

Lucketts

SPRING 2019
A Joint Publication of the Lucketts Ruritan Club
& Lucketts Community Center Advisory Board

NEWS & NOTES



Heroes among us.

The Lucketts Volunteer Fire Company built a firehouse and a community.

By Mary Gustafson

Imagine, it's 1960. You're a young parent home with your children in an old frame farm house just off Wilt Store Road. You smell smoke and it's not coming from the fireplace, it's coming from the floor under your hearth! Heart racing, you call the fire department dispatcher, (9-1-1 was not implemented until 1968). "I have a fire in my home! On Wilt Store Road!" The dispatcher would call the contact for the nearest fire station. Most frequently the contact was the wife of the station Chief of the Lucketts Volunteer Fire Company (LVFC) who would then contact her husband and the volunteers. The Chief would drop everything, drive to barn where the fire truck was parked, race to the fire and meet his team of volunteers who would independently drive to the site.

These were the true heroes – the volunteer firefighters of LVFC and their wives who supported their effort. This was the state of fire suppression in 1960. At the time, there was minimal training available as compared to today, and no hi-tech equipment. They used their intuition to determine the best way to approach and suppress fires. As they grew confident in their abilities, this core group of volunteers took the initiative to apply for non-profit status to become an official volunteer fire company.

Some who have been here long enough, remember the days before 1960 when there was no fire station on Lucketts Road. We have to thank this group of men who were not trained in fire suppression or the science of emergency dispatch. Their vision recognized the need for more immediate emergency response in our rural community. These men were farmers or tradesmen who lived and worked in and around Lucketts and made their own hours. This enabled them to respond immediately to the incoming phone calls for help.

By 1960, with their newly attained designation of Lucketts Volunteer Fire Company #10, the group planned a permanent home for their 1949 International Pumper Truck. They

Imagine, it's 1960. You're a young parent home with your children in an old frame farm house just off Wilt Store Road. You smell smoke and it's not coming from the fireplace, it's coming from the floor under your hearth! Heart racing, you



Children from the Lucketts Community Center are welcomed for a visit to Fire Company #10.

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On the right end, the original building had two bays which were narrower and shorter to accommodate the earlier equipment. The upstairs meeting hall accessed by an outdoor stairway was used for dances and dinners. It is now a kitchen, dining hall and sleeping quarters for the career personnel. Additional bays were built in 1987 and 1996 to house the additional emergency vehicles.



Volunteer with LVFC. It is an excellent way to be a part of the community.

Some of the benefits are free training, personal property tax exemption, retirement plans, tuition assistance, and satisfaction of helping in your community. If you are interested in learning more about the opportunities, **please contact (703) 777-9344.**

also needed a base for the volunteers to gather at the siren's call and stage the necessary equipment. Before the firehouse was built, the pumper truck was kept down the road in the barn of a local farmer and member of the fire company.

The oldest part of the building we know today was begun the same year at its present site on Lucketts Road. It is the western-most end and has two shorter bays and an upstairs meeting hall. It was built entirely by the hands of the volunteers – sometimes with materials commandeered from their farms. The hall above saw many fundraising social events the likes of dinners, dances and sock hops. The parking lot provided space for community activities such as household and farm equipment consignment auctions and the annual fireman's fun festival. It was the heart of the community.

Until the 1980's, the volunteers provided fire suppression only. By the early 90's LVFC began providing Emergency Medical Services (EMS). Some of the volunteers participated in a County-sponsored training program to better serve the community. As more training opportunities became available LVFC increased their response care by adding Basic Life Support and Advanced Life Support services.

Over time, the economic needs of local volunteers changed. Agriculture and trades had at one time provided a decent living.

This allowed for a higher level of volunteer service throughout the community but better paying jobs became available in towns further afield reducing the pool of volunteers. Transitioning to a new economy made it necessary to begin partial staffing by Loudoun County trained and certified professional emergency responders.

The building that you see today along Lucketts Road stands testament to the needs of our growing community. In 1987 two bays were added to the original structure and in 1996 an additional pair of bays were built with yet one more around the east corner of the building. You will see engines, tankers, a brush truck, a Jeep, a command unit, two boats and an ambulance, all under one roof.

