End in Sight for Bridge Project?

One of the most common questions asked at Lake Anna is...when will the bridge construction be finished? Kelly Hannon, a representative for the Fredericksburg District of the Virginia Department of Transportation says “work on this bridge project continues, and is coming to a close as we finish the final milestones. The project is expected to be completed on time in late December 2012.” The bridge rehabilitation project, budgeted at $4.8 million, was awarded to American Infrastructure Virginia, Inc. and construction commenced in the fall of 2010. The construction goals include replacing the bridge deck, painting the bridge steel beams, and perform substructure con-

Second Annual Award Nominees Announced

Nominations have been pouring in for the 2nd Annual Best of Lake Anna Awards, and we are excited to announce the finalists. Voting for the finals will begin on September 3rd and the voting will continue until Friday, September 14th. The link will be available on LakeAnnaGuide.com. While many returning faces appear in the finals, there are also new choices in each category. New additions to the Lake Anna scene that were well represented in the nominations include Tim’s and ...continued on page 3

The Resort Builds Buzz

One of the most highly anticipated developments coming to the Lake Anna area is The Lake Anna Resort, which is quickly gaining buzz in the region. While plans for The Resort are rolling out daily, it’s easy to see that a project of this type is needed in the area. In addition to other projects bringing much needed amenities to the area like The Boardwalk and the Cutalong Golf Course hitting the scene in the last year, The Resort will also focus heavily on events and activities. Much of the preliminary master site plan (see page 2 for a small version) includes event and conference space, as well as an amphitheater on the water, which will be perfect for hosting regional and national performing acts, from popular music to theatrical shows.

Since the debut of The Resort’s website in recent months, many have signed up to learn more about the destination and to receive updates on pertinent information, particularly the pre-con-...continued on page 2
construction prices available for the first few investors to sign on for units in the first building.

For those interested, the developers will be hosting an open house/reception on Thursday, September 6th at 6:00 p.m. at the Lake Anna Visitors Center at 2991 New Bridge Road to answer questions and reveal the latest details available.

The developers also urge anyone interested in the pre-construction prices to call and set up a meeting prior to the open house, as there are only 8 units left at these savings.

Interested in subscribing to The Lake Anna Breeze? Please call 540-872-0684 or visit the LakeAnnaBreeze.com to subscribe to our print or online editions!

Thank you for purchasing this edition of The Lake Anna Breeze!

The Lake Anna Breeze is published monthly and is available for purchase in stores for $1 per copy.

Interested in advertising? Please call 540-872-0684 or e-mail info@lakeannainfo.net

Story ideas? Suggestions? Questions? Please feel free to contact us with a letter to the editor.

Issue No. 10

What’s Inside?

Recreation & Leisure.................................................5
Home & Dock..........................................................13
Fishing.................................................................7
Events Calendar.......................................................9
Dining.................................................................11
Real Estate...........................................................14

To the Lake Anna Breeze:

We visited the lake last weekend and stopped by to get an ice cream cone at Island Mochas, but were saddened to see the shop had closed. Is there anywhere else to get good ice cream at the Lake?

Caroline (via e-mail)

Caroline,

There are several locations that carry ice cream around the lake, including Hunter’s Landing, Elk Creek Country Store, New Bridge Market & Deli & more! Also, the location that used to house Island Mochas will soon open under new management and a new name - Not Just Mochas. The location will serve coffee, smoothies, pastries, sandwiches, and many other items. While, at press time, there is not a confirmed date for a grand opening, we will be updating our website with the information as soon as possible.

Do you have a favorite ice cream/dessert spot at Lake Anna? Write in and let us know!

Do you have a burning question about Lake Anna you’d love to have answered? Please feel free to e-mail info@lakeannainfo.net and we’ll answer additional questions in upcoming issues!

The Resort

continued from page 1
crete surface repairs.

The bridge was originally built in 1970, making it 42 years old. At 930 feet long and more than 37 feet wide before the rehabilitation began. All of the demolition required has been completed. The next phase will include painting on the bridge's substructure. The equipment required to finish the project must be staged on the deck of the bridge, making it necessary for one travel lane to remain closed and the temporary traffic signal must remain in place as the work takes place below the deck. It looks as though Lake Anna commuters will be stopping at the traffic light for another four months until the road will flow normally.

“The project is expected to be completed on time in late December 2012.”

