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The Breeze

Issue No. 24

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Lake Anna

Visitor Center Receives State Certification

If you're a frequent visitor or resident of Lake Anna, you've likely seen the Lake Anna Visitor Center at the Louisa side of the Route 208 Bridge. Since opening its doors more than two years ago, the Visitor Center has grown in popularity and scope significantly. Over recent months, the Visitor Center applied with the state of Virginia to become the Virginia Certified Tourist Information Center (CTIC) for Lake Anna.

Requirements of the CTIC include being open at least 5 days per week and offering a large array of information to local visitors. The Lake Anna Visitor Center is open 7 days per week and features a full room with hundreds of brochures and booklets with information for Lake Anna, local attractions, and additional information for surrounding areas that expand past the immediate area.

Upon a visit from state tourism officials, the site was reviewed for eligibility and received a glowing review and was approved to become the CTIC for Lake Anna.

In addition to promoting the lake and informing visitors, the LAVC has also created and organized some of the lake's largest events, including last year's Lake Anna Wine Festival and the Lake Anna Christmas Tree Lighting, which returns this year on November 29th. For more information, please visit www.lakeannavisitorcenter.com or call (540) 872-0684.



New Thomas Jefferson Elementary Facility Opens Nearly Three Years Post-Earthquake



The Louisa school officially opens for the 2014-15 school year after using temporary structures since 2011.

When Mineral experienced the 5.8 magnitude earthquake on August 23, 2011, one of the structures that sustained the most damage was one of Louisa County's public schools, Thomas Jefferson Elementary. The school was immediately closed due to damage and the county quickly put together a temporary campus using trailers and other temporary structures to accommodate the students for the

following three years.

Prior to the start of this school year on August 13, there was a ribbon cutting ceremony with school and county officials to welcome students and educators back to the new, state-of-the-art structure. Construction was complete in late July and students began attending approximately two weeks later. The Patriots are now attending class at 1782 Jefferson

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on the *Inside*

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LETTERS *to the Editor*

Upcoming Events?

To the Editor:

Any information on the Lake Anna Wine Festival this year? We found the festival last year as fans of Pat McGee and were looking forward to traveling to the festival again this year. Thanks,

Lisa
New York

Lisa,

Unfortunately, the news is that the Lake Anna Wine Festival will not be happening in 2014. The good news is that it won't be gone for long. The turnout was so great for the first time festival in September 2013 and interest in the next was even greater, that the problem of finding a spot at Lake Anna that features enough parking is proving to be difficult. Organizers have met with representatives from various venues, but none have been able to provide ample parking for the crowd. The committee is hoping to have a new site with a solution to this problem available by the tentative date in 2015 or will be looking at options for shuttling attendees from satellite parking locations as an alternative.

In more good news, the Lake Anna Christmas Tree Lighting will be returning to the lake this year. This will be the 3rd Lake Anna Christmas Tree Lighting and in past years, a 25-30 foot Christmas Tree was placed at the site (beside the Lake Anna Visitor Center) and a celebration including performances from local schools and churches performed holiday music, vendors served food and treats and crafters sold wonderful Christmas gifts, culminating in the grand lighting of the tree towards the end of the night. Kids were able to participate in activities including making a Christmas ornament, preparing reindeer food to sprinkle outside on Christmas Eve, or decorating stockings to hang out at home. There was also time to talk to the Lake Anna Santa and share their wish lists. The event proved popular with locals and has become a great holiday tradition at the lake. This year's event will take place on November 29th and is presented as always, by Lake is Great. Stay tuned to our next issue for more details!

We want to hear from you! Email info@lakeannainfo.net with your questions or comments that you'd like to share with your fellow readers.

Opening Soon: Billiken's BBQ



If you're at the lake and often get a craving for barbeque, you're in luck! Billiken's BBQ will soon open its doors to the public as part of the Lake Anna Plaza shops at 200 Lake Front Drive on the Louisa side of the 208 Bridge.

The owners of Billiken's have been whipping up their best car-beque since 2000 and pride themselves on what comes out of their smokers and onto your plate. The purpose of creating their own company was a desire to get their award winning product to more people. They used to prepare BBQ for their family and friends once a week and received an overwhelmingly positive response to their food.

When Greg and Sharon Shalawlyo moved to Northern Virginia in the early '80s from Detroit, they tasted and fell in love with slow smoked BBQ. Since that time, their family has grown and made deep rooted connections in Virginia. Many of these connections have been made during their legendary backyard barbeques, which over time began to include pulled pork, baby back ribs and beef brisket.

