

Lucketts

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

NEWS & NOTES

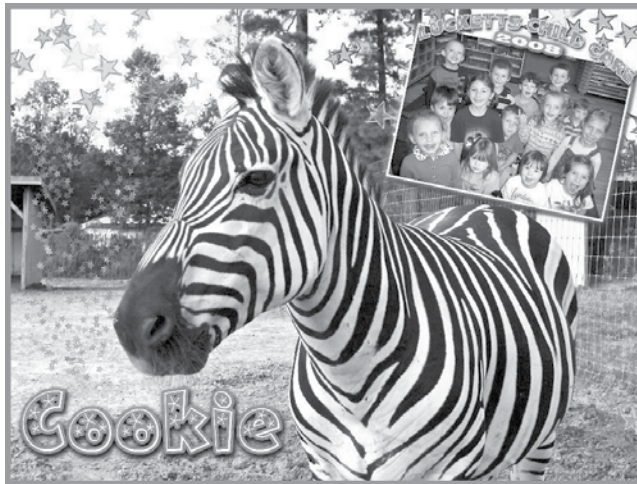


Summer 2008

Lucketts Childcare Going to the Animals

Wendy Overton

It's a Zoo at Lucketts! Lucketts Childcare, after several weeks of fundraising, has adopted 8 animals from the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore, Maryland. We started off trying to raise money to adopt a Zebra whom the kids named "Cookie." The fundraiser then took on a life of its own and we ended up raising \$624. The additional money allowed to the children to adopt more animals including a giraffe, an Arctic Fox, a Polar Bear, a Flamingo, a Peacock, a Cheetah, and a Chimpanzee. We are in the process of naming all the other animals! Childcare is also getting a brick to be placed in the Zoo's Schafer Plaza.



Make sure and visit the Zoo and look for our brick! The childcare staff would like to thank all the kids, parents, and those young at heart who helped make this possible. 🐾

Congratulations to Ruritan Scholarship Recipients

Doug Fabboli

As the fall school season is rapidly approaching, the Lucketts Ruritan Club is proud to announce the presentation of \$11,000 of scholarship money to 4 qualified applicants for their education this year. The candidates must reside in the Lucketts area and show achievement in academics, service and outside activities. This year's recipients were Ghislane LeFranc, Holly Tyrell, Christopher Greene and Alison Richards. These young men and women all show drive and effort in their academics as well as looking beyond themselves to help those around them. As the Ruritan Club is a service organization focused on doing well for the community, it is important that the recipients of these scholarships have that service drive as well. Congratulations to Ghislane, Holly, Christopher and Alison. As your hard work has been rewarded with these scholarships, may you continue on the path of hard work, high achievement and helping others along the way. Anyone interested in giving back to the community through the Lucketts Ruritan Club, monthly meetings are held at the Lucketts Community Center on the second Tuesday of every month at 7:30pm 🐾

Volume III, Number 2

Lucketts NEWS & NOTES

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Community Center Renovations

Written by Jan Hyland

Photos by John Gustafson

Loudoun County residents voted to invest \$13 million to restore, renovate and expand 5 community centers, including Lucketts. This funding is allocated for immediate upgrades focused on safety and bringing things up to code while also generating ideas of what the community desires for the longer term.

The Lucketts Community Center Advisory Board has been seeking input to help identify the community's priorities to pass along to the Architectural consultants hired by the County to develop immediate and longer term plans to renovate the community center. Based on the priorities established by Parks, Recreation, and Community Services, this process will generate architectural and engineering plans that would be used for the longer term when additional funding is obtained. These longer term plans could define larger facilities like a gymnasium, pool, or pre-school wing of 6-8 classrooms.

We have heard from some folks, but need to hear from more of you. Following is a summary of what we've heard thus far. We'd love to hear your reaction and additional thoughts. Please drop by the community center to fill out a "top-choices" form or email your thoughts to lccab@luckettscommunitycenter.org.

Big Picture

The community center is at the crossroad that defines Lucketts and thus folks view it as the physical "center" of our community. It is, however, only utilized by people involved in preschool, childcare, or specific programs and classes. Existing programming and hours of operation limit it from serving the broader community. This capital project is viewed as an opportunity to plan the transformation of the center into a place that truly is the center of the Lucketts community—a place where the community can come together.

