

SMALL RETAILER GIVES LARGE GIFT TO WOMEN IN NEED

FULL STORY ON PAGE 9



PHOTO BY DEEDEE HUBBARD

MIDDLEBURG TOWN COUNCIL REPORT

JAY HUBBARD

Special Recognition

The Council adopted a resolution extending its appreciation to H. "Dev" Roszel for his service on the Economic Development Advisory Committee from February 28, 2019, through December 31, 2020. - <https://bit.ly/3nV5DyC>

The Council adopted a resolution extending its appreciation to Maribe Chandler-Gardiner for her service on the Middleburg Arts Council from June 11, 2015, through November 18, 2020. - <https://bit.ly/3nR6MqF>

The Council adopted a resolution extending its appreciation to Tonya Taylor for Go Green's service from June 28, 2018, through December 17, 2020. - <https://bit.ly/3nWkGYO>

The Council adopted a resolution extending its appreciation to BAC and Peter Hitchens for their contributions to the Seven Loaves Food Bank's Food Drive in December of 2020 and their efforts to support the Food Bank in the future. - <https://bit.ly/2M2w2NG>

Water

<https://bit.ly/3iwWo6E>

Town Clerk Report

The Town has started working on a pilot project to allow Meals taxes to be paid online. There will be more on this in the coming weeks and months.

Work continues on the Town code update concerning combining water and sewer ordinances into one ordinance. - <https://bit.ly/35SpQyO>

Economic Development

The feedback received from the Town planned weekend events in December well, generally

well-received. That included 650 complimentary cups of hot cocoa, live music, and 48 Caradge rides, among other things.

The Town is working with Loudoun County Economic Development to create a workforce support program specific to Middleburg. They expect to have a Webinar on workforce issues in the Town in the coming weeks.

In 2020 the Town's social media accounts experienced a surge in growth from the previous year, Instagram up 66%, Twitter up 20%, and Facebook up 18%. - <https://bit.ly/3bPK4wJ>

Planning Commission

The Commission has made great strides in the planning decisions of the residents on Salamander. They are looking to have it finalized in the next month or two.

Council raised some concerns as to the size and scale of the new building on lots. - <https://bit.ly/2LXDCZQ>

Police

<https://bit.ly/2LCtt58>

New Town Hall

- A kick-off meeting was held on January 6, 2021, with the Town, architect, and construction management firm, Glave & Holmes is continuing work to finalize their detailed design schedule - <https://bit.ly/2LIbdap>.

COVID

<https://bit.ly/2LIU6VY>

The Loudoun County Health Department is currently rolling out vaccines to Phase 1A priority recipients. Phase 1B recipients, including Town Police Officers, will likely have the opportunity to receive a vaccine in the coming weeks.

The Health Department will have the latest

THE ORIGINS OF THE CONSERVATION EASEMENT

PAGE 4



The Middleburg Business and Professional Association

Would like to thank the community for supporting our members in 2020.

We look forward to doing business with you in 2021.

2020 Members

A Place To Be
Aldie Heritage Association
Amanda's Regal Canine
Artists in Middleburg Gallery
Backstreet Catering
Bank of Charles Town
Bendure Communications
Kirk Berteuter Landscape Architects
Blue Ridge Hospice
Boxwood Winery
Briar Patch Bed & Breakfast Inn
Bruce Smith, Atty
Buchanan Hall
Buckingham Strategic Wealth Mgt.
Cana Vineyards
Catherine "Bundles" Murdock
Chester Business Services
Chloe's of Middleburg
Climatic Heating & Cooling
Clites Architects
Community Shop
Country Zest & Style
Crème de la Crème
David Condon, Inc
Deerchase, LLC
Duchessa
Dudley Capital Management
Edward Jones Investments
Elysium Message Therapy
Emmanuel Episcopal Church
English Country Classics
Fauquier Habitat for Humanity
Focal Point (Creative)
Fox Automotive
Foxcroft School
Golden Rule Builders
Goodstone Inn & Restaurant
Great Meadow Foundation
Greenhill Winery & Vineyard
Hellen Systems

Homewood Farm LLC
Humane Farm Animal Care
Hunt Country Sotheby's Intl. Realty
Journymen Saddlers, Ltd.
Land Trust of Virginia
Les Jardins de Bagatelle
Long Design
Lou Lou Boutiques
McEanearney Associates, Inc.
Market Salamander
Meadowkirk Retreat Center
Melmore, Inc.
Middleburg Academy
Middleburg Baptist Church
Middleburg Common Grounds
Middleburg Community Center
Middleburg Concert Series
Middleburg Eccentric
Middleburg Eye Care Center
Middleburg Film Festival
Middleburg Humane Foundation
Middleburg Hunt Assoc.
Middleburg Library Advisory Board
Middleburg Life
Middleburg Montessori School
Middleburg Museum Foundation
Middleburg Real Estate/Atoka Properties
Middleburg Smiles
Middleburg Spring Race Association
Middleburg Tennis Club
Mitchell & Co, P.C.
Mr. Print of Middleburg
Myers Group 5
Mystique Jewelers
National Sporting Library & Museum
Nature Composed
Northwest Federal Credit Union
NoVa Deer Shield
O'Donnell & Co
Old Ox Brewery

Red Fox Inn/Red Fox Fine Art
Richard Allen Clothing
Royston Funeral Home
Rutledge Farm
Salamander Resort and Spa
Salvation Army LoCo Corps
Sheridan MacMahon Limited
Sidesaddle Bistro
SONA Bank
SPROUT Therapeutic Riding
STITCH
TA- DA!Travel Bar
The Byrne Gallery
The Christmas Sleigh
The Fun Shop
The Graham Companies
The Hill School
The Jackson Clinics
The Middleburg Barn at Foxchase
The Shaggy Ram
The Tack Box
The Upper Crust
Thomas & Talbot Real Estate
Town of Middleburg
Tri County Finds & Feeds
TRUIST
TTR Sotheby's INTL Real Estate
Tully Rector
Virginia Piedmont Heritage Area
Visit Loudoun
Wakefield School
Washington Fine Properties
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Zest

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www.visitmiddleburgva.com

On Facebook at Middleburg Business and Professional Association-VA



NEWS OF NOTE

OLD OX WARMING HOUSES

When the temperature dropped and COVID cases started rising, restaurants faced yet another set of challenges. How do you provide an environment in which diners feel safe eating out? Old Ox Brewery looked at various ways to help customers to enjoy their dining experience and decided to set up greenhouses on their patio at 14 S. Madison.

"We felt heated greenhouses were the best way to socially distance our customers, while creating a comfortable and easy-to-sanitize environment that takes advantage of the sun's warmth," says Old Ox President Chris Burns.

The greenhouses, which Old Ox calls Warming Houses, can warm up to over 80 degrees when it's 30-40 degrees outside. Propane heaters help boost temperatures on cloudy days.

Feedback from customers has been positive. They appreciate the opportunity to get out of the house and enjoy a beer and appetizers, lunch or dinner. The warming houses let in the light and are warm enough to allow customers to shed their coats.

The Old Ox Brewery patio at has six 6x8' warming houses,



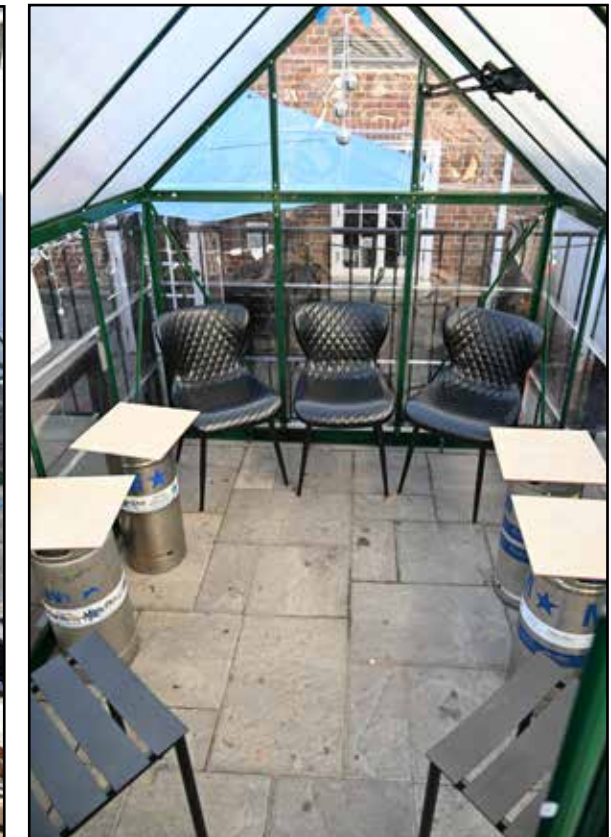
which seat four to five guests each. Reservations can be made in two-hour increments and require a \$50 minimum spend. Warming Houses can be reserved

on Open Table or by calling the brewery.

