

Lucketts

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

NEWS & NOTES



150 years old and getting younger every day

It's the cute one right on Route 15 in Lucketts: Christ Church, the church that looks like it came out of central casting for a small country church. Of course, that's exactly what it is, a small country church but unlike almost every other church in America it's growing, not shrinking.

Between 1954 and 1988 the church was closed and gradually fell into disrepair. The community rallied resources and saw to its restoration. Since its rebirth, some 50 to 60 people call themselves members of Christ Church. Each week, as they have for 150 years, this Episcopal congregation meets for prayer, fellowship and the best coffee hour this side of a four-star restaurant. And it is growing. This time a year-and-a-half ago, the congregation was half the size it is now.

"We are pretty informal at Christ Church," said Susan Lee, Sr. Warden. "Episcopal Churches can be 'high' church or so-called 'low' church based on the level of formality or pomp and circumstance. We're about as low church as you can get. Nobody here is asking where you bought your designer suit."

The theology of Christ Church is somewhat different as well. About a year and a half ago they adopted a vision or mission statement that says 'we don't care who you love, as long



Restored Stained glass dove window dedicated to Joshua Gore on whose land Christ Church was begun in 1773.

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The sanctuary as seen from the balcony

as you love; we don't care who you voted for, as long as you love; we don't care where you are on your spiritual journey, as long as you love. If you love, welcome home!

"Benefit-of-the-doubt spirituality, is what we call it," said Pattie Palmer, a life-long member of the parish. "We figure if you are in our pews you must love so we don't really care what your politics are. We are truly a large tent congregation."

Christ Church is also completely lay-led. After their Vicar retired in 2017, they requested permission not to call a priest at that time, but rather to call a layperson to lead the parish. Kurt Aschermann, a former member of the parish, who was trained and licensed to lead, was called and serves as Lay Pastoral Leader. "We're like the early church," commented Aschermann. "The early church got together to talk about the Jesus Way and try to figure out how to do it. That's what we do. You won't hear a deep theological discussion at Christ Church. All we talk about is what did Jesus ask us to do and how the heck can we do it?"

Recently receiving official state Historic Preservation Easement, Christ Church holds on to the old by honoring those that came before, while moving boldly into the new by welcoming anybody that comes through the door. Betty Hutchison, the parish music minister says, "half of the parish, maybe more, aren't even Episcopalians. We don't ask and we don't care. As long as you love, we say welcome home!"

For information about Christ Church visit www.christchurchlucketts.org

Activities throughout the year at Christ Church

Check website for updates and more details christchurchlucketts.org.



Juggler entertains at the beloved Strawberry Festival event happening every first Saturday in June.

Choir | Monday nights, September through June. Sing in Church on first Sunday | at the church

Book Club | Third Thursday of each month except July and August | at the church house

Morning Prayer | Every Wednesday at 10 am. | at the church

Bible Study | Every other Wednesday after Morning Prayer alternating with Prayer Shawl Ministry | at the church house

Prayer Shawl Ministry | For those who like to knit | Every other Wednesday alternating with Bible Study

Easter Egg Hunt | Easter Sunday | on the church grounds

Blessing of the Animals | Sunday closest to October 4 | on the church grounds

Service Sunday | Every 5th Sunday performs a community service

Lenten Studies | Once a year during Lent

Advent Studies | Once a year during Advent

Support a Missionary in Kenya

Support a Priest in Tanzania

Support area non-profit organizations

Strawberry Festival | First Saturday in June

Provide dinners for PEP (Parents as Educational Partners) at Lucketts Elementary School

Sunday School | First and Third Sundays during school year | at the church house

"Conversations on Faith" | Conversations with leaders of other faiths lead by lay pastor Kurt Aschermann

Loudoun Lyric Opera | December 2019

Black Swamp—Home to Christ Church

By Eugene Scheel, excerpted from *Loudoun Discovered, Volume Two, Loudoun and the Old Carolina Road*

In 1868, David William Fry, master-builder of the Lost Corner, built the first structure in Black Swamp. It was the board-and-batten Christ Church, which locally took the name Goresville Church, then Black Swamp Church. Christ Church was typical of many Virginia country churches built in the lean years after the Civil War. With labor and money short, the board-and-batten method was in vogue.