- The community loves the building and wants to see it preserved and used as a community center. Any additions should be consistent with the current architecture and rural setting.
- People support specific upgrades to the building that will better serve the core "customers" – added security, improved classrooms, improved bathrooms, etc. -- but would like to see

The Lucketts Community Center



these upgrades better utilize the space so it is more accessible and available for programming for all ages.

- The community would not be served well if \$2.5 million were invested to simply renovate the building as it -- we need the facility to accommodate additional programming (including sports and recreational space) to serve the growing community.

Immediate Needs

Recreation room(s) for teens and adults, open for drop-in 7 days a week, including evenings.

- Free wi-fi internet access and community computer(s)
- Lounge area with informal library (take-one-share-one bookshelves, possible weekly visits from mobile library unit)
- Game room--pool table, Wii (virtual sports), cards, checkers, etc.
- Self-serve coffee, sodas, and snack vending

New space for growing afterschool program--there is a significant demand to separate the program into two age groups.

Increased access to the upstairs area that is currently underutilized.

Improved kitchen to accommodate catering, community group dinners, pancake breakfasts and cooking classes.

Better exterior signage and entrance area to make the center more welcoming to visitors and patrons. A layout that guides visitors where to go once inside.

Additional staff to develop and implement new programming--more for all ages.

- Cooking, art, writing classes, etc.--perhaps get local business people to teach classes (cooking, art, etc.)
- Game nights and "tournaments"--Wii tournaments are popular at a lot of senior centers and also with youth; could bridge generations
- Youth music, theater, dance classes with regular performance opportunities
- Regular community get-togethers with entertainment (e.g., family concerts, dinners, etc.)

Playground security--people would like to see a fully fenced playground. Safe passage from the playground to the basketball court and eating pavilion have been requested--prompting some to suggest moving the playground to behind the building--away from Route 15.

Upgrade outdoor basketball court to full-court size.

Create more soccer fields available for LYSA.

Mrs. Lucketts' garden in front of Community Center.



Short-term Ideas

Barn-style "shell" structure with multi-purpose potential

- Basketball, volley ball, gymnastics, indoor track, and other indoor sports
- Exercise Room--(with before and after-work access)
- Large event facility--for traditional "community hall" uses like large dinners, dances, bingos, receptions
- Ability to utilize this space for local business expos or "marketplace" and art shows
- Additional indoor exhibition space for the fair

Longer-term questions

Is a community pool ever a possibility? There is demand for a pool but there are over-riding questions about feasibility.

Could we look at creating an outdoor amphitheater--to build on the Lucketts tradition of live music? The space would accommodate music, outdoor plays, movies, puppet shows and could be utilized for the fair.

Would the county consider new land acquisition to accommodate growth?

Please add your voice to this important discussion. Email lccab@luckettscommunitycenter.org or write to:

LCCAB
42361 Lucketts Road
Leesburg, VA 20176.

Hollyhocks growing in Mrs. Lucketts' garden.



Equine Obstacle Course Clinic

Diane Hutchinson

Seventy-six horses and their people visited Rosemary Lawler's Rock Hill Farm on Limestone School Road March 29th to tackle uniquely designed challenges during the Tri-State Riding Club's Confidence Building Obstacle Course Clinic. Rock Hill Farm was a new venue for the annual event, a fundraiser for the adult riding education club, that has held the event in years past at the Loudoun County 4-H Fairgrounds in Leesburg.

There were numerous local participants and all the equines and their riders/handlers seemed to enjoy the over 25 colorful tests, including several bridges—one was a "teeter-totter". Also there was a "bat cave" tunnel, the "picnic" area, and the Halloween obstacle, complete with a talking skeleton that popped up out of a coffin. There were many ways to move large and small balls and other items, whether it was by pushing with a broom, or stick, or even by dragging in wagons. Flags, stuffed animals, water guns, and a "jousting station" were all part of the course, and each obstacle was optional.



Trevor and Diane Hutchinson on the see-saw bridge at Rock Hill Farm

Regardless of riding style or horse breed or discipline, Tri-State's obstacle clinic helps people acclimate their horses to unusual "things" so they can overcome spooky situations they may encounter on a trail ride, at a show, or even in the back yard. Tri-State also provided ample volunteers posted throughout the grounds to assist riders/handlers, so the experience was a confidence-building, positive one – and a lot of fun for all.

