

Lucketts

SPRING 2017
A Joint Publication of the Lucketts Ruritan Club
& Lucketts Community Center Advisory Board

NEWS & NOTES



SkillsUSA—Champions at Work

*Working Today to Build America's Skilled
Workforce for Tomorrow*

Lucketts is proud to be home to SkillsUSA – the national, non-profit organization serving all those preparing for careers in technical, skilled and service occupations. They were pioneers in recognizing the value of the “Lucketts Life” when they moved here in 1979 from Falls Church. At the time many of their peers were gathering in nearby Reston on Association Drive. SkillsUSA, (then the Vocational and Industrial Clubs of America) decided to buy land in Lucketts and build for their organization’s future. Their national office is located a mile north of the Community Center on Route 15. In addition to the headquarters staff of 30 people there are SkillsUSA leaders in all 50 states, D.C., Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. SkillsUSA is one of the largest individual membership organizations in the country serving over 300,000 students annually and more than 12.5 million members since their founding.

For more than 50 years Skills USA has achieved their success through a unique partnership with educators, students and the business community providing educational programs, events and competitions that support career and technical education (CTE) in our nation’s classrooms. Their success has earned the endorsement of the US Department of Education – a unique distinction that only SkillsUSA has received. Students who participate in SkillsUSA programs aren’t just trained – they are employable and prepared for life as leaders in their communities.

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SkillsUSA



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Founded in 1965, SkillsUSA achieves results through a decades long focus on six beliefs: the dignity of work, education, satisfaction through good work, the American way of life, fair play and high moral and spiritual standards. SkillsUSA programs instruct students using a framework centered around three key areas – personal development, workplace skills and technical skills grounded in academics. Although structured through a network of local chapters, regional and state organizations and national competitions, SkillsUSA is recognized as a curriculum resource – not simply an extracurricular activity. Students in their programs develop employability skills centered on problem solving, teamwork and goal setting no matter what their career path.

SkillsUSA programs support students in over 130 skilled occupations – more than half of those occupations are rooted in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education. Traditionally in high schools, their programs also support postsecondary programs in colleges and universities. In 2015, they launched their first programs for middle-school students and served 423 middle school students in that first year. SkillsUSA also ranks as a “Best-in-Class” non-profit organization – investing 92 cents of every operating dollar in direct program services for their members. Loudoun County’s own C. S. Monroe Technology Center is an active participant in SkillsUSA programs.

Every year students enrolled in SkillsUSA programs compete for recognition in hundreds of competitions measuring their technical abilities. State Champions from around the nation will descend on Louisville, Kentucky from June 19-23 this year for the 53rd annual National Leadership and Skills Conference (NLSC). Also known as Champions at Work, students compete for national recognition in more than 100 specialties. More than 16,000 people – including students, teachers and business partners – are expected to participate in the 2017 weeklong event.

It takes the equivalent of more than 20 football fields to house the more than 100 competitions that week. Over 600 business partners participate as well as contributing time, equipment, materials and prizes to the weeklong conference. These donations are valued at over \$36,000,000 . It is considered one of the largest single-day



Through the winter and spring months of each school year students compete in a series of local, regional and state skill-based competitions.



Photos by SkillsUSA

demonstrations of corporate volunteerism in America.

These competitions are not just about winning. An equal amount of effort is invested in using their skills to give back to their communities. Across the nation from May 7th to the 13th, SkillsUSA chapters conduct their annual National Week of Service. In the spring of 2015 local students from Monroe Technology used their masonry skills to install the beautiful memorial walk at the entrance of the SkillsUSA headquarters office honoring the organization's 50th anniversary. The annual National Week of Service event contributes over 70,000 hours of service to local communities every year.



The national office, through their advocacy efforts is working to make sure communities everywhere are aware of our nation's most urgent skills gap. More comprehensive Career and Technical Education is needed across America to fill the jobs of tomorrow. Employers looking forward are forecasting that gap and support that technical skills alone are not enough. The "soft-skills" of problem solving, teamwork, and "employability" are equally if not more important in tomorrow's workforce. Our good neighbors at SkillsUSA have cracked the code on making sure that our youth in Career and Technical Education are prepared to close those gaps!

