



The

# Lodger

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NEWSLETTER FOR RESIDENTS AND FRIENDS OF THE LODGE AT OLD TRAIL

## *Their Voice Makes Up for Their Size*

An amazing built-in sound system makes their voices loud and clear, despite a length of less than two inches. One of three types of frogs, tree frogs are amphibians that end up living above ground in trees and shrubs, sometimes using their expert climbing ability to find our decks or an open door to enter The Lodge. Sticky pads on the ends of their fingers and toes enable them to climb any surface including vertical window panes. But tree frogs are especially noted for the loudness of their mating call trills, made only by the males.

They are masters at hiding, but if you do get to see one, it will likely be the gray tree frog, the most common variety in central Virginia. Because of their chameleon-like characteristic, some will change color from gray to green to match their background, making identification difficult. About 30 different tree frog species live in the United States and over 600 exist in South and Central America.



The tree frog life cycle begins in the water where the female will lay clutches of up to 40 eggs, most likely in the retention ponds. The eggs typically hatch in four to five days as tadpoles. Over the next two months or so, the tadpoles metamorphose beginning with legs and finally a full-fledged body. The process occurs during May to August. The typical life span of gray tree frogs is from five to nine years.

What do they eat? They diet on flies, ants, crickets, beetles, and moths. Using their camouflage and by hiding in trees, they try to elude other reptiles, birds, and fish that like to feast on tree frogs.

If a group of fish is called a school, what do you think a group of frogs is called? Would you believe an "army"?

## This and That

**DINING IN THE WORLD'S HIGHEST RESTAURANT** in the world's tallest building is "like being in an airplane seat during takeoff." That is how concierge Katie Eutsler felt on her recent visit to see a friend in Dubai. The restaurant is on the 122nd floor of the 163-floor Burj Khalifa that stands 2,722 feet high, twice as high as the Empire State Building. Her holiday happened to coincide with Ramadan, the Islamic month of daytime fasting when many tourist attractions are closed and it was reported that a man was arrested for daytime drinking of bottled water. **Cont'd on next page**

## RESIDENT FOCUS

Their fondness of playing bridge could have gotten them into trouble, if not expelled from college. He avoided being caught for violating a visitor curfew by crawling out the window of his girlfriend's sorority house room after a night of bridge. She had an understanding house mother who liked bridge. Fred and Gae Lach were undergrad students at Long Beach State College (now California State University Long Beach) where they had first met and discovered a mutual affinity for the card game. The affinity for each other resulted in their becoming husband and wife a few years later.

Gae graduated with a degree in elementary education. Before a seven-year stint as kindergarten teacher, she was field secretary for Delta Gamma, one of the oldest and largest sororities in the United States and the one she was a member of. Fred graduated with a degree in electrical engineering and became an engineer with the Los Angeles water and power department.

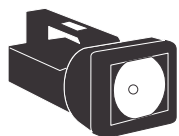
They are both native Californians. Hollywood was Fred's birthplace; Gae was born and raised in Long Beach.

Gae's mother could not have known the impact she would have on her son-in-law. Anxious for him to reduce his commute, his mother-in-law urged him to apply for a job she saw advertised.

Consenting to her advice, Fred was hired as a sales engineer for a local company that made power conductor rails for industrial overhead cranes. Three years later, the growing company built a second manufacturing plant in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Fred was made plant manager.

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# STAFFER SPOTLIGHT

Since he was 15, there was little doubt that Brandyn Powers was destined for a career in food preparation. Starting as a dish washer he rose in the ranks working at numerous restaurants and a bed and breakfast before gaining the status of the first sous chef in the kitchen of the popular Devils Backbone Brewing Company in Nellysford.

Now Brandyn is the sous chef in The Lodge kitchen and he says working here is the best experience he has had. "You don't get to see your customers in a restaurant," says Brandyn, "but here my favorite thing is to see the smiles of people after they finish their meal."

As the second in command, Brandyn oversees all kitchen operations to insure everyone is doing their job. He and executive chef Jesse Kaylor do the meal planning and ordering of food and supplies, all the while cognizant of the budget and taking advantage of weekly specials. Fresh produce is ordered by phone and computer from a produce supplier, fresh fish from a fish supplier, and all else from a third supplier. Deliveries are generally made twice a week.

Brandyn doesn't hesitate to admit that his southern food flair and Italian family background have influenced his choices of

meals. But he is also quick to add that through his influence, meals are now cooked to order as the orders are placed, sometimes adding to wait time but served without delay. He says that he is grateful for the willingness of the chefs he has worked with for sharing their experiences which he now finds invaluable in his work.

Music is another of Brandyn's bents. A song writer and producer, he helps to record and plays the guitar and piano with local bands. He is also a serious golfer and a dirt biker emblem on his familiar peaked cap is a symbol of a past activity.

