

Fluvanna

REVIEW



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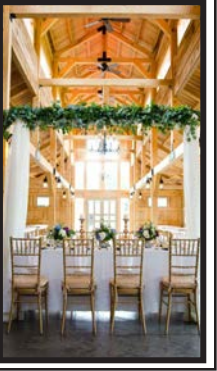
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Fluvanna supervisors pass Second Amendment sanctuary resolution

BY HEATHER MICHON
CORRESPONDENT

Fluvanna joined over 93 Virginia localities on Wednesday night as the Board of Supervisors passed a resolution declaring a "Second Amendment sanctuary" by a vote of 3-2.

More than 450 people filled the auditorium at Central Elementary and 40-50 residents spoke during the public comment periods before and after the vote.

Most speakers touched on many of the same points that were made at the previous week's meeting: that new legislation proposed by the Democratic majority in Richmond for the upcoming session would outlaw common semiautomatic weapons and instantly make gun owners into felons; that disarming law-abiding citizens would leave them vulnerable to crime and violence, and that "red flag" laws could be used maliciously to remove guns owned by lawful citizens.

This wasn't about gun rights, said Fluvanna resident Dave Johnson. "It's about constitutional rights. It's about a well-regulated militia. So who is the militia? This is the militia," he said, gesturing to the crowd behind him.

"Ralph Northam is trying to make it so the militia cannot fight back if the gov-

ernment were to become tyrannical," said Ciara Race, a young Fork Union resident. "America is the greatest country in the world because it is the only country that has a government, not a government that has a country. It is also the best because we have rights and freedom. We cannot allow the government that we control to ruin the best country in the world."

Some peppered their comments with quotes from early American political figures and dark warnings about chaos suffered by other countries when dictatorial governments eliminated private gun ownership.

"Ladies and gentlemen, please understand that the members of both constitutions, the U.S. and Virginia, has absolutely nothing to do with hunting for recreational shooting," said Eddie Wood of Fork Union. "Those amendments work and are there to provide myself and millions of Virginians the ability to protect ourselves from a tyrannical government. And let's be very clear. These proposed bills in the Virginia legislature are tyrannical."

They asked the supervisors to vote in favor of a sanctuary resolution to protect

their rights and to send a message to Richmond, although a few said the resolution did not go far enough.

Matthew Kolczynski said if the General Assembly passed a law the supervisors thought was unconstitutional "you need to be ready to file a lawsuit the next day."

"If it's possible, I'd like the supervisors to consider an ordinance with a little more teeth," said Mark Poulin of Scottsville. "That says that the county sheriff may charge state and federal agents who want to enforce these laws that are unconstitutional with crimes themselves."

Unlike the previous week's meeting, a few people did speak out against the resolution.

Curtis Putnam of Palmyra said he didn't oppose the Constitution or the Second Amendment but "I have never seen such outcry aroused by something that may never come to pass."

"There is a proper means to enhance or propose legislation. This is not it. As a republic, we designate our representatives to calmly consider the rights and responsibilities of our citizens. What is happening here is an end-run to create havoc."

Putnam added that the effort to push

counties to adopt sanctuary resolutions was "not a groundswell," but instead orchestrated by interest groups "to make maximum impact."

The audience, which had raucously applauded several previous speakers, began to boo and jeer. Putnam turned to face the crowd and took a bow before returning to his seat.

Chair Mike Sheridan (Columbia) gavelled for quiet and raised his voice above the crowd.

"If we respect the Constitution, we respect everyone who speaks about it," he said. "So if we're going to preach that we respect the constitution, respect it."

A couple of speakers subsequently pushed back on Putnam's assertion that this was not an organic grassroots movement. However, the "sanctuary" movement has been heavily promoted by the Virginia Citizens Defense League (VCDL), a nonprofit pro-gun lobbying group. Hundreds of audience members were wearing large orange "Guns Save Lives" stickers bearing the VCDL website address. The group has also circulated a model resolution that counties have been adapting for their own use.

Later, Richard Bucci of Palmyra said, "let's stop and reflect on what you're being asked to do by this group. It's to create a sanctuary so that we don't respect the law of the land."

While he heard the arguments made by previous speakers, he wondered if "that means we only obey the laws that we like?"

After nearly two hours of public comments, the supervisors took up the resolution.

Supervisor Tony O'Brien (Rivanna) was the first to speak.

"I believe in the Constitution. I believe in its amendments. I believe in the Bill of Rights. I believe it in its entirety. I don't just pick one," he said. "And I also believe that what makes our government work well is that we support and obey our laws and that we believe in a process that allows it to be challenged, and to be viewed by the courts and to be viewed by voters. So, it's hard for me to say: 'Okay, I want to take the Second Amendment and put it above everything else in the Constitution.'"

O'Brien said he appreciated everyone's comments and that he had learned a great deal about guns and their importance to individuals, but he could not, ultimately, prioritize the Second Amendment over everything else.

Supervisor Don Weaver (Cunningham) said he had seen what happened after a society was stripped of its firearms while serving in Germany in the 1950s. "I certainly will be supporting this resolution," he said as the audience erupted in cheers.

Their mood shifted when Supervisor Mozell Booker (Fork Union) began to speak.

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Booker said she had come away from the previous week's meeting feeling like she had "some work to do" to educate herself on the bills likely to be proposed in the upcoming General Assembly.

After consulting with the Board's legislative liaison, who summarized and explained the pending bills, Booker said she believed that many of the worst fears about the impact of proposed legislation were inaccurate.

She also read through emails and comments from the public. "I got tons of emails from people who oppose this," she said, adding there was "fear and a feeling of being intimidated." But "I am not voting because there is a ton of people on either side. I'm going to vote on facts," she said.

"You say you are law-abiding citizens and I believe you. And the people who bring the bills are law-abiding citizens too," she said, adding that she presumed Governor Northam and many of the delegates and state senators in charge of the new legislation were gun-owners themselves.

Booker made it clear she would not vote for the resolution and did not appreciate being forced to vote on it at all, which drew a noisy response from the audience.

She challenged them to follow the legislation as it moved through the General Assembly "and if you see them going in a direction that you don't like, then all you get in your cars and you go to Richmond."

Supervisor Patricia Eager (Palmyra) said simply: "I support the Constitution, the Bill

of Rights and the Second Amendment, and I don't believe the state has the right to challenge our Founding Fathers and our Constitution."

Eager made the motion to pass the resolution, and Weaver seconded it. With Sheridan voting in the affirmative, and Booker and O'Brien voting no, the resolution passed 3-2, leading to loud, sustained cheers and applause from the crowd.

What impact these resolutions will have is unclear. Legal experts point out that Virginia counties don't have the authority to defy state law. As such, they are primarily symbolic.

The General Assembly will meet from Jan. 8 to March 7.

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TAX TIPS

BY RUDY GARCIA, OWNER, RIVANNA WOODS FINANCIAL / TAX SERVICES

3 Major Charity Scam Red Flags

You've probably already received several letters and phone calls from charities asking for donations. Most requests are from legitimate organizations. Some, however, are bogus charities set up by con artists who use the holiday spirit to their financial advantage.

Last year, Americans gave nearly \$428 billion to charities, according to Giving USA 2019: The Annual Report on Philanthropy for the Year 2018. That's a huge incentive for fraud.