Old Ox took advantage of a grant from the Town of Middleburg in partnership with

the Middleburg Business and Professional Association, to purchase the warming houses and heaters.

"We're very grateful to the



Town of Middleburg, MBPA and all of our guests for helping us get through these challenging times," says Burns.



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NEWS OF NOTE

THE ORIGINS OF THE CONSERVATION EASEMENT

THE FENCE POST

ROBERT BANNER

Imagine driving west on Route 50 from Gilbert's Corner. As you approach Aldie, you pass under a large, overhead sign supported by massive stone pediments welcoming you to "Piedmont National Park." Sound far-fetched? Shenandoah National Park and Sky Meadows

State Park protect the Blue Ridge to our west. At one time, the Bull Run Mountains to our east were "a high priority" to become a state park, so it was certainly possible. While the valleys, views and vistas in between rival the natural and historic beauty found anywhere in the World, our leaders found a better way to protect the natural beauty and rich history we love.

Through the concerted efforts of motivated families, passionate individuals, and a supportive federal and state legislature, they achieved their goal. Today, a powerful network of land trusts, state acts, federal designations, commissions, and conservancies steward the protection together. The conservation easement is,

however, one of the most powerful tools they have. Today, the conservation easement holds a landowner true to the high ideals protecting natural and cultural values above monetary gain. Development rights are extinguished forever, a qualified land trust holds the easement, and the land remains unchanged, protected in perpetuity.

Arms linked, private landowners and land trusts stand watch over our region. The World Resources Institute reports that nationwide, more than 30 million acres are under conservancy easement, today. 1.7 million acres are protected in Virginia. As massive as that is, we can thank the local foxhunting community for pushing today's conservation easement forward. I had no idea how direct the influence was until I started the research here.

In the last installment of The Fence Post, I described that the hunting community (wing shooters, fishermen and foxhunters) organized clubs to begin the conservation movement in the late 1800s. In the Piedmont, the first clubs were foxhunts formed by local landowners. They knew they would find the best protection of their property on their own avoiding the national, or state, park system organizing elsewhere.

Harry Worcester Smith was the first "outsider" from Boston, known for his indomitable appetite for the sport. Many would follow him looking for good footing, fine hunting, and a countryside reminiscent of England's best countryside. In the 1920s, the land here was generally available for \$50 - \$250/acre. Large tracts of land were purchased by those with British hunt country in mind and the means to keep their estates intact without selling.

Smith would organize the various hunts through The Masters of Foxhounds Association giving strength to the territorial boundaries of each hunt. Today, the MFHA lists more than 147 recognized hunts in America in their Hunt Roster. 24 are here in Virginia, more than any area of the nation.

Things went well as long as strong-willed and well-funded gentry protected the area. Even the wealthiest knew that eventually, they would die and their families would have to sell the land for estate taxes, or lack of interest. More than wealth would be needed to protect the land.

In the mid 1960s, the game changed. At the time, Stephen J. Small was an attorney-advisor in the Office of Chief Counsel of the IRS in Washington. Small was responsible for the federal income tax regulations on the conservation easements written today. His books Preserving Family Lands, II and III, and The Business of Open Space: What's Next?? speak to his seminal role and are a "must read" for any conservationist.

I spoke with Small, recently. He admits, the conservation easement was around in 1965, "but only a handful of people knew what it was, or how it worked. The popular support for what I was doing was, in part, due to the foxhunting community, just 50 miles away. In 1972, Eve Fout, Maggie Bryant and Charlie Whitehouse were a delegation from the Piedmont Environmental Counsel that urged me on in my work. Leaders of the Myopia Hunt, near Boston, were behind me, too, but they all knew that estate taxes would force the sale of land to developers, dissolving foxhunts. They knew the conservation easement would block the development and urged me on. You just couldn't tell Maggie Bryant, or Eve Fout, no." I can't imagine.

30 million acres later, you can say it certainly worked. They were right, but as predicted, the crush of population growth is on our doorstep. Especially now, as the pandemic and social unrest is pushing city dwellers to the country, local lands are changing hands quickly. Will the new owners embrace the deed restrictions they now must honor? Or test their strength? My next article will address the future of the conservation easement and how leaders of local land trusts are prepared to face it. They are ready, but like Bryant, Fout and Whitehouse, it will be our job, too. George Ohrstrom, Jr., a founder of PEC, once told me, "It's going to change, Rob. Be a part of the change." And so it is.

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Nice 6 acre buildable lot with recent new well and approved drain field. 38490CharlesTownPike.com

\$550,000

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NEWS OF NOTE

LOST BARREL BREWING IS NOW OPEN



Located just outside the town of Middleburg, Lost Barrel Brewing is the home of craft beer, hard seltzers and amazing food. With attention to every detail, the ambiance at Lost Barrel offers a unique experience.

Our beers and hard seltzer's are produced to exacting stan-

dards in our state of the art production facility. We offer a wide range of styles and flavors from refreshing and light, to citrusy and hoppy, to smooth and malty.

In addition to our beer and hard seltzer options, we have plenty of non-alcoholic beverages including our Nitro cold-brew coffee, house blend hot coffee, hot tea, and sodas. For the kids, we have milk, hot chocolate and apple juice.

Lost Barrel Brewing has partnered with Executive Chef José Marty of LoCo Kitchen to provide our customers with fresh and delicious offerings that complement our farm fresh beer and hard seltzer selections. We believe that serving great food enhances the overall farm brewery experience. Our artisanal menu selections are created to complement our craft beer and hard seltzer. We use fresh seasonal high-quality ingredients to make every "bite and sip" memorable. As part of your culinary journey, our menu changes frequently to reflect the seasons.

You can enjoy our curated playlists, a live DJ set, or musical act. Our DJ's explore the intersections of a wide expanse of genres, all played with artful technique and a true love of music. This completes the experience at Lost Barrel Brewing.

Inside our taproom you can find our boutique, Found at Lost Barrel. In this shop you will find high quality Lost Barrel Brewing gear as well as an eclectic collection of global finds curated by the former fashion director at Nordstrom.

Lost Barrel has a variety of options for seating. You can walk in or make a reservation through opentable.com for our indoor taproom. There is heated porch seating, picnic tables, and Adirondack chairs. If you are looking for a space to gather with your group, you have the option to reserve a fire pit or one of the



private event spaces, the Bale House or Loft. Our Bale House is a restored two story barn, in this you have the Saloon and Studio. In addition to the Bale House, our second floor Loft is a one of a kind location for your private event. The Loft's

vast view of the brew room provides the perfect setting. Not only do we hope you enjoy the great beer selection and tasty food choices, but the peaceful tranquility and scenic beauty the property provides. We invite you

to come visit Lost Barrel Brewing. We are open Thursday-Sunday. We welcome kids, families and dogs on leash. You can learn more at lost-barrel.com. Or find us on Instagram and Facebook @lostbarrelbrew. We are so excited to have you!



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NEWS OF NOTE

The Shaggy Ram & Little Lambkins.



The Shaggy Ram, now in its 31st year, has just adopted the Little Lambkins. So along with our lovely English & French antiques plus all accessories for your home, the Lambkins specializes in quality classic attire for infants & children.

It's our new look & folks are loving it!
Come see us soon!
New items arrive daily.

Joanne & Sandy
3 E Washington St. Middleburg. VA 20118
540.687.3546



SMALL RETAILER GIVES LARGE GIFT TO WOMEN IN NEED

PERSONALIZED GIFT BAGS PACKED FULL OF CLOTHING, JEWELRY, ACCESSORIES AND OTHER VALUABLE ITEMS



When Middleburg shop owner Wendy Osborn wanted to support those in need in the new year, she reached out to the YMCA of Metropolitan Washington and YMCA Loudoun County to see how she can help make a positive contribution to the community. The Y put together a list of families in the area who are struggling and are in need.

Osborn founded her boutique, Chloe's of Middleburg, in 2019. She is a Rhode Island School of Design graduate and former buyer for Bergdorf Goodman. Chloe's (12 E. Washington St.) opened with a mission to bring fresh and dynamic fashion to women of all seasons. The boutique offers classic and fashion-forward apparel, accessories and gifts at affordable prices. Osborn believes in community and kindness and wanted to open a boutique that warmly welcomes all to enjoy a unique shopping experience.

