

Louisa Life

December 27, 2019 - January 30, 2020 • ONE COPY/FREE

LOUISA COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Happy New Year



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Christmas Festival and Parade
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Where Biltmore Estate
Meets Highclere Castle
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A monthly publication

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Next advertising deadline: January 22, 2020

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Ophelia Payne, Louisa County Public Library Branch Manager.
Photo by Carol Barfield

Cover designed by Marilyn Ellinger

More Rescuers

By Pat Wilson
Correspondent

Over several future issues, compassionate animal lovers share stories of the pets they took into their homes and the joy and companionship that resulted from those additions to their lives.

Cathy Collins and Chester

I had been retired from The Central Virginian for about a month when I got a frantic phone call on a January morning.

"You have to go to the animal shelter and pick up CV and her puppies. We have to get them and find homes for them," said a staff member in the advertising department.

At that point, I didn't even know that CV had had puppies. I also had no idea that I was starting an 11-year journey that would become so special! Louisa County Animal Control had picked up the yellow hound/lab mix that had gradually endeared herself to the employees of several businesses in the Louisa County Industrial Air Park. The newspaper was among the locations that fed the stray and staff had developed a relationship with her. So, they named her "CV." If she had other names, we never knew. Although she regularly ate the dog food and hot dogs left by a rear door, she never let us touch her.

One crisp morning while she was across the road sunning on top of a straw bale at Louisa Feed Service, CV was picked up by animal control. Meanwhile her nine recently born puppies, who called the hedges in front of the Virginia Community Bank Corporate Center their home, were hungry and looking for their mom. A call to the animal shelter by a VCB employee brought an officer to pick up the puppies and take them to the shelter where the family was reunited. All of us feared the outcome for the stray we had become fond of as well as the fate of her pups.

So, I grabbed a blanket and laid it in the back of our brand-new Jeep Cherokee and then told my husband, Bill, that we were going on a rescue mission. I really can't say that he was enthusiastic about the prospect of CV and her litter in his new Jeep, but he didn't fuss too much. His big question was, "Where are we taking them once we get them?"

Anticipating that they probably weren't coming to our Weathersfield

See Chester Page 14



CV, the mother of the nine puppies, lived out her days at Far Fetched Farm.



A youthful Chester shared the affection of the Collins family with Barney, an older Jack Russell Terrier.

Annie Gould Gallery



Painting by Susan Graeber

109 South Main Street • Gordonsville, VA 22942 • 540-832-6352

- www.facebook.com/anniegouldgallery
- www.instagram.com/anniegouldgallery

Cover Story



Ophelia Payne displays the toy library catalog. All photos by Carol Barfield

Welcome to your Louisa Public Library

By Carol Barfield
Correspondent

How lucky we are in this county to have a branch of a regional library available to use for free!

The Louisa County Public Library, a facility that is so well-loved and well-used in our community, is a wonderful example of this privilege. Ask any of the 7-8,000 monthly visitors who come through the doors what they think!

On December 12 the current library celebrated its 20th year of service to our county — but it's not your father's library...books are just the beginning of the treasures you will find there.

Do you need your cell phone or computer charged? The Louisa County Public Library has charging stations for public use. Also free for use within the library are 11 public computers, and several Chromebooks. Patrons can download free e-books, audiobooks and digital magazines as well.

Are you an older adult trying to keep fit and socially healthy? The library has yoga classes, which began with 15 seniors and now have 25-30 attending on scheduled Mondays.

If you are artistic, you can bring your own craft to the Wednesday group that meets

Louisa County Sheriff's Office Foundation
& Project First Responder Present:

SPECIAL NEEDS GOT TALENT

Showcasing the many abilities of special needs people
in Central Virginia.

January 25th, 2020

.....
Limited spots available!

Registration through January
9th - \$15.00

For more information, go to this
link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/special-needs-got-talent-tickets-79071327469>

.....
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Jolyn surrounded by books at library work station.

from 1-5 pm to share inspiration and enjoy social interaction. Perhaps you want to form a book club—the library offers book club kits to get you and your friends started.

Maybe you have a family member with dementia—there are memory kits available for borrowing to enrich the days left to them.

In support of the students, the library has displayed art from Louisa High School art classes in one of the common rooms, which has added color and pizzazz to the atmosphere. When public space is transformed into community space, pride is the dividend.