If you're planning to donate, take some time to learn how to spot a charity scam. Here are a few big red flags:

- **Pop-up charities.** Every legitimate charitable association started sometime, and some are still being formed. But natural disasters, epidemics and calamities of every type — from Hurricane Dorian to the Ebola virus — seem to spawn an inordinate share of fake charities. You can avoid these pop-up scams by donating to charities that you trust, which generally means those with a proven track record. If you're unsure, check out the organization with the Better Business Bureau, Charity Navigator, GuideStar or similar watchdog group.

- **Evasive answers to fundraising questions.** A legitimate caller should be upfront about their charity, the percentage of funds allocated to administration and marketing, and what target groups will be aided by your donation. Whether you're giving to provide medical supplies, support research or some

other worthy cause, don't be afraid to ask direct questions and expect direct answers. If the fundraiser seems to hedge their responses or knows little about the supposed cause to which you're contributing, consider a different charity. Beware of vague claims like "educating the public" or "promoting awareness."

- **Urgent email requests.** Websites made to mimic legitimate charities have conned many otherwise careful contributors. Emails asking for money on a deadline may originate from the backroom computer of a scam artist. Never divulge your financial information via email. Call the charity directly and find out if it's registered in your state (if required). Ask for written information. When in doubt, check it out.

Many charitable organizations are seeking your aid to address genuine hardships. Avoid the schemes of unethical scammers, and your donations will provide help where it's needed most.

If you think you've been contacted by a bogus charity, let the Federal Trade Commission know by filing a complaint. Also, be sure to call Sheriff Hess at the Fluvanna County Sheriff's Department as they track those events and let community members know when a new scam is in the area.

As we close out 2019, Catherine and I want to thank all of you for your support during our first year serving you in this new location. We wish you and yours a happy, safe and marvelous holiday season. We look forward to serving you in 2020! Rudy and Catherine Garcia

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Fluvanna Business Corner

Fluvanna Chamber of Commerce Legacy Business of the Year A G Dillard, Inc.

Bonnie Mackin, Director Fluvanna Chamber of Commerce

At our annual meeting in October, the Fluvanna Chamber of Commerce recognized A G Dillard as the Fluvanna County Legacy Business of the Year. This is the first year of this award as well as the Emerging Business of the Year Award. In recognition for their achievement we wanted to share their story with the community.

In 1966, Alan G Dillard, Jr started paving driveways in Fluvanna County. Now after 50 years of hard work and doing what was right for customers, A G Dillard has grown to become an important contractor for large commercial and residential subdivision earth work and utility excavation jobs. With excellent local knowledge and relationships cultivated over decades of consistently high-quality work, Alan laid the foundation that enabled A G Dillard to grow into the business it is today.

In 1988 current president, Alan G. Dillard III (Aka Trey) began working for the company as a laborer. Trey subsequently became an equipment operator and continued up through the hierarchy of the company working as a truck driver, foreman, superintendent, and eventually as vice-president of operations. Trey officially took over the reins of the business and became owner of the business in late 2015.

He then began a program of modernization and expansion. Trey transformed A G Dillard into a Total Site Contractor, capable of all aspects of site preparation from demolition to deep utility excavations, grading, curbing and pad preparation. From urban center sites, to rural land conversion, Trey has led A G Dillard

to its preeminent position in the field today. Their experience and competence allowed them to become one of the contractors on the Fluvanna County Water and Sewer Project which is scheduled to complete its first phase in Spring 2020.

According to Josh Rector, VP of Business Development, employees are A G Dillard's most important resource. They currently employ over 125 people. Starting with the owner and continuing down through the ranks, they have more than a dozen employees who live here in Fluvanna County and they would like more! On-line Job Applications can be found at <https://agdillard.com/ag-dillard-job-application/>.

A G Dillard has granted the American Heart Association a gift to bring CPR in Schools kits to the students of Fluvanna County High School and The Covenant School. This has been done in order to help spread the life-saving skill of CPR to more Virginians. On November 18th, these kits were given to the administration from both schools, helping make CPR training easier and, more importantly, available to all students.

"We sincerely appreciate this gift from A G Dillard," said Aimee Carter, Development Director for the American Heart Association. "Thanks to their generous support of our mission, we are able to provide these amazing kits to schools at no cost and help spread awareness of how to properly perform CPR across Virginia."

Take some time to say thank you and congratulate Trey and his team for their success and contributions to Fluvanna County.

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Registration open for non-profits to exhibit at volunteer recruitment fair

Registration is open for non-profits to participate in the Community Connections Fair to be held March 28 at the Fluvanna County High School. The event particularly targets those seeking new volunteers. There will be no charge for non-profits to set up recruitment booths at the free fair, which will run 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Fluvanna County Community Volunteer Coordinator and the Flu-

vanna Leadership Alumni Group, which are organizing the event, plan a wide variety of fun and educational activities throughout the day, designed to attract a large crowd. Those who are interested in exhibiting or sponsoring the event can get more information at www.fluvanna-county.org/administration/page/community-connections-fair and sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/CCFForm2020rev>.

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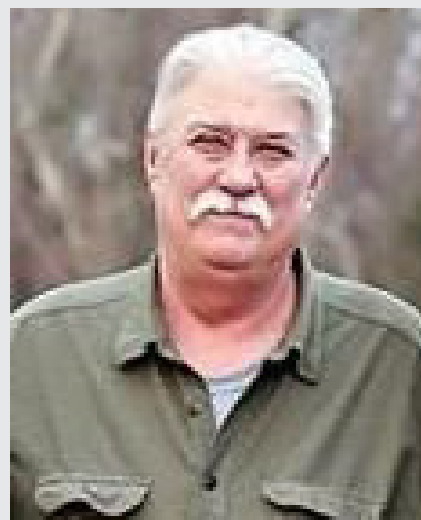
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Obituary

Richard Hunter Bassing



Richard Hunter Bassing, age 67, of Palmyra, Va. passed peacefully on Thanksgiving Day, November 28th, 2019 at Hospice of the Piedmont Acute Care Hospital, after fighting cancer and strokes, with his sister was by his side. Richard was preceded in death by his parents Bernard and Erma (Bunny) Bassing of Palmyra. He is survived by his sister Kim Bassing, also of Palmyra, niece Laura and her husband Kevin, great nieces Claire and Gwen, nephew Daniel and his wife Katie, and many cousins.

Born on August 6, 1952 in Baltimore, Maryland, Richard became a lifelong fan of Baltimore sports and UVA. Richard (known as Rick to his many friends) served 6 years in the U.S. Army, with tours in Ga. and Germany, attended college at Florida Institute of Technology and University of South Florida, and

received maintenance certifications at PVCC. He moved from Norfolk, Va. to Fluvanna County to be near family in the late '70s, and worked on many construction and maintenance projects throughout the area, ending his work life at Fork Union Military Academy.

Rick's interests included woodworking, reading, movies, gardening, debating topics of the day, storytelling, fishing, yard and estate sales, cold beer, and helping out family and friends. He so appreciated the long-time friendships of his friends Tweezer, Tom and Cyndi, Tom W, John, Bill, Jimbo, Craig and Joe, Lake neighbors, and buddies and staff at both the Dogwood Restaurant and Sal's. His family would like to thank U.Va. NICU, Hospice of the Piedmont, and John Cotter for help in recent weeks.

A wake, to remember Rick, is being planned for January, with scattering of ashes in coming months. If anyone wishes to make a donation in Richard's memory, the family suggests: Lake Monticello Fire and Rescue squads, Hospice of the Piedmont, Fluvanna SPCA, Happy Face or a veteran's support organization of your choice. We'll miss you, brother, Uncle and friend-rest easy now, buddy.

