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## 'Tis the Season

Time to Celebrate Christmas & the New Year



It's hard to believe we've reached the holiday season and that 2016 is right around the corner. The time has arrived for Christmas parties, decorating the tree, and celebrating the arrival of the new year. We are lucky to have a plethora of events in our area to keep us in the holiday spirit and our staff is working diligently to provide as much information as possible. We provide a local events calendar in each issue and this time it's our holiday edition! Turn to page 8-9 to see a selection of what's coming up in our region and check back often to the online calendar at [LakeAnnaBreeze.com](http://LakeAnnaBreeze.com) for the most up-to-date listings!



Starting early on Thanksgiving night, Lake Anna's Festival of Lights will take place each week on Friday, Saturday and Sunday through December 26th at the property of Ron and Deborah Self at 914 Fredericks Hall Road (Route 618) in Bumpass.

The cost is \$2 per person for the hay ride through the lights. The barrel train will be \$4 per person with treats and hot drinks will be sold by the Louisa County Humane Society to support unwanted dogs and cats of Louisa County. Plus, Santa will be on hand each Saturday night!

Mr. Self has created Christmas light displays for the Fredericksburg Virginia Fairgrounds and Mr. B's in Ladysmith and said that people came from surrounding states just to see them. This will be a great way to celebrate the holidays close to home!



### Help Support Bluebird Monitoring at at Lake Anna State Park

*Sponsoring the bluebird nestboxes  
makes a thoughtful holiday gift*

In the spring of 2009, Donna Finnegan and her husband Marty Wright became involved with the bluebirds of Lake Anna State Park after learning that due to staff losses, the nestboxes needed maintenance. The couple, members of the Friends of Lake Anna State Park, were avid birders and Donna, a Virginia Master Naturalist and Bluebird Trail Monitor for the Virginia Bluebird Society, so it seemed like a perfect fit.

The couple located 17 nestboxes,

*(continued on page 3)*

### Resort Seeks Approval

The Lake Anna Resort was in front of the Louisa Board of Supervisors last month for a public hearing and discussion for rezoning the property along Route 208 from General Commercial to a Planned Unit Development, which would encompass 60 residences, hotel, spa, restaurant and retail.

During the meeting, there was some conflicting information regarding the entrance for the new development. The developers received approval from the Virginia Department of Transportation for an entrance on the western portion of the property and some thought this created issues for the neighboring property. Without a VDOT representative present at the meeting, the developer asked for a deferral to make sure the entrance was indeed in the spot indicated on the information given to Board.

The Board opened the public hearing to allow citizens to speak in support of the project or to relay their concerns regarding the project. The Board was able to ask questions regarding the application and request a few items prior to the next meeting. The development will now be in front of the Board early in the new year with a chance to review the final package with those items included.

**"The Board of Supervisors gave us a very clear list of everything they want to see in the package and list of changes they want made," said Ed Blount, the developer. "This Board has a lot of experience and knows what it needs to benefit Louisa County with positive growth and we're happy to be at the Board stage in this process. Now it's my responsibility to get them the requested information to the level of detail they want."**

**UPDATE:** VDOT's Land Use Engineer for the region issued a statement to the developer and Louisa County that the entrance approved by VDOT would indeed not alter any existing entrances or driveways along Route 208, and confirmed the location the developer had shown on plats to the county.

### Lake Anna Resort Plans for High Speed Internet

The Lake Anna Resort has added a proffer to their submission package that it will place conduit for high speed fiber optic cable in the infrastructure of the development. Why? Developer Ed Blount explained, "The Lake Anna Resort will bring a lot of amenities and services directly to the site as well as adding more services indirectly."

With added rooftops and tourists in the area, there becomes an increased need for services like high speed internet, an urgent care center, dry cleaners, a bank, and much more, all here in the immediate Lake Anna area.

**"We are installing conduit and infrastructure for high speed internet because it was brought to our attention by Supervisor Fitzgerald Barnes of the Patrick Henry District that the county is planning for the future and the arrival of the service,"** Blount continued. "Being prepared now during construction will expedite the service for our buyers and hope-

*(continued on page 3)*

### The Lake Region's Missing Foreign Emissary Circa 1800



It's July 1800 and Vice President Thomas Jefferson is home at Monticello, busily planning his bid to be elected President in the upcoming November Election. He and his fellow Democratic-Republicans are plotting to beat and oust incumbent, John Adams, in the upcoming Presidential contest. However, on this particular day, Mr. Jefferson takes the time to write a reply to a letter he has recently received from, Waller Holladay, a twenty-five year old, newly certified attorney living near the North Anna River. Holladay has courteously asked Mr. Jefferson if he has any information concerning the

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## Piedmont Dental Plants Roots in Lake Anna Area



Chances are that if you've traveled on Route 208 recently, you've noticed the Piedmont Dental sign. While we're still lacking a few major businesses in the area, a full service dentist office can be checked off the list! Dr. Michael Clark, DDS has made his practice here well-known over the past year.