Perhaps you need a meeting room, or a boating safety course; or you may need an exam proctored for a real estate license; or perhaps you must attend driving university because you've gotten aggressive with the gas pedal too many times...the library is your place.

Perhaps you need a notary public—the library offers this service free of charge.

Let's talk more about this "free" thing: perhaps you want to keep your home uncluttered or simply can't find room in your budget for new toys for your children; there is actually a "toy library"

See Library page 6



Wireless hotspots are available for checking out.



Join the thousands of local adults

who've put the fun back into learning!

A Taste of OLLI / Spring Course Previews

CROZET: Mon, Jan 6, 2:00-3:00
Crozet Library

CHARLOTTESVILLE: Wed, Jan 8, 1:00-2:00
Meadows Presbyterian Church

STAUNTON: Fri, Jan 10, 1:00-2:00
R.R. Smith Center

Registration begins

Tues, Jan 14 at 10:00 am

Classes start

Feb 24

Catalog at ollivuva.org

or call 434-923-3600

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Thursday 10AM-7PM
Friday 10AM-7PM
Saturday 10AM-7PM
Sunday 10AM-6PM



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where parents can check out interesting and developmentally rich play toys!

For those who have a tight food budget, especially during the summer when school is not in session, the library has partnered with the 'No Kid Hungry' initiative for the past three years to serve a meal three days per week during the summer. In 2019, over 500 meals were served to kids 18 and under. There are also special educational programs that enrich the summer, including a reading challenge and wonderful programs on exciting topics such as butterflies and reptiles, as well as offerings from paid performers.

For fun family trips throughout the year, visit the library and check out a free pass to several area attractions, such as state parks (hike at Lake Anna!), or the Virginia Discovery Museum in Charlottesville.

Children who aspire to academic excellence can get an early start with the "1,000 Books Before Kindergarten" program, and older students can check out a wi-fi hotspot for three weeks to make doing homework possible for those who have limited, or no internet service.

The childrens' computer section is cheerful and welcoming as well. Being computer literate starts early, and thanks to the library, this possibility is accessible to all.

The wonderful services available are only part of the package at Louisa County Public Library.

The physical surroundings have been repaired, updated and beautified. Funds that were initially raised to build the library were not completely exhausted, and after almost twenty years, The Louisa Library Foundation, managed by Joe Leslie, president, funded those improvements from the library's trust. The parking lot was extended by 25 additional spaces, the shingle roof was replaced with a new



Louisa Library staff members pose in front of the Louisa high school art display: Sharon Thomas, Ophelia Payne, Mercedes Evergreen, Jolyn Bullock and Diana Simpson.

metal roof, ceiling tiles and the circulation desktop were replaced, lights inside were changed to LED for future savings, and fresh paint and carpeting were installed throughout the building. A grand re-opening of the library was held on October 6, 2019, and it is truly a cheerful and beautiful public space.

One of the intangibles about a library is its safe welcoming atmosphere—a reminder of happy times in the past for many. As Ophelia Payne,

branch manager explains, "So many people still love to hold a book in their hands. Library patrons value the services provided, and what is more, they can walk in the door and find a friend or get help with a wide variety of requests." Ophelia is joined by support staff Jolyn Bullock, (who celebrates 30 years with the library this March,) and Mercedes Evergreen. Part-timers Sharon Thomas, Diana Simpson and Kathleen Sergeant help round out the team. Ophelia

spends time helping people who have questions about iPads, laptops and telephone...not everyone has a savvy techno-teen to ask for help! At Louisa County Library, help is available when you walk through the door.

Recently, the library was able to extend its hours in the morning to assist those who want to come in before 11, and in the afternoon, which helps those who now have the opportunity to come by after work. On any



The children's library area and toy train play station.



Courtesy phone charging station and lounge area.



Mercedes Evergreen enjoys sharing jokes with Jack Ball and mother Lauren at the library checkout counter.



Computer station in the children's section.

given day a whole cross-section of our population can be found, reading, tutoring, doing homework, computing, home-schooling, crafting and exercising in the comfortable, cheerful, welcoming space that is our library.

**Come and visit Louisa Library at 881 Davis Highway,
Mineral, VA, visit JMRL.org
or call 540-894-5853**

Library Hours: M/T 10-7pm; W/TH 10-6pm; F/Sat. 10-5pm



Colored pencil offering from "Individuality in Women" Series by Anmarie Sewell, Louisa High School artist.

