

Lucketts

SUMMER 2018
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& Lucketts Community Center Advisory Board

NEWS & NOTES



Faith Chapel and Loudoun Hunger Relief Collaborate to Bring Pantry Services to Lucketts

By Pat Logue

For the next six months, The Porch at Faith Chapel and Loudoun Hunger Relief (LHR) are partnering to bring food resources closer to the people who need them in Lucketts. This is a trial program and you can play an important role in making it a success. You can help spread the good news that food is here for anyone and everyone who needs it once a month at Faith Chapel.

As summer approaches, more than 14,000 children in Loudoun County who benefit from Loudoun County Public School's Free or Reduced Lunch program are returning home for several months where the cupboards are close to bare. A portion of those children – from approximately 60 families – live in Lucketts. Gary and Lisa Mears came to Lucketts almost one year ago to rekindle the community at Faith Chapel on Lucketts Road. Operating as an extension of Riverside Presbyterian Church in Sterling, their ministry focuses on bringing service to the community through outreach and hospitality.

Through their outreach, Gary and Lisa became aware of the summer hunger problem and started looking for ways to close this gap for Lucketts families this past winter. Faith Chapel has served the community of Lucketts since 1885 and has a community meeting and event space connected to the Chapel. Gary started thinking that this building could be used as part of the solution and asked LHR in March if they would be interested in partnering to provide food pantry services. The response from Executive Director, Jennifer Montgomery was an overwhelming "Yes!" What developed within a matter of weeks was a plan to use Faith Chapel's community space once a month as a satellite pantry through this coming October. *Continued on page 2*

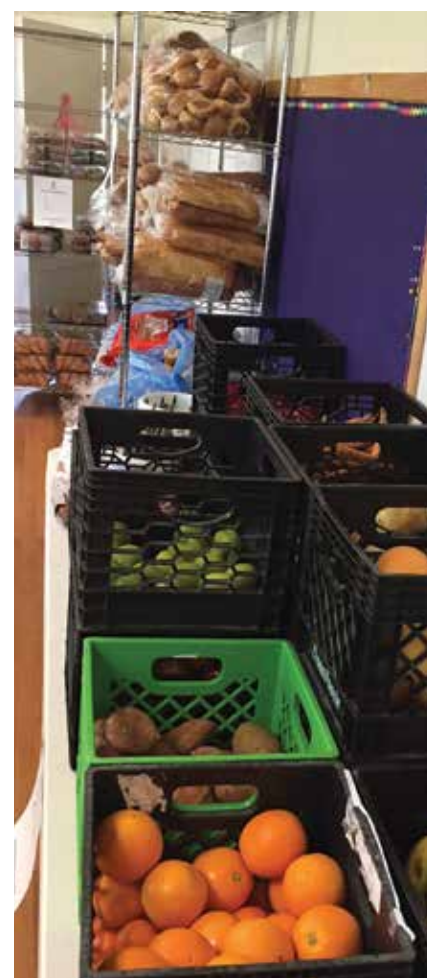


Photo by Lisa Mears

Thank you to the many volunteers who lend their hands!



In this issue...

- 1 Lucketts Food Pantry at Faith Chapel
- 4 Score One for Wildlife
- 6 Rural Enterprise—Legacy Farms
- 8 Lucketts Ruritans—Sip & Socialize

- 10 Rudy Juniors—Good deeds for the year
- 11 Community Center Calendar
- 12 On the Cover—Makayla Benjamin





Transportation is one of the most significant barriers that those who need LHR services face. Bringing food closer to the people who need it through a community-based partnership was worth a try. Most importantly, LHR saw that a strong community network is in place in Lucketts between the Elementary School, the Community Center and the local Ruritan Club. The key to a pantry's success is having an active, networked community ready to spread the word that services are in place. Demand for the service is actually much more important than creating a supply of food. Ms. Montgomery's team, Gary and Lisa Mears, and a small group of local residents began working together immediately with the goal of opening the local pantry for service on Saturday, May 12th.

