

Garden Guru Kent Russell to Speak Page 10 Annual Fried
Chicken Festival
Page 11

OCSS Fine Arts Fair Page 12



COMPANY SHOWCASE Sunday - May 5 (2:00pm) Piedmont Virginia Community College

MUSICAL THEATRE SHOWCASE May 15 & 16 (7:00pm) OSPA Firehouse Theatre

OSPA SPRING SHOWCASE June 1 (12:00pm & 2:30pm) Orange County High School Auditorium

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OC Magazine

A monthly publication

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General: OC Magazine is published monthly by Valley Publishing Corp. A total of 6,000 copies are circulated throughout Orange County. One copy is free, additional copies are \$1 each payable in advance to the publisher.

Display ad rates: For information including rates and deadlines call Judi Price at 434-207-0223

Subscriptions: Copies will be mailed for the subscription price of \$40 per year. Please mail a check and a note with your name and address to: *OC Magazine* Subscriptions Dept., P.O. Box 59, Palmyra, VA 22963.

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Next Advertising deadline: Wednesday. May 8, 2019

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Houses With History

Kit Houses in Orange County

By Barbara Wimble Correspondent

f you are a fan of HGTV like I am, wherein the complex world of homebuilding and decorating is entertainment, you may have heard about prefab houses that were very popular and widely marketed in the first half of the 20th century. I was first introduced to "Kit Houses" when Rose Thornton, considered to be the foremost authority on them, gave a talk for the Historic Staunton Foundation, where I was employed before moving to Orange. Finding her lecture fascinating, I caught the "kit house mania" and was excited to identify my bungalow in Staunton as one of them. When I moved to Orange, I continued to look for kit houses and during walks around town, began to suspect that several I saw were these pieces of Americana. I caught the fever again and was challenged to see how many I could identify. The venture wasn't as easy as I thought it would be, but I have enjoyed doing the research, exploring the neighborhoods, and meeting some very interesting people along the way. But first, let's define a kit house.

So, what is a Kit House?

You can buy anything on line today, right? A click on Amazon.com and the item is shipped to your door. But can you buy a house on line? Believe it or not, you could buy one through the mail over a century ago. Imagine buying a house from Ikea, having it delivered, and assembling it yourself! When one thinks of kits, toys and models come to mind, but a kit house is a full-size prefabricated home that could be ordered from a catalog.

The materials for the houses (and other buildings such as garages, summer cottages, barns, and chicken coops) were all custom-cut and labeled.



The owners of this circa 1914 house found Montgomery Ward labels and markings on the siding while doing an addition to the house. Photo by Barbara Wimble.

The building materials were taken to the closest train depot, loaded onto boxcars, and transported to their destination train station. Imagine the excitement of waiting at the station for your house to arrive! As noted in the Sears archives, "entire homes would arrive by railroad, from the precut lumber, carved staircases, down to the nails and varnish." The houses arrived in 12,000 pieces with detailed blueprints and a 75-page instruction book. In some cases, a foreman and construction crew were included in the price, although, Sears promised that a "man of average abilities" could have the house finished within 90 days!

At the train station, all of the parts were loaded onto wagons or trucks to be delivered to the site. The kit houses were usually constructed within one to two miles of a train station, and the roads needed to be adequate to handle the delivery of the materials.

Homebuyers could customize their house by choosing from a variety of built-in features offered in the catalogs, including fireplace mantles, shelves, drawers, china cupboards, ironing boards, breakfast alcoves, French doors, and medicine cabinets. Buyers also chose their hardware, plumbing, and lighting fixtures. The house plans even included a suggested layout of the furniture, such as where to put the "davenport" (a sofa). Now that's a term one doesn't hear too often anymore! Although not all of the homes were designed with central heating, indoor

See Kit Houses Page 4

The Cover



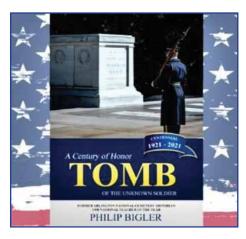
This house in Gordonsville, built circa 1910, is clearly a Sears Arlington design. Photo by Barbara Wimble.

Cover designed by Marilyn Ellinger.





UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE JAMES MADISON MUSEUM



Sunday, April 14 at 3:00 PM

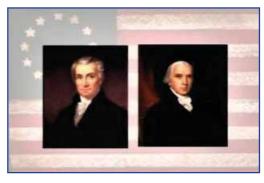
Book Talk & Signing

Philip Bigler has done it again; a beautifully presented and thoroughly, thoughtfully researched book on this revered National Monument as it approaches its 100th anniversary in 2021.



Saturday. May 4 from 9:00 AM- 5:00 PM

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Sunday, August 11 at 3:00 PM

Mr. Jarod Kearney, Curator of the James Monroe Museum & Memorial Library will talk about the unique friendship between James Monroe and James Madison

(540) 672-1776 jamesmadisonmuseuminfo@gmail.com Tickets: www.thejamesmadisonmuseum.net

The James Madison Museum of Orange County Heritage 129 Caroline St, Orange, Virginia 22960

Kit Houses from page 3



This charming Lynnhaven was built in 1930 in the town of Orange. Photo by Barbara Wimble.

plumbing, and electricity, these conveniences were all new developments in home design incorporated by these early prefab houses.

