Gallery, known to support all artists in Middleburg hosted Goksin Carey and her clay sculpture for several weeks while the six-foot fox came to life. The Middleburg Garden Club a large contributor to this

project was delighted to see native flora and fauna at the base of the fox created by the artist just for the love of horticulture. The next journey for this beloved fox was the foundry where the process of becoming a famous bronze sculpture was well on its way. We all get to adore this beautiful sculpture sitting at its new home with the coopera-

tion of the Middleburg Community Center. We are very grateful to, The Town of Middleburg, The Middleburg Garden Club, Middleburg Community Center, Virginia Marble and Granite, Crème de la Crème Imports, LLC, The Cadenas Family, Jason and Melissa Craig, Vivian Warren, and of course Goksin Carey, Sculptor and Erju Ack-

man, Project Manager & Engineer.

Please join us for the big reveal and dedication, on the steps of the Middleburg Community Center, on December 7th Saturday at 12:30 pm. When the fox is presented to the town of Middleburg for all to enjoy for years to come.



Middleburg
Eccentric

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NEWS OF NOTE

AS HUNTING SEASON GETS UNDERWAY, BLUE RIDGE WILDLIFE CENTER EDUCATES THE PUBLIC ON THE THREAT TO EAGLES AND OTHER RAPTORS FROM LEAD AMMUNITION



While the use of lead shot for waterfowl hunting has been banned since 1991, lead core rifle and shotgun ammunition remain legal for hunting upland game and can be deadly to nontarget birds and scavengers.

With the amazing comeback of the Bald Eagle, more of the birds are needing to be rescued. Blue Ridge Wildlife Center (BRWC), one of the largest wildlife veterinary hospitals in the Mid-Atlantic, has taken in seven eagles this year to date. Two were brought in over the past two weeks. Except for one, all of the eagles taken in since 2016 have had lead in their blood which is a serious health threat at any level.

And, it's not just eagles, BRWC has found lead in vultures and hawks as well. BRWC Director of Veterinary Services, Jennifer Riley, DVM has written numerous articles on the lead issue. "There are reports of greater than 120 avian species being affected by lead poisoning," Riley explained. "Even low levels of lead, though not causing overt signs, may still cause disorientation such that the animal flies into a car, building or other object." Last winter, Riley and her team tested all scavenging raptors that came into the Center regardless of clinical signs. Over 95% of eagles and vultures had some level of lead in their blood.

"Many research groups have looked at the positive correlation between hunting season and lead toxicity cases in wildlife and there has been a significant correlation," Riley continued, "Radiographs and necropsies performed at wildlife centers all

over the country frequently prove that lead ammunition has been ingested."

It's very important to note that

hunters and their families also eat this lead-contaminated meat which is a threat to their health. There is no safe level of lead intake for animals or humans.

In 1991, there was public outcry when it was learned that nearly four million waterfowl in North America were dying each year from lead poisoning. Waterfowl were ingesting bits of lead they found while filter feeding on the bottoms of marshes, wetlands and other bodies of water. The lead fragments ingested were mainly shotgun pellets that had missed their primary target and rained down into the water. The use of lead sinkers in fishing was also an issue.

After years of debate, the federal government passed a ban on the use of lead shot for waterfowl hunting. The use of lead remains legal to hunt upland species of game. While many hunters assume that the presence of entry and exit wounds in an animal means the bullet, or other projectile, has just passed through and is not a threat, it often is a problem. In nearly every case, traditional lead-core bullets (even those jacketed in copper) will fragment or break apart leaving as much as 30% of the lead in the target animal, especially if they hit something hard like bone. Because the fragments left behind are often so small, many hunters underestimate the significance. Fragments, not visible to the hu-

man eye have been found as far as 18" from the wound channel. Tiny fragments of lead can be deadly if ingested by scavenging birds or other animals.

Unfortunately, lead hunting ammunition is still widely used and the Humane Society of the United States estimates that 10 to 20 million nontarget animals die each year in this country from lead poisoning.

With the successful recovery of raptors such as the Bald Eagle, the once-endangered bird has seen decreased habitat and has been forced from living close to major bodies of water to moving into habitats where it is more difficult to find food. Many are consuming fragments from lead-based ammunition that are left in parts of animals that remain in the field. In some cases, deer are left in the field after being shot, running away from a hunter and not being found. In other cases, the deer are dressed in the field by the hunter and parts of the animal are left behind. Eagles and other raptors scavenge on these and ingest lead fragments.

Frequently, radiographs of raptors show lead shot or bullet fragments still in the bird's digestive tract. No level of lead is

CONTINUED PAGE 15

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2020

December 31 | 9:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.

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NEWS OF NOTE

THE EQUINE LAND CONSERVATION RESOURCE BOARD MEETING BOWA'S NEW CEO

ROB BANNER

Conservation issues are always on the front burner in our region, especially as it pertains to equestrian pursuits. For this reason, The Equine Land Conservation Resource, based in Lexington, Kentucky, chose Middleburg, Virginia as the site for their November board meeting. The ELCR was formed in 1996 as a resource for all equestrian groups working to preserve land for equestrian activities. Few regions in the nation rival local efforts to preserve property for equine sport. Naturally, the ELCR board left inspired by useful information for horsemen facing challenges in other regions of the nation.

The National Sporting Library and Museum and The Masters of Foxhounds Association hosted the meetings held November 1-2. In addition to their regular duties, the Board asked Rob Burk, Chief Executive Officer of The United States Eventing Association

and Julie Broadway, President of The American Horse Council to offer summaries of their work to protect equine property. Burk spoke about his organization's efforts to promote and secure competition sites and increase membership enrollment. Broadway spoke to her organization's efforts to steer legislation affecting equestrians across the country.

On the evening of November 1, the group met at Mrs. Magalen O. Bryant's Locust Hill Farm to present their Anson Taylor Conservation Award to the Fleming Farm Project Donors of The Great Meadow Foundation for their work to grow that popular event site and protect it for future generations to enjoy. Mrs. Jacqueline B. Mars accepted the prestigious award on behalf of the 48 members of that generous group. Those donors were largely responsible for funding the effort to double the size of Great Meadow, build a world-class arena on the new property, and bring the first FEI Event-

ing Nations Cup™ ever held in America to Great Meadow. Once the purchase of the new property and construction of the new arena was completed, two easements were used to protect the property in perpetuity. A conservation easement (held by Fauquier County) was placed over the entire property. As well, an easement protecting against nutrient pollution formed by ACRE Investment Management in The Plains, VA was used to protect 25 acres facing the Broad Run tributary on the new property.

On November 2, the Board reconvened at the new headquarters for The Masters of Foxhounds Association. There, the group held a panel discussion addressing the land-related concerns facing others representing the local equine community. An 8-member panel roundly debated issues facing the local fox hunting and trail riding communities. The ELCR Board left with a deep appreciation for the local thoughts and hospitality.



BOWA delighted to announce that David Flyer, BOWA's President for the last 10 years, is now formally taking over the role of CEO. While David is our first new CEO, as President he has been running operations and helping manage across company teams for years.

This transition will allow us to focus our resources on continuing to improve BOWA. Specifically, we will be working on better understanding our clients' needs, growing our existing business, and developing new offerings that will be valuable to our client base.



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NEWS OF NOTE

MOSBY HERITAGE AREA ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES
“BONDI FAMILY LAND CONSERVATION AND
BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION FUND”



BRAD AND TANDY BONDI



UNISON BATTLEFIELD HISTORIC DISTRICT

The Mosby Heritage Area Association is pleased to announce that a partnership with the Bondi family of Old Welbourne has been established to promote protecting important battlefield property in permanent easement. “The Bondi Family Land Conservation and Battlefield Preservation Fund” will be available to landowners within the Unison Battlefield Study Area who are consider-

ing protecting their land with a permanent conservation easement. The fund is designated to assist landowners with transaction costs, including stewardship, legal, and surveyor fees and the Bondi family has pledged to replenish the fund annually in perpetuity.

The Mosby Heritage Area Association has been intensifying preservation efforts by advocat-

ing for conservation easements across the Heritage Area, but especially within the Civil War battlefields, as they mark an enormous moment in our collective history. In 2014, MHAA was awarded an American Battlefield Preservation Plan grant to draw up a plan to protect the “Prelude to Gettysburg” cavalry battlefields of June 1863 that raged along the Ashby’s Gap Turnpike, today’s Route 50. Since that time,

MHAA has assisted in placing part of the Battle of Upperville, “Vineyard Hill”, under easement with the Land Trust of Virginia. This year MHAA facilitated the protection of over 200 acres in the Unison Battlefield which included contributions to each landowner to help offset their financial burden. The success of this assistance illustrated the need to develop such a fund and the Bondi family graciously

stepped forward.

This easement effort within MHAA’s Preservation Committee is being spearheaded by Ashton Cole, who is also the Director of Conservation and Stewardship with the Land Trust of Virginia, and MHAA Chairman C. Dulany Morison. “We believe this fund will prove to be a convincing resource in our discussions with landowners considering conservation easements and we are very grateful to the Bondi family,” says Morison. This easement initiative focuses on Civil War battlefield property, but MHAA remains committed to preserving the entire landscape of the Heritage Area to protect our viewsheds and vast historical resources. Conservation easements are the best protection against invasive development in rural areas and they remove further potential strain on Loudoun’s infrastructure, as well as protect the county’s thriving tourism industry.

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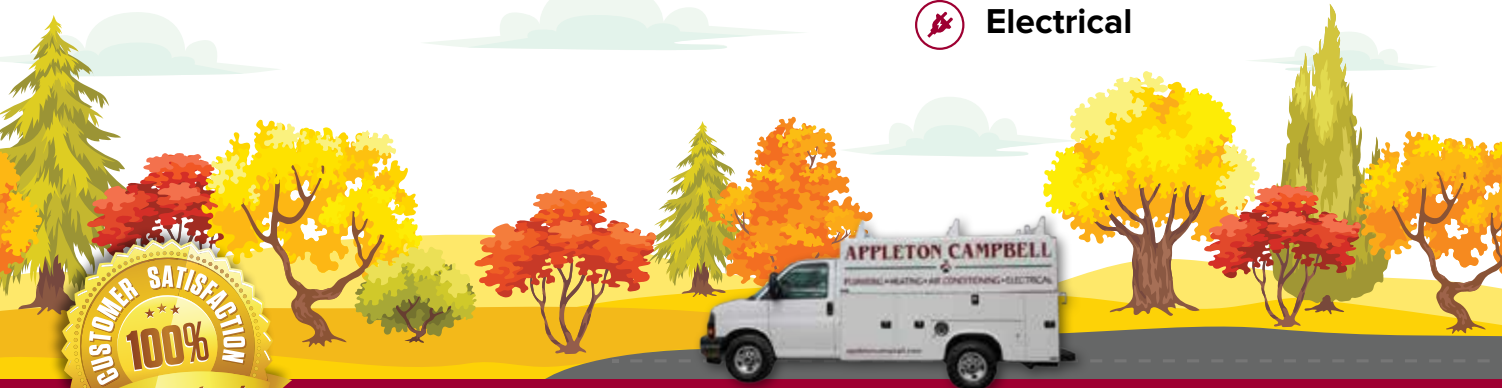
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MIDDLEBURG
TOWN
COUNCIL
REPORT
CONTINUED
FROM PAGE 1

been reviewing the Town’s current financial situation and policies. The Gole of this is to position the town well if and when there is an economic downturn. The committee made three suggestion that was adopted by the town council.

The first being the debt to the assessed value currently at 5% should be brought to around 3% to be optimal. Second debt services to expenditures current 15% should be moved to 20% and lastly, the unassigned fund balance should be increased to 125% of the operating budget.

OPPOSE!

Banbury Cross
Reserve
Housing Development

Over 900 (and counting!) concerned citizens and community leaders have already signed a petition opposing the Banbury Cross Reserve development, which would establish 38 homes on 571 acres of beautiful and historic countryside on Middleburg’s eastern boundary. In late September, the Middleburg Planning Commission voted (5-1-1) to deny the first application, citing various deficiencies in the project, but the developers (Middleburg Land 1 LLC, led by managing member, Andrew Hertneky) are planning to submit a new application. The current project follows earlier attempts by Nelson Gunnell and others to put a major development in the same general area. Mr. Gunnell is now planning a neighboring facility called Greenfields Sporting Club.

We believe Banbury Cross Reserve and the Greenfield Sporting Club would be extremely detrimental to our community and its history and would potentially cause long-lasting harm to our countryside and natural resources.

SIGN THE PETITION IN OPPOSITION

Please visit the following website to sign the petition in opposition and to learn more about how you can help.