- Kim Baney, Parent Liaison for Lucketts Elementary School distributed a bi-lingual flyer that went home with every student announcing the program and how to take advantage of this new local resource.
- Richard and Jackie Cleland enlisted support from the Lucketts Ruritan Club and the Community Center. Flyers about the new service were developed and distributed at Saturday trash collection services starting in mid-April.
- Two weeks before opening, new food donation bags were being distributed by the Ruritan Club members at Saturday trash collection as well. The Ruritan Club kicked off a community "Two Ton Challenge" to contribute two tons of food to LHR between May 12th and June 16th.
- Volunteers from across Lucketts were tapped to assist with organizing the initial supply of food for distribution at Faith Chapel.

On Saturday, May 12th the team and a small group of volunteers were ready to serve. Canned goods, cereals, peanut butter, fresh produce and much more were ready and waiting. As the hours came to a close, there was still plenty of food to distribute. Ever resourceful, Gary and the team loaded food on to the back of a volunteer's truck and distributed the rest of the food by driving to local neighborhoods. By the end of the afternoon, many Lucketts families had benefitted from opening day and everything volunteers had organized was distributed.

What does someone do to receive food from LHR at Faith Chapel? It is very simple. Food is available to any resident of Loudoun County who produces a photo ID with a local address. The Pantry will operate the second Saturday of every month from 10AM until 11AM.



Pick up a "Ton of Food Bag" at the Ruritan Trash & Recycling on Saturday mornings at the Lucketts Elementary School. Take it to the grocery and pick out non-perishable items every time you go. Empty the bag in one of the Food Drop Off bins at the locations listed in the article. Repeat every week!



Photo by Mary Gustafson

Although children are an easy focus for these services, there are many other residents who should consider using the Pantry.

- Everyone reading this can probably recall a month when they needed to dip into savings to pay all of their bills – or had to do without. “Rainy days” can come early for anyone. When that happens, a great option for budget and expense control is taking advantage of your local food pantry and using the money you would normally have spent on food to help cover unplanned expenses.
- Many families help friends and relatives who hit a “rough patch” and need a temporary place to live while they go through a life transition. Great reason to come to the Pantry and get some help with the food budget.
- Even people with excellent medical insurance can get hit with extraordinary medical bills. Pantry use can ease the pain of those bills while your budget recovers.
- Senior citizens and those who are shut-in for medical reasons may not yet know about this new resource. Do any of your neighbors fit this description? Make sure they know about this trial and help them take advantage.

Volunteer opportunities will evolve with the experience of the trial. There are three local sites for making food donations.

- The Porch at Faith Chapel – Daily
- Lucketts Community Center – During Operating Hours
- Lucketts Ruritan Club Trash Service – Saturday mornings from 8am to noon at Lucketts Elementary School.

If you have fresh produce, eggs or meat produced from your farm and garden, you can make arrangements through Gary Mears at Faith Chapel for making those donations. In addition, if you have expertise in logistics and service management you would like to contribute let Gary Mears know. Gary can be reached at 703-608-8616 or by email at gary@theporchinlucketts.org.



Photo by Lisa Mears

Above: **LHR truck with baked goods.** At Right: **Fabbioli Cellars donated fresh asparagus for the May distribution. Anyone can donate fresh produce and eggs. Contact Gary Mears (above) for details.**



Neighbors helping neighbors has always made Lucketts a great place to live. Spreading the word and helping The Porch at Faith Chapel and the Loudoun Hunger Relief team make connections with people who need their services will keep this experiment alive and evolving for everyone's benefit.



Photo by Steve Hillebrand



Photo by Lisa Mears

Score One for Wildlife...

by Peter G. Gustafson

Did you ever notice a large red and white “For Sale” sign while traveling along Stumptown Road as you approach its intersection with New Valley Church? It identifies 87-acres of woods and farm fields behind the Highway Mobile Homes and Ray Wagner’s cabinet shop in Lucketts. Well, Ludlow Clark did. A long-time resident, he had a vision. “Wouldn’t it be nice to save it for the wildlife?” he thought. “...and prevent more traffic on our already overburdened roads? ...and provide for the migrating ducks and geese and resident turkeys, fox, and deer? Well, he put that question to a fellow member of the Lucketts Ruritan Club who said that he needed to speak to the Environment Committee chairman. After checking, that just happened to be me!