"I wanted to surprise and help some women in our community, especially because this year has been difficult for so many," said Osborn. "And, I wanted to give them gifts that were specifically selected for each of them in mind." She reached out to Pamela Curran, COO, executive vice president, of the YMCA of Metropolitan Washington who put her in touch with the Loudoun County Y. "In spite of the fact that Loudoun County is one of the wealthiest counties in the country, there are many families in need," explained Curran. "The need in the community combined with the generosity of the business leaders in the community such as Wendy Osborn, truly speaks to the appropriate timing of building a new YMCA in Loudoun County. The YMCA has plans to explore the possibility of building a YMCA in the county in Q4 of

2021."

The Y was able to quickly identify 11 women and get their sizes and personal information from them for Osborn. Based on the information, Osborn carefully selected jackets, coats, slacks, shoes, handbags, jewelry, scarves and other accessories and customized a large gift bag for each woman. Some of Osborn's vendors also contributed including Ciao Milano, Elietian, Gabriel + Simone, and Mer-Sea. The recipients wrote personal thank you notes to Osborn with comments such as "You truly did a great thing," and "I was hesitant to sign up but I am so glad I did and I will remember the gift and kindness every time I use the clothes."

"As a community non-profit organization, it is part of the YMCA's mission to seek relationships with businesses such as Chloe's who wish to provide assistance to our community," said YMCA Loudoun Associate Executive Director Robert Blakely. "The kindness and generosity of Chloe's has truly shown that they are a business who cares about the wellbeing of our families and it is businesses like theirs that make our community and county great."

Osborn considers the donation as a part of her routine business mission. "Giving back is so important," she said. "It was also fun to be able to put together personal gifts for women who I know are having a tough time. If I can brighten someone's day and let them know that someone cares, I've fulfilled my goal."

For more information about the YMCA Loudoun County or YMCA of Metropolitan Washington, visit www.ymcadc.org. For more information on Chloe's of Middleburg, visit www.chloesofmiddleburg.com.

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Chloe's of Middleburg is a unique women's boutique where you'll always find fashions and accessories that are stylish and on trend. From chic name brands like Vilagallo to a broad selection of sophisticated ready-to-wear styles, everyone's certain to find something they love. Don't miss our winter sale! Deals on fabulous fashions are going fast.

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NEWS OF NOTE

TALKING TRASH: 2020 FOXCROFT ROAD CLEAN UP REPORT

The year 2020 was the eighteenth consecutive year of volunteer action to control trash on the Foxcroft Road. The author conducts this survey as a single observer. The numbers here noted are somewhat understated in that there must be other individuals who pick up trash on these roads. In 2020 there was a total of 847 individual pieces of trash. Over the eighteen years a total of 18,672 pieces have been picked up.

To aid those first time readers and as a reminder to past readers of this column, the course of trash collection is a 4.6 mile route of dirt and hard road that includes portions of the Polecat Hill Rd. (Rt. 696), the Foxcroft Rd. (Rt. 626), the Snake Hill Rd. (Rt. 744), and the Millville Rd. (Rt. 743).

The total number of trash items in 2020 is the lowest in the 18 years of this study. In a COVID 19 dominated year, it is most probable that employment opportunities and resulting volume of vehicular traffic would have been significantly reduced, hence the precipitous drop in McDonald's trash, down 43% from 2019. However, Seven-Eleven suffered no loss, but still was unable to catch its old rival McDonald's. Beer containers comprised 21% of total trash. AB InBev was responsible for the most numerous of the beers. Bud Light (43) and Corona (34) were the predominant labels. The internet-alleghed linkage of Corona beer to the coronavirus did not seem to depress the total significantly. As somewhat of an outlier, the number of IPA beers increased to 17. Most of the IPA beers retrieved in this study were cans, whilst the Bud Light and Corona containers were usually bottles. Bottles are not horse friendly, and they are harder to see than shiny cans on road sides where they usually lurk and can be obscured by vegetation. The combined totals of unlabelled cups, bottles, plastic bags, and miscellaneous items (represent a hefty 40% of overall trash. These percentages have remained fairly steady for the last five years.

The real goal of studying trash is to get rid of it. Littering is illegal in Virginia. Section 33.1-346 of the legal code of Virginia makes littering or dumping trash a Class 1 misdemeanor, punishable by up to twelve months in jail and/or a fine of up to \$2500.

One wonders what the legal fees might amount to for one's defense if arrested for littering? Besides, jail time for littering could seem to be as effective a deterrent as jail time for poverty. The original act of littering suggests a certain poverty of spirit; a failure to acknowledge responsibility to local, national and global community and for the planet. In a corona virus dominated year one is tempted to read Albert Camus' La Peste. Rats and trash have some common features. Camus' observation was that "rats would always be with us."

2020 TRASH COLLECTION
BY COMPANY

1. AB InBev: 105 (12%)

2. Plastic and Paper Bags: 79 (9%)

3. Paper Sheets and Napkins: 55 (6%)

4. McDonald's: 33 (4%)

5. Pepsico: 30 (4%)

6. Generic Cups and Bottles: 26 (3%)

7. Car Parts: 29 (3%)

8. Coca-Cola: 24 (3%)

9. 7-Eleven: 21 (2%)

10. Miller/Coor's: 18 (2%)

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MIDDLEBURG TOWN
COUNCIL REPORT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

information on when and how vaccines will be available for the general public. The best way to stay informed is Loudoun County's dedicated webpage for the COVID-19 vaccine available at <https://bit.ly/3nPrIOY>

Budget
The proposes 2022 Town Budget will be presented on February 11 at the secluded Council meeting. The report stated, "Preliminary information received regarding real estate assessments shows expected increases in residential assessments but a roughly 14% decrease in commercial assessments. As a whole, the preliminary data is showing roughly a 5.5% decrease in total real estate revenues." - <https://bit.ly/2KriCKx>

Noise Ordinance
"Council received the attached request from Bundles Murdock to amend the Town's noise or-

dinance to prohibit construction during at least four (4), and up to six (6), major holidays within the Town limits. Councilmember Pearson has requested that this request be placed on the Council agenda for discussion."

The Council generally agreed with the request and will move forward to craft and amend the current Town Noise Ordinance. - <https://bit.ly/3qwDSOy>

Snow Removal Ordinance
"Vice Mayor Miller has requested that an item be placed on the Council agenda to discuss amendments to the Town's snow removal ordinance. In order to aid in those discussions, also attached is a copy of the ordinance provisions."

The Council's consensus was to make no changes to the current ordinance but to do a better job of informing and enforcing the ordinance.

ST. LOUIS

What's Next for St. Louis & Aldie?

In an effort to preserve a deal to protect historic St. Louis, Loudoun County is considering a land purchase/exchange with developer Mojax LLC that puts the historic character of Aldie in jeopardy.

The Piedmont Environmental Council and partners have significant concerns about the proposed transactions, the developer's history of violating local, state and federal regulations, and terms of the agreement that seem to limit the county's oversight of the development project should it go forward. We are closely following the situation and are committed to keeping you informed and engaged along the way, so that together we can protect both St. Louis and Aldie.

www.pecva.org/loudoun

ALDIE

Contact these organizations to learn more & get involved

 Piedmont Environmental Council

 Aldie Heritage Association

 GOOSE CREEK ASSOCIATION

 Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy

 CSG Coalition for Smarter Growth

 Virginia Piedmont Heritage Area

 Loudoun Historic Village Alliance

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PASTIMES

STEVE’S PICKS FOR 2020

IN UNISON

STEVE CHASE

We’re rapidly approaching the year anniversary of the pandemic. In my case, I have been teleworking since March, spending most of time within a mile or two of home, sitting around the firepit, and burning up bandwidth with multiple video calls and meetings every day. I recently got my annual Spotify usage report, and I racked up more than 60,000 minutes of music plays in 2020. Couple that with the inevitable binge watching of some great programs on Amazon, Netflix, etc, and I am feeling the need for some additional media diversions.

YouTube has been around for a long time, and there are those who have figured out how to monetize their videos as they accumulated thousands or tens of thousands of viewers. I have looked to YouTube for music content that I can geek out with, and I have been surprised at the amazing programming that is out there for music fans and musicians who want to learn more about certain artists, songs, technical tools, music theory, and musical genres.

Rick Beato is a professional musician/producer/engineer that has become one of the top music YouTube stars. He has made hundreds of videos and series, including “What Makes This Tune Great”, “The best...”, and “What if...”, amongst others. I love his videos, and with more than two million followers, Beato has a lot of influence. They make you think and give you a huge

amount of information about the styles, influences, technique, and musical philosophy of many great bands and musicians. Beato is also a musical activist for the notion of fair use. When you are going to talk about a specific song or solo, it’s best that you are able to at least play excerpts of the song. Some musicians disagree and think when Beato plays their music, he is ripping them off. It’s too bad that they don’t realize that a Beato video can serve as a huge advertisement for their music. Here’s a list of some of some of my favorites videos he has made. Some are loaded with musical theory that I have trouble getting my head around, and others bring back great memories and recharge me with the joy of music.