Located six miles north of Leesburg on the James Monroe Highway, then the Point of Rocks Turnpike, Black Swamp is often mistaken for Goresville, one-half mile to the south. Goresville, once the major trading center of the Lost Corner, and a post office, 1854-1892, began to decline after the post office closed. With the paving of Route 15 north of Limestone Branch in 1930, most of the Goresville buildings were removed. One of these buildings was a house on the west side of the pike. There, an Episcopal congregation had met, but for how long, no one living knows.

It may have gone way back to colonial times, for in September 1773, Joshua Gore sold a quarter acre to the vestrymen of Shelburne Parish, the land described only as on “North side of the great Road.”

The trustees of “Goresville Church,” as the deed called it, bought one acre up the road toward Lucketts, in late May 1869, and by August 20, David Fry had completed the building. It was his second venture into constructing a house of worship, having already built the Bethel Church at nearby Stumptown, the name being coined by Fry after he cut down too many trees for his sawmill in the 1880s. Some of that lumber went into his 1885 Faith Chapel near Lucketts.

As Goresville waned in the muddy drains of the Todhunter’s Branch, Black Swamp, fifteen feet higher, grew. About 1890 the frame parsonage joined Christ Church, and they are still linked by an iron picket fence across the breadth of their front yards. During the first decades of the 20th century, the big event at the church was the June strawberry and ice cream festival, the gala of the Lost Corner.



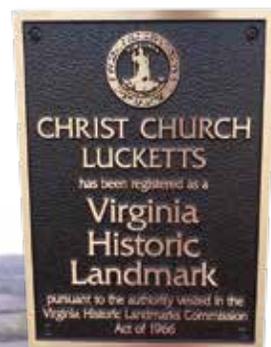
An early 80's view of the inside before restoration. Below, the same window and doorway today.



The Church as it appeared in the mid-80's before restoration



On the left is the church house where Sunday School and other activities are held, sits next door to the historic landmark



Four Seniors Receive Lucketts Ruritan Club Scholarships

By Pat Logue

The antidote to pessimism is easy to find at Tuscarora High School. The four students who are recipients of the 2019 Lucketts Ruritan Scholarships will give you many reasons to be very hopeful for the future of our world, our country and our grandchildren. Katelyn Geibel, Emily Kessler, Ally Shaffer, and Nicole Shea each received a \$3,600 scholarship from the Lucketts Ruritan Club towards the cost of their post-graduate studies at Tuscarora's Senior Awards Ceremony, held on June 3rd. Scholarships are awarded by the Club based on academic achievement, community service, personal essay, and letters of recommendation to graduating seniors from any public or private high school (including home school programs) who live in Lucketts. Applications are reviewed and ranked by the Point of Rocks Ruritan Club who recommends which applicants are to be recognized with an award each year.



Katelyn uses both sides of her brain; making beautiful specialty cakes when she is not designing rockets or stargazing!



Katelyn Geibel, Tuscarora's 2019 Valedictorian will attend Virginia Tech and hopes to use her aerospace engineering degree to explore opportunities in space. She wrote "I am struck with a feeling of awe by the sky's natural works of art," in her application essay. And she is experienced with overcoming gravity! As a freshman she joined the school's Academic Club, competing for honors against other local schools in "Jeopardy!" like competitions. That year the Club took last place. By her senior year the Club achieved 2nd place in the regionals, exceeded only by magnet school Thomas Jefferson. Katelyn was prompted to found the school's Rocketry Club so Tuscarora could compete for honors in the Team America Rocketry Challenge. Having no experience designing rockets, and with no adult coaches in their club – the team succeeded in designing and building a rocket that actually launched!



Emily is never far from her cello



Emily Kessler is headed to American University in the fall and will work towards a degree in International Studies. She has been involved in the Model United Nations throughout high school and served as the club's public relations /social media liaison. Club membership increased from 5 to 35 students through these efforts. Working at Noodles & Company she has learned to perform under pressure through patience and teamwork in a diverse and unpredictable environment. Good experience for her future career in international relations! Emily was introduced to the cello in elementary school. A member of the orchestra at both Smarts Mill and Tuscarora, her cello will go off to American University with her where together they will bond with other students who love to relax making music.