<https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/oppose-the-banbury-cross-reserve-development>

DONATE TO THE OPPOSE THESE PROJECTS

Please visit the following Go Fund Me page to donate to the opposition to these projects.

https://www.gofundme.com/f/please-help-us-oppose-the-banburycross-development?utm_source=-customer&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_campaign=p_cp+share-sheet

NEWS OF NOTE

A CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR
CHORAL CONCERT IN MIDDLEBURG



Chanticleer Director Emeritus Dr. Matt Oltman will lead the 26-member Shenandoah University Conservatory Choral Choir in a not-to-be missed concert of classical and contemporary Christmas favorites in the final Middleburg Concert Series performance of 2019.

Dr. Oltman spent the last decade directing the Grammy-award-winning all male vocal ensemble Chanticleer, during which time he released twelve acclaimed recordings, toured extensively throughout Europe, North America, and Asia, and directed numerous choral groups, master classes and workshops worldwide.

The Shenandoah University Conservatory Choir includes voices in all ranges and will be accompanied by Dr. Dudley Oakes, a world-class organist who is also a member of the Middleburg Concert Series Steering Committee.

The concert will take place the afternoon of Saturday, December 14th at the Middleburg United Methodist Church, 15 W. Washington St., Middleburg VA. Refreshments will be served following the event.

The Middleburg Concert Foundation thanks the Bank of Charles Town, Greenhill Winery and Vineyards, and the Goodstone Inn and Restaurant for their generous sponsorship of this event.

Tickets can be purchased direct at eventbrite.com for \$20 per person. Students and guests 18 and under are free.

Tickets can also be purchased by mail from: Middleburg Concert Foundation, PO Box 1967, Middleburg, VA 20118

For more information: Visit www.middleburgconcerts.com, call: (540) 592-1660 or email middleburgconcerts@gmail.com

THE INAUGURAL COMMUNITY TRAIL RIDE OF THE
NEWLY FORMED OCH CONSERVATION FOUNDATION
MET AT MUSTER LANE FARM



Much of the area within the OCH Conservation Foundation's regional focus has remained unchanged for generations and some of the trails throughout this breathtaking countryside have been in use for more than 100 years. As urban development continues to encroach, it becomes critically important for us to help others experience the restorative power of time spent in open spaces. Strong community connections to rural landscapes will lead to enhanced knowledge and appreciation of the long-term care needed to preserve the diverse wildlife habitats that nourish the native plants and remarkable animals that share our Virginia countryside.

The Foundation provides opportunities for the general public to learn about horses, fox hunting, and sporting hound activities including: guided trail rides and nature walks accompanied by an expert in native plants and local wildlife, special "mock hunts" and opportunities to visit the Orange County Hounds kennels. To encourage active engagement in preserving and conserving the rural landscape, wildlife and their habitats, OCF sponsors community activities to open, explore and maintain trails within the historic equestrian and fox hunting country in and around The Plains, Virginia.

The world is becoming so harried and pressured. Time spent reconnecting with the colors, textures, sounds and rhythms of Nature helps us to slow down, take a collective breath and reflect on those things that truly matter. OCH Conservation Foundation strives to create vibrant community connections to rural landscapes. If we can inspire others to recognize and value the importance of preserving the beauty and diversity of our open spaces, we will ensure that 100 years from now there will still be horses and hounds, trails to explore and sacred landscapes to nurture our souls.

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NEWS OF NOTE

COME CELEBRATE A MUSICAL CELTIC CHRISTMAS! "AT THE PARISH HOUSE"

For decades a talented band of Celtic musicians has played to sold-out audiences in Virginia with brilliant renditions of Irish and Scottish songs and tunes. Lovingly nicknamed "The Dwarves" (for historical reasons too complicated to explain here), the band will perform a Christmas concert at Emmanuel Church's "At The Parish House" event on December 15. Returning with the band will be Mei-Li Beane whose voice and violin enthralled the audience at last December's Parish House Christmas concert.

The band will sing and play many Christmas specials such as "I Saw Three Ships" and "Pat-a-Pan," and a variety of year-round Celtic favorites. Instruments accompanying their energetic voices will be the accordion, Irish flute, and whistle, Uilleann pipes, bodhran, guitar, violin and viola. They always weave interesting historical notes and amusing stories through their concerts. Fun fact: three band members have led Williamsburg's world-famous Fife and Drum Corps.

The performance is Sunday, December 15 at 3 p.m. at Emmanuel Episcopal Church's Parish House, 105 East Washington St. in Middleburg. Reservations are recommended, but not required (540-687-6297). A donation of \$10 is suggested, but not required. Refreshments served, and all are welcome!

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NEWS OF NOTE

CHAMPIONS MAKE STEEPLECHASING HISTORY AT INTERNATIONAL GOLD CUP

HORSE-CRAZY ABOUT GREAT MEADOW

LAUREN R. GIANNINI

On the last Saturday in October, the International Gold Cup Races at Great Meadow showcased National Steeplechase Association champions, human and equine, during an exciting afternoon of seven races, all but one over hurdle or timber jumps. Trainer Jack Fisher dominated the meet with three winners. Best of all, the unbeatable #1 NSA trainer triumphed in the International Gold Cup Timber Stakes with Schoodic, who only started over timber this year but has excelled beyond all reasonable expectations. It simply added more glory and cachet to Jack's eighth consecutive year as top NSA trainer.

When congratulated for his well-deserved accolades, Fisher replied, "I've had a good year. I have nice horses."

Classic Fisher understatement. Of course, he has very nice owners, too, such as Edith R. Dixon, breeder of Schoodic, graded stakes winner over hur-



PHOTO BY RICHARD CLAY PHOTOGRAPHY

dles. The 2010 bay gelding (by Tiznow out of Aunt Henny, by Hennessy) took a career change from hurdles to timber when Mrs. Dixon realized at the end of the 2018 season that Schoodic wasn't as keen anymore to tackle the shorter, faster hurdle courses. Dixon's passion is for breeding hurdle horses, but her trainer's family loves timber racing. The rest, as they say, is history.

Schoodic, first-season timber horse and newly minted Gold Cup winner, is a gift horse. He won his debut over timber with jockey Hadden Frost at My Lady's Manor in Monkton, Md., literally in his backyard. In 2019 Schoodic won five and placed second once in six NSA timber starts against serious veterans, horses, and riders. And this gift horse is all in the family, to boot,

taking to his new job with gusto, literally leaping into the top 10 over timber for his new owner, Dolly Fisher, his trainer's mother.

"Edie gave Schoodic to me with the stipulation that if he was not a good timber horse, he got turned out at our farm," recalled Dolly. "All the credit for our success goes to Jack. His horses have fun jumping all the many jumps he has and great gallops."

Jack is a fourth-generation horseman, the son of Dolly and Dr. John R. S. Fisher, founder of Fair Hill Training Center (Md.), who grew up with ponies, horses, hunting and racing. He knows horses inside and out. He's a fearless rider, enthusiastic fox-hunter, champion trainer, and his career jockey record of 109 wins, 94 seconds, and 50 thirds in 493 starts include the great Saluter, owned by the late Mrs. Henry Stern. Jack trained and rode Saluter to six consecutive Virginia Gold Cups and two International Gold Cups — that's some longevity for any horse. Jack has tons of personal experience racing across the Gold Cup's hallowed ground at Great Meadow, over hurdles and timber—he knows the lay of the land. He's one of the best when it comes to riding speed, encouraging it, and producing confident horses.

The Fisher team enjoyed an outstanding day at Great Meadow, dominating the results from the first race when Jack sent out BrianBakesCookies, owned by Mrs. S.K. Johnston Jr. (Tn.), and ridden by Willie McCarthy to a decisive 4½-length victory over a field of 10 in the Virginia Equine Alliance Sport of Kings Maiden Hurdle.

In the "Zeke" Ferguson Memorial \$75,000 (Gr. II) Hurdle Stakes, Fisher-trained horses produced the one-two finish (what an exacta!): Riverdee Stable's Gibralfaro (IRE), ridden by Michael Mitchell, blasted across the line 3½-lengths in front of Harold Via's Hinterland (FRA), Willie McCarthy in the irons. Gotta wonder if anyone bet that exacta and what it was worth on the Pari-Mutuel...

On the heels of that one-two finish, Jack saw Schoodic and Hadden Frost onto the course for the feature timber stakes. Schoodic won by 2½ lengths, relegating to second place Ballybristol Farm's Andi Amu, this year's division leader and last spring's Virginia Gold Cup winner, trained by Leslie Young and ridden by Jack Doyle, leading NSA jockey for races won, second-best for money won. Irv Naylor's Super Saturday placed third.

Locals earning some Gold Cup day glory include trainer Neil Morris, who prepared Donna T. Roger's Dapper Dan, ridden by Graham Watters to score a 5½-length win in the prestigious \$40,000 Steeplethon Timber Stakes, second to Mercœur (Ballybristol Farm), Doyle in the irons, trained by Leslie Young. A field of ten started in the Old Dominion Turf Championship (VA Bred or VA Sired Flat) and Accountable, owned by Lady Olivia North Cliff, trained by Carla Morgan, won by a head over Flying Elvis Stable's Vincent Van Gogo, trained by Neil Morris.

NSA horse racing is fun, and Gold Cup at Great Meadow — you gotta experience it first hand. Gather your besties and family, entertain the boss or some potential clients. You can get up a group and share a tailgate space or attend general admission. Mark your 2020 calendars with Virginia Gold Cup in May and International Gold Cup in October at Great Meadow.

You don't have to know a thing about horses, just enjoy their beauty and athleticism as they stream across the green grass. There are Jack Russell Terrier races. Hat contests—think Ascot and the Royals. Tailgate competitions. Great photo ops. Alfresco festival for kids of all ages. Exciting good fun. You can even bet on it.

NationalSteeplechase.com
CentralEntryOffice.com
VAGoldCup.com

MIDDLEBURG HUMANE FOUNDATION OPENS THEIR NEW FACILITY

What a wonderful and warm welcome of our new home & facility this weekend at our open house! We could have not have asked for a better group of people to celebrate this momentous occasion with, so to all of you, a very heart felt THANK YOU!

Now that you have seen our beautiful new home, please consider donating an item that will help us keep it pristine! MHF

is excited to present our Amazon.com Wishlist, composed of many of the different items that are needed to help run a facility of this size. The link to donate is attached to this post! When purchasing, make sure to use Amazon Smile and choose "Middleburg Humane Foundation" as your charity so that we receive funds back.

Thank you for your continued support!

WILDLIFE CENTER EDUCATES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

considered to be safe and, once lead enters the gastrointestinal tract, it remains virtually forever accumulating in the bones and continuing to have a negative impact. If the bird is exposed to additional lead over its lifetime, the toxin will increase and affect the bird's ability to survive. Cumulative impacts can last over years and only get worse over time. "Unfortunately, we've had rescued birds brought to us that have succumbed to lead toxicity despite treatment. These had severe levels of lead and some degree of organ damage," Riley said.

"Most hunting manufacturers now offer non-lead shotgun and rifle ammunition that are equal or superior to their lead counterparts and comparably priced" Riley stated. "The answer to the problem is for hunters to either use non-lead ammunition or to be sure to bury the remains of any parts of the animal they leave behind."

"At Blue Ridge Wildlife Center, we respect the rights of gun owners and the long tradition of hunting in this country. We firmly believe that no ethical or responsible hunter wants to be responsible for the death of eagles or other nontarget animals. As such, we are committed to educating hunters, and the public, on the dangers of lead ammunition" Riley stated.

The eagle currently at Blue Ridge Wildlife Center was rescued from Oakton, Virginia after someone witnessed two eagles fighting over territory. At one point, after landing on the ground, one eagle flew away but the other couldn't fly. It has coracoid fracture (one of its shoulder bones necessary for flight). "These fractures cannot be repaired surgically," said Riley. "Unfortunately, the only thing to do is to bandage, wait for the bone to heal and then test fly." She further explained that, if the tendon is nicely in place and the bone heals well, the bird will be ready for release around Thanksgiving. The eagle also has low lead levels but Riley says, "There's no way to know

yet how much sub-clinical lead levels are impacting this eagle. Right now, we hope for the best," she said.

Blue Ridge Wildlife Center takes in over 2,200 animals each year. The Center is a training facility for other wildlife veterinarians and provides education outreach and on-site programs for school children and adults throughout Northern Virginia. For more information, visit www.blueridgewildlifectr.org.



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the Tree Lighting

Friday, December 6th
at
THE PINK BOX
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Please join in at the foot of the town
Christmas Tree in the Pink Box Garden
(corner of Madison and Marshall)
for singers, caroling and refreshments.

The Middleburg Museum Foundation and The Middleburg Business & Professional Association invite you to enjoy a town tradition and kick-off to your Christmas in Middleburg weekend. Happy Holidays!