Feedback from the participants unanimously indicated that the riders loved the new venue because it was completely fenced and had plenty of room to accommodate all the horses in each timeslot. The extra space allowed the horses and riders to work through obstacles at their own pace.

Patty Tracey, Tri-State's Training Director and lead organizer of the event said, "My goal is to provide events and programs where our members can increase their knowledge of horsemanship, both mounted and unmounted. This event is a prime example of how TSRC members help others to improve their skills and, at the same time, improve their relationship with their own horse." 🐾

To find out more about the Tri-State Riding Club, its events, and riding lesson program for adults, visit www.tristaterc.org.

Lucketts Business Directory Coming!

Jan Hyland

The LCCAB is collecting information to assemble a directory of Lucketts-based businesses. The directory will be posted on our website under Community Links at www.luckettscommunitycenter.org. This is a great way to get "free" advertising and let your neighbors know about your business. 🐾

There will also be a "Discover Lucketts Businesses" tent at the Fair. Details will be offered to any Lucketts business participating in the directory.

Call or email the following information to Pattey Karstetter:

Owner's name	_____
Business name	_____
Business description	_____
Phone	_____
Website address	_____
Email address	_____

Pattey Karstetter
703-927-7704
dkarstetter@lucketts.net

RODEO LANDS IN LUCKETTS

Jan Hyland



The Lucketts Community Center Advisory Board brought Twisted K Productions' Rodeo Extravaganza to Lucketts' own Chapel View Farm June 28 for an action-packed night of bull bustin', trick riding and bucking broncos!

The Lucketts Community Center Advisory Board first approached Twisted K about potentially bringing a rodeo component to the Lucketts Fair, but organizers decided the rodeo warranted its own event. New Board members Lisa and Gary Cox volunteered their horse farm as a venue with the added benefit of an indoor arena, which folks used for shelter when storm clouds blew through.

The rain didn't stop the excitement. More than 30 cowboys competed, riding hard on bulls bred for pure bucking power. A rodeo clown, Roman trick rider and pony cart rides for kids made it a fun night out for local families. There was even a best-dressed cowboy/cowgirl contest.

"Going to the rodeo was part of growing up in Loudoun County," said Lisa Cox. "I am excited we could bring this kind of event back to my community so my kids and their friends could have some of those same experiences." 🐾

Friday Family Movie Night

Diane Hutchinson

The big screen came to Lucketts. On Friday May 30 at sunset the Lucketts Elementary School PTA sponsored its first ever Friday Family Movie Night. Neighbors, classmates, families and friends joined under the stars to watch Surf's Up, a current animated movie featuring funny penguins. The PTA, with support from the Lucketts Community Center Advisory Board, served up popcorn and provided concessions to movie goers.

The very well attended evening was a great opportunity to meet new families. It was fun to have a virtual drive-in movie experience right here in hometown Lucketts. Watch the calendar for the next movie to come to town! Grab your lawn chairs, pack up the family and come on over to the big screen.

Contact Courtney Troiano for more information at CourtneyT@lucketts.net. 🐾

Lucketts Ruritan Club "just keeps on Parkin" them cars

With blaze orange vests and flags a-flying, and hand held radios crackling, the Lucketts Ruritan Club will have parked well over 15,000 cars before 2008 is gone. This year the Club's brightly clad team will handle parking for six events; the Lucketts Fair, two events at the Rubicon equestrian facility, The America's Cup of Polo and Steeplechase events at Morven Park, and will assist the Lovettsville/Waterford Club with the Waterford Fair. Together these events bring in thousands of dollars to the Club's treasury which is then donated to those in need in the Lucketts community. Club President Celeste Kenny says, "it's a hot, dusty job, but we love doing it and the money's good. Last year with the income we earned from parking and other activities, the Club donated \$20K to the community and we look forward to doing so again this year". 🐾 —Steve Hillebrand



Photo by David Crooks



Lucketts Fair 2008

It's that time again! We have a fabulous new committee of volunteers planning for another great fair. We've arranged for picture perfect

weather (let's hope!), so call your friends and family and mark your calendars for August 23 & 24!