The Country Hummer

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Saturday Hours 10 am- 6 pm
(Monday- Friday by appointment only)

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EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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2019

WATCH NIGHT

Worship Service

Watch Night Service
First Baptist Church - Louisa
Tuesday, December 31, 2019 at 10 PM
102 Meadow Avenue, Louisa
Join us as we worship our way into 2020! There will be music, prayer & praise, communion, and the preached Word!



New Years Dance
Hosted by Louisa Moose Lodge
Tuesday, December 31, 2019
at 8 PM - 12 AM
Louisa Moose Lodge
349 School Bus Rd, Louisa, Virginia 23093
540) 967-1811

New years Dance Tickets on sell now \$25 each this comes with a Breakfast & party favors come bring in the new year with .

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couple

Silver
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per
couple

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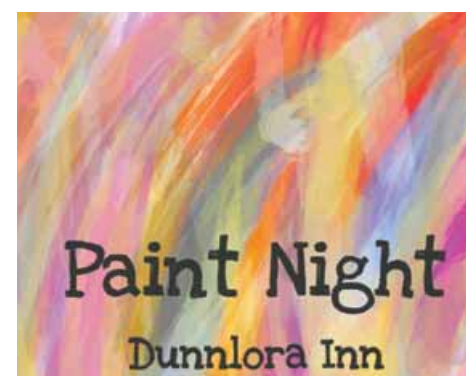
Tim's at Lake Anna
200 Boardwalk Way
Mineral, VA 23117
Tuesday, December 31 at 8:00 pm



Cooling Pond Brewery's 1st Annual New Year's Eve Bash
Tuesday, December 31, 2019
at 8 PM - 12 AM
Cooling Pond Brewery
4411 Zachary Taylor Hwy,
Mineral, Virginia 23117
Tickets - \$40
www.eventbrite.com

Make plans to ring in 2020 at Cooling Pond Brewery's New Year's Eve bash! Great beer, wine, heavy hors d'oeuvres and music. The evening kicks off with fun music by Sauna Mountain Valley followed up with rockin' tunes by a DJ as we welcome in a new decade.

Ticket price of \$40 per person includes hors d'oeuvres, party favors and champagne toast at midnight. Coffee will also be available. Cash bar for beer and wine. Adults 21 years of age and older. Only 65 tickets available so snag them while you still can. Please be aware that all ticket purchases are final, no refunds will be issued.



Paint Night At Dunnlorra Inn
Saturday, January 11, 2020
at 5 PM - 7 PM

903 Mineral Ave, Mineral
(540) 259-9173

Tickets: www.eventbrite.com

Come to the Inn for Paint Night! Appetizers and beverages will be available for the event. The cost is \$30 per person. All supplies are included.

WWW.TIMSLAKEANNA.COM



**James Madison Bass Fishing Club
Fundraiser Tournament**
Hosted by James Madison Bass Fishing Club
Saturday, January 11, 2020 at 7:30 AM – 3:30 PM
Anna Point Marina
13721 Anna Point Ln, Mineral
Open Team Tournament hosted by the JMU Bass Fishing
Team and Steven Toyota.
\$80 Entry Fee

---Optional \$10 Big Fish Pot
75% Payback
1 in 5 Positions Paid
Pre-Register or On-site Registration
7:30 AM Take-Off
3:30 PM Check-in



The Swon Brothers
**Saturday, January 25, 2020 at 7:30 PM
– 10:30 PM**

Louisa Arts Center
212 Fredericksburg Ave, Louisa,

The Swon Brothers, the first country duo to make it through to The Voice's season finale, are coming to the Louisa Arts Center January 25, 2019 at 7:30pm. They'll be singing their hit songs, including "Later On", "This Side of Heaven", and "Pretty Beautiful".

Tickets are \$37 per person and available by calling our Box Office at (540) 967 5200 or in person.



Special Needs Got Talent
Saturday, January 25, 2020 at 12 PM

Thomas Jefferson Elementary School, Louisa, Virginia
Special Needs Got Talent is an event being hosted by Blue Ridge Virtual Governor School and Louisa County High School Senior, Taylor Talley, with the assistance of the Louisa County Sheriff's Office, Louisa County Sheriff's Office Foundation, and Project First Responder. The event will be held on January 25th, 2020 at Thomas Jefferson Elementary School in Louisa, Virginia. The snow date will be held on February 8th, 2020 at Thomas

Jefferson Elementary School in Louisa, Virginia.

