

# SPRING IS HERE MIDDLEBURG STARTS TO REOPEN

ARBOR DAY  
CELEBRATION  
PHOTOS PAGE 16



## VICE MAYOR'S REFLECTIONS ON A NEW TOWN HALL



HALL PHILIP MILLER

In 1965 Middleburg's current Town Office opened its doors to serve the public. At that time, the Town employed six people full-time and one person part-time, and the population was roughly the same as it is today. The Town budget for that year was \$678,000. In 2021 we find ourselves in a very different position. The Town employs 15 people full-time and three part-time with an annual budget of over \$5M. Today Middleburg is poised to build a new Town Hall after 56 years. For me, at least, it's an opportunity to build more than an office building; it's an opportunity to build a community gathering place. Take a moment and imagine running into a friend or neighbor in a park in Middleburg. I love that idea, and I look forward to that reality. I welcome the day when we can host concerts and farmers' markets on the town green. To think of community members gathering in a park and

enjoying Middleburg in this way has me particularly jazzed. Surely that excitement is colored by our current pandemic circumstances, but that's not the only reason I'm excited. We should all be excited about Middleburg's new Town Hall project. This undertaking isn't about space needs studies and what wall is placed where or whose office is which. In fact this project isn't about walls at all (ok maybe it's a little bit about walls). My point is this project is about our community. The Town Hall is about a lot more than office space. It's about who we are and what we value. From one perspective, it's about uniting your office staff with your Police in one centralized and easily accessible location. I posit, the objective of this project can only be understood in its aggregate. The sum is greater than the parts. The whole enterprise is aimed at serving you better now and in the future. It's a project that will reflect the values of the community it serves. Each time the

## CHANGE IN MUNICIPAL ELECTION DATE

PAGE 3

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# GREENHILL VINEYARDS



VIRGINIA GOVERNOR'S CUP GOLD MEDAL WINNER  
2019 CHARDONNAY RESERVE

## NEWS OF NOTE

### CHANGE IN MUNICIPAL ELECTION DATE

DANNY DAVIS

During the 2021 Special Session of the Virginia General Assembly (GA), the GA passed Senate Bill 1157 (SB1157) that mandates all local/municipal elections to occur in November. This legislation will take effect on July 1, 2021.

Over 100 municipalities in Virginia, including Middleburg, hold local elections in May. This was specifically chosen by these municipalities so that local issues could be the focus of elections.

With the passage of SB1157, the default date of municipal elections would be even-year November elections (2022, 2024, 2026, etc.). Even-year elections are when Presidential and Federal elections occur. If the Town Council takes no action, current Council members' terms would automatically extend by approximately 6 months until the November 2022 or November 2024 elections occur.

Certain municipalities have felt that holding municipal elections would be better in

odd years so that local issues do not get lost in national politics. These odd-year November elections would coincide with State and County elections.

The Town Council has a very limited period of time to decide whether to change elections to odd years or whether to default to even-year elections. To move elections to odd years would require passage of an ordinance changing the Town elections and must be made by May 13, 2021, as the candidate filing deadline for November 2021 elections is June 8, 2021. If a decision is

made for even-year elections, this decision is permanent and cannot be changed in the future.

It must be noted that if the Town Council changes to odd-year November elections, current members' terms would be shortened by approximately 6 months. In other words, those regularly set for election in May 2022 would be up for election in November 2021.

The Town Council has expressed a desire to get a sense of the Middleburg voters on their preference for odd-year or even-year elections. As such, the Town staff are pre-

paring an information mailer (see draft attached) that will be sent to all registered voters. The mailing will include a postage paid postcard that can be returned to the Town Office, along with a link for filling out the survey online.

Absent any change in preference by Council, Town staff will proceed with this mailing. The estimated cost is around \$1,500, which can be covered in the current budget allocation.

| EVEN YEAR ELECTIONS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | ODD YEAR ELECTIONS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>PROS</p> <p>Expected greater voter turnout<br/>Potential for greater community involvement in town related issues<br/>Limits confusion on when and where to vote</p> <p>CONS</p> <p>Local issues may get lost in national politics<br/>May "politicize" local elections, where they are not party specific<br/>Municipal elections occur every two years; so not every election will coincide with a Presidential election, which typically has the most turnout</p> | <p>PROS</p> <p>Allows local issues to dominate the conversation<br/>Avoids politics of national elections<br/>Allows local (town) elections to be on same ballot as local (county) elections</p> <p>CONS</p> <p>Historically has lower turnout than Presidential election years<br/>Potential that the General Assembly changes election dates again in the future</p> |

### THE GREAT DAFFODIL GIVEAWAY



There will be a beautiful display of daffodils this spring on the hillside of the Fire Station and at the entrances to Levis Hill House as you drive west out of town. Over 1200 bulbs will bloom from early to late in the season, so if you don't catch a glance in March, they will continue for another 5-6 weeks. The Middleburg Garden Club decided to continue an effort that began in the fall of 2019 as "The Great Daffodil Giveaway" with its community funds.

Melanie Blunt was President of MGC when members voted to fund the project in the spring of 2019. Ms. Blunt said that it just seemed like a good idea when a member, Darcy Justen, came up with the idea. She said, "The board supported our long-standing tradition of community involvement." In October 2019, members gave out free bags of 50 bulbs

to people who could plant them along the town's streets for everyone to see. There was a focus, too, on churches and public spaces around the town entrance and at the Pink Box information center. One of the highlights was a grouping of daffodils around the fox statue in front of the Community Center. Were it not for the Foxes on the Fence project in 2017 and 2019, and the club could not have donated to the statue and the bulbs.

"Our board this year decided with COVID that it would be best to choose a larger space and go big," said Susanne Lamb, the club's current President. After checking with the fire station and Levis Hill, a team of 3 women and Desiree Lee planted the bulbs at the end of October. "Claire Louis, Resident Services Manager, and Gwendolyn Morugu, Director of Levis Hill resident services, were thrilled when we asked them

about planting," said Linda Platt, community relations chair of the club. "The new Battalion Chief, Facilities, at the fire station, Joshua Cooper, knows that the bulbs need to not be cut down by the mowers on the hill until at least a month after they bloom," she said. Next year, she added, maybe the last of the daffodil project, but its beauty will live on for a long time to come.

# NEWS OF NOTE

## THE FOXHOLE

A MONTHLY DISCUSSION OF VETERANS ISSUES - MIDDLEBURG AMERICAN LEGION POST 295

**7** 5th Anniversary: Our very own American Legion Post 295 is celebrating 75 years of service to our Middleburg community, Veterans and their families. To mark this auspicious date, the Post will be offering Red poppies outside of the Middleburg Safeway on Memorial Day weekend. Come out, get your red poppy and show your support for American Legion Post 295. You will find the details further on in this article about how the red poppy came to mark our remembrance of our fallen heroes.

**Membership/Hall Rentals:** If you are interested in joining Middleburg Post 295, please contact our current Post Commander, Mr. John

Moliere via email at John.Moliere@stdcomm.com or come to one of our monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00PM. We are located on Plains Road just across from the Sporting Museum. As a reminder to our entire community, please consider our newly renovated Patriots Hall as a venue for your future social events. For more information on dates and fees please contact Ricky Bell at (540) 364-3550 or by email at scruffy451@aol.com.

Donations to Assist Veterans In Need: Lastly, together with all other Loudoun Veterans Service Organizations, American Legion Post 295 regularly assists Veterans in need. This assistance takes varied forms including emergency funds to pay for family

necessities in an emergency. If you are interested in assisting and donating to this worthy effort please contact our current Post Commander, Mr. John Moliere via email at John.Moliere@stdcomm.com

### Memorial Day

As the weather begins to get warmer and the days get longer, we all know Memorial Day weekend must be right around the corner. This year we celebrate Memorial Day on Monday, May, 31, 2021. For most Americans the Memorial Day weekend marks the beginning of our summer and for our children, it means the end of the school year must not be far off. Beyond the family gatherings and the outdoor festivities, Memorial Day is a special day for

most Americans as we take a moment to honor all of the U.S. military servicemen and women who gave their lives in defense of our great nation. According to historians and other sources, the first Memorial Day was observed on May 1, 1865 by freed slaves in Charleston, South Carolina. These African-American men, who had served in the Union Army, came together with their families to bury and honor their fellow Union soldiers. The unofficial tradition of recognizing our fallen service personnel continued for several years after 1865. In 1950, the U.S. Congress passed a resolution to mark Memorial Day which was followed by a law in 1968 which declared Memorial Day to occur on the final Monday in

May with it becoming a federal holiday in 1971. So, this Memorial Day, we ask you to please take a few minutes out from the festivities and family outings to remember our fallen heroes and give thanks for our freedoms and our great nation.

### The Red Poppies of Flanders Fields

Excerpted from History.com

During World War I, Canadian Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, who served as a medical officer with an Allied artillery unit, spotted a cluster of red poppies shortly after the Second Battle of Ypres. McCrae tended to the wounded from that battle including those injured by the German use of poisonous chlorine gas. Some 87,000 Allied sol-



diers were killed, wounded or went missing in the battle (as well as 37,000 on the German side.) Struck by the sight of bright red poppy blooms on the burial grounds, McCrae wrote a poem, "In Flanders Field." In this poem, which was published first in Great Britain, he channeled the voices of the fallen soldiers buried under those hardy red poppies.

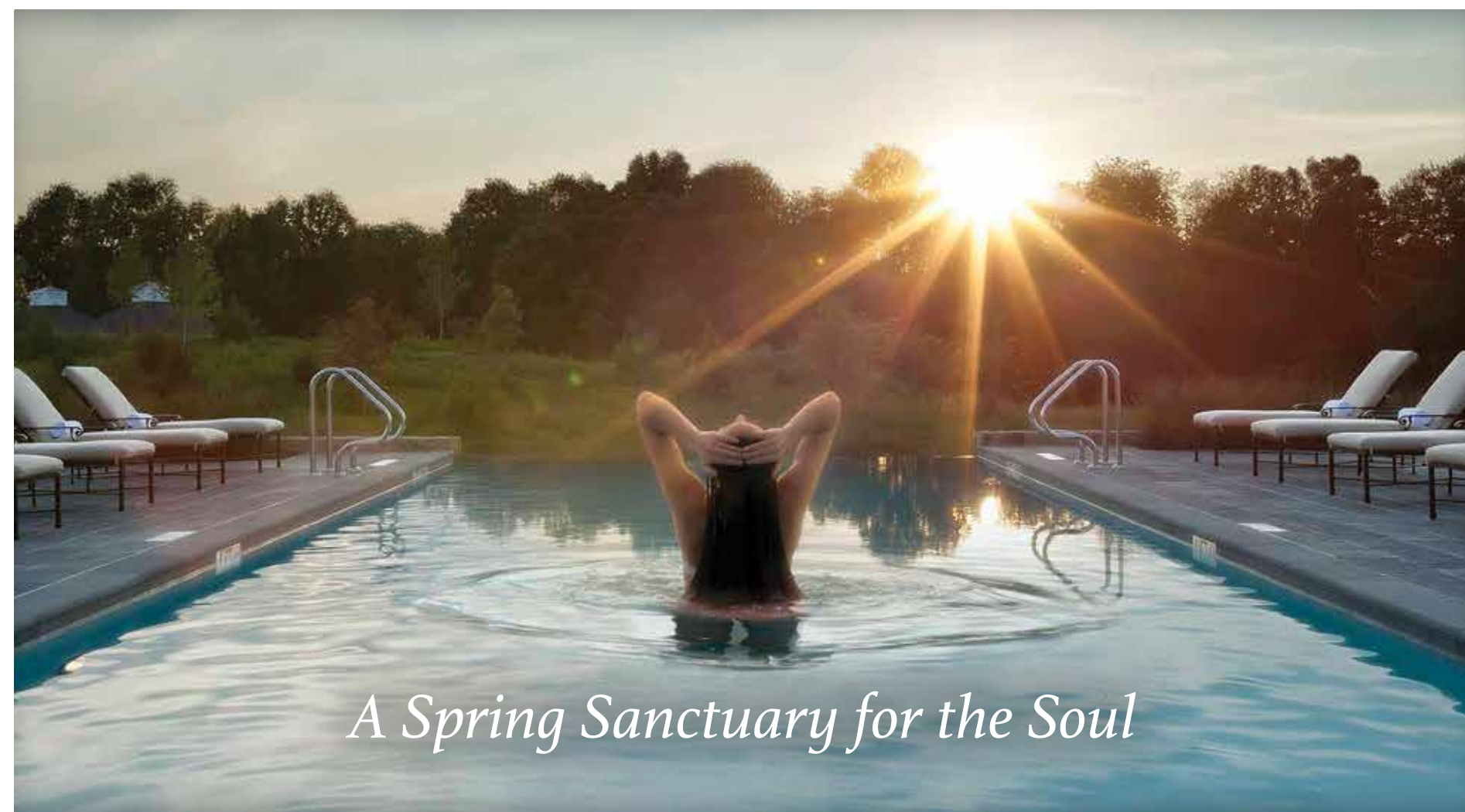
In the USA, a lady named Moina Michael read "In Flanders Field" in the Ladies' Home Journal, just two days before the armistice. She was a Professor at the University of Georgia at the time the war broke out. Michael took a leave of absence to volunteer at the New York headquarters of the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), which trained and sponsored workers overseas.