To learn more about our neighbor or to learn how you can support SkillsUSA you can visit their website at www.skillsusa.org.

This is the seventh consecutive year that the mikeroweWORKS Foundation, in partnership with SkillsUSA, will offer travel scholarships for SkillsUSA members who compete and place first in their state championships and who otherwise would not be able to attend the national championships for financial reasons.





Ruritans recognize scholars and community s

By Pat Logue



Scholarship Time is Here!

Parents and graduating seniors take note – it is time to apply for the Ruritan Scholarships that will be awarded this spring to Lucketts area graduating seniors.

Every year Lucketts Ruritan awards academic scholarships to local seniors based on the merits of their application, scholarship, essay and demonstration of past service to the community and letters of recommendation. Neighboring Ruritan organizations judge and rank the applications to remove any local bias from the evaluation process.

Students in local public and private high schools as well as home-schooled seniors are eligible to apply.

Awards are announced in June and are presented at the Tuscarora High School Awards night. Funds are paid directly to the post-secondary program for which the awardee is enrolled following graduation.

The Application and additional information on the program is available on-line at www.luckettsruritan.org. Applications must be submitted no later than Friday April 14th.



Graphic design by Peter Gustafson

LUCKETTS RURITAN Calendar



March through June

Every Saturday at Lucketts Elementary School
Trash and recycling 8-noon. \$6 suggested donation for average household. Recycling is co-mingled. Please flatten boxes. Do not use plastic bags for recycling.

March 14 at Lucketts Community Center
Lucketts Ruritan 7:30-9pm. Dinner, speaker and meeting

April 11 at Lucketts Community Center
Lucketts Ruritan 7:30-9pm. Dinner, speaker and meeting

May 9 at Lucketts Community Center
Lucketts Ruritan 7:30-9pm. Dinner, speaker and meeting

June 13 at Lucketts Community Center
Lucketts Ruritan 7:30-9pm. Dinner, speaker and meeting

The Lucketts Ruritan Club, a nonprofit [501(c)(3)] community service organization, gathers for monthly dinner meetings at the Lucketts Community Center on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Members volunteer their time in support of area schools, scouting, shelters, churches, emergency response, food relief, youth activities, adult day care, college scholarships and citizenship awards.

www.luckettsruritan.org

Citizens of the Year

The Lucketts Ruritan honored the women of Furnace Mountain Presbyterian Church Womens' Circle at the Ruritan Annual Awards & Holiday Dinner in December at SkillsUSA. This group of Lucketts women have served their community with their dedication & aid to others for many years. Their caring is legendary. Please wish them well as they embark on a new project, the 100th Anniversary Jubilee for the Furnace Mountain Presbyterian Church. It is to be this summer and the community is invited. Watch this space for details.

Thank You! to the women of Furnace Mountain Church for your generous contribution to the Lucketts community.

Service

2016 Ruritan of the Year~ Peter Gustafson

Every year the Lucketts Ruritans recognize a member as the “Ruritan of the Year”. This year that award went to Peter Gustafson who was honored by club president Jim McKenzie at the January 10th meeting of the Club at the Community Center.

Peter has been a member of the organization for 30 years and is the immediate past president. It is typical for members to “take some time off” after serving in key leadership positions. Not so with Peter, which is why he is recognized with this honor. Peter has always been the person the Club turns to when something needs to “get done!”

He serves as the Committee Chair for the Public Service work done by the Club – overseeing the weekly Trash Collection at the Lucketts Elementary School parking lot. This involves coordination with the contractor, the school and the community to keep this running smoothly.

Few volunteer organizations are skilled at “branding” their efforts. Peter – a marketing communications professional by trade, takes responsibility for ALL of the graphics that support the work of the local club. From signs for the parking events, to promotion of Ruritan scholarships, club website and production of awards for the community and the members – Peter’s hand is found in all that gets done.