Kelly Hannon,
Virginia Department of Transportation

Lake Anna Islanders Club Turns 20

Back in the summer of 1992, a group of 5 or 6 boats gathered at a small island with a large sand bar in Scotts Flats at Lake Anna. The sheriff informed the group that as long as there was water between the boats and the island, the boats were not tied off to branches of the trees on the island and no one actually got on the island, they would not be violating rules protecting the island as a wildlife refuge. Over the next few weeks, as the same group of boats and friends gathered at "the island," an idea came up of having a club with newsletters, phone and address lists and custom t-shirts. The idea took off and the "Lake Anna Islanders Club" was born. Shortly thereafter, another idea was hatched and the group set up a volleyball net in thigh-high water. As weeks passed, more and more people came to the island to enjoy the fun, camaraderie and volleyball games.

After sundown, the old Lake Anna Family Campground became another common gathering place for club members. There, early Club members got to know a lot of people who went to the sand bar on the north side of the lake. A volleyball challenge ensued, and the circle of friends grew. After the closing of that campground, many Club members bought land, built or bought homes or moved to different campgrounds, but the island was still the place to meet.

These days, on major summer holiday weekends; there are often fifty to seventy boats and over a hundred people gathered at the sandbar next to the island cooking out, playing volleyball and enjoying each other’s company. The members of the Islanders Club make sure to leave the area clean and are insistent on keeping it as a family-friendly place where all parents keep an eye on all children, providing a safe place for them to play and have fun. Drink cans are collected and donated to the Boy Scouts of America. The Islanders Club now includes many families that have three generations coming to the Island. Recently, the Club held its 20th year celebration, with door prizes donated by over twenty local businesses raffled off. Now, in its 20th year, the "island" with the in-water volleyball court has become one of the top spots for people to gather and enjoy Lake Anna.
An ongoing goal of the Lake Anna Civic Association’s Education and Emergency Services/Safe Boating Coalition Committee has been to improve response time to emergencies on Lake Anna. The Committee consists of members from LACA, law enforcement and emergency services from Louisa and Spotsylvania Counties, Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, the Coast Guard Auxiliary, the Lake Anna State Park, Dominion Power, the Lake Anna Business Partnership, and the Lake Anna Chamber of Commerce.

The problem is that lake visitors, and even some residents, are consistently unable to provide 9-1-1 call takers with accurate information about their location while experiencing an emergency. This results in slower response times.

Last year, the group decided to create, print and distribute an “orientation” map of Lake Anna. It was designed to raise boaters’ awareness of where they are at all times by using landmarks, bridge signs, and numbered location markers on the lake, which are clearly identified on the map.

This year, the committee agreed it would be helpful to have additional location markers on the lake for boaters to use as points of reference. It was decided to create a system of signage that would increase location awareness and improve safety response times.

The result is a plan for universal location signage “dock signs” on Lake Anna. Specific targets are Lake Anna community common areas and individual waterfront home owners. This is not a mandate, but a plea for voluntary support to help save lives.

The signs will give the county (Louisa, Spotsylvania or Orange), uplake or downlake (the 208 represents the midpoint for the lake) and 3 random numbers. Example: U232 for Louisa Downlake or S456 for Spotsylvania Uplake or O789 for Orange Uplake.

Keith Greene, Louisa County’s Chief of Fire and Emergency Services, was selected by the committee to verify location information on each application, assign the dock sign number and longitude so 9-1-1 emergency call takers can enter this information into their computerized database linking the dock sign to the applicant’s 9-1-1 street address. In essence, the dock sign becomes a universal location signage “dock sign” on the lake, which are clearly identified on the map.

Want to help? Here’s how you can participate:

1) Go to the Lake Anna Civic Association’s website at www.lakeannavirginia.org to download an application for a dock sign.

2) Enclose a check for $16.00 to Rainbow Graphics in Mineral.

That price includes an 8” x 16’ yellow aluminum sign with black vinyl lettering that will be mailed to you once number is assigned and the sign fabricated.

Suggestions for use should be directed to Dr. Slovis at LakeAnnaGuide.com

Ctenocephalides felis is the common fleas on the cat, but fleas, is the most common flea found on the dog and cat, accounting for more than 90% of cases. Ctenocephalides canis is the dog flea. Echidnophaga gallinacea is the sticktight poultry flea, but may also infest dog and cat. Pulex irritans is the human flea, but it can also infest dogs, and less often cats.