As a sign of this faith, and a remembrance of the sacrifices of Flanders Field, Michael vowed to always wear a red poppy; she found an initial batch of red fabric blooms for herself and her colleagues at a department store. After the war ended, she returned to the university town of Athens,

and came up with the idea of making and selling red silk poppies to raise money to support returning veterans.

Michael's campaign to create a national symbol for remembrance didn't get very far at first. But in mid-1920, she managed to get Georgia's branch of the American Legion, a veteran's group, to adopt the poppy as its symbol. Soon after that, the National American Legion voted to use the poppy as the official U.S. national emblem of remembrance when its members convened in Cleveland in September 1920.

Middleburg's American Legion Post 295 is currently celebrating its 75th anniversary of service to our community, to our Veterans and to their families. Come out and support our American Legion Post on this Memorial Day weekend as members of the post offer red poppies to members of our community outside of the Middleburg Safeway. These red poppies are offered by American Legion Post 295 in remembrance of all our fallen heroes. Lastly, do not forget to wear your poppy proudly!



## A Spring Sanctuary for the Soul

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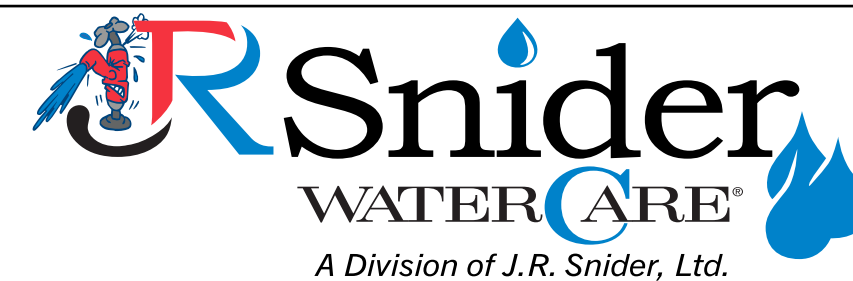
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# NEWS OF NOTE

## WHY TREES ARE THE BEST ANSWER

THE FENCE POST

ROBERT BANNER

My eyes widened, and my jaw dropped. There, on the TedTalk stage, set in 2015, Bill Gates described the pandemic we have all lived through in detail. Six years ago, he warned us that a viral pandemic was infinitely more dangerous than war. It could affect the entire world quickly and more fatally, and he was right if we had only heeded. It only takes 8 minutes to watch. Google Bill Gates Pandemic TedTalk.

After a year that uprooted everything we value, we may finally be on the road to recovery. But on the heels feeling relieved, another warning found traction. This was from a documentary about climate change and just as dire, maybe more so. Frankly, from this side of the fence post, I'm glad I'm in the business of growing trees.

Search Amazon for The Planet of the Humans. It costs \$3.99 to rent the documentary written by Jeff Gibbs and produced by Michael Moore. They pack 100 years into 100 minutes that show we are far from reducing our reliance on fossil fuels. You may say, "Renewable energy solutions offer us a path to a carbon neutral world. Aren't solar panels becoming popular? Aren't wind turbines supported in Biden's new infrastructure bill? Won't burning biomass replace burning coal and natural gas for energy? That's progress, right?" Some may say yes. Gibbs and Moore paint a different picture.

You be the judge, but essentially, they point out the renewable energy solutions we think will eventually save us are inefficient and often burn more fossil fuels than they replace. They suggest we may be creating more carbon emissions than if we had never started down the renewable energy path at all. Energy officials from Lansing, MI, explain that for solar panels to power that city for a year, an array of 5 miles by 3 miles would be necessary. That's more than 10 Central Parks, side-by-side. While you are trying to envision that, consider that making the solar panels to fill that space would require burning coal with quartz at high temperatures to make the silicon necessary for each panel. They don't last forever, either. Those panels must be replaced every ten years. All this creates more carbon emissions in the process of trying to reduce them. Another recent study calculates that the sun's reflection from an array that large would warm the atmosphere and negate the cooling effect caused by any carbon reduction.

Solar panels only work when the sun shines. Like solar panels, wind turbines are also an intermittent power source. They only work when the wind blows. So, how do we power our lives when the sun and wind go away? Industry officials admit we must remain tethered to an electric power source burning fossil fuels for those periods. Because they produce more carbon emissions when dialed up/down intermittently, the fossil fuel plants must constantly run to remain efficient. Can't we store the energy in batteries until we need it? Storage for that purpose is still very inefficient and (like your car battery) must be replaced every couple of years. Consider that each windmill (480+ feet tall and filled with 800 yards of concrete) must be replaced every 20 years. It's just tough for that technology to pay for itself.

Worst of the renewable energy sources? Biomass ... another name for trees. The green energy movement usually gives solar and wind star billing because burning biomass in place of fossil fuels is particularly hard to justify. It takes ten biomass burning plants to replace each coal-fired powerplant. More than 200 biomass-burning powerplants are operating in America, emitting 60% more carbon than the coal plants intended to replace and 3X more than natural gas plants. Burning 30 cords of wood/hour, it would take every tree in America to power the nation for just one year. If it takes decades for the trees to grow back, how renewable is that? We just lost 4 million acres of trees to fires in California and 5 million acres in the Amazon. The idea should be to grow more trees, not burn them.

No question, trees are the answer. Burning them is not. Take the next 10 minutes for another TedxTalk to watch. Google Van Voorhis TedxTalk: The Currency of Conservation. Compared to the first messages, local Chandler Van Voorhis, a founder of ACRE Investment Management in The Plains, leaves you with a glass half full instead of no glass at all. Van Voorhis takes 10 minutes to explain how today's market ensures that trees are far more valuable to grow and leave standing than to feed to the unquenchable fires of a powerplant. There is a reason why the company Van Voorhis founded with partner Carey Crane has grown to be the leading reforestation program in the world by credit issuance. The model of growing trees for carbon and nutrient credits works. The trees pull in carbon dioxide, breathe out oxygen, and the roots filter runoff from over-fertilized fields ... all naturally. Corporate demand for the credits created is outpacing inventory and driving prices higher, and the future is bright. This may be the best answer yet. Go to [www.green-trees.com](http://www.green-trees.com). Get their newsletter sent to you.

It's time we all heed the warnings and become more socially conscious. We've all been a part of the problem. Isn't it time we are part of the solution? Besides, it's hard to fault growing a tree. Harder still to fault 42 million trees growing on 120,000 acres. That's what ACRE's division (called GreenTree's) manages for its landowner partners. Their last distribution to landowner partners from carbon credit sales totaled more than \$2 million. Because prices for carbon credits are rising, the next distribution will be far more significant in a few weeks. For good reason, Van Voorhis is devising how to add more acres to the program. Fact is, the dire outlook requires that goal. The economics makes it attractive. Our survival makes it essential. He is only limited by the number of landowners who are like-minded. If you have land that could grow more trees, link arms with the market leader. The sooner, the better.

Robert Banner is Senior Project Officer at ACRE Investment Management in The Plains, VA. ACRE is a full-service natural capital asset platform for landowners to manage their ecological platform. He can be reached at [rob@acre-investment.com](mailto:rob@acre-investment.com).

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# NEWS OF NOTE

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRANTS CYCLE NOW OPEN

THE LOUDOUN PRESERVATION SOCIETY IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT APPLICATIONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED FOR ITS 2021 GRANT AWARDS

Since 1973 the Loudoun Preservation Society (LPS) has awarded over \$800,000 in grants to non-profit organizations throughout Loudoun County to promote the historic preservation of Loudoun's built historic landscape. The Loudoun Preservation Society is a citizen organization that raises the money on its own; grant amounts vary from year to year based on fundraising success and the general economy. The LPS grants have helped to promote dozens of small historic preservation, rehabilitation, and education projects for local organizations and historic properties in recent years including Oatlands, Aldie Mill, America's Routes, the Lincoln Preservation Foundation,

the Lovettsville Historical Society, the Virginia Piedmont Area Association, the Friends of Bluemont, the Waterford Foundation, the Westmoreland Davis Foundation, the Mt. Zion Church Cemetery, the Thomas Balch Library, and several historic churches. Recent examples of projects receiving grants can be found on the LPS web site, [www.preserveloudoun.org](http://www.preserveloudoun.org) along with project guidelines.

Non-profit and government organizations located in Loudoun County are invited to apply for grants for projects that fit in the following categories:

1. Restoration and preservation of historic structures or other built features in Loudoun County including stabilization, repair, and



or historically sensitive improvement following historic preservation guidelines such as those of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

2. Conservation in museum collections within Loudoun County of artifacts critical to documenting, telling, or showing crucial aspects of Loudoun's history.

3. Publication or online posting of historical, architectural, or archaeological research of a particular structure, property, site, district, community, or transportation feature important to Loudoun's historical landscape if the publication may enhance its appreciation and further encourage historic preservation in the county.

4. Design and implementation of a school or public program to promote appreciation of

Loudoun's historic built landscape and the need for and value of historic preservation therein.

While the LPS grants are not intended to completely pay for any project, they can be of sufficient assistance to see a worthy project realized.

Applications can be found at <https://preserveloudoun.org/programs/grants/apply>

The LPS grant applications must be received between May 1, 2021 and June 30, 2021 via e-mail at [lps@preserveloudoun.org](mailto:lps@preserveloudoun.org).

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## APPLETON CAMPBELL RECEIVES 2021 PRESIDENT'S AWARD FROM CARRIER, EARNING HONORS AS AN OUTSTANDING DEALER



TRAVIS JACKSON AND STACEY WOODWARD, HVAC SERVICE MANAGERS

Appleton Campbell is a recipient of the prestigious President's Award from Carrier for the seventh year in a row. This award recognizes outstanding dealers in the heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) industry.

One of Carrier's highest honors for dealers, The President's Award, is given to Carrier Factory Authorized Dealers who achieve excellence in product promotions and deliver superior customer satisfaction. Appleton

Campbell is one of the seven recipients in the state of Virginia to be awarded.

Recipients of this award demonstrate the very best in operational excellence, business effectiveness and the delivery of cutting-edge technology to its customers.

Appleton Campbell demonstrates technical expertise, while also serving as a leader in promoting the Carrier brand and raising the standard of equipment sales. The company exemplifies service excellence and provides

exceptional customer care. Appleton Campbell began in 1976 and proudly serves its communities with quality HVAC, Plumbing and Electrical services by honesty, integrity, and experience.

"The 2021 Carrier President's Award winners serve as exemplary ambassadors in our industry by providing customers with exceptional service each and every day," said Justin Keppy, President, NA Residential & Light Commercial, Carrier. "These companies are leaders in their

communities and successfully demonstrate how HVAC businesses can thrive in any region. Being named as a President's Award winner truly reinforces the impact that these businesses have made on the industry and we thank them for helping to set the standard for other Carrier dealers to follow."

The President's Award is designed to encourage Carrier dealers to objectively review their businesses and to reward dealers who have excelled in customer satisfaction. This award presents

the opportunity for recipients to serve as role models, share best practices and offer peer mentoring to help cultivate excellence across Carrier's independent dealer network.

Mike Appleton, President of Appleton Campbell stated "I am thankful and appreciative for our customers, employees and vendors as we celebrate forty-five years in business together."

To learn more about Appleton Campbell please visit [appletoncampbell.com](http://appletoncampbell.com)



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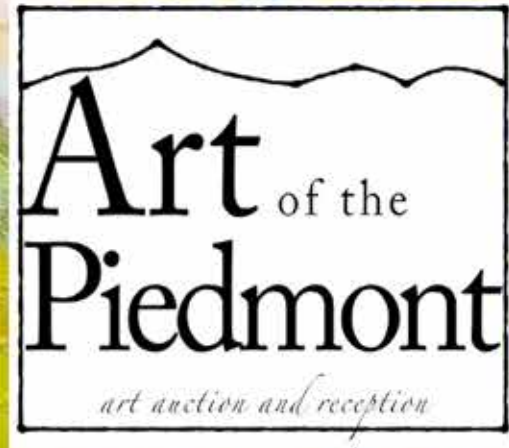
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May 14th Online Auction Begins

May 21, 2021 Auction Gala,  
6:00-8:00 pm

Slater Run Vineyards

1500 CRENSHAW ROAD | UPPERVILLE, VA

Leanne Fink, *September Breeze*

Anthony Barham  
Brittany Beiersdorf Ross  
William Bensen  
Misia Broadhead  
Debbie Cadenas  
Teresa Duke

Leanne Fink  
Morgan Fink Paixao  
Gail Guirrerri-Maslyk  
Jillian Holland  
Bonnie Hoover  
Laura Hopkins

Cody Leaser  
Eric Lucas  
Deborah Morrow  
Marci Nadler  
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Katherine Riedel  
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artofthepiedmont.org

Gala tickets available online ONLY  
\$100 Auction Gala Including Dinner

Slater Run Vineyards Barrel Gallery Open for Viewings  
May 20th, 2021 2:00-6:00 PM

A benefit for Middleburg Montessori School



## NEWS OF NOTE

### UPPERVILLE COLT & HORSE SHOW RETURNS TO CELEBRATE 168TH YEAR



VIRGINIA BONNIE RIDING HORSE QUEEN OF DIAMONDS- PHOTOS BY TIFFANY DILLON KEEN

The Upperville Colt & Horse Show (also known as the Upperville Horse Show), celebrating 168 years, is the oldest horse show in the country. After having to cancel last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the show takes place this year on June 7 through June 13 in Upperville, Va. The Upperville Horse Show is adhering to all current COVID-19 protocols as outlined by the Governor of Virginia. Decisions about allowing spectators is expected to be announced by mid-April.