Kit houses offered lower costs and faster and easier on-site construction. There were models to accommodate any size family, budget, or individual taste. Like Henry Ford's mass production of Model T's, kit houses revolutionized access to homes in America by making them more affordable for a larger segment of society.

Sears ~ The Amazon of its Day

Sears, Roebuck and Co. was founded in Chicago in 1886 by Richard Warren Sears and Alvah Curtis Roebuck. At that time, mail order companies were being formed, and marketing of goods by mail became possible with the expansion of the railroad and rural postal delivery. Sears joined these two great networks, and by 1896, every homestead in America became within reach of the mail. The Sears catalog quickly became popular, and at one time, one-fifth of the country subscribed.

The catalog offered a range of products, including sewing machines, sporting goods, musical instruments, saddles, firearms, buggies, bicycles, baby carriages, clothing, and farm products from cream separators to plows. (I've been told that my grandmother ordered her corsets from the Sears catalog.) Imagine the excitement of flipping through the four-pound, 1,400 page catalog of more than 100,000 items, all of which could be delivered to your door!

Many of us remember, as I do as a child, pouring over the Sears catalog for Christmas ideas. Perusing an old catalog now is like looking into a window of the past. It is a record of what life was like in the late 19th and the 20th centuries through consumerism – a time capsule of what people bought.

When a family was finished with the catalog, it was often used as toilet paper in the outhouse - the ultimate recycling! (This was before glossy paper was used

in printing, of course.) Nothing was

wasted in those days. Sears sold building supplies from

1895-1900 through its general catalog and in 1906, realized that supplies could be shipped directly from the factory. Two years later, Sears issued the first specialty catalog for houses, Book of Modern Homes and Building Plans, which featured 22 styles from Cape Cods to Craftsman bungalows, elaborate mansions to three-room and no-bath cottages for summer vacationers (an outhouse could be purchased separately), ranging in price

from \$650-\$2,500. Consumers could

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A Sears Lynnhaven house built between 1936-38. Photo by Barbara Wimble.

with brand-new Sears goods from the catalog.

Between 1908 and 1940, when the Modern Homes program ended, Sears designed 447 different housing styles and sold more than 100,000 homes, in 48 states. Sears was not the first but was the largest and most well-known of the prefab home mail-order companies. Their rivals included Aladdin, Bennett

Homes, E.F. Hodgson, Harris Brothers, Montgomery Ward, and Sterling Homes.

E.F. Hodgson ~ One of the First Kit House Companies

Ernest. F. Hodgson, the founder of the E.F. Hodgson Company of Massachusetts,

See Kit Houses page 6

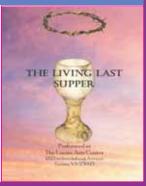
DOLLEY MADISON GARDEN CLUB Calendar of Events 2019 • HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK IN ORANGE Saturday, April 27 • CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION Dedication ceremony & ribbon cutting for the community gift Sunday, May 5 in Taylor Park • SUMMER CONCERT SERIES June, July, August in Taylor Park • COMMUNITY ZINNIA SHOW Saturday, September 14 in the Orange Community Room **DOLLEY MADISON GARDEN CLUB** Since 1919 WWW.DMGCVIRGINIA.ORG 1919 - 2019

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Kit Houses from Page 5

claimed that it was the first kit house company. In 1892, Hodgson began building chicken coops for small farmers. He developed a unique bolt-together system that enabled him to build the coops in prefabricated parts that could be shipped anywhere. This led to building kit sheds, dog houses, poultry houses, and cottages. In 1911, he built a factory next to the railroad yard and began shipping kit homes all over the United States and the world.

In the mid-20th century, kit houses were superseded by mobile, modular, and modern prefabricated homes. They aren't as popular as they were one hundred years ago, but have captured the imagination of history buffs and homebuyers, reviving interest in this classic way of building houses.



This handsome two-story house is a typical Sears Foursquare design.
Photo by Barbara Wimble.

Kit Houses in Orange County

According to Frank Walker's Tracks Through Time railroad guidebook of Orange County, between 1840 and 1921, five railroads laid their tracks through Orange County. The many stops included Barboursville, Gordonsville, Madison Run, Montpelier, Nasons, Orange, Somerset, Spotswood, and Unionville.

The railroad was important to the growth and prosperity of Orange County – and to the availability of kit houses. To test the premise that these houses can be found within one or two miles of a train station, I began my search with five train stops in Orange County – Montpelier Station, Somerset, the Town of Orange, Gordonsville, and Barboursville.



The Bassett House at Montpelier is a E.F. Hodges design. Photo by Barbara Wimble.

Montpelier Station

William duPont, , moved with his family to Montpelier in 1901. He then commuted from Montpelier to Delaware weekly for his position with the Delaware Trust Company in Wilmington. On Monday mornings, Mr. duPont's driver would take him by carriage to the Town of Orange to board the train to Wilmington, and he would return on Friday. He soon tired of this arrangement and made a deal with the Southern Railroad to put in a station at Montpelier. Plans were obtained from the railway, and the depot was built in 1911.