NEWS OF NOTE

LEGENDS BY LANTERN LIGHT EARLY CHURCHES OF MIDDLEBURG

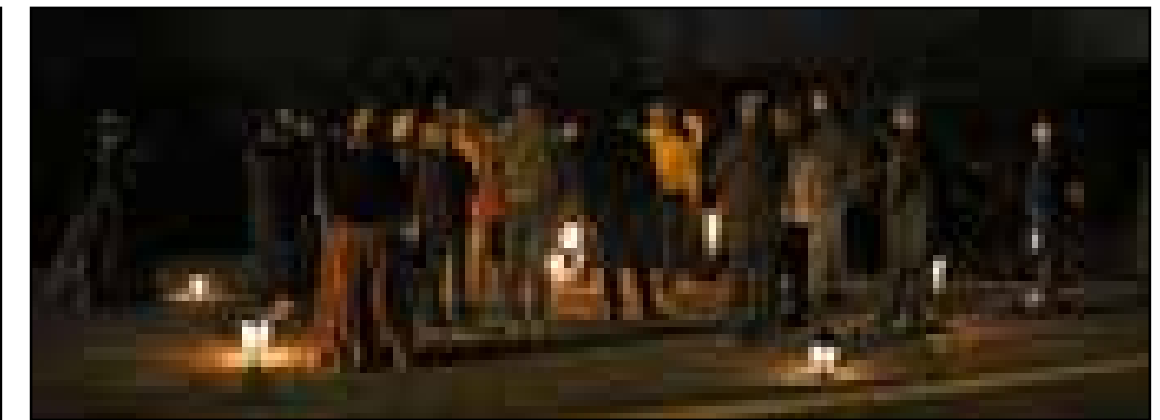
The Mosby Heritage Area Association announces its December 13, Legends by Lanternlight walking tour of historic Middleburg, VA.

Join the Mosby Heritage Area on an evening lantern-lit walking tour of Middleburg. Previously known as Chinn's Crossroads, Powelltown, and Middleburgh, for much of its history Middleburg enjoyed the distinction of being Loudoun County's second largest town. This December 13, attendees will learn about the booming

Middleburg population in the 1840's and 50's through its church communities. Costumed interpreters will share stories of the town's founding families, and the role of Middleburg's churches during difficult times in history. The tour will begin with a rare peek into Asbury Methodist Church (c. 1829), progress to Sharon Cemetery outside of the Middleburg Baptist Church (Previously a 'Free Church' shared by different denominations, c. 1836), and will conclude at Emmanuel Episcopal (c. 1843) with a traditional carol and informal reception.

This event will be outside rain or shine, so please dress appropriately for the weather. The program also involves walking, so comfortable shoes are a must! Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$8 for students, and can be purchased at the door or by clicking below

For more information call 540-687-6681 or email info@mosbyheritagearea.org. As always, Legends by Lanternlight will include some great story telling, and work to raise funds for educational programming within the Heritage Area.



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NEWS OF NOTE

MIDDLEBURG GARDEN CLUB'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FLOWER SHOW, GREENS SALE & BAZAAR

This extremely popular event is back this year in Middleburg at Emmanuel Episcopal Church Parish Hall 105 East Washington St Middleburg VA on December 5 & 6 from 10:00-4:00 pm and is part of the Christmas in Middleburg celebration. This is always a much-anticipated event and draws visitors from all across the state for the lovely and striking presentations. The show is a tradition that spans over 80 years of the Club's community involvement and offers residents and visitors alike a glimpse into the beauty and magic of floral design and gardening. The Middleburg Garden Club has won both Virginia and National awards for the best holiday flower show. They are also a member of National Garden Clubs, Inc. and Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

The theme of the show this year is "The Nutcracker," and

will showcase a variety of Holiday floral interpretations and artistic crafts. The chairs this year are Melanie Blunt and Lauren Vogan. There will also be individual design and horticulture classes open to entries from the public. New this year you may vote on your favorite design Thursday or Friday so come in and vote! Also, make sure to stop by and see our children's arrangements they are adorable.

Our Christmas Bazaar is as popular as the Flower Show. Seasonal decorative crafts and gourmet items made by our members along with greens and wreaths and the bazaar items will be for sale. "It's just amazing every year to see so much talent showcased in our Christmas show," said Melanie Blunt, the President of the Club, "and we love offering bows, wreaths and lots of hand items to sell in the Bazaar to help you decorate your home."

"Nutcracker"

A National Garden Clubs Standard Flower Show
presented by
The Middleburg Garden Club



Emmanuel Episcopal Church Parish Hall
105 East Washington Street
Middleburg, Virginia 20117

Thursday, December 5, 2019 • 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Friday, December 6, 2019 • 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

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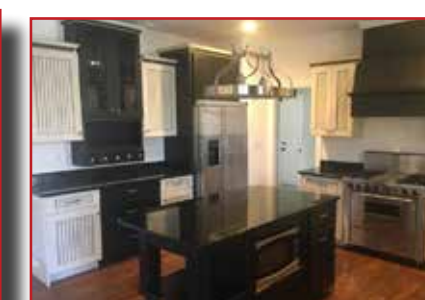
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NEWS OF NOTE

CENTRE PERFORMING ARTS COMPANY PRESENTS “THE NUTCRACKER”



The holidays in Northern Virginia are a site to behold and a time for celebrating together with family, neighbors, and friends. In Loudoun and Fauquier counties, we are lucky to have amazing scenery year-round, but the charm of the area especially warms us during this time of year. Parades, holiday markets, and other themed activities abound, including a gem of a production – the classic holiday ballet The Nutcracker in Warren-

ton featuring one of the ballet world’s largest stars and a cast of local students. The Centre Company, the non-profit performance arm of Lasley Centre for the Performing Arts in Vint Hill, presents The Nutcracker on December 7 and 8 at Fauquier High School. The ballet delights with all of the elements we love about The Nutcracker – Clara and her Nutcracker prince on their journey to the Land of Sweets, gorgeous costumes, that classic Tchaikovsky score, and

the lovely dancers, including the smallest boys and girls that bring an “ah” from the audience when they take the stage. While Centre Company’s presentation includes it all, there is also an additional bonus – two special guest artists that join the company for this performance. Cory Stearns, Principal Dancer at American Ballet Theatre (ABT) in New York City, dances the roles of Cavalier and Nutcracker, while Orlando Ballet dancer and Lasley Centre alumna Julia Carlson dances the role of

Sugarplum Fairy. In his position as Principal, Cory is in the top tier of ballet at one of the world’s premier ballet companies. To see him in our area, without travel to New York or Washington, D.C., is an exceptional treat for ballet fans and also a great introduction to ballet for those new to the art form, from the very young to new patrons of all ages. Born on Long Island, New York, Cory began his classical training at the age of five with

Mme. Valia Seiskaya at the Seiskaya Ballet. At fifteen, he participated in the Youth America Grand Prix ballet competition and was offered a full scholarship to The Royal Ballet School in London, one of the top programs in the world. Stearns performed in Madrid, Moscow, Milan, Düsseldorf and London while at The Royal Ballet, graduating with honors. He joined the American Ballet Theatre Studio Company in September 2004, the main Company as an apprentice in January 2005, and became a member of the corps de ballet in January 2006. He was appointed a Soloist in January 2009 and a Principal Dancer in January 2011. His repertoire includes the top ballet roles for male dancers from the classics and beyond. “One of the most rewarding aspects of my job is finding myself in the same position as the professional dancers of my youth who visited my school and inspired all the students,” Cory said. “So much of being a professional dancer is working on the self, but by freelancing and visiting schools as a guest artist, it gives you the opportunity to contribute to other’s development and interest in dance.”

Warrenton native Julia Carlson comes home to dance for the holidays, reuniting with the cast and her Lasley Centre teachers. “The Sugar Plum Fairy is one of the most difficult parts in The Nutcracker, but it’s every dancer’s dream role,” Julia said. “The Nutcracker with its wintery magic always gets me into the Christmas Spirit. I am really looking forward to coming home and visiting with my amazing teachers and the ballet students, too!” Currently In her first year as a trainee at Orlando Ballet, Julia feels her teachers at Lasley prepared her well for the rigors of life at a major ballet company. “The teachers back home are of the highest quality, commanding the best from their students, whether their desire is a career in dance like myself, or simply to enjoy dancing,” Julia says. “Or-

lando has been a roller coaster of new life experiences and emotional growth, but the instructors encouragement and the great friendships I have made make dancing at Orlando Ballet an enjoyable experience.” The Nutcracker premiered in Russia in 1892 but was first performed in the United States in 1944 by the San Francisco

Ballet -- the same company that Executive Director Kalie Lasley danced with in her days as a professional ballet dancer. Ms. Lasley is an ABT Certified Teacher who has successfully completed the ABT Teacher Training Intensive in Pre-Primary through Level 6 of the ABT National Training Curriculum, a level few in our area have reached.

Cory, who is returning for the second year to dance with Centre Company, is complimentary of his whole experience. “Not every school is a pleasure to visit, but the Lasley Centre is,” he said. “The students are polite and appreciative of the advice I offer; the facilities are beautiful; the staff is warm and gracious of my presence and Kalie is a

highly considerate, passionate director. I’ve enjoyed every visit and feel privileged to be able to provide the students with the valuable knowledge I’ve gained throughout my life, from both teachers like Kalie and professionals like myself, who offered me advice as a student.” Centre Company presents The Nutcracker at Fauquier

High School, 705 Waterloo Rd in Warrenton. Shows are Saturday, December 7 at 2pm and 6pm; Sunday, December 8 at 4pm. Tickets are \$20-\$25 and are on sale now. For tickets and information, visit centrecompany.org or call 540-905-8311. For information on Lasley Centre for the Performing Arts, visit www.lasleycentre.com



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ABT's Cory Stearns
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UBS

Liberty Capitol Group

- Friday, December 6th**
- 5:00pm: O Holy Night! The Tree Lighting Ceremony and Carols
- Saturday, December 7th**
- 7:45am: Breakfast With Santa, Middleburg Charter School
 - 9:00am - 5:00pm: Craft Fair, Middleburg Community Center
 - 11:00am: Middleburg Hunt Review, horses and hounds down mainstreet
 - 2:00pm: Christmas Parade, mile long parade down mainstreet
 - 3:30pm - 6:00pm: Spirits of Middleburg at establishments all around town
- Sunday, December 8th**
- 2:00pm Traditional Christmas pageant with live animals at Foxcroft

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PLACES & FACES

BLUERIDGE WILDLIFE GALA

TEXT BY MATT SHEEDY, PHOTOS BY DEE DEE HUBBARD

Blue Ridge Wildlife Center had a very successful gala at the beautiful country estate of Adie and Beatrice von Gontard. Beatrice is chairman of the board of the BRWC and graciously hosted the event with her husband. Guests were treated to farm carriage rides with Clydesdales and mingled with some of the farm's animals. In addition, BRWC had a number of its ambassador wildlife animals on hand for guests to get a close-up look and admire.

BRWC is one of the largest wildlife-exclusive veterinary hospitals in the Mid-Atlantic and helps more than 2100 animals each year. Dedicated to the rehabilitation and conservation of Virginia's native wildlife, the center undertakes ongoing education, outreach and research initiatives. It is also one of only three licensed wildlife teaching hospitals in Virginia and provides training in wildlife care to numerous veterinarians, veterinarian technicians and rehabilitators each year. Though the Center does not receive state or federal funding, it does not charge for any of its veterinary care services. If you would like more information on the BRWC or to get involved as a volunteer, intern or supporter, please visit www.blueridgewildlifectr.org. However,



"HALLOWEEN SONGS & STORIES" LAUNCH PUMPKIN SEASON MIDDLEBURG STUDENTS & OTHERS GET SPOOKY AT EMMANUEL CHURCH'S PARISH HOUSE



FATHER GENE LECOURET'S RIDDLES GET THE YUKS



JOHN DENEGRÉ WITH SPLITTING HEADACHE



THE MONSTERELLAS SING A MONSTROUS LOVE SONG



HUNT LYMAN DOES A CREEPY CROON



BELLA WHITE SHARES A SCARY STORY



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BANNEKER BARDS SHAKE SOME BONES

PLACES & FACES

JUNIOR FIELD HUNTER CHAMPIONSHIP PHOTOS BY TIFFANY DILLON



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HALLOWEEN AT THE MIDDLEBURG COMMUNITY CENTER

PHOTOS BY DEE DEE HUBBARD



PLACES & FACES

VETERANS DAY 5K RUN & BREAKFAST

AMERICAN LEGION POST 295 & THE HILL SCHOOL, MIDDLEBURG, VA - PHOTOS BY JIM POSTON



PROGENY

MIDDLEBURG COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL RECEIVES \$200,000 CHALLENGE GRANT

ANONYMOUS DONOR SUPPORTS MIDDLEBURG COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL BY ENCOURAGING OTHERS TO DONATE BEFORE THE YEAR'S END

Middleburg Community Charter School's Board of Directors announces today that the school has been the recipient of a \$200,000 challenge grant from a generous, anonymous donor which initiated the launch of the 2019 MCCS Challenge Grant Campaign to help realize funds. This grant will match, dollar-for-dollar, all donations made through the end of the year to the charter school, which happens to be the longest running public school in Loudoun County.