UCHS was founded in 1853 to encourage better breeding of horses. Since that time, thousands of equestrians, horse breeders and spectators have gathered in Upperville each year to admire some of the nation's most talented horses and riders. What began as a one-day show, with only a few breeding classes, has grown into a week-long tradition with classes for children, adults and families—amateurs as well as top professionals. Each year, beneath the oaks at Grafton Farm, more than 2,000 horse and rider combinations compete during the week.

Competitors will enjoy several improvements since they last visited, including updated water and electrical systems throughout Grafton Showgrounds, new footing in the Main Hunter Warm-up Ring, and new Thoroughbred Incentive High Point prize money awards.

New this year is the \$37,000 Upperville Power & Speed Stakes CSI 4\* on Thursday at 1 p.m.

This class will join fan favorites including the Welcome Stakes on Friday at 2 p.m.; Leadline divisions on Saturday afternoon, during which adorable

young children ages one to six (on adorable ponies) try to win the competitive class; and the \$25,000 USHJA International Hunter Derby on Saturday at 4 p.m. There are other exciting

classes all week that include side-saddle demonstrations and jumping, family classes, conformation classes and more. The week culminates in the \$213,300 FEI 4\* Upperville Jumper Classic on

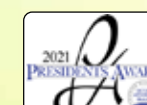
Sunday, June 13. Click here for a complete show schedule.

The Upperville Colt & Horse Show is sponsored by Mars Equestrian, Buckeye Nutrition, Nutro, Ethel M Chocolates, Lu-

gano Diamonds, the Gochman Family, B&D Builders, Salamander Hotels & Resort and many additional individuals, companies and organizations.

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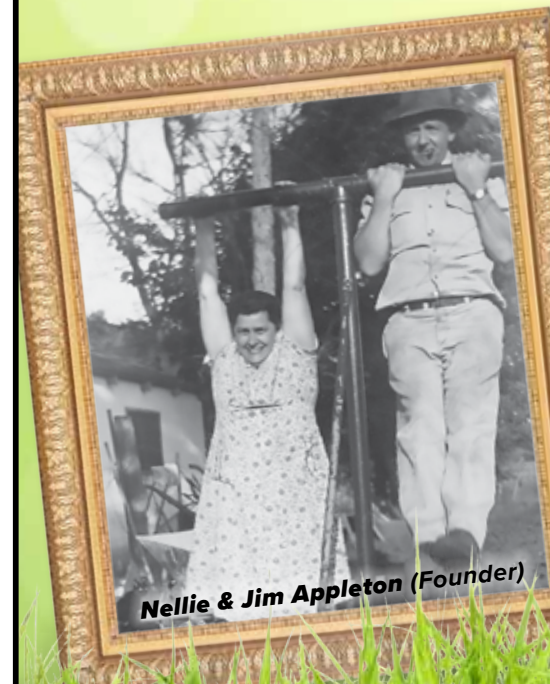
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# NEWS OF NOTE

## HOW COMPOSTING BECAME THE HOT NEW THING

LYNNE KAYE

Composting has been around for centuries. So how did composting become the hot new thing to do in the midst of a pandemic? With people sheltering in place, and uncertain about the future, composting became an empowering and joyous act. Composting gave people a beneficial way to use food scraps and a way to offset the piles of containers that came with eating, shopping and working from home. Composting let people create their own fertilizer for Victory Gardens. Composting helped people grow flowers that attracted birds, butterflies, and bees. Last, but not least, composting gave parents something educational and fun to do with their children.

Our family is part of the composting trend. Composting makes our family happy because we aren't sending food scraps and manure to the landfill. Composting also helps our garden grow.

We collect fruit and vegetable peels, rinds, pits and other compostable food scraps in a little, stainless steel bucket next to the sink. When the bucket fills up, the scraps go into the composter in our backyard which turns them into what gardeners call black gold -- nutrient rich compost.

We apply the finished compost to the garden, which enriches the soil. The compost helps us grow tasty and nutritious strawberries,

peas, tomatoes, and other fruits and vegetables without synthetic fertilizer. The birds, bees, and butterflies seem to appreciate the flowers we grow with compost, too!

We tried composting the manure from our barn. We failed. So, we turned to a professional composting company for help. We send the contents of our manure pile to Hartland Orchard in Markham. Hartland picks up our manure, composts it, and uses the compost to fertilize the cherry, apple, and peach trees on their farm. At harvest time, they bring us apples and peaches they grew using the compost.

While we live on a farm, that is absolutely not a requirement to compost. In fact, thanks to composting services that cater to townspeople, you do not even need a backyard.

Lauren Gassman's Food Loop Compost in Aldie is Middleburg's closest food scrap composting service. Food Loop Compost offers three services: food scrap drop-off, food scrap pickup, and compost hub development. Food scrap drop-off allows customers to drop-off their food scraps at Food Loop-managed collection sites in Purcellville, Leesburg, Ashburn, Reston and Herndon.

Food Loop pickup customers subscribe to monthly, bi-weekly or weekly pickups at their home or business. Customers receive a 5-gallon bucket to fill with food scraps. On each pickup day, Food Loop picks up the full bucket and

drops off a clean one. Food Loop accepts all fruit and vegetable parts, egg shells, coffee grounds, loose-leaf tea, bread, and grains.

After collecting the food scraps at drop-off and pickup points, Food Loop takes them to its composting site on Bull Run Farm. There, the company's team manages the composting process. To complete the "food loop", Food Loop Compost returns finished compost to its customers. Food Loop Compost has a Middleburg connection since Bull Run Farm is owned by the same family that owns the Red Fox Inn.

Food Loop Compost also offers services for schools and other community organizations that would like to do their own composting. Food Loop's compost hub helps organizations create and manage their own small composting sites.

Professional composting companies are significantly expanding the number of people who compost by partnering with cities, towns and HOAs to offer community-wide composting programs. These programs can reach everyone in the community. They also benefit the community by composting a wide range of materials. In addition to compostable food scraps, these programs typically accept meat and bones, yard and garden trimmings, and items like pizza boxes, cardboard compostable carry-out boxes, and paper straws. The programs also accept just about



anything made from 100% cotton, wool, linen, wood, bamboo, silk, or hemp.

A typical community-sponsored composting program collects compostable items from residents weekly. Residents receive one or more buckets to fill

with food scraps and other compostable items. On pickup day, residents set the buckets outside their homes so the composting company can swap the filled buckets for clean ones. The composting company takes the food scraps and other items to its com-

posting facility. By carefully introducing the right amount of air, heat, and moisture, the facility efficiently converts what was once waste into nutrient-rich compost.

Many of the community composting programs return finished compost to residents or to the community's own common garden. The composting company then sells the remaining compost to farmers, gardeners and landscapers. Farmers such as Pam Jones and Sarah Waybright of Gathering Springs Farm in Middleburg use compost from professionally managed facilities to grow vegetables for their Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) members and for their booth at the EatLoCo Farmers Market in One Loudoun.

Many cities and towns also sponsor food waste composting programs designed for businesses. These programs work very similarly to the residential programs. The biggest differences are in the containers and pickup schedules. Containers and pickup schedules are designed to fit the needs of each business. A busy restaurant might need multiple, large containers and daily pickups while a real estate office might need a residential size container for the office kitchen and a weekly pickup.

Community-wide composting programs are growing rapidly because they offer several benefits over other composting options.

- They are available to the entire community.
- They eliminate the need to find the money, space, and time to buy or build a home composter.
- They are convenient.
- They accept a wide range of materials including items that can't be recycled such as napkins, pizza boxes and take-

out containers.

- The programs enable communities to cut down on single-use plastics. Restaurants and other businesses can switch from single-use plastics to cardboard and paper compostable service items, knowing that they and their customers will be able to compost the items.
- The programs return compost to the community, helping gardeners and farmers enrich their soil and grow nutritious food and beautiful flowers.
- They enhance the community's reputation and appeal to Millennials and members of Gen Z.
- They make people feel good because they are doing the right thing.
- They keep sizeable amounts of food waste out of landfills.

According to the EPA, the most common material reaching landfills is food waste. On average, food accounts for about 24%

of the waste that arrives at landfills.

- Since landfills do not allow oxygen to reach decomposing food and other biological materials, the wastes create methane as they decompose. Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas that absorbs heat at 84 times the rate of carbon dioxide during its first 20 years in the atmosphere.
- The Fauquier County landfill is almost full. Although waste haulers offload at the Fauquier landfill in Warrenton, most of the waste is then trucked to a third-party landfill in King George County.
- The programs improve water quality. Gardeners and farmers who use compost can cut down on or eliminate synthetic fertilizers. Fertilizer running off lawns, gardens and farms is an important contributor to water pollution in Goose Creek, the Potomac River, and the Chesapeake Bay.

Although composting has

been around for centuries, composting became a hot new thing during the pandemic. Turning food scraps into nutrient-rich compost gave people joy and a feeling of control. Converts to composting ranged from country gardeners to busy town residents. Although the pandemic appears to be easing, the strength of composting continues to grow. Composting is poised to play an important part in building back better.

*(Lynne Kaye is passionate about redesigning our economy to enable materials, including food scraps, to have many lives. She is a member of the Town of Middleburg Go Green Committee as well as a sustainability consultant and educator. The Go Green Committee was created through a Middleburg Town Council ordinance as an advisory body to the Town Council on environmental issues.)*



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## NEWS OF NOTE

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE  
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At the root of our work is education. The more people in our community who understand how to be good stewards of the land around us, the healthier we will all be.

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children and adults through presentations at the Center, schools, festivals, and clubs, and our annual summer camps. Our Wildlife Ambassadors are a critical part of our education programs - but they also require a lot of work!

Want to get involved? Now

is a perfect time to join our team as an Education Volunteer! We are currently seeking volunteers to help with our children's programs and to help care for our Wildlife Ambassadors.

Children's Program Volunteer: Help plan & implement our summer Wildlife Discovery Camp

and other education programs throughout the year!

Ambassador Animal Husbandry: Help care for our Ambassadors. Includes diet prep, feeding, maintenance & cleaning of enclosures, providing enrichment, and more!

**Apply Today!**

Email your completed application to [info@blueridgewildlifectr.org](mailto:info@blueridgewildlifectr.org)  
Subject line: "Volunteer Inquiry"



## VICE MAYOR'S REFLECTIONS ON A NEW TOWN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Council appropriates public funds, those funds should give back to the community. The truth is opportunities to give back at scale are rare. But this project is such an opportunity. I believe it is a chance to add value to Middleburg for generations to come. In talking through my thoughts on this topic, Jessica, my lovely patient wife, likes to remind me that I loath uni-taskers in the kitchen (gizmos that do only one thing and take up space most of the time) with the exception of a fire extinguisher. This is not a uni-tasker project. This is a Swiss army knife project. Seven years ago when

the need for a new building was determined none of the supplementary features were written into any brief or plan on what this project would look like. The added benefits came from you during the Town's public outreach sessions for the rewrite of the comprehensive plan. Your desires were heard loud and clear. The top three items requested were green space, attainable housing and public parking. It's encouraging to confirm two of these items are included in this project. Town will gain not one green space, but two. We will have a large 'Town Green' to the North of

the building. The space will be suitable for concerts, farmers' markets, picnics, and the like. Beyond that space, the current Town Office building site will be converted into an 'urban' pocket park. The project will also add over 20 additional public parking spots accessible from Marshall Street. And that's just on the outside. Inside the building, efficiently designed workspaces will allow for greater collaboration among staff and departments. This is especially true when considering we are finally combining Administration with Policing. Our public safety officers will

be in our Town Hall, not in a rental space in the back of an office complex - the Police will be visible, accessible, and centrally located. The Council Chambers will adequately accommodate more visitors for all public meetings and events like voting.

Additionally, the building was designed to include conference meeting spaces that will be made available to the public. Middleburg's small businesses and non-profits organizations will be able to use these spaces rather than seek out locations outside Town. All these enhancements add value to Middleburg. I be-

lieve at a scale rarely seen for a town our size. It's essential to understand the full scope of this project and the impact of this comprehensive investment. We're uniquely positioned to make this come to fruition after years of sound fiscal policy, dedicated conviction, and good old elbow grease by all. It's important to remember that the entire community, citizens and businesses alike, contributed to the Town's ability to take on this endeavor. That alone should bring pause and pride.

I look forward to seeing you in the park.

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~ BE LOCAL ~

MIDDLEBURG TENNIS CLUB  
NAMES NEW DIRECTOR OF TENNIS

The Middleburg Tennis Club has hired long-time tennis professional Kevin Brundle as its new director of tennis.

Brundle, age 32, comes to the MTC from the Rome Tennis Center in Rome, Georgia, where he also was director of tennis and the assistant director of the Professional Tennis Management program at Berry College in Mount Berry, Ga. He is a U.S. professional Tennis Association certified elite professional and has been teaching players of all levels for the past 12 years.

"We're delighted to have Kevin join the Middleburg team," said Vaughn Gatling, the club manager. "His wealth of experience, knowledge of the sport and teaching ability will bring our growing program to a new level."

A native of Michigan, Brundle is a Professional Tennis Management graduate of Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Mich., in 2007, where he earned a bachelor of science degree in business and marketing in Professional Tennis Management. He was team captain for the Ferris team and also was certified in club management from the school.

At the Rome Tennis Center, a 60-court facility, he was responsible for all aspects of tennis programming, teaching, facilities management and maintenance, pro shop operations, and event and league tennis in a club with over 500 members. The facility has played host to the Atlantic Coast Conference tennis tournament.