There are several kit buildings on the Montpelier property – four Sears barns, two prefabricated Montgomery Ward houses, and an E.F. Hodgson Company modular house. In 1929, Marion duPont bought four horse barns from Sears to house her thoroughbred racehorses. In the 1930s, she ordered two Montgomery Ward homes for the Montpelier staff and tenants. These attractive one-story cottages are the Mayflower design. In 1936, Marion purchased an E.F. Hodgson-designed prefab house for Carroll Bassett, her steeplechase jockey and trainer. Originally known as the "little house," it became known as the "Bassett House." This seven-room clapboard house was shipped in sections that were bolted together and assembled on-



A Lynnhaven design from 1950 in Orange. Photo by Barbara Wimble.

site by the Montpelier building crew.

The Town of Orange

The Town of Orange is a treasure trove of kit houses. I took photos of several and tried to match them up with the images and house plans I found in reproduction catalogs and on kit house websites. It helps to know at least the year, manufacturer, or model when searching for them. One homeowner believed that her house, built in the late 1930s, was a kit house and while perusing Rose Thornton's blog, I found it. Eureka! I was excited to tell her that she had a Sears Lynnhaven! The Lynnhaven was one of the most popular Sears houses in the 1930s. I found two other Lynnhavens in Orange and one Lynnhaven design built in the 1950s, in Gordonsville.

Somerset

Another kit house pioneer was George F. Barber, an architect from Knoxville, Tennessee. In 1892, he published a catalog entitled The Cottage Souvenir of 200 house plans that included "barns, churches, stores, summer houses and miscellaneous details." The eccentric millionaire Walter George Newman ordered a Barber house from the 1895 catalog entitled New Dwellings to be his home in Somerset. Newman's grand house, named Mt. Athos, was completed in 1899. The house materials arrived along with a foreman to supervise its construction and was the first house built in Orange County with electric power. Unfortunately, this beautiful mansion was destroyed by a fire only four years later.



This 1927 house located on the edge of the historic corridor on the traffic circle in Gordonsville is believed to be a Sears house. The additions and porch enclosure made it challenging to identify, but it could be a Sears Josephine model. Photo by Barbara Wimble.

Gordonsville

There are many interesting homes and buildings in Gordonsville's historic corridor that evolved during the Town's growth. I was able to identify two kit homes, and possibly several other houses within the one-mile radius of the town.

Barboursville

According to Frank Walker's rail guidebook, Barboursville's location at the junc-



There is a 1917 Sears bungalow hiding behind the bushes in Barboursville.

Photo by Barbara Wimble.



One of the Montpelier Sears barns with a common gambrel-roofed design. Photo by Barbara Wimble.



The owners of this charming Craftsman home, built in 1912, found little brass numbers under the windows. These would indicate to the contractor which window went where during its construction.

Photo by Barbara Wimble.

tion of the Rockingham Turnpike and the railroad turned it into a boomtown for a while. Although the railroad no longer stops and the train depot no longer stands, I did find one kit house!

How to Identify a Sears Kit House

If you are wondering if your charming bungalow is a kit house, the following clues might help you. (Excerpts from the website of Rose Thornton searshomes.org and the Sears archives searsarchives.com.)

If your house was built between 1908 and 1940, look for the following:

- 1. Stamped lumber (including joists and rafters) in the basement or attic.
- 2. Shipping labels that are often found on the back of millwork (baseboard molding, door and window trim,

3. Hardware fixtures. Sears homes built during the 1930s often have a small circled "SR" cast into the bathtub in the lower corner and on the underside of the kitchen or bathroom sink.

4. Goodwall sheet plaster, an early quasi-sheetrock product offered by Sears.

5. House designs in books with original catalog images, such as Rose Thornton's The Sears Homes of Illinois and The Mail-Order Homes of Montgomery Ward, the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Houses by Mail, A Guide to Houses from Sears, Roebuck and Company, and Tedesco's Portable and Prefabricated Houses of the Thirties. In addition to the two websites I mentioned above, I found the following helpful: arts-crafts.com, antiquehomestyle.com, kithousehunters.com, searshouse-seeker.blogspot.com, and antiquehomestyle.com.

6. Courthouse records for mortgages, deeds, and original building permits. Sears offered home mortgages from 1911 to 1933.

Challenges in Identifying a Kit House

I encountered many challenges in trying to positively identify the houses that appeared to be kit houses. Many of the kit house companies offered similar designs. The catalogs may have been copied by local builders, making it easy to mistake one from the other. The original owners may have customized their houses from the original design by reversing the floor plan, adding or changing the number of windows and the style of a dormer, choosing brick instead of wood siding, or modifying their porch. And adding to the challenges, through the years, the details of the models of the homes may have varied and changed, and subsequent owners may have added their own modifications.

Join the Challenge!

How many kit houses can you find in your neighborhood? If you think that you have discovered a kit house, please email me, Barbara Wimble, via the Orange County Historical Society 's website at orangecovahist.org, Contact Us page, Subject – Collector of Facts. We would be happy to add your information to a database on the architectural history of Orange County. It can then be incorporated into the national kit house database. The search continues! Happy Kit House Hunting!

My gratitude goes to those who helped with the research of this article – Hilarie Hicks of James Madison's Montpelier; Ann Miller of the Orange County Historical Society; Frank Walker and his guide book, Tracks Through Time, A Railfan Tour of Orange County, Virginia; Brian Smith for his loan of his book Small Houses of the Twenties, the Sears, Roebuck 1926 House Catalog; and those who opened their doors to my inquiries about their homes in Orange County.