THIRD THURSDAY

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JANUARY 16



DISCOVERING JEFFERSON'S MONTICELLO LANDSCAPE

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Crystal O'Connor Field Research Manager at Monticello. They will be discussing the critical role that Monticello's Department of Archaeology plays in understanding the lives of enslaved laborers, as well as analyzing Jefferson's plantation management strategies. They will also outline the department's research goals, using one recently excavated site, an early 19th-century quarter site for the enslaved field laborers, as an example. It's sure to be a fascinating look into the everyday lives of the enslaved laborers and an exploration into how Jefferson himself lived and ran the plantation. It's definitely a great and interesting way to start the year. **Don't miss it!**

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School Board hears more about ESports

BY RUTHANN CARR
CORRESPONDENT

After thanking Board Member Brenda Pace (Palmyra) for her eight years of service, the Fluvanna County School Board got schooled on ESports (Electronic Sports) at Wednesday's (Dec. 11) meeting.

Teacher Aaron Grubbs oversees the pilot program Fluvanna is taking part in.

ESports is recognized by the Virginia High School League as a sport, Grubbs said.

According to the Parents Guide to High School, ESports is put out by PlayVS, the official platform for the sport: "ESports takes video gaming to another level with organized competitive gameplay between two teams, governed by its own strict set of rules and guidelines. The difference is comparable to a pick-up basketball game at a park versus a varsity high school basketball game"

Grubbs said most of the students involved in ESports would not go out for another team sport. He said ESports offer an alternative to physical sports and teaches many of the same social skills as other competitive sports, Grubbs said.

Grubbs listed the benefits as:

- Students are having fun;
- Students are learning leadership skills and team skills;
- Students have the potential to earn scholarships.
- ESports connects to students that may not be involved in other after-school activities.

Twenty students paid a \$64 fee to take part in the competitive gaming sport this fall. The next session starts in February.

When the subject of ESports came up in the November meeting, Chair Perrie Johnson (Fork Union) said she was concerned about the Teen rating for two of the games used: "Rocket League and League of Legends."

The ratings warn of "violence, blood, potential nudity and alcohol use," Johnson said at that meeting.

Grubbs said those warnings related to some of the characters students could play as and he banned using those.

Johnson said she sees the benefits of ESports, but still has concerns.

Pace said ESports make a player "think about what you're doing and work out challenges they present."

Shirley Stewart (Rivanna) said she imagined if ESports weren't available, some students would be more likely to skip school.

"I think it's a good thing if it encourages kids to come to school," Stewart said.

Neither Charles Rittenhouse (Cunningham) nor Andrew Pullen (Columbia) attended Wednesday's meeting.

Stewart said she'd like to hear from the students who play ESports who were in the audience.

When the Board asked one of the students if he would be playing video games at home after school if he couldn't play

ESports, he answered, "No, I don't have the infrastructure at home."

The student, who did not give his name, said ESports "provides me with a place to come after school to feel safe and see familiar faces who I know I have a lot in common with."

The other student, who also did not give his name, said: "It allows me to meet people I didn't know I had anything in common with. It gives me more social interaction. It's been a good thing for me – a positive thing."

Johnson suggested parents of students who are playing sign a waiver. They did not have to in the fall session.

The Board agreed to continue to talk about it.

When Superintendent Chuck Winkler gave his report, some of the highlights were:

- The schools are working with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to bring a hunter safety course to Fluvanna;
- SunTribe Solar continues to make progress. Its anticipated Spring '20 of "lights on" at Carysbrook is getting closer to being a reality;
- The Board of Supervisors approved the carryover funds to be used in transportation. The schools will begin the build process of two new buses. Officials would also like to explore the possibility of equipping a few of our buses with AC using some insurance funds;
- FCHS would like to move graduation to Friday, May 22, 2020.

When it came to moving graduation, the Board suggested the next time that type of decision is considered, they ask parents for their input.

When the Board recognized Pace with accolades and gifts, she thanked them.

"When I came in at 2012 I had to learn quickly to get thicker skin," Pace said referring to budget deficits at the time that led to cuts in teacher hours and pay.

Pace said she hoped to continue being involved in the schools but planned to spend most of her time with her 16 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren.

James Kelley was voted to take over her seat. His first meeting will be Jan. 13.

During public comments, high school math teacher Lori Hoffman talked about the need for math substitute teachers – particularly at the high school.

Because of the shortage, teachers have to use their planning period to oversee classes where the teachers are out.

"Three teachers, since May, have lost 24 of their planning periods," Hoffman said.

She suggested the administration look into ways to compensate teachers for that time, "as we are, in fact, acting as substitutes."

Young people are watching

I'm wondering about the effects of the recent "sanctuary" vote by three members of the Board of Supervisors. My wife reminds me that it really doesn't change anything. People will still have their guns, and the sheriff will still enforce the law as he has always done. But what does such a vote and all the uproar surrounding it say to the young people of Fluvanna County?

Hopefully our schools are providing civics classes that develop an appreciation of the long and very difficult march of civilization. Hopefully our young people choose social media platforms that provide edification of worldwide efforts to curtail violence and honor compassion. Hopefully our young people are gravely concerned over the worldwide effects of burning fossil fuels, and over the unending plastics dissolving in our oceans.

Hopefully our young people are suspicious of the inundation of advertisements promoting consumer spending at the expense of discerning where money might better be spent. Hopefully they recognize that our political systems spend vast sums on virtually everything except the climate crisis. Hopefully our youth will understand that there are real problems to get excited about, and that the paranoia created by the gun lobby is just that – a self-serving reaction that sometimes makes people take backwards steps.

Young people across the country and around the world are more and more involved with so many important issues. I do not believe the 3 to 2 vote by the Board of Supervisors has set a positive example for the youth of Fluvanna County.

-George Coussoulos, Lake Monticello

Thank you

On behalf of the Fluvanna Christian Service Society we would like to thank our neighbors for supporting the annual Happy Face Party on Dec. 7. Because of your donations of food, money, toys, books, jackets, pajamas and/or your time, we were able to service 98 families, 220 children and 34 senior citizens.

We also wish to thank Wegmans, Whole Foods, Family Dollar, Fork Union Pharmacy and Jefferson Pharmacy for their support.

Because of your generosity you made Christmas a little brighter for lots of people in our community.

Thank you again,
-The Happy Face Committee

Planning commission approves Tractor Supply plan

PRESS RELEASE



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Economic Development Office

The Fluvanna County Planning Commission approved a sketch plan for a proposed Tractor Supply Company development in the Lake Monticello area of the county.

SDP 19:20 was approved on Dec. 10 with a 5-0 vote. The project is slated to include a 19,097 square-foot building to be the new home of Tractor Supply Company. The store will also have 15,000 square-feet of outside display area. Tractor Supply strives to be a one-stop shop for recreational farmers, ranchers and all those who enjoy the rural lifestyle.

"We welcome Tractor Supply Company to Fluvanna County. Attraction of additional retail stores allows Fluvanna residents to do more shopping locally. Tractor Supply will be a great community member for years to come," said Bryan Rothamel, Fluvanna's Economic Development Coordinator.

Tractor Supply Company is also a strong contributor of rural

communities including partnerships with 4-H and Future Farmers of America. The retailer also has done events for pets and animals including adoption drives, clinics and more. The company shares a desire to preserve and see rural communities thrive.