Feeling that he wanted to grow and provide for his family (including his wife Anna and their three children), Dr. Clark began to study at the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Dentistry at the age of 32,

His practice at 5205 Courthouse Road in Spotsylvania was a great move from Great Neck, Virginia. He offers complete dental care, oral surgery, cosmetic dentistry, plus more for patients of all ages. "If you have teeth, we can provide the service you need," Dr. Clark explains. One of his current patients is 102 years old. Dr. Clark aspires to treat his patients as family and tries to develop relationships with everyone who walks into his office.

"I like small communities. You really get to know everyone and can cater to their individual needs," Clark continued.

*(continued on page 3)*

Join Tim's for Breakfast at  
**SANTA'S WORKSHOP**  
 December 19: 9AM - 1PM



Children 10 & Under \$6.95  
 Adults \$10.95

Includes breakfast and a walkthrough of Santa's Workshop with arts & crafts, face painting, and balloon animals. Bring your camera for a visit with Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus, and the elves!

Breakfast consists of Bacon, eggs, sausage, biscuits and gravy, french toast sticks, pancakes, and fruit. Beverages not included.

Tim's Lake Anna Restaurant and Crabbers  
[www.timsatlakeanna.com](http://www.timsatlakeanna.com)  
 408845011  
 200 Bluebirds Way SW  
 Mineral, VA 23117

## New Bridge Fire-Rescue Station to Benefit All of Louisa County and Lake Anna Area

*Initial Responses Indicate Strong Support*



"Citizens for New Bridge Fire-Rescue-Marine Station" are asking for the residents, property owners, visitors, businesses, churches, and organizations to endorse the idea of a new emergency services facility to be located on New Bridge Road (Route 208) in Louisa County. The proposed station would be near the mid-point of Lake Anna, between the New Bridge Landing (Food Lion) shopping center and Lake Anna Plaza at the 208 bridge.

The most recent fire station in Louisa County (Zions Crossroads) was built 23 years ago, in 1992. Since that time, Louisa's population has grown 65% County-wide. The last rescue squad was established in 1998. Basically, we have a lot of catching up to do. First of all, it is important to recognize the men and women staffing our current emergency services facilities. They are doing the best they possibly can, given our geography and staffing. The level of protection would not be what it is today without them.

However, response times and coverage must be improved. We all want to do better with regard to having all citizens of Louisa County and the Lake Anna area secure in knowing that if the time comes and they make that 911 call, the response will be prompt.

A New Bridge Fire-Rescue-Marine Station is the most effective way to accomplish that goal.

Emphasis on reducing response times will help to save lives and property to directly benefit the Lake Anna area and the entire County of Louisa. It would also indirectly benefit emergency services in Spotsylvania and other surrounding counties. Staffing levels need to increase throughout the system at existing emergency facilities. However, the locations of current facilities clearly create voids in coverage within our fastest growing areas.

A New Bridge Fire-Rescue-Marine Station is the best way to cover the largest under-protected area.

When an area is under-protected, the entire system of fire and rescue resources county-wide is subjected to stress and strain. This in turn stresses mutual aid provided from neighboring counties.

New Bridge Fire-Rescue-Marine Station is needed now. Louisa County's Lake Anna Designated Growth Area has over 3,300 residential rooftop addresses across 50 square miles. Of these, more than two-thirds are considered "unprotected" insurance rating classification. The proposed New Bridge FRM Station service area would protect virtually all of these unprotected rooftops, concentrated at 2.3 times the average residential density in Louisa County. It totals over \$960 million residential real estate valuation (20% of the County total) and pays almost \$7 million annual residential property taxes.

This solution won't happen by itself. County-wide and Lake Anna area support is needed to include this project in the next five-year revision to the Louisa County Comprehensive Plan and make the new station a reality.

Please send letters of support to: Citizens for New Bridge Fire-Rescue-Marine Station, P.O. Box 960, Mineral, VA 23117 or send email to: [NewBridgeFRM@aol.com](mailto:NewBridgeFRM@aol.com).

When the New Bridge Fire-Rescue-Marine Station is a reality, it will be a proud statement for Louisa County residents and visitors at a primary gateway from route I-95 to Lake Anna.



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## Lake Anna State Park Birdhouse Support

*(continued from front page)*

some were in disrepair and all required cleaning. The nestboxes have been home to mostly Eastern Bluebird eggs, but also Carolina Chickadee, Tree Swallow and even a Southern Flying Squirrel. However, the bird houses and the eggs inside were prime targets for predators. They found that by reducing the size of the holes in the boxes and installing predator guards, which put all of the houses maintained in accordance with the recommendations of the Virginia Bluebird Society.

The couple have found additional spots for the park to add more of the Bluebird Society-approved houses and have offered a program to members of Friends of Lake Anna State Park to sponsor the housing systems for \$50 each.

This would be a creative gift for the holidays for your lake neighbors and friends to help beautify the state park and support our winged friends who share the area. For more information, please contact the Friends of Lake Anna State Park by calling (540) 895-5061 or e-mail the president at [johnny\\_finch@yahoo.com](mailto:johnny_finch@yahoo.com).