Brundle also has developed programs and taught at tennis facilities in Florida, Maryland and Connecticut. In 2014, he

was the U.S. Professional Tennis Association (USPTA) professional of the year and the district president of the USPTA from 2015-2017.

He's a fine player and a widely-regarded teacher of the game, and also is a trained and certified U.S. Tennis Association instructor for youngsters age 10 and under.

"The Middleburg Tennis Club members show the true meaning of family and tennis," Brundle said. "The passion, love and admiration for tennis are what make the club so fantastic. I'm honored to be a part of the family and I will always share the same love and passion for tennis, just like the membership does"

Brundle is expected to move to the Middleburg area with Lauren, his wife of one year, at the end of June and begin giving lessons shortly thereafter.

We made the decision earlier this year to ask all our friends to join us in a special fundraiser to support those most hard hit by the pandemic. We are proud to support INOVA Health Foundation and Seven Loaves Services, a food pantry in Middleburg that has become a lifeline for many families.

Please consider making a generous donation to the MSRA COVID Relief Fund.

Make your check payable to **Middleburg Spring Races**, write "**COVID Relief Fund**" in the memo and mail to:

Middleburg Spring Races  
PO Box 1173

Middleburg, VA 20118

You may also donate online at  
[middleburgspringraces.com/make-a-donation/](http://middleburgspringraces.com/make-a-donation/)  
or call us at 540-687-6545.

Middleburg Spring Race Association is a 501(c)3



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# NEWS OF NOTE

## FLY LIKE AND EAGLE 5K

MIDDLEBURGS' FIRST MAJOR OUTING THIS YEAR, PUT ON BY BSA TROOP 2950... WHAT GREAT START RACE RESULTS - [HTTPS://BIT.LY/3EDRHLP](https://bit.ly/3EDRHLP)



## MIDDLEBURGS' ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION



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Kick off the summer & celebrate with our first responders
- 12 JUNE **ONE LOVE**  
Wear the rainbow & support love for all
- 19 JUNE **PUPPY LOVE** SUPPORTING MIDDLEBURG HUMANE  
Wear your animal print & help clear the shelters
- 26 JUNE **PRETTY IN PINK**  
Ladies' Night Out
- 3 JULY **MILITARY APPRECIATION** WITH DJ & DANCING  
Wear your Stars & Stripes
- 10 JULY **CAMOUFLAGE NIGHT**  
Wear your best camo & celebrate Fauquier's Future
- 17 JULY **SCHOOL SPIRIT**  
Wear your school colors
- 24 JULY **DENIM & DIAMONDS**  
Boot, scoot & boogie
- 31 JULY **DISNEY PLUS PARTY**  
Special activities for kids
- 7 AUG **TACO 'BOUT A FIESTA** WITH DJ & DANCING  
Margaritas, Mexican Food & more
- 14 AUG **LIFE'S A BEACH**  
Celebrate Shark Week
- 21 AUG **NO POLO**  
MARS Great Meadow International
- 28 AUG **CARS & CIGARS**  
Antique, classic & cool cars
- 4 SEPT **WEAR YOUR WHITES** WITH DJ & DANCING  
Glow Party
- 11 SEPT **CELEBRATE THE DECADES**  
Throw it back to your favorite decade



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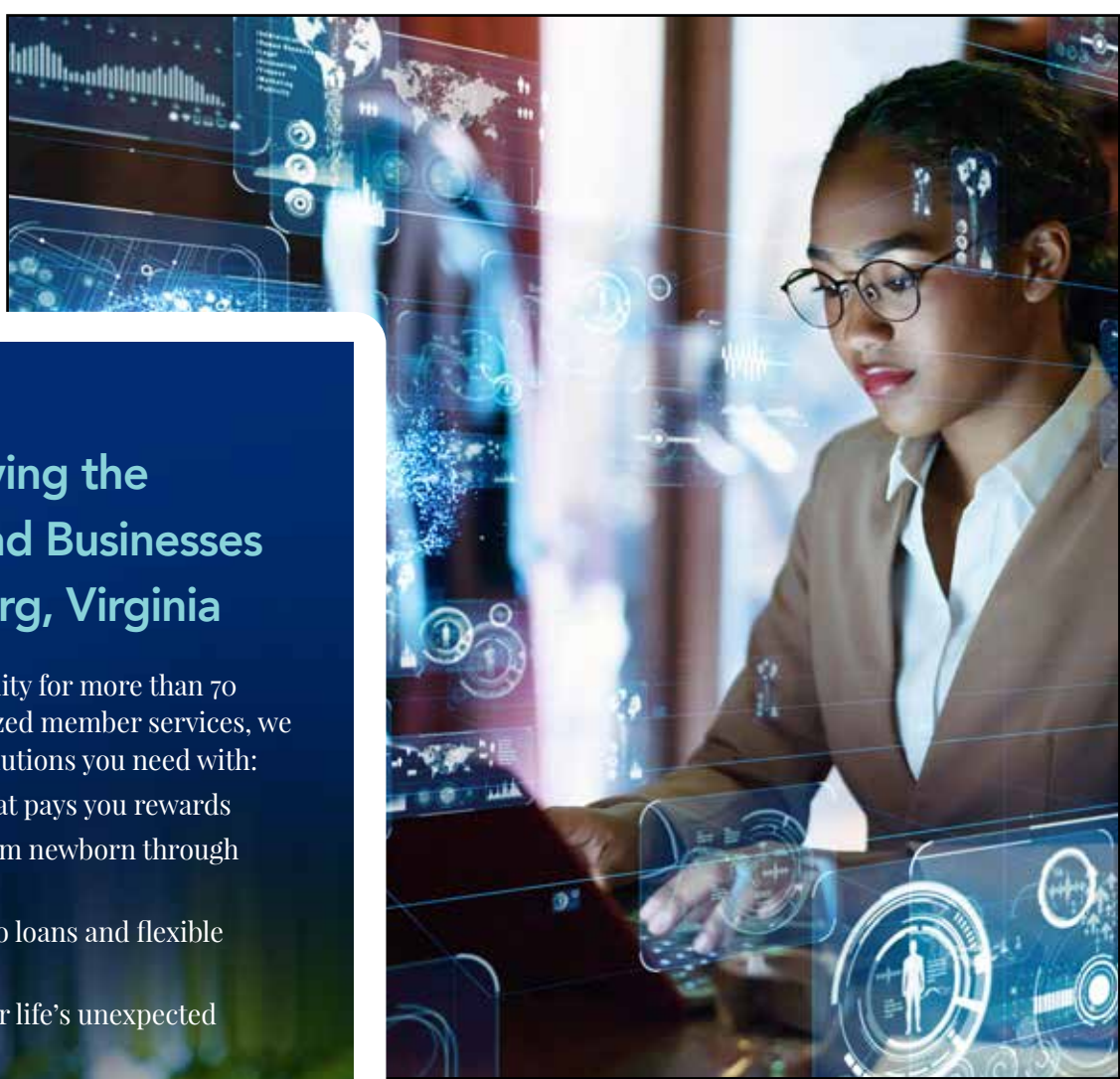
PROGENY

FOXCROFT SCHOOL EARNS THIRD CONSECUTIVE COLLEGE BOARD AP COMPUTER SCIENCE FEMALE DIVERSITY AWARD

THE SCHOOL WAS RECENTLY RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF TWO SCHOOLS IN VIRGINIA AND ONLY 56 IN THE WORLD TO ACHIEVE HIGH FEMALE REPRESENTATION IN BOTH AP COMPUTER SCIENCE A AND AP COMPUTER SCIENCE PRINCIPLES

Foxcroft has been recognized as one of two schools in Virginia and only 56 in the world to earn the prestigious College Board AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award for achieving high female representation in both AP Computer Science A (AP

CSA) and AP Computer Science Principles (AP CSP) courses during the 2019-20 academic year. This is the third academic year in a row that the School has received an AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award. The two prior Awards were for AP CSA during the



2018-19 academic year and AP CSP for the 2017-18 academic year. With an award-winning computer science program and a groundbreaking Innovation Lab, Foxcroft's strong focus on STEM/STEAM initiatives and courses continues to bring top recognition to the School. This honor acknowledges the outstanding work that our faculty and School are doing to engage students in computer science.

"This recognition is a proud moment for Foxcroft," said Head of School Cathy S. McGehee. "Our School is leading the way in STEM education for girls by encouraging our students in record numbers to participate in computer science. The technology field is one where women continue to be underrepresented and efforts such as ours can make a difference."

Schools receiving the Award have either 50% or higher female representation in one of the two AP computer science courses or a percentage of the female computer science examinees meeting or exceeding that of the school's female population. Providing female students with access to

computer science courses is necessary to ensure gender parity in the industry's high-paying jobs and to drive innovation, creativity, and representation.

"Today's students need the power to shape technology, not just cope with it," says Stefanie Sanford, College Board Chief of Global Policy and External Relations. "Young women deserve an equal opportunity to become the next generation of entrepreneurs, engineers, and tech leaders. Closing the gap in computer science education empowers young women to build the future they want."

Overall, female students remain underrepresented in computer science classes in American high schools, comprising just 34% of AP Computer Science Principles participants. So there is a long way to go to achieve equal gender representation in the field of computer science. Currently, less than half of the nation's high schools teach foundational computer science, a clear opportunity to be addressed by strong partnerships between policymakers, the tech industry, and educators.



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1 The HomeAdvantage program is made available to you through a relationship with CU Realty Services. Program Cash Rewards are awarded by CU Realty Services to buyers and sellers who select and use a real estate agent in the HomeAdvantage network and are based on the commissions paid to the agent. Using Northwest Federal for a mortgage is not a requirement to earn Cash Rewards. Cash Rewards incentives are void where prohibited by law. The HomeAdvantage program is not available in all states.

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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



50 WEST VINEYARDS

MIDDLEBURG, VIRGINIA

Existing farm winery established in 2015 | 38.47 acres recorded in two parcels | Hilltop setting with magnificent views | 2,500 sq ft wine tasting room, main level consists of tasting room, seating areas, kitchen, restrooms | 2nd story more seating areas & bathroom | Club House of 5,100 sq ft contemporary style, wine tasting bar, seating areas, bathrooms, large deck, terrace & pool | 40 x 60 Butler building, large parking area | Unique opportunity

\$4,500,000

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

PAUL MACMAHON 703.609.1905



LONG BRANCH

THE PLAINS, VIRGINIA

Gorgeous 71 acre parcel in a wonderful location between Middleburg and The Plains | Rolling land with stone walls and 2 ponds | Enchanting property | Property is in conservation easement and may not be divided further

\$1,950,000

HELEN MACMAHON 540.454.1930



HEIRLONG FARM

MARKHAM, VIRGINIA

235 acres comprised of 6 tax parcels | Potential tax credits | Mostly wooded | Stone cabin circa 1850 | Barn | Large pond | Very private | First time available since the 1950's

\$1,450,000

PAUL MACMAHON 703.609.1905



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



5245 GEORGETOWN ROAD

BROAD RUN, VIRGINIA

c. 1836 Brick home renovated in 2000 on 4.43 acres | Wrap around porch with views of pond & creek | Beautiful gardens & brick patio | 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, 2-car garage & storage shed | Large family room with high ceilings & wood burning fireplace with a wood burning stove | Heart pine floors | Master suite on second floor with laundry | Perfect full time private residence or weekend getaway

\$995,000

MARGARET CARROLL 540.454.0650



HALFWAY ROAD

THE PLAINS, VIRGINIA

Hard to find parcel | 13.37 acres between Middleburg and The Plains | 1/2 open, 1/2 wooded with a spring fed pond - easily expandable | Wonderful elevated building site just inside the wood line with a level building area among large old growth trees and substantial rock out cropping | Impressive mountain views to the southwest

\$925,000

HELEN MACMAHON 540.454.1930

# PROGENY

## SHE’S AIMING TO PLAY DIVISION III FOOTBALL THIS FALL — AT DEFENSIVE BACK



LEONARD SHAPIRO

In the fall of 2019, not long after the final gun had sounded, the quarterback from Randolph-Macon Academy made it a point to seek out the Christchurch School safety who had sacked him once, made a half-dozen more tackles and caught a pass on offense over the previous 48 minutes.

“I didn’t even know you were a girl,” he told Haley Van Voorhis, a junior defensive back who grew up in The Plains. “Great game.”

And now, two years later, there will be many more games to play for the somewhat shy, soft-spoken blonde young woman with a 5-foot-6, 150-pound chiseled frame sculpted in the Christchurch weight room and her workout area at home.

“I’ve been playing football as long as I can remember,” Van Voorhis said in a

recent interview. “There’s just something about it that I really love.”

And that love affair will continue at the next level. In early April, she accepted an offer to play on the varsity football team at Shenandoah University in Winchester. The first time she steps on the field, she’ll make history as the first woman to play a position other than punter or placekicker on an NCAA Division III team.

Van Voorhis said she thought long and hard about where she wanted to go to school, including the possibility of taking a year off in a post-graduate year “to get stronger and more prepared to play,” she said. “In the end, I just decided I wanted to play next year, and I’m excited about it.”

In 2018, she was the first young woman to play football at Christchurch, a Virginia boarding school located about an hour east of

Richmond on the shores of the Rappahanock River. She also was the MVP on the school’s women’s basketball team last winter as well as a standout in women’s lacrosse.