After raising four children, the couple moved to the Spotsylvania area and it has always been a dream to own their own restaurant to share their love of BBQ with others. All of their ingredients are sourced locally from farms and homemade in their kitchens.

"We hope that Billiken's will be a place for others to come and enjoy a great meal with their family and friends" said Greg. Family and friends can start trying out everything Billiken's has to offer when their doors officially open in September. For more information, please call Billiken's BBQ at (540) 895-5285.



School Doors Reopen After Earthquake Damage

(continued from front page)

Highway. This historic site for learning in Louisa was the former home of A.G. Richardson High School, Z.C. Morton Elementary School, and Louisa Intermediate School.

Students and teachers alike are excited to be back in a permanent home, alleviating the need for the children to travel between buildings and a maze of trailers throughout the school year. Inclement weather was a particular challenge in youngsters moving in and out of several buildings everyday.

The makeshift campus was also approximately 10 miles away at Trevilians Elementary, which caused additional inconveniences for some.

This year also marks the start for new Assistant Principal Rachel Reutinger, who joins the TJ Family lead by Principal Candace Wilkerson.

If the school looks familiar to you, there's good reason. The design mirrors that of another school in Louisa: nearby Nuckols Elementary School.

The county plans to hold a dedication ceremony in October.

Louisa County High School was also closed due to the earthquake damage and officials expect the rebuilt campus to reopen for the next school year.

Louisa's Millenium Movers Impress in National Dance Competition



First row (left to right): Kayden Morris, Laci Garrett, Haylee Snow, Skylar Dymacek, Taylor Blount, Peyton Cheshire, McKayla Thomas, Lillian Liles, and Liz Bradford. Second row (left to right): Gabriella Carioscia, Rebecca Brehmer, Savannah Marcum, Olivia Grubbs, Hope Powers, Alicia Hall, Abigail Grove, Alexys Rowe, and Marissa Carioscia. Third row (left to right): teachers Candice Sprouse, Heather Nelson, and Julie Garrett. Photo by Chassy Marcum.

Performing Arts 2000's dance show team, The Millenium Movers, competed in the Ultimate Starz National Dance Competition this summer in Greensboro, North Carolina. The team is comprised of three competition age groups: 6-9 years old (the Minis), 11-12 years old (the Juniors) and 16-18 years old (the Seniors). The Minis won three platinum awards for jazz dance (Surf's Up), hip hop dance (Playground) and tap dance (Cubanola Glide). The Minis performed a ballet dance to "Once Upon a December" which won an ultimate platinum and overall award.

The Juniors received platinum awards for their "I Go to Rio" jazz dance, the "Represent Cuba" tap dance, the "Wouldn't It Be Lovely" ballet dance, and their "Wonder" lyrical dance. The Seniors received platinum awards for both tap dance performances to "Trashin' the Camp" and "Overcomer".

The Juniors and Seniors performed together for "There Will Be a Day" and "Golden Boy" and received platinum awards for both.

The platinum award for tap dance duet went to Olivia Grubbs and Hope Powers for their performance of "Unbelievable". Abigail Grove and Savannah Marcum received a platinum award for musical theatre duet to "Dance By the Light of the Moon". Gabriella Carioscia and Marissa Carioscia received an ultimate platinum and over all awards for their performance to "Popular".

Solo awards were presented to Marissa Carioscia for musical theatre dance, Abigail Grove for lyrical dance, Olivia Grubbs for musical theatre dance, Savannah Marcum for lyrical dance, and Hope Powers for lyrical dance.

The seven-foot-tall Sensational Sportsmanship was presented to the Millenium Movers and Heather Nelson, owner and teacher at Performing Arts 2000, won National Teacher of the Year. Nelson has been dancing her entire life and has been teaching dance for 25 years.

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These are the Times by Wayman Bishop



Many years ago, I had the privilege to serve a tour of duty with an Officer of the British Army. Often, after too many ounces of fine Scotch Whiskey, we would debate the virtues of our respective homelands, criticizing and defending, reflecting and confessing. During one of those exchanges, he said something to me that I have never forgotten. On the subject of a nation's traditions, he said, "Your country isn't old enough to have traditions. All you have are bad habits."