“...significant and worthy of conservation, restoration and long-term management.”

This was a great idea, but where would we begin? We agreed that unless a conversation were started with the right people soon, this unique property would be home to more houses. I turned to someone I thought could help. I called Nicole Sudduth, Executive Director of the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy (LWC). She was immediately VERY excited. “I’ve been wanting to protect that property for years!” she said. “Let’s DO it!”

I had worked with Nicole several years back while trying to preserve the wooded portion of Yeager and Mary Gum’s old farm, south of Lucketts. Now under conservation easement, the initial focus had been on the most environmentally sensitive and ecologically significant part of the farm. The woods along Montresor Road contained several vernal pools—those depressions in the ground over karst limestone that capture snow melt and the spring rains to make temporary ponds. These ponds are rare and unique, as well as the critters whose lifecycles depend upon them—like the salamanders, frogs and fairy shrimp who reproduce there.

Meanwhile, Ludlow had been communicating with the property seller’s realtor. There were several other interested buyers. So, Nicole convinced LWC’s board to make an offer to purchase the land. Another Ruritan and local realtor, Ian Moffett, agreed to help



with negotiating a contract. Low and behold! LWC's offer was accepted above the two other interested parties! Now, the LWC had 120 days to find the money.

The next step was to 'officially' document the property's ecological significance. In early January, Nicole invited Gary Fleming and Karen Patterson, ecologists with the Virginia Dept. of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to survey the property. After acquiring the owner's permission, Gary and Karen, along with Nicole, and Joe Coleman, of LWC and Lucketts Ruritans Ian Moffett (Rokeby Realty), Jay Frankenfeld (Loudoun County Soil and Water) and I, met early one morning to take a walk in the woods and fields. To paraphrase DCR's resultant report: ...the vernal woods tract supports a globally rare wetland community...the unique geological setting and zoological resources make the wetlands even more significant and worthy of conservation, restoration, and long-term management.

Documenting the parcel's unique qualities was the easy part. More daunting was to procure the funding to purchase the land (\$945K)—and there was precious little time. Potential supporters were approached, but to no avail. There was limited progress at best. Ultimately, time ran out. LWC would have to back out.

Then a miracle happened! Nicole had pitched conservation to county resident, Chuck Kuhn of JK Moving Services early on. A follow-up call and conversation with Mr. Kuhn revealed that he reviewed the proposal and was trying to decide whether or not it fit with his company's and family's charitable investment strategy. Around the 120-day mark, Mike Kane, Land Conservation Officer at the Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC), picked up the conversation with him and worked some magic!

JK Moving agreed to purchase the land at fair market value and place it under conservation easement. Once that process was complete, JK Moving would sell it to the LWC at a lower 'conserved' property value and his company and family would donate the remaining balance. This would remove the development potential from the land, fits with JK's charitable focus, and LWC gets a significant price break plus time to raise money.

So, perhaps miracles do happen! Many thanks go to those caring and passionate people who sweated the details and stayed the course. But the standing ovation goes to Mr. Kuhn. It was he that caught the 'Hail Mary pass' and scored the winning touchdown. He's given Lucketts the gift of preservation—preserving wildlife, cleaner air, less traffic, and a permanent 'open space'. It'll be an everlasting reminder to all who pass these woods and fields. Meanwhile, Ludlow Clark, is still thinking big.