This past year he also worked to develop the plan for displaying the Arrowhead Collection that is a key part of local history. This involved design of a prototype display cabinet and review for approval by the Loudoun Farm Museum, the Community Center and the local Ruritans.

An active member of the local business community himself, Peter arranged for guest speaker presentations by local businesses at monthly Ruritan dinner meetings. New business owner Jonathan Staples from Vanish and long-standing businessman John Whitmore (aka Farmer John) presented updates on their business activity to the Ruritans through Peter’s effective invitations.

After all of this he still had time to contribute more than 40 hours as a parking event volunteer! The continuity of his service and his commitment to leading by example inspire all of the members of the club. Congratulations Peter!



Photos by Steve Hillebrand

From the top Peter Gustafson receives Ruritan of the Year Award from club president Jim McKenzie; prototype design for the projectile point exhibit, coming soon to the Lucketts Community Center; neither heat in the summer nor ice in the winter keeps Peter from his commitment to community service.



Photo by Martha Polkey



The Mission: A Better, Safer, Scenic Route 15

By Martha Polkey

If you want to sample the pulse of Lucketts, put your finger on our community's artery—our Rural Arterial, U.S. Route 15.

Whoa! That's some pulse!

The issues with safety, access, and flow on Route 15 have brought Lucketts citizens together again and again over the decades.

In 1998 after a tragic string of fatalities, citizens successfully petitioned to have the speed limit lowered to 45 mph, with an immediate improvement in safety.

Following the fatalities, but before the speed limit was lowered, VDOT recommended broadening and flattening the road using a 60-mph design speed, which involved blasting, massive tree removal, and removal of fences, buildings, and other structures along its length.

The County's transportation department director told the Board of Supervisors that the proposed VDOT design would increase speeds and decrease safety on the road (an internal VDOT report confirmed that speeds would increase); the Board asked VDOT to modify its plans.

Citizens were galvanized to hunt for safer, better, and cheaper solutions.

Citizens for a Safer Route 15 became The Catoctin Coalition; its goal was to research and promote solutions to best serve residents and commuters. They looked at the plan a citizens' group along Route 50 had proposed, which included roundabouts and other passive traffic design solutions to promote flow, access, and safety.

Counterclockwise from top The design for Lucketts Village by civil engineer Ian Lockwood; stately trees shade the road; concrete medians dominate in VDOT "scenic byway" designs; hay and produce from productive Lucketts farms continue its agricultural heritage.



Photo by Fred Nassauer



Lucketts-area citizens donated money to engage the Route 50 Project traffic designer, Ian Lockwood, to survey Route 15. He presented a redesign of the Lucketts intersection, which included roundabouts, and suggested combinations of Limestone School and Montesor roads, and New Valley Church and Spinks Ferry roads, with roundabouts.

Even though modern roundabouts, because of their congestion reduction and safety advantages, are widely used in other states, they were then a new concept in Virginia; VDOT and some citizens opposed them. VDOT refused to consider roundabouts for Lucketts in 2006; the miles-long backups at the intersection of Routes 50 and 15 vanished when the new roundabouts opened in 2009.

With today's increased congestion and decreased safety, the Catoctin Coalition is again engaged with community partners (business owners, the Ruritan Club, schools, HOA residents), the county, and the consultants currently working on congestion reduction from Battlefield Parkway to Whites Ferry Road. The mission: a new and unified design that balances the needs of residents and commuters on Route 15 from Leesburg to the Potomac River.

To join in the conversation, see the [Route 15 Project/Catoctin Coalition's Facebook page](#).

Distinctions

- **Route 15 became a Virginia State Scenic Byway in 1988.**
- **The 25,000 acres of the Lucketts area (from Leesburg to the Potomac, from Catoctin Mountain to the river) was designated as the Catoctin Rural Historic District (one of six rural historic districts in the state) and placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1989.**
- **Congress named the Journey Through Hallowed Ground a National Heritage Area in 2008—the nation's 38th—and the Secretary of Transportation designated the main thoroughfare running through it a National Scenic Byway in 2009 (the nation's 99th, and one of 5 in Virginia). Route 15 in Loudoun is about the center of the 180-mile-long route.**



Photo by Fred Nassauer



Photo by Stacy Kelly

Rural Enterprise

Lucketts Business Collaborative brings local businesses together

By Doug Fabboli



Photo by Mary Gustafson

Many Lucketts business owners were present for the first meet & greet of the Lucketts Business Collaborative on January 26. Jonathan Staples hosted the event at his Vanish Brewery.