The development is being handling by The Keith Corporation of Charlotte, N.C., which has completed several Tractor Supply Company stores throughout the region, including the one in Louisa County. Fluvanna's Economic Development Office worked with TKC to secure this project for Fluvanna County.

"We are seeing economic activity pick up in Fluvanna. Our residents have

known for a while Fluvanna is a great place to live and businesses are seeing that as well. We have worked hard to make Fluvanna a business friendly community and those efforts are starting to see positive results," said Rothamel.

This store will add 10 full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs. The project brings Fluvanna's 2019 economic activity to over \$3 million of capital investment and 15 new FTE jobs for the year.

The Tractor Supply Company store will be located on South Boston Road, near the intersection of Slice Road and Abbey Road. The entrance will be approximately a quarter-mile from the lighted intersection. The 4.32 acre parcel is zoned B-1, allowing the retail use by-right. The site's lighting and landscaping will be reviewed administratively along with the proposed commercial entrance by VDOT. Residents can contact the Community Development Department to view the sketch plan.

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2019 FCHS Yearbook earns VHSL award

CONTRIBUTED BY MACKENZIE TILLMAN



A yearbook is a book full of history and memories that last a lifetime. But have you ever wondered what it takes to make a yearbook?

Creating and publishing the FCHS Fluvannual is a project that takes approximately 16 months from start to distribution, involv-

ing 50 or more students and countless hours of brainstorming, design, photo taking, story and caption writing, and marketing. Many people don't realize that this process is recognized as an academic sport by the Virginia High School League (VHSL), which offers a yearbook competition for schools to compete in and earn a ranking.

This fall, the FCHS 2019 Fluvannual, titled Illumination, received a First Class award from VHSL, moving up from a Second Class ranking the previous year.

Journalism teacher and Yearbook Adviser Elizabeth Pellicane uses the VHSL competition for constructive criticism and ways to see the strengths and weaknesses of the yearbook as judged by VHSL. "We want to produce a yearbook students are excited to read and that captures students' memories and experiences, while also paying attention to what judges are looking for," she said.

Pellicane noted that she appreciates the recognition for her students that the award provides. "People don't realize that yearbook, online news, and the literary magazine are actually sport competition categories. Our students work hard, so I like to see them get recognition," she said, noting that the FCHS 2019 Literary Magazine received a Second Class award from VHSL.

After a yearbook is entered in the competition, a VHSL judge reviews the book and gives written feed-

back that explains the strengths and weaknesses of every section. "You did a good job covering the entire year, even graduation. You covered daily events on campus and incorporated a million features. Very good ideas for questions and polls," read a few of the VHSL judge's comments on coverage featured in Illumination.

Pellicane said that the things which judges define as weaknesses sometimes appear picky and based on criteria which may make sense for some schools, but not others. "I don't agree with everything they think is important. For a few years [VHSL] took off points for the fact that we kept having a space for senior signatures on sports pages. They said it was a 'waste of space'. We disagreed, as did many of our readers, so ultimately, we have to balance what the readers want and what VHSL wants. If we have to choose between the two, we'll choose what we think our readers will want," she explained.

Pellicane hopes to achieve even more with this year's yearbook, titled Perspectives, which will be coming to students in the fall of 2020. This year's editors are seniors Clio Schurtz, McKenzie Moore, and Madelyn Grubbs.

You can purchase the 2020 yearbook for \$72 online at www.jostensyearbooks.com.

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Lauterbach celebrates 16 years of success with Toy Lift

BY MADELINE OTTEN
CORRESPONDENT



Santa comes to Fluvanna. Photo by Madeline Otten.

In 2003, Ed Lauterbach teamed up with Toy Lift foundation to collect toys and donations in hopes to bring a little more joy during the holiday season to those who are in tougher situations. Inspired by Toy Lift founder, Tom Powell, Lauterbach believes that no child should wake up without presents on Christmas day and has been working with Toy Lift for 16 years to ensure his belief. This year, Toy Lift Fluvanna collected approximately 400 toys, books, bikes, and around \$1,650 in cash and check donations.

The Toy Lift was founded in 1989 by Powell and is a volunteer run charity that serves the City of Charlottesville, Albemarle, Buckingham, Fluvanna, Greene, Nelson, and Orange counties. Its mission is to support local families through volunteerism, community cooperation, moral building, and educational tools. They seek to provide that support throughout the year.

When Lauterbach first started the satellite location in Fluvanna, his first set up was a pop-up tent near Ace Hardware.

"I knew Tom Powell from Charlottesville when [my family and I] lived there," said Lauterbach. "I called him when we moved out here and asked

him how we could help, and he said 'collect toys!'"

Lauterbach decided that instead of just sitting a box in his office, he went with the same set up idea as the larger Toy Lift location, which included a day full of celebration with same day drop off, Santa and his elves, hot cocoa, cookies, etc.

"It created a more festive, hands-on event and people and the public really enjoy that aspect of it," said Lauterbach.

At first, the base of donations and help came from Lauterbach's patients, family, and friends. His sister-in-law, Cindy South, was in charge of making costumes and was an elf herself. His son, Daniel, started as an elf and then assumed the responsibility of collections as chief toy, book, and money counter. Lauterbach's other son, Nick, helped with set up and the elves, and his wife, Denise, helped with everything, especially with the cookies, cocoa and keeping the event live and fun.

"As the years went on, we started to get bigger and we then relocated to the Food Lion plaza about 13 years ago," said Lauterbach. "It's a great location and perfect for what we do. We added a large tent, heater, chair for

Santa, and blow-up floats."

Fluvanna's Toy Lift is sponsored by Lauterbach's office, Lauterbach Chiropractic Acupuncture, Massage & Laser Therapy with some help from other businesses. Patsy Strong donated advertising for the Toy Lift again and Mike Eurell from ME2 Catering donated food for the volunteers. This year, Fluvanna alone had almost 600 children on the Toy Lift list and about 4,000 children combined from all the schools in the participating areas.

"What we do is a small part and doesn't even scratch the surface of what Toy Lift charities provides our county," said Lauterbach. "The need continues to grow every year."

After the event, the toys are picked up by local resident and business owner Eric Taylor with Armstrong Landscaping and delivered to the warehouse in Charlottesville. The warehouse is staffed with hundreds of volunteers who unload and sort the donations. On the following Saturday and Sunday, representatives from each school go shopping for pre-approved children from lists and the toys are packed and presented to the parents.

In order to ensure the event runs smoothly, Lauterbach attends at least one meeting to communicate his needs for the event. While the stress does not arrive until Halloween and Thanksgiving time, Lauterbach and his team of volunteers do their best to host and create a positive environment for all those to come and check it out.

Next year's Toy Lift event will be on Dec. 4, 2020 and will always be on the first Friday in December. And even though December of 2020 is a year away, Lauterbach and his team also do a small backpack drive in August, and a coat and blanket drive from October through November in addition to the Toy Lift to help collect items throughout the year.

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Locals reminisce about Christmas decorations and traditions

BY PAGE H. GIFFORD
CORRESPONDENT

It is the sights and sounds that set Christmas apart from other holidays and it is a whole different stock of memories for many. Naturally, everyone remembers the smells of home-cooking, vanilla, cinnamon, nutmeg, and ginger wafting through the house. But also the decorations and music are a large part of the cultures and traditions of many families.

A few Fluvanna residents shared their special decorating traditions. Michael Jordan loves the childhood aspect of Christmas and his face lights up when speaking about it. He appears transported back in time as he reminisces about what is special about Christmas for him.

"I love the colored lights, none of the white lights, but colored lights.