Nothing is constant but change itself. Now a new fire house is on the horizon to be built to the east of the existing building. While Loudoun County now provides career personnel 24/7, there remains volunteer staff performing critical administrative tasks. They assist career staff in answering your calls for help. Volunteers also assist with training, mapping, and checking dry hydrants among other important tasks.

We express our gratitude to the forward-thinking volunteers whose vision gave birth to the LVFC. The brave men who answered the siren's call in the 60's and the career men and women who answer it yet today, provide life-saving response to emergencies in our still mostly rural Lucketts community.

Recycling in Loudoun and Lucketts

An Interview with Tony Hayes, *Recycling Specialist*, Loudoun County Department of General Services, Waste Management Division

Tony Hayes spoke with Pat Logue of the Ruritan Club on April 9th and set the record straight on the state of recycling in Loudoun and beyond.

As you may have heard in the news, China has decreased their purchase of recycled material from world markets in an effort to strengthen their own programs. Good news! The local recycling industry has not been as reliant on China as in other areas and continues to sell material into their traditional markets. According to Mr. Hayes, "It is important to understand our local program in order to generate the greatest impact from your recycling activity. If you have a private recycling service, contact them for a list of materials they accept. Make sure you contact their local office as their national practices may vary."

Jurisdictions in Northern Virginia are however, grappling with a lack of nearby processing capabilities for glass bottles and jars. "Loudoun County is still accepting them but the way in which we collect glass may need to shift in order to ensure recyclability," according to Mr. Hayes, Fairfax County has purchased a grinder that will convert glass containers into aggregate for use in road construction, and aims to accept glass containers from other jurisdictions.

Plastic bottles, jugs and jars, glass containers, aluminum and tin cans, as well as paper and flattened cardboard can be co-mingled when brought to any County sponsored recycling collection center. Plastic bags, food waste, Styrofoam, batteries, light bulbs or general trash are not accepted. Food and beverage containers should be empty and rinsed out prior to recycling. Items should be dumped loosely into curbside recycling bins and at the public recycling collection sites. **Bagged recyclables will be disposed of as trash.** Plastic trash bags, string, wire coat hangers and other "tangles" get caught in the array of moving parts at the regional sorting facilities resulting in costly shut downs. "Loudoun's program is robust and cost-effective, but can have greater impact when everyone adheres to recycling guidelines."



Reduce your solid waste!

- Limit use of disposable items when reusable alternatives are available, i.e. water bottles, travel mugs, grocery bags, etc.
- Make product choices based on recyclability of the package when possible, and closely follow local recycling guidelines.
- Compost food and yard waste at home. Use a mulching blade to mow your lawn and let the clippings fertilize the lawn.
- Consider whether recycling options are available before throwing things out, i.e. small appliances.
- Reduce energy consumption and pollution by carpooling to work or using mass transit options, as well as turning off lights, and home electronics when not in use.

For current information on recycling programs in Loudoun County go to www.loudoun.gov/recycle.





Ruritans in the Lucketts community

By Pat Logue



Non members wishing to attend meetings please RSVP to luckettsruritan@gmail.com.

Calendar

May – July 2019

May 14 at Lucketts Community Center

7:30-9pm. Dinner and meeting. *Speaker:* Joe Coleman, President of Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy (LWC) and Michael Myers, Executive Director of LWC—Introduction to the 87-acre JK Black Oak Wildlife Sanctuary.

May 22 at Lucketts Community Center

7:30-9pm. **Event:** America's Routes (a committee of the Mosby Heritage Area) will present their project of preservation of Loudoun County rural gravel roads.

June 11 at Lucketts Community Center 7:30-9pm.

Dinner and meeting. *Speaker:* Eugene Scheel, local mapmaker, will discuss his new map of Native American tribes of Loudoun County.

July 13 at Temple Hall Farm 12:30-4:30pm.

Multi-Club Annual Picnic and Lucketts Ruritan 40th Anniversary celebration. Farm animals, activities for kids, and fun for the whole family.