Ally Shaffer is also headed to Virginia Tech and was drawn to the school's service orientation and agricultural setting. She is interested in both national security and marketing. Tuscarora has a Peer-to-Peer program where Ally mentored middle and high school students at risk due to life situations they face. Ever a believer in the power of a good campaign, she filled her home with hand-painted t-shirts with the message "Stand Up to Stop" to support Peer-to-Peer's anti-bullying campaign. No stranger to discipline and hard work, Ally is a regular volunteer at the Lucketts Food Pantry at Faith Chapel and gets up before school every day to tend to her family's seven horses. This spring she worked at Gruto's Ice Cream in downtown Leesburg while riding horses several times a week as well as competing on weekends. How does she do it all? "I make my list, get things done and get to bed early!" Great advice for all of us from this graduate!



"Stand up to Stop" bullying shirts filled Ally's home; part of her busy day includes the care of her horses.



Nicole Shea fell in love with Mary Washington the first day she visited the University. She immediately felt at home. After dissecting a frog and a squid in 5th grade, her reaction was to ask for a second squid to dismember. Her sights were ever set on a career in medicine. Nicole assisted at Tuscarora's Head Start pre-school program and earned (through State of Virginia testing) certification as a Pre-School Teaching Assistant! This exposure, as well as various camp counseling roles, has piqued her interest in pediatric medicine. Introduced to Key Club her freshman year Nicole served as it's President this past year. A well-seasoned soccer player, excelling at mid-field coverage, Nicole switched her focus to track and cross-country in high school. The physical and mental discipline of running is something she could do for her whole life. Good judgment from this future physician!



Nicole's job at Temple Hall gave her a new opportunity to work with kids in the park's famous Corn Maze.

In addition to these four scholarships, the Lucketts Ruritan Club provides Citizenship Awards to each of the three schools serving Lucketts families. **Spencer Anderson** received the Citizenship Award for Tuscarora at the same ceremony.

Georgia Malik for Smarts Mill and **Ella Quist** for Lucketts Elementary also received Citizenship awards at each school's annual awards ceremony as well. School administration and faculty decide the Citizenship Awards.





Ruritans in the Lucketts community

By Pat Logue

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

Calendar

August – October 2019

August 13 at Lucketts Community Center

7:30-9pm. Dinner and meeting. **Speaker:** Hilary Cooley of the Lucketts Community Center and a representative of the Lucketts Bluegrass Foundation to talk about the Bluegrass Festival.

September 10 at Lucketts Community

Center 7:30-9pm. Dinner and meeting. **Speaker:** TBD

October 1 at Lucketts Community Center

7:00-9pm. **Meet the Candidates** See page 11 Save the Date for more informations. **All are welcome!**

October 8 at Lucketts Community Center

7:30-9pm. Dinner and meeting. **Speaker:** Professional financial advisor to address financing non-profit organizations.

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

Ruritan Club Celebrates 40 Years

On Tuesday, May 14th, Club President Peter Gustafson called the monthly membership meeting to order to a packed auditorium at the Lucketts Community Center. Local community leaders, friends and family of the Lucketts Ruritan Club gathered to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Club's founding in 1979.

Bill Harrison, of the Loudoun Farm History Museum opened the meeting with details about the founding years of the Club and its significance to the community. John Adams recalled the contributions achieved by the Club in opening remarks, including the preservation of the same Lucketts Community Center building in the early 1980's.

Attendees were treated to a fried chicken dinner with all the fixings prepared by the Ladies Auxiliary of Furnace Mountain Church. Charter members John Adams, Dick Snooks and Stan Sorrell cut the special cake prepared for the celebration. Club members were also honored with the gift of a special 40th Anniversary commemorative portfolio during the dinner portion of the evening.



Charter members Stan Sorrell, John Adams and Dick Snooks



Michael Myers presenting on the 87-acre wildlife sanctuary

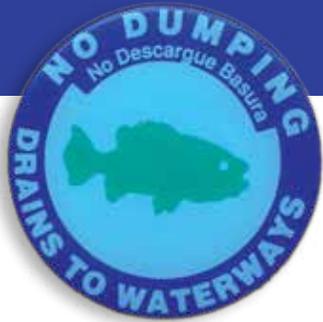
Before introducing the evening's speakers,

Michael Myers, Executive Director of Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy, and Joe Coleman, President of LWC Peter dedicated the evening to Ruritan member Ludlow Clark. Mr. Clark passed away on March 25th and was the local catalyst for preservation of an 87-acre tract of land just west of the village. Mr. Myers featured the significance of that land to now be known as JK Black Oak Wildlife Sanctuary in the evening's presentation. (For more info see Summer 2018 issue of Lucketts News & Notes "Score One for Wildlife" at LuckettsRuritanClub.org).