On the 2019 Christchurch football team, with a number of senior starters, she was a reserve receiver and safety and saw special team action. Sadly, because of the pandemic, she and so many other high school athletes across the country were unable to play their 2020 senior seasons.

Van Voorhis still got plenty of playing time her junior season. Her coach, Ed Homer, said that, “without a doubt,” she would have been the starting slot receiver as a senior on his team last fall. And, oh yes, one day after a preseason workout, Homer announced to his players that she was being named a captain, news accompanied by a boisterous cheer from her

teammates.

“She’s a bad-ass,” said Homer, entering his 30th season as the school’s head coach. “She’s not afraid of anything.”

So far, she also hasn’t had any sort of serious injury, though her father, Chandler Van Voorhis, admitted “it can be nerve-wracking to watch” his daughter in action.

“But she’s gotten so strong and she’s in such great shape,” he said. “She’s learned how to protect herself, how to take a hit. And she can hit back, too.”

It’s been like that since Haley, then a fifth grader, had her first experience with the sport playing in what was supposed to be co-ed flag football. She was the only girl on her team, and not much has ever changed the longer she’s been in the game.

Occasionally she hears a bit of trash talk, and there have been times she’s been blindsided unnecessarily, or hit after the whistle. “Sometimes they try to blow me up because I’m a girl,” she said. “Sometimes they refuse to hit me because I’m a girl. I don’t mind that.”

Van Voorhis first played tackle football in a Fauquier County boys league from sixth to eighth grade. She was on the jayvee football team at Kettle Run High School near Warrenton as a ninth grader and then chose Christchurch, where Homer was clearly ready for a young woman playing on his team with the big boys.

He and his son, then a student at Middlebury College, were driving along one day a few years ago and having a discussion about high school sports in the 21st century. That’s when the subject of girls playing football came up, and the more Homer thought about it, the more he liked the idea.

About the same time, Van Voorhis and her parents, Chandler and Heidi (a former Washington Football Team cheerleader in the early 1990s), were starting to shop around for a high school that would meet their daughter’s academic and athletic needs. It had to be a place that also was open to a girl playing football.

It was a perfect storm, and a perfect fit.

“As a coach, there are certain things you’re always looking for, especially when

it comes to practice,” Homer said. “They have to be on time, they have to listen, work hard and check any issues they have at the door. Haley is really good at all of that. She’s always early to practice and usually the last to leave. And she’s working out all the time. She is so strong. If you looked at a picture of her a year ago, you probably wouldn’t recognize her. She can squat 240 pounds; that’s almost twice as much as her own body weight.”

Homer had no qualms about putting together a highlight tape of Van Voorhis in action during her junior season, including that game against Randolph-Macon, and sending it out to several colleges already showing interest in recruiting her.

One tape went to Shenandoah defensive back coach Byron Mitchell. Then, at a college scouting combine held in Richmond this past Dec. 6, Mitchell watched Van Voorhis go through a variety of speed, strength and agility drills up close and personal. He obviously was duly impressed. Not long after that, he and head coach Scott Yoder offered her a guaranteed roster spot and told her she’d be given every opportunity to fulfill her dream of playing college football.

“We’re looking for a certain skill set and she jumped out to one of our assistant coaches as a defensive back/wide receiver,” said Shenandoah head coach Scott Yoder. “We showed interest in her, she visited here and we got to know Haley and her family and how serious she is about playing college football. I know there will be more stories and a lot of attention to this, but this is a very fine young athlete and we think she can play. At the end of the day, that’s what it’s all about.”

Yoder, in his ninth season at Shenandoah, said he believes Van Voorhis will have no trouble fitting in to his program and has no doubt his players will welcome her to the team. He said he was prepared to do whatever was necessary to make her feel comfortable as a teammate and that it will “all be positive, I’m sure of that.”

“The biggest thing you want to know is whether a player is committed, and will they work hard,” he said. “Haley checks all the boxes. We’ll make it work.”

# FOXCROFT’S 10TH ANNUAL STEM CHALLENGE

## MOVES INTO VIRTUAL SPACE FOR CYBERSECURITY-THEMED “CODE FOR GOOD” COMPETITION

FOXCROFT STUDENTS PART OF WINNING TEAM IN HIGH SCHOOL COMPETITION  
STUDENTS FROM THE HILL SCHOOL AND WAKEFIELD SCHOOL PLACE WELL IN MIDDLE SCHOOL COMPETITION.

**R**un as a virtual event for the first time, Foxcroft’s 10th Annual STEM Challenge drew 48 middle school and 36 high school students from around the country and globe to compete for prizes on February 20, 2021. Designed for middle and high school girls, participants used their knowledge of science, technology, engineering, and math in challenges revolving around this year’s theme of “Code for Good.”

Students registered as individuals, rather than coming to the competition with a school team as they have in the past, and were randomly assigned to virtual breakout rooms in their respective middle and high school competitions. The girls in each breakout room then worked collaboratively to solve four challenges to fix a system hack using the answers to math and science problems to prove the team was qualified to view the system’s data.

Fifteen engineers from event sponsor Stryker Corporation ran the challenge activity this year, providing support and encouragement to the students in each of the breakout rooms as they worked together to solve the problems and restore the system. Following the high school competition, each of the Stryker engineers also participated in career panels where they shared their experiences and answered questions from the young competitors.

The 10th Annual STEM Challenge capped off a week-long series of optional activities also themed on coding and cybersecurity, which invited high school and middle school students to participate virtually in a daily trivia challenge and STEM activity. In all, 43 middle schoolers and 38 high schoolers completed the daily trivia challenge, with 36 students answering trivia on all five days!

A full list of winners follows.

**High School Winners**

**FIRST PLACE**  
Breakout Room 12

Mackenzie Jenkins — Foxcroft School, grade 9  
Alex Nelson — Foxcroft School, grade 9  
Kyra Schrage — Justice High School, grade 11

**SECOND PLACE**  
Breakout Room 2  
Erin Calley — Loudoun Valley High School, grade 11  
Chi Hoang — The Madeira School, grade 11  
Anushka Jadhav — Lightridge High School, grade 10

**THIRD PLACE**  
Breakout Room 13  
Ramida Boonwanich — Anderson Serangoon Junior College, Singapore, grade 11  
Sarah Ford — Foxcroft School, grade 9  
Aashna Kulshrestha — The Madeira School, grade 10  
Renand Somenou — The Madeira School, grade 9

**Middle School Winners**

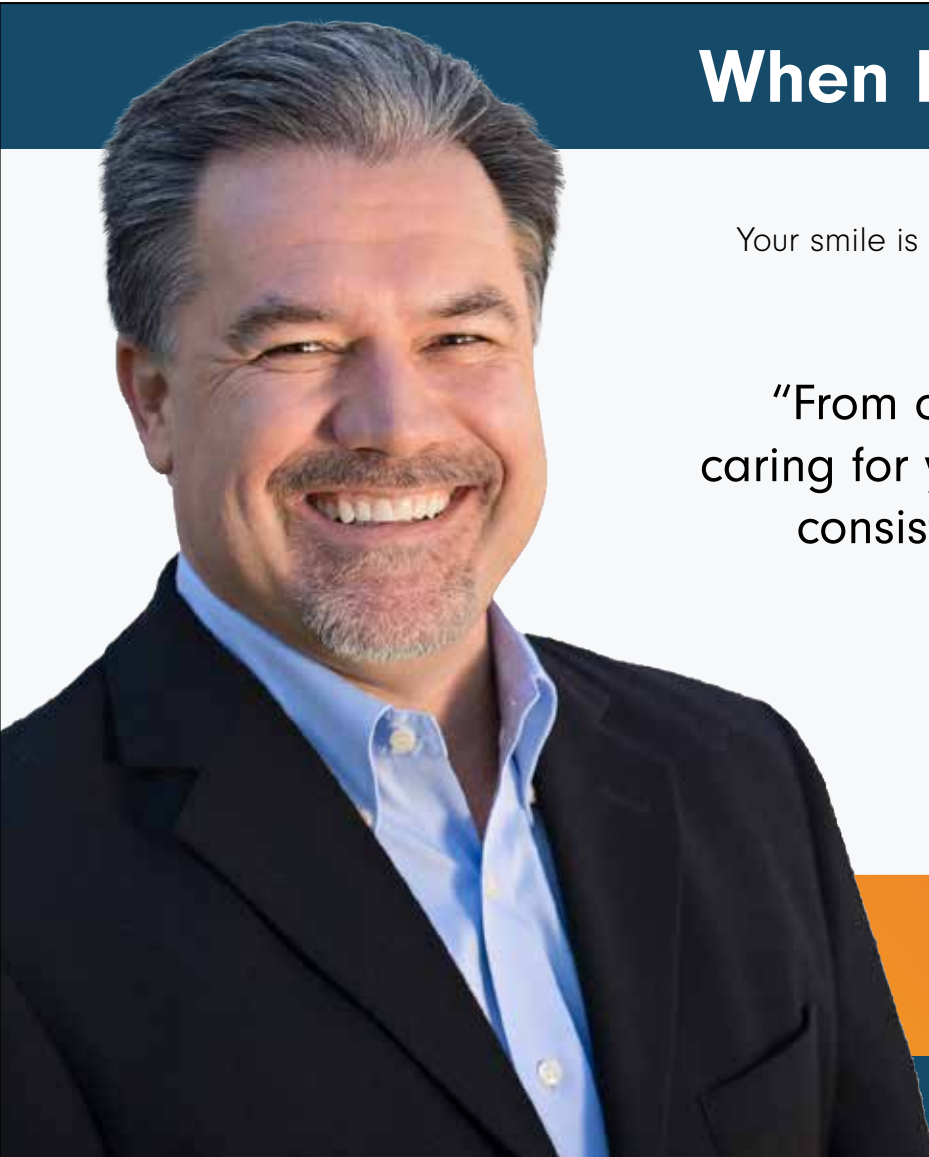
**FIRST PLACE**  
Breakout Room 11  
Lillian Hackett — Harmony Middle School, grade 8  
Amelia Haws — Blue Ridge Middle School, grade 7  
Tomi Lagbaja — Immanuel Christian School, grade 8  
Lizzie Messeh — Immanuel Christian School, grade 8

**SECOND PLACE**  
Breakout Room 3  
Eliza Korff — The Hill School, grade 6  
Esha Madamalla — Nysmith School for the Gifted, grade 7  
Darcy Marcoux — Wakefield School

**THIRD PLACE (tie)**  
Breakout Room 9  
Lucky Kancharla — Mercer Middle, grade 8  
Scarlette Liftin — The Peck School, grade 8  
Serena Weck — The Hill School, grade 6

**Breakout Room 4**  
Jane Brazy — Wakefield School, grade 8  
Imogen Fagan — Village School, grade 6  
Iris Yim — Immanuel Christian School, grade 6

According to Business Insider, 21 of the 30 best high-paying jobs in the coming decades will be in STEM fields, and research from the U.S. Commerce Department has found that on average women earn 33% more when they work in these high-growth fields. Providing girls access to STEM courses expands their job options and increases their earning potential, in addition to driving economic growth, innovation, creativity, and competition. This annual challenge showcases Foxcroft’s innovative and appealing focus on the STEM fields and allows girls to develop collaborative skills and gain confidence in fields so often dominated by boys.



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# PASTIMES

## ANGEL BISCUITS

THE KITCHEN PHILOSOPHY



EMILY TYLER  
WWW.THEKITCHENPHILOSOPHY.COM

Angel biscuits have a long history. I understand the recipe evolved as a result of early bakers combining leavenings as they were not all reliable with hopes one would come through. As a result, these biscuits are a fabulous combination of a dinner roll and a biscuit and when paired with deviled ham, you have the perfect picnic fare.