Due to their charter distinction, the school has expenses and academic goals that exceed funds allotted by Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS). For example, capital improve-

ments, staffing, technology upgrades, curriculum enrichment and busing services. The school will also use funds to boost their permanent endowment fund, which is managed in partnership by the Western Loudoun County Community Schools Foundation.

"Our vision at MCCS is to provide the greatest possible school experience, meeting scholars at their learning level and style and equipping them with life skills to be innovative global citizens. While honoring the truly remarkable history of Middleburg Elementary, we are keenly aware that our facilities need updating. We wish to make capital improvements to the building which include repairing

the floors and walls, upgrading the HVAC in the older portion of the school, and updating the bathrooms and cafeteria. Our long-term plan is to renovate the class-rooms, front entrance, music lab and library to help reflect our instructional program as a project-based school," said MCCS Principal Stephen Robinson.

In addition to long-term facility improvements, other needs include state of the art computer workstations which would provide an opportunity for scholars to collaborate and then create artifacts that are real-world centered using 3D printing and other computer-based technology. We would also use funding for improvements to the art



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and music program, such as new musical instruments and art supplies, as well as backdrops and costumes for stage productions. Lastly, MCCS is looking to enhance our garden program and expand our outdoor seating that enables our scholars to promote an environmental approach to instruction."

GoFundMe: www.gofundme.com/f/mccs2019

« Directly to the school: contact Principal Robinson: (540) 687-5048

« Directly to the Western Loudoun County Community Schools Foundation: www.wlccsf.org

The hard deadline to secure matching gifts and pledges of support is December 31, 2019, though donors can fulfill their gifts over a period of up to three years through the WLCCSF.

How to Give

There are three ways to give to the 2019 MCCS Challenge Grant Campaign:

« Donation link through

Middleburg
Eccentric

Send us your School News!
news@mbecc.com



PROGENY

FAUQUIER HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BUYS PROPERTIES WITH PATH GRANT

Fauquier Habitat for Humanity and the PATH Foundation announced this month's investment in affordable housing through the Haiti Neighborhood Revitalization initiative. Funded by a \$1,050,000 grant, Fauquier Habitat has taken ownership of five properties comprising nine living spaces. The initiative allows Fauquier Habitat to lead a focused neighborhood revitalization program to preserve Haiti Street history while ensuring quality affordable housing. The first houses were built on "Hayti" Street starting in 1869. The street was a new road between Alexandria Turnpike and Horner Street. The street was known as "Hayti" since the 1800s until the spelling of the name was changed to Haiti several years ago.

Christy Connolly, PATH Foundation president, and CEO said this is an important step in tackling a difficult problem. "Availability of affordable housing in our area is a real issue, and it is challenging to find ways to chip away at the problem. We believe that the Fauquier Habitat effort is very strong because of its extensive planning and

partnership with neighborhood residents, the Town of Warrenton, Fauquier County, and other regional and national organizations with proven success in these efforts."

Fauquier Habitat Executive Director Darryl Neher added, "Fauquier Habitat values the PATH Foundation's ongoing support of our efforts to protect and expand the availability of permanently affordable housing in Fauquier and Rappahannock counties. With this significant grant, we have acquired five properties on Haiti Street, bringing our total inventory to 11 properties, representing 20 units of housing. In doing so, we're getting in front of potential gentrification of the neighborhood, which most often means the displacement of people, further escalation of housing prices, and the economic erosion of affordability in the county. What's next is a strategic-planning process to help us identify how to best utilize the properties in pursuit of fulfilling our mission to ensure everyone has a safe, decent, and affordable place to live. Habitat is a hand-up, not a hand-out. Habitat Partner Families must demonstrate the ability to pay a mortgage, just

like every other homeowner."

The planning process will allow residents of the neighborhood, Fauquier Habitat staff, town officials, architects Jim Hricko, representatives from HD Advisors, Virginia Housing Development Authority, Virginia Community Development Corporation, and other interested community partners to determine possibilities for the neighborhood. This significant process is expected to take six to 12 months.

Kirsten Dueck, PATH Foundation senior program officer, has worked on the effort since it was first envisioned three years ago. "We continue to be impressed with Fauquier Habitat's efforts to collaborate with neighbors, community members, and experienced organizations to make certain this revitalization program is approached thoughtfully. The PATH Foundation's grant provides for the purchase of the properties, but also for hiring essential project staff to shepherd the process."

She added, "It has been incredibly special to be part of a group of people truly committed to honoring the Haiti Street neighborhood history

and to working together toward its healthy and vibrant future."

Fauquier Habitat's Director of Community Development Mary Correia has been instrumental in the project's inception and development. She said, "From the earliest days of our neighborhood revitalization work, PATH has fundamentally understood the importance of Habitat's aspiration to protect this cultural and historically significant neighborhood from market-rate gentrification, and supported our work in helping residents identify and realize goals for a sustainable, improved quality of life in their community. It is so gratifying to be able to embark on this next phase of the journey because of this extraordinary demonstration of the foundation's buy-in to our vision of building not just homes, but healthy, thriving communities."

Carolina Gomez-Navarette has also been involved in the planning of the project as a Fauquier Habitat board member and Habitat Home Owner/Haiti Street Resident. Carolina said, "I am thankful for PATH's generosity and for

God putting me on this path with Habitat. Sometimes I cannot believe I am part of this work to make our community better."

"Fauquier Habitat not only builds deserving family's homes, but it also is preserving existing affordable housing by offering critical home repairs for lower-income families who already own their homes. These repairs are necessary to maintain the health, safety, and longevity of their home. However, many families cannot afford to hire contractors to make these repairs. A key strategy in making a positive impact of affordable housing must include a strategy of preserving the existing stock through repairs. This is especially pressing for our aging population, who may not be able to keep up with the needed repairs. Projections show that over the next ten years, there will be explosive growth in seniors age 65 and over. We must be ready to offer solutions for this population in particular, along with all households of any age who are in need of repairs," says Neher.

<https://www.fauquierhabitat.org>

PASTIMES

SLEEP IS JUST AS IMPORTANT AS EXERCISE

FITNESS PROFESSIONAL



KAY COLGAN, CERTIFIED FITNESS PROFESSIONAL

What many people don't know is that sleep is just as important for your body as fitness and exercise are. Sleeping is a crucial part of your exercise routine. To get results from exercise sleeping is a must. When you sleep your body is recovering, storing energy, and building your muscles. Most people do not keep proper sleep as a priority.

We think that we can skip out on a few hours of sleep to finish our work from the day, our essay that's due tomorrow, or to binge-watch that series we've been wanting to see. When we do this, we are harming our bodies and our overall well being. More than 30 percent of Americans are sleep deprived. Adults should get at least seven to eight hours of sleep a night for your body to go into full recovery mode.

Getting proper sleep also helps to regulate our moods and it im-

proves and maintains our ability to learn and retain information. For example, many college students stay up all night to cram for an exam. This harms their bodies, it would be better to study in increments throughout several days and get proper sleep each night. They most likely will do better on the exam with proper sleep. Weight loss also becomes more challenging without good sleep. When sleep is restricted to maybe only four hours a night, the body has no time to carry out its processes.

In our society of rushing and deadlines, we do not prioritize what is best for us and our bodies. We can start helping our bodies and well being by making a conscious effort to get the proper seven to eight hours of sleep a night. So, turn off the tv, silence the phone and go to bed at a time that will allow sleep for seven to eight hours. 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.

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PASTIMES

THE “LAST” ARTIST’S PERSPECTIVE

TOM NEEL

Sometimes we say hello, and sometimes we say goodbye, but maybe it's best just to say, “See you around.”

Over a decade ago, I starting writing for what was then a reasonably new newspaper, The Middleburg Eccentric. When I created The Artist's Perspective, I told Executive Editor, DeeDee Hubbard, that my column would certainly be about art, but I never wanted to write about cheeky art openings where the focus was purely social. Instead, I wanted my “hopeful” readers to understand the importance of creativity to their day to day lives, to their children, as a stress reliever, towards science, and as one of the key differences between

us and every other living thing on this planet. My intention was never to just write for artists, but everyone, and not just for the town of Middleburg, but for as far as this paper and my words could reach.

My early efforts were met with the challenges all new columnists face, as it seemed no sooner than I completed one article, the next month's deadline had arrived. It became an overwhelming task, which of course, had to take second place to my growing art business. In short, I fizzled out for a period of time. But I recall DeeDee and I sitting together at one of Sheila Johnson's Christmas parties and discussing the desire for us to try it again. The second time around I brought a new approach and enthusiasm to share what I have learned through my personal ex-

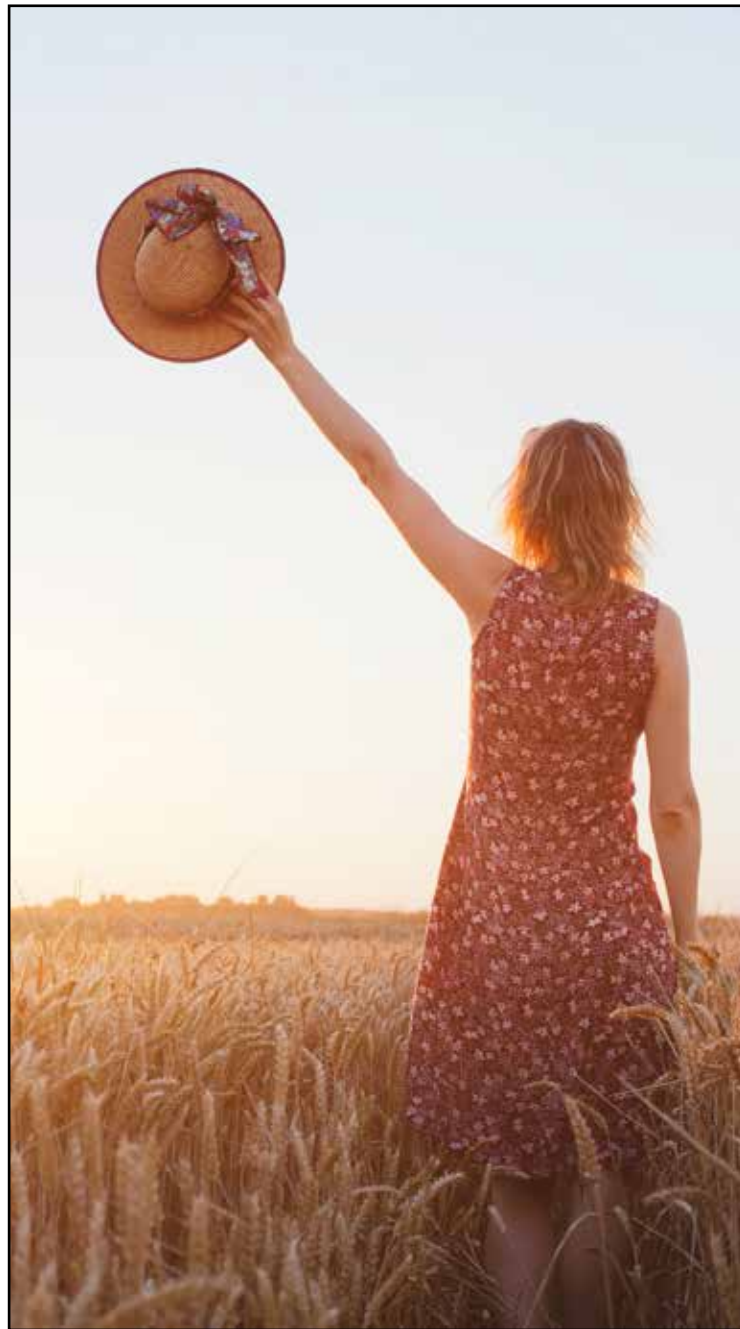
periences.

Since then I have written north of 100 Artist's Perspectives on topics such as Creative Voice, Technology and Creativity, Transporting Your Art, Creative Partners, Gratitude, Tax Code, Art and the Aging, Visual Stimulation, Productivity, Unspoken Communication, and sensitive topics such as the death of creative types like Anthony Bourdain. Along the way I have been offered or assigned many more non Artist's Perspective Stories on local or regional topics like The Hill School, The National Sporting Library, A Place To Be, The Polly C. Rowley Arboretum, Oak Springs Garden Foundation, and The Inn at Little Washington, and I've enjoyed doing each and every one.

