

\*\*\*NEWS RELEASE\*\*\*  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
10/31/2007



**Contact: Kevin Mack**  
**Vice President for Conservation**  
**301-608-1188, x214**  
**mack@potomac.org**

**8601 Georgia Ave., Suite 612**  
**Silver Spring, MD 20910**  
**www.potomac.org**

## *Potomac Conservancy Signs Easement on Salamander Property in Loudoun County Forest and Stream Corridors Now Protected by the Conservancy and the Town of Middleburg*

Silver Spring, MD – Potomac Conservancy, the Town of Middleburg and Salamander Development agreed today to protect a large forest area in the Town of Middleburg, Loudoun County. The 189-acre conservation agreement, will be held jointly by Potomac Conservancy and the Town of Middleburg.

Under this agreement, approximately 90% of the forest on the property will be protected in perpetuity. The agreement mandates that the easement holders will “preserve and maintain the easement area in its open, natural, and scenic condition.”

“Loudoun County is developing, and losing much of its rural character,” Hedrick Belin, President of Potomac Conservancy, states. “We are pleased to be able to take part in this important agreement, which helps preserve some of the last remaining woodlands in Middleburg and protects tributaries to vital to the health of Goose Creek.”

The easement area contains approximately 10 acres of pasture and 179 acres of forestland. The property includes tributaries to Goose Creek, a designated State Scenic River, which itself is an important tributary to the Potomac River. The property is in an area that is well protected by conservation easements; more than 81,000 acres within a 15-mile radius of the Salamander property are protected.

The conservation agreement is an important part of the overall development of the property planned by Salamander Development, a company owned by Sheila C. Johnson. Mrs. Johnson purchased the property in 2002 and is building the Salamander Resort & Spa, a luxury resort, on the developed portion of the property. The resort, which celebrated its groundbreaking one week ago, will include a residential and commercial area intended to blend with Middleburg’s historic character.

### *About Potomac Conservancy*

Since 1993, the Potomac Conservancy has protected the health, beauty, and enjoyment of the Potomac River and its tributaries. Its conservation programs address the goals of improving water quality, protecting the river’s scenic integrity, enhancing recreational resources, and building an informed and engaged constituency, using a range of tools, including restoration, permanent protection, advocacy, and citizen education and engagement.

Landowners who are interested in donating a conservation easement can contact Kelly Watkinson, Director of Headwaters Conservation, at 540-667-3606 or Kevin Mack, Vice President for Conservation, at 301-608-1188, x204.

###