*Marty Wright checks in on one of the Lake Anna State Park Nest Boxes.*

## Lake Anna Resort Project Prepares for High Speed

*(continued from front page)*

fully make high speed internet a reality throughout Louisa County."

Preparing developments like this that are pre-wired with infrastructure in place will go a long way in cutting Louisa County's costs to acquire the services.

With 60 new residential customers, hotel rooms, and businesses that would offer internet all in one location, The Resort becomes a motivator for internet providers to spend money to expand to the county. If modern conveniences are sought by the residents here, these developments in the county's designated growth areas will be the key in having the services the residents of the county need.

Until the threshold of need is met within the county, Louisa will have to travel outside the county borders for even medical attention. Clearly Louisa values its rural charm, but developing strategically and responsibly in the growth areas will allow both rural character alongside needed modern conveniences.

## Lake Anna Dentist

*(continued from page 2)*




Dr. Clark's office provides family service with 100% digital, state-of-the-art dental care. The doctor also tries to accommodate everyone, offering appointments before and after work, with a convenient location on Route 208, between the Lake Anna Winery and the Lake Anna area Food Lion.

Dr. Clark and the Piedmont Dental office have quickly become a fixture in the area and provide quality service here at Lake Anna. For more information on Dr. Clark's practice, please visit [PiedmontDentalLakeAnna.com](http://PiedmontDentalLakeAnna.com).

At the end of a great lake day what else is fun to see & do in Louisa?



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**Dominion**  
 North Anna Nuclear Information Center is Open to the Public on weekdays from 9 AM to 4 PM  
[dom.com](http://dom.com)

**Lewis Littlepage**

whereabouts of his half-brother, Lewis Littlepage. Lewis who was fourteen years Waller's senior has been missing abroad for over a decade. Jefferson wrote back with only a few new details concerning Lewis. While he had been US minister to France from 1784 to 1789, Jefferson had briefly met Littlepage there. Subsequently in 1791, Jefferson had received a short memo from the State Department about Littlepage indicating that he had accepted a position as a foreign emissary with the Polish monarchy. Waller Holladay would learn the full story of Lewis' European adventure, only after his half-brother's return to Virginia in 1801.

When the half-brothers reunite, Lewis shared his astounding tale. After attending and graduating from William and Mary College, he had travelled to Europe and with a letter of introduction from Founding Father, John Jay, whom he had met though Littlepage family connections. With the Jay credential, Lewis was invited to join the diplomatic entourage of the Spanish Duc de Crillon. Littlepage was present during the nearly four year siege by the Spanish of British-held Gibraltar. Leaving Spain, Littlepage served as a diplomatic advisor to the German Duke of Nassau and later as the personal emissary of King Stanislaw of Poland. In this latter capacity, Littlepage engaged directly in the diplomatic negotiations among Prussia, Austria, and Russia over the sovereign borders of Poland. The second and third partitions of Poland occurred 1793 and 1795 respectively. The latter resulted in a cessation of years of military activities in the region but also the total dissolution of Poland. Littlepage's diplomatic skills were not unnoticed by the Russia Empress, Catherine II, who in 1796 added Lewis to her court of advisors. For the next five years, Littlepage was forced to walk a perilous line between disgruntled Polish nationalists and powerful members of the Russian aristocracy. Labeled as a traitor by both sides, Littlepage left Europe for good in 1801.

Lewis Littlepage had been born to Colonel James Littlepage and Elizabeth Lewis Littlepage in 1762. Colonel Littlepage had been Chief Clerk at Louisa Courthouse but died when Lewis was only four. For next eight years, he was placed with relatives or at tu-



Louisa. The Museum Hours are 10-4 Monday through Friday.

toring schools. In 1774, Elizabeth remarried Major Lewis Holladay, a prominent Louisa attorney. Waller Holladay was born in 1776, three years before his half-brother, Lewis, began his studies at William and Mary.

Lewis died at age 46 in Spotsylvania County in 1802. Without children, he had made Waller the beneficiary and executor of the Littlepage Bel-Air Plantation and also custodian of their common mother's estate. Waller sold a portion of his inheritance and acquired several hundred acres from the owners of the Belmont Plantation fronting the north bank the North Anna River which present day Monrovia Road follows. On this property in 1810, Waller constructed the Prospect Hill Plantation in 1810. From the Lake Anna prospective, as the crow flies, Prospect Hill is equidistant between the Lakeview Diner near Stubbs Bridge and Tim's Crab House where Route 522 crosses the North Anna. The Prospect Hill structure that Waller Holladay built still exists today as Spotsylvania County's Littlepage Inn.

Waller Holladay would go on to be a very successful planter and attorney. He would experiment with varieties of fertilization and crop rotation processes in an attempt to restore Central Virginia farmlands that had been depleted from years of tobacco growing. He also became a noted Commonwealth politician and in 1830, he would represent Louisa County at Virginia's Second Constitutional Convention.

The story of Waller Holladay is quite interesting but that of his half-brother, Lewis Littlepage is just remarkable.