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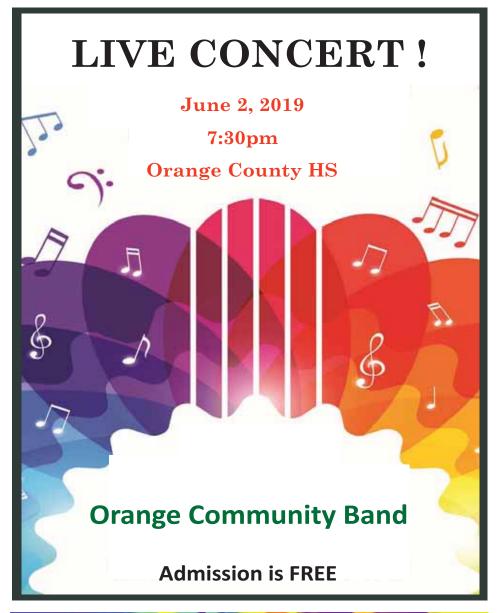
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Events and Announcements

Book World Meets Wine World: April 19 Fundraising Event at Revalation Vineyards in Madison Join us on April 19, from 3 until sunset, at Revalation Vineyards in Madison's gorgeous Hebron Valley for the first event in the third-Friday series to benefit the Literacy Council of Madison County and its adult education services. Author Kathleen Hoffman will give a talk at 5 and sign copies of her book "Little Papers Are Journalism Too". The Bavarian Chef food truck will be on site from 5 until 7. Bring lawn chairs and enjoy the sunset. Revalation Vineyards: 2710 Hebron Valley Rd., Madison, VA, 22727; 540-407-1236; info@revalationvine-

OCPR Volleyball Clinic

Orange County Parks & Recreation is again partnering with the school volleyball coaches to offer a volleyball clinic for girls (currently in 6th-8th grade) interested in the sport. This is a great opportunity to be introduced to the sport or refine and build upon existing fundamental skills. Learn to play, the right

way! Fees from this program support the scholastic volleyball program.

In addition to the clinic program, they are also offering their OCPR Hornet Volleyball Camp during the summer. Alone, the cost for the summer camp program is \$100. But, if you register for both programs at the same time, the cost

is \$150 total (a \$25 savings) per participant! To receive this discount, you must register for both programs, in the same transaction, on or **before May 3, 2019. For more information or to register, contact OCPR at (540) 672-5435.**



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Camp Curtain Call June 3-14, 2019 · Cost: \$150 Week 1: 9:00am-11:30am (/gcs 5-8) 12:30pm-3:00pm (Ages 9-13) Week 2: 9:00am-3:00pm (All Ages) Directed by Jelita Hopkins



Camp Imagination June 17-21, 2019 Cost: \$135 9:00am-3:00pm Grades 2-6 Directed by Directed by Rodrick Rhodes

Camp Encore June 24-28, 2019 Cost: \$95 9:00am-12:00pm Directed by Sharon Wills



Camp Sight & Sound June 24-28, 2019 Cost: \$95 1:00pm-4:00pm Grades 8-12 Directed by Alan Crummette





Camp Bravo July 8-12, 2019 Cost: \$95 9:00am-12:00pm Grades 3-8 Directed by Kaitlyn McKibbor



Camp Whatnot & Whimsey July 15-19, 2019 Cost: \$95 9:00am-1:00pm Grades 3-8 Directed by Steve Smith

Registration for our 2019 Summer Youth Art Camps is available now! And, we have added TWO new Arts Camps this year! To learn more about what each camp offers, visit our website at

https://louisaarts.org/camps-classes-youth/ and click the appropriate link. Space is limited, so sign up early to secure a place for your camper! Registration forms are available online or through

our Box Office Tuesday - Friday from 12pm - 4pm. We look forward to an exciting summer full of many opportunities for young

people to get involved with the Arts Center. For questions, call (540)967-5200 to sign up today!

New Addition to Our 2019 Lineup: Nick Smith Tickets \$30 each • Saturday, April 27th • 7:30 pm

Hailing from small-town Kent's Store, VA. Nick Smith quickly learned the values of hard work and independence at a young age. He loved singing and became a member of the varsity choir throughout his high school career. After graduating from Fluvanna High School, Nick pursued a business degree and continued playing the guitar to compliment his vocals with the goal of becoming a full-time entertainer one day.

Meanwhile, he started up a profitable tree cutting company to make ends meet. As persistence took its roll, Nicks career in music moved forward enough to endure putting together his first album EP in 2012 that did very well among new country critics. From there, Nick's songwriting and music production have since led him to write his latest album called "Just A Preview."



Call Today: 540-967-5200



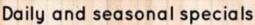






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Garden Guru Kent Russell to Speak



Kent Russell, "Garden Guru." Photo from LOW Garden Club Facebook page.

OUTER BANKS, NC - VACATION RENTALS



ake of the Woods Garden Club welcomes Kent Russell, Garden Guru" on Saturday, May 11th, 1 - 3pm, at Lake of the Woods Community Center. Nationally recognized gardener/entertainer, Kent Russell, arrives at Lake of the Woods for a special appearance funded, in part, by our event Patrons; The Market at Grelen, Grelen Nursery! Sponsors for the event also include Redwood Realty--Century 21. Tickets to the event are \$25 and are limited to a first-come, first purchased basis. Plan to purchase gorgeous plant specimens from those brought by the Garden Guru and plan to visit a number of vendors who will be on site and selling their wares following the event. To

date attending the vendor fair will be; Rapidan Garden Club, Back Creek Farm featuring their maple syrup and Bees & Trees Farm featuring a little bit of everything from their farm store!