It's always encouraging to see folks come together for a mutual goal. On January 26 at Vanish Brewery, we had our first gathering of the Lucketts Business Collaborative. About 35 people were in attendance, ranging from highly visible businesses like Roots 657 and Temple Hall Farm Park to smaller, home based businesses functioning out of a garage or home office. Discussions covered a wide range of topics. The overall theme was about improving the business culture while maintaining the community and what makes Lucketts so unique. There was also discussion about road safety and the challenges of Route 15.

The next step is getting businesses to sign onto the Lucketts Business Collaborative Facebook page, as well as developing a business directory for us to share with each other and the Lucketts community. Eventually we would like to make a map that shows all of the businesses for visitors and locals to patronize. There will be a public Facebook page for us to share with our guests, customers, and others to promote all of the great things folks can do and the services available here in Lucketts. The next meeting will be announced on the member Facebook page, so if you are a local business and want to be involved on any level, please join us. Contact Doug Fabboli at vinofab@aol.com for more information. We love our Lucketts!

Meet the businesses that have attended the first Lucketts Business Collaborative meeting! To join the collaborative and together discover ways to make a sustainable business environment in Lucketts, contact Doug Fabboli vinofab@aol.com.

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|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| AP Law Care Services | Andy Presgraves | Loudounberry | Jeff & Vera Ertman |
| Barnhouse Brewery..... | Roger & Christine Knoell | Mary Kay Sales..... | Dorothy Gandy |
| Barnhouse Brewery..... | Robert Larrick | Mom's Apple Pie | Avis Renshaw |
| Black Hops Farm | Laurie Mills | New York Life..... | Cortney Heykoop |
| Black Sheep Farm | Martha Polkey | Nova Parks/Temple Hall Farm | Ben Bilko |
| Catoctin Coalition/Route 15..... | Martha Polkey | Onitsway Delivery..... | Fred Blycher |
| Daydream Design | Mary Gustafson | Roots 657 | Danny Sterling,
Joe Peroney, Rich Rosendale |
| Eagletree Farm Vineyard..... | Jeff Judge | Route 15 Grind..... | Erin & CJ Grimm |
| Fabboli Cellars | Doug Fabboli | SBDC Leesburg | Melissa Issacs |
| Faith Like A Mustard Seed Farm..... | Karl Glaeser | Sweet & Savory by Karen | Karen Ranger |
| Hummingbird's Nest | Melissa Issacs | Taylorstown Community Association. | Patrick Ryan |
| If It Flies Farm | Alex Bates | The Wood Chip | Leeroy Gandy |
| K & S Cakes Bakery..... | Kim Arico | Vanish..... | Jonathan Staples,
Angel Rutsch, Tommy Skelly |
| Legacy Farms | Martha Schonberger & Patrick Cox | Wicked Goat Coffee Roasters..... | David Carlson |
| Little Stream Farm..... | Andy Presgraves | Wood Fired Pottery..... | Shawn M. Grove |
| Lost Corner Farm | Avis Renshaw | Observing | Holly McPeak |
| Loudoun Economic Development | Kellie Hinkle | | |

Troop 1910 Takes on Whitetail Mountain

By Philip Thresher

Lucketts Boy Scout Troop 1910 has a busy schedule of activities throughout the year. One of these is the annual ski trip to Whitetail Mountain in Pennsylvania which is an one hour drive from Lucketts. A combination of seasoned, wily old veterans and first time skiers met at 6 am on January 21 for an all day adventure on the slopes of Whitetail.