My initial reaction was to say something very unkind about the Queen, but thought better of it...and good that I did. I am beginning to see my friend's point. It's not that I have had a sudden revelation. It's just that I think I have reached a season in my life where I can begin to put our national behavior into some perspective. We are a great nation, but as a nation of individuals we behave badly...often enough in similar circumstances and predictable patterns to demonstrate bad habits.

The case study, if you will, that is all over the news...print, cable, network, talk radio... is the unfortunate events playing out in Ferguson, Missouri: a life has been taken, a police officer fears for his, a family grieves, the streets are on fire, politicians are second-guessing public opinion and public reaction, law enforcement agencies are pointing fingers at each other, civil liberties are vulnerable, civil rights are being examined, justice has not yet been served, the news outlets are doing double-back flips, Fox News and MSNBC don't seem to be covering the same event, and the "race card" is on the table...maybe not yet played, but certainly on the table.

Is this circumstance reflective of our collective bad habits? These are only questions. You conclude for yourselves. Prejudice? Racial injustice? Anger and rage in the street? Looting for what purpose? Violence in the name of civil disobedience? First Amendment Rights used and abused...defended? Rush to judgment? Political grandstanding? Failure to extend to one party the "benefit of the doubt" demanded by the other? Law enforcement over-reaction and intimidation? Federal over-reach? Failure to understand and appreciate the perspectives and interests of all involved?

I pray these are all bad habits. Because with strong leadership, moral courage and critical self-examination, our collective bad habits can be changed. If, however, these behaviors are a manifestation of our national character and will...well, that's an all together different matter.

My British friend also said most Europeans think we Americans behave like cowboys...get drunk, ride into town and shoot up the streets. I care little about how the rest of the world sees us. I do care about the America my grandchildren will inherit from us...bad habits and all.

One last thought...Neither Fredericksburg, Richmond, Charlottesville, Bumpass, Mineral nor Louisa, nor the entire Commonwealth of Virginia, are invulnerable to the dark side of American humanism. That's why we need to pay attention, stay informed and be an influence for positive change...be the great and enduring side of American idealism. **WB**

When to Let It Go by Heather Mechler-Fickes

I usually can let go of things- old clothes, knick knacks, household items, anything that is cluttering up space and not being used. I donate, throw out and give away stuff all the time. But no matter how much cleaning I do- I seem to have an abundance of beauty products, especially cosmetics. I have a junk drawer full of old lipsticks, eyeliners, and eye shadows. I have to admit, I love make up. I always have. When I was 5 years old my grandparents gave me a Barbie make up kit and my love affair began. Like all good things, they must end- and make up doesn't last forever. It does have a shelf life and it does expire.

Every so often I have to go through my stash of colorful eye shadows and bright lipsticks and let them go. Here are some tips for knowing when it's time to toss it.

Eyeliner that can be sharpened can last up to 1 to 2 years. As long as it hasn't changed color. Liquid liner lasts about 6 months and mascara lasts about 3-6 months.

Foundation can last up to 2 years if it is in a pump container, but if it doesn't have a pump it lasts about 6-9 months. Concealer lasts 12 months. Powder lasts 2 years. Lipsticks can last up to 3 years - if they are cleaned and wiped off.

If any product's texture, consistency, or color changes or it starts to smell, it needs to be thrown out.

All natural products that have no preservatives should be thrown out every 3-6 months.

Every so often I go through my make up box and purge all the old stuff. I did think of a way to not feel so guilty about throwing away that hot pink lipstick I only wore 3 times - because I realized how ridiculous it looked - or the bright blue eye shadow I thought was a good idea simply wasn't. I set aside a pile of old make up that I let my kids use for art projects. Eyeliners, lipsticks and eye shadows make awesome painting and drawing supplies.



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Scenes from Lake Anna



We'd love to see your photos out on the lake! Send your boating, jetski, and swimming photos! Send them to jen@lakeannabreeze.com & see yourself in our next issue!

We asked you to send in your favorite photos from this summer and Independence Day. Here are a few of our favorites!