Monday, May 13th at 1 PM--Installation of new officers to the LOW Garden Club Board of Directors. Refreshments will follow the installation.

June--

Monday, June 10th at 1 PM-The LOW Garden Club holds its monthly meeting in the Clubhouse. Program speaker will be Elizabeth Mizell who will discuss the benefits of gardening with native plants.

Orange County Historic Garden Week Tour

Date: Saturday, April 27, 2019
Time: 10:00 am- 5:00 pm
Cost: See website for details
Location: View Website for Details
Website: https://www.vagardenweek.org/

More Info: for questions:Orange@vagardenweek.org

This driving tour celebrates the Centennial of the Dolley Madison Garden Club,

a founding member of the Garden Club of Virginia, and hosts of the Orange County tour. Four gracious homes, with links to the earliest history of this beautiful place, highlight the area's agricultural and equestrian roots. One is a Madison family home, now the headmaster's house at Woodberry Forest, an acclaimed boy's school. Another is a world-renowned equestrian training facility. Two are former residences of founding members of the Dolley Madison Garden Club; all are owned by individuals with flair and elegance. With their history, architecture and gardens, all four properties - Gaston, Tivoli, Windholme and The Residence - showcase the guiding principles which inspired the founders of the Dolley Madison Garden Club: beautification, preservation and restoration. Christ Church in nearby Gordonsville will also be open, and serves as Tour Headquarters. Advance ticket - \$30 pp



Commemorating the 268th birthday March 16th of James Madison birthday the Dolley Madison Garden club placed this wreath of daffodils during the ceremony. Photo by Barbara Wimble.

Part Time Account Executive

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Annual Fried Chicken Festival and 3rd Annual 5K Race

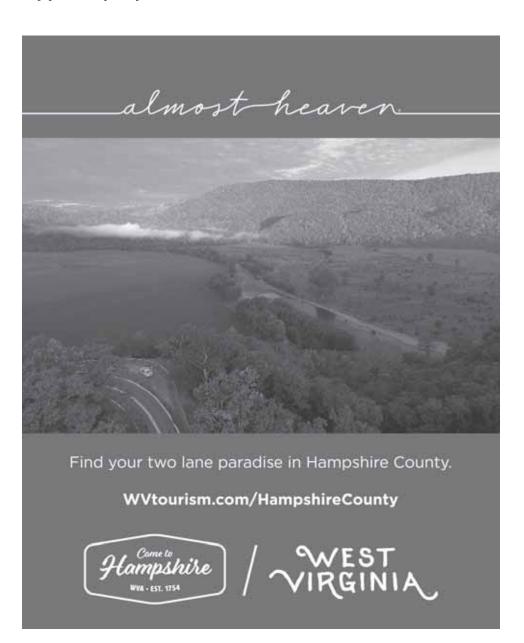
Saturday, May 18, 2019 from 11 a.m. to 5p.m

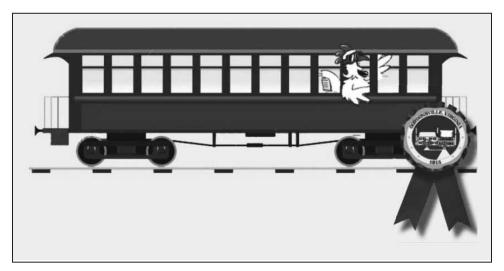
The Town of Gordonsville will once again be host to a festival that beckons back to a significant part of the Town's history and heritage. Gordonsville is famous for its fried chicken and the heritage of local African-American women, known as "chicken vendors", who brought platters of the delicacy to rail passengers stopped in Gordonsville during the 19th century, a renowned activity that, in 1869, prompted a local newspaper editor to bestow upon the village the title "Chicken-leg Centre of the Universe".

To celebrate this unique cultural heritage, the Town of Gordonsville is holding its 6th Annual Fried Chicken Festival. This event will be held on Saturday, May

18, 2019 from 11 a.m. to 5p.m., at the Gordonsville Fire Company Fair Grounds and is a "rain or shine" event. We will also be hosting our 3rd annual 5K race through the streets and area around Gordonsville. New this year is our first annual Kids 1K. Please visit the town's website for more information at www.townofgordonsville.org.

Mayor Bob Coiner commented, "Well, I know last year's Fried Chicken Festival was a smashing success! There's nothing better than lots of delicious fried chicken and other tasty treats, with live music and arts and crafts vendors ... all enjoyed with friends on a beautiful spring day! This is a fun, old fashioned community gettogether, and we hope everyone in the area will come out and enjoy the day and enjoy our hospitality at this wonderful Gordonsville festival!"





Town Manager Debbie Kendall added, ""Each year, Gordonsville's Fried Chicken Festival continues to grow in popularity, and it is a great way to celebrate the Town's heritage. While we've moved the event to the Fireman's Fairgrounds, we're still open for business downtown and I hope everyone will spend part of their day in Gordonsville visiting our local shops."

This festival will feature cook-off contests for fried chicken and pies. Artisan crafters will also be on hand to sell their wares and there will be a wine garden for wine and cider tastings and purchase.