Interested?

Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/special-needs-got-talent-tickets-79071327469>

Register for one of our mandatory practices on January 9th from 6:30pm-8:30pm at Thomas Jefferson Elementary School in Louisa, Virginia. Each participant should be registered individually, even if performing as a group. You must pay \$15.00 at the door on the day of practice by cash or check. Registering will guarantee a spot in our talent show. Spaces are limited.

Questions?

Taylor Talley at taylor.talley@brvgs.k12.va.us night or by calling 540-223-1798.



A TEEN ARTS PROJECT PRODUCTION

DEAR EDWINA

Music by Zina Goldrich
Book and Lyrics by Marcy Heisler



Dear Edwina is a heartwarming musical about the joys of growing up, from the creators of Junie B. Jones The Musical. The show's heroine is an advice-giver extraordinaire, like a spunky, singing version of Dear Abby.

Thirteen-year-old Edwina Spoonapple would do just about anything to be a part of the Kalamazoo Advice-a-Palooza Festival. While her siblings both have proof of their accomplishments, poor Edwina has nothing. When a talent scout from the convention visits her hometown, she trots out her musical advice, giving shows live from the family garage in hopes of finding her place in the spotlight. She is assisted by her older siblings, quirky friends and neighbors. Together, they set out to tackle the world's problems in number after hysterical number about everything from birthday party etiquette to proper table settings.

DEAR EDWINA, directed by Geri Carlson Sauls, with music direction by Austin Robey and choreography by Michelle Cooper, opens January 31, 2020 in the Cellar at Four County Players.

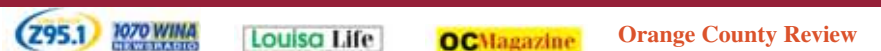
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2020 With Me
2019
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TICKETS ON SALE NOW!!!
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The Biltmore Estate at night. All photos by Carol Barfield



Harp music welcomed visitors to Biltmore.

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Asheville: Where Biltmore Estate Meets Highclere Castle

By Carol Barfield
Correspondent

Asheville, North Carolina, is an exciting city, full of great places to eat, such as Curate, a Spanish tapas restaurant, Wicked Weed Brewery for a mid-day ale break, and Bouchon, a hearty French restaurant. It also has fun shopping venues such as Mast General Store, a popular shopping destination offering clothes, toys, dry goods, penny candy and gifts for sale. For art lovers, the beautiful Lexington Glassworks, housed in an open garage-like building is a must-see. The light streaming through the many windows of the glassworks illuminates treasures and one-of-a-kind gifts. The artisans in the studio create glass and fire handmade pieces as you watch, offering a peak into a mesmerizing artistry.

The highlight of our visit to Asheville was a candlelight tour of the Biltmore Estates. Driving through a wilderness lane in a comfortable tour bus, we saw a Disney-like antlered stag grazing on the estate and approached the festively lit castle whose illuminated fountain showered us with welcome, the trees shot through with fairy lights. The cool marble entryway was gleaming with candlelight ambiance, two harpists were strumming soothing, lovely music in the sunken entryway, and warmly-dressed visitors were happily milling about. Some people chose to do the audio tour—they were the ones who were looking around a lot and bumping into everyone else! Others took a more sensual approach and just soaked in their surroundings.

The Biltmore was the brainchild of George Vanderbilt. Begun in 1889 and opening in 1895, the 250-room chateau was built in the French Renaissance style. It boasts 33 bedrooms, 65 fireplaces and 43 bathrooms. On the tour, the beautifully appointed rooms were festooned with flowers, spiced orange-clove towers, and decorated with an unimaginable array of furniture, tapestry and artwork. Many surfaces and walls in the chateau were warmed and made personal with photos and portraits of the Vanderbilts. The chateau had the requisite library, sitting rooms, bed-

rooms and bathrooms galore, as well as huge dining rooms, but more extravagant and unexpected was seeing the indoor swimming pool and bowling alley. Upstairs a classical guitarist strummed his instrument unobtrusively, while people filed through the family bedrooms and guest rooms. Even though there were hundreds of people touring the grand house, the many flights of stairs winding up and down prevented bottlenecks, (a cautionary word to the differently abled--lots of stairs!). George Vanderbilt was a collector who had a voracious appetite for the acquisition of history and beauty and an apparently bottomless pocketbook; his grandfather, Cornelius Vanderbilt, was the richest man in the United States in the late 1800s. George was also a philanthropist and sold 87,000 acres of his estate to the U.S. Forest Service for less than \$5 an acre.