*This series of historical articles from around the Lake Region published recently by the Lake Anna Breeze has been prepared by the Louisa County Historical Society. It is our hope that these tales and anecdotes have piqued your interest to learn more of the incredibly rich cultural, political, economic, and military histories that can be discovered in the Lake Region and Central Virginia. Go to our website at [www.louisacountyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.louisacountyhistoricalsociety.org) or drop by the Sargeant Museum at 214 Fredericksburg Avenue in*

(continued from front page)

*Scenes from Lake Anna*



Photo by DJ Twomey



Photo by Chris Love

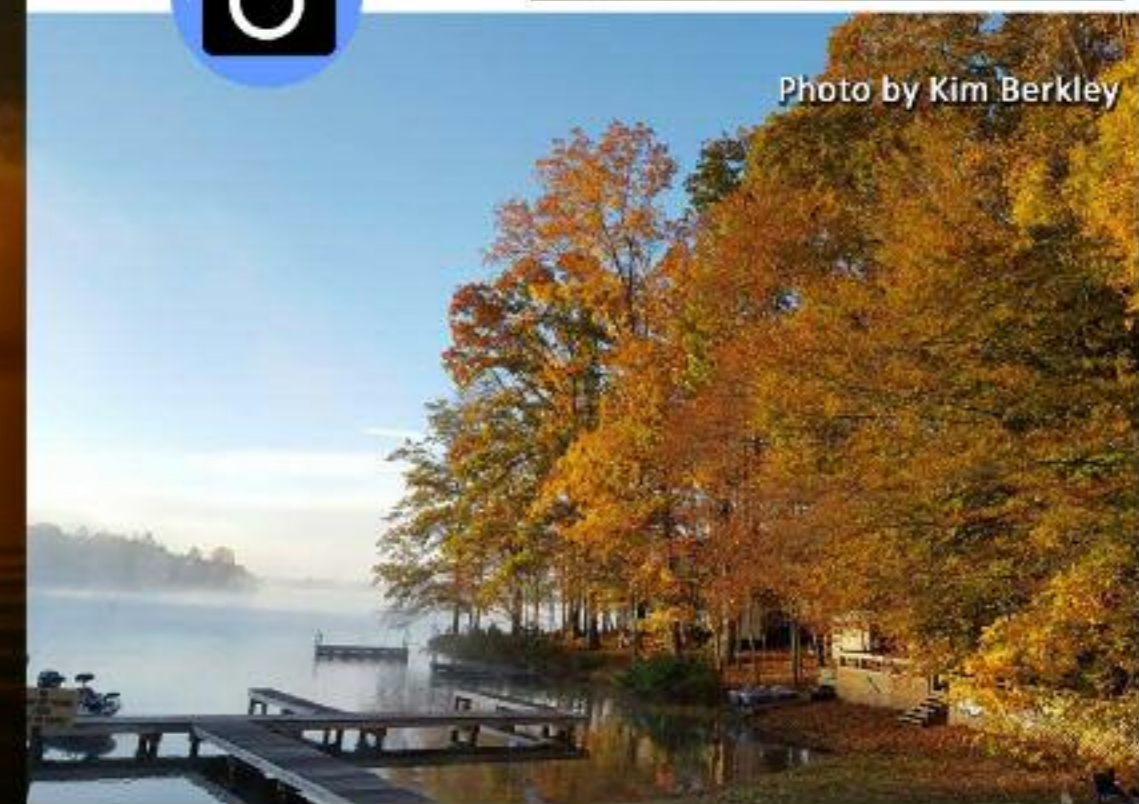


Photo by Kim Berkley

E-mail your photos to: [jen@lakeannabreeze.com](mailto:jen@lakeannabreeze.com) to share for our next issue!



Photo by Anna Barnes



Not a pet, but many near Mitchell Creek have enjoyed seeing this white deer in their neighborhood and many get awesome photos of the rare creature like this one by Carol Wyatt!

**Lake Anna's Featured Pets**

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

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## Extend Your Lake Season

by contributing writer Kyle Austin



Winter is here and the boats are being winterized...or are you a "warm side rebel"?

As many residents know, the lake is divided into two "sides": the public and the private side, also referred to as the cold and warm side. When the fall weather hits, most people pack up their gear and store it away for the winter...unless, of course, you can bear a little colder air temperature and hit the warm side for some fun. The water on the warm side generally stays above 70 degrees and is amazing in the colder months. Squeeze yourself into a heater top or a wet suit and ride until the sun goes down.

The warm side is a great place for riders to continually train in the off-season for competitive water sports such as wakeboarding, surfing and skiing. Having the opportunity to ride all year round lets the rider's body build the muscle memory with-

out losing months in between the seasons. It's sort of like having your very own little piece of Florida right here in Virginia. I could personally say that the only downfall to the warm side is mid-summer, the water then feels like a hot tub to swim in. If you ever have the opportunity to ride on the warm side, make sure to take full advantage in the winter months. It is truly an amazing experience getting to ride when there are no leaves on the trees and inches of snow on the ground.