We're building our very own tractor pedal pull equipment (thank you Larry & Lauren Lang), so folks of all ages can compete in this country classic!!!

You can count on the region's best bluegrass playing on the Gazebo, fabulous children's entertainment on the Playground Stage and local bands Out in Left Field—all included in the ticket price!!!

Pie Eating, Rooster Crowing and Wacky Olympics offer everyone a chance to compete for great prizes, and we're dreaming up some new surprises to make for a weekend jam-packed with fun for the whole family! Don't forget the classic pie-baking and veggie growing contests too!

www.LuckettsFair.com

Want to get into the fair for free?
Volunteer!!!

We hope to see a lot of you volunteering at the Fair with us and with other community groups. We thank you in advance for your efforts. Without you, the Fair can not be a success!

Never been a volunteer? Well, step on up!!!

We need help planning and running all those fun contests and events we host each year, and we always need help on the gates and just about anywhere you'd like to help out.

Call 703-771-5281 and tell them you want to volunteer for the Fair, or email tammy@luckettsfair.com. Hope to see you there!

No time to volunteer? Bake a cake!!

Where else can you pay just a quarter for a chance to win a home-baked cake in an old-fashioned cake walk? To keep this tradition going, we need loads of cakes. We can never have enough!!!

Bakers get a free pass to the fair! Please sign-up to bake a cake by calling Pattey Karstetter at 703-927-7704.

Lucketts Country Fair Contests 2008

We're planning loads of country contests, so get ready!!!

Largest Tomato or Zucchini and Largest Sunflower— Judging begins at 11am Saturday—Awarding at 2pm on the Stage

- Submit entries by 10:30 am Saturday, August 23 to the Lucketts Community Center Stage
- One entry per contest per person
- No age limit or pre-registration
- Be prepared to verify that entry was grown by contestant (No farmer's market vegetables, please!!)

Fruit Pie Baking—Judging begins at 12 noon Saturday—Awarding at 2pm on the Stage

- **Pre-registration is a Must!!!** Call 703 771-5281 by Friday, August 22. Limit—20 registrants each for Adult (13 years and over) and Juniors (12 and under) categories
- Submit entries by 12 noon Saturday to Lucketts Community Center Stage
- Traditional fruit pies (no cream, egg or custard based pies or pies needing refrigeration accepted)
- Label with name and address on bottom of the pie plate
- One pie entry per contestant

Pie Eating—Get ready to chow down!!! Fastest to finish a slice wins! Saturday at 3 pm (Playground Stage)

Rooster Crowing—Who can make the rooster crow?!!

Sunday Noon (Playground Stage)

Tractor Pedal Pull—Saturday and Sunday (Basketball Court) Drop by anytime and see how far and fast you can pedal!!!

Rubber Chicken Toss & Straw Bale Relay in the Lucketts Wacky Olympics!!!

Saturday and Sunday at 12:30pm (Left Field)

Please note that entertainment schedules are still being finalized and the timing of events might change. Check the website for updates www.LuckettsFair.com 🐔

Bulletin Board

Community Center Advisory Board

The Lucketts Community Center Advisory Board (LCCAB) sponsors the Lucketts Fair and other programs and activities. Meetings, open to the public, are the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7pm. Call 703-771-5281 or visit www.luckettscommunitycenter.org for info.

The Fair Committee

The Fair Committee usually meets the 2nd Thursday of each month. The August meeting has been changed to Saturday, August 9 at 10 am. If you want to help with the last minute details or volunteer at the fair, feel free to come by! This year's fair will be August 23 & 24, from 10am-5pm, both Saturday and Sunday.

Lucketts Ruritan

Meet the second Tuesday of each month at the Community Center. There is a home-cooked meal prepared and served by the Furnace Mountain Chapel Ladies at 7:30pm. Contact John Adams (707-777-7814) if you would like an invitation to the meal. The meal is followed by an interesting and educational program at 8pm, which is open to the public.

Be a Sponsor!



For families who want to contribute a little extra to this important Lucketts tradition, you can make a donation and be recognized as a sponsor.

The Fair is a huge undertaking with expanding expenses. We rely on sponsors to ensure the Fair remains viable and to help us offer more entertainment options to fair goers. We hope you will consider making a donation to support the Fair and the community programs its proceeds fund.