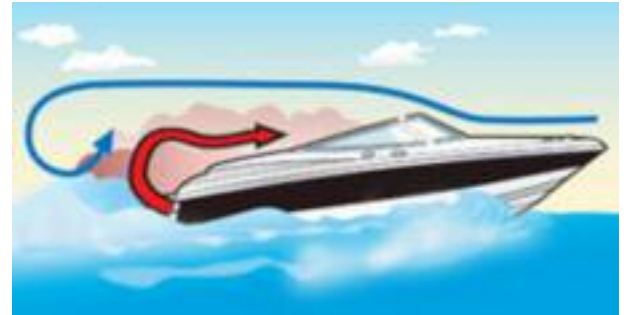


Lake Anna's Featured Pets

Send your photos to our facebook page or e-mail them to jen@lakeannabreeze.com and you could see your pet featured here next time!

Fresh Air Exhaust

by contributing writer Kyle Austin



The Station Wagon Effect

CARBON MONOXIDE
The Silent Killer Aboard Your Boat

Have you ever been hanging out on the back of your boat, talking with your friends who are swimming around in the water and realize you are breathing in harmful carbon monoxide coming from your boat? You cough, move out into the water or back into the boat.

It is time that you get to relax on the back of your boat without the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning and finally relax the way that you want to. It is time for you to upgrade to Fresh Air Exhaust. Fresh Air Exhaust systems provide not only carbon monoxide reduction but also noise reduction, as well. In this article you will see the facts about the Fresh Air Exhaust upgrade that will be more than convincing enough for you to purchase one from your local dealer: Wake Edgers Gear and Gifts.

Carbon monoxide reduction: there is a common saying called the "Station Wagon Effect" which was brought up by the open rear window of a station wagon. With a slow moving or idle speed car, poisonous carbon monoxide would actually curl up and enter the open window in the vehicle and poison the driver with carbon monoxide poisoning. Being on a boat can also cause the exact same effect especially when moving through a No Wake Zone and when wake surfing. Both of these examples cause the poisonous fumes to enter your airway and can cause permanent damage. When adding the fresh air exhaust upgrade, you will reduce the carbon monoxide that comes out by 90%. The Centers for Disease Con-

trol conducted the experiment for the US Coast guard. At the end of the day you may feel tired, nauseous, dehydrated, when in fact it may be the longer exposure to carbon monoxide that has now poisoned you throughout the day and may leave permanent damage. This one fact alone should persuade you to jump on the Fresh Air bandwagon and breathe fresh air.

Sound: When adding on this fascinating upgrade it will also help reduce engine and exhaust noise by 50 to 75%. Fresh Air Exhaust is tested to be the quietest exhaust in the boating industry today. A little peace and quiet helps, especially during family outings on the water. No one wants to have to yell over the boat just to have conversation with a family member or friend.

Where to purchase: Your local Lake Anna one stop shop for all things boating Wake Edgers Gear and Gifts is now your local Fresh Air dealer. You can custom build a system online and go right into the shop to order it. Wake Edgers can drop ship the system directly to your house or have it shipped to the shop for pickup. Wake Edgers will get you hooked up and ready to go with a breath of fresh air and can install it for you as well. So make sure that you stop by and talk to your local Wake Edgers shop for all of your fresh air questions and order today and be ready for the seasons end and the start up of next year. This will make a perfect winter quick project upgrade for your 2015 season, as well and great gift for any boating family member.

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Outdoor Life at Lake Anna

Resident Canada Geese – There's a reason for the season

By Taylor McCann
Fishing Guide, Kistler Pro-Staff

Canada Geese are deemed a migratory bird and follow historical flight patterns known as flyways. These flyways and the habitat that lies within have been protected for decades to promote a healthy water-fowl population. Typically migratory Canada Geese do not pass through the Lake Anna area until late November depending on the severity of our fall / winter temperatures. The geese that you see through the summer months are known as resident geese. Many believe that these geese are decedents of birds that were stocked from other flyways during periods of low goose numbers or remain from the use of live decoys (now illegal but a common practice in the early 1900's). Because these birds do not migrate they tend to live longer, bread at an earlier age, and have larger clutches of young. Do to increasing numbers of resident geese and increasing goose / human problems, Virginia (and Maryland) have determined that the harvest of these birds is beneficial to all.



Although most people find a few geese acceptable, problems develop as local flocks grow. Problems include over-grazed lawns and agricultural areas, accumulations of droppings and feathers on play areas and walkways (a goose produces a pound of droppings per day), nutrient loading in ponds, public health concerns at beaches and drinking water supplies, aggressive behavior by nesting birds, and safety hazards near roads and airports (Maryland Department of Natural Resources).