The Club meets the second Tuesday of every month (except for July and December) at 7:30 PM at the Lucketts Community Center and is open to all members of the community interested in joining the organization.



All are welcome to meetings to enjoy dinner, interesting speakers and camaraderie



Storm Water Drain Project Attracts Local Families

Kids and parents alike are concerned about preserving our environment. Finding projects where busy families can work together to save our water, our land, or our air is a focus of the Ruritan Club Environmental Committee. On Saturday, April 27th, about eighteen local students and adults joined Ruritan Club members Barbara Scott and Jay Frankenfield to help mark storm water drains in Village Green. They organized the project with the help of Karyn Price (Rudy Youth Club) and Cortney Heykoop (Girl Scouts).

Jay works for the Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District (LSWCD). He obtained materials for the project from the county and gave a presentation for the participants on how water is cleaned either by nature, by using storm water management structures, or through specialized treatment plants. There are over 140 storm water drains in Village Green, some of which were previously marked by students of Lucketts Elementary (PTA Club: River Rangers). However, with the new buildout of additional homes more storm drains were installed that needed to be marked. Also, with time, the markers undergo normal wear and tear and need to be replaced. Marking these drains is a reminder to citizens to keep the drains clear for rainwater runoff as well as to avoid the dumping of any other liquids, which could contaminate our local water supply. The day was a little windy but otherwise perfect! The kids had fun learning about all types of water, such as gray water, rain water, and sewage, and how it is 'processed', either by nature or by means of a treatment plant. All were engaged and asked a lot of good questions!

Look for information on upcoming community events from the Environment Committee of the Ruritan Club on our Facebook page. A tree planting at JK Black Oak Wildlife Sanctuary, as well as other storm water drain marking projects, are planned for later this year.

Barbara Scott and Jay Frankenfield led the group of young storm drain markers, showing them how and why this is an important environmental stewardship activity.



Parking with Professionals

On May 17 – 19 the Lucketts Ruritan Club managed parking for over 1000 cars a day at the Lucketts Spring Market held at the Clark County Fairgrounds in Berryville. The multi-day event raised \$4000 to fund the scholarship and other community support activities of the Club. The event draws a national audience and outgrew its original location on Lucketts Road two years ago.



A deer fence to honor Melanie's memory

Melanie Brose always wanted to have a deer fence built to protect her beloved vegetable gardens and orchard. Before she could make it happen, her days were tragically cut short as an ice-covered branch broke from a tree on her property last winter and ended her life. The New Ag School, the Lucketts Ruritan Club and the Brose family rallied in a collective effort to install the deer fence she always wanted. On May 4, 2019 Melanie's dream was fulfilled.

As winter drizzled into spring, browsing wildlife became more active and the necessity for the deer fence more urgent. Melanie's husband, Robert, reached out to Doug Fabboli, (Lucketts Ruritan member and owner of Fabboli Cellars), the Founder/Director of the New Ag School to seek help with the deer fence project. As soon as Doug heard about the project, he did not think twice. Not only would helping Robert be compassionate but it would realize a dream for a member of the Lucketts community, and help others learn about this type of agricultural endeavor.

The New Ag School's main objectives are to promote, develop and support workforce development in the agricultural industry. But it goes beyond that. The New Ag School is also about bringing communities together. That is why the deer fence project was not only the opportunity to make this project a training program but to help a neighbor through a challenging event. The volunteers benefitted from hands-on training. The Lucketts Ruritan Club, a community service organization, provided



financial support for a “module”, or class, on Fencing. In addition to a Fencing module The New Ag School will teach various classes ranging from the Mentors Development Program to Saturday on the Farm and the online training platform Pract.us.