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.

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 Pat Logue, Membership Chairman, for how to join, call (973) 214-9345.

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 7:30p.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

Rudy Youth Clubs Busy with Creative Projects

Both the Lucketts Elementary and the Smarts Mill Rudy Junior Clubs busied themselves with creative projects the past few months. Smarts Mill Middle School club members designed and executed a 30-foot wide wall mural on one of the school's main corridors. It took the Club eight hours to actually paint the mural on the wall since many Club members were able to assist. Ms. Jodie Allen, a teacher in the school's Social Studies Department is the Club's sponsor.



Photos by Steve Hillebrand



"The mural is such a hit, we are already being asked to consider a music hallway one next! Great job kids. You really brightened the school with this wonderful contribution," –Ms. Allen, Teacher at Smart's Mill MS

The Club members at Lucketts Elementary sponsored a school-wide contest to design a school flag. Fourteen students from Lucketts Elementary submitted unique designs, celebrating the school culture and spirit along with a statement of design intent. Submissions were evaluated and voted on at the Club's March Meeting. The winning design is in production now and will be presented before the end of the school year.





Environmental Stewardship in Action

This Spring Jay Frankenfield and Barbara Scott, both members of the Lucketts Ruritan Club, initiated Club sponsorship of three different activities focused on environmental action with, and for, local youth. They participated on March 26th as Community Sponsors of the inaugural Student Environmental Action Showcase (SEAS) held at Heritage High School.

Fifteen participating community groups, including the Lucketts Ruritan Club, provided hands-on Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) activities. Volunteer and career opportunities were discussed by the community sponsors with attending local youth. More than 30 local students featured the real-world environmental problems they are solving as a result of their classroom-based activities. Based on the quality and quantity of student presentations, SEAS will hopefully become an annual Loudoun youth event.

The Ruritan Club supported SEAS with an information table showing the two current projects for participation by Lucketts and Loudoun youth. The first, planned for Saturday April 27th, involves marking storm drains in Village Green. Coming in the fall will be a tree planting at the JK Black Oak Wildlife Sanctuary in the Village of Lucketts. The seedlings will someday help protect the one exposed vernal pool among the 13-pool complex on the 87-acre property.

Thank you Jay and Barbara for spearheading this important environmental outreach for our kids and our community!



"The purpose of Loudoun SEAS is to amplify youth voice in environmental problem solving by showcasing to a real-world audience how students have meaningfully contributed to environmental stewardship in Loudoun County."

Loudoun Environmental Stewardship Alliance





From Soil to Fiber

Black Sheep Farm's shepherd views with a more calculating eye the greening pastures that Lucketts area residents now herald as a welcome sign of spring.

Does the soil have the proper balance of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium and the proper pH to keep it alive with the bacteria, fungi, algae, protozoa, nematodes, earthworms, and other fauna that nourish the roots of the plants that feed the sheep that grow the wool?

"Fiber producers are really grass farmers," says shepherd Martha Polkey. "And if the soil ain't happy, the grass ain't happy. And neither are the sheep that make fiber and lambs from it."

Black Sheep Farm raises Merino sheep, which produce the finest, softest wool of any sheep breed. Commercially, the end uses for Merino wool are socks, sweaters, and performance wear that can be worn next to the skin (think Smartwool), as well as fine suiting fabrics.

The smaller batches of fiber shorn from ewes and rams in spring and fall on this Lucketts farm are marketed primarily to handspinners (who produce yarn for knitted, crocheted, and hand-woven projects), and felters (who fashion from it objects and garments embellished with silk and other fibers). Some fiber goes to yarn producers (such as Loudoun's own Solitude Wool yarn company), and other small batch producers and designers who market their custom products in New York.



Photo by Elysa Darling, 222.handspun.com

above A Black Sheep Farm ram by the name of Fogg; **at right** A silver fleece from a ram named Tolstoy, just before shearing



Photo by Leanne Reuter

And yes, there are black sheep on the farm—as well as white sheep, and many shades of brown and silver sheep. Breeding stock from the farm, which has emphasized genetic improvements through artificial insemination from top-producing flocks in Australia and New Zealand, is shipped from Maine to California and Michigan to Utah.