A lot of people don't even know that the warm side exists because it sometimes seems like one giant gated community. It's a body of water inaccessible by public launch. In other words, you have to know someone who owns property on the private side or launch to get out there.

If you're lucky enough to have friends or property on the warm side, suit up and hit the water year round!

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## Outdoor Life at Lake Anna

**LAKE ANNA WINTER SERIES**

**2013 Open Team Bass Tournaments**

- Sunday November 22, 2015
- Sunday November 29, 2015
- Sunday December 6, 2015
- Sunday December 13, 2015
- Sunday December 20, 2015
- Sunday January 3, 2016
- Sunday January 10, 2016
- Sunday January 17, 2016
- Sunday January 24, 2016
- Sunday January 31, 2016

**OVER 100% PAYOUT!**

- 100% of entry fees plus prizes go back to the anglers.
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Winter Series Tournaments are held from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Visit [www.sturgeoncreekmarina.com](http://www.sturgeoncreekmarina.com) for more details.  
Entry forms and fees will be taken the day of the events.

### Lake Anna Winter Fishing Report

**Charlie Bowles**  
Fishing Guide  
Bass Pro Shops Pro Staff  
Lowrance Pro Staff  
[www.CVOFishing.com](http://www.CVOFishing.com)

#### Striper:

Fishing for Striped bass is great throughout the winter... as the water gets cooler the steeper fishing gets hotter! Several big fish are being caught above the splits area. Expect plenty of surface action in both of the river systems. One way to locate fish is to keep your eyes peeled for birds, bait and swirling stripers. Another is to watch your graph for fish and bait in the middle to upper half of the water column. My "go to" bait for this time of year is a 4-6 inch swimbait rigged on a 3/8 to 1/2 ounce jig head. Suspending jerkbaits, walking baits, and Spoons will also produce. But the swimbaits offer the most versatility and control for me... You can fish them at any depth and at just about any speed that you need. As it gets cooler, if it gets cold enough, some of the baitfish may begin to die off offering an easy meal for stripers. Flutter Spoons and very slow retrieves with a swimbaits can trigger strikes from monster Stripers. Don't forget that the stripers will go very deep during sunny days and will stay closer to the surface and more active during overcast and snowy days.

#### Bass:

The Bass have slowed down a bit but can be caught on secondary points, humps, deep docks, rocks and deep brush. You can find suspending schools of largemouth that will hit small spoons, dropshots, and deep jerkbaits... The bigger fish will be nearby sharp drops close to shallow water.. Try deep main points with alot of bait present. A very slow retrieve with a "jerk, jerk, pause" cadence works very well in these areas.

#### Crappie:

There will be plenty of action from th slabs throughout the winter, but it will take skills with your Lowrance sonar and the ability to fish deep. the fish will be oriented to river chanel edges and deeper cover all over the lake. Small minnows on a drop shot rig work great tin the winter

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LAKE ANNA

Heart of Virginia Jingle Bell Trail

December 5-6, 11am - 5pm  
Buy a passport ticket for only \$20.00 and you get a souvenir wineglass, wine tasting at the SIX Heart of Virginia Wineries: Lake Anna, James River, Cooper, Grayhaven, Weston Farms, and Mattaponi Wineries. During our special wine trail weekends you will get to graze on munchies at each winery and check out special Christmas promotions.



Winter Wonderland & Tree Lighting Festival

December 5th, 2015, 1-7pm @ Fuzzy's Lakeside Market  
Call 540-894-4522 for more details on the festival or like Fuzzy's Lakeside Market on Facebook for details.



Join Tim's for Breakfast at

## SANTA'S WORKSHOP

December 19: 9AM - 1PM

Children 10 & Under \$8.95  
Adults \$10.95

Includes breakfast and a walkthrough of Santa's Workshop with arts & crafts, face painting, and balloon animals. Bring your camera for a visit with Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus, and the elves!

Breakfast consists of Bacon, eggs, sausage, biscuits and gravy, french toast sticks, pancakes, and fruit. Beverages not included.

Tim's Lake Anna Restaurant and Crabhouse  
www.timsrestaurant.com  
540-894-5011  
200 Edwards Way Dr O Mineral, VA 22117

LOUISA / MINERAL

Louisa Christmas Festival & Parade

December 5th, 10am-3pm



The Louisa Christmas Festival and Parade are two Holiday traditions that you don't want to miss! The festival, which is held from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. in the Courthouse Square is a great place to do some Christmas shopping. Our vendors have all kinds of gift ideas; all types of Christmas wares, woodcrafts, jewelry, Tupperware, Scentsy, Pampered Chef, wreaths, and quilts are just some of the items that have been for sale in years past. Contact LCPRT for more info at lcpri.info.

Wreath Making

Tuesday, December 1st, 10am-1pm @ The Sargeant Museum

What is prettier on your front door over the holidays than a wreath made of natural greenery trimmed with holiday-themed ribbon and decorations? A 12-inch straw frame, florist pins and boxwood, as well as other greens, will be provided. Participants need to bring clippers, work gloves, a small hammer (optional) and any adornments such as ribbon (3 yards minimum is needed for a bow). Bring a bag lunch and drink and relax around the fireplace in the Sargeant Museum's Michie House as you make your wreath. Class size is limited, so register early! Each participant will take home a completed wreath. More information is available at lcpri.info.