And reflective ornaments that sparkle and shine when the light hits them. I also like toys, nutcrackers, toy soldiers, trains, rocking horses, anything that excites and interests children is what I like to see at Christmas."

Unlike Jordan, who has adult children, Kristel Townsend, has quite a few children, who travel to nursing homes with her and sing carols while she plays the piano. It is the Christmas displays they all clamor to see.

"We love the Christmas lights and we go to Lewis Court at the lake and Charlottesville and Crozet to see displays," she said.

Sandy and Fernando Uribe share cultural experiences at Christmas. Fernando is Mexican and talked about a Mexican nativity they set-up every year.

"We have to find it first," said Sandy while Fernando laughed. "I love baking cookies, and the smell of ginger and cloves and we decorate the mantel with evergreen boughs, I love the smell of pine." Aside from his Mexican nativity, Sandy is second-generation Italian and being sentimental has saved many family heirlooms from her past. "I just have to find them." They also agreed that while decorating and baking you have to play Christmas carols.

Fluvanna High School student, 16-year old Amelia Craft, talked about her family traditions.

"Every year since my parents have been married, my dad always gives my mom a Santa Clause." She described the many different types her mother has collected over their 27-year marriage, including a nesting Santa.

She also described a Christmas tradition, started by her grandfather, featuring a two-tiered snow village, with lights in the windows of the houses,

and the little people and other details.

Leslie Truex shared some different Christmas customs in her household. We always had live trees and when the kids were young, my husband used to saw off the bottom of the tree, sand it, and date it," she said, keeping them as reminders of past Christmases.


"We also hung the stockings outside the kid's bedroom doors, so they would be occupied early in the morning and we could sleep," she said. "We not only left cookies for Santa but a letter too. One year, my daughter, Hannah, when she was about six, left \$2 for Santa to donate to a good cause."

Warren Groeger also shared some interesting Christmas practices when he was a child.

"My father would bring in the tree and leave it bare and there were no gifts out under the tree because Santa was the one who did all the work. When we went to bed my parents did all the decorating and my father began a train set under the tree by adding on a train every year." He added that he and his sister had to keep the secret after they learned the truth about Santa Clause so that Christmas wasn't spoiled for their younger brother.

"I remember going to my grandmother's house for Christmas dinner and her wonderful fruitcake with whip cream." He was so vivid in his recollection, one could almost taste her homemade fruitcake. "And next to it was a snow village all set-up with a mirror for a pond and little ice skaters."

Once a year, everyone hauls out the boxes from closets, garages, and attics, and sets up their displays. It is a lot of work but the joy and the memories are priceless.



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from the gang at the
Fluvanna REVIEW

Student documentary team captures changing landscape in education

PRESS RELEASE



Ted Dintersmith, Sasha Federico, Jules Shepherd, Kyia Scott

Last February, FCHS Television Production teacher David Small was approached by former Fluvanna Superintendent Gena Keller to work with her and the Virginia Department of Education in the production of a documentary with students that would tell the story of a new initiative in the state: Virginia Is For Learners Innovation Network (#VaLIN).

The VDOE, along with the Virginia School Consortium for Learning (VaSCL), JMU, Advanced Learning Partnerships (ALP), and Venture Capitalist and Education Change Agent Ted Dintersmith all began the task of networking 31 school divisions in Virginia with goals of facilitating change in the status-quo of education.

Jules Shepherd, Sasha Federico, Kevin Burruss, and Jordan Winheimer began filming in March to tell this story of change from a student's perspective, an idea brought forth by Jules Shepherd. As Kevin and Jordan have graduated, Kyia Scott has taken over the role of videographer.

As the student documentary team has been traveling around the state, they have been working alongside school division teams capturing the struggles and successes of this change. ALP CEO Amos Fodchuk and his team of education coaches have

been providing hands on support for the innovation teams in each of these school divisions. ALP invited members of the Fluvanna student documentary team to present at the iNACOL Symposium in Palm Springs in order to help tell the story of what was happening in Virginia to a national audience. With the support of sponsors Ted Dintersmith, the Fluvanna Rotary, VaSCL, and with funds raised by the students, Jules and Sasha were able to make the trip and present alongside the VaLIN team discussing the positive changes that were taking place in Virginia. They were able to talk about the impact this has had on them as students, and the things that have inspired them about the future of education in Virginia. The trailer for the documentary "Change It Up" received an outstanding response from the attendees who were so glad that the student voice was not only being heard, but listened to. VDOE State Superintendent, Dr. James Lane, who is spearheading VaLIN, was in attendance and gave his best wishes to the student team. The students had the chance to travel to Los Angeles, California where they met with an acquaintance of Small who is a Storyboard Artist with DreamWorks Animation. There they had a private

tour of the facility and saw original artwork from many of their favorite animated films. They also saw the ins and outs of the many departments that work together to create an animated feature film. Sasha and Jules were also able to meet with a former student of Small's, Tim Longo, who recently served as a project manager with ABC Television and currently is with Wiip Studios creating programming for multiple streaming services. Longo told of how he started in the business and what qualities he brings to the table in the fast-moving world

of the entertainment industry. Some of the most important qualities both of these gentlemen spoke of were the ability to show kindness in all situations and being passionate about what you do. Work on the documentary continues with planned filming in Newport News, Loudoun, Suffolk, and Rockbridge scheduled for this winter. The documentary, "Change It Up" is set for a spring release. To see the trailer, check out this link: <https://vimeo.com/363677428> ###.



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Christmas memories in Scottsville

BY RON SMITH
CORRESPONDENT

From time to time throughout our lives we remember, out of the blue, something that happened years ago. Sometimes these memories trigger emotional responses; a laugh or a good cry. In what has become sort of a regular feature of the Scottsville Monthly's December issue, we once again hear from local members of our community who have been kind enough to share memories of past holiday seasons.

Julia Keys grew up and still lives in Buckingham. She retired from the University of Virginia where she worked as a neurosurgical nurse. Julia is one of those people who seems to be happy all the time. Just being around her will make you feel better. Her patients no doubt were helped in their recovery by her positive attitude.

"Growing up with [her] family was lovely," she says. "We had plenty to eat, and always had a live tree," she continued. "We would put our tree up way before Christmas so Santa could find his way," she added.

The family would come to Scottsville to shop. "Sometimes Mom would go to town by herself," Julia said. Her Mom told her "honey, when Santa knocks at the door you'll know that knock from anyone else's knock." There were six boys and three girls in the family and she remembers all Christmases

being special until she was thirteen. That's when an older brother told her "the truth (as he saw it) about Santa," she says, and added, "I have never forgiven him for that."

Today Julia has two grown children and four grandchildren. Watching them grow and experience their own Christmases has renewed her faith. She also remembers from her days at U.Va. that "some people would find a way to be admitted to the hospital just to have someone around for the holiday." People who had to spend their holiday in the hospital had their own Christmas angel. Her name is Julia.

Delores Somers is from Brooklyn, but she has lived in Scottsville almost 50 years. When she was 16 her family built a new home on Long Island, "the Island" as it is called by many New Yorkers.

While we sometimes get a mental picture of Brooklyn as only apartments and row houses, there are many neighborhoods with single and multi-family homes. Delores's family owned a single-family home in a neighborhood near the Borough of Queens.

J. Gilbert Somers, known as Gil, was a stain glass artist. He learned his craft from his father. During WWII a new Army base was being constructed on Long Island near the township of St. James. The base had a



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chapel and Somers was selected to make the stain glass windows. After completion of the job he was told that the tools and left-over materials were of no further use to the army so he might as well take them with him.