The flock is protected from coyotes and other predators by a 90-pound Great Pyrenees-Maremma cross guardian dog, who lives with the flock day and night. A border collie gathers the sheep for the shepherd.

This working farm is open by appointment only. Visit blacksheepfarmva.com for more information.



top The ewes get the first crack at the lawn in April, with the border collie waiting for the command to move them around and then return them to the pasture. They wear covers year round, to protect fleeces from dirt, vegetable matter, and weakening of the tips from exposure to sun, ensuring premium fleeces for handcrafters. **left** Enzo the guardian dog with a lamb; **below** A sample of each lamb's fleece is sent off for fiber testing, to help select superior qualities, and advance quality of breeding stock.



MARYLAND SHEEP & WOOL FESTIVAL

Black Sheep Farm stock and fleeces—along with about 600 sheep and fleeces from across the nation—travel to the 46th annual Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival, May 4-5 at the Howard County, Maryland, Fairgrounds in West Friendship. (You can see the fairgrounds along Route I-70 just before the eastbound exit onto Route 32.) Go to sheepandwool.org for more information on this premier East Coast festival.

Troop 1910's Backpacking Outing

By Sterett Prevost

On March 22, 23, and 24, scouts and scouters from Lucketts troop 1910 trekked 15 miles along the C&O Canal trail.

On Friday night, all the scouts attending the trek met up in the pavilion of the Lucketts Community Center. Once everything was sorted out, we hopped into cars and traveled to a campsite near Paw Paw, West Virginia. When we arrived it was flurrying outside. Nonetheless, we set up camp and snuggled up in our sleeping bags for the night.

The next morning, we cooked our breakfast consisting of oatmeal and sausage, and then gobbled it down, packed up and hit the trail. We walked for about half a mile until we caught sight of the Paw Paw tunnel. It had a looming and a slightly foreboding aura upon entering. When we first entered the tunnel, it was not that dark, but, as we were nearing the middle of the tunnel, it got almost pitch black except for the lights at the ends of the tunnel. After the pitch black of the tunnel, we came upon a beautiful waterfall with crystal clear water at the bottom. Next, we kept walking until a five-foot mini waterfall to our left made a scout slip on an algae slick wood board. After that, we kept trekking and passing different locks and smaller waterfalls. The next day brought somewhat the same as the day before; two miles of hiking and going home! Nevertheless, the outing was super fun and I was happy to be with my friends!

Mission Impossible?

Nothing is impossible if you are prepared.

By Daniel Ziemniak of Troop #1910

We camped on Friday night at Northern Virginia Lions Youth Camp near Paris, VA. The next morning, we woke up, cooked breakfast and went to an orienteering course at the camp area to practice. We learned how to determine our pace so we knew how many steps were required to travel a known distance. We learned how to use a compass to travel on a specific heading. Then we went into a building to learn about first aid. We were taught how to make a stretcher with sticks and shirts. We talked about hypothermia, poison ivy, and other medical issues that could occur while in the woods. We were shown the Heimlich maneuver to help a person who is choking, which can happen after hypothermia. After that, we talked about how to find the North Star by finding the Big Dipper. Eventually, while me and my fellow Scouts were playing around and talking to the older Scouts, the adult leaders set up the Mission Impossible course. By this time it was dark and Drew (one of the older Scouts) took my group down a random path and stopped at a cabin. We went inside the cabin and Mr. Bond told us about what we were going to do, without providing all the details.