Doug Fabboli, who managed the project explained “When I received the note from Robert and connected the dots of his land and his wife, there was no question that I had to get involved. Land stewardship and farming was a passion of Melanie and Robert Brose. They purchased the farmette at the top of the hill on Stumptown Road for the views, the space available, the grape growing possibilities and because it was in the heart of the burgeoning wine industry. After Melanie lost her life we had to act and quickly, as the deer were eating everything Robert had on his farm. I also brought the Lucketts Ruritan Club on board for support and I think that teaming up with the Ruritan adds the element of fellowship and community service”.

The New Ag School reached out to the Lucketts Ruritan Club for help and in collaboration with the Brose family they built a fence, supported a community and taught valuable skills to aspiring agricultural professionals. Overheard at the time was “Build a Fence, Build a Dream: Lend Your Muscles for a cause”. **Visit NewAgSchool.org for more information and how you can participate.**



Our Mission

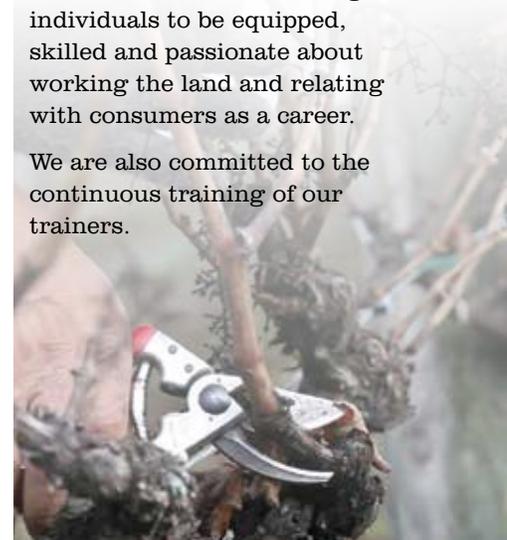
The New Ag School (NAS) seeks to develop a workforce that can meet the needs of the shared economy of Loudoun County. Specifically, NAS focuses on agribusiness education, particularly in the areas of farming, value-added process and hospitality.

NAS recognizes and celebrates the following advantages to an agriculture-based economy:

- exposure to and availability of locally grown food
- a reconnection to nature
- preservation of open space for all to enjoy
- exposure to how agribusiness, farms and agri-tourism provide value to Loudoun County

NAS is dedicated to training individuals to be equipped, skilled and passionate about working the land and relating with consumers as a career.

We are also committed to the continuous training of our trainers.





Inaugural Bluegrass Festival comes to Lucketts!

For 46 years Bluegrass concerts have graced the Lucketts stage on Saturday nights. This Fall, the Lucketts Bluegrass Foundation and the Lucketts Community Center Advisory Board (LCCAB) are joining together to host the First Annual Lucketts Bluegrass Festival!

Bluegrass music was also at the heart of the Lucketts Fair for all those years. The Fair was the major fundraiser for the LCCAB whose funds helped with upkeep and improvements to the Community Center as well as scholarships for Preschool, Afterschool and Camps. After retiring the Fair, the two organizations felt it would be fitting to have a festival to celebrate Bluegrass Music and raise money for both groups.

Many sponsors are supporting the venture as well, including Gladhill Tractor, Melody Music, Arbor Artists, Farm Credit, Roots 657, Bridle Path, Fabboli Cellars, PRCS, Valley Energy and Loudoun Now. The audience will enjoy music by The Grascals, Hillbilly Gypsies, Man About a Horse and Michael Cleveland and Flamekeeper.

Information and tickets are available at festival.luckettsbluegrass.org or by calling 703-771-5281. Tickets are \$35 at the gate or \$30 in advance.

The festival is September 14th, rain or shine, at the Lucketts Community Center, from 10am to 6 pm.