What If EVH or Eric Johnson Played the “Stairway to Heaven” Solo? This video, made last October right around the time that Eddie Van Halen died looks at the seminal guitar solo that Jimmy Page played on Stairway to Heaven and asks the question, what if guitar greats Peter Dinklage, Eddie Van Halen, or Eric Johnson played the solo. Because Led Zeppelin does not want Beato to use their music, he first sets down all of the tracks of the song during the guitar solo—a Fender 12 string electric, drums, organ, bass and a few measures of lead electric guitar. Beato then reaches out to friends: Bon Jovi guitarist Phil X to play a Van Halen interpretation, and Eric Johnson to play his version. Beato takes on a Peter Dinklage interpretation. The result of this experiment is amazing, each solo style sounds

like it was part of the original recording, providing similar spine chills to Page’s original. <https://youtu.be/1cOosnkWj2g>

What Makes This Song Great? Episode 35--Steely Dan’s Don’t Take Me Alive. My favorite Steely Dan Album has got to be the 1976 release, The Royal Scam. This recording has some of the greatest guitar solo work ever recorded in the Rock genre, with the great Larry Carlton shining on every tune he’s on. My favorite tune on the album is Don’t Take Me Alive, which is interesting because the tune opens with a Carlton guitar solo. Beato is such a good guitar player, he can play along with Carlton note for note. His examination of the music theory is only for the musical geeks, but for Steely Dan fans like me, the whole video is fascinating. If you like this one, check out episode 3, where he goes through the superlative Kid Charlemagne guitar solo. <https://youtu.be/HPNAGq0Te2U>

Steve Gadd: The DRUM SOLO That Changed Popular Music The year after The Royal Scam, Steely Dan released their masterpiece Aja. On the title track, Steve Gadd, a session drummer known for his work with a number of jazz fusion artists, plays a solo so exciting and complex that perhaps it has never been repeated—the greatest rock drum solo ever? Beato goes through how the track was made through eyewitness accounts and clips from the song. Gadd provides the rhythm for a solo by the great jazz saxophonist Wayne Shorter, who basically walked into the studio and recorded an over-

dub in six takes, in 35 minutes, all of which were used by Becker and Fagan for the sax solo. Combined with Gadd’s brilliant drumming, this is one of the superlative moments in rock music. If you like Aja, you’ll love this video. <https://youtu.be/BX-H7cqrTbmM>

Classic Albums I The Music I Love and Why--Rick Beato and I are basically the same age, and when I saw this video I was amazed that our musical interests are very similar. In this video he goes through

a stack of his vinyl albums quickly explaining on each why they are so good, and classic. Albums like Pat Metheny’s 80/81, Bill Evans - The Village Vanguard Sessions, Weather Report’s Heavy Weather, Keith Jarrett’s Koln, Swervedriver’s I wasn’t Born to Lose You...you get the idea. Give this a watch and you’ll get a great idea of where my musical interest lie, along with Beato’s. <https://youtu.be/2HZTYpSuhAc>

Steve Chase is geeking out to Rick Beato videos in Unison.



HEALTH AND NUTRITION

MIDDLEBURG SMILES



DR. ROBERT A. GALLEGOS

Since the onset of COVID-19, we have been establishing new routines to stay healthy. Covid-19 prevention has placed a heavy emphasis on personal hygiene and unique social interaction routines. When you start a new routine and repeat it for several weeks or sometimes months, it can become a habit. Some of the physical and emotional healthy habits we establish during this trying time are meant to benefit us for a short time and others for years to come.

Healthy routines and habits help foster emotional and physical health. Research shows that routines are vital for children. Bedtime routines lead to better family functioning and healthy restorative sleep. Family routines have been linked to better social skills, moderation of impulsiveness, improved academic achievement, and enhanced stress handling. However, the importance of routines is not just for children. When evaluating adults in good emotional and physical health, research has found that they exhibit these same healthy routines.

Healthy morning routines are: getting out of bed at a set time, making the bed, showering, putting on day clothes (not pajamas), eating breakfast, and establishing a schedule for the day. This is especially important for children who no longer can attend school and are “distance learning” and adults who now may work from home. Regular exercise and creative outlets promote both physical and emotional wellbeing.

Evening routines of eating healthy meals with others and having a set bedtime lead to healthier lives. Sleep hygiene is essential for health. This refers to having a set bedtime (adults and children), hygiene (hand and face wash, tooth brushing), reading from a book, no alcohol within 2-3 hours of bedtime, finish eating 2-3 hours before bedtime, no caffeine after noon, stop screen time (phone, TV, etc.) at least one hour before bedtime. Have a dark, quiet, and cool bedroom, and do not allow animals in bed with you. Sleep on your side. Back sleeping is the worst position for breathing and needs to be avoided, especially when you are congested or having trouble breathing. I know some will find this onerous, but if you try these things for several weeks, you will notice a more refreshed feeling in

the morning and throughout the day.

Nasal breathing is extremely helpful to prevent illness. Your nose filters, cleans, humidifies, and slows the flow of the air coming in, so when it reaches your lungs, there is proper oxygen and carbon dioxide exchange. Mouth breathing brings in the air that is harsh and contaminated with environmental toxins and allergens, causing the throat and lungs to become irritated and inflamed, which leads to inefficient oxygen and carbon dioxide exchange. To help keep your nose clean, use a xylitol spray daily (Xclear) and a Neti pot during allergy and flu seasons. If you struggle with nasal breathing, ask your physician to evaluate your nose. If there are no physical problems with your nose, but you have a mouth breathing habit, you can establish good nasal breathing habits. These books are very beneficial: Breath: The New Science of a Lost Art, by James Nestor. Close Your Mouth, by Patrick McKelown.

Personal hygiene is essential now more than ever. Although we’re bombarded with this message, it’s worth repeating: regular hand washing and sanitizing surface areas effectively reduce the spread of germs. Avoid hand contact with your face. If you are a caregiver, wash your hands well before and after caring for others and, when necessary, wear disposable gloves. Cough or sneeze into a disposable tissue, or if a tissue is not available, use the bend of your elbow rather than your hand. Wash reusable masks or replace disposable masks daily or sooner if soiled.

When resolving to commit to healthier habits, don’t leave out social interactions. As COVID-19 has impacted the way we would typically socialize, we should evaluate how we can remain connected to benefit our emotional health while maintaining our physical health. Distancing is effective while still allowing for healthy in-person interaction. Phone and video chats are a secondary means when you cannot meet in-person. Although personal touch may not be appropriate at this time, we need to keep in mind that personal touch signals safety and trust. It soothes and calms cardiovascular (heart) stress. Eventually, real handshakes and hugs need to return.

Routines are essential to our wellbeing, both emotionally and physically. Evaluate your daily routines and weed out unhealthy

habits and build on healthy routines. It is best to start with one or two easy things and not overwhelm yourself with too much change at once, as this can feel unsettling and may discourage you from making healthy changes. Resolving to stay healthy during this challenging time will result in a better New Year.

Dr. Robert A. Gallegos is a Fellow in the Academy of General Dentistry, visiting faculty at Spear Education, an alumnus of Pankey Institute, a member of 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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Here’s to the next 20.

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PASTIMES

CONFUSION, FRUSTRATION AND EMPATHY

AROUND THE TOWN



HAZEL SWEITZER

There is so much change in the world happening for all of you humans. I am sorry there is so much confusion and frustration, but I want to say some things I have learned about humans. There are many attributes that make dogs and humans different and at the same time, very much the same.

You are all kinder and more loving than you allow yourselves to be. You have great depth and understanding when it comes to Empathy. We, dogs know this well about you, it's just you trust dogs more than you trust other humans. It would be great if you could trust each other the way you trust us. When you're hurt you often have trouble moving past your pain because you allow your brain to limit your healing. As dogs, we never like humans to worry about us feeling pain or feeling hurt, and we don't linger with those feelings because we know it wouldn't make you feel very good. Humans have a tendency to want to feel bad much longer than we do and sometimes that leads to making others feel worse.

I learned you can forgive each other if you stop allowing your anger to be your main emotion and replace it with love. You all need to take more walks! Exercise and explore! This is very important. Bushes, and flowers, and people are the reason we stop so often. You should do the same, even though you don't go to the bathroom outside. TREATS! You shouldn't worry so much when you eat a treat. Treats are good for everyone. Humans sometimes bark and whine too much for no good reason. Don't get me wrong I love all humans, but I think humans need to think a little more before they bark.