**Angel Biscuits**  
**48 2" biscuits**

- Combine and set aside
- ½ cup warm water
- 1 package dry yeast (2 ¼ teaspoons)
- 1 teaspoon sugar

- Combine dry Ingredients in a large bowl
- 5 cups all purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1½ teaspoons kosher salt
- 1 teaspoon baking soda

3 tablespoons sugar

- Add to the dry ingredients
- ½ cup cold butter, cut into cubes
- ½ cup organic shortening (such as Spectrum which is non-hydrogenated)

With your hands mix the butter and shortening into the dry ingredients, rubbing the fats into the flour until the mixture is crumbly

- Mix in the wet ingredients, stir until just combined
- Proofed yeast mixture
- 2 cups of buttermilk

Cover the dough and refrigerate for at least 2 hours or up to 5 days

- To bake the biscuits
- Preheat the oven to 400 degrees
- Turn the dough out onto a floured surface
- Knead the dough 5-6 times and add flour, a bit at a time, if the dough is too sticky to handle

Roll out to a ½ inch thick rectangle, fold in half and roll out again to the same thickness

Cut with a 2" round cutter, reroll scraps and cut the remaining dough

Place the biscuits on a parchment lined baking sheet

Bake for 15-20 minutes until lightly golden brown

Brush with 3 tablespoons of melted butter and allow to cool

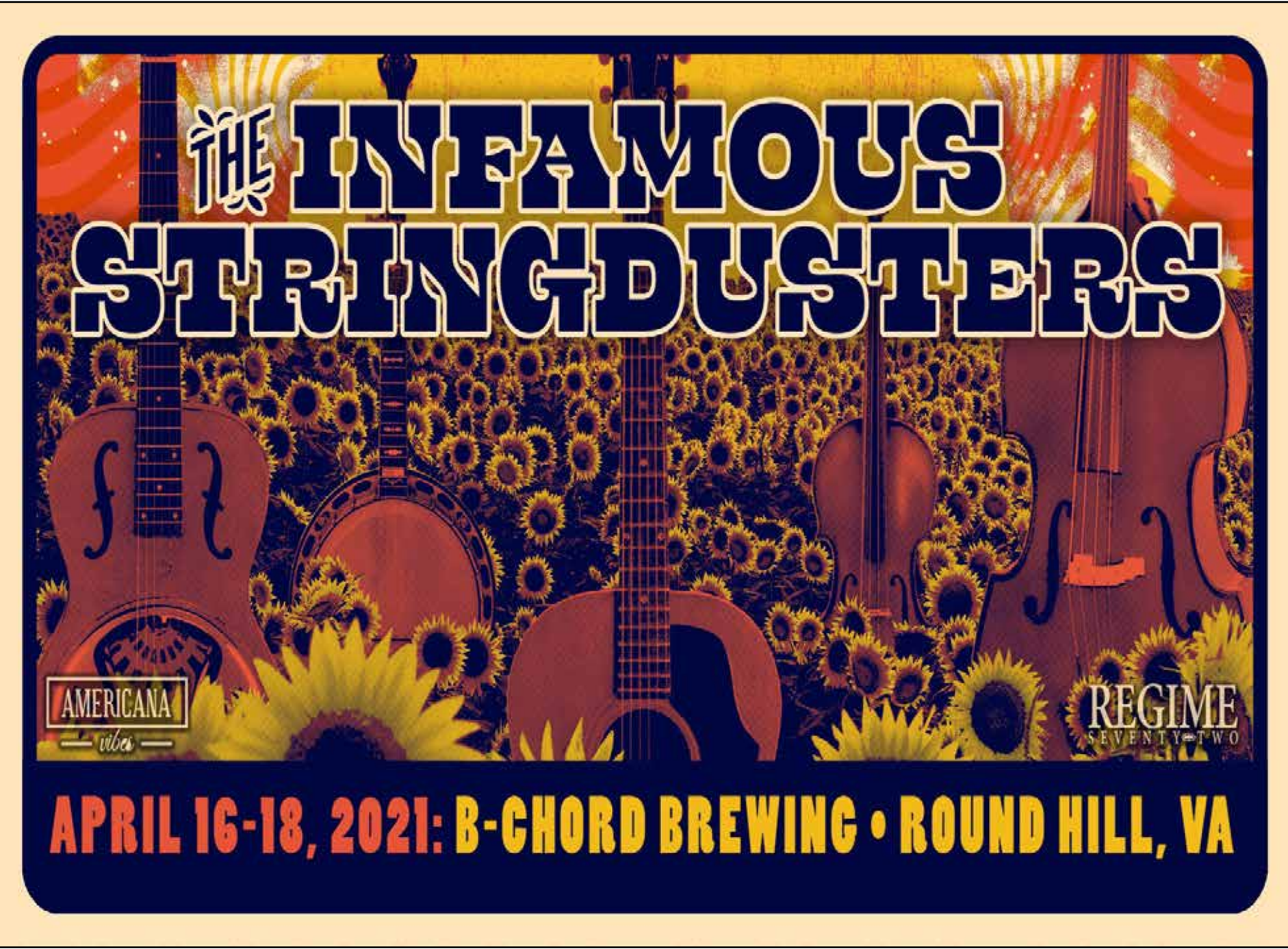
**Deviled Ham**  
**About 2 cups**

- ½ pound country ham
- 1/3 cup mayonnaise
- 1 teaspoon dry mustard
- ½ teaspoon hot sauce or to taste
- 2 teaspoon apricot preserves
- 1-2 stalks celery, cut into chunks
- ¼ cup flat leaf parsley

Combine all of the above ingredients in a food processor and pulse until well combined and uniform

## LIVE MUSIC IS COMING BACK

IN UNISON



STEVE CHASE

In our second year of this pandemic, the live music industry continues to be in an uneasy stasis. Some glimmers of hope; some venues are doing outdoor shows, some festivals are planning late summer dates, and bands are starting to plan for tours again. But the virus news still is not that good, and I wonder how realistic we are being.

A big question for the Summer and Fall is how many people can come together in an outdoor venue to listen to music? Some of the big local and regional festivals have postponed their dates but are still planning to proceed. Hopefully, the virus allows it.

Watermelon Picker's Festival, one of the oldest bluegrass festivals, is planning on running along the Shenandoah River in Berryville on September 16-19. They are always presenting a killer lineup, including Bela Fleck's My Bluegrass Heart with Sierra Hull and Michael Cleveland, The Infamous Stringdusters, Keller and The Keels, Town Mountain, Furnace Mountain, The Platescrapers, and The Woodshedders,

to name a few. More info at watermelonpickersfest.com.

DelFest has been postponed to September 23-26 at the Cumberland Fair Grounds in Maryland. The lineup includes The Del McCoury Band, Sam Bush, The Travelin' McCourys, Old Crow Medicine Show, The Infamous Stringdusters, Leftover Salmon, Mandolin Orange, Lil Smokies, Della Mae, and many more. I have said in the past that DelFest is Telluride Bluegrass's eastern sister, and this continues to be the case. Let's hope the fest happens.

LOCKN, the big jam band fest, is scheduled for October 1-3, with no lineup announced yet. FloydFest is sticking with their July 21-25 schedule, with a fantastic lineup including the Avett Brothers, Old Crow Medicine Show, and Turkuaz w/ Jerry Harrison & Adrian Belew playing the entire Talking Heads album REMAIN IN LIGHT.

Telluride Bluegrass Festival My plan to go to the year's most fantastic music festival has been pushed back another year. Planet Bluegrass, the promoters of Telluride Bluegrass, has announced the 2021 festival will be a hybrid event, with only 3,000 tickets in-

stead of 12,000. We'll be waiting until 2022.

Loudoun has become the epicenter of late-COVID live music. There have been few bright lights in the live music business in the past year, and one of those is located in Round Hill. B-Chord brewery has become one of the go-to venues on the east coast for jamgrass music, drawing some of the top acts of the genre to this field on the shoulder of the Blue Ridge in Western Loudoun.

Last Fall, B-Chord treated a limited number of outdoor attendees to some great shows, including Sam Bush, Larry Keel, Jerry Douglas, Andy Falco, and Travis Book, Keller Williams, Cabinet, and Yonder Mountain String Band. The limited audience for these shows is spread across acres of lawn above the stage, with firepits scattered around. It's an incredible scene and an excellent adaptation to address the COVID restrictions.

B Chord tells its audience: "Our outdoor stage is ideally situated at the base of the Blue Ridge Mountains and our expansive lawn provides lots of room to social distance and still enjoy

live music. All Public Health protocols will be strictly enforced, and we have implemented contactless practices to protect our guests and employees. Face mask or coverings will be required so don't forget to bring one with you."

The Infamous Stringdusters did a three-day run at B Chord in mid-April, their first live shows in some time. Travis Book exclaimed after playing John Hartford's Steam Powered Airplane-- "I have not been on a PA system this loud in a long, long time, cheers everybody!" All three shows sold out, and social media from the band members' post-show was super positive. I have recordings of all three shows, and it is the 'Dusters relieved to finally be on stage after a year of pandemic, playing a great range of their best music--their tunes, Grateful Dead, bluegrass standards, and even Steely Dan and Pink Floyd. People in the crowd were yelling, "Thank You!" You can download these fantastic shows at [www.bt.etree.org](http://www.bt.etree.org), and I can't recommend them enough, pure musical joy.

B Chord has hosted Del McCoury in the past. Later in May,

they will present "DelFest Lite," another three-day event with The Del McCoury Band, The Travelin' McCourys, The Seldom Scene, Sierra Farrell, The Gibson Brothers, Frank Solivan & Dirty Kitchen, Fireside Collective, The Plate Scrapers, and Furnace Mountain, to name a few. With DelFest being postponed to the Fall, this run will give you a great taste of what to expect in Cumberland in September.

B Chord will present Railroad Earth on May 21-22. I'll also be looking forward to the return to B Chord of the Yonder Mountain String Band. Yonder will do a two-show run July 3-4. I can't believe that we are getting shows of this caliber a mere 20-minute drive from Middleburg--Kudos to B Chord for bringing these bands to us.

Let's hope that we'll continue to see more live music coming back as we go through the next several months. I'll be playing bluegrass with Hunt Lynman and Mark Maggilo at Art in the Burg on Saturday, May 15, in the afternoon.

Steve Chase is practicing bluegrass tunes in Unison.

# PASTIMES

## GREEN ACRES

GREEN ACRES IS THE PLACE TO BE, FARM LIVIN' IS THE LIFE FOR ME - SINCERELY ME

BRANDY GREENWELL

Spring seemed to bloom overnight this year, and we went straight from sweaters to sunscreen around Middleburg. If you live west of Gilbert's Corner, you know what that means- mowing, mulching, mating, pollen, and patios. Some musings of each to keep it real. Always.

Mowing, particularly bush hogging, is some of my favorite alone time. I love to make a good soundtrack and set on a mission to make row after row of perfection. Few things are more satisfying than observing your work after a day of tractor time, cracking a beer, and watching the sun go down. Always do your mowing and weed eating on the same day. No one likes it when their hairdressers miss a spot. The same principle applies to grass.



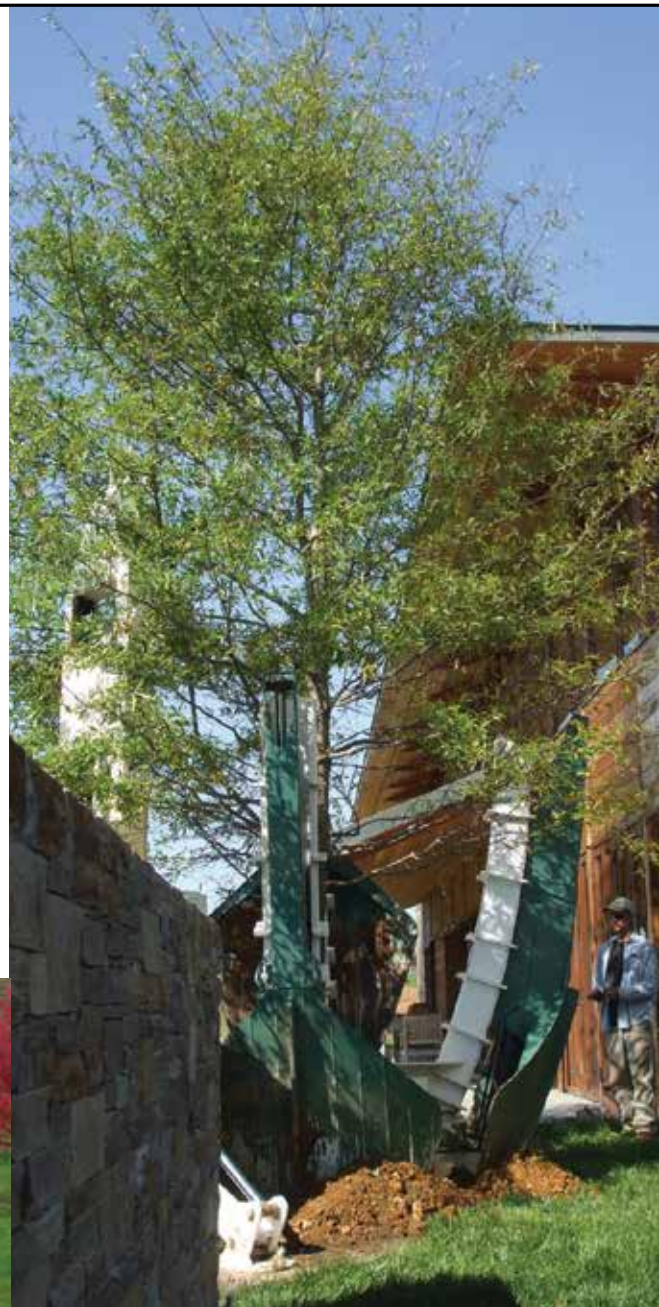
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Funny, I haven't ever warmed to mowing with a zero-turn. "Jane, get me off this crazy thing."

Select a calm day to throw mulch. Take it from me that if you get some in your eye, it will be a painful and irritating experience. Don't skimp on mulch either, unless you enjoy pulling weeds. And always check for rogue poo's if you get it delivered in bulk. Ask me how I know to advise this.

Bunnies, kit, calves, foals, lamb, etc....spring is Mother Nature's time of welcoming all things new to the world. Mommas will come back (usually) for their young, so alone fawn or bird's nest of squeaky squawky aren't (generally) abandoned, so keep a watchful eye first before relocating. Animals don't use Amber Alert though, at times, I bet they would like to.

The world is yellow this time of year. Sunshine shining, daffodils, dandelions, and pollen covering everything stationary for more than 10 minutes. Keep the Kleenex and Visine handy, and thank your Covid masks for filtering your air from all incoming particles.

This is the best time of year, in my opinion, to enjoy a patio. Bugs aren't entirely out yet, the air crisp, then warm, then crisp again, the surrounding green and other colorful blooms are blinding with their beauty, and the weather so perfect that all you need is a light sweater. If you understand that last reference, you need to always have SPF 30 on your face, moisturize daily and drink plenty of water to stay... fresh.

Friends, do something outside every day for your soul, enjoy this beautiful time of year and always stop to smell the roses.

