



The

# Lodger

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NEWSLETTER FOR RESIDENTS AND FRIENDS OF THE LODGE AT OLD TRAIL

## Point of Interest

If you have ridden the van or driven to the Zeus Theaters on Lew Dewitt Boulevard in Waynesboro, you may have wondered how the street got its name. Country music fans would remember. It was named for the talented singer and founder of the famed Statler brothers quartet from Staunton. His 50-acre farm on the edge of Waynesboro put him near the people and the mountain that he admired.

Lew Dewitt was the original tenor and guitarist of the Statlers and in 1965 wrote one of their biggest hits, "Flowers on the Wall," which sold more than one million copies. The Statlers were a vocal group for Johnny Cash until their popularity launched them on their own and led to the release of over 40 albums.

After singing with the Statlers for 20 years, Dewitt was forced into retirement in 1982 by complications of Crohn's disease. Rebounding from major surgery, he and his wife, Judy, settled in Waynesboro on the farm he called "Singing Hill," the same name given a Gene Autry film. Besides enjoying hunting and fishing and watching cowboy movies in the private theater he built in an outbuilding on the farm, Dewitt would seek out and jam with local musicians, often in the back of someone's garage.

Dewitt was inducted posthumously into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2008 and shared three Grammy Awards while with the Statlers. He and the group were named the top vocal group nine times by the Country Music Association.

There were, in fact, two brothers in the singing group, but their name was not Statler. The name was chosen after seeing a box of Statler tissues. They often kidded that they could have just as easily been named the Kleenex Brothers.

Diagnosed with Crohn's disease when he was 25 years old, Dewitt succumbed to its effects in 1990 at the age of 52. Two years later, the ribbon was cut for the road honoring him. His widow said that he would have been as excited by the road name as he would for the hall-of-fame induction.



Lew Dewitt, circa 1986

## RESIDENT FOCUS

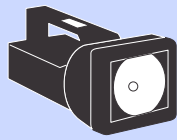
The Reverend Robert H. Wilson Jr. is a splendid example of one who will never retire. Although Bob is not The Lodge's chaplain, he acts like one. And for good reason. He has a background of 55 years in active ministry and has assembled a stable of some 20 clergypersons who volunteer to conduct Sunday worship services at The Lodge.



His search for guest ministers to lead worship has taken him to every church in the area. But it didn't end there. Bob schedules the clergy visits in advance, selects hymns, prepares the orders of service, and often treats them to lunch as a token of appreciation. "It was hard to say no," says Bob, "when [Executive Director] Judy asked if I would do it."

He says he retired in 2010 when he was 80 years old, after trying it once before. This time he traveled the country with his GPS, visiting friends and relatives, and seeing 23 of the states. Katherine, his wife of 47 years, had died from pulmonary fibrosis in 2007, and their five children and nine grandchildren were spread nationwide. His daughter in Charlottesville found The Lodge and talked him into moving to Crozet in 2012.

Bob was born and raised near Niagra Falls, New York. He left home at age 14 to attend Concordia Lutheran High School in Fort Wayne, Indiana. "What else was a 97 pound weakling to do," muses Bob in explaining his calling to a religious life. He earned a bachelors degree at Concordia College in Milwaukee and his M.Div at Concordia Seminary in Saint Louis. Cont'd pg. 4



# STAFFER SPOTLIGHT

**Alison Loux** was well on her way to become a wildlife conservationist when she felt an irresistible urge to be a baker. Dreaming of one day owning and operating her own bakery, Alison pursued her new calling by preparing pastries for friends and relatives. “Three-quarters of what I made,” she says, “were my own recipes.”

Serious about baking as a career, she applied for the Pastry Chef position at The Lodge. “I was taking a chance,” says Alison, “because I was in California and the job was in Virginia.” It was only after her pies passed Executive Chef Jesse’s taste tests that her job became assured. Alison joined the kitchen staff in May 2014.

Now she is in charge of making pies, cakes, muffins, scones, cup cakes, and cheese cakes—“and chocolates like those made by Gearharts” says Alison with a smile. Apple pie and cinnamon rolls are two most requested favorites, but her favorites are cream puffs and chocolates.

Her daily drive from Greene County consumes about an hour each way, so there is not a lot of time to spare on her own. But she nevertheless cooks a lot at home and hopes to resume hiking like she did when living in California.

Before switching her career path, Alison kept a number of animal pets, including snakes, frogs, and dogs; interned at the “world’s best zoo” in Omaha; and graduated with a degree in biology from California State University.

She couldn’t be happier in her chosen line of work. You might say she loves her job for more than just kneading dough.



*Alison preparing a blueberry goody.*

## This and That

**NEIL SIMON’S CLASSIC COMEDY** *The Odd Couple* has had a long life. The original 1965 Broadway Play is being staged at the Carysbrook Performing Arts Center in Fork Union April 17 through 26. CBS just launched another sitcom version which airs on Thursday nights at 8:30. Two major films and three other TV series based on the play have been produced since the nearly 1,000 performances on Broadway 50 years ago. This may be a good time to revive your memories of the slob and the neat freak whether on the Carysbrook stage, on your TV, or by streaming the 1968 movie.

served at the usual hour and that any day now Spring will surely arrive.