Program Page Sponsors \$100

- Name to appear at the bottom center of a page of the Fair Program Book as follows: "This page sponsored by _____"
- Name to appear on a Patron Board displayed at the Fair
- Donor receives four complimentary tickets to the Fair

Friends \$25-50

- Name to appear in the "Friends" section of the Fair Program Book
- Name to appear on a Patron Board displayed at the Fair
- \$50 (or greater)—Donor receives two complimentary tickets to the Fair
- \$25 (or greater)—Donor receives one complimentary ticket to the Fair

Please mail the form at right with a check payable to:

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

For Sponsorship Recognition in the Fair Program, please return by August 1, 2008

2008 Lucketts Fair Individual Sponsorship Commitment Form

I would like to be a sponsor for the Lucketts Fair on August 23 & 24, 2008

- Program Page Sponsor
- Friend \$_____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

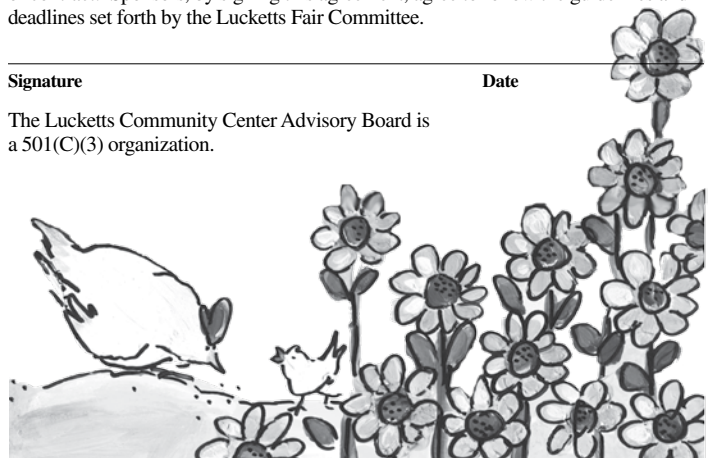
Name as it should appear in the Program _____

Agreement: The Lucketts Fair is held shine or rain. Full payment is due at signing of contract. Sponsors, by signing this agreement, agree to follow the guidelines and deadlines set forth by the Lucketts Fair Committee.

Signature _____

Date _____

The Lucketts Community Center Advisory Board is a 501(C)(3) organization.





Lucketts Ruritan Happenings

Dick Snooks & Mary Gustafson

The Lucketts Community Center we know today was once a busy school serving the entire Lucketts community. As times changed and populations grew new schools were built including the present Lucketts Elementary School. The Old School was retired and slated for demolition. In 1972 with the help of Cindy Welch, an ad hoc group of Lucketts residents formed the Lucketts Citizens to Save the Old Lucketts School. The group consisted of Dick Snooks, Bob & Delores Staats, Alice Coughlin, Joyce Webb, Marshal Shry, Martha Hopler, Frosty & Betty Hutton, Sandy & Lou Diffilipo, Ann Tedesco, Berkley & Helen Barnhouse with Alice Coughlin taking minutes. This group kept up the task of seeing that the building was preserved.

In an effort to raise funds for the restoration of the Old School the Citizens group started and ran the original Lucketts Fair. It was a wonderful glimpse into a rural community at its productive best. There were no climbing walls or baskets from Africa, but what was there were fine local crafts, produce, baked goods, butter churning, blacksmithing, real hay rides, farm animals, bingo and the ever famous blue grass music. It was a solid start to an annual Lucketts tradition.

In 1975, the Citizens group disbanded when Loudoun County Parks & Rec took over the building. With the guidance of Ellen



Waller the Old School was reserected as the Lucketts Community Center.

The Lucketts Fair was soon to become a more commercial affair with vendors invited to sell all manner of goods with a bend toward the traditional rural crafts and an infusion of some contemporary wares. Along with the increase in size came a gate charge for the day, with all proceeds to aid in the restoration of the Community Center.