FREDERICKSBURG

Laser Show: Ignite the Night!

Spotsylvania Towne Centre  
Fridays & Saturdays throughout the season.  
Take a journey into pure imagination with the Ignite the Night Village Laser Show. Friday and Saturday evenings step into a land of lights and magic, you might even get a glimpse of Santa, or see it snow! In the Village at Towne Center, across from Sephora. [www.spotsylvaniatownecentre.com](http://www.spotsylvaniatownecentre.com).



Fredericksburg Holiday Craft Show

December 4th, 10am



Do you have a long holiday shopping list? Are you looking to spruce up your home with some new (540) 548-5555  
Fredericksburg Expo & Conference Center, Adults: \$8, Seniors: \$7 Kids under 12 Free [www.fredericksburgexpo.com](http://www.fredericksburgexpo.com)

Spotsylvania Christmas Parade

December 5th, 1pm, Spotsylvania Courthouse  
Come share the holiday spirit with friends, families and community groups as they march, dance and sing. (540) 507-7540 for more information.



29th Annual Gingerbread House Exhibit

December 6th, 10am



The 29th Annual Gingerbread House Contest and Exhibit—a long-standing holiday tradition! At 268 King's Highway (Route 3 East) George Washington's Boyhood Home at Ferry Farm Fredericksburg, VA Call for more information: (540) 370-0732 \$8 admission fee.

CULPEPER

Culpeper Downtown Holiday Open House

November 22, 12pm-5pm, Tree Lighting @ 5:30pm  
Start your holiday shopping in Historic Downtown Culpeper. You'll find something for everyone on your gift list in one of our many specialty shops: from delicious chocolates, unique art, distinctive clothing, and specialty foods to bird feeders and repurposed furniture, plus so much more. So, come enjoy the convenience of shopping downtown and the personal service our merchants always provide! [culpeperdowntown.com](http://culpeperdowntown.com)



Orange School of Performing Arts: The Nutcracker

December 4-6th @ The State Theatre, Culpeper



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James River Parade of Lights

December 12th, 6-9pm

Mark your calendars for the 23rd celebration of the James River Parade of Lights. Each year, boaters decorate their vessels and converge on the James River for a boat parade marking the festive holiday season. Boaters must register their boats to participate in the parade. Viewing sites are available in Chesterfield and Henrico counties and the city of Richmond. 6-9 p.m. Free. 804-717-6688



ORANGE / MADISON

Enchanted Extravaganza

December 5th, 10am-4pm, The Market at Grelen

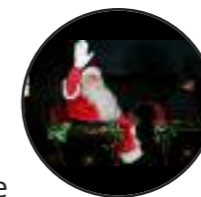
Please come enjoy the season with festive fare, holiday shopping (featuring 20 local vendors!) and music. Fun for the whole family... let the kids roast some marshmallows and visit Santa while you pick up a Virginia-grown Christmas Tree, some holiday plants & a fresh wreath made with Grelen greens. Better yet, make your own wreath by signing up for one of the 3 workshops! [themarketatgrelen.com](http://themarketatgrelen.com)



Orange Holiday Parade & Memorial Christmas Tree Lighting

December 6, 4:30pm, Downtown Orange

The Orange Holiday Parade and Memorial Tree lighting is an annual tradition which celebrates the season and remembers those we have lost. The parade features local floats and civic groups, and is followed by the memorial tree lighting. The Orange Rotary club facilitates the purchasing of lights to memorialize lost loved ones and all operating expenses of the Tree are paid



CHARLOTTESVILLE

Mannheim Steamroller Christmas

December 12 at 7:30pm



This year marks the 31st Anniversary of the Christmas Tour and release of Mannheim Steamroller Christmas, an album that revolutionized the Holiday Season music category. Tickets available at [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com).

Vineyard Wonderland: Carriage Rides at Trump Winery

December 6th, 11am-5pm

This rare occasion to experience the vineyard up close will surely put you in the holiday spirit! Each carriage ride is a \$70 ticket for up to four guests and will last 20 minutes. Your ticket includes wine tasting\* at the Tasting Room before or after your ride. [trumpwinery.com](http://trumpwinery.com)



First Night Virginia

December 31st, Charlottesville's Downtown Mall

First Night Virginia has become a fixture on the wintertime calendar of central Virginia as an annual community event. Charlottesville's First Night Virginia celebration was the SECOND in the nation. The mission of First Night Virginia is to bring families together and unite the community in all its diversity through the visual and performing arts in Charlottesville on New Year's Eve. Throughout the night, there are fabulous musicians, magicians, storytellers, puppet shows, and entertainers galore. First Night Virginia, a self-supporting nonprofit organization, is dedicated to high quality programming that is affordable, accessible, and alcohol-free. [www.firstnightva.org](http://www.firstnightva.org)



Breeze Profile

Michael & Sherry Davis & family



Mike and Sherry have been married for 33 years and raised their daughters in the Aquia Harbour subdivision of Stafford County.