Although Somers was not really sure he wanted to pursue his father's trade he did so and became a well-known artist who traveled around the United States plying his trade both in creation and repair/restoration. In 1953 he met Delores, they were married and eventually relocated to Scottsville purchasing a farm near the town.

As traditions go Gil had some definite ideas. "We went out on Christmas Eve to get our tree," Delores remembers, "and we didn't put the tree up until the children were in bed." This tradition went on for years.

She remembers fondly of "seeing two-year-old son Gilbert coming down the stairs on Christmas morning and seeing the fully decorated tree and presents where the night before there was nothing." With three children, Victor, Gilbert and Stephanie, traditions changed a little with each child being allowed to open one present before it was "off to bed." Then Delores would attend midnight services at St. John's Episcopal Church and always thought "the quietness of downtown Scottsville reminded her of Bethlehem."

Gil passed away in 2016. The children are grown and now there are grandchildren. Everyone is but a short distance away and on most Christmases the entire family is able to meet at the farm. "I still have always have those wonderful memories," Delores said, "they are one Christmas gift you never get tired of."

Trevlyn Karr, "Trev" as she is known, is from Sharon, Pennsylvania and has lived in

Scottsville since the early '70's. She is also a retired nurse. Trev worked part time at Martha Jefferson hospital for ten years. She took a break to help her husband operate a hardware store in Scottsville then returned to nursing. Her return to work in a full-time position at Martha Jefferson Hospital would last another thirty years. Like most people in a "service profession" she was obligated to work almost every Christmas.

In order to enjoy as much of Christmas as possible, she worked the 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. shift 7 am shift Christmas night. This schedule meant she could be off both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. That way she would be able to ensure Santa's visit and provide time to be with family the next day. It didn't always work out that way.

"It seemed like on Christmas Eve someone would get sick or hurt and we would end up in the emergency room at Martha Jefferson," she said. Once her oldest son fell out of his top bunk and fractured a finger necessitating a trip to the ER. "At least," she related, "since I worked for the hospital and knew everyone in the ER, we experienced a minimum wait time to see the doctor and get treated." One of the benefits of her job!

Now days with children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren Christmases have even more meaning. The procedure these days is to progress from home to home giving everyone a chance to host a portion of the day. "These days we 'split it up,'" she says.

And, while Christmases today may be celebrated differently than Christmases past, it's still Christmas. That's what we need to remember. Merry Christmas!

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NATURE OF INCIDENT / TOTAL

911 HANG UP	10
911 MISDIAL	13
911 OPEN LINE	4
ANIMAL CONTROL CALLBACK	5
ANIMAL CONTROL FOLLOW UP	3
AGGRESSIVE ANIMAL	1
ALCOHOL RELATED ILLNESS	1
ANIMAL BITE	4
ANIMAL CARCASS	2
ANIMAL WELFARE	5
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY	4
ATTEMPT TO LOCATE RECEIVED	2
BE ON LOOKOUT	5
SHERIFF'S OFFICE CELL CHECK	1
CHILD WELFARE/ABUSE/ENDNGMNT	3
CIVIL INFORMATION REQUEST	1
CIVIL PAPER RECEIVED	1
CIVIL PAPER SERVICE	50
COMMERCIAL BURG ALARM	5
COMMUNICATIONS OFC CALL OUT	4
COMMERCIAL FIRE ALARM	1
COURTHOUSE SECURITY CHECK	1
DIFFICULTY BREATHING	2
DISABLED VEHICLE	10
PAST DISTURBANCE	1
DISTURBANCE	8
ECO TDO CALL	2
FALL FRACTURE	1
FINGERPRINTS	8
FOLLOW UP INVESTIGATION	5
FRAUD	4
GUN PERMIT RECEIVED	9
LARCENY/THEFT	6
PHONE CALL RETURN	44
MAGISTRATE WALK IN	3
MISSING JUVENILE	1
MVC WITH INJ OR UNKNOWN INJ	8
MVC WITH NO INJURY	4
MVC W/ ANIMAL	2
OTHER LAW CALL	8
OPOID OVERDOSE	1
PEDESTRIAN IN ROAD/INTOX PEDES	2
PRISONER TRANSPORT	3
PROJECT LIFESAVER RELATED CALL	1
RADIO TOWER SITE LOG	2
REPOSSESSION	2
RESIDENTAL BURGLAR ALARM	1
SELECT PATROL	44
SHOTS HEARD	2
STRAY DOG	4
STRUCTURE FIRE	2
SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY / PERSON	16
DIRECT TRAFFIC/FUNERAL TRAFFIC	10
TRAFFIC HAZARD	3
TRAFFIC STOP	64
VCIN HITS RECEIVED	1
VCIN QUERY RUN	5
WARRANT CHECK IN/OUT	2
WARRANT RECEIVED	5
OUT SERVING WARRANT	6

TOTAL INCIDENTS 428

CRASHES

MVC INJURY/UNK	05:45:29	12/12/19
140 BLK PRISON LN		
MVC INJURY/UNK	22:56:34	12/11/19
3950 BLK HADEN MARTIN RD		
MVC INJURY/UNK	22:27:00	12/11/19
2480 BLK SHILOH CHURCH RD		
MVC NO INJURY	18:01:18	12/11/19
THOMAS JEFFERSON PKWY & MONISH DR		
MVC INJURY/UNK	17:53:57	12/11/19
MONISH DR & THOMAS JEFFERSON PKWY		
MVC INJURY/UNK	15:33:19	12/10/19
SOUTH BOSTON RD & RIVER RIDGE DR		
MVC INJURY/UNK	09:53:49	12/10/19
SOUTH BOSTON RD & RIVER RIDGE DR		
MVC W/ ANIMAL	08:19:59	12/09/19
11270 BLK JAMES MADISON HWY		
MVC INJURY/UNK	07:38:43	12/09/19
BETHEL CHURCH RD		
MVC NO INJURY	10:16:49	12/08/19
1890 BLK WEST RIVER RD		
MVC INJURY/UNK	05:49:49	12/08/19
2210 BLK SCLATERS FORD RD		
MVC NO INJURY	20:04:17	12/07/19
10 BLK SLICE RD		
MVC NO INJURY	21:03:40	12/06/19
HADEN MARTIN RD & JAMES MADISON HWY		
MVC W/ ANIMAL	17:37:15	12/06/19
RISING SUN RD & GEORGES MILL RD		

TOTAL CRASHES 14

ARRESTS

ARREST DATE: 20:45:36	12/10/19
ADDRESS: PALMYRA	
PROBATION VIOLATION	
ARREST DATE: 20:43:00	12/06/19
ADDRESS: PALMYRA	
MANUFACTURING/SELLING CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES	

TOTAL ARRESTS 2



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Remembering a simpler time

BY RON SMITH
CORRESPONDENT



Robert K. "Bobby" Spencer, 1953 - His contributions to the Scottsville Museum will ensure the town's history won't be forgotten.

There is so much going on in the world today, both good and bad. Families can hardly find time to sit down together for a meal. With sports, school, parents having to work two (or more) jobs and other constraints on our time it sometimes feels there are not enough hours in a day to do what we need to do much less those things we want to do.

Those who grew up prior to the 1960s, particularly if you are a baby boomer, remember the world being a simpler place to live. Not that there were no problems, it just seems that what problems that existed, with the exception of race relations, were perhaps not as complex as those we face today.