I've also been blessed with the most wonderful and thankfully successful art career. I began selling my paintings in Leesburg, Virginia, in 1988. It has been a career that has allowed me to become just about everything I could imagine in being an artist. Creative freedom, over 40 one-man shows, time working at the highest level



This land has given me so much joy, and I hope I have dutifully painted its importance to all of us with unwavering passion. So much so, that one day may



of what was the largest fine art publisher, working as an artist liaison to some of America's most talented artists, along with gallery and business ownership of Leesburg Gallery of Art and Live An Artful Life with my creative partner Linda. I've also been able to produce two short films - The Land Beneath My Feet (also the name of my second book), and Ashby's Gap, and to write my current book - Live An Artful Life.

I feel blessed to have been able to raise over \$100,000 for community charities through the proceeds of my donated original artwork and limited edition prints and to have enjoyed and continue to cherish relationships with so many of you. But possibly the most important and deeply personal relationship my career has fostered has been one with the Piedmont itself.

my ashes be laid to rest upon its rolling verdant ground. For now, God has blessed me with a wonderful life and new creative passions and experiences. Many of you know that we purchased a home in North Carolina, where I've been spending most of my time working on a new book, writing for Porsche, and yes, I'm still painting and visiting the Piedmont!

So friends, as we enter a new decade, I close this chapter with great appreciation for this paper and its editor for allowing me to share this time with you for so long. The Artist's Perspective will live on at a less hurried pace, along with my weekly blog at ThomasNeel.com. Thank you, bless you, and I'll see you around!

Live An Artful Life,
Tom Neel

IT'S THE THOUGHT THAT COUNTS

SINCERELY ME

BRANDY GREENWELL

A few years ago I decided I was going to make Christmas gifts for all my friends...in the kitchen. My husband calls me a “Gremlin” in the kitchen because, in general, after I cook the smoke alarm is screaming and there are ingredients on the ceiling, dogs, and doorknobs and the product is replaced by carry-out. I thought it was a great idea to make a “Peppermint Liquor” by putting Vodka and peppermint bark in decorated mason jars. It looked very cute and easy on Pinterest but my attempt looked like un-flushed toilet water with floating chocolate turds. Despite the epic fail in appearance, it tasted pretty good and brought thoughtful conversation and roaring laughter to each recipient proving it IS the thought that counts.

This year, I challenge you to put more thought into your holiday shopping. Genuine thought, not just random economy boosting. Some ideas:

Always try and shop local. The heart and soul of our little village and surrounding areas are fed from the marrow of all things local. Engage with one of



the sales folk, let them help you find the perfect gift for the hard day to buy for and present the story with the gift. It will be worth it down to the unique wrapping and hand-tied bow.

Give in themes. I'm not sure how yet, but this year I want to give back to Ma Earth through recycling, composting and aware-

ness. Perhaps my gifts will include an organized trash pick up day to spend time in the fresh air, with the community and paying it forward. Or maybe a recycling and composting guide for Ding-Dong's (because For Dummies is Trademarked) created in PDF form from articles on the internet including the best examples

of unnecessary single-use plastics that are polluting our planet. Straw users have gotten a bad wrap while K-cup users fly under the radar while making enormous amounts of unnecessary waste.

Pay it forward and be involved. What better lesson for our children and refreshers for ourselves than a strong reminder in the rea-

GARDENING WITH THE LUNAR CYCLES

THE PLANT LADY

KAREN REXRODE

My grandmother always gardened by the cycles of the moon. A very serious gardener, she was adamant about her gardening pursuits as they coincided with each cycle of the moon. The practice of planting in harmony with earth's natural rhythms is practiced by lots of folks and I don't doubt that this ancient earth science benefits all gardeners in their day to day activities.

It is understood that the earth's ocean currents and water levels are highest during the new and full moon, lowest in a moon's 3rd and 4th quarter. This influence on water dictates how seed will absorb moisture or a seedling will grow upwards, just as it helps root crops burrow deeper in the soil, helped by lower water levels and the moon's lowered gravitational pull. These reoccurring cycles run from 29 to 30 days and also aid with pruning, fertilizing, and harvesting.

One of the easiest ways to remember the moon cycles is to familiarize yourself with the letters D-O-C. With a new moon, the moon is a crescent that is shaped like the curve of the letter D, also explained as the light reflected back to us looks like the shape of the curve in the letter D. The shape of the curve will fill as moon phases pass until you have the shape of the filled letter D, which is a new moon or the first quarter. The second quarter



is the filling out of the moon as it becomes full or shaped like the letter O, this is also referred to as a waxing moon. This second quarter continues until the full moon is passing or waning. In the moon's fullest, most filled looks like the letter C. This is out shape, the moon's gravitational pull becomes stronger as it becomes round, waning as it passes. It is said that the best time

for planting seed is two days before a full moon which lets seed absorb moisture and then sprout with strong upward growth. The 3rd and 4th quarter is occurring when the moon's bright outline looks like the letter C. This is the best time for root growth and transplanting seedlings as root growth is encouraged, gravity is lowered. Also, a good time for

pruning since a plants sap or water levels are at their lowest.

The moon also moves through the sky around astrological signs and these also affect plants as these signs are earth, water, air, and fire, which favor particular types of crops. This is where an almanac comes in handy, isolating the best times to garden within these favorable time slots



son for the season. Sing carols in retirement homes, write cards to our soldiers, visit hospitals and support not only the patients but the families, staff and caregivers who are there making a difference, and if possible donate time to help to feed others in need, it will make you that much more grateful for your Grandmother's mashed potatoes. It doesn't cost a thing, but it priceless.

Time. I have referenced this Walt Whitman quote before and shall do so again as, to me, it is always applicable this time of year. “When I give, I give myself.” I think it is always a beautiful gift to spend time over dollars. It could be a dinner at the restaurant you've always wanted to try or a walk in the woods. You decide.

No matter what the occasion, offer sincerity and then the giving becomes as much of the gift than the present itself. Happy Holidays.



as the occur with lunar activity. To make things a little simpler, I have listed the activities for each lunar quarter.

First Quarter, new to half full;

Lunar gravitational pull is increasing, sow seeds of plants that produce their seeds on the outside, such as lettuce, broccoli, annuals, and herbs. This is also a good time to transplant.

Second Quarter, full to half full - waxing;

An ideal time to sow seed as the seed's coat will readily soften as surface water is available from the moon's strongest gravitational pull. This is the best time to sow seeds that produce seeds inside a pod or skin, such as beans, tomatoes, squash, and pumpkin.

Third Quarter, full to half full - waning;

The gravitational pull has subsided. This is the best time to plant root crops such as potatoes, onions, radishes, and beets. Also plant perennials, flower bulbs, shrubs, and trees to encourage strong roots. A good quarter to also transplant seedlings.

Fourth Quarter, half full to new;

The moon's gravitational pull is at its lowest. This is considered a resting time, best to prune, pull weeds, and apply mulch or compost.

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PASTIMES

PROPERTY SECURITY MEANS MORE THAN A DOG AND A SHOTGUN

NICK GREENWELL

With the recent increase in reports of unwelcome visitors trespassing on our friend's properties, I think that it is prudent to shine a light on a commonly overlooked component of property management: Property Security.

When examining property and physical asset security, it is important to understand that each property, and the goals of those that love and manage said property (and the animals/ goods fostered therein), are unique in terms of risk and countermeasure. When discussing "risk," the variables are as unique as the properties themselves. Universal concerns in terms of risk include public intrusion, trespassing, poaching of cultured goods or wildlife, asset loss or damage, personal safety, and the invasion of privacy. Now, I just offered a number of alarming terms, but please don't reach for the Rol-aids, or the shotgun, just yet. As everyone who has land and animals is aware, security concerns usually arise from benign behavior. Given the unparalleled beauty of the Piedmont, we welcome many tourists, cyclists, and wine enthusiasts. These welcome visitors are not always aware of the liabilities, or risks that exist in our countryside. I can offer two examples. Not long before my wife and I were married, we had



a farm in Bluemont. The farm was on a popular cycling route, and one splendid April morning, my wife woke to our dogs alerting to three cycling enthusiasts in our roadside paddock, walking toward a mature, in-season breeding stallion who was not keen to share his space. When we ran out to warn the do-gooders of their impending injuries, we were met with skepticism. On private property. Had they been injured, I have no doubt that the horse, and our business, would have been blamed. My second example is staged about one year later. Once again, several week-

end enthusiasts were relaxing on a pile of fieldstone on our property. I should mention that this particular pile of stone had copperheads living in and on it for several years. We became aware of their presence only because we happened to drive by. It is in moments like these that I always thought "I never thought that I would need surveillance." I am so happy that we made the decision to install motion-activated cameras, not because I wanted to implicate anyone, but because I wanted to protect myself, my family, our animals, and our operation. Taking this lesson deep-

er, I have learned the value of cameras with activity and environmental analytics when on foal watch. These units were sourced through Active Security Consulting (a local, veteran-owned company) and are worth their weight in foaling stalls, whelping sheds, chicken coops, lambing runs, and even in greenhouses. A two-degree temperature variance can be detected, among other metrics, and the information appears in the palm of your hand, via your phone.

It is no secret that our current farm is on a very visible



road off of Rt. 50. I cannot tell you the number of unknown visitors that we have had over the past three years. I was always taught that if you would like to drop in, call first. That that does not work, swing in and knock. Some seem to think that pulling into someone's home, and taking a self-guided tour of their facility is acceptable. More than once have I found a stranger in our barn, and upon questioning, I hear "Oh, I rented this barn back in '89, and I was curious as to the work that is being done." Not okay. The installation of entrance gates has mitigated that liability. Access control is one of the easiest, and outwardly effective methods to secure your property. A word of warning when installing gates: You get what you pay for. A rule of thumb is the thinner the metal, the thinner the security. This adage applies not only to the physicality of the gate but also to the reliability of the operational mechanisms.

As the features, needs, and offerings of our properties continue to evolve, our tools of stewardship will also continue to mature. The security profile of a property says a great deal about the value of the property, through the eyes of those that are responsible for it.

Thank you for reading. I will see you in the field.

GETTING OUT IS KEY DURING THE HOLIDAYS

AROUND THE TOWN

HAZEL SWEITZER

As winter approaches and the holidays are right around the corner, we all must remember to take care of ourselves. Although it might be cold out and blustery, a simple walk outside can help you feel more awake, healthier and happier. I know many of you see that Tom walks me many times a day. I can't tell you how those walks influence my entire

mood, whether it's stopping by a bush for a smell, or visiting a tree for a tinkle, or smelling the pant-leg of a human who owns dogs, it keeps me happy.

Humans need to understand dogs don't have cellphones or the ability to constantly be on social media to connect to others, so every sniff we get in or every time we pee out in the open we're communicating with our canine friends. It's important

to get out and greet others, now I know you humans don't meet other humans the way we dogs do, which I think is a good thing. I am not sure people would look appropriate coming up behind someone and sniffing them. The holiday season and even the winter weather can cause anxiety and bring up feelings of loneliness and isolation, so even if it is cold out, bundle up and get out there and connect. They say 20 minutes of sun and air a day can be a

way to keep depressive and negative thoughts from taking over our mind-set. Tom often puts on his earbuds and plays music as he walks. It makes the time go faster and the music he listens to helps him reflect and as he says, it's fun!

Join Tom and me for a walk sometime and next time you're sitting in the house and looking out the window at the winter scape, grab your gloves, hat, and



coat, pick a musical album from your past to listen to and get outside! Sometimes we need to force ourselves to get out and breathe in the air, meet people and take a tinkle.

THE RECYCLING DILEMMA

PETER LEONARD-MORGAN

While progress is made globally on a daily basis with advancements in sustainability and renewable energy, recycling remains, to many, a mystery. Despite good intentions, most of us are confused by terms such as single and dual stream, and have little local guidance as to how to easily ensure that what we put in our recycling bins actually has a chance of being recycled.

Sadly, it is not just a simple matter of throwing plastic, glass and paper/cardboard into a blue bin and it all gets magically recycled and repurposed. Far from it, unfortunately.

Conversely, as an example, Germany has such strict rules as to which color bins which materials must go that facilities must continually re-sort the right materials into the correct containers, so that it is successfully broken down and recycled.

Members of the Middleburg Go Green committee recently took a field trip to the Fauquier County Corral Farm recycling collection site, home also to the county landfill. Corral Farm is an eye opener, and a wonderful example of how an environmentally sensitive region works hard to combat the scourge of a throw-away society.