## EASTERN RED COLUMBINE

THE PLANT LADY



KAREN REXRODE

A desirable wildflower is about to bloom, timed to coincide with the arrival of hummingbirds. With its dainty bells of orange, red, and yellow, small balanced spurs hold the nectar, the enticement for the high energy of a hummingbird. One of many species of columbine, this one is *Aquilegia canadensis*, mid-sized when compared to the other species of which there are over sixty. My shade garden used to be overrun with the wild columbine until I began deadheading or removing the seed pods. For many years

afterward, some returned, replenished by previous seed deposits. In time they dwindled to nothing, my efforts to alter the balance backfired. Sometimes when things seem too easy, the gardener may doubt the value of what they have.

For the gardener, naturalist, and hummingbird enthusiast, our native columbine is undoubtedly worth growing, and when left to seed, it can occupy a lot of real estate. I would not call that a flaw since it's not a hindrance for other perennial companions. If *Aquilegia canadensis* has a fault, it would be the leaf damage from leaf mi-

nor, which probably all columbine suffer from (but it doesn't slow them down). Since they prefer open shade, open to the east or west, or sunlight from an opening above, leafy companions make good neighbors by hiding the damaged leaves. Some examples might be hardy begonia or hosta. Hay scented fern, *Gillenia* (Bowman's root), and actea (black cohosh) if you prefer native and deer resistant plantings.

All but one species of columbine have spurs. Hummingbirds, hawkmoths, and bumblebees are the primary pollinators. The bullseye for the diversity of

species is found in our southwest, extending into Mexico. Receptive to each others pollen, where different species cohabitate, there can be significant variability in populations. Naturally, this has led to their popularity with hybridizers and resulted in seed strains of multiple colors.

The most striking of all columbines is *Aquilegia longissima* or longspur columbine, a native of Texas, Arizona, and northern Mexico. So long are the spurs that only a hawkmoth's proboscis or the hummingbird's tongue can reach the nectar. The act of extracting the

sugar puts pollen on their head or chest, thereby fertilizing the flowers.

European columbines are differently structured, lacking hummingbirds. Spurs can be tightly curled, almost invisible. These have also played into the game of hybridization, which is evident when looking at short-spurred selections.

All are perennial, although fleeting in the scheme of things. Expect two or three years before they extinguish. Leave seed heads to ripen to ensure future generations. If you grow multiple varieties, be ready for some surprises.

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# PASTIMES

## WHAT'S HOT IN TILE? 5 TRENDS TO CONSIDER FOR YOUR NEXT RENOVATION

ASK A REMODELER



TIM BURCH

When it comes to remodeling a kitchen or bath, tile is one area where the only thing more expansive than the range of prices is the number of choices available. There is undoubtedly something for every style, goal, and budget, with options ranging from classic subway tiles and geometrics to exotic imports and dramatic metallics. Following are some of the hottest trends in tile design today.

**Subway Tiles:** While white subway tiles are timeless neutral, variations of this classic are becoming quite popular.

Designers play with pastels, colors, sizes, finishes, grout color, and layouts to give these tiles a fresh look.

**Metallics:** If you're longing for a touch of glamour or a dramatic pop, then maybe metallics are for you. Metallic-colored tiles can be made of glass, stone, or metal and range from mosaic to large format sizes. They can be brushed, patterned, oxidized, polished, matte, textured, or mixed for a chic look. Metallics work nicely as an accent wall, an accent on a tile, or interspersed with other colored tiles.

**Matte Finishes:** While polished finishes are still trendy,

matte finishes continue to gain popularity in 2021. They provide a softer, more natural appearance and are easier to maintain because they don't show water stains and smudges like their high-polished cousins. If you go this route, make sure your lighting in the space is sufficient, as matte tiles tend to absorb light.

**Hexagons:** Who wants dull rectangular tiles when you can have hexagons? Geometric tiles are becoming increasingly popular, especially the hexagon. Once a retro staple, hexagon tiles are now available in a wide range of sizes, colors, materials, and dimensions, making it

a fresh but timeless option.

**Dimension:** If you're looking to create visual interest and texture, consider the dimensional or sculptural tiles available today. From a subtle, natural stone-like unevenness to a variety of slightly raised patterns to full 3D designs, there are plenty of options available today. Again, carefully consider the lighting plan for space, so shadows don't interfere with your desired effect.

Whether you are looking for tiles for the bathroom, kitchen, or another room in your home, the right tile can create the perfect finish. With so many options available, the selection

process can be overwhelming, and it's easy to get well beyond your budgeted allowance. To keep the process efficient, productive, and enjoyable, seek the help of an experienced designer who can help narrow your options based on your desired style, budget, and production schedule.

Tim Burch is a Vice President and Owner of BOWA, an award-winning design and construction firm specializing in renovations ranging from owners' suites and kitchens to whole-house remodels and equestrian facilities. For more information, visit [bowa.com](http://bowa.com) or call 540-687-6771.



## ORTHODONTICS: AN ATTRACTIVE SMILE AND MORE

MIDDLEBURG SMILES



DR. ROBERT A. GALLEGOS

The benefits of having properly aligned teeth extend far beyond an attractive and confident smile. Straight teeth not only create a more beautiful smile but are also vital in maintaining your overall dental health. Properly aligned teeth reduce your risk for tooth decay (cavities) and gum (periodontal) disease. By reducing the risk of decay and gum disease, you can decrease risk factors for other health issues. Think about it, if your smile is far from perfect if it's not a healthy smile. Straight teeth contribute to overall health, well-being, ease of cleaning, and healthier teeth and gums.

Most people would like an attractive smile. There are different ways to achieve a beautiful smile based on the concerns of the patient and the condition of the teeth, bone, lips, and face. Sometimes the concern is the color of the teeth, and whitening, veneers, crowns, or tooth-colored fillings

may be part of the treatment. If the problem is the shape of the teeth, then tooth-colored fillings, veneers, or crowns may be the solution. If crowding, spacing, or angulation of the teeth is the problem, then orthodontics and/or veneers and crowns may be considered. If the smile shows too much of the gums, then orthodontics and possibly a surgical (gum, lip, or jaw surgery) option may be the answer. And in some patients, there is a combination of one or more of these concerns and conditions. To help the patient make the right choices and be fully informed of the risks, benefits, and alternatives of orthodontic or other treatment, a dentist will need to determine if the teeth and bones are healthy and evaluate lip position and facial proportions.

Orthodontic treatment can be accomplished with fixed or removable appliances. Fixed appliances refer to traditional braces with metal and/or tooth-colored bands and brackets placed on the teeth with wires attached to move the teeth. Removable appliances

refer to plastic aligners that can be easily identified and removed by the patient. Both fixed and removable methods move teeth by putting pressure on the teeth. They require to follow up with the dentist to assess health, make adjustments and move on to the next step in treatment.

There is an increasingly high demand for orthodontic care because people want attractive, healthy smiles. Because of this demand, more options have become available for patients to seek care. Traditionally, orthodontic specialists who did extensive training beyond dental school treated every patient, whether it was a minor or major concern. Over the last several years, general dentists, who have additional training, also provide orthodontic care for some needs of patients, leaving the complex cases to the orthodontists. There are also over-the-counter options that do not involve meeting with a dentist, but a dentist reviews your treatment.

Orthodontic movement of teeth should be done after an

in-person consultation with a dentist for proper evaluation for decay, periodontal health, lip and facial analysis, and x-ray evaluation of the teeth and bone. The possible complications without good pretreatment evaluation are significant, including permanent disfigurement, including losing one or more teeth. Also, just moving teeth may not address the underlying problem if the lips, facial asymmetry, underlying disease, gums, and/or jawbones are part of the problem. I would recommend avoiding the over-the-counter options because of the lack of thorough pretreatment analysis and discussion with a dentist.

The keys to success with orthodontic treatment are proper pretreatment diagnosis of the problem by the dentist, the dentist's attention to the patient's concerns, and compliance by the patient. Keeping with traditional braces involves excellent home care and regular visits to evaluate progress and adjustments by the dentist. Clear aligners need the exact compliance as con-

ventional braces and need to be worn 20-22 hours a day. Lack of compliance will lead to delays in treatment, possible cavities, and poor outcomes.

In summary, orthodontic care dramatically benefits the patient for an attractive smile and overall health and well-being. Treatment may be a combination of dental choices, not just orthodontic movement of teeth, to accomplish the desired results. To do it right, work with a dentist who is a qualified provider of orthodontic treatments.

*Dr. Robert A. Gallegos is a Fellow in the Academy of General Dentistry, Visiting Faculty at Spear Education, Alumnus of Pankey Institute, Invisalign Provider, 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](http://www.MiddleburgSmiles.com).*





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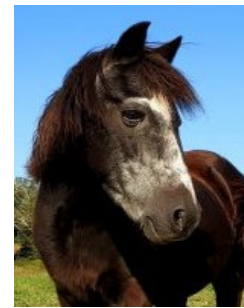
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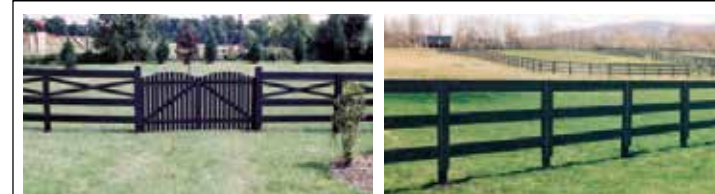


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LETTERS

AMY E. OWEN

Dear Editor,

This starts with a heartfelt “Thank you” to every reader and member of our community. Together, we raised \$820,000 through a 2021 GiveChoose.org campaign. This charitable community-based “crowdfunding” event has become a high-impact source of spring funding for many nonprofits serving our community. (Did you know that, for most nonprofits, 30 to 80 percent of all household donations are received at year end?)

As the event’s hosts and coordinators, the Community Foundation for Loudoun and Northern Fauquier Counties recognizes Give Choose is one more tool in our community’s toolbox to encourage charitable giving. This is especially critical in Loudoun County, as past studies have shown charitable giving ranking substandard when compared to the nation, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and most certainly when compared to neighboring counties. Everyone who donated during Give Choose is part of the solution, strengthening our collective generosity.

Since COVID-19, our local nonprofit Community has with dedication, innovation, and steadfast commitment served as a safety-net for thousands. Your gifts just helped weave that net into a stronger, more resilient place.

Thank you to you all for joining in GiveChoose.org and making this community one of the best to grow up and grow old.

Amy E. Owen  
President/CEO

Community Foundation for Loudoun and Northern Fauquier Counties

JOCELYN LILI ALEXANDER

**Bulldozing Easements**

In the March issue of Middleburg Eccentric, Robert Banner wrote a thoughtful piece about the future of the conservation easement. I found the piece timely as I am currently dealing with one of the concerns he mentions. I understand why it will test the strength of all easements, especially as properties change hands more frequently.

I own a property that has been in

COURT PACKING – A GOOD OR BAD IDEA?

JOHN P. FLANNERY

The Republicans packed the Supreme Court with three Justices, the worrisome threesome I call them, which begs the question, how does one repair what Trump and McConnell did?

With the replacement of Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the court profile reflected a 6-3 conservative majority after decades of a 5-4 split or control by a moderate block.

Three justices, Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Barrett, all Trump appointees, made the tilt, really a lurch, possible.

The Court puts at risk social reforms and government programs including abortion rights, gun safety, gay marriage, affirmative action, voting rights, employment discrimination, and Obamacare.

What is past foreshadowed the Supreme Court, Justice Amy Barrett. The newly minted Justice had signed public letters opposing abortion and dissented when the rest of the appellate court where she sat before the Supreme Court upheld a lower court opinion blocking tough abortion restrictions.

Justice Barret raised concerns that she would show religious bias, be less secular, more sectarian, and sure enough she joined several other justices holding that COVID-19 restrictions on public religious services violated freedom to worship. Before she joined the Court, it had rejected this argument in California and Nevada.

Gorsuch wrote, “Even if the constitution has taken a holiday during this pandemic, it cannot become a sabbatical.”

Former President Trump and former Senate Majority Leader McConnell passed few bills, but worked hard to change the composition of our federal courts – for the worse – filling 28 percent of the vacant seats on the federal bench, and three Supreme Court Justices.

The new talent were uniformly conservative and young and less racially and ethnically diverse (only 4% black/75% male).

The Federalists supplied lists of acceptable nominees, no need to consult with the ABA, nor any impartial alternative source to vet judicial nominees.

President Obama nominated Judge Merrick Garland to replace the vacancy created by the passing of Justice Scalia.

There was plenty of time to have hearings and vote the nomination up or down in that presidential election year – 2016.

Majority Leader McConnell, however, refused to perform the

LETTER FROM THE PLAINS

ANTHONY WELLS

Domestic violent extremism, including white supremacists, neo-Nazis, and violent anti government groups, raises the age old issue of freedom of speech under the First Amendment versus countering those illegal activities that violate Federal law. The enduring effects of the Capital Insurrection are with us for a long time. Violent extremism includes formal organizations such as the Proud Boys, the Oath Keepers, and the Three Percenters in addition to random bad actors and mobs. All of us need to be aware that even in the relatively protected enclaves that Eccentric readers tend to inhabit there is a need to be on constant alert for those in the community who supported, for just one example, the Capitol Insurrection. It is, very simply, a form of domestic terrorism. The “Open Source” world of

doesn’t suggest it is an access road, but a sporting track built to facilitate recreational vehicles, so the true purpose of the earth disturbing work, where the steep terrain may require storm water management, is curious.