Summer

at the Lucketts Community Center

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

CAMPS

- July 15-July 19** **Preschool Fun Camp** (ages 3-5)-Silly Snacks. \$125 a week | 9:00am to 1:00pm each day
- July 15-July 19** **Lazy Days Camp** (ages 6-11) \$165 a week. Field Trips to Discovery Museum and Ida Lee for swimming | 9:00am to 4:00pm each day
- July 22-July 26** **Preschool Fun Camp** (ages 3-5) Fun in the Sun. \$125 a week | 9:00am to 1:00pm each day
- July 22-July 26** **Lazy Days Camp** (Ages 6-11) \$165 a week. Field Trips to Cunningham Falls Park and Harpers Ferry | 9:00am to 4:00 pm each day
- July 29-Aug. 2** **Preschool Fun Camp** (ages 3-5) Superhero Academy. \$125 a week | 9:00am to 1:00pm each day
- July 29-Aug. 2** **Lazy Days Camp** (Ages 6-11)\$165 a week. Field Trips to Cunningham Falls and Ida Lee Parks | 9:00am to 4:00pm each day
- Aug. 5-9** **Lazy Days Camp** (Ages 6-11) \$165 a week. Field Trip to Museum of the Shenandoah Valley | 9:00am to 4:00pm each day

FUN FREE SUMMER EVENTS!

- Aug. 2** **Splash Day for Children** (ages 1-5). Must be accompanied by an adult | 10:00am to 11:00am.
- Aug. 16** **Family Movie Night**, (all ages), Come and enjoy a movie, we provide the popcorn! | 7:00-9:30pm
- Aug. 21** **Senior Potluck Luncheon** | Noon-2:00pm
- Aug. 23** **DMV-to-Go** Lucketts Community Center Parking Lot | 9:00am-3:00pm
- Aug. 28** **Senior Book Club** | 10:00-11:30pm
- Sept. 3** **3 Year Old Preschool Opens**
- Sept. 4** **4 Year Old Preschool Opens**

PRESCHOOL AGE CLASSES

- Sept. 17-Oct. 15** **Music for Little Ones** (ages up to 4) | 10:15-11:00am
- Oct. 22-Nov. 26** **Music for Little Ones Session 2** | 10:15-11:00am
- Sept. 28** **Music for Kids** (all ages) | 10:00am
- Oct. 26** **Music for Kids** (all ages) | 10:00am
- Sept. 18** **Science Club** (ages 4 & 5) | 11:30am
- Sept. 16** **Sporties for Shorties** (ages 3-5) | 11:30am
- Sept. 18** **Creative Movement** (ages 3-5) | 11:30am
- Sept. 12-Nov. 21** **Lunch Bunch for 3's** | 11:30am
- Sept. 13-Nov. 22** **Lunch Bunch for 4's** | 11:30am
- Sept. 26-Oct. 31** **Preschool Story Time** | 10:00am

ELEMENTARY AGE CLASSES

- Sept. 19-Oct. 17** **Cooking for Kids Soup to Nuts** | 2:45-4:00pm
- Oct. 4** **Parents Night Out – Lego Lunacy** | 6:00-9:30pm
- Sept. 10-Oct. 15** **USTA Tennis** | 2:45-3:45pm

ADULT PROGRAMS

- Sept. 10-Oct. 15** **USTA Tennis** | 6:00pm-7:00pm

SPECIAL EVENTS

- Sept. 14** **The First Annual Lucketts Bluegrass Festival** | 10:00am-6:00pm
- Sept. 21** **The Annual Lucketts Yard Sale** | 8:00am-1:00pm
- Oct. 5-Dec. 21** **Lucketts Bluegrass** | Saturday Nights 7:00pm
- Oct. 18** **Mrs. Lucketts Haunted Playground** | 7:00-8:30pm

Meet the Candidates!

The Lucketts Ruritan Club will host a Meet the Candidates event at the Lucketts Community Center. This event will provide an opportunity for you to meet candidates running for offices affecting the future of the Lucketts area.

- What** An opportunity for Lucketts area citizens to meet the candidates
- Who** Candidates running for offices to represent Lucketts area citizens
- When** Tuesday, October 1, 2019, 7 – 9 pm
- Where** Lucketts Community Center
- Why** To provide a forum for Lucketts citizens to meet the candidates
- How** Each candidate will make a three minute presentation. After presentations candidates will be available for one on one discussions

Lucketts NEWS & NOTES

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Can You Reduce Your Real Estate Taxes?

Loudoun County has multiple ways for a landowner of at least 5 acres to reduce their real estate taxes. The basic categories for the Land Use Program are Open Space, Forestry, and Agriculture/Horticulture.

Open Space option #1 If you live along Route 15, you may qualify through the Scenic Resource Protection option. Route 15 from the Point of Rocks Bridge to Route 50 is considered a scenic by-way. If you own 5 acres, excluding the homesite, and have 300 feet of Route 15 road frontage, you qualify.