At Corral Farm, residents of the county are welcomed with open arms to dispose of their plastic, glass and paper waste in their dual stream system. Dual stream recycling, also referred to as source separated recycling, is the process whereby fiber materials, paper and cardboard, are disposed of by the consumer in separate receptacles to glass, metal and plastic.

Loudoun County does not practice dual stream recycling, therefore making it far more difficult to sell recyclables due to the fact that buyers must invest time and manpower into hand sorting paper material from glass, metal and plastic.

Fauquier's facility goes far beyond merely accepting recyclable materials. At Corral Farm, they have a substantial staff which takes the dual stream re-

cyclables, once dropped off by residents, and carefully sorts it into paper, cardboard, tin, aluminum and plastic. Following a circuitous route, those separated materials are crushed and baled, resembling futuristic straw bales, which are stacked for collection by the businesses which buy this commodity.

The sale of these processed materials is where it becomes really interesting, because locales such as Fauquier County have built up reputations among buyers as quality suppliers of recyclable material which has been properly processed and sorted. This results in higher prices and greater demand than locations which do not have dual stream systems and processing facilities. The buyers then repurpose these materials into new items such as cans, bottles, bags and garments, to name but a few.

So what, one might ask, can we as individuals do to improve our sustainability footprint,

when it comes to recycling? In Loudoun County today, the most important thing we as residents can do is to clean out plastic and glass containers before placing them in the recycling bin. Also, peel off paper labels and throw those in the regular trash, and compact any plastic bottles and replace their caps so that they don't spring back into their original bottle shape. This makes them less susceptible to being whisked off in the wind to litter the landscape.

Cardboard boxes should be flat packed and paper bundled as much as possible. Glass bottles are a major problem; if these go into the same receptacle as cardboard and break in transit, the glass shards can mingle with the cardboard and render the cardboard useless for recycling, so consider putting glass bottles and jars in a separate blue recycling bin. And the 'rumor' that one should not put pizza boxes in the recycling bin is correct! Unfortu-

nately the residual food in those boxes ends up being tasty for flies which leave their larvae and, eventually maggots which infest the entire bundle of recycling.

We have all read that China is no longer accepting America's recycling, and there is truth to this. Ironically, some Chinese businesses have suffered as they needed our recyclables for their products, things like the stuffing which goes into toys and furniture. But there are still other countries buying this commodity from us which they are able to repurpose.

Due to the problem of broken glass contaminating fiber material in the recycling collection process, Fairfax County recently ceased picking up glass from the curbside for recycling. In its place, Fairfax has invested in a network of 'purple bins', dotted around the county where residents are encouraged to take and deposit their glass bottles and containers. From there, the glass

is taken to a facility where it is finely crushed for use in sand, gravel asphalt and other ingenious applications.

Single use plastic grocery bags deserve a special mention. These bags, as with the flimsy plastic sheaths in which our newspapers are delivered, clog up recycling machinery and therefore must not be put in with the recycling. Instead, local stores such as our very own Middleburg Safeway, have dedicated receptacles outside the front door for these plastic bags which are then bought by Trex in Winchester to be made into Trex composite decking. Truly a great example of repurposing an item which otherwise is devastating to our environment and to wildlife.

This column is dedicated to the late Dan Morrow who earlier this year approached me to write a 'Green Column' for the Middleburg Eccentric. So Dan, wherever you are buddy, thank you - this is for you.

SOME TOOTHPASTES CAN HARM YOUR TEETH

DR. ROBERT A. GALLEGOS

The toothpaste you are using may be wearing away your teeth, especially at the gum line! The use of "grit" in toothpaste is not unlike the use of grit on sandpaper. The more grit there is the more effective it is at removing external stain and plaque. Unfortunately, a significant downside is the destruction of tooth structure.

There is an abrasive index for toothpastes called the RDA Index (Relative Dentin Abrasivity). The higher the value, the more abrasive. At or below 70 is an acceptable balance between benefit and risk. RDA's over 100 may eventually cause the loss of tooth structure and sensitivity. The combination of high RDA, frequency of brushing, type of toothbrush and brushing technique will all contribute to abrasion. If you don't know the RDA of your toothpaste, you may find out by calling the consumer contact information on the package. The following list gives the RDA Index of several of the many types of toothpaste that exist today.



Recommendations:

Avoid toothpastes from the bottom of this list. Long term use of such toothpastes will wear down your teeth. Use soft or extra soft toothbrushes. Pay

attention to the pressure you place on your toothbrush and/or switch to a sonic toothbrush (i.e. Sonicare). If the toothbrush bristles look mashed down, you are brushing way too hard. The

bristles on your old toothbrush should look just as parallel as on a new toothbrush. Change your toothbrush every 3 months. Sonic toothbrushes work best with light pressure during brush-



ing allowing the sonic action to do the work. Using stiff brushes or placing heavy pressure is bad for the teeth and may also cause gum recession and tooth sensitivity. Don't brush hard, use a sonic toothbrush with a soft brush and low grit toothpaste and your teeth and gums will thank you.

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

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PASTIMES

LEESBURG GARDEN CLUB AWARDING GRANTS IN 2020

The Leesburg Garden Club (LGC), a 501(c)3 organization announces the availability of grant funding through the LGC Community Outreach Grant Program beginning November 15. The LGC established the grant program in 2017 when the Club saw a distinct need to provide project funding to non-profit 501(c)3 organizations who share in the expressed Mission of the LGC. That Mission states "The object of the Club shall be to promote active interest in gardening and to assist in the protection and development of the natural beauties of the State". It is the intent of the Club to select from applicants a project within Loudoun County either urban or rural which best reflects the furtherance of the Mission of the Club.

It is the hope that through this notice of intent to solicit grant seekers the Club will award funding for a project that will engage community members in making their environment clean, sustainable, beautiful and lasting for future generations.

Prior to the establishment of the grant program, the LGC has, for 104 years, shouldered many projects in Leesburg and Loudoun County. The projects are cited as examples for their benefit to the community and conformance to the Mission. In 2015, to commemorate the 100th



anniversary of the establishment of the LGC, "The Native Tree Walk" was inaugurated. It is situated at the southwestern side of Ida Lee Park, accessible by foot, bicycle and wheel chair alike, and is a well-planned planting of native tree species. Each tree has a placard which gives an interac-

tive description and the benefit of each tree. Planning the project and funding to purchase trees was provided by the LGC.

Other project examples of the LGC include tree plantings at the Douglass School and Community Center complete with a bench for resting and enjoying the cool

soft shade of the trees. Additionally, members have planted an embankment garden along Edwards Ferry Road outside of the George C. Marshall home, provided assistant gardening effort at Oatlands, and furnished daffodil bulbs for planting at entrances to the Town of Leesburg among

many other projects.

Recipients of grant funding since the 2017 establishment of the program are Oatlands Plantation and the Leesburg Elementary School. Oatlands required additional funding to complete the irrigation system within the 5-acre walled garden. Considered one of the finest historic gardens in Virginia, the walled, terraced garden was designed by George Carter in the early 19th century and constructed by enslaved people living on the plantation. Oatlands was awarded a grant to complete their project.

Leesburg Elementary School was also awarded a grant to support its outdoor garden classroom. The grant was used to buy equipment and supplies for their spring garden which the students care for during after-school sessions and other PTO parent-led educational activities.

The above are examples but are not limited in nature to the types of projects the LGC hopes to fund through its grant program. The Club would like to promote the availability of grants to local 501(c)3 non-profit organizations. Applications and further instructions can be found on the Leesburg Garden Club website leesburggardenclub.org under the heading "Community Outreach Applications".

EQUESTRIAN CENTER BRINGS TOGETHER FORM AND FUNCTION IN MIDDLEBURG

ASK A REMODELER



TIM BURCH

A recent Middleburg project transformed the hilly terrain of a cow farm into a fully equipped equestrian facility. Housing three separate outbuildings, a covered round pen, ring, and single-horse pastures, this land now works

well for the owner, groomers, and horses.

Working closely with the Virginia Outdoors Foundation and owner, BOWA built an expansive facility that includes one eight-stall barn, one 12-stall barn and a separate structure housing the wash and grooming stalls, hayloft, tack room and attached groomers' quarters featuring a two-

bedroom apartment. This project required extensive stall space, so the two flanking stable barns were designed to house a total of 20 horses, including specially designed stalls to house stallions on property.

Preparation for this complex required extensive site work to cut through the hill and fill the valleys to stabilize the area for

construction. To create a layout with easy access to and from all structures, the barn was placed in the middle of the practice area and pastures. Each separate building has easy walkability for both horse and trainer, and wide paths accessing the pastures in front of the barn and training facilities behind. Opting for a three-building solution, instead

of having one large u-shape structure, enables the trainers to guide the horses from a stall, to wash, to train and back without any obstructions. With the arena, round pen and ring at the top of the hill, the client required easy access for a trailer from the main driveway so wide pathways were created to allow for cars and horses to easily pass.

Ultimately, the barns and facilities were designed to ease day-to-day operations and always ensure the comfort of horse and rider. The specialty touches added to make operations run smoothly transformed this empty property from cow farm to a beautiful and practical equestrian facility.

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 and equestrian facilities. For more information, visit bowa.com or call 540-687-6771. Have topics you'd like covered, email me at AskBOWA@bowa.com.



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November 22nd, 2019 – January 10th, 2020

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Would you like to help us complete the challenge? Visit our website or call the shelter for more details. www.middleburghumane.org or 540.364.3272



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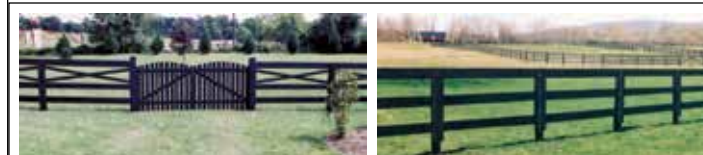
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DANIEL SANDERS MORROW: 1944-2019

MARGARET MORTON.
CATE MAGENNIS WYATT

Since his death on October 26 at Winchester Medical Center, tributes have poured into the Middleburg community from friends and colleagues of the late Dan Morrow, publisher of the Middleburg Eccentric.

He was born in Monroe NC. He attended the University of Virginia, graduating with a master's degree in Modern European History. He was preceded in death by his parents Mary Elizabeth Morrow and Daniel Carter Monroe, his wife Glenda Sharon Morrow and his step-son Alex Cudaback. He is survived by his sister Mary Carter Burnette, his daughter-in-law Maggie Cudaback and his grandson Finn.

As his sister said this week, "he was a good guy, he was one of a kind." Six years younger than Dan, she said he was always supportive, calling him "my rock" when her husband died.

Gregarious in nature, with wide-ranging interests—from conservation, fishing, kayaking and hiking to history, philosophy and religion—there seemed no end Morrow's to involvement with the world—and people—around him. A fluent writer, his prose was never dull—leading some to smart from his pointed remarks.

A newspaperman of long-standing, including at the Wash-

ington Post, Whitney Communications Newspaper Division, MD, the Village Companies in Chapel Hill, NC, he was also the founding Executive Director and Chief Historian for the Computerworld Smithsonian Awards and Computerworld Honors programs.

Morrow closed a distinguished career when he became publisher of the Middleburg Eccentric, a lively new publication started by Dee Dee Hubbard and her son Jay Hubbard, named for the community it embodies.

In the 16 years, the trio was in partnership, Eccentric Editor-Chief Dee Dee Hubbard said "Dan had an amazing way of cutting through the chaff by asking a pointed question to get to the truth of a matter. Always a gentleman, a scholar and ready for a good debate."

When they started the paper, they looked for someone to strengthen their editorial endeavors. After talking with Morrow, they found "he was a perfect fit with the direction we wanted to take the paper."

Each month, Morrow wrote the Middleburg Town Council Report, providing input and insight to the editorial section of the paper.

"He will be greatly missed and always remembered for all he did," she said.

In the latter position, Morrow cut a larger-than-life figure in the community, often penning editorial commentary on

political and civic topics with one eye on history and the other on the plight of the common citizen.

Morrow often ruffled official feathers, cheerfully butting heads with those in public office. Like a terrier, there was no "bone" in the garden he was not interested in digging up, but his prose was never malicious.

Former Middleburg Mayor Betsy Davis remembered Morrow's care for the town and the community. She once teased him he should be an investigative reporter. "He could be quite blunt and ferocious—but his bark was always worse than his bite."

Current Middleburg Mayor, Trowbridge "Bridge" Littleton, said that while Morrow "reveled" in being somewhat of a gadfly, he also was a "true champion for the little guy." He recalled Morrow's great human touch, calling him his "mentor," recalling the hours the two men spent in conversation—on subjects ranging from world history to philosophy to biology. "He challenged me to think on deeper levels and to see different perspectives."