We appreciate those that enjoy the full use of their land, but not at the cost of an obligation to an easement that protects the open space or the peace and peace of mind of neighbors. The owners that committed the land to an easement in the first place expected all future owners respect the same high ideal upon purchase. The language of the easement repeats conclusively agricultural and natural resources are priority. In today’s environment, easement language has to sustain the challenges not just of what the protections offered are, but those who read them not for what they protect, but what can be gotten away with.

Respectfully,  
Jocelyn Lili Alexander

Judge Barrett became the first Supreme Court nominee to be confirmed with only one-party support.

The Senate also had never confirmed a nominee so close to an election.

Barrett was confirmed by a vote of 52-48: WV Senator Manchin opposed her; Maine Senator Susan Collins voted in opposition.

Then Minority Leader Senator Schumer said, “Today will go down as one of the darkest days in the 231 year history of the United States Senate.”

What’s the remedy for such politically sharp practices as Messrs. Trump, Mr. McConnell and the Republican Caucus invoked to confirm this worrisome ideological conservative judicial threesome?

How about adding an equivalent number of justices to counter the worrisome threesome?

Of course, since that would make the court an even 12, the change must require 4 new justices.

Senator Ed Markey (D-Mass) and Rep. Jerry Nadler (D-NY) have introduced a bill to add 4 seats to the high court.

There are those Dems who think we should let a Commission study the question for months. It’s just a way to kick the decision down the road without

locations. One of my concerns is foreign involvement with the digital operations of internal US violent extremist groups. The December, 2020 major large scale hack by Russian intelligence and the “Solar Winds” debacle are illustrative of the ability of the Russian FSB (the successor to the Soviet Union’s KGB) to penetrate and exploit weaknesses and vulnerabilities in American society, and sow discord, with the usual brazen deniability by the Putin regime. The latter’s namesake and leader, Vladimir Putin, is an old style Cold War KGB operative, and Yuri Andropov look-alike (1914-1984, Head of the KGB, 1967-1982, before becoming General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union), and who was nurtured by Andropov and the other ne’er-do-wells of the old KGB regime. The point is simple. Putin and his FSB entourage see US vulnerabilities exposed by the above violent extremist groups. They know how to cleverly penetrate web

discernible international extremist groups that can radicalize trans nationally to encourage and directly support violence motivated by heinous racial and ethnic dogma. Of concern are funding streams. Like ISIS and Al Qaeda extremists groups need funds for weapons and maintaining their organizations across the logistics spectrum. Oil and drug money feature in this scenario. The FBI, with the Five Eyes and INTERPOL, will need increasingly to counter this dimension. One key tool will be the increasing sophistication, and use, of Artificial Intelligence (AI) applied to all data relating to these extremist groups, both open source and information gathered by classified sources and methods. Real time intercept, decryption, and analysis of potential operations are increasingly demanded by the real and present danger from foreign intervention in US domestic violent extremism.

I speak with some experience. In the late 1970s and early 1980s I was directly involved in tracking down and apprehending deeply buried highly trained Soviet special operatives embedded in British society, whose primary mission was total disruption and assassinations in the event of a war with NATO by the Soviet Union. In the pre digital era we employed a range of clever covert and clandestine tools to locate such people. The digital era presents both its own unique problems, but also huge opportunities by our best and brightest to ensure that the United States remains free from both internal violent extremism, and also the equally menacing specter of deliberate and thoroughly evil direct interference

OBITUARIES

LOUIS EDWARD HALEY

Ralph Edgar Parker “Uncle Ralph” 87, of Middleburg VA passed peacefully at his home on Palm Sunday, March 28, 2021.

Ralph was born in Chicago Illinois May 5, 1933. He grew up in Johnstown PA and was one of 5 children, son of the late Rosella Parker. Ralph was the brother of Larry, Loretta, Ruth and Rose Marie.

Ralph was a Veteran of the Korean War. After his service, he became a Golf Professional (PGA). He played on the tour in the 1960s with many greats including Jack Nicklaus. Ralph was the Pro at Cherokee Golf Course in Madison WI and Riverside Golf Course in Janesville Wisconsin until 1981 when he moved to Virginia to help his sister with the management of her farm in Upperville.

In 2015, Ralph moved to Windy Hills’ Levis Hill House for Seniors. He loved living there with a beautiful apartment, many friends and activities. He was blessed to have a good friend and caretaker, Kevin Hill who truly adored Ralph and was a tremendous help and companion for the last 6 years of his life.

Ralph was a friend to everyone. He was kind, forgiving, generous, always cheerful and, he had a wonderful sense of humor. He loved golf, playing slots, animals, his family, and helping others. Ralph took legal guardianship of his niece Hilleary when she was a teen and taught her to work hard, always be kind and forgive others. We need more Uncle Ralphs in

Saud Al-Sowayel, of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia and Delaplane, Virgina, entrepreneur, technologist, poet, translator, accomplished chef and oenophile, fluent in Arabic, English, French and German and a world traveler, a true Renaissance man, died at his home in Delaplane on Thursday, April 22nd, at the age of 71, after a long battle with lung cancer, surrounded by his mother Ibtesam, sisters Naila and Dina and brother Talal.

Saud entered the Massachusetts Institute of Technology at the age of sixteen in 1966 and graduated with a Masters of Mechanical Engineering in 1971. After various consulting engagements, he founded Saudi Systems Corporation in the late 1970s, to do computer and other technology consulting with the Saudi government. He was a long-time associate of Prince Sultan (bin Salman bin Abdulaziz al Saud), the Saudi astronaut. He balanced his successful business career in Saudi Arabia with travel and months-long stays in the United States, where he kept up his interests in science and the arts, especially opera, and entertained his many friends. Saud was known for his generosity, wit and storytelling and was loved by all who knew him. He will be extraordinarily missed. Saud is survived by his mother Ibtesam, brother Talal and sisters Naila, Dina and Serene. His father Ibrahim, Saudi ambassador to the United States from 1966 until his death, predeceased him in 1976, and his older brother Faisal predeceased him in 2016. Funeral services will be held privately, by his family. His long-time friend from MIT and poet Ron Searls, wrote this to honor him at his death:

US Constitution and a history that since December, 1941, shows that whatever missteps various Administrations may have made in foreign policy, the American people are emblematic of freedom and democracy. Please consider ensuring that these young minds are taught both the substance and the underlying values and spirit that sustain our vibrant democracy.

Please be well and I hope that vaccination is proliferating in our fine community.

Post Script: We have all just heard today, Friday, April 9, 2021, of the passing of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth’s husband. May I provide one anecdote to commemorate in a very small way a wonderful life. Vice Admiral Sir Roy “Gus” Halliday, Royal Navy, was my boss in two of my appointments, when he was the British Naval Attaché in Washington in the mid 1970s and later when he became the Director General of Intelligence in the UK. In 1945 Gus was shot down while flying in the British Pacific Fleet. He was rescued from the water by then Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten’s ship. Gus shared a cabin with the future husband of Queen Elizabeth. Philip gave him a new set of clothes and after the Japanese surrender Gus told me of a memorable “run ashore” that they had together. Prince Philip fought throughout World War Two, 1939-1945, with great distinction. He graduated from Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, where I did my naval training.



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**Le Tombeau de Saud**

*Sing of clove-scented winds that hiss and roar  
Round Uhud Mountain’s shoulders, then sing of the way  
White stallions, down dunes, like an avalanche spray,  
Carrying black riders to distant thunderheads of war.*

*Sing of the falcons that scrape the sky and soar —  
Then, like arrows, fall, in ringing dives, to the curlew prey.  
Sing of abandoned campfires, black tents now swept away  
And sing, my lute, that he — that Saud, rides no more.*

*Song from silence arises, in its first notes it seeks  
The bazaar of sensuality, a baharat of tastes and smells,  
And in kohl lined eyes, in henna’d skin – lusts to transcend.*

*“But beauty is beyond,” the desert night yet speaks.  
Sing oud! Sing ney! to its infinite stars, its lonely gazelles —  
At sunrise we’ll then know: — all great songs must end.*

# LAUGH, LOVE, LIVE HERE

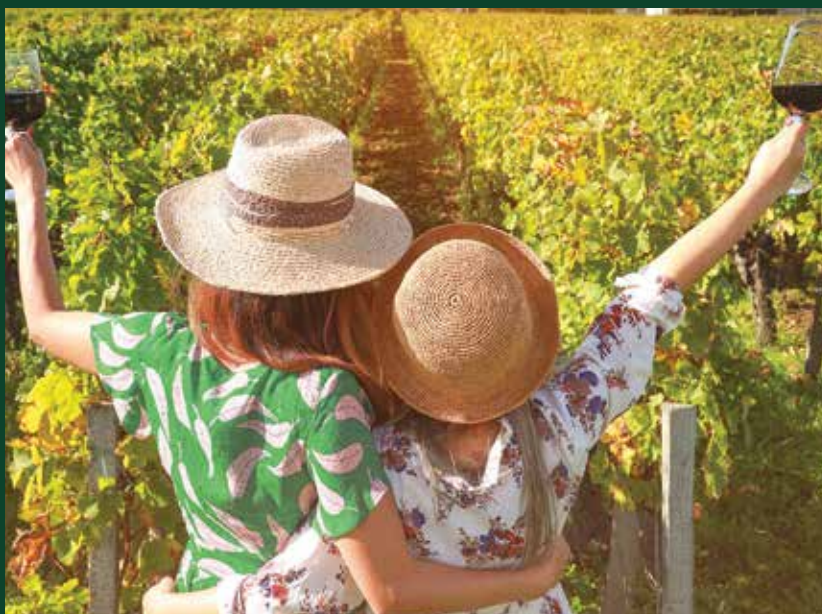


## BOLINVAR

**100 acres** **\$8,495,000**

Middleburg – 22 elegant rooms and 9 fireplaces, all superbly detailed and beautifully appointed. Brilliant gardens surround the heated pool. Fabulous 11 stall stone stable with 2 staff apartments. Riding ring and green house.

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## HUNT COUNTRY ESTATE

**104 acres** **\$4,900,000**

Bluemont – Estate includes lush pastures with spectacular mountain views. Features 9000 sq ft of elegant living space, a pond, pool & spa, guest house, an apartment over the 4 bay garage, 6 stall stable & paddocks, all in an idyllic setting!

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## CARRINGTON LAND

**410+ acres** **\$4,310,000**

This spectacular 410 acres of land consist of rolling fields, lush woodlands, streams, a small pond, and mountain land. The 6 tax parcels which comprise the 410 acres are protected under a conservation easement which allows for a maximum of 4 divisions.

**Will Driskill | 540-454-7522**



## WHITE OAK FARM

**93+ acres** **\$3,800,000**

Middleburg – 1st time offering of this wonderful ‘Hanback built’ home with spectacular Blue Ridge Mtn views. 5 BR / 5.5 BAs. 4 fireplaces, hardwood floors & mature landscaping. 2 BR / 1 BA tenant house, 6 stall barn w/paddocks. 2 ponds.

**Cricket Bedford | 540-229-3201**



## ARBORVITAE

**111 acres** **\$2,380,000**

Warrenton – This fine English Country home was designed by W.H. Irwin Fleming in 1938 with grand rooms and tremendous gardens. Not currently in conservancy. Open fields, a small stream and woodland. 3 rentals provide an income of \$3,000/mo

**Rebecca Poston | 540-771-7520**



## WESTBROOK

**10+ acres** **\$1,950,000**

Middleburg – Turnkey, custom-built Colonial. Blue Ridge Mtn views, meticulously maintained, 5 BRs / 5 BAs, hardwood floors, pool w/spa & pergola. Extensive landscaping & mature trees. 4-stall barn w/tack room, wash stall & 3 fenced paddocks.

**Cricket Bedford | 540-229-3201**



## THE ORCHARD

**4.82 acres** **\$1,850,000**

Middleburg – Largest residential parcel “in town!” Built by late master builder WJ Hanback. 3/4 BRs, 3 full BAs. Includes spiral staircase, built-ins, hardwood floors and fireplaces. Fenced garden, extensive landscaping, pond and mature trees.

**Cricket Bedford | 540-229-3201**

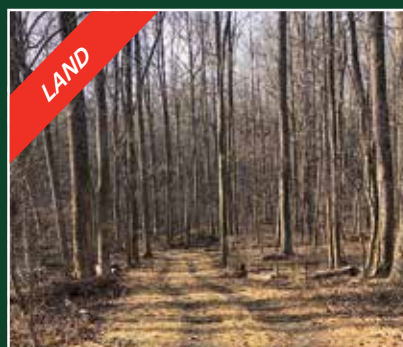


## THUMB RUN FARM

**35 acres** **\$1,500,000**

Marshall – Thumb Run Farm is an idyllic country home with tremendous privacy and views of the Shenandoah National Park. In a highly sought after location, this property, as well as most of the surrounding land, are protected by easements.

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## BULL RUN MTN

**20+ acres** **\$550,000**

Travel a tranquil country road to arrive at this wooded parcel tucked into the Bull Run Mountains. A massive rock ledge at the top overlooks a cleared building site surrounded by mature trees. Minutes to the town of The Plains or Middleburg.

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## TENANT HOUSE

**\$1,800**

Warrenton – Renovated tenant house on big farm. New wood composite floors. All on one level. New kitchen, spacious living room. 2BRs and 2 BAs, one with new walk in shower. Very private. No pets, no smoking. credit check and references required.

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