Lady Mary and her jewels.

The servant quarters down below the main floor were generously large, and the kitchens were impressive; at any moment, with a little imagination, you could expect servants to bustle past, preparing foods at the huge stove and wood counter, or bearing food-laden trays up to the dining room. The surroundings looked so authentic, it felt like we could take a seat and enjoy a meal from days gone by, dressed in formal gowns and tux, being served from the left and conversing genteelly with those on either side.

Anyone who has seen the Downton Abbey series and movies might expect Daisy and Mrs. Patmore, or Mrs. Hughes or Mr. Carson to walk through any portal at any

moment. In fact, there is a Downton Abbey component to the current Biltmore experience—two exhibits on the estate combine the atmosphere of upper-class American life with that of the English nobility embodied in Highclere Castle.

One exhibit features the costumes and jewelry worn in the series, along with pictures and scenes of the beautifully dressed characters. There is also an entire building at Biltmore Village with “everything Downton Abbey” featuring film clips, huge still photos, histories of the time period and related objects displayed in drawers and glass cases. Especially enjoyable is the “Violet Crawley, Duchess Dowager” exhibit, with many of her enjoyable bon mots, such as, “At my age, one must ration one’s excitement”, and “I know several couples who are completely happy—they haven’t spoken in years.”

The blend of exhibits at Biltmore is brilliant considering that in the Downton Abbey series, Robert Crawley, the Lord of Highclere Castle, was forced for economic reasons to marry the American heiress Cora Levinson. The link between American and English royalty is alive at Biltmore.

If you are on the lookout for an enjoyable activity to clear the winter doldrums, take a trip to Asheville and revisit The Biltmore and surrounding city. It was so very fun!



The inimitable Dowager Countess.



Lady Edith of Highclere Castle—part of the Downton Abbey Exhibit at Biltmore.

Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Targeted, with "in on"
 6 Tub toy
 10 Gold medalist Lipinski
 14 Immature egg
 15 Heavy drinker
 16 Desktop feature
 17 Merchandise movers
 19 Reunion attendee
 20 Mournful
 21 Actresses Ralston and Rolle
 23 Guggenheim display
 24 Not moving
 25 Like Steve Austin of WCW
 29 Lookout point
 33 Sword handle
 34 Hole-making tool
 35 Mall attraction
 36 Well-worn
 37 Kristen or Patrick
 39 Something to check
 40 Loathsome
 42 Indignation
 43 Massive
 44 H.S. students
 45 Harvard or Columbia, for Obama
 47 Move like a top
 49 Cookie container
 50 Salad ingredient
 53 Street surface
 57 Wrapped up
 58 Emphasize
 60 Gardener's spring purchase

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63						64				65			

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- 9 This one and this one
 10 Use a torque wrench
 11 One to grow on?
 12 Engine sound
 13 "No ifs, ___ ..."
 18 Tycoons, slangily
 22 Blue eyes or baldness, e.g.
 24 Bitter feeling
 25 Photo session
 26 Diacritical mark
 27 Any Platters platter
 28 "I ___ you one"
 30 Contradict
 31 Likeness
 32 Raring to go
 35 Brahma, in Hinduism
 37 Raw fish dish
 38 Hand holder?
 41 Moving ahead
 43 Trackman's transit
 45 Combat zones
 46 Bad atmosphere
 48 Condition
 50 Civil Rights figure Parks
 51 Chef's need
 52 Get together
 53 Trust, with "on"
 54 007
 55 Hence
 56 Bucks and does
 59 Party bowlful

A Patriotic Celebration

By Pat Wilson
Correspondent



Aiden and Gian Bailey were among the parade watchers who received wrapped gifts from Peach Grove Baptist Church members.

“Red, White and Blue” was the theme as Louisa County welcomed the holiday season with a Christmas Festival and Parade on Saturday, December 7. A chilly breeze and cool temperatures didn’t dampen the spirits of shoppers at the numerous vendor booths or of children as they collected candy tossed from floats, vintage vehicles, marching units and pageant winners. The parade culminated when Santa Claus arrived on an antique fire truck. Churches, civic organizations and commercial enterprises joined to make the day a success. Louisa County Parks, Recreation and Tourism coordinated the activities.