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- Robert A. Gallegos, DDS, FAGD

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REFLECTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

SINCERELY ME



BRANDY GREENWELL

My January article is always about reflections on the previous year. When I started to outline my 2020 submission, my thoughts became like a bowl of noodles. Jumbled and soggy. So much, yet so little happened and there is no denying it went super fast. To recap:

Though I thought my online shopping skills were fit and running with maximum efficiency, I learned there was room for improvement. My delivery people also know this and I feel like I need to put them in my will for how good they have been to me.

I realized that Rob Lowe is still a hunk that makes my inner 13 year old blush.

I came to the conclusion that my favorite things about songs are the hooks and harmonies. This is prolific coming from someone with zero musical inclination other than pounding out Chopsticks.

I recognized that my signature pink bathrobe had far exceeded its useful life only after I received a new one for Christmas. It was atrociously tattered, filthy and stained. To think that its main time of use was when I was my cleanest is, well, just plain gross.

I learned that there is genuine kindness out there walking our streets. Sadly at the same time, I learned there is true hatred among us as well.

In 2020, I learned that you cannot, in fact, teach an old dog a new trick.

I substantially increased my athleisure wardrobe and beauty product collection, yet my hair care arsenal significantly decreased. Translation: I rotate wearing an impressive collection of Costco leggings, put a ton of creams and potions on my face to turn back the hands of time (yet often over day old makeup), and sport a ponytail or ratty mom-bun of rooty, dirty hair. Cheers to you 2020!

I realized my heart is so full of love and gratitude, that sometimes it hurts. I mean real, physical pain.

I fell in love again with riding and introduced that love to my children. Extra bonus points to my husband for securing the most perfect first ponies for our children and thanks to our dear friend who trusted us with the magical, twin, fuzzy, Ewok-like equines who have lived in the same stall for 17 years. It makes my heart sing to think of riding as a family.

I have never been so happy to have my family reside in Middleburg than during 2020. We have a wonderful community, town, and leadership that pulled us through this devastating year. How lucky are all of us to call Middleburg and her surrounding areas home?

2021 Resolutions

Recycle more. So. Much. Waste.

Ride more (duh). And maybe get back into the show ring. Shh-hhhh.

Organize the house and strive to keep it that way.

Find my pre-preggo abs to help relieve my severe and long term back pain.

Get to the marrow of every, single, day.

Happy New Year! May your 2021 be bright, full of love and extra prosperous.

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PASTIMES

5 HOME DESIGN TRENDS FOR 2021

ASK A REMODELER



TIM BURCH

With 2021 upon us, I'd like to share a few of the home design trends that our VP of Design TJ Monahan believes will influence our renovation projects this year.

Dark Green Cabinets

In cabinetry, we've seen trends with grey and white, all white and navy and white, so what might be next? We've already started to see kitchens on Houzz and Instagram with dark green cabinetry. Sometimes the green is so dark it doesn't read as green right away. It's a subtle way to introduce a color that still acts like a neutral but offers great depth and interest.

Integrated Toilets

Clients are starting to ask for integrated toilets, which are ba-

sically a combo of a bidet and a toilet. They have been popular in Asia for a long time and are just now starting to catch on here. There are additional features like an automatic lid and seat warmer, and if you want to get really fancy, you can get one with ambient light and built-in speakers.

There are a few things to be mindful of however. The first is the cost. The standard toilet we all know might run you around \$400. An integrated toilet is \$3000 - \$8000 depending on the chosen options. These toilets also require power, so you need to have an outlet close by, and should be installed by an experienced professional.

TJ expects that most bathroom projects this year will, at a minimum, plan for a future integrated toilet by installing an

outlet low on the wall behind the toilet. TJ is expecting them to become standard in high-end bathrooms very soon.

Wireless Charging in Countertops

For the last few years, new smart phones and wearables have been built to include Qi wireless charging. That means you can lay it down on a special pad for charging instead of plugging it in.

Well, did you know that you can install the charging pad below your countertop? There are some limitations in making this work, like the thickness of the countertop, but as long as we know those limitations at the beginning, we can make this work on most of the tops we install.

Hidden Doors

Our clients are starting to ask for hidden doors, which is always fun. We recently finished a kitchen remodel that had an existing walk-in pantry. Instead of having a standard door to the pantry, we made it look like it was another tall cabinet door. It's a fun detail with great design appeal.

Subtle Ceiling Details

Coffered ceilings were, and are, a very popular detail. When you're going for a traditional look, they're hard to beat. But what if you don't have high ceilings and aren't interested in building the coffers down and losing height, or what if your style isn't traditional, or maybe you want a ceiling detail in your new kitchen without sacrificing cabinet height?

We're starting to see more subtle details - something that



PASTIMES

5-SPICE DUCK SALAD WITH KUMQUAT DRESSING

THE KITCHEN PHILOSOPHY



EMILY TYLER
WWW.THEKITCHENPHILOSOPHY.COM

I am celebrating the season of citrus with this recipe - clean and refreshing kumquats and blood oranges combined with roasted sweet potatoes and pan seared duck breast, rubbed with 5-spice powder. I love to serve this combination with slightly bitter greens such as escarole to balance the richness of the duck - sweet, sour and savory all in this winter salad.

5-Spice Duck Breast Salad with Kumquat Dressing

1 head of escarole washed and dried

2 5-spice duck breast (recipe below)

1 cups diced roasted sweet potatoes

2 blood oranges peel removed and cut into circles

Kumquat Dressing (recipe below)

- Peel the sweet potato and dice into ½ inch pieces, toss with a bit of olive oil and salt, place on a line baking sheet

- Roast at 375 for about 20 minutes or until they are soft and lightly browned

- Make the dressing while the sweet potatoes are

roasting (recipe below)

- Prepare the duck breast (recipe below)

- To assemble the salad lay the escarole on a platter, sprinkle the roasted sweet potato over, then the blood oranges, arrange the sliced duck breast on top and drizzle with the kumquat dressing

Kumquat Dressing

16 kumquats washed and dried

1 tablespoon honey

¼ cup seasoned rice vinegar

1 teaspoon kosher salt

½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

¾ cup avocado or olive oil

- In a blender combine all of the ingredients except the oil and blend until the kumquats are pureed

- With the blender running, add the oil in a slow steady stream to emulsify the dressing

- Store the dressing in the refrigerator

5-Spice Duck Breast

2 duck breast

1 teaspoon olive oil plus for the skillet

1 teaspoon 5-spice powder

¼ teaspoon kosher salt

¼ teaspoon black pepper

- Pat the duck breast dry with paper towels, then score the skin in a diamond pattern, being careful not to cut through to the breast

- Mix the oil and spices together, divide the mixture and rub it evenly into the scored duck skin

- Coat a cast iron pan with a drizzle of olive oil

- In the cold pan, place the breast skin side down and bring the heat to medium, cook to render the fat and crisp the skin, be careful not to brown too quickly - about 15 minutes

- Turn the breast over, reduce the heat to low and continue to cook 1-2 minutes or until the breast temperature comes to 125 degrees for medium rare - if you like your duck well done, bring it to 165 degrees (recommended by FDA for safety, not taste..)

- Remove the breast from the skillet and rest while you prepare the salad

- Slice after the breast has rested for about 10 minutes

WINTER IS HERE.... NOW WHAT?

THOUGHTS FROM THE FIELD

NICK GREENWELL

Well, with the arrival of the sub-freezing temperatures, the frozen mud, and the "What the heck am I going to do?" we have lots to think about. Let us be proactive. Last year was a mess. This year will, with some thought, effort, and a certain degree of amnesia, be much better. So...lets focus on those simple winter hacks that will prevent further frustration and highlight some of the brighter days to come.

One of the most frustrating aspects of winter is the freezing of pipes and hoses. The solution is quite simple. For those that may be new to water sources in outbuildings, simply allow-

ing your faucets or spigots to dribble may prevent a freeze. ALWAYS disconnect and drain your hoses from every outlet. Wrapping pipes and insulating all exposed components will certainly help, as well as ensuring that your water is not too "hard." A water softening system that introduces a trace amount of salt and other minerals will do wonders for water quality and frozen pipes.

When it is time to look out of the windows, and to evaluate your fields, lawns, pastures, gardens and flowerbeds, note that NOW is the time to start shopping. It is not too early to begin pricing seed, fertilizer, compost, bulbs (yes, you can still plant them for spring), veggies, and even equipment. Many retailers,

wholesalers, and manufacturers will offer early incentives depending on the monetary commitment. Also, do not forget to reach out to contractors that can help you implement your plans. We love to book as early as possible. Your investment should be placed in the best hands possible, next to your own.