It is also common for Skunks, Raccoons and Opossums to all carry the Ctenocephalides felis flea. That makes these animals a reservoir for the parasite. The way most cats and dogs get the flea from these animals is to lay down in the same region, so that means under porches, decks and sheds. Flea Life Cycle: The average life span of a flea is 6-24 months. Adult fleas lay white eggs on the host animal. Eggs laid on the host drop off and after 2-12 days hatch into maggots.

Maggots are small white bristle worms with chewing mouth parts. The maggots ingest the blood-containing excrement (Flea Dirt) of the adult flea and then undergo 2 molts over 9-200 days. At the third molt, while moist and freezing. Newly emerged adult fleas can survive for 1-2 weeks before requiring a blood meal.

Fleas spend their entire adult life on the host and they can survive for more than 100 days. Fleas rarely leave host voluntarily, and will die within 2-4 days if removed.

Ambient temperature and relative humidity are critical for flea development. Fleas thrive in warm, moist climates. For larvae, optimum conditions are 65-80°F and high humidity. Dryness within the home (heater or A/C) is fatal.

Or Stivis’ Full Report is accessible at LakeAnnaGuide.com

Written By Daniel B Stivis DVM (Owner of Lake Anna Veterinary Hospital)
Scenes from Lake Anna

E-mail your photos to: info@LakeAnnaGuide.net to share for our next issue!

Lake Anna's Featured Pets

Send your photos to our facebook page or e-mail them to info@LakeAnnaGuide.net and you could see your pet featured here next month!
End of Summer Wakeboard/Wakesurf Tournament September 15th

Are you ready for yet another amazing day on the water? If your answer is yes, you need to make your way to Wake Edgers Gear and Gifts on Saturday, September 15th at The Boardwalk on Lake Anna. The next and possibly last wakeboard/wakesurf tournament of the year will be early that morning. If you haven’t been to a tournament yet this year, don’t miss this one!

This tournament is a USA Wakeboard sanctioned event held by the Wake Edgers Watersports Club. The beautiful EPIC 23v will be pulling the event, alongside a Supra 21v for the surfing portion of the contest. Make sure to sign up and check out all of the event details on the Wake Edgers Gear & Gifts Facebook page and check out all of their contest giveaways and upcoming events.

If you want to hang out and relax while you’re enjoying the show, make sure to check out the new Tim’s at Lake Anna Restaurant & Crab House and their awesome deck dining overlooking the water. You can enjoy the show from the comfort of the deck and have a delicious seafood meal served directly to you.

It will be an EPIC day on the water and we can’t wait for you to join Lake is Great and Wake Edgers Gear & Gifts at the contest. See you there!

The Lake Anna Breeze would like to extend its thanks to Kyle Austin for being such a wonderful contributor and wish him best of luck on his upcoming wedding. Congratulations Kyle & Laura!

The Lake Anna Breeze’s Kyle Austin recently visited the set of LAtv to film a segment on Lake Anna Now, the first program all about Lake Anna. He brought a few of the boards he helped design and pointed out some of the differences between wakeboarding and wakeskating for us amateurs. Kyle also discussed the tight-knit feel of the wakeboarding community and upcoming events in the Lake Anna area. Stay tuned to lakeanna.tv for the premiere!
Some of Lake Anna's most skilled guides have prepared fishing reports to help you on your next fishing trip. Our website also publishes these reports monthly and archives them as the year goes on. LakeAnnaGuide.com also provides up-to-the-minute fishing weather conditions.

Lake Anna Striper Guide
Jim Hemby, http://www.jimhemby.com

STRIPERS: Summer patterns will continue through this month with plenty of schools roaming the main lake regions of the lake. Towards the end of the month there will be a bait migration to the backs of the creeks and the Stripers will turn on in very shallow water. There has not been a lot of surface action this year due to the extreme amount of bait that is in the lake due to the warm winter we had last year. Your depth finder will be the key in locating the schools which are holding primarily over 25 to 35 foot flats. Anglers trolling deep diving Redfins in the color CD917 [Sold only at High Point Marina] are catching plenty of fish up to 25 fish per morning. About a quarter of the fish are legal keepers. Occasionally in low light times of the day smaller Stripers will chase bait to the surface where top water baits like Spooks, Pencil Poppers and Pop R's attract vicious strikes. Stripers are moving into the current at the third dike and will also feed on the top water baits well. As the fish move into the backs of creeks swim baits work well especially the Sea Shad and Sassy Shad worked on 3/8 to ½ oz heads. Top water Redfins also will take the larger Stripers walked across the surface.