Brandyn was born in New Jersey and raised in South Carolina. He moved with his family to Virginia when he was 15 and now resides in Crozet.

We look forward to providing Brandyn with many more after-dinner smiles in the days ahead.



## This and That

Continued from front page

**THE LODGE EMPLOYEES** wear a variety of colored tops, but lavender, or the shade of medium purple, is reserved for just registered nurses (RNs) and licensed practical nurses (LPNs). All others wear burgundy, pink, dark blue, or light blue tops with The Lodge logo in the upper left corner.

**THE ANIMAL SPECIES LIST** continues to grow. The kildeer and ruby-throated hummingbird are two new bird additions. The kildeer is a shore bird that does not live at the beach. It likes grassy areas and parking lots. They have the habit of luring you away from their nest by faking a nest site and often feign a broken wing to tug on your compassion. Two black bands on its white chest are a dead giveaway. They are seen in the front of The Lodge in early summer. The ruby-throated hummingbird is the only one of over 300 total hummingbird species found in eastern North America. The males have an iridescent throat that is a brilliant red in bright light. These birds migrate in winter to Central America at speeds up to 60 miles an hour. They feed on the nectar of tubular flowers and bird

feeders and are present here through late summer.

**FAIR TRADE** - The oil painting of a covered bridge on recent display in the lobby reminded Lodge resident and covered bridge fan David Lindsay of his favorite tee shirt. He acquired the shirt when he was an emergency room doctor. He told an incoming patient he wanted a shirt like she was wearing with an image of the Newton Falls, Ohio covered bridge built in 1831. She said she sold them, but only had the small size in stock, "so take this one," she told Lindsay as she took hers off, to the amusement of the nurses (Lindsay says she was wearing a bra). Lindsay traded his shirt for hers and treasures his trade to this day.



**HOW LONG DO YOU THINK** the L shaped Lodge building is from end to end. For comparison, a football field is 120 yards (360 feet) long. Hint: The Lodge is longer. Is it 586 feet long, 768 feet long, or 902 feet long? Look for the answer hidden in this issue of *The Lodger*.

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  
Gae Lach  
See color edition at lodgeatoldtrail →  
about the lodge →  
news & press releases

# Waynesboro Appeal Grows as Diversity Increases

Nestled in the flat lands of the Shenandoah Valley at the base of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Waynesboro is a worthy rival of Charlottesville as western Albemarle's central city. Notable for absence of the traffic that characterizes Charlottesville, Waynesboro is an emerging cultural center and host to a surprising variety of places to shop and dine. It lies 20 minutes west of The Lodge via Interstate Route 64.

The community got its start as a convenient stop-over in the early 1800s for westward travelers using nearby Jarmans Gap to cross the Blue Ridge Mountains. By 1860 the town had grown to a population of 457. At that time, Waynesborough was the name chosen by town settlers to honor their fellow Pennsylvanian and Revolutionary War hero, U.S. Army General Anthony Wayne. The name was later changed to Waynesboro.

Surrounded by Civil War sites, Waynesboro was the scene of a 20-minute long battle in 1865 that ended the Civil War in the Shenandoah Valley when Confederate Lt. General Jubal A. Early relinquished the town to General Philip Sheridan.

Industrial development followed the war, spurred by the east-west and north-south railroads that juncture within the town. Interstates 81 and 64 later added to the town's prowess as a transportation center.

Waynesboro boomed in the 1920s. E.I. Dupont and Crompton textiles opened huge factories and by World War II these factories and others were making "everything from furniture and bottled vinegar to organs, putting thousands to work," reported local TV station 29. GE opened a new electronics plant that together with DuPont employed over 6,000 workers. The town grew from 7,000 in 1940 to over 12,000 in a mere 10 years. In its heyday, Waynesboro expanded its territory through annexations and became a Virginia independent city in 1948.

But the boom went bust. Like so many factory towns, Waynesboro experienced the dreadful loss of its 20th century industrial base when its largest employers began pulling the plug on their operations. A successor to GE went bankrupt. Crompton abandoned its operations. DuPont closed and sold its plant to Koch Industries which continues to produce synthetic fiber but with a fraction of DuPont's work force.

City officials faced a new kind of urgent problem, the loss of dependency on large factories to support the city's economy. Leaders turned their attention to economic redevelopment,

tourism, and the realization that large investments of city resources would be required. Focusing on infrastructure improvements, the city government sought development funds from state and federal sources and raised the necessary matching local funds, resulting in the transformation of Waynesboro's downtown. New paving, sidewalks, street trees, and lighting have revitalized downtown streets.

Store fronts and building facades are being redesigned by private property owners through grants and deferred loans. Walking trails from the commercial center to adjacent recreation areas are planned in accord with a Greenway Master Plan. Downtown businesses are seeing increased sales.