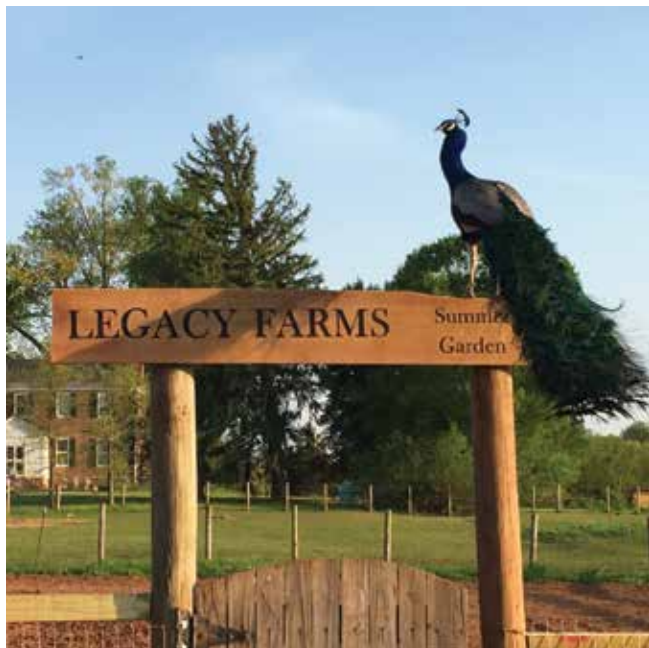


These ponds are rare and unique, as are the critters whose lifecycles depend upon them—like the salamanders, frogs and fairy shrimp who reproduce there.



Photos by Nicole Sudduth





Temple Hall Farm in Lucketts provides the backdrop and the plot for Legacy Farms. Program participants provide the manpower. This year produce from the garden will be sold to area restaurants and donated to Loudoun Hunger Relief and the Lucketts Food Pantry at Faith Chapel Church.



The advent of Legacy Farms, says Board member Martha Schonberger, was a shared concern among a small group of parents and special educators in Loudoun County, for what happens when individuals on the autism spectrum age out of public schools at age 22. Herself a special education teacher with over 25 years of experience in the field, she knows this population doesn't follow the same path of mainstream students. "These individuals won't go to college, graduate, and then go work somewhere" she says.

Many children in our community are on the autism spectrum. Eventually though, they age out of their public school programs and turn into adults. "Kids who age out still have lots of needs" says Schonberger. "They must learn how to self-advocate, and need pre-vocational training and vocational job skills." Without the structure and support of the public school programs, some individuals regress behaviorally, forming maladaptive behaviors, and may become depressed or their physical health may suffer.

Recognizing this gap in services and the risk it posed, Schonberger and her partners founded Legacy Farms.

The operation started out in her backyard, with a 10 by 10 foot herb garden, and a larger 10 by 40 foot vegetable garden. It wasn't long before Temple Hall Regional Park in Lucketts took notice, and offered to give them some land at the park to use instead. Schonberger accepted. Being located on Temple Hall, with its many visitors, has helped raise awareness of Legacy Farms, and it's a stop on the popular farm tour, so visitors can learn about the group's purpose and the work they do. While moving to that location four years ago has been very positive, because Temple Hall is a regional park, Legacy Farms can't charge for its services, so all the programming and instruction they provide to clients is free. While clients' families will donate as their means allow, donations from the larger community are essential for keeping the operation viable.

In addition to a board, which is responsible for the organization's strategy, Legacy Farms has two lead instructors, two assistant instructors, and typically two or three volunteers each day. "We love our local volunteers" says Schonberger. "Because they live nearby, they take ownership. They know what they're doing is helping the community where they live. They have a stake in it." There are many jobs for the volunteers—not only taking care of the garden, but also helping clients by going for a walk with them or assisting with a particular task. All the accommodations and instruction clients receive is individualized, so a sufficient number of volunteers is important to ensure everything comes together for the benefit of the client. Other volunteer activities include writing grants, fundraising, or building awareness on social media.