The ever changing "seasons within our seasons" present a continual challenge in how we condition our environment, animals, and ultimately, ourselves. I hope that you and those that you love (both human and animal) stay warm, safe, and well fed in the coming months. Let us look forward to bright blossoms, green grass, sprouting gardens, and kind gestures.



PASTIMES
SPRING CATALOGS
THE PLANT LADY



BREATHING
FITNESS PROFESSIONAL



KAY COLGAN, CERTIFIED PILATES AND HEALTH COACH

These days have us all breathing shallowly. As if we are holding our breath, waiting for something else to happen. So much like the fight or flight syndrome. We are preparing for battle but which one? A lot is coming at us, we find it hard to

breathe fully and deeply. However, inhaling deeply and exhaling fully might just bring about a calmness that your body craves.

If you really think about it, our breath is the connection between mind and body. Kind of like a bridge. The most effective way to relax is to do awareness or conscious breathing. Breathing fully has been shown to help lower blood pressure, calm a racing heart, and help your digestive

system. Our breath has direct connections to our emotional state and moods. If you are angry or fearful the breath is shallow, or quick and irregular. It's hard to be upset when breath is slow, deep and regular. These days it's hard to bring center to our minds and bodies when things seem out of control. However, using your breathing consciously by slow full deep breaths will allow your body to enter a calm and restful

state.

A breathing exercise to try is:

- Exhale completely through your mouth like a big sigh.
- Close your eyes and inhale through your nose as you count to 4.
- Hold your breath for a count of 7.
- Exhale completely through your mouth, large sigh.
- Do 4 sets of the above and

calmness will set in.

We are all experiencing and navigating uncertain times. Just breathing completely can help us mentally and physically handle the stressors before us.

For more information about health and fitness, please contact, Kay Colgan at Middleburg pilates, 14 S Madison Street, Middleburg, Virginia or call 540-687-6995.



KAREN REXRODE

As the seed catalogs arrive the gardener highlights or folds over pages of interest. While the garden is in its brown phase, colorful pages take us into the future and the past with memories of failures and success's. I always hesitate at flowering sweet peas and wonder if anyone moves to a climate that would suit them. Sweet pea land would have long, cold springs and I confess that I don't like cold. Places like Vancouver, BC or upstate New York make more sense. If only sweet peas weren't so photogenic. Of course professional photographers take the pictures, they make dusty miller and liriopoe look sexy.

Sometimes the season is just right, like the year our spring was ridiculously long and cool. The sweet peas were beautiful and it was 1995, so rare that the gardener remembers.

Dahlias are another that fill a page well and send the highlighter to block out selections. As one of the last flowers we cut from the garden, the knee jerk reaction is to buy more, forgetting how they hated the heat and sulked every day. Finding just the right place in the garden is the trick.

Spring catalogs are also an indicator of garden trends. White Flower Farm is listing dried flower wreaths, something that hasn't been popular since the eighties. Houseplants fill four full pages,

equal to the space occupied by roses or dahlias. A mistake on their part might be the lack of notations on native perennial or shrub. Although "wildflower" and "pollinator" are sprinkled around.

Select Seeds catalog lists a new dwarf nasturtium named 'Baby Rose' and I see this mixing well in a bed of dwarf lettuce. Pages are dedicated to native species and cultivars, a smart move on their part where monarch butterflies and hummingbirds function as models.

My lettuce trial of last spring was a huge success with the help of Johnny's Select Seeds catalog. Their true mini heads were my favorites. The last thirty pages of their catalog covers supplies, a place where I can relate to how things have changed but stayed the same in the growing field. An entire page is dedicated to long-handled tools or weeders; more highlighting or page folding - I could use at least one of these.

If this spring is anything like last year, it's not too early to stock-up. My tomato and lettuce seed have been ordered and there were a few work arounds as some were sold out already. If I can share some more advice, highlight to your hearts content but then reconsider, sleep on it before you commit, or wear sunglasses to diminish the brilliance of it all.

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RUTLEDGE FARM

MIDDLEBURG, VIRGINIA

Premier Middleburg estate | Main house of stone and frame construction circa 1740 w/addition in 1820. 6 BR, 3 1/2 BA, 5 FP, high ceilings, moldings & detailed woodwork throughout | Equestrian facilities are unmatched | 113 lush acres. 5 barns totaling 35 stalls | 19 paddocks | Derby field | 218 x 80 indoor arena | 250 x 150 all-weather outdoor arena | 80' lunging arena | Polo field (or 2 grand prix fields) | 4 board, double fencing & automated nelson waterers | Other improvements include 3 BR, 2 1/2 BA guest house | Farm office attached to 3 BR house | Machine shed | Carriage house w/apartment | Stone spring house/office | 3 BR apartment | Pond with gazebo

\$8,000,000

PAUL MACMAHON 703.609.1905
SANDRA BRAVO GREENBERG 202.308.3813



DEERFIELD

UPPERVILLE, VIRGINIA

181 acres | Brick manor house c. 1844 | 4 bedrooms, lovely kitchen, multiple porches, pine floors, 7 fireplaces, original mantels, large windows, detailed millwork | c. 1810 log cabin/pool house, guest house with theater, 2 tenant houses, 5-bay garage and workshop | Sizable pond

\$4,500,000

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

\$3,200,000

PAUL MACMAHON 703.609.1905



DIXONS MILL ROAD

MARSHALL, VIRGINIA

Lovely brick home on hilltop setting, completely redone by current owners | Wood floors, high ceilings, lots of light | 6 BR, 5 1/2 BA, 5 FP, sweeping stair case in foyer | Basement level finished for family enjoyment w/ media room, office, gym, billiard room, full bar w/ kitchenette, full bath & outside entrance leading to pool and spa | Improvements include 3-car garage, heated 4-car garage w/car lift | Potting shed/studio w/ attached heated green house | 20 car barn for serious collector | Swimming pool with spa | 5-stall barn | Property fenced and cross fenced | 68.23 acres

\$2,375,000

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FIRETHORN LANE

THE PLAINS, VIRGINIA

Privately situated on 2 acres | 3 BR main residence - each BR with separate bath | Spacious master BR, elegantly decorated and appointed | Conveniently located between Middleburg and The Plains | Large open eat-in kitchen w/ bar and center island | Living room w/ fireplace | Formal dining room | Space for home office w/ fireplace | Basement includes ample storage & exercise room | 1 BR guest house | Lovely gardens and wrap around porch for outdoor socializing

\$1,250,000

ALIX COOLIDGE 703.625.1724



11 SOUTH MADISON STREET

MIDDLEBURG, VIRGINIA

The Old Middleburg Pharmacy | Built in 1934 | Wonderful old stone building on Madison Street in Middleburg with endless options | Main level retail, full basement for storage or separate entrance and 3 rental apartments upstairs | Approximately 7,000 sf | C-2 zoning provides for many uses | Rear parking

\$1,100,000

HELEN MACMAHON 540.454.1930



BUST HEAD ROAD

THE PLAINS, VIRGINIA

82.69 acres | Mostly wooded, mountain views, bold stream in very protected area | Conservation easement | Can not be subdivided | Prime Orange County Hunt location | Halfway between Middleburg and The Plains

\$1,100,000

PAUL MACMAHON 703.609.1905



4216 MOSBY STREET

THE PLAINS, VIRGINIA

3 bedrooms, 1-1/2 bath cape cod on private street in the village of The Plains, VA | 1,764 square feet with hardwood floors throughout | Freshly painted and move in ready | Also offers room for growth | Quick access to 66 for a quick commute or work from home | Owner is a licensed real estate Agent

\$465,000

MARGARET CARROLL 540.454.0650



BUNKER HILL

THE PLAINS, VIRGINIA

2 lots between The Plains and Marshall | Parcel C is 3.9 acres | Parcel B is 3.5 acres | Both parcels have preliminary soil work completed to obtain 4 bedroom septic permits | Both lots are very private and have a nice mix of open and wooded areas | Great convenient location where few lots are available

\$250,000 EACH

HELEN MACMAHON 540.454.1930

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MIDDLEBURG HUMANE FOUNDATION



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JUSTICE IS THE ANSWER TO TRUMP’S RALLY TO RIOT

BLUE

JOHN P. FLANNERY

There is a Republican talking point that the Congress and government should forego impeachment and possible criminal prosecution of outgoing President Donald Trump in favor of what some say is “unity.”