Temperatures were in the mid 30's with a fog and a light mist in the forecast. Upon arriving at Whitetail, we collected our tickets and rental equipment and began our day. Our first time skiers participated in a lesson and were all skiing down the beginner slopes by the end of it. Each new skier brought their unique style to the slopes. Our more seasoned skiers and snow boarders explored all of Whitetail's terrain and enjoyed the freshly groomed trails.

Five of the scouts were up to the challenge of trying to earn the Merit Badge for Snow Sports. One of the requirements is an "on the mountain" assessment of the skiers/boarders skills and an understanding of how to be safe on the slopes and to offer aid in the event of an emergency while on the mountain. All five boys passed the evaluation and are working towards the completion of the other requirements to earn their Merit Badge.

Ten Scouts and seven adults had a grand time and all returned safely to Lucketts with a lot of smiling faces and tired bodies.

An Impossible Mission Made Possible ~ Troop 1910 Outing

A requirement for the Boy Scouts of America First Class rank is to use a map and compass to complete a one-mile orienteering course. Ask any of our energetic Scouts of Troop 1910 working on First Class if they want to learn to navigate a mile with a map and compass and all hands go up. Then, ask them if they want to try it at night and they get quiet and much of the eagerness subsides.

That's where Mission Impossible comes in. This event, conducted on an island in the Potomac near Lucketts, December 9-11, consisted of two events; (1) a daytime orienteering course and (2) a more challenging night course. The day course taught Scouts to gauge their pace and how to use that to travel a known distance, and to use a compass to navigate to a known point.

The night course began as darkness fell. Two teams of Scouts accompanied by a senior Scout and an adult Scouter headed out. Heading and distance for each of the 16 legs had to be decoded. Quiet among the Scouts was necessary so as not to be discovered by faux "Klingons, Siths, and Trolls" roaming the area. After nearly four hours the Scouts, tired but more confident, finished the course. A final test required the Scouts to solve a riddle using their knowledge of first aid, Scout lore, outdoor skills and decoding. The answer: Nothing Is Impossible If You Are Prepared. The Scouts met their orienteering requirement and more.



BS Troop 1910 Annual Yard Sale

It's almost spring cleaning time again! Boy Scout Troop 1910 Annual Yard Sale will be held on April 22, 2017, in conjunction with the Lucketts Community Yard Sale. Donations of clean and serviceable items can be brought to the Lucketts Elementary School on Saturdays 8 am to noon, beginning April 1st. If you have large or bulky items to donate, please call Matt Quitter at 571-214-3907 to make arrangements.



Peter Gustafson



Be Safe and Enjoy Springtime

Spring is a particularly dangerous time for outside fires. This is due to vegetation being extremely dry prior to new growth and the potential for high winds. Homeowners can take the following steps to prevent wild fires from becoming structure fires.

- **Clear dead vegetation and leaf matter from around your home including under stairways and porches.**
- **Keep unnecessary vegetation from growing next to your home and out buildings.**
- **Assure that any smoking material or fireplace ashes are properly discarded in a metal container.**
- **Even though the ground may be damp, dead vegetation on top may be extremely dry and burn readily when ignited.**
- **Adhere to local ordinances when using fireworks and remember displays that shoot into the air and floating lanterns are not permitted in Loudoun County.**

Open burning is permitted in Loudoun County throughout the day beginning February 15th through April the 30th between the hours of 4:00 PM and midnight. All controlled fires must be at least 50 feet from a structure and be attended by an individual at least 18 years of age with means to extinguish the fire if necessary. Only vegetation type of material may be burned; no construction debris, tires or plastics. On May 1st open burning is prohibited with this ban running through September 30th. Portable fire pits and chimneys are not considered open burning and are exempt from these stipulations. Campfires are also exempt but must be 50 feet from a structure, should not exceed 3' x 2' and should be utilized as a cooking fire (hot dogs on a stick).

Any time open burning is to be conducted, please notify Fire & Rescue dispatch center by calling (703)777-0637 prior to and when burn is completed. Keep in mind these guidelines are subject to change at any time due to weather conditions. Contact our communications center for guidelines as they may change without notice. For further information on open burning you can contact the Fire Marshal's office at (703)737-8600 or visit www.loudoun.gov/openburning.