The Canada Goose hunting season that specifically targets resident birds covers most of September. For specific information regarding the legal methods of harvest visit the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries' web site www.dgif.virginia.gov. If you are experiencing goose problems in an area that is not conducive for hunting, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (www.dnr.state.md.us) offers a number of suggestions for deterring the birds. Deterring birds can be expensive, time consuming, and requires 100% commitment. Hunting is considered to be the most important management tool for controlling local Canada Goose populations.

September Fishing Report

By Charlie Bowles
Fishing Guide, Bass Pro Shops & Lowrance Pro-Staff

This month is all about the early transition from summer to fall. All species of fish will begin to cover more water and feed a little more aggressively than they did during the heat of the summer. Look for great top water action and shallower feeding habits as the water temperatures begin to lower.

Bass:

September totally changes the playing field when it comes to bass fishing. In the past month most fish have been in deeper brush and channel edges seeking comfortable water temps and feeding sporadically. As September sets in the fish will begin to move a little more and suspend over or near slightly shallower



structure with bait present. Depending on how quickly the water cools they will start hitting spinner baits and medium range crank baits more readily as well as slow sinking weightless baits like Senkos and Flukes. September will offer some great days of largemouth fishing but it can be very difficult to adapt to the changes of late Summer/ early Fall.

Striper

The linesiders in Lake Anna will be in the beginning stages of all out mayhem on resident baitfish. They'll start to push up on very shallow flats and points in the mornings chasing gizzard and threadfin shad. Fan cast large shallow flats with super spoons and large poppers for the first 2 hours of light. Move out towards deeper water as the sun gets up. Once the fish have moved out of shallow water, use your sonar to locate schools of fish. You can use live bait if you are proficient in finding, catching and keeping it alive. Or you can jig 1/2 oz to 1 ounce spoons and blade baits in the school. You can also troll crank baits and swim baits with great success.



Crappie

Nice size slabs can be found all over the lake. Bridges, docks, brush piles, and beaver huts, are home to thousands of Crappie. One method is to try casting grubs, tubes, and beetle spins or roadrunners as close to whatever cover you are targeting. Another approach is to use a slip bobber above a #6 gold hook tipped with a small minnow.



Call Now!

Book a trip this fall!



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LAKE ANNA

Last Days of Summer Jazz

August 30th @ Lake Anna Winery
Join us at summer's end as we wind down the summer season with a tribute to the classics (Beach, Rock & Roll and Motown). \$15.00 Fee includes live music with Richmond sensations SPECTRUM, wine glass, and tasting. These guys can really cook up a good time on the dance floor! Don't worry, we will have someone there with some really special food for the occasion. Keep watching and the mystery will be solved! For more information: www.lawinery.com



Junior Rangers @ Lake Anna State Park

Three exciting Jr. Ranger sessions planned - each day can be enjoyed on its own or attend all 3 to become an official Lake Anna State Park Jr. Ranger and earn your patch and certificate. This year discover survival techniques, build a shelter, learn how to keep from getting lost in the woods, explore a creek bed and conduct real scientific tests on the lake's water. We'll get to talk to other professionals and find out what it really takes to be a Park Ranger. We're even going to learn how to paddle a canoe! For ages 7 and up. Limited to the first 15 pre-registered participants, so reserve your spot today! It is recommended to: bring a water bottle, insect repellent, sunscreen, wear clothes that can get dirty and/or wet while having fun a bring a bag lunch and an adventurous spirit! NO flip-flops, shoes MUST remain on feet at all times. Graduation will take place after the canoe trip on Sat. Sept. 13th in Picnic Area B. Family members are encouraged to celebrate our Jr. Rangers achievements. 8 hours of program participation are required to graduate as an official Lake Anna State Park Jr. Ranger. \$3 per child per session or \$8 per child for all three including graduation. To register please contact lauri.schular@dcr.virginia.gov



Lake Anna Christmas Tree Lighting

Saturday, November 29th at 5:00pm
Lake Anna's Christmas Tradition is back! Lake Anna's Lake is Great will hold the 3rd Lake Anna Christmas Tree Lighting next to the Lake Anna Visitor Center. Activities will include live performances, delicious food vendors and crafters offering great holiday gifts. Kick off the holiday season and see the official first lighting of this year's Lake Anna Christmas Tree! www.lakeisgreat.com



LOUISA / MINERAL

Hotel California

Saturday, October 11th at 7:30 pm
Louisa Arts Center



A tribute to one of America's most popular groups. The Hotel California band performs "Take it Easy", "Peaceful Easy Feeling", "Lyin' Eyes", "One of These Nights", "Witchy Woman" and "Desperado". Simply remarkable!