Long associated with Middleburg area affordable housing projects through the Windy Hill Foundation, Kim Hart knew Morrow from years back when he served on the organization's board. "Like all great newspaper people, Dan was a skeptic at heart—from re-

ligion to the profane, but always with a joyful heart." Like Littleton, Hart remembered Morrow as "a wonderful person to talk to."

Equally, businessman and former Virginia Del. Joe T. May (R) treasured his discussions with Morrow, whom he called a "true southern gentleman." Politically, the two men held different views, but, "I loved talking to him," May recalled. He first knew Dan and Glenda through the Loudoun Laurels, a charitable organization that yearly honors individuals who have contributed notably to Loudoun County and raises funds for student scholarships. "It was very personal to them," May said, recalling their "tremendous talents in organizing this very successful endeavor."

Longtime friend, preservationist and Civil War historian, Childs Burden shared many interests with Morrow. Currently chairman emeritus of the Mosby Heritage Area Association, on whose board Morrow served, the two men indulged their common passion for history. "Dan always understood the value of community interest," Burden said, noting they shared similar values on conservation and history. Most of all, he remembered, "that smile that lit up his face."

Fellow journalist, Loudoun Now Publisher, and Editor Norman K. Styer recalled he was fortunate to have been at the

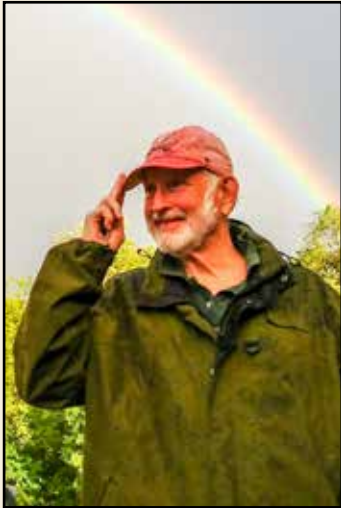


table "when Dan, Glenda, and Dee Dee were first discussing the launch of the Middleburg Eccentric." Many years later, the Morrrows were around the table when the decision was made to launch Loudoun Now and was among the day-one investors in that effort.

Through those decades, "Dan's passion for journalism—and dedication to the pursuit of justice—was always a source of inspiration. He understood the role the press plays as community stewards and government watchdogs and held us all to his high standards."

To his beloved companion Paula Campbell who cherished Dan for all his many virtues and who nursed him through his final weeks the community sends our heartfelt condolences.

and on our toes. His unwavering integrity will be missed.

Philip Miller
Middleburg Town Council

Dan Morrow was a gentle, kind man of strong intellect, comfortable interviewing Steve Jobs, covering a Middleburg Town Council Meeting or hiking through the woods or kayaking on the Shenandoah. I miss his Buddha nature and our meandering discussions. I miss my friend, Dan.

John Flannery

Please pass my deepest condolences to Dan's loved ones and of course to you, and the entire "Eccentric" family.

He was such an energy at council meetings and always retained a wonderfully dry sense of humor. We will greatly miss seeing him, notebook at the ready, in his usual seat. And I'll miss his smile as he left the meetings jokingly. I think :,) complaining that we were heading into yet another 'Secret Meeting'.

Peter Leonard-Morgan
Middleburg Town Council

Dan's family in the Light.
Marth Mason Semmes

Being relatively new to the Town Council, I didn't have the opportunity to get to know Dan all that well. He was a staple at Middleburg Town Council meetings, and I always appreciated his sense of humor and his ability to accurately report on the activities of the town government (at least the parts not in closed session, or "secret meetings" as he called them). We are all incredibly saddened by his passing and will miss all that he brought to our meetings and our community.

Chris Bernard
Middleburg Town Council

Dan Morrow was a man of the highest principles and was imbued with a deep and abiding sense of what is right and always without exception erred on the side of reason, based on knowledge and wisdom accrued from philosophical discourse and study.

Anthony Wells

Town meetings were always light hearted and fun because of his quick wit, even if under his breath. He kept us in the know

A FOND FAREWELL
RED

BRIAN VELLA

Like anyone who knew Dan Morrow, I was shocked and saddened to learn of his untimely passing. I have not known Dan for long, I only met him last year when I began writing the "Red" column for the Middleburg Ec-

THE AMAZON
A SCIENTIST'S PERSPECTIVE

ART POLAND, PHD

No, this is not another article about the deforestation of the Amazon. That's a serious problem that we should all be concerned about, but I'd like to discuss something else.

Last month there was no Scientist's Perspective because my wife and I took a several week vacation to the Amazon basin of Peru and then Chile. I'm going to write about the Peru part, the Amazon part.

The trip was quite an experi-

centric, and as all readers of this publication know, Dan wrote the "Blue". Dan invited me to write the column specifically because we saw the world from entirely different viewpoints. To me Dan embraced liberalism in its truest sense, meaning that while we disagreed, often vehemently, on

topics of the day, he was eager for the free exchange of ideas and willing to debate the merits of his position without name-calling and personal attacks. Unlike most public forums today, including college campuses and many media outlets, Dan was a true proponent of the diversity

of thought, soliciting perspectives different from his own and providing a platform to air those views. I am afraid that as we progress further down the road of political correctness, where the mere mention of ideas that do not comport with those of the modern liberal can "trigger" the

individual and cause the listener to seek a safe-space, genuine liberals such as Dan will be increasingly rare. I know I will miss our debates, and I can only conclude by complimenting Dan on a life well-lived.

dolphins cruising near our boat. While hiking, and boating along the main river, it was pointed out to us that the river has seasonal flooding that is commonly 10ft or more. It was quite an experience.

The upper Amazon basin was mountainous. It contained the rivers that supplied the water for the river. This region was much more "civilized" than the basin. There were towns and more sophisticated hotels and resorts

My science issue comes back to something I wrote about a few months ago, plastic. It was ev-

erywhere. I don't think we went anywhere that you couldn't see plastic trash. Floating down the river there were empty plastic bottles, bags, and whatever plastic you can imagine. Even hiking through the jungle, there was plastic everywhere. It was carried in by the flooding. Besides being an eyesore, we know that this plastic ultimately ends up in the ocean and becomes microplastics, which is what I previously wrote about. They are deadly.

An interesting aspect of this is that we Americans have be-

come sensitive to the problem and are doing something about it. In places like Peru, people seem to be unaware of the consequences of plastic dumping. However, even some Americans don't understand the problem. A friend of mine was recently mocking California because plastic straws are illegal while marijuana is legal. He doesn't understand that marijuana may be harmful to some people, while plastic is deadly to all living things.

LETTER FROM THE PLAINS

ANTHONY WELLS

Eccentric readers may have no pressing need to know who is 47 years old Meng Wanzhou. Perhaps it's important that you should. She is the Deputy Chairwoman of the Board and Chief Financial Officer of China's largest company, Huawei, a telecommunications giant of significance to us all. She is currently on bail in Vancouver, having been arrested by the RCMP on December 1, 2018, and is subject to a US extradition request based on criminal charges of bank and wire fraud. She's currently out on a \$10m bail and a court Hearing is due soon. This scenario underscores a much wider set of issues that will increasingly impact us all. Huawei has extraordinary commercial global reach in current and future 5G telecommunications networks. The latter are embedded in the internet infrastructure that affects the lives and operations of individuals and governments. At the heart of the key concerns are

privacy and personal and national security, all intimately linked technically through Huawei telecommunications architectures and the detailed technical pieces that comprise servers, cell towers, routers, undersea cables (where most of the world's data, voice and imagery travels), communications satellites, and the plethora of IT buzz words with which you are familiar. The lead question is, "Who really controls these?" Through these networks does, and will Huawei, as the US government has claimed, increasingly use this commercial dominance to be a predator, collecting sensitive intelligence, conducting industrial espionage (stealing high tech secrets), and invading yours and my privacy by exploiting the highly complex nature of Internet global connectivity? Washington claims that without a clear firewall between the Beijing government and Huawei then this massive electronic "Trojan Horse" will be pilfering and exploiting everything from your personal data to US mili-

tary secrets. Is all this accurate? Is it scaremongery at its worst? Well, the truth is that many of our telecommunications and software giants collaborate with US intelligence and the other four members of the Five Eyes do exactly the same, NSA in the US and GCHQ in the UK being the past masters of electronic eavesdropping. The British have led the way for over a hundred years since the classic Zimmermann Telegram of 1917. I know. I've been part of it. I spent years reading "other people's mail". The US wants to undermine Huawei and prevent it from dominating the emerging 5G networks, not at all unreasonable, if not from a purely "Buy American" point of view, let alone national security. The US is not winning the argument in Europe and elsewhere. The EU is examining in detail the costs and benefits of using Huawei technology. Chinese low cost loans are seducing many buyers, with instant products available, such as the United Arab Emirates, whose state telecommuni-

cations company, Etisalat, has bought into Huawei. Others are following. However, in 2018, Australia, a key Five Eyes member, banned Huawei from its 5G global networks. We are witnessing how China exerts "Social Control" over its population through Internet and other electronic controls and surveillance. At the same time we all have to accept that multiple companies such as Facebook know more about many of you (I've never used social media for this reason) than you may want to believe. It's the nature of the beast, with massive amounts of data collected and analyzed for perfectly legitimate commercial purposes. Data is indeed the new core of global geopolitics. What we have to do is get ahead and keep the United States together with key trusted allies in a position where we can both benefit commercially on the global telecommunications race we and our key allies have to stay ahead of the Chinese and look back at the rest of the field after we've crossed the tape first and won every major technical race in the foreseeable future. We can do it.

There's a chink in every armor. Quantum computing alone will change the whole game, including cryptography, within a few years, and US technology such as the Argonne National Laboratory exascale supercomputer with an ability to process an exaflop of performance – a billion-billion calculations per second, pushing the bounds of human knowledge and experience in a multitude of domains. The US Department of Defense's cloud platform JEDI (Joint Enterprise Department Infrastructure) will change current paradigms in ways that even the wily Chinese will find tough to penetrate. British Intelligence has publicly indicated via its Cyber Defense Agency that it has ways and means to deal with Huawei. In the highly competitive global telecommunications race we and our key allies have to stay ahead of the Chinese and look back at the rest of the field after we've crossed the tape first and won every major technical race in the foreseeable future. We can do it.

IT'S A CLUSTER
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

EVA SMITHWICK

Cluster zoning is allowed by right in rural Loudoun, permitting approximately three times the density as would normally be allowed. For example, AR-2, which governs much of southwest Loudoun, allows one dwelling unit per 40 acres. Cluster zoning allows one dwelling unit per 15 acres provided that 70% of the land remains as open space. However, there are no provisions

governing 'open space' and too often what is allotted to 'open space' is the undevelopable areas such as wetlands or steep slopes, land which would not be useable by a developer anyway.

Banbury Cross Reserve is one such cluster development proposed for southwest Loudoun. Middleburg Land 1 LLC has purchased 500+ acres of farmland immediately east of Middleburg. Under base zoning conditions, these 500 acres could be sub-divided into 12

small farms and under cluster development regulations, Middleburg Land 1 LLC has submitted an application to subdivide into 38 suburban-style residential units. Even considering the 'open space,' this type of development would significantly alter the open farmland at the eastern edge of Middleburg.

Between 2007 to 2012, Loudoun lost 7,660 acres, about 5.4 percent of its farmland. Only 31 farms shuttered in that time.

"Losing 10 percent of your farmland every five years—there's only one way that ends up," said Loudoun County Farm Bureau president Chris Van Vlack.

An on-going petition has garnered almost 1,000 signatures from local citizens in opposition to this cluster subdivision. Neighbors have planted yard signs and banners protesting the development. A Go-Fund-Me web page has been started to cover legal fees. As well,

local leadership has weighed in against this type of development in rural Loudoun.

Although 'cluster development' is consistent with Loudoun's zoning policy, that doesn't mean that cluster development is consistent with the needs of the citizens, and our common vision of protecting community, agriculture, and open spaces.

Clearly, as demonstrated by the Banbury Cross opposition, Loudoun's zoning policy is out of touch with citizens' priorities.