The Lucketts Ruritan were one of the early food purveyors with their offering of soft drinks and the most delicious ribs. Today you will see slushees, slurpees, shish-ka-bobs and gyros but you can't beat the Ruritan ribs! The Ruritan continue to cook and with the help of Roy's Concessions have expanded their menu. In addition to being a main stay of the Lucketts Fair the Ruritan park cars for this and other local events, take trash and recycling on Saturdays, award scholarships to Lucketts graduates and other helpful civic services.

Thanks to all who worked hard to save our old school! 🐷

Churn, Earn and Learn with the Lucketts PTA on August 9th and enjoy a Family Fun Day

Diane Hutchinson

Help the Lucketts Elementary School PTA continue its long ice-cream-making history by participating in its annual Family Fun Day and Ice Cream Churning event August 9 at the school. Elementary school parents and the greater community are invited

to join the PTA to help hand churn the 300 gallons of home made ice cream that is sold at the Lucketts Fair. While the men folk typically turn the churns and the women folk assist with the locally grown fruits and mixes, the kids have their own fun things to do while Mom and Dad make ice cream. Plans for the children include supervised play -- a junior tractor pull, water games, arts and crafts in the gym, and other fun games and projects. Snacks and drinks will also be provided throughout the day to make it easy for every family to come and spend two hours helping out.



We need a total of 54 adult volunteers, each for only 2 hour shifts, to make the 300 gallons of ice cream we sell at the Fair-- all proceeds to benefit the school.

Every program the PTA runs, including American Citizen Club, after school clubs and the Potomac River Rangers, is funded by ice cream proceeds. Every field trip is paid for in part through ice cream sales. Every family event like Fall Festival, Breakfast with Santa, is paid for by ice cream sales. We need every family in our school to help with this great effort because every child in the school and every family benefits from it. And all the fair goers appreciate the delicious ice cream!

Mark you calendars now to join us August 9 for your two hour shift and be a part of what makes the Lucketts Fair so special. You need not have an elementary age child. You can also sign up to SCOOP and sell ice cream at the fair which will be August 23 and 24th this year.

CONTACT Jennie O'Sullivan at 4osullivans@gmail.com (703) 777-5249 or Lee McDermott at McDermott@lucketts.net (703) 554-3776 to sign up or for more information. 🐷

Lucketts Famous Hand-Churned Ice Cream Quarts Pre-Order Form



Orders must be accompanied by payment and received by August 4. Ice cream will be available for pick up the week of August 11. You will be contacted in August by phone or email to arrange for pick up.

Flavor	No. of Quarts	Price	Ext. Amount
Vanilla		\$8.00	
Peach		\$8.00	
Strawberry		\$8.00	
Banana		\$8.00	
Banana w/Choc. Covered Almonds		\$8.00	
Cherry		\$8.00	
Cherry w/Choc. Covered Almonds		\$8.00	
Blackberry		\$8.00	
Tutti Frutti		\$8.00	
Chocolate Chip		\$8.00	
Cookies-n-Cream		\$8.00	
Butter Pecan		\$8.00	
Chocolate		\$8.00	
Rocky Road		\$8.00	
TOTAL			

If you have any questions, please contact Mary Waldron at waldronm@earthlink.net or call 540-822-9157

Name: _____

Phone(s): _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Mail your form and payment to:

Lucketts Elementary School PTA
14550 James Monroe Hwy
Leesburg, VA 20176

Not too soon to plan for Lucketts Fair contests!

Sally Keefer

Now that summer is officially here, it is time to start getting ready for the 2008 Lucketts Fair fruit pie and largest vegetable and sunflower contests! Mark the date of Saturday, August 23rd for all you amateur cooks and gardeners to strut your stuff.

Why a fruit pie contest?

Pie baking will always be a special part of country cooking because pie baking and the community of Lucketts are inseparable!

Pie power should never be underestimated! Lucketts cooks make their homemade pies count for more than just good eating. Skill in baking marvelous pies lifts spirits, promotes contentment, and brightens rainy days. Even though the pie customs have changed along with the countryside, pie bakers in the Lucketts area still bake pies for their family, friends, and community and fire house suppers.

Those who lived in, and still live in, this rural community have been making pies "forever." Local farm women always included pies when the harvest crews went from farm to farm to thresh wheat, put up hay or to help butcher. These crews, comprised of neighboring farmers and their own hired help, are now part of our history.