For more information, www.louisaarts.org.

American Red Cross Blood Drive

September 13, 2014, 8:30am - 1:30pm
@ St. Jude Catholic Church

presented by the Knights of Columbus Mineral. Make a donation to help others in the community! For more information: www.redcross.org.



Saturday in the Square with the Jammers

September 13 @ 6pm-9pm

Saturday In The Square is a special concert series held in the Courthouse Square in the town of Louisa. Maybe you've heard the Jammers during the Friday night Cruise-Ins in Louisa. Now come listen to the them play their Rock-n-Roll sounds of the 50's and 60's at our Saturday night concert! Sponsored by Louisa Junior Woman's Club.



There will be a moon bounce, food vendors and a beer garden hosted by Ducks Unlimited for those adults over 21 (bring your ID). So grab a lawn chair, your family and friends, come out for an evening of music and fun at Saturday In The Square!


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A Tribute to the Music of Motown

Saturday, October 11th @ The State Theatre

Presents "A Tribute to the Music of MOTOWN". Enjoy a great night of live entertainment featuring a 12 piece band performing some of the biggest MOTOWN hits. If you love the music of The Temptations, The Four Tops, Diana Ross and The Supremes, Smokey Robinson, Jr. Walker and The All-stars, Stevie Wonder, Michael Jackson, Aretha Franklin, Gladys Knight and The Pips and more. Purchase your tickets early before this concert sells out. www.culpepertheatre.org





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Fredericksburg Fall Home Show

October 18-19, Fredericksburg Expo Center

The Fall Home Show is a great place for homeowners to knock out their to-do lists! Renovate your kitchen, plan a new patio addition for the spring or finish your basement like you have always wanted to!

Get your holiday shopping started early with high-quality crafts, including home decor, specialty foods, knick-knacks, clothing, photography, pottery and more!
www.fredericksburgexpo.com



Stratford Hall Wine & Oyster Festival

September 20-21, Stratford Hall

Enjoy fall tasting of the finest in Virginia wines, sampling delicious Chesapeake Bay seafood recipes, exceptional artisans and craftsmen, or a beer from Fredericksburg's Blue & Gray Brewery. This year's festival will have a little for all—fun and history! Bay Transit Trolleys will provide shuttle service during the festival hours. There will be free Great house tours, colonial chocolate making, alpacas, kids' rides, a working gristmill, and much, much more. Tickets are available at the gate and online. No pets are allowed in the festival area. Don't miss this one!



CHARLOTTESVILLE

Labor Day Weekend at Trump Winery

August 30-31 11:00AM - 6:00PM

Join us for the last days of summer this holiday weekend at the Tasting Room. Enjoy free live music from 1-4 PM Saturday and Sunday on the terrace, as well as menu and wine specials. www.TrumpWinery.com



Cavalier Marching Band Open Rehearsal

September 26; 6pm-8pm

Come hear the UVA Marching Band Open Rehearsal at Carr's Hill Field on the corner of Emmett and Ivy Roads. Bring a picnic and watch the UVA Cavalier Marching Band as they prepare for their halftime show.

The rehearsal is free and open to the public. Call 434.924.3052 for more information.



ORANGE / MADISON

Taste of the Mountains Main Street Festival

The 22nd annual "TASTE OF THE MOUNTAINS" Street Festival, sponsored by the Madison Chamber of Commerce will be held on August 30, 2014 from 9am to 4pm.

This event is free and has free parking at the Madison County High School with shuttle buses that run throughout the day. There is a handicap bus as well, but there are some spaces available for handicap parking on Washington Street. The Madison Free Clinic will be asking for donations for those spaces. Madison is located 27 miles north from Charlottesville on Route 29 and 17 miles south of Culpeper on Route 29.