After that, we found a clue in the cabin and it was a match box with a code inside and a secret message (we also had a big bag to keep our items in so we didn't leave behind any trash). We decoded it and it gave us a heading and distance we had to go with the compass. It also had other information. We shot the bearing and walked the certain number of steps (which also we calculated) to get to the location. We ended up at a bathroom and went inside. We found a code behind a toilet seat and decoded it, but there was information missing. Eventually we noticed that there was a piece of paper so we lit a match from the match box we had and put the match right under the paper so the code would show up. We accidentally burned a hole, but we could still read it. We shot the bearing and got the number of feet to go and we walked next to a lamp post. Right next to it was a paper bag with another clue inside. We decoded it and learned we had to find green lights. So we looked around and found one on a tree and also found another clue. It said on the decoded message "Yoda is choking" (by the way it was Star Wars themed and Drew was Yoda). "Yoda" (Drew) started to choke and Nate "performed" the Heimlich maneuver on Yoda/Drew. Then we decoded the rest of the



message which provided the next bearing and distance we had to go. When we made it to the destination, Drew said we had to find a clump of five trees. Eventually we found it and saw a clue high up on the tree. So Nate climbed up the tree and grabbed it.

We decoded the message and it said we had to eavesdrop on a “conversation” the “zombies” were having and collect certain data so that we could provide it to Drew. He read it and said we got it right. Then Drew gave us another clue. We decoded it and it said we had to find where north was without a compass. We realized we had to find the North Star to find north so we looked for a while and eventually found the North star based on the training we had previously in the day. Then Drew said “Oh no, I broke my ankle and can’t walk. Maybe you could build something.” So we made a splint for his ankle and a stretcher to carry him. Then they told us to shoot a bearing without a compass and provided the distance. We walked and eventually found a campfire. It was the end, or so we thought, but when we got there, they told us we had to take a written test with Boy Scout questions and questions about the mission impossible task we just did. They told us to write the answer next to the question and then write the first letter of the answer in the answer box. Eventually, when we finished with the test, the first letters of the answers created a sentence. It read “Nothing is impossible if you are prepared”.



Boy Scout Annual Yard Sale May 18

Are you learing out the closets, cleaning the garage, sorting the toys, bought new furniture? For the 20th year, Lucketts Boy Scout Troop 1910 is holding their annual Yard Sale. This sale has been strongly supported by the Lucketts Community with their donations. All Proceeds from the sale directly benefit Troop

1910. Donationsare received at the Lucketts Elementary School on Saturdays from 8am – Noon on the following dates; April 27, May 4 and May 11. Please have all electrical and mechanical items in working condition. Please note, we cannot accept mattresses, child safety seats, or fabric sofas & chairs. If you have large items or have questions, please feel free to call Matt Quitter at 571-214-3907.

This event is held in coordination with the Lucketts Community Center Spring Yard Sale.

Freeze-O-Ree

One Friday evening after school, a group of scouts prepare for their awaiting adventure at Bear’s Den. Around 7 pm, the scouts headed into cars and went on the journey. When they got to camp, they set up their tents in patches of snow. The next morning the scouts woke up, cooked breakfast, and prepared for the activities planned for the day.

After breakfast, Scoutmaster Joe Elarde taught the boys about fire building. Then the scouts split into two groups and prepared the base of their fire. The younger scouts were able to light their fire with one match, while the older scouts were unable to. Once the fire was going, both groups settled down and cooked lunch on the fire for the fire cooking contest. The younger patrol made hot dogs, cooked on sticks, and the older patrol cooked steak on rocks. When the cooking finished, the older scouts were voted winners by the younger patrol.

After lunch the Scouts relaxed in camp and played cards and circled the fire. At night when the fire was put out, a majority of the scouts sang around the embers, before going to bed. The next day everyone was up and the snow had melted leaving the ground muddy. The scouts cleaned up camp, and backpacked down Bear’s Den. At the bottom, scouts chose to skip lunch and to just drive home.





Keeping Lucketts Beautiful

Bethel United Methodist Honors Local Tradition

By Pat Logue

On Saturday March 30th, several dozen members of Bethel United Methodist Church and Lucketts residents gathered to work cleaning up the litter on Stumptown Road. It is a Bethel United Methodist Church tradition that pre-dates the founding of Keep Loudoun Beautiful, and was started by the late Fern Jenkins more than 50 years ago!

Mrs. Jenkins lived on the hill above Bethel Church and had a large family. Every spring she organized a full day of activity for her children and other Lucketts youth cleaning up the litter on Stumptown Road. The day started with a hot breakfast, cooked in the

kitchen and served in the Community Room of Bethel Church. Teams were then deployed to work sections of the road until all litter was picked up and bagged for proper disposal. After a lunch of hot dogs with all the fixings a softball game commenced on the field next to the Church. All had a full, fun and productive day.