Schonberger realized that while businesses may be willing to hire an individual with autism spectrum disorder, they might not know what he or she needs to be successful on the job. To address this, she trains job coaches who work with the client and the

host business to identify what accommodations would be appropriate. This has been invaluable to supporting the transition for both employer and employee. In fact, several Legacy Farm clients have gone on to find work at local businesses including Tarara and Walsh Family vineyards, and A Farm Less Ordinary. Most individuals on the autism spectrum will hold part time jobs—full time work is often too taxing. Regardless, receiving that first paycheck is an incredibly gratifying event for both the client and his or her family.

Legacy Farms offers two programs. The foundational therapeutic program focuses on fundamental gardening skills and building self-sufficiency, community participation, and transitioning to independence. Typically, participants are in their 20s and 30s, although they have had clients in their teens and over 60. New this year is a leadership program offering. The leadership program incorporates an apprenticeship model, and seeks to prepare clients for competitive employment in the agriculture industry. Participants learn the broader set of skills necessary to build professional relationships and present the farm's products to buyers, including packaging and delivering the produce. "It's important for us to understand what the local agri-businesses need" says Schonberger, "so they can build client skills that will be useful to potential employers". She also invites potential employers to the farm so they can see the work being done and the skills being taught.

Legacy Farm goes beyond building practical skills to enhance clients' moral development as well. All Legacy Farm clients learn about grit (sticking with it) and gratitude (for the gifts of the earth, relationships with each other, and serving others) as important character qualities. For example, last year, over 500 pounds of herbs and produce were donated by Legacy Farm to Loudoun Hunger Relief. Having the clients assist in delivering the produce was a powerful learning experience for them that communicated the positive social impact they were having in serving others.

All businesses encounter unexpected challenges along the way. For Schonberger, it came in the form of high winds earlier this spring that blew over their new greenhouse, which was built to extend their programming for more of the year. Fortunately, a donor in Chicago stepped up, and is paying the cost for a local woodworker to have four raised beds built as an alternative. She says in the future, she would like to see a fall program to complement the existing spring and summer programs. She would also like to be able to have more job coaches and other staff, like a program director. Eventually, she would like to see the program operating year-round, so that clients could get more than just a few months of instruction each year. This would also enable them to supply produce throughout the year to the restaurants and non-profit organizations with whom they partner.

Fundamentally, Legacy Farms wants to help this special population achieve their maximum potential. "They may have strikes against them" says Schonberger, "but we want them to set real goals, whether it's achieving competitive employment or fulfilling leisure activities. We want them to believe in themselves and go further than they thought possible."

To learn more, or to donate, please go to www.legacyfarmsvirginia.org.



"Participants learn the broader set of skills necessary to build professional relationships and present the farm's products to buyers..."



Founder of Legacy Farms, Martha Schonberger opens opportunities, and the garden gate.



Ruritan Club Marks 39 Years with Sip & Socialize Celebration at Fabboli Cellars – Bright Ideas Abound!

By Pat Logue

Calendar

July – October

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.

July 14 Annual Family Picnic 4pm. At

Lovettsville Game Protective Association Hall in Lovettsville. (Lovettsville/Waterford, Hamilton, Point of Rocks and Lucketts Ruritan Clubs

August 14 at Lucketts Community Center

Lucketts Ruritan 7:30-9pm. Dinner, speaker and meeting. **Topic:** Leesburg North Landing LLC Fuel Mart on Rt 15. **Speaker:** Kimerlee Welsh Hise, AICP Land Use Planner, Walsh Colucci Lubeley & Walsh PC

Sept 11 at Lucketts Community Center

Lucketts Ruritan 7:30-9pm. Dinner, speaker and meeting. **Topic:** Challenges facing Loudoun teenagers today. **Speaker:** TBD

Oct 9 at Lucketts Community Center

Lucketts Ruritan 7:30-9pm. Dinner, speaker and meeting. **Topic:** TBD **Speaker:** TBD

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

Join our Lucketts Ruritan

Club and experience the fellowship and goodwill that comes from meeting the needs of your community. Men and women, young, old and in between contact John Adams, Membership Chairman, for how to join, call 703-431-7621.