SURROUNDING AREAS

1st Annual Colonial Beach Bike Fest

October 9-12

This event will feature a variety of activities throughout that weekend including vendors, live music, bike demos and much more. Colonial Beach is the perfect destination for a bike Fest because it's centrally located to numerous biker communities in the Mid-Atlantic Region, has an awesome layout to accommodate the festivities as well as beautiful riding scenery and climate in the month of October!

www.colonialbeachbikefest.com



Virginia Scottish Games & Festival

August 30-31, 2014

The Virginia Scottish Games is a unique annual festival that began as a celebration of Alexandria's Scottish Heritage and continues to celebrate the Scottish Heritage of the whole Commonwealth. The cornerstone of the event is the highland athletic competition. The Games will host many of the top-ranked professional athletes in North America to include several who have competed at the recent World Championships. For more information: <http://www.vascottishgames.org>



Graves Mountain Apple Harvest

October 4-5, October 11-12, October 18-19

Come and see nature's way of blanketing the mountains with beautiful fall colors at the 44th Annual Graves Mountain Apple Harvest Festival. Enjoy fun-filled days complete with Graves famous Food, live Bluegrass Music & Cloggers, Arts & Crafts, Hay Maze & Hay Mountain, Hayrides, Horseback Rides, Pick your own Apples and tour our family's working educational farm, visit the animals and more. Experience farm days of yesteryear, watch kettles of apple butter cook over an open fire.
www.gravesmountain.com



Virginia Beach Neptune Festival

The Virginia Beach Neptune Festival is an annual celebration of the culture of Virginia Beach, VA. Beginning in 1973, thousands flock to the Virginia Beach boardwalk to take in the festivities and celebrations at the beginning of each fall. There are many events that take place over the last week of August well into September. For a full event listing, visit www.neptunefestival.com.



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Crazy Good Eats—Pueblo’s Tex Mex Grill

This Crazy Good Eats comes to you from the great state of Texas! I’ve been living like a gypsy for some time now and actually split my time equally between Virginia and Texas. As I sit in Austin, TX, land of the original Tex-Mex cuisine, writing this article I find it completely ironic that my mouth is actually salivating thinking about my meal at Pueblo’s in Fredericksburg, VA. Everything from the salsa to the margaritas was on point...and I know a thing or two about great Tex Mex considering there are 5 Tex Mex restaurants/cafes/food trucks just within a 1 mile radius of my house. It’s probably worth noting that when I’m here I don’t spend much time in the kitchen either.

Let’s start with the fact that the place is ADORABLE! So tiny and beautifully intimate in a fun, bright way with people and jovial chatter filling every inch of the place. We were served right away with hot, thin chips and FRESH, homemade salsa! Since “semi” moving to Texas I have to admit I have become a salsa snob. If it’s not fresh, it’s not for me. This salsa was the bomb with fresh tomatoes, chunks of red onions and fresh cilantro. A great first impression for my mouth. I knew this place was legit when the guacamole came to the table. Smooth, fresh with soft chunks of avocado, not at all like the “blender type” guacamole this area is used to and served in the cutest little taco bowl. I was forced to eat the entire taco bowl shell to make sure no guacamole was left behind... it was like it never existed!

For the dinner selections my dining partner and I both went for tacos. I’m currently going through a pineapple obsession phase at the moment so I chose the Tacos Al Pastor- a hands down favorite of mine in Texas. They are described on the menu as Mexican chorizo topped with tropical pico de gallo, tomato, onion, fresh cilantro and pineapple with a side of rice and beans. The tacos were FABULOUS and even better than most places that serve them in Austin. A true Tex Mex treat with so many fresh, flavorful ingredients doing the Macarena on your taste buds! The refried beans, which normally go untouched on my plate, are also worth mentioning as they were creamy, very flavorful and performed a disappearing act from my plate in 60 seconds!

We washed down our tacos with Pina Colodas and Margaritas because well, everyone else in the place had one in their hand and I’ve never been one to let anyone drink alone. My recommendation to you: Get the “Original Margarita”! They do NOT come from a mix (another thing I’ve become a snob about) and is the perfect combination of Sweet, Smooth, Tart, and Strong!

I was so impressed with this place and am SO excited I get to share this little gem with you all. Go for the ambiance, the fresh homemade salsa and the delicious margaritas and let them know that Crazy Good Eats sent you! Pueblo’s Tex Mex Grill is located on Rt. 1 at 1320 Jefferson Davis Highway, Fredericksburg, VA 22401.



Monica Van Cleve is the owner of The Van Cleve Seafood Company and co-author of the cookbook, *Girls with Crabs- 'Slingin crabs ain't no piece of cake'*. When Monica is not traveling the world and stuffing her face with Crazy Good Eats she spends her time trying to learn how to cook something other than seafood.