Bethel United Methodist Church has made this an annual community tradition event ever since. Donuts and coffee have replaced the hot breakfast, and many of the volunteers have hung up their bats, balls and softball gear for good. VDOT and Keep Loudoun Beautiful now support this effort as well with appropriate bags and safety gear to complete the mission effectively.



You and local organizations can get involved with this community effort.

Please visit Keep Loudoun Beautiful's table when you come to the America's Routes event at the Lucketts Community Center on May 22 at 7:30PM. Representatives from KLB will be on hand with our local leaders to share more details on what it takes to organize these efforts. History of this organization and more details about their work is available at their website keeploudounbeautiful.org.

Tammy Jenkins Worcester, Fern's daughter, kicked off the organizing for this year's event. "I've been doing this since before I was born! My mother started this effort while she was pregnant with me," she shared with the group present to work that morning. After refreshments and socializing, Tammy organized volunteers into teams of two and sent them to locations along the entire length of Stumptown Road by 9:00AM. The road was picked clean by about 10:30 so volunteers continued and worked a large section of New Valley Church Road as well that day. Both tasks were completed before noon, and once again all involved had a full, fun and productive day. Many hands make light work as they say.

We have three local coordinators from Keep Loudoun Beautiful. Pam Bove to the east and Scott Wallace to the west share responsibility for "Lucketts" proper. Alicia Groncki coordinates cleanup on the roads in Selma Estates and serves on the Keep Loudoun Beautiful Board of Directors. More coordinators are needed and the coordinators we have need more volunteers to insure that every inch of our beautiful community is cleaned of litter on a regular cycle.



Photos by Pat Logue

A new-old home for News & Notes

The Lucketts Community Center to host ECHO team

The mailing processes for the Lucketts News and Notes (LNN) have found a new home and it is right in our own back yard. For nine years the LNN has been processed in Leesburg by ECHO Direct Mail. The printing was delivered directly to their offices on Lawson Road and processed with the help of individuals with disabilities. Working with

Lana Heaslip, Director of Business Development for ECHO and Hilary Cooley, Director of the Lucketts Community Center, a plan is now in place to bring a team of mailing specialists to the Lucketts Community Center to prepare the quarterly mailing. The LNN has come home and we can look forward to continued professional mailing services from ECHO. For more information about ECHO, visit echoworks.org.



Lucketts NEWS & NOTES

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Cut out and keep for reference



**Fill the shelves.
We need a Ton
of Food!**



Lucketts Community Pantry at Faith Chapel Church

Donations can be dropped off at Trash & Recycling on Saturdays 8 a.m. to noon at the Lucketts Elementary School OR anytime on the porch at Faith Chapel Church on Chapel Lane in Lucketts. In-season fruit and vegetables from home gardens and eggs from home flocks will be accepted by arrangement. Call (703) 608-8616.

**Monetary donation jar available
during Saturday Trash & Recycling
service from 8 a.m. to noon.**

**These items are most
frequently needed at the
pantry at Faith Chapel.**

- ☐ Canned Fruit (no salt or sugar added, please)
- ☐ Dry Beans
- ☐ Rice
- ☐ Cooking Oil
- ☐ Cereal / Breakfast Foods
- ☐ Canned Chicken
- ☐ Toiletries
- ☐ Cleaning Supplies (small sizes)
- ☐ Feminine Products
- ☐ Paper Products
- ☐ **Monetary donations accepted!**



Photo by Mary Gustafson





SAVE THE DATE!



A presentation by America's Routes, a committee of the Mosby Heritage Area, to showcase Loudoun County's endangered network of historic rural roads and the communities built around them.

**Wednesday, May 22, 7:30 - 9:00 pm
at the Lucketts Community Center.**

No admission, donations appreciated. All proceeds directly benefit America's Routes.
Sponsored by the LCCAB and the Lucketts Ruritan Club.
For more information visit luckettsruritan.org

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