**MUSIC OF ANY KIND WINS THE DAY** at The Lodge. A recent survey revealed "Music" as the top preference for both in-house programs and outside excursions. On a similar musical note, a crescendo of excitement builds at the news—first revealed here—that a group of Lodge residents is even now tuning up to form our own Lodge Chorus. Look for more on this "trilling" note in the coming days.



**The Lodger**  
Issued every other month for residents and friends of The Lodge at Old Trail.  
Jim Clark, editor  
Advisory Committee  
Sue Clark  
Fred Lach  
Jean Sellers  
See color edition at [lodgeatoldtrail.com](http://lodgeatoldtrail.com) about the lodge news & press releases

**A FRESH APPRECIATION OF LIFESTYLE** at The Lodge was brought to light by the recent snow storm that so beautifully transformed Old Trail. Among the advantages: no shoveling, no scraping windshields; no dead battery in the car, and no need to go out for groceries. Those who decide not to venture outside for a walk or to throw a few snowballs remain snugly inside, secure in the knowledge that dinner will be

**Happy Birthday, Shakespeare**  
Poet and playwright William Shakespeare's birthday is April 23, 1564. That despite the fact that a few miscreants claim he never existed. Over the years they continue to try and attribute his works to various other writers of the time. This very un-Shakespearean limerick is my answer to such theories on the occasion of his birthday:  
*There once was a bard we hold dear,  
Folks study his works over here.  
May you burn at the stake  
If you think he's a fake.  
Lift a pint to William Shakespeare!*  
—Jean Sellers

# Beaver Creek Lake Good for 100 Years of Recreation, Water

Despite Crozet's explosive growth, water should not be a worry for the next 50 years. The foresight of county planners 50 years ago appears to assure adequate water supply in the Crozet area through 2060, so says a 2011 study by the Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority—for a grand total of 100 years! And that's not all. Recreation, flood control, and outstanding scenery are co-benefits of this visionary planning.

County visionaries in the 1950s anticipated an eventual water supply issue. The prospect of increased demands by local industries and water scarcities during drought years prompted them to propose a municipal water supply for the Crozet area. Plans were developed for a dam to catch and store the abundant waters of Beaver Creek, a year-round stream flowing from Bucks Elbow Mountain that also regularly flooded the rich farmlands below.

The dam, three miles east of Crozet, was proposed as a flood control measure as well as a means for water supply storage. The designers envisioned the resulting lake as a recreational resource and the dam serving as a causeway that would eliminate a substandard bridge and the crooked path of Route 680.

In fewer than 10 years after the idea was conceived, the C. Mercer Garnett Jr. Dam was completed in 1964, 50 years ago last year. It was named in honor of the public citizen and soil conservationist who played a prominent role in promoting the project. The 59-foot earthen dam and the Beaver Creek Reservoir are the centerpiece of the Albemarle County Beaver Creek Lake Park.

The 104-acre, 1.75-mile long lake is managed by the water and sewer authority, an agency formed in 1972 to serve the water and sewer needs of Charlottesville and Albemarle County. Water from the reservoir is pumped to the authority's nearby water treatment plant where it is filtered and chlorinated before



Western Albemarle High School rowers.

being sold to the county for distribution to area customers including The Lodge.

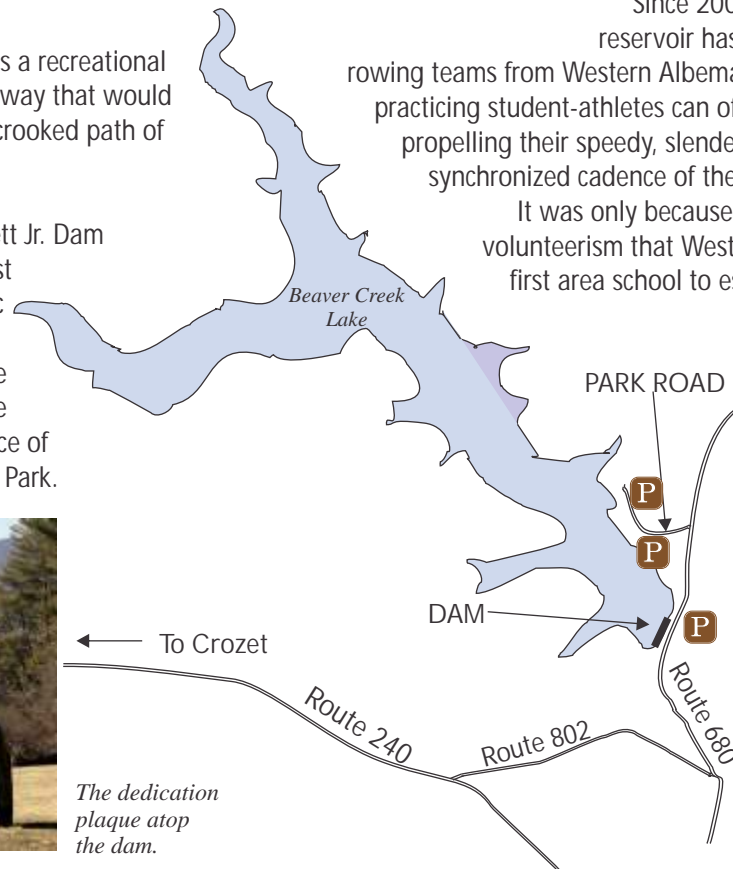
The park is used by picnickers, canoers, kayakers, and electric-boat and bank fishers. The reservoir is stocked with bluegill, channel catfish, and largemouth bass and the surrounding landscape offers spectacular views. Motor boating and swimming are not permitted in the reservoir because it is used to supply community raw water.