On May 8th, 1979 the Lucketts Ruritan Club held its first official meeting. 39 years later, the Club is still working to make Lucketts a better place to live through good will, fellowship and community service. To mark this 39th Anniversary, the Club invited local leaders from every community organization, as well as leaders from the various non-profits supported by the Club, to Sip & Socialize on the evening of May 8th this year at Fabboli Cellars.

Fabboli Cellars provided their great wines, Vanish brought their local beer and the Ladies of Furnace Mountain Church (led by Linda Hobbie and her family) created an amazing array of appetizers. Since it was the 39th birthday, Baked Out Cakes provided an appropriate confection to mark the event. Carl Siebentritt, who lives in Lucketts and who is the oldest member of the Club, was on hand to cut the birthday cake with Dylan Price – one of the Club's youngest members.

Dylan was President of the Lucketts Elementary Rudy Juniors Club during this past school year and was one of that Club's founding members in 2015.

Lucketts has changed a great deal in 39 years and the Club wanted to take this moment to gather community feedback on what would make Lucketts even better than it is today. Guests attending the event were asked to complete a short questionnaire to share their "bright ideas" about what would do just that. In addition, the Club surveyed guests on what volunteer opportunities they would find most appealing.

In 1979, Lucketts was primarily a rural and agricultural community. Today it is a mixture of rural and suburban with large housing developments like Village Green, Selma Estates, and Falconaire bringing young, two income families to the community. Not everyone goes to Lucketts Elementary, but everyone still goes back and forth to and from Leesburg to access most of what they need outside of their home. Amazon Prime and Internet



Dylan Price, Pat Logue and Carl Siebentritt



shopping are great new options, but their use reduces the frequency of “bumping into” your neighbors while navigating weekly errands at a local store. Activities for school age children are typically not based in Lucketts, but rather in Leesburg or Ashburn. The family farm is now a rural enterprise supporting the County’s growing tourism and hospitality industry. The sites used back in the 80’s for extended family picnics are now often morphed into elaborate event and wedding venues. Yin and Yang are right...change brings opportunity.

Some of the consistent feedback the Club received was that we need more activities for families – especially for older children and teenagers – that are based in right in Lucketts. What would it take to build and operate a community swimming pool? How could our fields (often vacant because teams don’t want to travel up Route 15 after school) be used for community-based athletics for kids and adults? Pick-up softball anyone? There were also many comments about environmental issues – everything from land conservation to improved Wi-Fi and solar energy services.

People expressed the most interest in volunteering to support our youth and our seniors but also wanted to help with more special, or one-day events in Lucketts as well.

If you are reading this article, the Lucketts Ruritans want your bright ideas! What, in your opinion, are one or two important community services in Lucketts and the surrounding area that would improve the quality of life for families, children and those in need of assistance? Nothing brings a community together like volunteer activities that connect people on a regular basis to make a difference for someone, somewhere, somehow. What volunteer activities are of interest to you? The Club wants to bring more volunteer opportunities to everyone in Lucketts so let us know what motivates you to give of your time and talent! Send us these thoughts by email at luckettsruritan@gmail.com. Follow us on Facebook to hear more over the coming year about how the Ruritan Club uses this information to make Lucketts an even better place for all of us.



Photo by Mary Gustafson

Appetizers by the Ladies Auxillary at Furnace Mountain Church, wine and location by Fabbiosi Cellars, cake by Baked Out Cakes and beer by Vanish Farmwoods Brewery. Attendees included community folks curious about what the Ruritan Club is all about. The Club is looking for ideas on how they can better serve the Lucketts community.



Photos by Fred Nassauer



Rudy Juniors assembled "goodie bags" for children who are patients at INOVA Loudoun. The bags will bring smiles to 50 children!



Rudy Juniors Help Kids at INOVA Loudoun

Look Forward to Growing to Smarts Mill in fall of 2018

For their last project of the year, the Rudy Juniors at Lucketts Elementary made "goodie bags" for children who are admitted to INOVA Loudoun Hospital. With funds raised from their February Bake Sale, the club purchased markers, stickers, crayons, coloring books, storybooks and toys for gift bags to donate to INOVA Loudoun.