IT'S A CLUSTER

LETTER TO THE EDITOR - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 45

ties. As well, there are technical concerns. Cluster development considers the site individually, rather than holistically. For example, the hydraulic study considers only the Project Area, claiming the recharge is enough within the project boundaries, without consideration of the proximity to the Middleburg's wells, intense irrigation needs of adjoining parcels, and the needs of an adjacent LCPS school site. Questions have been raised if the existing aquifer will support this level of demand. As well, there are concerns about

protection of historic resources; Middleburg Land 1 LLC hired a consultant (CIRCA llc.) who does not meet the minimum state qualifications, bringing into question if 18th and early 19th century historic resources on the site will be adequately protected. The more recent article on CIRCA and their credibility ran on Oct. 24 edition and is here: https://www.thecentralvirginian.com/news/local/whistleblower-alleges-wrong-doing-at-james-river-site/arti-

cle_e442efaa-f5d0-11e9-afda-0750c697fb65.html We will let you decide if they should be trusted with such important work. Finally, there is the perennial problem of increased traffic, something that needs no explanation to anyone living in Loudoun. We ask the Board of Supervisors to reconsider cluster development when zoning regulations are reviewed early next year and to implement policies consistent with citizen values. While this important zoning review takes place, we ask the

Loudoun Staff to pause before moving forward with the Banbury Cross Reserve application. As development pressure moves west, this style of development will erode rural Loudoun's remaining open spaces. We ask that you act before it is too late! Please get involved, learn more and assist us. For more information or to sign the petition, go to: https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/oppose-the-banbury-cross-reserve-development To make a donation, please

go to: https://www.gofundme.com/f/please-help-us-oppose-the-banburycross-development We welcome your assistance and please get involved by contacting us at the email address below. Thank you, Concerned Citizens in Opposition to the Banbury Cross Reserve Housing Development ConcernedCitizensVSB-BX@gmail.com

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MARSHALL, VIRGINIA 308 acres of spectacular land | Extensive renovation and expansion by premier builder | Immaculate home and beautiful land on Atoka Road in 3 parcels | Two large stables | Multiple ponds | Incredible views | Charming guest house | Tennis court | Stunning setting \$10,000,000 HELEN MACMAHON 540.454.1930



CATESBY FARM

MIDDLEBURG, VIRGINIA Gracious Georgian Manor home, 11,000 sf, built in 1930 | Updated and suitable for large scale entertaining | 7 BR, 7 1/2 BA, 7 FP | High ceilings, formal gardens & private setting | Belmont style stable w/30 stalls and 2 apartments | 4 BR guest house/entertainment complex, 4-car garage w/office | 4 restored tenant houses, skeet range, pool and tennis court | 241 acres recorded in 3 parcels | Land mostly open & rolling with bold mountain views, numerous ponds and vineyard \$9,950,000 PAUL MACMAHON 703.609.1905



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



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 country 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



SPRING GLADE

MIDDLEBURG, VIRGINIA French Country home, recent renovations | 4 BR, 5 full & 2 half BA, 5 FP, hardwood floors, flagstone terrace | Beautiful drive to hilltop setting overlooking lake & mountains | Improvements include pool, 2-car garage, 2 BR guest house & apartment | Lovely boxwood gardens | 79.89 acres \$3,500,000 PAUL MACMAHON 703.609.1905 HELEN MACMAHON 540.454.1930



MAYAPPLE FARM

MIDDLEBURG, VIRGINIA Original portion of house built in 1790 in Preston City, CT | House was dismantled and rebuilt at current site | Detail of work is museum quality | Log wing moved to site from Western Virginia circa 1830 | 4 BR, 4 full BA, 2 half BA, 9 FP & detached 2-car garage | Historic stone bank barn and log shed moved from Leesburg, VA | Private, minutes from town | Frontage on Goose Creek | 37.65 acres \$3,400,000 PAUL MACMAHON 703.609.1905



MONTANA FARM

DELAPLANE, VIRGINIA Historic Montana Farm: Italianate style main house (1850), stone patent house (1840) each meticulously restored | Unique scored stucco | 3 BR, 2 1/2 BA, 2 FP | Wood floors, high ceilings, stone terrace & old boxwoods | Renovated tenant house | Mountain cabin | Several restored barns including restored pre-Civil War bank barn | Run in shed & excellent fencing | 222 acres, west slope of Cobbler Mountain | 60% open & useable acres | Frontage on "Big Branch" | Spectacular valley \$2,850,000 PAUL MACMAHON 703.609.1905



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 baths, 1 half bath, 2 fireplaces | Heated pool & spa | 2 bedroom guest house | Large shed & 2-car garage \$2,250,000 PAUL MACMAHON 703.609.1905 HELEN MACMAHON 540.454.1930



ARBORVITAE

WARRENTON, VIRGINIA A rare example of late medieval architecture, circa 1890 & 1935 with massive central chimneys, steep roof lines, and unusual brick patterns | 5 bedrooms, 3 full & 2 half baths | Double barreled ceilings, winding staircase, generous sized rooms & decorative fireplaces | Situated on 111.74 acres | Strong stream, stable with cottage & stone-walled terrace gardens \$2,200,000 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



TWIN CREEK FARM

ALDIE, VIRGINIA Quiet country living on 33 acres with great proximity to the conveniences of nearby shopping, restaurants, schools & hospital | Rare find to get this acreage and have FIOS - work from home while enjoying the privacy of your own farm | Rolling acreage, stable, fencing & bold creek | 5 BR home has been well maintained | Southern exposure with great light & lovely views | Main floor master suite & 2-car garage \$1,395,000 MARQUI SIMMONS 703.774.6109 HELEN MACMAHON 540.454.1930



HAMILTON STREET

MIDDLEBURG, VIRGINIA Nice office building in the town of Middleburg | Private parking (8 spaces) and additional street parking | 2 level building | Additional storage available in lower level \$1,165,000 HELEN MACMAHON 540.454.1930



WINCHESTER STREET

WARRENTON, VIRGINIA Very private home with 3 BR and 3 1/2 BA | Lots of light - All brick colonial home surrounded by mature plantings and extensive hardscape | Located in the Warrenton historic district | Detached 2 car garage, in-ground pool & fenced patio | Fully finished basement with separate entrance | Master bedroom balcony over looks pool \$629,000 MARGARET CARROLL 540.454.0650 ANN MACMAHON 540.687.5588



WAYLAND DRIVE

WARRENTON, VIRGINIA D. C. side of Warrenton, close to Airline on 1.11 acres | 4-5 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, gas fireplace, high ceilings | Tons of light, kitchen with stainless steel appliances & granite counters | Finished basement with great rec room | 2-car attached garage, rear terrace, raised beds, fire pit, stone walls, hill top setting | Shows well \$540,000 PAUL MACMAHON 703.609.1905



MAPLE DALE LANE

THE PLAINS, VIRGINIA Immaculate home in quiet neighborhood | Convenient to Marshall and The Plains | 3 bedrooms and an office | Lovely kitchen opens to family room with fireplace and large deck for entertaining | Large lot - all open usable space \$514,900 HELEN MACMAHON 540.454.1930



110 EAST FEDERAL STREET

WARRENTON, VIRGINIA 2 corner lots in town | Zoned c-2 | 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1 fireplace, hardwood floors and freshly painted | Terrace off rear and storage building | Would make excellent office with potential parking in yard | Owner is related to Broker \$510,000 PAUL MACMAHON 703.609.1905

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Happy Holidays!

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Shade Trees: Growing & Installing BIG Trees, Shade Tree Farm, 703.370.TREE (8733), www.shadetreefarm.com.

Wine Tasting: ALDIE PEDDLER Shopping List, Bread!, Milk!, Wally!, Wine!, Rt. 50 ~ Historic Aldie, VA, 703-327-6743.

Real Estate: THOMAS & TALBOT REAL ESTATE, THOMAS-TALBOT.com, (540) 687-6500.

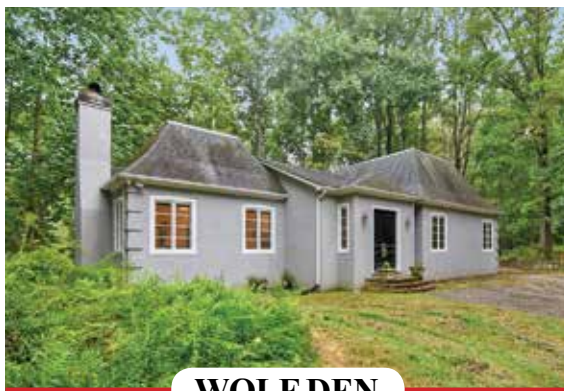
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OAK SPRING DAIRY

Upperville ~ Goose Creek frames this idyllic **156 acre farm** anchored by a historic log cabin restored by the late Bunny Mellon for her long time friend Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. 3 Renovated dwellings. Conservation easement permits building new main house with spectacular views. Barns, spring houses, silos, stonewalls and chestnut fencing. Abounds with wildlife. In Piedmont Hunt. **\$4,950,000**

Cricket Bedford 540-229-3201



WOLF DEN

The Plains ~ Nature lovers Paradise! Custom built in 2007, the French Style Country home sits high overlooking Little River and tree tops, absolutely serene. This home provides privacy and security including gated entrance and cameras around home and 4 stall barn with 1 bedroom apartment. The 18.67 Acres are in 2 parcels, the home and barn on 17.05 Acres and additional vacant 1.62 Acre Parcel. Orange County Hunt Territory. **\$1,550,000**

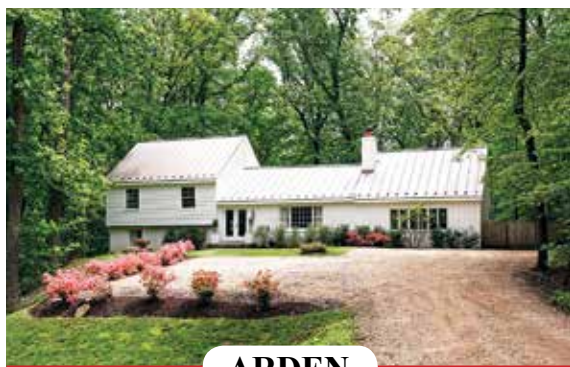
Rebecca Poston 540-771-7520



SILVER MAPLE

Delaplane ~ **5+ acres** with million dollar views! Seller/builder took old rambler down to the sub-flooring & created this new Craftsman style home. Open floor plan w/light filled Kitchen, DR & LR. New stainless appliances, quartz countertops, tile backsplash & hardwood flooring. 1st floor Master BR w/luxury BA & large Walk-In. Separate Office & Laundry/Mudroom. 2 Guest BRs on 2nd level w/2 BAs. Large Rec. Room in Lower Level. Garage. Room for horses! **\$894,000**

Cricket Bedford 540-229-3201



ARDEN

Marshall ~ Renovated home on **5+ wooded acres** surrounded by protected land. Contemporary design with an open floor plan. 4 BR/3 BA, new Kitchen, formal Dining w/fireplace, Living Room w/fireplace, exposed beams and brick. Master Suite has lux Bath, private terrace & unique glassed-in storage room. New roof, bathrooms, hardwood & ceramic tile floors, extensive landscaping. Open deck along entire back of the house. Easy commuter location just minutes to Marshall and I-66. **\$799,000**

Cricket Bedford 540-229-3201



MADISON & FEDERAL

Middleburg ~ Two office spaces for lease in prime Madison Street location in historic Middleburg. A larger office w/built-in bookshelves, original hardwood flooring & fireplace. Includes front porch, small entrance hall/foyer & spiral staircase to 2nd floor with additional storage. Second, separate, smaller office is light filled w/two windows, carpet, built-in & has its own back entrance. Offices may be rented separately. Shared 1/2 Bath & small kitchenette for all 3 offices. (Includes 3rd office that is already leased). **\$785,000**

Cricket Bedford 540-229-3201



AUDUBON TRAIL

Markham ~ Weekend Retreat From The City! Cabin nestled in a dell with modern well & septic. Underground elec. & phone. Entrance field has great southwest mountain vistas and is an approved building site. Audubon Trail runs along left side of parcel, passes cabin and opens into a large parcel in back whose owner normally uses other access/egress. Creek & grass around cabin. **\$525,000**

Susie Ashcom 540-729-1478



FEDERAL STREET

Middleburg ~ Office condo available in established business complex located in the center of Middleburg. Convenient to banks, post office, restaurants and shopping. Features include spacious reception area, 3 offices or 2 offices and conference room, updated 1/2 Bath, Kitchenette, storage space, & built-ins. New heat pump and hot water heater. On site parking with 2 assigned spaces included. Motivated seller. **\$225,000**

Catherine Bernache 540-424-7066



19 S. MADISON

Middleburg ~ Available for the first time in decades, the Thos. Hays & Son Jewelers space is coming for rent. Wonderful corner location at the cross streets on Madison and Federal in downtown historic Middleburg. This street has seen a renaissance of sorts! Lots of new shops and restaurants. Join in on the action. Available January 15th, 2020. **\$1,700 mo**

Cricket Bedford 540-229-3201



COTTAGE IN THE WOODS

The Plains ~ Rare opportunity to live on a working farm located between Middleburg and The Plains. Small, rustic cottage for rent in a wooded area. Living room with wood burning stove, Kitchen, two bedrooms, one bath, hardwood floors, covered working porch, standing seam metal roof. Very quiet and private. Perfect Hunt Box or weekend retreat. One year minimum. **\$1,300/mo + utilities**

Rein duPont 540-454-3355

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