Open Space option #2 If you have 20 acres, excluding the homesite, and enroll your property in the Agricultural and Forestal District (AFD) Program, you qualify. Note: The requirement used to be 5 acres and there are many properties still grandfathered in on this basis.

Forestry If you have 20 acres of forest, excluding homesite, and an active forest management plan, you qualify.

Agriculture/Horticulture If you have 5 acres, excluding homesite, and show a 5-year history of bona fide production, and revenue of \$1,000 per year, you qualify.

Separate from the Land Use Program and previously mentioned in this article is the Agricultural and Forestal District Program. AFD's are conservation zones reserved for agriculture, forestry, and open space land. They are made up of a core of at least 200 acres and parcels within 1 mile of the core may join. When joining an AFD, the property owners agree not to convert their farm, forestland and other open space lands to more intense use for a set number of years, usually 4. "In return, the County and Commonwealth agree not to take actions or make infrastructure investments that will place increased pressure on landowners to convert land in the AFD to more intense land uses..."

Some benefits of belonging to an AFD guarantees you will have land use value taxation even if the County rescinds its land use program. AFD's offer some protection from eminent domain. Acquisition of land for power lines, roadways, and other infrastructure within an AFD is subject to a special public review process. Also, local governments may not enact laws within an AFD that would unreasonably restrict farm structures, farming or forestry practices.

There are 3 AFDs that a Lucketts landowner might be eligible to join. If your land is not geographically eligible, you may pursue forming a new AFD core. There are no minimum parcel acreage requirements.

There are more tax reducing options, including placing your land under a conservation easement, that were not mentioned in this article. To learn about other options and to download an application form for reducing your real estate tax, visit www.loudoun.gov/652/Land-Use-Assessment-Program. For more info about the AFD Program, visit www.loudoun.gov/2471/Agricultural-Forestal-Districts.

Lucketts Girl Scout Troop 751 Finishes the Year Strong

By Cortney Heycoop

Living near the nation’s Capital provides a wide range of opportunities for local Girl Scout troops to engage in badge and service activity. This spring our local Troop 751 made four trips into Washington DC to work on patches and badges connected to government, history, statuary and gardening by visiting important sites and national landmarks.

They also participated in the annual Women in Aviation Day sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution’s Udvar-Hazy Center at Dulles Airport. The day is filled with Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) activities for girls helping them earn badges in Rocketry, as well as Mechanical and Electrical Engineering. Those badges serve as preparation for continued badge projects in computer engineering, flight and space science. A new feature of the day this year was access to a flight simulator for some real hands-on opportunities.

Two community service projects were completed this spring as well. Focusing first on the environment, the troop participated in the Storm Drain Marking project offered by the Ruritan Club Environment Committee, and made signs for the recycling containers used by the community on Saturday mornings at Lucketts Elementary. The reusable signs focused on rules that promote good recycling habits were presented to the Ruritan Club at the June membership meeting. In addition, the girls worked with Cloverleaf Wealth Strategies to convert “Lucketts Loot” (earned individually at school for positive behavior) into cash that purchased items needed by the Lucketts Food Pantry.

All students at Lucketts Elementary could participate! A double win was that the girls set a good example twice with this approach to the school’s positive reinforcement program!

The end of the year was marked with a Father/ Daughter Camp out at Three Otters Eco-Retreat in West Virginia’s panhandle on the Potomac River. The mission of the center is “To create a safe, fun, engaging and earth-friendly retreat that educates and inspires people to unplug and connect to the natural world,” – a welcome opportunity for both the scouts and their Dads!

The Troop is planning a week-long camp to kick-off their upcoming school year in August. Hosted locally at the Village Green Clubhouse, older scouts will teach and mentor the younger scouts toward completion of badges for their 2019-2020 program.



Participation in Women in Aviation Day at Udvar-Hazy Center



Presentation of “No Plastic Bags” signs during the Lucketts Ruritan Club’s monthly meeting. Signs to be posted on the recycling containers.



Campfire cooking during the Father/ Daughter Campout



Scouts learning why it’s important to mark the drains and to encourage people not to pour anything into them that could contaminate the water.