Mike and Sherry are recent retirees and seem to be enjoying their free time which includes visiting the Lake Anna area. Michael retired from the State Department where he held many titles including Director of Grants and Financial Management. Sherry worked with Special Needs students at Moncure Elementary school.

Sherry celebrated a recent birthday with family and friends at the Lake Anna Winery where she enjoyed her favorite "Sunset" wine. The Davis's visit a dear friend that lives on Lake Anna several times a year and cherish the calming effect created by our area. After decades commuting in D.C. to work Mike says he doesn't mind driving the 50 minutes to the Lake Anna area because it always seems like a world away from the hustle and bustle of D.C.

The Davis family does enjoy the water and spending hot summer days floating and boating in the lake however their favorite time to visit is when the lake has less action so they can enjoy viewing the wildlife and beauty that Lake Anna has to offer.

by Carol Barker Wyatt

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*Dining Spotlight*

**Crazy Good Eats - Five Guys**

I don't always eat cheeseburgers, but when I do... I eat Five Guys. (insert The Most Interesting Man Voice here). It's true, I will intentionally seek out a burger about once a year and the impression of my first Five Guys burger many years ago in Central Park has always stayed with me. I remember where I sat, who I was with and what I was wearing (because I spilled ketchup all over my brand new jeans). Five Guys is a "no frills" burger joint with some delicious French Fries and AMAZING bread/buns. In fact, the only proprietary part of the burger is their bread recipe if that tells you anything.

Five Guys is a national chain but they opened their first burger joint in Arlington, VA back in 1986. The "five guys" are actual five brothers that were trying to avoid going to college so they started selling burgers with the help of their parents and still own and run the company today. They specialize in quality ingredients like preservative-free, filler-free and artificial flavor-free beef patties that are hand formed and apple wood smoked bacon that comes from a well-known and respected farmer, Patrick Cudahy. They consider their bread recipe their "secret sauce" and for good reason! Another cool fact: They have NO freezers in their stores, just coolers of fresh ingredients!

I walked in extremely hungry and ordered without hesitation because, hey, it's inter time and my sweaters and scarves are really good at hiding a few extra pounds! Let's start with the Cajun Fries. I got the small order but do not be fooled, the order was by no means small. They are served busting out the top of a large white cup and seasoned perfectly with Cajun spices. These fries are unlike any other fry you will have in your life. They hand cut the potatoes in house and pull them in from all over the United States. You can normally find a sign hanging somewhere in the kitchen informing customers of where their potatoes came from that day. They 'double-fry' the fries and I don't know if that's what creates the perfect texture of these little slices of heaven or what but they are magical. Delicate, soft and crispy on the outside and creamy, yes I said creamy, on the inside. I talk a lot about fries in my articles but these top any other French fry I have ever written about. They are that good!

I decided to try a vegetarian option for my meat-free readers out there and ordered their Veggie Burger. I did not go into this one with high expectations because I prefer my burgers to contain meat but I have to say I was pleasantly surprised. It was not a patty formed of vegetables like I imagined but actual sautéed mushrooms, green peppers and onions with the normal burger toppings- lettuce, tomato, pickles, and mayonnaise. It was sandwiched between two butter toasted, sesame seed buns that I know I'll be dreaming about for a few weeks.

Next up: Bacon Cheese Hotdog because, why not? The all beef National Hebrew hotdog is split down the middle and wedged between the soft, pillowy and slightly sweet buns then topped with bacon, cheese, onions and pickles. The stars of the show were the brat-like dog and again, the bread. I'm telling you they really have their bread game down!

Now, onto the burger I was cashing my 'once a year burger' token in on: the bacon cheeseburger. It's hard to explain or pinpoint exactly what makes this my favorite burger. I think it's the small, simple things they do so well all culminating together to make a great burger experience. All of my burger needs are fulfilled with this burger, from the soft bread to the juicy patty and gooey cheese to the fresh lettuce, tomatoes and pickles. You can put as many condiments on this burger as you'd like and at no extra charge from onions to A1. Five Guys is a fantastic burger that checks off all of my burger boxes! The fries and bread are seriously delicious and it's inexpensive and fast. I can't wait to go back next year!



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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**LIFESTYLE Reflections**

by Lake Anna Interior Designer Barbara Bishop



How to MAKE TIME FOR WHAT MATTERS this season

Recently, while food shopping, I found myself at the magazine aisle and zeroed in on the cover of the current issue of Real Simple magazine. I wanted what they were offering in their lead line. Without even opening the cover to locate this magic "list", I paid the five dollars and headed home visualizing how beautiful the evening reading was going to be with a glass of wine, comfy on the chaise, spa music in background discovering the "secret" of having more hours in my day. After numerous searches through the magazine for this imagined "list" of how to find this pot of gold, I finally "got it." There was no list. Duh, we're talking about Real Simple magazine... the "Life Made Easier" magazine that is packed with great ideas for saving time. The whole magazine is one big "list." Joke's on me.