Still the best catches have been and will continue to come on live bait. Stripers are feeding heavily on Herring when they are schooled and it is not uncommon to take a couple hundred hits a morning fishing Herring on down lines. When the fish feed shallower Gizzard Shad pulled behind Water Bugz planner boards will produce the larger fish this month. When the dog days of September prove challenging to artificial bait fisherman switching over to live bait usually puts fish in the boat. To view what we are catching visit my journal at www.JimHemby.com.

BASS: The beginning of the month you can find the bass still relating to deeper structures where bait is present still in a summer pattern. Mainlake points, humps, roadbeds, brush and rock piles and bridges hold the bass now with numerous techniques catching fish. Deep diving crankbaits are working well along with jigs tipped with worms. Bass are being caught on the top of roadbeds in 22’ of water [208 bridge], on 20’ ledges in Rose Valley, on top in the mouth of Contrary over schools of small Threadfin Shad, over the older fish structures that were put into the lake years ago, and all the uplake bridges. Marina docks are also holding nice Bass. Towards the later part of the month the Bass can be caught in the back of the creeks on humps, roadbeds, rocks and ledges and the fish will move extremely shallow up the rivers and uplake creeks. Small shallow running crankbaits worked near stumps next to the shallow channels will put nice fish in the boat. Topwater baits will also catch nice bass in low light times of the day.

CRAPPIE: Plenty of Crappie holding on all the bridge pilings uplake and on brush piles in 10 to 20 feet of water. Very nice Crappie are being caught on docks that have lights on them at night. Uplake the Crappie are moving back up under shallower docks with structure or brush under the docks.

CATFISH: The Cats love this water temperature and can be caught basically everywhere there is bait present. Work areas less than 25 feet deep and use your favorite bait. Live bait has been producing some larger than normal Catfish fished near the bottom over 25 foot flats.
First Fridays
Walton Park
September 7
6pm-9pm
6-9 p.m., serving food from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
Tickets $4 adults; Youth 6-20 $3;
under 6 FREE, Featuring the band “Class Act”.
Just $4 – bring a lawn chair. Food and beverages available.

Orange Street Festival
Downtown Orange
September 8
9am-5pm
The Orange Street Festival, which is always a popular event for visitors and locals. Food vendors, arts and crafts booths, and information kiosks line Main Street and Short Street for 8 hours of entertainment for the entire family. Pet Friendly.

Lake Anna Open Tournament
Tanyard Golf Course
September 10
Lunch, Drinks, Prizes, and Trophies included in entry fee, to sign up go to www.lakeannachamber.org

Cutalong Gold Rush is a Big Hit!
More than 400 visitors attend & pan for gold, golf & explore the community.

Many came to visit the site of the new Cutalong Golf Course Community on Saturday, August 18th to learn about the new lots available along the course. Once on site, attendees had the opportunity to pan for gold to win real gold nuggets. The Cutalong community runs alongside Contrary Creek, well known for finding gold nuggets for decades. There was a panning station set up for participants to pan for small pieces. A gold assayer decided who made the best find and an authentic U.S. gold coin was awarded to the winner. Registered entrants also had the chance to take “a shot for a lot” with a tee set up with a green 180 yards in the distance and anyone who could make a hole-in-one would win one of the golf course lots. The event was a huge success for the organizers, who revealed that there are now 39 lots under contract in the neighborhood off of Route 208 in Louisa County next to the new Food Lion shopping center. Masons from Mineral Lodge 175 prepared food for sale at the site and the Cutalong sales team were on hand to provide information on the available Phase One sites – both residential lots and the equestrian estates.