The Scottsville Sun newspaper was organized in 1951. Published by the Amherst Publishing Company, J. Bernard McDearman was the paper's first editor and Elizabeth Wimer was the managing editor. The paper was devoted to reporting on items of interest and town news. During its existence the paper maintained a circulation of between 500 and 1000 copies!

Robert K. "Bobby" Spencer is a Scottsville fixture. Now that Raymon Thacker is no longer with us, Bobby probably knows more about the history of Scottsville than anyone else in town. When Bobby was a young man he worked for a time at the Scottsville Sun.

The Scottsville Museum is fortunate to be able to employ interns from time to time and, in 2016 Nicole

Penn served an internship with the museum thanks to the University of Virginia's Institute for Public History. Bobby Spencer had saved a considerable number of issues of the Sun and loaned them to the museum. Nicole was able to go through each edition and scan it into a form that is today available on the museum website. The 1953 Christmas Eve edition is one of those in the collection.

Front page news from that date include articles such as: "Student Program Scheduled Sunday at Baptist Church," "Christmas Program Presented At WSC Meeting," "Officers Elected by Scottsville Masonic Lodge," and "On Stage, America Show Nets \$90 for VFW Post."

But there are other articles that illustrate how things were less hectic back then. One article tells of "large crowds" gathering at Smith Chevrolet Sales to see the brand new 1954 Chevrolet. W. B. Morgan, Chief Forest Warden for Fluvanna County "thanked" the public keeping the number of forest fires at a minimum. He also thanked the Scottsville Vol. Fire Department for their help throughout the year.

There were also articles about our soldiers. The Korean Conflict was going on and Pvt. Russell Boatwright of Esmont was there. Army Sgt. Edward D. Ward, whose wife Glodean and parents, Rev. and Mrs. W. D. Ward live in Esmont, is stationed in Germany. And, the Tri-County Riding Club had a breakfast but it was so cold out no one could ride their horse to the event and had to use automobiles.

"Household Hints" by Nada Sweeney, gave information on roasting a turkey, making mashed potato soufflé, and creating the perfect plum pudding for dessert. "Country Farm Notes" by P. H. France was all about increasing your pine crop next year. And, the Junior Garden Club decided to meet during the holidays so they could plan their activities for the coming year.

When you live in a small town you pretty much know everyone's business (whether you admit it or not) and they know yours. The Scottsville Sun published everyone's business. Following is an example from Nancy

Dorrier's column "Tidbits." - "Jane Bruce, sister to Shirley Dorrier and Tom Bruce and daughter to Mrs. T. E., and otherwise known as the prodigal daughter, arrived Tuesday night to spend the entire Christmas week in Scottsville. She hails from the big city of New York. But in spite of all the sophisticated influences, Jane doesn't forget the good old home town."

There are items of interest from Palmyra, Howardsville, and Nelson. Almost all the advertising in this issue of the Sun focused on the Christmas with the United States Rubber Company taking out a full page to reprint the 1897 "Yes Virginia, There is A Santa Claus" letter that became famous when a little girl wrote the New York Sun newspaper for an answer to her question about Santa. There is also a daily meditation from The Upper Room devotional publication.

When you look at this paper you will realize that race relations have come a long way since 1953, even though there is still a long way to go. The Sun devoted about three column inches for a section called "Colored Notes." The reporting in this section showed

that people of color were doing the same things as everyone else. "Rev. D. Porter, a 14 year old from Unionville, will preach at Union Baptist Church," "Harry Walker and his sister, Mrs. Amanda Hall spent Thursday here," "Lena White of Richmond spent the weekend with her brother and sister in law, Mr. and Mrs. Walter White." The column also goes on to say that the Busy Bee Club will have a tea at the home of Mrs. Julia Jackson, and the Union Baptist Church Sunday School will have a Christmas party.

Through the kindness of Bobby Spencer and the hard work of Nicole Penn, this period of time in Scottsville's history is not only recorded for future generations, it is available for everyone who has internet access. Go to the Scottsville Museum website, in the search block type Scottsville Sun. There are numerous editions available to read and the reading is not only interesting, it will give you pause to stop and think that maybe the good old days were, in a number of respects, good.



Scottsville Sun Newspaper - 1953 Christmas Eve edition. All images courtesy of the Scottsville Museum.

A special B & B opens in Schuyler

The Waltons live again

BY PATRICK HEALY.
CORRESPONDENT



John-Boy's typewriter, in the writer's room at John & Olivia's Bed and Breakfast in the village of Schuyler. Photos by Patrick Healy.

"The first guests to stay here were the cast," says Carole Johnson. We are in the broad sitting room of Johnson's recently opened John & Olivia's Bed and Breakfast, in the village of Schuyler in Nelson County. The comfy couch is draped with a brightly colored afghan, generous

of loop and fat with yarn. The floor is covered with a large rag rug; its mottled rope spiraling out from the center, to form a 6 x 9 oval. There are a couple of spindle-backed chairs. A homey mix of tables, cabinets, and breakfronts occupy such wall space that isn't claimed by

the many, simply curtained windows. An antique radio, made of dark wood in the shape of a gothic arch, sits on a high stool which is not quite in and not quite out of the way, as if that is the good-reception spot in the room. Horizontal surfaces display old books or framed photographs, a stereopticon, and engaging nick knacks of wood or tin.

The big country kitchen extends off the sitting room and is arranged around a hewn wooden table, itself surrounded by four hewn benches. Though the standard urban condo terrace is smaller than this table, this kitchen still has plenty of room for the wood cookstove, ceramic butter churn, hand-cranked meat grinder, and other old-time, labor-saving devices. John and Olivia? Granny-style eclectic interiors? Yes, this B&B is the ultimate, immersive Waltons experience.

Not sure about the Waltons? Here's a brief primer. "The Waltons" was a family drama series which ran in primetime on network television through the 1970s

and, as made for TV movie events, into the early 1980s. The series told of a large family struggling through the Great Depression (1929-1939) in rural Virginia. Every week, John and Olivia Walton, their seven children, and John's parents shared their aspirations, joys, and sorrows, while getting mixed up in the doings of their amusing, or exasperating friends and neighbors. Over the decade, fans watched as the children grew up, Grandma Esther suffered a debilitating stroke, and Grandpa Zeb passed away. Set in the past, the show seemed to present an antidote to the wars, political chaos, and social upheavals which characterized the '70s. Indeed, on the big screen, the '70s were the era of "Dirty Harry" and "Death Wish." Everyone from snarky film critics to Ivy League professors found portent, even societal destiny, in those dark spaces; all the while dismissing "The Waltons" as nostalgic twaddle. Community and familial love? Good manners and empathy?

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These were things of the past, or myths which never really existed at all. Even studio honchos thought fans of the show were unsophisticated rubes who needed to wake up and smell the coffee.

As things turned out, the Death Wish crowd dwindled away while Waltons fandom thrived. Somewhere in the world, an episode of "The Waltons" is playing - right now. Death Wishers occupy their compounds in the Idaho wilderness, or the FBI watch lists. Waltons fans live next door.

Carole Johnson is one of those. In Johnson's case, next door is in the forests an hour or so north of San Francisco. And she's a long-time fan.

"I started with a Waltons room," she says, of the theme decorated space in her home. "I'd host get togethers with other fans there."

One thing led to another, and eventually Johnson took to the road to meet other fans, in other places. One such event was the 40th anniversary party, held in Los Angeles. There Johnson met not just fandom friends, new or old, but members of the show's cast, crew, and production team, including the show's creator and narrator, Earl Hamner Jr.