Is it possible to have unity without justice after the insurrection that Trump promoted and incited?

The conduct, it is argued, that we should overlook, is the insurrection Trump incited Wednesday, January 6th, shouting to a mob he invited to DC.

Trump insisted his maddened followers stop the pro forma confirmation on January 6, making former VP Joe Biden, the President elect.

On January 6, 2021, Trump harangued the crowd he summoned to DC, stirring them to action, telling them, “if you don’t fight like hell, you’re not going to have a country anymore,” sounding a call to overthrow the election, to defeat the voter’s intent, to render the presidential election a nullity, and to choose Trump instead.

On the evening of January 6th,

the Congress secured Capitol Hill against the rioters, resumed its business and rightly confirmed Biden as President; Vice President Pence, whom the rioters threatened to hang, announced the results at about 4 AM, January 7th.

In response to Trump’s misconduct, the Congress voted an article of impeachment for inciting the mob to overrun the Hill, to subvert the will of the voters.

The Resolution said Trump incited rioters who “unlawfully breached and vandalized the Capitol, injured and killed law enforcement personnel, menaced Members of Congress, the Vice President, and Congressional personnel, and engaged in other violent, deadly, destructive, and seditious acts.”

The Resolution accused Trump of “threaten[ing] the integrity of the democratic system, interfer[ing] with the peaceful transition of power, and imperil[ing] a coequal branch of Government.”

The ten Republicans who voted for impeachment may prove yet to be the bridge to unity to act in the government’s best interest.

But is it just to impeach and to

prosecute Trump?

John Rawls wrote a tome, discussing what is justice, and concluded, we must consider “justice as fairness.”

Our frame of reference for “justice” for autocracy is one person, with everyone else subjects; this is not our nation’s frame of reference.

In democracy, the frame of reference is the people, all of us, “we the people.”

We require as a nation a concept of justice as a standard by which we may guide a society.

Aristotle had one formulation he considered objectionable, what he called pleonexia, one person seizing what belongs to another including the other man’s reward, his public office, denying to another what was the other man’s due.

The terms of our association, our social contract, in the Declaration of Independence is that all men are created equal, and in the Constitution, it is, “We the People.”

Rawls underscores how, we agreed as a people to “specify certain forms of action as permissible, others as forbidden; and they provide for certain

penalties and defenses, and so on, when violations occur.”

In our constitution, we agreed on how we handle a Chief Executive who fails the duties of his office.

In our federal crimes, we identified felonious misconduct that should be discouraged and punished.

We have the constitution and law – but Trump acts in disregard – imagines he is above the law.

We have long settled this question.

In 1787, our nation inherited from medieval England the rule that we are “a government of laws, not of men.”

When the Magna Charta was signed in 1215, King John guaranteed his obedience to English laws.

Our constitution relies on supremacy over its officers including especially the President.

Our constitution says in the 14th Amendment, section 3, that no officer of the United States shall hold any office under the United States who has engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof.”

Plainly, Trump violated this provision.

In addition, there are crimes, prohibiting travel to riot, to incite, assist or engage in any rebellion or insurrection, and to conspire to incite rebellion or insurrection.

Our constitution sought to insure that the President of the United States, would be under and subject to the constitution and to the law – not a law unto himself.

The President – and the President alone – swears on the Bible (or affirms) that he will “preserve, protect and defend the Constitution” (Article II, Section 1, Clause 8).

When a child commits an infraction, parents know to act promptly so that the child understands that misconduct is met with a sanction.

Trump’s impeachment must go forward to bar Trump from holding public office.

Trump’s crimes must be investigated and prosecuted if sustained by evidence to punish Trump and to deter other public figures who might otherwise follow Trump’s traitorous path.

and looting of Baltimore several years ago the Democrat Mayor of “Charm City” informed the public that she had given “those who wish to destroy space to do that...” More recently a prominent Democrat Congresswoman defending the rioters prior to Jan. 6, told us “we will not have peace in the streets until we have peace in our lives”. When lawlessness and intimidation served their political ends, the Democrats’ response to the anarchy and violence was not to enforce the law and prosecute the rioters, their response was to defund the police!

Now, having seen the consequences of lawlessness up close and personal on Jan. 6, Democrats have had an epiphany on the need for law and order, at least when it comes to Trump supporters. It seems those in the ivory tower of Washington D.C who took no interest in the plight of ordinary, law abiding, tax-paying, private citizens whose lives were threatened and whose businesses and life savings were ravaged by “mostly peaceful” Leftist protestors now have no problem funding a police and military crackdown to safeguard themselves.

The Party that unleashed this pestilence of violent political protests on our Country is demonstrating its duplicity by wasting taxpayer funds to impeach the President, while at the same time they tell us it is now time to put aside partisan politics and unite behind Joe Biden. In response to their invitation I will say with all sincerity that I hope conservatives and Republicans will learn from the example set by the Democrats and extend to the Biden administration all of the respect, cooperation, goodwill and bipartisanship that Democrats have shown to the Trump administration over the past 4 years.

ON THE PRECIPICE RED

BRIAN J. VELLA

So it seems Joe Biden will be sworn in as President, a man who now scarcely knows who or where he is, but throughout his long tenure in Washington distinguished himself by being wrong on nearly every issue or policy he encountered. There are two possible explanations I have deduced for the Biden calamity we will soon face: First, the election was so fraught with rigged voting procedures and rigged machines that the outcome will go down in history (at least if there is ever an honest version of history, which at this point seems doubtful) as having outcome the 1960 Presidential election which was stolen by Democrats from Richard Nixon in favor of John Kennedy. This explanation is disturbing and has terrible implications for our Country, but has not been given a forum in the courts and the media is disinterested in reporting or investigating the facts, so the truth will have to surface through other avenues.

The second explanation for Biden’s election is even worse for the fate of our Country than the voter fraud explanation. The worst possible explanation from the standpoint of our Country is that after 50 years of mal-education through our schools and universities; mis-information fed to us by the media, and anti-American propaganda pumped into our homes by Hollywood liberals and their confederates in the TV and sports and entertainment industries on a daily basis, a majority of people in the Country did in fact willingly vote for a man whose view of America is almost entirely negative, but who holds a favorable view and has long-standing ties with the Chinese communist party and other foreign entities.

Mr. Biden and Ms. Harris have made no secret of their socialist preferences and have shown no signs of embracing fundamental American ideals of individual liberty, responsibility and freedom as expressed in the Declaration of Independence. We are soon to be under the thumb of those who reject the rights guaranteed to each individual citizen under the Constitution, including the freedom of assembly, the freedom of speech and religion, the freedom of the press, and the right to keep and bear arms- all are under assault by the Left, and we will soon see the truth of the old adage that absolute power corrupts absolutely. With control of the White House and both houses of Congress, there is little to stop the Democrats from carrying out their threats to “fundamentally transform” America. Already they have voiced their plans to pack the Supreme Court, pack the Senate by admitting new and reliably Democrat senators, dismantle our border security, further weaken election safeguards and raise taxes on fiscally responsible states to bail out states that have made a mess of their finances by engaging in decades of liberal Democrat policies. Under the guise of public health, already the Democrats dictate when we may attend church or synagogue, where we can travel, how and when we can operate our businesses, whether we can gather with our own families in our own homes for holidays and when and if we can assemble to voice our political views. The Left now dictates what ideas may be expressed through speech on college campuses, and labels anything that disagrees with their political views as “hate speech”. Once labelled as “hate” all manner of oppression is considered acceptable, Wearing a MAGA hat or tee shirt makes one a racist, a student staffing a conservative information booth on a campus can

be assaulted without consequence, guest speakers who offer a view different from the Leftist dogma are physically threatened and barred from speaking. The media, once considered the watchdog to help ensure against political corruption and overreach, is nothing more than a propaganda tool for the Left. Twitter, Facebook and Google, as private companies are free from any constitutional constraints, and blatantly suppress speech or news stories that does not comport with their Leftist views. If these forces can ban speech by the President of the United States, they can ban speech by anyone. We are truly on the brink. Instead of the American example of liberty and individual freedom, Leftists dictators and tyrants the world over can now look to the U.S. to see how to effectively silence opposing political views. Ronald Reagan warned us that freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We are set to test that proposition.