Transportation was provided for tours of the site and the gentle hills rolling down to Contrary Creek. The construction of the Cutalong Golf Course Community in Louisa County has opened a thousand acres on Lake Anna in Virginia. Over the coming years, the site will boast an 18-hole golf course, club houses, tennis courts, docks, a “boat hotel,” riding trails, and stables, as well as houses and cottages. More than half of the site will be given over to amenities and green space. The Cutalong team is planning future events for the community to become familiar with the site, including one focused solely on the history of the site and the past uses of the land, including the Allah Cooper Mine, which was in operation at the turn of the 20th century. For more information on this and other upcoming events, along with more detailed information regarding lot availability and pricing, please visit www.cutalong.com or call 855-428-8256 to speak with someone who can help.

You can always find out about these and other Lake Anna area events by visiting the Events Calendar at LakeAnnaGuide.com - if you’d like to submit your own event information, please e-mail events@lakeannabreeze.com.

Linda Salisbury Book Signing
Lake is Great
September 2
1pm-3pm
Boys and girls love The Bailey Fish Adventure books set in Central Virginia. Mystery, history, adventure and even the earthquake. Award-winning juvenile fiction by Linda Salisbury.

Lake Anna Guide Signing
Lake Anna Breeze
The Orange Street Festival
Orange Street
September 8
9am-5pm
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Mineral Hillbilly Day
Walton Park
November 3rd, 9-3
Join the Mineral Hillbillies for a day of celebration with fun for the kids (moon bounce, hula hoops) and plenty of activities for the entire family. For more information, please call (540) 894-0460.

5th Annual Pooch Plunge
Louisa County Aquatic Facility
September 29
1pm-3pm
Today the Pool Belongs to the Dogs! $5 per dog with one person, $4 each additional dog, $2 each additional person. We will have rescue dogs from Lake Anna, obedience demonstrations, contests, gift basket raffles, micro chipping, and doggy portraits for the pups!

Second Annual Farmer’s Market “Pig Roast”
Mineral Farmer’s Market
September 22
8am-1pm
Tickets $10 adults; Kids 10 and under $6
Meal includes: Smoked pork and choice of two sides (beans, coleslaw, potato salad or macaroni salad), bun, and choice of beverage (homemade lemonade, brewed sweet or unsweetened iced tea or bottled water) Packed in carryout box – enjoy at the Market or take home! The Mineral Historic Foundation will have a benefit bake sale that day.

Orange County Cruisers Cruise-ins
Orange Burger King
September 15
5pm-9pm
The Orange County Cruisers hold Cruise ins from April to October. This is a family oriented event for people who want to show their cars, trucks or motorcycles, or for those who just want to view the autos and have a good time.

Charles Town
Louisa County Middle School
September 22
We are off for a night of fun! Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races has over 100 action packed table games and over 3,500 slot machine. Plus you will receive a $20 club card when you arrive. There will be plenty of horse racing action as well for those who want to watch the ponies run and try their luck at picking the winning horse. Due to chartered bus booking policy, if you have to cancel your registration after the September 13 deadline, we will not be able to refund your fee. Get your friends together for a night of fun and excitement and leave the driving to us!
Lake Anna Sudoku

Solution to this puzzle will appear online at LakeAnnaGuide.com

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Difficulty: Medium

Lake is great.
Step by our store for lake themed merchandise & souvenirs!
2551 New Bridge Rd, Mineral
540-872-0646
LakeCroft.com

Lake Anna Horoscopes

Aries: Avoid making enemies over minor matters, even if you think you are right. Watch what you say around others, who knows who it could travel back to.

Taurus: You should take time to sort things out and do away with the unnecessary dates on your calendar so that you can enjoy the important ones. Career improvement is possible now if you make the right moves.

Gemini: Becomes involved in a community project which could utilize your talents, as well as make a definite contribution to the community.

Cancer: Don’t be fooled by your sudden bursts of energy you should still be cautious of doing too much, it could endanger your health.

Leo: Use that recently acquired bit of “found” money in ways that will make you happy. Saving is a good habit, but you also need to indulge yourself once in a while.

Virgo: Absolute honesty in a work situation is vital, so are those who are observing you closely in relation to a possible promotion or job offer.

Libra: Be satisfied with getting the job done. Wise observers will know who is responsible and finally give you credit for it.

Scorpio: Be careful not to assume the worst about a close friend or lover, particularly if someone comes to you bearing tales.

Sagittarius: If possible, plan to get away for a few days soon so you can re-think some long-term plans for the future.

Capricorn: A change of direction or profession is not impossible for you at this point. Seek advice from a person who has faced a similar situation.