Since 2007 the calm water of the reservoir has been the training area for rowing teams from Western Albemarle High School. The practicing student-athletes can often be seen in the afternoon propelling their speedy, slender skulls with the synchronized cadence of their long oars.

It was only because of advocacy and volunteerism that Western Albemarle became the first area school to establish rowing as a sport. A

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***Crozet area residents use an average of about 68 gallons of water per day. By comparison, city of Charlottesville residents average nearly 108 gallons per person per day. Perhaps newer homes with water saving plumbing fixtures is the explanation. Whether because of newer standards or a growing conservation ethic, the decreased consumption helps stretch the time before demand outpaces supply.***



To visit the park, take Route 240 east from Crozet for 2.4 miles to a left on Route 802. Follow Route 802 one-half mile to the T intersection with Route 680. Make the left hairpin turn on Route 680. You will ride over the dam. Parking is on the right or on Park Road on the left.



The dedication plaque atop the dam.



## Resident Focus (from p. 1)

It was at a mutual friend's wedding in Chicago where Bob met Kathie, and, later on a trip from Chicago to Niagara Falls, they decided to get married. They took their vows in her hometown of Chicago.

Kathie was an educator having taught in Lutheran parochial schools and over 20 years for the public school system in Buffalo as a program administrator and principal. She was not only a gifted singer and director of plays and musicals, but a passionate runner and mountain hiker. Her hiking exploits took her and a daughter to the American and Canadian Rockies and other countries including Spain, Italy, New Zealand, and Ireland. Kathie retired in 1997 when the Wilsons moved from Buffalo, New York to Princeton, New Jersey.

Both Bob and Kathie were strong civil rights advocates. She was an original faculty member of CAUSE School, a civil rights engendered institution in Buffalo. Bob was drawn to serving inner city churches and those struggling to survive in ethnic and poverty stricken communities. His longest tenure lasted 20 years as pastor at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Buffalo, one of six congregations that he served as pastor.

He was the founding pastor of a storefront church in Jersey City. It started as a congregation that met in a parking lot and eventually moved to an empty building. After the church grew large enough to fill two rooms it's Spanish-speaking worshipers heard sermon translations from an interpreter standing in the doorway separating the rooms.

As social mores changed, so did Bob. Educated by schools affiliated with the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS), he switched his affiliation to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), a more progressive Lutheran denomination. A minimal conversation with Bob, however, is convincing evidence of his ecumenical attitudes toward religion. Around The Lodge he is also known for his risqué sense of humor.

Besides pastoring and serving as school and retirement home chaplain, Bob has trained hospice volunteers, facilitated bereavement groups, instructed parent/teacher effectiveness, and taught college-level communications skills. He is currently developing a seminary course for church leaders on improved hospitality for visiting worshipers.

In case you are looking for Bob and can't find him, he is known to hop in his car and make periodic visits to see his mother in Florida or his children and grandchildren in various parts of the country. Bob's mother is 106 years old. Looks like many more years before a third retirement!



Kathie, 2006



Bob, seminary graduate, 1955

## Braver Creek Lake (from p. 3)

brainchild of Myriam Pitts, language teacher at the school and "rowing fanatic," the rowing program is privately funded and relies on a volunteer coaching staff that includes Pitts as head coach. Donations through many fundraisers paid for the boats as well as the boathouse and floating dock at the lake. Donations continue to pay for operating expenses as no public funds are utilized.

The limited number of boats creates intense competition for the 20 or so athletes who make the team. The team has consistently won the Virginia State Championship and last year earned second place in national competition.

The time line for creating this major public project 50 years ago is worthy of note. The dam became a reality in fewer than ten years after it was proposed by determined officials. Its completion was given much fanfare by local, state, and federal dignitaries. Imagine if it were a project being proposed now. Would attitudes today allow for similar support—or be cause for endless debate and uncertainty?

## SOME UNINTENTIONALS

—From Don Goldstein