The first Lucketts Fair fruit pie contest was held in the early 1980's. Contestants were a few local cooks who had access to fruits, berries, and cherries from their own orchards. As the years went by, ribbons and prizes were awarded, special judges

were invited, and the contest began to attract entries from all of Northern Virginia. The contest has become so popular that preregistration is now necessary and a limit set on the number of entries for both a senior and junior division!

The challenge is on for the Lucketts pie bakers to win the ribbons this year! It is not too late to get the pie pans and rolling pins out to start perfecting your fruit pie to enter the 2008 Lucketts Fair's annual contest.

Just remember that the pie must be made of fruit and that no cream or custard based pies or pies needing refrigeration will be accepted. The Cooperative Extension Service judging rules are used for scoring.

Largest Sunflowers, tomatoes and zucchini!

The Lucketts Fair's contests for the largest sunflowers, tomatoes and zucchini are just a few years old but it is obvious that the gardeners of Lucketts are as tenacious as the pie bakers!

Growing vegetables for family use or for market has been part of life in Lucketts since the first farmers began to till the land. Saturday, August 23rd will be the day for this year's contest.

More information about the fair and the contests can be obtained by contacting the Lucketts Community Center at 703-771-5281.



New at the Lucketts Volunteer Fire Company #10!

Sally Keefer

The Lucketts Volunteer Fire Company and the County of Loudoun Fire & Rescue have placed in service a new pumper, which is known as Engine 610. It replaced the old pumper, which Company #10 agreed to give to the County Fire & Rescue Training Center to be used for training.

The new pumper came completely equipped and includes a 50 gallon foam tank system. Foam is used on some fires, making it possible to use less water to extinguish flames and is used as a coating to protect nearby structures from burning.

The pumper has a 750 gallon water capacity and can pump up to 1500 gallons of water a minute. The engine has a tack force suspension, making it drive as easily as a passenger car.

At the station, the engine joins a rescue engine, 2 tankers (one is a reserve), a jeep and an old brush truck that will be replaced

any day, according to James Hobbie, President of Lucketts Volunteer Fire Company #10. More information will be available when it arrives.

The fire and rescue personnel at the station invite everyone to stop by and check out the new acquisition.



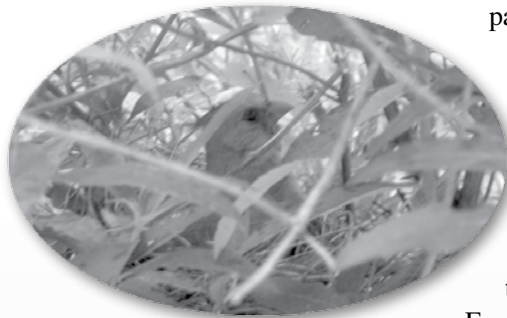
Livin' in Lucketts

Pam Joseph

When I moved here in 2001, I knew the Lucketts area was beautiful, but I didn't realize how bountiful the natural world was here. I have a little over 5.5 acres on Lost Corner Road that has a stand of mature loblolly pine trees, a view of the Catoctin Mountains, and a wide open vista to watch the weather come and go, the sun and moon rise and set, and I can still see a pretty fair number of stars at night.

This is great, but I am also thrilled with all the wildlife I get to see every day. When I lived in St. Paul, Minnesota, I had to travel 4-5 hours north to get to see the variety of birds, especially my favorite – the Great Blue Heron, that I can just see from my deck or by going for a walk in my neighborhood or along the C&O Canal Path.

And this natural world is very close. I was astounded to look out my home office window recently to discover a bird's nest with three eggs in it in the butterfly bush literally right outside my window. When the bird came back to her nest, it was a Cardinal, and she is keeping an eye on me while I keep an eye on her. I can hardly wait for the eggs to hatch and watch the babies grow up. 🐣



In our pine trees, there is a family of Sharp-shinned Hawks that chatter about their hunting prowess and will perch on a branch at the edge of the pines while they have lunch of frog or small varmint. There are also Pileated Woodpeckers, Downy Woodpeckers, Flickers, Blue Jays, Wild Turkeys, Green Herons, Snowy Egrets that regularly pay visits. I've also seen other critters as well – lots of deer (oh dear, the deer are everywhere and eat almost everything), foxes, rabbits galore (to keep the dogs entertained), skunks (do not keep the dogs entertained), turtles, frogs that cause quite the ruckus in the spring with their "music," and snakes. Along the C&O, I regularly walk by a Bald Eagle nest and see Wood Ducks, Cormorants, Beavers, and more.