Private developers see a future in city renewal, too. Waynesboro's west end attracted new stores, restaurants, and hotels. Waynesboro Town Center at the intersection of Rt. 250 and Interstate 64 boasts 2,000 parking spaces and 34 stores including Target and Kohl's among other national chains. Other big box stores include Walmart, Lowes, and Home Depot. Both Martin's Foods, a sister company of Giant Foods, and Kroger operate full-scale super markets.

A diverse assortment of local and national restaurants include downtown Stone Soup Books, a locally owned bookstore and café in a 115 year old farmhouse and Stella, Bella, and Lucy's, a breakfast and lunch café recently established and operated by two life-long Waynesboro women.

As many as 45,000 visitors flock each year to the P. Buckley Moss Museum, recently relocated from the city's outskirts to a new downtown location near other arts-based businesses. It houses the permanent collection of nature and farm-life art by the renowned living artist Patricia Buckley Moss who has lived in Waynesboro since 1964.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Waynesboro Farmers Market, Constitution Park, Wednesdays 2:30 to 6, Saturdays 9 to 1, thru 11/1
- Civil War Reenactments, Coyner Springs Park, August 30 and 31
- British Car Festival, Ridgeview Park, October 4
- Fall Foliage Festival Art Show, downtown, October 11 and 12

## Resident Focus (from front page)

Fred was on his way to become a key player in the overhead crane industry. He developed new electronic systems that relied on both hardware and software for operating the mammoth cranes and vastly increasing their efficiency. With the urging of some subordinates, he began his own company in the basement of his home, only to find no business due to the 1982 recession. "Out of the blue," says Fred, "a company appeared with a proposal to manufacture private label components." That saved the day and 10 years later he was building a new factory and expanding into another building as well.

His largest customer was the venerable Harnischfeger Corporation that bore the name of the Milwaukee pioneer in electric overhead crane manufacture.

Gae was hired as a company employee three times and then quit for good, says Fred, after the third time. She had turned her attention to the family that had by this time grown to include a son and two daughters. Tending to her garden and growing flowers, and weeds, says Gae, was a major pastime for her. She also made time to be a public library volunteer arranging activities and serving on volunteer boards.

Fred and Gae are faithful Wisconsinites, delighted with the climate, people, and culture of the mid-west, although they vacationed in such places as Mexico and the Caribbean to help escape winter.

Retirement in 1999 was eased by the sale of Fred's company to a much larger electrical control company. "The president and board chairman moved into my office," says Fred.

Badgered by their son to move closer to him and his family brought the Lachs to Charlottesville in 2007 where they took advantage of every restaurant and point of interest they could find. They moved to The Lodge in October 2012 around the corner from their son who had relocated to Old Trail Village.

By now Gae's medical condition had been diagnosed as scleroderma, a chronic disease that primarily affects the skin and in Gae's case her lungs which requires the supplementation of oxygen. That did not abate her appetite for reading. Gae prefers physical books, but Fred is a Kindle geek and consumes one book a week.

The Lachs are devoted grandparents of the two children of their son, John, and daughter-in-law who live in Old Trail Village. John chairs the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department at the University of Virginia.

Their daughter Cecily is employed by Trader Joe's in Durham and daughter Susannah is Director of the North Carolina Interfaith Power and Light in Chapel Hill, an organization that facilitates energy efficiency for churches.

If you were to play bridge with Fred, not to worry., He says years of playing, an expert it does not make.



*The newlyweds, 1965*



*Vacation in Mexico, 2005*

## Waynesboro (cont'd from page 3)

The Plumb House Museum hosts the annual reenactment of the Battle of Waynesboro and contains a collection of Civil War artifacts. It is located in a downtown house caught up in the battle and built during Thomas Jefferson's presidency.

Restoration of the Wayne Theatre as a performing arts and conference center is expected to be completed in 2015. Built in 1926, the downtown theatre was the venue for vaudeville shows and silent movies.

The Augusta County Railroad Museum in Gateway Park Shopping Center houses model railroad exhibits and local railroad memorabilia. It is open on the second and last Saturday of the month from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The annual two-day Fall Festival Art Show, featuring country-wide artists, has been named one of the top shows in the east.

Less than five miles from the Shenandoah National Park, The Blue Ridge Parkway, and the Appalachian Trail, Waynesboro is a convenient gateway to these attractions with lodging, dining, and Rockfish Gap Outfitters which specializes in outdoor gear including bicycle sales and service. Within the city, Ridgeview Park is home to several gardens, nature trails, and picnic areas.

You might say Waynesboro is the area's best kept secret. Overcoming the effects of major employer departures, Waynesboro is growing as a destination for tourists and area residents alike while retaining the small-town ambiance and historical significance of its restored downtown.