Aquarius: Your love life may be in for an exciting, if bumpy, period during which there could be some highs and very lows.

Pisces: Your business life could become inescapably involved with your private life, bringing a good deal of frustration and even unhappiness, find a new way to separate the two.

601 Variety Store
Deals on Groceries • Cold Beer • Ice • Coffee
Shop Local! Buy Fresh! Get Local!
2621 Lawyers Road, Spotsylvania, VA 22501

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Lake Anna Guide
The Lake Anna Breeze
LakeAnnaGuide.com
Let’s face it…the dollar to euro ratio is out of hand and flights across the pond will now cost you an arm and a leg. But thanks to Mystic Ice and Gelato in Southpoint we can enjoy Crazy Good European treats without even having to leave the county.

Gelato is the Italian’s take on ice cream, the direct translation in Italian is “a sweet treat that is frozen”, but that hardly describes what you are in for at this colorful gelato parlor. For those who have not yet tried Gelato you are truly missing out and for those who haven’t tried Mystic Ice and Gelato’s take on this authentic European treat, consider yourself warned. It is highly addictive.

The atmosphere at Mystic Ice and Gelato is as cool as their homemade treats. The twirling Gelato cold case sets the mood for this hip, funky, very European-ish gelato parlor, or Gelatoria as they call them in Italy, and on Friday and Saturday nights it is a cool hang out for teens. We were also told not to miss out on their Mystic Ice Nights, promising a unique and exciting experience with black lights and music videos.

Starting with the top three Gelato choices to ‘go off that summer diet’ for:

Blueberry Muffin Gelato is number one. OK, if you were to blindfold yourself you would swear you were licking the spoon from a bowl of blueberry muffin batter. It has that ‘not baked’ flavor and texture to it and you can almost smell the oven baking them. Yea, it’s that Crazy Good.

Next we moved on to the Orange-Cranberry Gelato: This one was bursting with a wonderful orange citrus flavor and that ‘it must be a holiday’ cranberry finish. And just but not least, blow that summer calorie counting with the perfect trifecta of coconut, walnuts and chocolate in the German Chocolate Cake Gelato- it’s safe to say you can save the fork and lick it right off the homemade waffle cone.

For a unique treat try the Panna Cotta Shots. These little shots from heaven are best described as light and airy mousse with rich and decadent chocolate or vanilla flavor then topped with perfect amount of whipped cream and chocolate sprinkles. Please note that you can find these treats year round, not just for summer.

There are TWO things found at Mystic Ice and Gelato that you will not find anywhere else. The Spaghetti Gelato which is a creamy vanilla flavored gelato put through a machine which takes the gelato from scoop form to gelato noodles resembling a bowl of spaghetti, they then top it with strawberry syrup and finish it off with melt-in-your-mouth white chocolate shavings. This Italian treat will leave you licking your fingers and yelling “Mama Mia” in your best Italian accent. The second is The Mystic Mountain Challenge. DUN, DUN, DUN. This Gigantic Sundae is loaded with 10 scoops of creamy Gelato of your choice (although Red Velvet is the most popular), 2 sliced bananas, 6 glorious toppings, mountains of whipped cream and juicy cherries. Finish this mountain of crazy goodness in 30 minutes or less and it’s FREE!

So if you are looking for a delicious European treat coupled with a culinary experience usually not found in a strip mall but rather in the cobblestone streets of a European city center, be sure to stop by Mystic Ice and Gelato located at the Southpoint shopping center next to Lowe’s. Take a spin on their revolving Gelato wheel and you are sure to hit a Jackpot that is Crazy Good every time.

Mystic Ice and Gelato is located at 10209 Southpoint Parkway, Fredericksburg, Virginia and can be reached at 1 (540) 710-8944 and MysticIceGelato.com.

Monica Van Cleve is the founder and publisher of the award-winning food magazine Let’s Eat Out Menus, and other food guides. She believes in supporting, and exposing those who have a passion for preparing and serving Crazy Good food.
Prestige Domestics, LLC
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Complete Marine Services, Excavation & Snow Removal
www.sacrascape.com

C. Dalton
540-894-3192
cdaltonpainting@gmail.com

Lake Anna Guide.com  The Lake Anna Breeze
There’s “outdoor furniture” and then there’s “Outdoor Furniture”. In all my formative years, when I would see patios and decks (long before docks were in my life) with Brown Jordan furniture, I would recognize “true class” immediately without knowing any more than that. I was no familiar with “leisure furniture” for the outdoors. I was familiar with the hollow aluminum folding chairs with what felt and looked like colored plastic webbing for seats and backs. I still do not own any Brown Jordan...yet. But then, there is always next year.