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In our last issue I remember going on about just how fast Spring Season flew by this year. Now, I have to ask...did we even have a full blown summer?Really?

I told you I would check with you on how you did with your summer celebrations. I hope you had fun. I am happy to report I actually did "Celebrate Summer" as often as I could, reminding myself that this act may, just may, slow me down a bit and make me take time to smell the roses (i.e. ride in the boat, swim in the lake...and take pictures of every gorgeous Lake Anna sunset! Laugh more!).

Indulge me...before I knew it, I was going back in time traveling from Charlottesville to Orange on Route 20, on an absolutely gorgeous day in late July. I was alone on this scenic stretch with the Southwest

Mountains to the east and the Blue Ridge Mountains to the west. Actually, it is hard to find anything less than noteworthy to look at on that route. I was not in a rush to get to my destination. It was the kind of day when all the windows should have been down and the radio volume set on high...come on, you all have been there! I might as well have been in my car from earlier days, a new 1973 Black Chevrolet Caprice with a black vinyl top and black interior. So here I was on this beautiful road and zoomed past what appeared to be part of a Hollywood movie set. Realizing THIS was a golden "Celebrating Summer" moment; I made a three point turn to check out this oasis.

The sign along the road boasted...
"Local Goods...Happy Faces...Best Burg-



ers in Town!...Stony Point Market". Once inside, I began talking with one of the "happy faces," a delightful young woman - a regular one-man-show. She was entrusted to serve and entertain all who entered whether for a bite to eat or a cold beer or to happily ring up any of their goodies to go. They have beautiful home grown vegetables and local wine for purchase along with an "A to Z" variety of collectibles for sale...some hip and some vintage. I paid for my vegetables and said goodbye to the Happy Face and the man sitting at a table with his laptop, drinking a cold beer, enjoying the free wi-fi.

I took my time leaving Stony Point Market and enjoyed checking out their different and inviting seating areas outside. This is no surprise. Anyone who knows me knows I am love different little intimate places to be outside either for time to be alone and refresh or time to share with close friends. This was definitely a time meant to be for me, treating myself to a little treasure tucked away in Albemarle County. Its setting is rich with history dating back to the settlement in the 1720's.

Reality is back in play. Labor Day is upon us and suddenly the calendar opens up one long continuous busy season. Are we ready?! Plan a Fall Fest with friends and reel it in!

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Choosing the Right Property For You



Searching for the perfect real estate to purchase can be a daunting task. You want to make sure you're choosing the perfect spot for you and your family, not to mention the monetary obligation of your choice. Once you've narrowed down the vast choices to just a few, here are some things you'll want to consider.

Location - We all know the old adage that real estate is all about location, location, location being the most important element in determining a property value. This is also important in identifying what value the property holds for you. Families with children need to consider this topic, in particular, as it determines which school your kids will attend, which church your family belongs to, which amenities are at your disposal and more. These days, much of the information we seek is available online at the click of a mouse. It's also a great idea to talk to teachers and parents that currently attend the school system in question. You'll likely hear the good and bad and get a better representation than that of an online report. It's also a great idea to contact the local police department and ask about the crime in the area you're considering moving to.

Size - The bigger the better, right? Not so fast. It may be tempting to splurge on the largest house in the neighborhood, but typically if you ever re-sell, the comparables may not work in your favor and you may actually lose some value in your home when you're ready to move on.

Time on the Market - A look at an analysis of sales over the

past few years can show trends for appreciation or depreciation of similar homes. The past can sometimes be a great indication of future activity and this can help make your decision between your finalists much easier.

Let's Make a Deal - it's a great idea to look at how long the homes have been on the market. If a property has been listed for several months, the sellers are likely to be more motivated to take an offer below the listing price. If a listing is brand new, sellers are likely to pass over a lower offer and wait for something better. Your realtor may also be able to get additional information on the sale - including the situation the seller may be in that is causing the sale of the property.

Pros and Cons - Very little can help with the decision making process more than a good, old-fashioned pros and cons list. Making a sheet with your most important attributes along with the most desired amenities for homes and comparing the properties at face value can sometimes make it very clear which one will work for you. What have you been looking forward to most? Walk-in closet? His & hers master baths? Mother-in-law suite? Ok, maybe not that one. But this is a great way to see exactly what you'll be getting when you step into your new home.

Most importantly, try not to stress too much and take your time. Solicit advice when needed, but don't forget to follow your instincts. Good luck!

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