Johnson was star struck, of course, but just as striking to her was the degree of love and respect she sensed among the show's members. That aspect of the show which drew her and other fans in, and together, was palpable; not just when acted out on a nostalgic old TV show, but in the here and now. "It's big," she says. "There are millions of us who are fans."

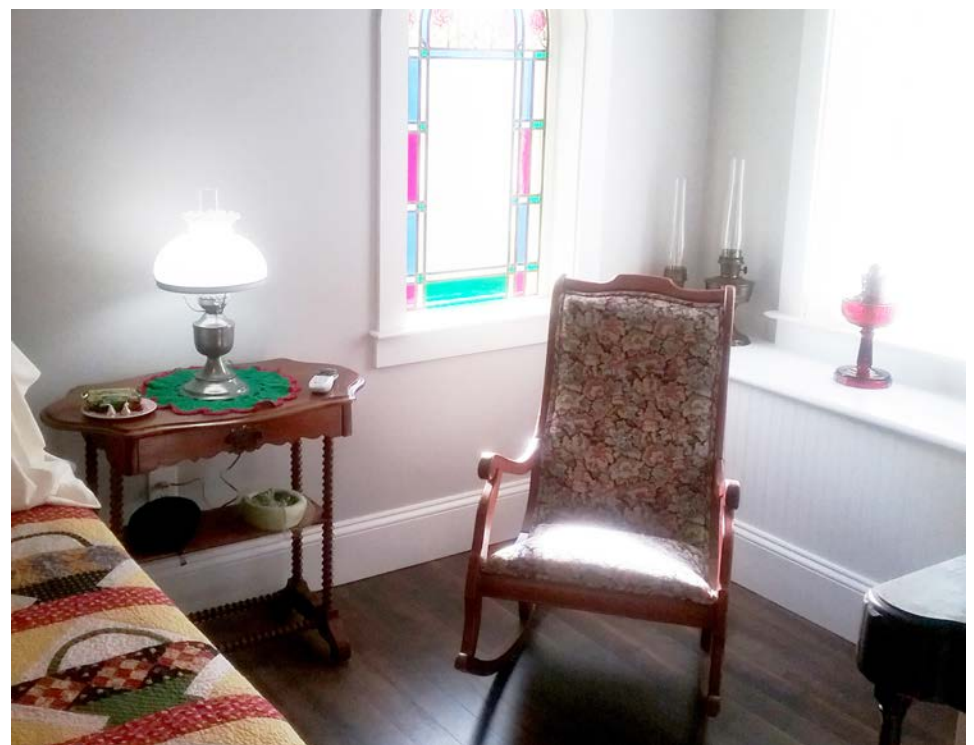
About eight years ago, Johnson attended a Waltons convention in a nearby state. Some other attendees were planning to travel down to Schuyler afterwards, and convinced Johnson to join them. As Earl Hamner's hometown, and

basis of the show's locale, Schuyler is sacred ground to Waltons fans. On the day they arrived, the village was going about its business which, evidently, did not include accommodating random fans of "The Waltons."

"The Waltons Museum was closed. There were no tours of the Hamner house," says Johnson. "I didn't get it. It was like they were missing it." She returned home with that thought nagging her. When she heard that the Hamner house was going on the market, the thought became a mission. "I knew what I had to do."

Johnson closed on the property in the fall of 2016. The previous owner had done a good deal of restorative work, and the house was mostly tour worthy. But potential doom loomed over the old homeplace. An enormous old tree, rooted in neighboring soil, spread high above its roof, and Johnson knew that when the tree fell, so would her beloved building. So, to get at the tree, Johnson purchased the adjacent parcel, which included the historic Giannini home. Oops. Once the lot was surveyed, the old tree proved to be in the corner of the other adjacent lot. Johnson let it be known that she was interested in that parcel, made her plans, and bit her nails when violent storms passed by. Two years later, she closed on that last piece of property, removed the offending tree, and got to work on her big idea: John and Olivia's B & B.

As a fan herself, Johnson understood that, since it was fans of the show her B&B would attract, it ought to replicate the show's set. She had the Hamner House open for touring. Earl Hamner's history, the story behind the story, is there. The history is Hamner, and by extension, the series actors. The optics are Walton, and by extension, the characters from that series. In this regard, Johnson has done a



The Whitley window (Season 4, Episode 22). According to Carole Johnson, "Some guests start to cry when they see this."

fantastic job. Johnson gives all the credit to here builder, Carlton Ballowe.

As we continue our tour it is easy to see why. All of the elements say old-timey. There are windows everywhere, a standard practice in the days before artificial light and ventilation came along. Here and there it is necessary to go up or down a step or two in order to enter an adjacent room. This, too, is common in older homes with their closed in porches, or cobbled-on additions. But there is nothing cobbled about this place. Ballowe is obviously details-obsessive. In fact, the only old-fashioned features missing from this inn are drafty rooms, creaking floors, and inaccessibility. Dish and WiFi? You betcha.

Each bedroom is a showcase. There is an intricate quilt on every bed, with spare quilts hanging from the walls or draped over frames. Some accessories are Depression Era antiques, which replicate those which appeared on the show's sets. Many are actual props from those sets. Johnson can share the story of each and every one of them. To hear Johnson tell it, finishing the inn was a case of interior design by re-run.

"We would look at a scene, and then set the items in place." So, if Olivia entered her bedroom, took six steps then took her comb off of the bureau, the bureau went here, and the comb went there. Johnson laughs at herself. "I had piles of paper scraps cut up into different shapes. I kept pushing them around until I knew where everything would go." She laughs again over one particular placement. "We had just set up the water heater," she says, speaking of the rivets-and-pipe-joints contraption that looks more 19th century Sci-Fi than 1930s Ragged Mountain home. "Carlton came in and couldn't believe it. 'You're not putting that there, are you?' he said. 'But that's where it goes.' I said."

And that's where it is. "I can't say enough about him. Carlton was just great to work with."

OK. The beds sound great, but what's for breakfast? Inn manager, part concierge/part historian, and Chef de Cuisine all rolled into one, Sheila Mae, rattles it off.

"Waffles, pancakes, biscuits [Of course!], sausage, bacon, scones," she says. "The most popular thing is oatmeal. We make it all from scratch, even our granola. That's because of Carole. It takes longer, and it's more expensive, but she won't have it any other way."

Because store bought and "The Waltons" just don't mix.

The next time you have out of town guests coming, keep this place in mind. If your guests happen to be Waltons fans, tell 'em to get on the plane now.

Midway through our tour, we heard the front door thump, followed by some clumping about. "Anybody home? someone hollered. "Look around and make yourselves at home." Johnson hollered back. We proceeded, leisurely, and eventually got back downstairs, where we found a pleasant, middle-aged couple in the sitting room. They were interested in seeing the Hamner House, so out we went. We chatted a bit in the yard - hello, goodbye - and Johnson led her new guests down the hill to the simple, old house. These people were friendly...polite, seemed to be fond of one another...considerate. Their car showed out of state tags, and they were definitely Waltons fans. As such, they are part of an old time, small town community, which happens to span the globe and includes millions of souls.

Carole Johnson has made a place for them. The front door is unlocked. You can spend the night. And the breakfast will stick to your ribs.



A washboard, water heater, and ringer washer enjoy pride of place in the kitchen. Is that FDR's portrait in the front hall? Of course it is.

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