The Town of Gordonsville, located in southern Orange County, is a charming town of quaint shops and galleries, a noted Civil War museum and critically

acclaimed restaurants in the heart of historic central Virginia. For more information on the Town of Gordonsville, please visit www.townofgordonsville.org and for information on tourism in Orange County, please visit www.visitorangevirginia.com.

Crossword by Margie E. Burke **ACROSS** 1 Wait state 6 Normal beginning? 10 Lot size, maybe 14 Archer's ammo 15 Erelona 16 Type of rug 17 Crowning ceremony 19 Tattered duds 20 Part of BTU 21 Grant 23 Director's cry 24 Over-the-hill horse 25 Bee or Em 26 Take on, as a challenge 28 Shocked 30 Prophetic 32 Engrave on alass 33 Make a sweater Copyright 2019 by The Puzzle Syndicate 34 Coastal bird 65 Speck in the sea 10 Berne's river 38 Ruler of the east 35 Blue hue 39 Stomach remedy 66 Fender bender 11 One of a cereal 37 Have a hunch **39** ___-ran **42** Vegan no-no trio 40 Danger for small result 67 Fortune teller 12 Bar fixture? boats 41 Add sugar to 44 Office note 68 Over yonder 13 Tampa's time 43 How some pre-47 Feature film zone DOWN 18 Have an edge fer their pasta preceder, once 49 Sarcastic 1 Manuscript gap against 45 Govern badly 22 WWII female 46 In theory only 51 Move unsteadily 2 Period when 48 Roulette bet 25 Pale as a ghost 52 Forest dweller forging began 54 Chic getaway 3 Dream guy 27 Butcher's 49 Software test 55 Polished off 4 Tony Lama item offering version

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56 Strip58 Study all night

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64 Get the pot going

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36 NBC show,

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53 Aromatic

compound 57 Wind instrument

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60 Chow down

62 Liquored up

OCSS Fine Arts Fair Showcases Creativity

By Matthew Franks Correspondent



n March 22nd and 23rd, Orange County Schools hosted their annual Fine Arts Fair, giving students an

opportunity to express their creativity. The fair exhibited performing and visual arts and gave older students a chance to mentor younger children in arts and crafts, performing arts, and science and technology.

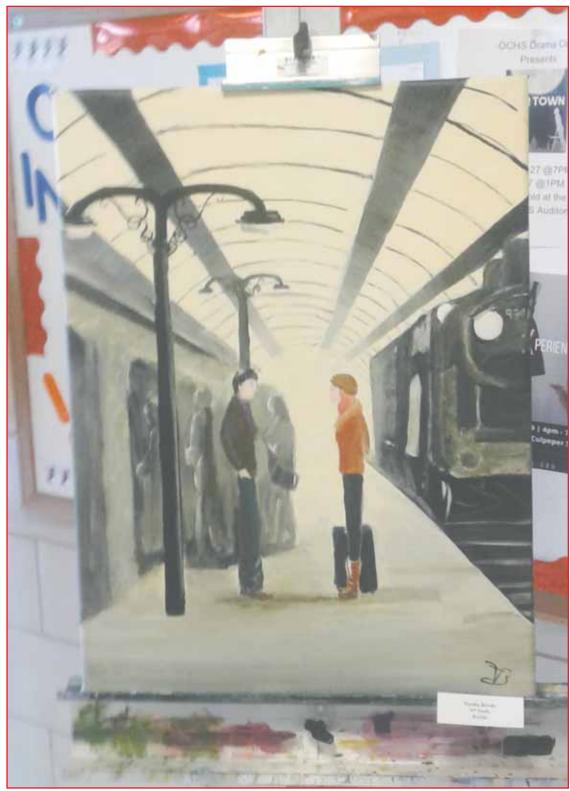
This year marked the second time the arts community partnered with STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) to create STEAM: a celebration of all the creative ways the mind interacts with its environment. While students spend much of their average school day being filled with facts and drilled on academic skills, the Fine Arts Fair provides hands-on exploration driven by children's own interests. The fair was very wellattended, with many young children choosing to spend a Saturday at the high school with teachers and student volunteers in an atmosphere of play and discovery.

On the evening of the 22nd, OCHS musicians from the band, choir, and drumline performed and the Student Art Gallery opened. On the morning of the 23rd, choral groups from Prospect Heights and Locust Grove Middle Schools partnered for the first time with the Orange County High School Chorus and performed an array of folk songs from various cultures, including Irish, Filipino, and American. High school chorus director Tom Dixon explained that the performances offer a fund-raising opportunity for the many music students who travel for competition and education. We are fold that the band's drumline recently traveled to Ohio and New Jersey for competitions and the choir is planning a trip to Italy in the summer.

The fair was organized by Jamie Yurasits, an OC graduate herself and the visual arts teacher at the high school. She showcased student artwork in a variety of media, much of it of professional quality.

Robert Kristel, history teacher and advisor of the OCHS Drama club, involved students in improvisational acting activities. While OCHS doesn't offer formal classes in drama, the drama club is made up of a very dedicated group of students who boasted a successful run of Little Shop of Horrors last year and promises a memorable performance of Thornton Wilder's American classic Our Town in April. Kristel pointed out the many academic advantages drama offers to students, including increasing concentration and problem-solving ability and improving self-discipline and memory.