The lighting of the Courthouse tree and traditional caroling occurred on the evening prior. Following the parade, the Louisa County Historical Society sponsored an Open House. Visitors to the Sargeant Museum and its Heritage Farm chatted with Santa and Mrs. Claus along with exploring the skills, food and crafts of the colonial and Victorian eras.

Throughout the month community organizations and churches held bazaars and social events, while local shops, with windows decorated for the season, offered specials. Cantatas and church services reminded all of the true meaning of the season.



From the bed of an antique fire truck, Santa and Mrs. Claus waved to parade watchers along Main Street.



Mackenzie Mick visited with Santa and Mrs. Claus in the Sargeant Museum.



Cub Scouts tossed candy as they walked beside their float.



The Hodges and Simmons families rode their decorated mowers.



The Polar Express arrived compliments of Crossroads Creations and Embroidery and Dr. Andre and Associates.



Members of the Louisa County High School Band played seasonal selections as they marched.



Maria Greco explained the tradition of the pineapple as a symbol of hospitality to visitors at the Michie House during the Louisa County Historical Society's Open House.

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All photos by Pat Wilson



An older Chester enjoyed relaxing on the back porch at Weathersfield Farm.

Farm for a temporary stay in our horse barn, I had already alerted my longtime friend, Pat Wilson, a former newspaper staff writer. Her reluctance was evident, but, of course, she didn't say no.

Pat had the perfect place at Far Fetched Farm - a temporarily vacant stall in the horse barn that's right near her backyard. I knew that Pat would have crafted a plan by the time we arrived with these beautiful furry babies and their mom. And I was right on target. I also remember her words.

"I will keep them for six weeks," she said. "After that they are out of here."

So while CV and her pups meshed into life around the farm, the newspaper staff set out to find permanent homes and happy endings. On one of my visits, I remember looking at those precious fluff balls, some mixed colors of tan, black and/or white but one standout, different from the rest. I said those life changing words, "I'll take the little yellow one."

I wasn't looking for another dog, but there was something about this little runt - his puppy breath and the way he cuddled up against me that won me over. "Chester" would fall into the routine at Weathersfield with Barney, our Jack Russell, Little Pup, a Jack Russell/Norwich Terrier mix and two cats, Midnight and Tiger Lily, who appeared at the barn just before Chester arrived.

The newspaper staff met another "deadline" and found homes in the community for the rest of the pups. By this time, Pat had formed a bond with the now touchable CV, even getting her to lead and obey basic commands. CV would live out her life on the Wilson farm. Homes for a dog and nine puppies in less than six weeks in the middle of winter was a big accomplishment.

Chester moved in at Weathersfield in Mineral. When I told my granddaughter in Denver about the new addition to our family, she had a suggestion.

"Grammie," said five-year-old Katy, "People in the South have two first names (Betty Sue, Mary Jo, etc.). Chester needs another name. I think his name should be Chester Stanley."

So, the runt of the litter, who was beginning to start a growth spurt, acquired the longest name. Chester Stanley led a busy life around the farm, checking on the goats and learning that you do not chase a kid when its mom, the doe, is nearby, or run after a horse or pony. When we were bottle feeding newborn kids, who needed a little extra boost, he was right there, too. If I was working in the barn, cleaning stalls or brushing the pony, he was my work partner and companion. And a great



Since Cathy and Bill Collins raised goats, Chester often made friends with them.

mouser, too!

Sometimes, Chester would go off on his own and run into the woods after a deer. These adventures always raised my blood pressure because we could never find him. We had to wait until he decided to come home, usually completely exhausted, ready for a rehydration treatment.

Chester loved snow and even more than a few inches couldn't stop his favorite pastime - playing ball. He had tennis balls everywhere, even in lots of special places that Bill and I are still finding.

Inside the house, he had several favorite areas- under the kitchen table waiting for food to hit the ground while he rested his head on my lap, on the hardwood floor in a doorway when it was hot outside and in front of the fireplaces on the bricks where it was cool in the summer and warm in the winter.