Not really a bad thing, I guess, as it put into focus the very real issue of time and its thief, i.e. one who steals, especially, secretly or without open force.

Revisit my recent writing about "Clutter Causes Anxiety" and you will meet one of the biggest thieves out there! Not only does clutter sneak up behind you leaving a trail of confusion aimed at thwarting some of your best made plans and dreams, but requires far too much time even thinking about it. I have been privy to many people reading and walking out the current NY times best seller, *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up*, Japanese organizer Marie Kondo's guide to having the life you deserve. I am all about this.

I am now a convert. After all, "Tis the Season to be Joyful" and Ms. Kondo's credo is basically less stuff, more joy in your life. Kondo says, "Choose those things that spark joy when you touch them." Stuff has energy that can either bog you down (clutter) or empower you (more time). She also addresses "living thoughtfully" at home. This involves your loungewear, of all things. Male or female, this usually describes clothes past their prime. Most of these should have been in the discard pile rather than the "keep" pile. Bottom line from Marie on this is "what you wear in the house does impact your self image." This is a tough one. A lot of the old clothes have an inner comfort level from their history that makes it difficult to throw them out for this reason. The self image and memories which are attached to these clothes may stand strong against your current state of being. Pick and choose the best "history" with those, and toss the rest. Easier said than done. Most all of us have a pile we're guarding as keepers...for now, anyway.

I may not finish this whole daunting task before the New Year, but the things I do pull out for the holidays will be affected by this new philoso-

phy. Beginning this holiday season, think outside the box in your instant purging. Identify things like last year's half empty box of Christmas cards, tree decorations from years of collecting or receiving, house decorations that are "tired" and need to "retire." Begin new traditions with your family and friends that "spark joy" and let the less meaningful ones be put to rest. The seasons upon us illuminate a focus on love, relationships, sharing, thanksgiving, joy, forgiveness and the greatest of these is LOVE and all that it represents. Cheers.

Let'Til next time, 7878



Preparing Your Hair for the Weather Ahead by Heather Mechler-Fickes

The cold weather is almost here, soon we will be wearing our coats, hats and turning on the heat. With every season, comes new hair challenges.

Everything we do to keep warm could be destroying our hair. Heaters steal moisture from our hair and cause it to be dry and damaged. Here are a few tips to keep your hair healthy during the cold months.

First, find a hydrating conditioner and shampoo. Plus use a deep conditioning mask once a week for extra moisture. There are all kinds of hydrating products and many are also good for color and chemically treated hair too.

1) If you can, try not to wash your hair every day. This will help retain more of your natural hair moisture.

2) Second, get your hair trimmed regularly. Even if you are growing your hair out, make sure you snip your ends. This helps prevent split ends and breakage and it will maintain good healthy hair.

3) When choosing good shampoo and conditioner, don't forget good styling products. During the colder months, your hair has the tendency to be dry and more flyaway. You might want to consider a styling crème or serum. This will help with manageability, add shine and prevent dryness. If you use heat tools, like a blow dryer, flat iron, or curling iron-look into a thermal protection spray or crème.

Keep warm and enjoy healthy hair!



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No, you can't put the roof down, but you can make home ownership a step by step process to help ease into the cost and responsibility of owning your own home. The first step would be finding an area you'd like to call home and that you can afford. Buying a new home can be overwhelming not only in concept, but in cost, so sometimes finding a piece of land for your homestead can be a way to start the process in a small way.

Finding a piece of land that fits you and your plans for the future is a wonderful thing. Many people purchase their land, particularly at Lake Anna and then visit for several years, using the water access if it's available or camping on site.

You may be looking at a large house for family expansion or to host company, or just because you simply want more space. However, a larger house might be outside of your budget constraints at first. Have no fear! With the availability of nearly every conceivable house plan available to preview online, we are able to search from the comfort of our own homes for the perfect home. Once you figure out the basics of what you desire in your ultimate house and what you can get by with for the next several years, you can look for a home that is easily divided into stages. This means that maybe you start out now with a small ground level home and put in an unfinished basement - this is space that is already outlined and able to be complete and divided as you see fit down the line. Adding an unfinished basement is a minimal cost compared to building extra square footage later above ground.

Another step would be to consult with an architect to help draw the plans for what you're looking for. While most plans online will supply floor plans and drawings, they will need to be customized to fit your lot and this is when your plans for the future should be clear. Adjustments can be made to make sure that extending wiring and plumbing will be seamless to later phases of your home.

It's also a great idea to meet with local builders, as they should have advice for needs like these. One local builder, Lakehouse Building & Design, tells us that the lake home building process is unique, in that "many times people are focusing on future retirement plans, but still have a lot of time until then, so a smaller house that can be used as a weekend home in the meantime can be the perfect answer until they have time to add on all of the features they'll want when they can move in full time."

Simply finding that your perfect home is currently out of reach should never end the dream - just allow it to take a different form. Finding or building a small starter home isn't settling, just a stepping stone to your final goal. No matter what, finding a little piece of land to call your own and develop your home is a productive goal and one that is likely to pay off in the long run. Good luck!



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