In addition to performances, youngsters were treated to hands-on experience with technology and "make-and-take" art activities. Children were encouraged to take a trip in virtual reality, where, using the school system's VR headsets, they could visit the Arctic, explore the ocean depths, and view the inside an erupting vol-



The Train station painting is by Vjorika Brooks, 11th grade, acrylic. Photo by Matthew Franks

cano. The history of microscope technology was also on display, from simple older models that merely used lenses and mirrors, to state-of-the-art digital microscopes which project detailed images onto a computer screen. Students and visitors saw images of skin cells, bug legs, and got up close and personal with a bloodworm.

Tech toys were on hand, including old favorites like Snap Circuits, to the newest awardwinning educational toys, Osmo and Botley. Osmo is a learning system that uses devices like smartphones and tablets in tandem with physical games and puzzles. This allows children to use their hands in the real world while interacting intellectually with information technology. Osmo software is capable of detecting a child's physical actions and providing instant feedback on a variety of moves. Botley similarly integrates information technology with realworld applications. Botley is a robot that teaches young children screen-free coding using sets of cards with various moves that can be stacked to send the robot through an obstacle course. Botley can also follow black-line paths that kids compose themselves using a set of interlocking puzzle pieces.

Teachers from various schools contributed their time and creativity to offer students experiences that integrated the arts and sciences. For example, Locust Grove Primary School art teacher John Lentine dressed in full Star Trek uniform while displaying information about astronomy and inviting students to paint and name their own nebulas. Locust Grove Middle School robotics club leader Josh Nicholson encouraged students to drive the club's homemade robot and practice grabbing

objects and placing them in a container. There were plenty of making, gelatin plate printing, and

crafting opportunities as well, such as jewelry making, gelatin plate printing, and finger painting. Children were given prizes to take home on their way out.

The Fine Arts Fair showed hundreds of kids and adults that creativity and critical thinking go hand-in-hand, because science requires creative solutions and the arts require problem-solving, technical skill, and self-discipline. All the hands-on displays offered students the opportunity to engage the whole person in the cultural innovations that make school interesting and learning fun, and the art display let students show their creativity and connect to their community. And perhaps just as important as art and science, the fair promoted social skills as older students experienced moving into more mature roles of mentor and teacher, while younger students were encouraged to play and create as they explored their world and themselves.

Orange Uncorked Wine Festival at The Market at Grelen

Date: Saturday, May 4 & Sunday, May 5, 2019 Time: Saturday: 11am-6pm, Sunday: 11am-5pm

Cost: see website

Location: Market at Grelen, 15091 Yager Rd, Somerset, VA

Website: http://www.orangevachamber.com/pages/MontpelierWineFestival

More Info: (540) 672-5216

Our 29th Annual award-winning wine festival will be the best yet, and at an all new location - The Market at Grelen! This exciting new venue offers our festival goers an unobstructed, breathtaking view of the Blue Ridge Mountains. While we will still have ALL of the things you love about our wine festival, you can enjoy a fantastic new setting to spend the afternoon. Join us for this year's historic festival, and be part of the excitement of Orange Uncorked!! Over 20 wineries, select craft and artisan vendors, food trucks, plus a great lineup of music!!

Orange Spring Fling and Garden Gala

Date: Saturday, May 4, 2019 Time: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

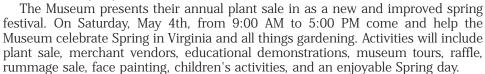
Cost: Free to attend, donations welcome Location: The James Madison Museum

of Orange County Heritage, 129 Caroline St, Orange

Website:

http://www.thejamesmadisonmuseum.net

More Info: (540) 672-1776







Louisa Arts Center Toast to Art Classes!



Toast to Art: Watercolor Workshop Saturday, May 4, 2019 from 1:00PM-5:00PM Instructor and Artist: Barbara Powderly

Cost: \$40 per person (includes all supplies)

Join us to create a beautiful landscape in watercolor from the provided photograph. Marvel at the variety of results achieved by students each interpreting the image by employing various techniques. Practice your skills in sketching, mixing color, understanding temperature and value, and describing depth while accepting the immediacy and fluidity of watercolor to achieve unexpected results. This class is for anyone from the adventurous beginner to the more advanced student who wants to explore watercolor more fully.

Call Today : 540-967-5200 · LouisaArts.org



Four County Players is pleased to announce our upcoming production of GOD OF CARNAGE



It opens May 10 and runs weekends through May 26 in the Cellar

God of Carnage (originally in French Le Dieu du carnage) is a play by Yasmina Reza. It is about two sets of parents, one of whose child has burt the other at a public park. They agree to meet to discuss the matter in a civilized manner. However, as the evening goes on, the parents become increasingly childish, resulting in the evening devolving into chaos. Originally written in French, the play was a success. It has since been translated into English, and has enjoyed equal acclaim in productions in both London and New York.

Congratulations to the cast, and thanks to all who auditioned! GOD OF CARNAGE, by Yasmina Reza, translated by Christopher Hampton, is the final show in Four County Players' 46th Season.