The “Colors” Are Passed

At the quarterly Troop 1910 Court-Of-Honor, the Troop colors were passed from outgoing Scoutmaster, Joe Elarde to incoming Scoutmaster, Mike Johnson. Scoutmaster Elarde has served as the Scoutmaster for Troop 1910 for the last five years. In those years, he has seen his two sons become Eagle Scouts along with 23 other Eagle Scouts. He has mentored, guided, advised and taught valuable lessons, all around the Scout law: A Scout will be Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean and Reverent.



The Scouts and the leadership wish to thank Joe for his service to the Troop, the commitment to youth of the Lucketts community, and the friendship to the leaders.

Our incoming Scoutmaster, Mike Johnson, is a Lucketts resident and a Lucketts Ruritan Club member. He and his son joined Troop 1910 together and have been active participants and engaged in the activities of the Troop and the Troop Adult Committee. Mike will be a valued asset to the continued success of Troop 1910.



My Best. Spring. Break. Ever!

This year, Troop 1910 planned a five-day hike on the Appalachian Trail for spring break. This part of the trail was special as our troop had not hiked in this area before. On the first day, arriving at dusk, we still had a half a mile to hike before we could set-up camp. We hiked past an abandon zoon breeding facility which was creepy and interesting at the same time. Towards the end of the first day we all were very tired because there was a lot of uphill. The first day was lots of fun in spite of the late start. Good night and rest.

The second day we got an early start. The forecast said, a huge storm was supposed to come in the area. Later in the day, we noticed that fog started to descend. The temperature dropped, so we hurried to set-up camp. However, it was too late. Descending the hill for camp the heavy precipitation started but we kept positive attitudes and walked. Pitched tents only to wake up the next morning with almost everything soaked.

The next two days we got to camp super-fast so we could play games, take naps, and dry our stuff. We met a fellow hiker who happen to stay at the same campsites. On the last day we woke early. Campers could eat breakfast. Hike to pick-up site, eat lunch. This was an amazing, beautiful hike and definitely my spring break highlight.



A Great Year for Troop 1910

BSA Troop 1910 held its Annual Yard Sale for the 20th year on May 18th. This yard sale is held in conjunction with that hosted at the Lucketts Community Center. Residents from the Lucketts community donate items to the Troop for three weeks prior to the sale. During the three weeks the Troop collects, sorts, prices, and store items in a building generously donated by a Lucketts resident. With the Yard Sale upon them, Troops and volunteers transport items from the barn to the community center. The Scouts unpack and display for sale all of the wonderful collected treasures. Unsold items are repacked and stored away for a future TBD. The Lucketts community has always been very generous, and the volunteers have given many hours of work. Troop 1910 and the leadership are grateful for all of those who donate goods and hours of time to make this effort such a success.

But the fun for the scouts doesn't stop with the Yard Sale. Troop 1910 is very active with monthly outings involving hiking, camping, canoe trips, rock climbing, caving and more. Activities in the summer are highly anticipated and makes all the work they do in the off season so much more worthwhile.

First is Boy Scout Summer Camp. Camp is a week long and open to all ages of scouts in the Troop. Scouts enjoy working on merit badges, rank advancements, camp games and the camaraderie of fellow scouts in the Troop. Adult scouts who attend Camp enjoy learning more about Scouting and how they can contribute to the positive experience for the younger scouts in the Troop.

Next, comes High Adventure trips for older Scouts. This year it is a week long wilderness canoe trip in the beautiful Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. The Boundary Waters is a 1,090,000-acre wilderness area within the Superior National Forest in the northeastern part of Minnesota under the administration of the U.S. Forest Service. Our scouts learn teamwork, wilderness camping, navigation by maps, fishing adventures and are introduced to a pristine environment. For many, this is a trip of a lifetime.

Summer continues with a family pool outing. This is a chance for all families to gather locally, meet each other, share in the tales of the adventures from the summer and just have a grand time together before the season comes to a close.

Campsite at Camp Henson the home of Boy Scout summer camp



The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness beckons





Lucketts Bluegrass Festival

September 14, 2019  **10 a.m. to 6 p.m.**

Rain or Shine at the Lucketts Community Center.

\$30 in advance  \$35 at the gate

festival.luckettsbluegrass.org  (703) 771-5281

Lucketts NEWS & NOTES

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