We make house calls.

“ Check smoke detector batteries when setting clocks ahead on March 12.

If you need a smoke detector or know someone who does, contact the Lucketts firehouse at (703)777-9344

We install them for free! ”

Captain Vinson Dieterich
Station 610
Loudoun County Fire & Rescue
Lucketts, VA



PUT A FINGER ON IT!
WORKING SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES.

Spring *at the Lucketts Community Center*

For more information about these programs and more at the Lucketts Community Center please call 703-771-5281.

Lucketts NEWS & NOTES

March

- Every Saturday **Lucketts Bluegrass**, 7:00-10:30P, \$15 per person at the door
- Every Saturday **Yoga**, 8:30-9:45A; \$40 a month
- March 6 - May 1 **Amazng Tots**, Mondays at 9:45-10:15A; \$72 a month
- March 18 **Lucky Leprechan Race**, 11:00A; \$25
- March 24 **Parents' Escape Night Out: Down the Rabbit Hole** 5:30-9:30P, \$30 first child & \$25 each add'l child

April

- April 1 **Breakfast with the Easter Bunny** 9:00A or 11:30A; \$20 family of four or \$25 for five or more.
- April 22 **Annual Yard Sale** 8:00A; \$10 a table; free admission
- April 22 **Give, Grow, Play**, 9:00A; free admission
- April 28 **Parents' Escape Night Out: The Lorax Project**, 5:30-9:30P, \$30 first child & \$25 each add'l child

May

- May 19 **Parents' Escape Night Out: Pirates and Parrots**, 5:30-9:30P, \$30 first child & \$25 each add'l child

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Correspondence should be addressed to Lucketts News & Notes
42361 Lucketts Road, Leesburg, VA 20176
or by e-mailing the coordinator.

Designer & Coordinator Mary Gustafson
luckettsnews@mindspring.com
703 728-0738

Editor Hilary Cooley

Photographers Mary Gustafson, Fred Nassauer, Stacy Kelly

Contributors Pat Logue, Martha Polkey, Vinson Deiterich, Doug Fabboli, Kay Quitter, Philip Thresher

Lucketts Ruritan Club
luckettsruritan@gmail.com
www.luckettsruritan.org

President Jim McKenzie

Vice President Connie Falk

Secretary Elizabeth Penaranda

Treasurer Craig Bond

LCCAB 2016 Officers
703 771-5281

President Teresa McKenzie

Vice President Joyce Webb

Secretary Hilary Cooley

Treasurer Matt Quitter

GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA Historic Garden Week



River Farm



Rockland



Murray Hill



Riverside on the Potomac

"Gardens along the Potomac"

April 23, 1-5pm ☽ April 24, 10am-5pm

For eight days every spring, visitors are welcomed to nearly 200 of the state's most picturesque gardens and private homes showcased in the 30 tours during "America's Largest Open House." Historic Garden Week is the largest ongoing volunteer effort in Virginia. For more than 80 years, it has been presented by the Garden Club of Virginia (GCV). Tour proceeds fund the restoration and preservation of Virginia's significant public gardens and landscapes, research fellowships in landscape architecture and a new initiative with our State Parks.

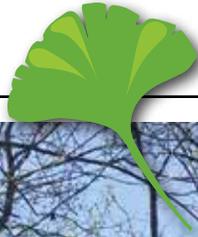
The Leesburg Garden Club, an affiliate club of the GCV, hosts a tour every other year as part of Historic Garden Week. This year four magnificent homes and gardens along the Potomac River within Lucketts will be opening their doors and garden gates to welcome visitors from far and wide.

For ticket purchase and more information about this tour and others around the state, please visit www.vagardenweek.org.

For questions about this tour contact Leesburg@vagardenweek.org.



Mary Gustafson



Rockland will be on tour as part of Historic Garden Week. Tour is April 23-24. Visit www.vagardenweek.org

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Lucketts Community Center Advisory Board
42361 Lucketts Road, Leesburg, VA 20176

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