> JEFF WARD as Alan Raleigh LENA MALCOLM as Annette Raleigh JONATHAN KARNS as Michael Novak VIRGINIA WAWNER as Veronica Novak Directed by Derby Thomas



Box Office: 540.832.5355 • www.fourcp.org 4countyplayers@gmail.com Like us on Facebook

Thanks to our sponsors: 5256 Governor Barbour Street Barboursville, Virginia, 22923









Orange County Review

The Historic Heritage Festival – April 27

Visitors have the opportunity to relive history at the Heritage Festival on Saturday, April 27. From 10 a.m. to 4 p. m., the park adjacent to the Sargeant Museum in the town of Louisa will be filled with activities and exhibits celebrating village life in Louisa County in the 18th and 19thcenturies.

Organized by the Louisa County Historical Society in conjunction with Louisa County Parks, Recreation and Tourism, the sixth annual event offers hands-on experiences including creating corn husk dolls or needlework samplers, playing period games and even attempting to shell corn or send a telegraph message.

While strolling through the grounds, participants can listen to woodworkers, blacksmiths, Civil War women who worked behind the lines and a hide dresser as they demonstrate their skills. A school marm will conduct math and reading lessons in the restored schoolhouse and members of the Hearth Guild will explain colonial cooking techniques and equipment in the Michie House. Louisa Herb Guild members will show off the plants in their well-tended garden. A Jack Jouett reenactor will tell of his heroic ride to warn Thomas Jefferson of approaching British soldiers.

Free to the public, the daylong festival will also include food concessions and select vendors.



Creating corn husk dolls is one of the most popular booths at Heritage Day.





The Great American Songbook Live!

Date: Sunday, April 28, 2019 Time: 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm Cost: \$25.00 per person

Location: Chancellor High School Auditorium, 6300 Harrison Rd, Fredericksburg, VA

Website: http://www.fowb.org/

Friends of Wilderness Battlefield is pleased to host "Great American Songbook Live" on Sunday, April 28, at Chancellor High School. On the heels of rave reviews in New York City, sisters GRACIE & LACY appear one-day-only in the hometown of their ancestors in support of the Friends of Wilderness Battlefield, who preserve the sites and stories where their Lacy Family roots lie. Enjoy powerhouse vocals set to great American musical hits of the 1920s-1960s . . . Gracie might even break out her golden tap shoes! Gracie and Lacy are the 3rd great grand-daughters of J. Horace and Betty Lacy, owners of Ellwood and Chatham Manors during the Civil War. Tickets may be purchased online at WWW.FOWB.ORG and are \$25.00 per person. All proceeds benefit FoWB operations, preservation and education projects.



155th Anniversary of the Battle of the Wilderness

Date: Saturday, May 4 & Sunday, May 5, 2019

Time: 10am - 5pm

Location: Ellwood Manor, 36380 Constitution Highway,

Locust Grove,

Website: http://www.fowb.org More Info: (540) 972-5668

The anniversary commemoration will include living history re-enactors giving presentations on a myriad of activities that took place at Ellwood during the Battle of the Wilderness. Federal General G. K. Warren, who had his headquarters at Ellwood. Medical re-enactor John Pelletier. NPS Artillery Crew Live Fire Demonstration.



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EVENT

BIG ANTIQUES & VINTAGE SALE/SHOW: Friday, May 10 and Saturday, May 11, at 64th. Shenandoah Antiques Expo, Expoland, Fishersville, VA (I-64, Exit 91), 300 dealers, 5 buildings & outside sales. Friday and Saturday times: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. www.heritagepromotions.net.

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a part-time reporter
to write about
Orange County's
rich history and
interesting people.

REPORTER

Please email resume with samples of writing, to: valleyeditor1@gmail.com

Carlos Santos, Publisher

OC Magazine is published Monthly.

DINNER, DANCE, & SILENT AUCTION: Come enjoy a Night of Big Band Music featuring 'The FlashBacks' and a great chicken dinner. (gluten and vegetarian available) at the Lake Monticello Firehouse, Slice Road (Rte 600, turn at traffic light) Palmyra, on Saturday April 27 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. \$17.50 per person. Sponsored by Palmyra United Methodist

FOR SALE

Church. Call early – contact Patty at (434)

981-8963.

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Answers to the Crossword Puzzle from page 11

L	Ι	М	В	0		Р	Α	R	Α		Α	С	R	Е
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Annie Gould Gallery

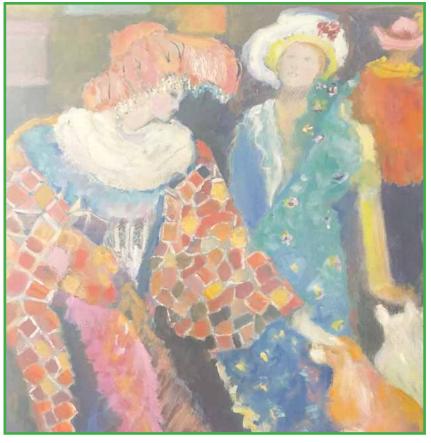
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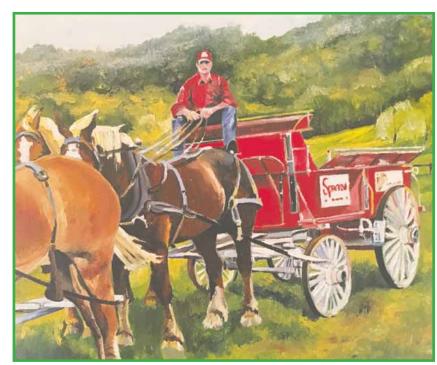
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