Chester and I went to dog obedience classes, and I can proudly say that he sailed through beginning puppy training. But it was downhill after that. He became my "Marley" who was so distracted by other scents in the pet shop where the classes were conducted, so much so that he couldn't focus. I would give the "Stay" command and walk away, and he would be excellent. But the second part, "Chester, Come" would be anyone's guess. He was so mesmerized by the dog food along the back wall that he took forever to respond to the command. But he always did! He really was the best dog, but some things just had to be done "his way."

Chester participated in pet shows, was a regular at the Louisa County Ag Fair, walked with me at the LCHS track and wouldn't miss a trip to town if it involved going to a drive thru where they handed out treats. He was smart and he knew the word "bank."

He kept growing and growing and his trips to the vet usually reflected how much he liked to eat and how much I fed him. He did not like getting on the scales and I could relate to that completely!

As Chester was getting closer to his 11th birthday, he gained a lot of gray hair around his muzzle, his gait was slowing and climbing upstairs to the second-floor bedroom was becoming more difficult. He had always followed me around the house and the farm, but I began to notice that he was becoming more selective about what he did. He was even giving a break to the family of groundhogs who had made a home under a small building in the backyard.

In the early hours of January 29, 2019, I woke up and heard Chester whimpering. He was sprawled out on the rug in his usual place by Bill's side of the bed, and he was in distress. As I cradled his head in my arms, I knew that my story with Chester was ending. I was losing "my bear" who always seemed to be able to read me. He came into my life and made retirement anything but dull. And, he brought so much joy and unconditional love.

No, he wasn't registered and we don't know much about his parentage, but he was the best dog and I'm positive that he knew it. That morning, I told Chester that he was the "Best Dog" one last time as he took a couple of final breaths and closed his eyes. He understood.



Animal Rescue Fund grants over \$30,000 to animal welfare groups

The Ursula Landsrath Animal Rescue Fund and the Community Foundation for Loudoun and Northern Fauquier Counties has announced \$34,700 in grant awards to 12 nonprofit animal rescue organizations across Virginia, including Albemarle County, Louisa County, and rural Central Virginia regions.

The Fund was established within the Community Foundation earlier this year by the friends of Ursula Landsrath and her husband, Ken Rietz as a memorial after she died on January 3, 2019. Landsrath founded the Animal Rescue Fund of Virginia as an independent organization ten years ago, distributing more than \$1 million during that time to Virginia-based animal rescue organizations before shutting down grantmaking operations in 2017.

Dedicated to building a permanent legacy in her honor, the newly founded Ursula Landsrath Animal Rescue Fund will continue to provide needed funds to grassroots animal rescue organizations while benefitting from staffing and investment support unique within the Community Foundation.

"This is a great start for this new effort," said Sandal Larose, member of the Fund grant committee. "We hope to be able to expand the number and amount of the grants in coming years." The Fund selected 12 organizations to receive funding, after conducting a competitive grant process:

- Animal Care Assistance Program received a \$2,500 grant to support a fence repair at their sanctuary facility.
- Blue Ridge Wildlife Center received a \$2,500 grant to support the purchase of new surgical instrument packs and specialty instruments for animal surgeries.

- Community Cat Advocats received a \$2,500 grant to support the County Cats program, focused on diversion for community cats who would otherwise euthanized.

- Equine Rescue League received a \$2,500 grant to provide high quality feed, hay, and supplements to abused and neglected equines in care.

- For the Cat's Sake received a \$2,500 to support the Community Cat Medical Assistance Fund.

- Green Dogs Unleashed received a \$5,000 grant to support the cost of medical care for Great Danes rescued from neglectful situations.

- Humane Society of Loudoun County received a \$2,500 grant to support Community Cat Program, a Trap-Neuter-Return for program for feral cats.

- Middleburg Humane Foundation received a \$5,000 grant to support the Community Cat Trap-Neuter-Return program.

- People for Pets Foundation received a \$2,500 grant to support a cat rescue program specializing in special-needs cats that are blind, have heart conditions, or need amputation.

- Promises Animal Rescue received a \$2,500 grant to support vaccinations, heartworm and tick treatment, and spaying/neutering for rescued dogs.

- Rappahannock Animal Welfare League received a \$2,200 grant to support the medication needs of dogs in shelter.

- Wildlife Veterinary Care received a \$2,500 grant to support veterinary supplies and food for rescued sick and injured wildlife.



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Answers to the Crossword Puzzle from page 11

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