

■ It can come as no surprise that with new homes sprouting up all over the Piedmont, another new business in town is **BOWA Construction Company**, whose offices lie on the lower level of the Hamilton building on the southwest corner of Jay and Washington streets.

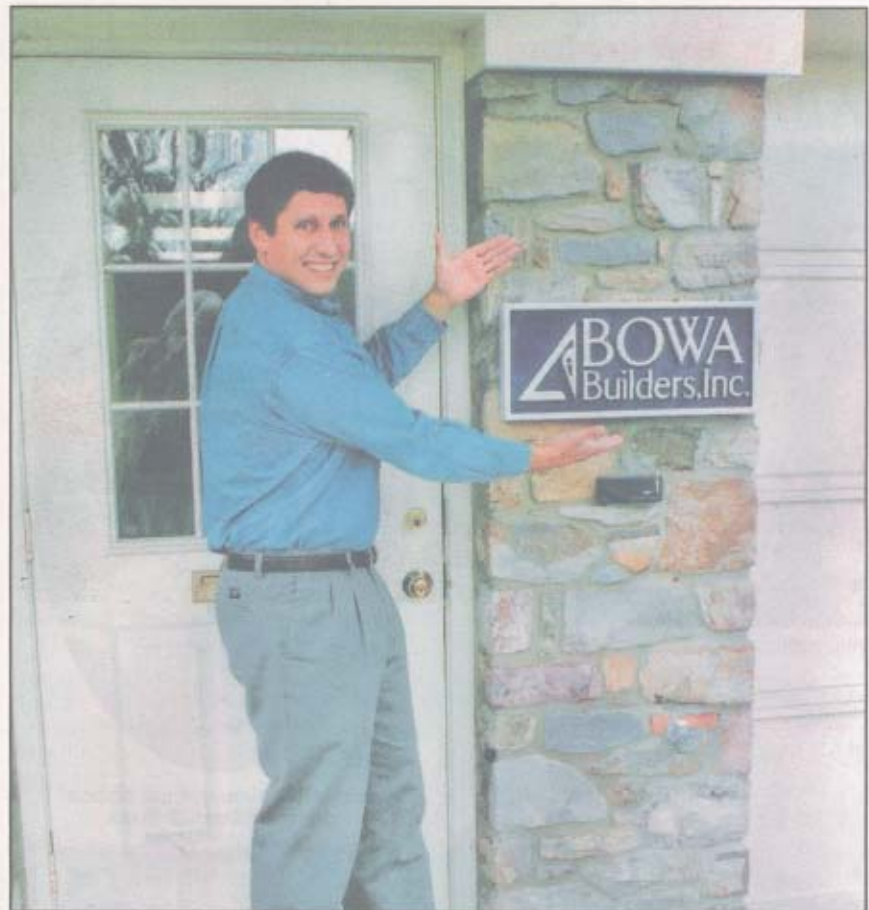
A long-time McLean firm that has specialized in custom homes, large-scale additions and renovations and equestrian facilities (now you know why they came to Hunt Country), its principals are Josh Baker and Larry Weinberg, who were once classmates at the University of Virginia and started out building decks, doing all the labor themselves.

Seventeen years later, they have 85 employees and have won more than 60 awards for excellence. And after being named as one of the "50 Great Places to Work" by Washingtonian magazine, they recently were recognized as "Best Bosses" in a national competition. Wow!

Their expansion into Middleburg is primarily a recognition that many of their clients now live in Loudoun and Fauquier. So their focus is not building new subdivisions, but improving and expanding existing homes and properties.

BOWA's enviable reputation will be continued by its Middleburg branch manager,

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Joe Burke, manager of BOWA Construction Company in Middleburg, brings a University of Virginia degree in architecture and years of building experience to the local scene.

Businesses

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Joe Burke, who is also a U.Va. grad with a degree in architecture and a wealth of experience in the construction field.

He and his wife live in Warrenton in a farmhouse he built in 1995 – which he proudly says "everyone thinks is very old" which is exactly the look he wanted.

"The people in Middleburg, from the Town Hall to the Post Office have been incredibly kind and easy to work with," says Joe Burke, "and I look forward to working here for years to come."

■ Finally (you thought we'd never get here, didn't you?), a tremendous selection for the all important places in any home where we walk, lie down or play with the kids and the dog, are being offered by **Atlantic Floors** at Aldie Mill.

Located right next to the Little Apple Bakery, Brent Perry brings years of experience in Fairfax to the Loudoun/Fauquier market with fine woods, beautiful carpets, tiles and ceramic installations geared toward custom builders and individual homeowners.

The grand-opening of Atlantic Flooring took place in mid-November, and Perry can be reached at (703) 926-6411.

It takes belief in the future of a town along with a tremendous spirit of optimism and adventure to pursue any new venture. That so many new businesses are pursuing their dreams in and around Middleburg is not only a great tribute to them – but to those who live here who make this little corner of the Piedmont such a vibrant place to live and work.

So to all of our new entrepreneurs across the local area, Middleburg Life wishes you every success. May all your dreams come true.