This is a beautiful and naturally rich area and I love being in the middle of it every day. It makes coming home from work a lot more fun and meaningful since I never know what I will see when I get there. But it is a natural reward I look forward to every day.

Editor's Note: Here is the update on the little Barred Rock hen who uses our house as her "birthing inn". Since the earlier batch of 4 chicks she has brought forth eleven more. They are safely near the house, (too near in some respects). The chicks come at a good time as we are down in the chicken count. Turns out we have had a fox in the barn yard who has found hot meals for her kits this summer. We no longer can let the remaining 4 barn chickens run free.



This huge painted turtle

was found at Dick Snooks pond. Holding the turtle is Dick's grandson Cody Cox, age 7 years. The turtle measured 8¼" wide and 11" long. Cody was heard to say, "Hurry up and take the picture. This turtle is heavy!" The turtle was released near a wooded creek off Rt. 657.



Turtle photos by Steve Hillebrand

Lucketts Community Center
News & Events

42361 Lucketts Road, Leesburg, VA 20176
703 771-5281 • www.luckettscommunitycenter.org
Hours: Monday, 7 am–8 pm; Tuesday–Thursday, 7 am–9 pm;
Friday, 7 am–6 pm; Saturday: 9:30 am–12:30 pm

- Aug 23 **No Ruritan trash/recycling service** Service will resume August 30. Please remember an extra donation for extra load. \$4/load. Lucketts Elementary School
- Aug 23-24 **36th Annual Lucketts Fair** 10am-5pm both days. \$8 and kids under 6 free. Lucketts Community Center.
- Sept 9 **"First Fridays at Lucketts"** A Journey Through Hallowed Ground will be our first guest speaker. 7:30pm-9pm. Free. Lucketts Community Center.
- Oct 3 **John Brown, Lucketts and the Panic of '59** with Richard Gillespie of the Mosby Heritage Foundation. 7:30pm-9pm. Free. Lucketts Community Center.
- Sept 13 **3rd Annual Proud Pooch Dog Show** 10am-12 noon. Free. \$5 per dog. Prizes awarded in all categories. Lucketts Community Center.
- Sept 14 **Lucketts Homecoming Closet** 1pm-3pm. Free. Dresses given away to girls for this special evening. Community Center accepting donation of dresses. Lucketts Community Center.
- Sept 20 **"Sweetheart" Father Daughter Dance** 7pm-9pm. \$20 per couple. Dancing to the DJ, refreshments and photo included. Lucketts Community Center.
- Sept 20 **Ham & Turkey Dinner** 5pm-7pm. Bethel United Methodist Church.

- Sept 28 **Antique & Classic Auto Show** 10am-4pm. \$5 and \$3 senior. Family friendly. Lucketts Community Center.
- Beginning Oct 4 **Lucketts Bluegrass** Saturdays 7pm-10:30pm. \$13. Thirty-fifth year! Old time bands and up and coming names. Lucketts Community Center.
- Oct 5 **Car Talk for Teens** 2pm-3:30pm. \$12. Changing the oil, fixing a flat and other car care for teens. Lucketts Community Center.
- Oct 11 **Health Mobile at Lucketts** 9am-12pm. Pay at the door. Flu shots. Lucketts Community Center.
- Oct 17 **An Evening of Halloween Fun** 7pm-8:30pm. \$15 per family. Pick a pumpkin, enjoy a bonfire, build a scarecrow. Lucketts Community Center.
- Order in October **Lucketts Ruritan Fruit Sale** Watch for flyer at Saturday trash service in October. Lucketts Elementary School.

For activities at the Community Center contact Nancy 703-771-5281 or email Nancy.Radcliffe@Loudoun.gov.

For information about the Lucketts Ruritan contact Gretchen Burgin sprty93@yahoo.com

Lucketts NEWS & NOTES

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PLEASE CARE

Don't Forget to Bring Nonperishable Food to Lucketts Elementary School on Saturday Mornings to Support

INTERFAITH RELIEF