Brown Jordan was the first company to create furniture for all weather, year-round outdoor use. In 1948, the collection named “Leisure” was introduced. A single vinyl strap interlaced the seats and backs. These were a far cry from the folding chairs we used outdoors or on the screened porch or for “cookouts”.

Robert Brown, an industrial designer, introduced the concept of leisure furniture by designing and selling his designs through Bullock’s Department Store in the late 1930s. World War II stopped that effort but Brown soon partnered with Hubert Jordan to bring Brown’s radical and persuasive idea to our country which was more than ready to embrace the idea of leisure out of doors.

Since 1940-2012, 197 new collections and designs have been introduced continuing this timeless legacy. Besides innovative designs, what justifies the fanfare and pricey ticket? Glad you asked. Even in the 1940s, Brown Jordan treated their wrought iron with a rust and heat resistance finish requiring minimum care. In the 1960s, lightweight extruded aluminum entered the patio scene, adding more modern designs continuing the yin and yang (i.e. balance) of traditional design with modern design. The evolution of “traditional” style through the years has been very interesting to watch and experience in our own homes. The 60s-70s traditional furnishings have a few identifiable characteristics today compared to the Billy Baldwin days. Billy Baldwin was the first recognized “decorator” in the “everyday” (not really) class of people who simply wanted to have tasteful environments within their budget. One of his clients was Duke Ellington. With the Vanderbilts in Newport, R.I., at the turn of the 20th century, we became familiar with Elsie de Wolfe, an extraordinary woman, who virtually invented interior decorating as a profession. So, Brown Jordan continues the satisfaction of the mix. There are styles and colors and fabrics in their collections for every taste and every lifestyle.

The aluminum pieces go through a multi-step preparation process prior to the final powdercoat. This results in a durable, high quality finish that won’t flake, peel or blister. My vendor tells me that the only phone calls received from long time owners of Brown Jordan furniture have been for paint touch up kits.

This just touches the background on a great American company story. I know I have a bias because of my work, but I just love to see the success of a company of “leisure” items, even when financial times are tight. Hope you enjoyed this bit of history. Until next month...BB.

Photos courtesy of Brown Jordan.
Buyers Come Back to the Market

By: Greg Isaac, Sunset Team of Long and Foster Real Estate, Inc.

The sheer number of buyers coming to look at homes in the month of August increased ten-fold. After a summer largely filled with merely the sounds of crickets, we saw an enormous increase in the number of people showing interest in the Lake Anna housing market. More walk-ins, more phones ringing and more interest from past clients and referrals hoping to find their dream home at Lake Anna.

Home sales were up in the month of August with 11 lake related properties going under contract in late July and early August. Two homes were sold during the month, both water access homes. Interested parties in land around Lake Anna started showing up more often, which is great considering the restraints on financing for land. There are currently 6 pieces of land under contract around the lake, and this does not include sales in new developments that are not in the Multiple Listing System. A total of 9 Lake Anna lots closed during the month of August, and several of those were financed properties.

It is great to see land sales and so much activity around the lake when it comes to new construction or remodeling. As we make our way around the lake introducing the area to new clients and potential home buyers we can see activity in several neighborhoods. There are new homes being built on lots, and many existing homes have driveways full of construction vehicles. We have other reasons to be hopeful about the Lake Anna community as new developments are popping up and even more are on the horizon.

Nationally, existing-home sales, which are completed transactions that include single-family homes, townhomes, condominiums and co-ops, grew 2.3 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.47 million in July from 4.37 million in June, and are 10.4 percent above the 4.05 million-unit pace in from last year.

Lawrence Yun, NAR chief economist, said conditions are good. “Mortgage interest rates have been at record lows this year while rents have been rising at faster rates. Combined, these factors are helping to unleash a pent-up demand,” he said. “However, the market is constrained by unnecessarily tight lending standards and shrinking inventory supplies, so housing could easily be much stronger without these abnormal frictions.”

I hope you enjoyed another installment of positive Lake Anna Real Estate news! Stay tuned for more next time!