The last thumb in the eye by Congressional Democrats to the outgoing Trump administration is the Democrats’ latest Articles of Impeachment, contending the President called for supporters to come to D.C where he allegedly incited the violence that took place on January 6. The actions of the individuals who broke the law and engaged in violence that day are unacceptable and those individuals must be held accountable, but the notion that the President is responsible for those acts is contemptible. I had planned to attend the Jan. 6 event in Washington, not because I was summoned by the President to come to Washington and do violence, but to show my support and appreciation for the many positive achievements of the President and also to express my displeasure at how the President and his team were being denied a

fair hearing in the courts and in the media to investigate a long list of well-documented “irregularities” surrounding the election. Although I was unable to attend the event because of a last-minute work commitment, I have since studied the words used by the President that day and find nothing he said that could be interpreted as inciting violence. Friends I have spoken with who did attend confirm my view of the President’s words, but in the Orwellian world of the Democrats and their media cohorts, we are now told that admonishing people to act peacefully and patriotically constitutes incitement to violence.

That the Left should now show concern for violent protests is rich. All summer, and really since the Trump inauguration, the Left has burned and looted and rioted without consequence. Not long ago the same Democrats now conducting the impeachment charade were extolling the virtues of “protestors” who in just the past year stormed the White House security barrier, burned St. John’s Church, burned a federal courthouse building, destroyed public statues and looted countless businesses. Does anyone recall how future Biden voters took over the Wisconsin State Capitol Building where they squatted for weeks and trashed the entire facility, or the assault on the Federal Courthouse and the police precinct in Portland? In 2020 alone, there were over 20 deaths, property damage that exceeded \$2 billion and injuries to hundreds of police officers caused by protestors the Democrats defended as “mostly peaceful”. Instead of demands to hold these rioters accountable, Democrats declared “Viva le resistance,” and justified the violent protests and riots as a tool to achieve their political goals “by any means necessary”. In the midst of the violence, burning

LETTER FROM THE PLAINS

ANTHONY WELLS

May I make one comment on January 20, 2021, by recalling the words of Oliver Cromwell in his speech dismissing the Rump Parliament, on April 20, 1653: “It is high time for me to put an end to your sitting in this place which you have dishonored by your contempt of all virtues and defiled by your practice of every vice...In the name of God, Go!”. Cromwell’s words echo down the centuries. Trump has gone. The United States will move onwards and upwards as it always has. Let’s move on to other more positive matters. I recall well the excitement as a small boy in post World War Two Britain entertaining my local friends when my mother acquired what was for us all a brand new piece of revolutionary technology, a Frigidaire refrigerator. We were fascinated by the fact that we could make our own iced lollipops! This was American technology at its best. Soon after came a weird looking device fitted up on the chimney of our home and we small boys were told this was a Television aerial. Just one BBC Channel became our entertainment heaven, broadcasting in the early years from just three in the afternoon, with children’s programs, until ten in the evening, with news, cultural programs, and dramas. There were no independent channels, or additional BBC channels, until much later. My little friends and I had zero knowledge of the great American television pioneer Philo Farnsworth, or the brilliant Scotsman John Logie Baird. For our young, and impressionable minds, intrigued by these technologies, we had no idea that we were witnessing the beginning of a technical revolution. Fast forward from the late 1940s to the mid 1960s and I am a Royal Navy Lieutenant, and I am inspecting regularly a distinguished London school’s Naval Cadet Force. One of the young Naval Cadets that I inspected at Emanuel School, was named Timothy Berners-Lee. He was clearly a very capable and intellectually gifted Cadet. Little did I realize that this was the future Sir Timothy Berners-Lee, OM, KBE, FRS, who would leave the Cadet Force for a physics degree at Queen’s College, Oxford, and subsequently became the inventor of the World Wide Web, revolutionizing communications. Later I was responsible for the planning and execution of almost 2,000 British, Commonwealth, and foreign Midshipmen’s navigation training in the Dartmouth Training Ship. As a fully qualified Navigation Instructor I also taught Astro Navigation. Spherical trigonometry was not every Midshipman’s forte, so I always taught the practical, “how to do it”, not the intensive mathematical theory unless those so inclined wished to know. Sun rise and sun set sights, meridian passage, planet and star sights, were the order of the day, together with Decca and Loran electronic intercepts, when available, which was sparse, depending where we were in the world. The sextant was the key

instrument, and if the weather was bad we were left with “dead reckoning”. This was long before GPS. When I came to the United States, in uniform, to work in Washington DC in the mid 1970s I visited many times the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), which earlier was called just ARPA, and was launching the information revolution. It created the ARPANET, the prototype communications network with advanced digital protocols that gave birth to the Internet. Couple Berners-Lee and the ARPANET and one has the technical revolution that we all enjoy today. Move on to February 16, 1994 and the FAA certified the first GPS (Global Positioning System) unit for use in IFR (Instrument Flight Rules) operations, for aerial navigation and for landing approaches in non visual flight rules weather conditions. I attended a special FAA Flight Instructor course at Dulles Airport to understand both the technology and how the Washington area flight instructors were expected to train instrument rated pilots in using the emerging new systems. This was the beginning of the GPS revolution, gratis the US Air Force. Eccentric readers are today familiar with the multiple applications of GPS technology. Simply stated, we are all GPS dependent, and not just for the obvious applications on your cell photos, your car mapping system, and locating anything and everything. The Internet, the World Web, and GPS are all inter connected. Our dependence can only be described as huge. The consequences of a GPS failure are enormous. GPS resilience and survivability from state sponsored, surrogate, and other illegal entities’ jamming, deception, or kinetic attacks, are paramount. Let us step back and briefly review GPS. The Global Navigatiöon Satellite System (GNSS) provides the most accurate positional data, a far cry from the small “Cocked Hats” that I taught Midshipmen to plot from three sextant sights. The satellites are typically 20,000 kilometers above us, moving at several kilometers per second, and with time accuracy to within a billionth of a second. The positional accuracy is typically within a few meters. Each satellite has an atomic clock, and normally four or more satellites provide the “Fix”, by measuring the time delay between signal transmission and receipt. The key technical aspect is the highly accurate and synchronized time across highly geographically distanced networks. Readers’ computers, electricity transmission, broadcasting, telecommunications, transport systems, supply chains, hospitals, and the list goes on endlessly, are all coordinated via “Universal Time”. The bad news is that GNSS satellite systems signals are relatively weak and can be “spoofed”. The consequences of the loss of GNSS derived Positional Navigation and Timing (PNT) are huge. The vulnerabilities of critical United States infrastructure and that of our allies and friends need to be better understood and protected. We have several ways to ensure survivability and I will address these in my next Letter.

Meanwhile, let me end on a most positive note, illustrating the extraordinary rapid march of technology. The latest Piper M600 SLS single engine general aviation airplane is fully equipped with the Garmin Halo Safety and Autoland system, all GPS dependant. In the event of the pilot becoming incapacitated, or losing situational awareness for whatever reason, with one switch activated the system will automatically take the aircraft to the nearest airport, with the appropriate runway length, to land safely, executing all the necessary navigation, weather and wind related, collision avoidance, and flight control calculations and actions, to land safely, including after touch down and landing movements, all with zero human intervention. This is only one illustration from the aviation industry where GPS with highly capable programming and artificial intelligence is providing revolutionary capabilities that affect Eccentric readers’ lives. Perhaps on one final note we should all ask ourselves do our children and grandchildren know how to use a

compass, read a map, do time-speed-distance calculations, and go from A to B without GPS? I am very pleased that the US Naval Academy has reintroduced astro navigation as a compulsory subject after a number of years accepting that GPS is the final navigational panacea. Sadly, this is not so. There have been occurrences of maritime GPS jamming and deception, with merchant ships in some instances finding their positional data to be totally inaccurate because of deliberate willful interference. Eccentric readers will be pleased to know that the US Space Force very recently announced a major upgrade to the ground system operation that controls a new, more secure GPS signal. The “M-Code” programming provides advanced anti-spoofing and anti-jamming capabilities designed to provide positioning, navigation and timing data to our war fighters when adversaries are trying to block or degrade the signal. What is clearly required is a similar “civilian” capability that will provide all of us with assured PNT access and preventing unauthorized

intrusions. The hitherto US gold standard of PNT systems has to be maintained for all legitimate US private and commercial users. All this is a far cry from my late mother’s refrigerator, and that tangled antenna on our chimney stack. Robert Browning’s fine poetic words still resonate, when reflecting in this instance on how a few very brilliant minds can change the world, “The little more, and how much it is, the little less, and what worlds away”. Let us all wish Joe Biden and his Administration safe passage through the rough waters that may lie ahead of our new ship of state. He deserves no less, irrespective of our individual loyalties. In 1940 Winston Churchill joined together with Clement Atlee to face a challenge that was above party politics. For five arduous and tumultuous years they worked in harmony to face an evil existential threat. Covid 19 is taking American lives every minute, of every hour, of every day. Let’s be harmonious. Let’s be a team. Please be well and safe.

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