The club's president, Dylan Price, and Vice President, Mason Grove also provided a PowerPoint presentation that recapped the year's activities.

Since the first meeting in October, the club:

- Organized a successful coat drive for Lucketts families in need
- Toured the Lucketts Fire Department and made "Thank You" cards for our local fire and rescue team
- Hosted a "game day" for the Ruritan Club members
- Made over 150 toys for dogs and cats that were donated to the local animal shelter
- Helped the school celebrate Valentine's Day with a "heart attack" of positive messages for the entrance and hallways of the school
- Contributed \$200 from funds raised for plantings used in the PTA's spring cleanup around the grounds of the school
- Assisted teachers with classroom projects after school

This year's graduating 5th Graders will be able to continue their membership in the Club with the expansion of the activity to Smarts Mill Middle School in the fall. The Rudy Junior Club is open to all 4th and 5th Grade students at Lucketts Elementary who want to get involved with monthly projects focused on fellowship, good will and community service. The new club at Smarts Mill will be open to students in Grades 6, 7 and 8. If you are interested in more information on the Rudy Junior Club for someone in your family, contact the Lucketts Ruritan Club at luckettsruritan@gmail.com.



Summer

at the Lucketts Community Center

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

Preschool Camps (Ages 3-5)

- June 18-22** **Preschool Camp** "Let's Have a Ball" | 9am to 1pm M-F | \$125
June 25-29 **Preschool Camp** "Super Scientists" | 9am to 1 pm M-F | \$125
No camp the week of July 4th
July 9-13 **Preschool Camp** "Space is the Place" | am-1pm M-F | \$125
July 16-20 **Preschool Camp** "Let's Go Camp In" | 9am-1pm M-F | \$125
July 23-7 **Preschool Camp** "Creature Feature" | 9am-1pm M-F | \$125
July 30-Aug 3 **Preschool Camp** "Silly Snacks" | 9am-1pm M-F | \$125

Elementary Age Camps (Ages 6-11)

Lazy Days At Lucketts These camps will have lots of different facets! Each week will have a Field Day, a trip to a local fun spot or to the pool, and lots of games, projects, nature exploration and other adventures.

- June 18-22** **Elementary Camp** from 8am-6pm | \$150
June 25-29 **Elementary Camp** from 8am-6pm | \$150
No camp the week of July 4th
July 9-13 **Elementary Camp** from 8am-6pm | \$150
July 16-20 **Elementary Camp** from 8am-6pm | \$150
July 23-27 **Elementary Camp** from 8am-6pm | \$150
July 30-Aug 3 **Elementary Camp** from 8am-6pm | \$150
Aug 6-10 **Elementary Camp** from 8am -6pm | \$150

Other Fun Summer Classes at Lucketts

Tennis Camps These terrific USTA camps provide the racquet, balls, and professional instruction. Just bring a water bottle and your talent!

USTA Tennis Camp (Ages 5-12)

July 9-13 9am to 12 noon | \$199

Aug 6-10 9am to 12 noon | \$199

Weekly Tennis Lessons (Ages 7-12)

Every Tuesday from July 10-August 14 | 5pm-6pm | \$110

Weekly Tennis Lessons (Ages 13 and up)

Every Tuesday from July 10-August 14 | 6pm-7pm | \$110

Senior Potluck Luncheon

6/20, 7/18, 8/15 Once a month Wednesdays | Noon to 2 pm | Bring a dish!

Don't Miss National Ice Cream Day-Free!

July 16 Noon to 2pm | Join us for ice cream and a neighborly gathering!

Lucketts NEWS & NOTES

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Photo by Mary Gustafson





Makayla riding her winning round for the IHSA National Cacchione Cup.

Below Her parents Andy and Jan met riding on the IHSA Team at Purdue University. **Right** Makayla in center



Photos by Tricia Booker

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