



The

Lodger

December/
January
2016-17
Issue 20

NEWSLETTER FOR RESIDENTS AND FRIENDS OF THE LODGE AT OLD TRAIL

Dirt Pile Sign of Coming Park



That huge pile of dirt within sight of The Lodge on the other side of the swimming pool is temporary. For how long? No one is sure. The surplus soil is a gift to the county from Old Trail, but it will remain seeded and stockpiled until the county has the money to use it. Superintendent of Parks Matt Smith says the soil is one step closer to developing a full-fledged county park in Old Trail.

The dirt will be used for future park construction centered on the current soccer field. The park master plan calls for improved playing fields, an amphitheater, restrooms, shelters, and parking.

Smith says keeping the donated soil on site is a good thing for both the county and the developer by avoiding the expense of trucking it to and from a more remote location.

MUSIC LOVERS: More free musical events by the newly established Crozet Community Chorus are coming. Holiday concerts are scheduled for Friday, December 4 at 7 pm and Saturday, December 17 at 4 pm. Both will be at the Crozet Baptist Church.

The chorus is a secular, non-auditioned group with over 50 men and women singers. Their first performance was a smashing success last December.

Interested in joining? Contact them for info at crozetchorus@gmail.com.

RESIDENT FOCUS

He wasn't speeding when he ran off the winding road riding on his Harley Davidson Sportster. He and his bike parted, leaving him in the roadside ditch with his bike just inches away, still running and spewing exhaust in his face. Lodge resident Richard D. "Dick" Buchanan explains that he was victimized by something all of us have probably experienced on a bicycle: unable to turn from the road edge because of insufficient leaning to the side.

Dick was lucky to have had the help of his son-in-law Bruce and a passing motorist with EMT training. They summoned an ambulance which called for a helicopter that whisked him away to a hospital in Fairfax, Virginia. His helmet protected his head and face and he had barely a scratch, but his leg suffered multiple fractures. After eight days in the hospital, he underwent almost a year of rehabilitation therapy.

Lucy, his beloved wife of 52 years, told Dick he could have a motorcycle after their children were grown but that he should not expect her to ride it. It was two years after her death in 2005 that he bought the motorcycle from a friend.

Dick lived his younger days in Middletown, Delaware where he graduated from high school and then took a job

washing cars at a Packard-Studebaker dealer in Coatsville, Pennsylvania. His boss, aware of his mechanical abilities, bought him a set of tools, which Dick was expected to pay for, and then elevated his status from car washer to automobile mechanic.

Thinking "there
Cont'd next page



Resident Focus (Cont'd)

has got to be something better than this,” Dick moved to Florida to enroll at the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach where he earned a certificate as aviation mechanic. Called the “Harvard of the Sky,” it is the world’s largest university specializing in aviation and aerospace. Equipped with the new credentials, Dick went to work for an aviation service company in Wilmington, Delaware.

He also became enamored with the girl he married from Germantown, Pennsylvania, whom he met at a party arranged by his cousin. Lucy did not finish her training as a nurse but instead concentrated on raising their three daughters and two sons.

Again responding to the call for something better, Dick and Lucy and their five children moved to Freeport, Texas where he continued servicing airplanes, becoming especially familiar with the Gulfstream twin turbo-prop business aircraft built by what was then Grumman Aircraft. Both his knowledge of the Gulfstream and his training as a pilot while in Freeport set him up for an outstanding career in aviation.

Unhappy with the Freeport area, the Buchanans traveled back east where he encountered a pilot friend who was looking for a pilot-mechanic for his employer, who happened to be Paul Mellon, one of the richest Americans and noted philanthropist and horse breeder.

Dick seemed to have the perfect credentials for the job, but he had never flown a turbo-prop aircraft of the type Mellon owned, and he had to pass muster by Mellon who Dick says always interviewed each of his hires. With a satisfactory interview behind him, Dick quickly mastered the controls of the Gulfstream turbo-prop and later the Gulfstream jet engine aircraft that Mellon acquired.

For 23 years Dick ferried the Mellons around, often from Mellon’s private airstrip at his Upperville estate in Fauquier County. Every August the Mellons



Lucy and Dick Buchanan (lower right) and their five children in a photograph made in the 1970s.

would vacation on Cape Cod. Dick and his family enjoyed living there in a rented home, he being readily available for flying Mellon to a little airport near the Saratoga Race Course in upstate New York. With the longer range of Mellon’s jet, Dick made many trips to Europe, including London and Paris, never in a captain’s uniform but always in jacket and tie. He retired in 1985 from what many would consider one of the most prized jobs as pilot.

Dick and Lucy very much enjoyed the ocean cruises they took to the Caribbean and Alaska, but the joys of traveling together were cut short with Lucy’s death. Lucy died of ALS (Lou Gherig’s disease), as did the Buchanan’s younger son. Their older son was killed on a training mission in the Mediterranean in an attempted landing on an aircraft carrier in nighttime stormy weather. Their three daughters live with their husbands and six children in Maryland and North Carolina.

Dick suffered his share of heartaches, but he is very thankful for so many happy wonderful memories and he knows that he will one day be with all of his loved ones in heaven. We wish him well!

The Lodger

Issued every other month
for residents and friends
of The Lodge at Old Trail.

Jim Clark, editor

Advisory Committee

Sue Clark

Jean Sellers

See color edition at
lodgeatoldtrail.com →
about →
news & press

The Gulfstream II jet aircraft piloted by Dick Buchanan. The twin engine business jet had a range of over 4,000 miles and an average cruising speed of nearly 500 mph. Dick says the price of current Gulfstream models is 500 million dollars.





Virginia's Newest Craft Brewery Salvages Abandoned Historic Site

You have got to see it to believe it. Part of the dilapidated building that once housed the venerable Virginia Metalcrafters company in Waynesboro has been transformed into Virginia's newest craft brewery. Over a period of two years, scores of broken windows have been replaced, leaking pipes and roof were repaired, tons of scrap were removed and the Basic City Beer Company opened its doors in October to a crowd that could not have imagined what preceded the gleaming new stainless steel tanks and adjoining taproom.

Owners Chris and Bart Lanman had their doubts about completing their project. "We had our doubts every day," says Chris. "It was a constant moving target. We had to constantly combat items that changed in the build-out." The Lanman brothers discovered that rehabilitation presents extensive challenges and surprises, resulting in a doubling of the construction timeline originally estimated to be one year. Moreover, because the building is a National Historical Site, altering the exterior had to be avoided.

But the brothers put the delays to good use by doing some of the building themselves. They hand-built the tables, chandeliers, bar, artwork, and accents in the tasting room, reclaiming as much as they could from the demolition. Table bases were made from worn out sprinkler pipe, the bar has an abandoned I-beam base, and the chandeliers were made from electrical conduit. The brothers even made table tops from the pear tree that used to stand in front of the building.

Cont'd next page



Custom-made windows and paint, concrete, and asphalt made the old dilapidated structure look like a brand new building.

During this build-out period, the Lanmans chose to use the Basic City name rather than Metal Craft Brewing Company as originally planned. They see the brewery helping to bring about more economic development in what used to be Basic City, an independent town that pre-dated Waynesboro. Larger in area than the adjacent town of Waynesboro, Basic City, suffering from an economic recession, was consolidated with Waynesboro in 1924 and for awhile was called Waynesboro-Basic.

A food truck is present every night the brewery is open, but the Lanmans are looking forward to the day when a larger variety can be delivered from a restaurant they hope will open in the adjoining vacant building.

The brewery is currently producing six flavors of beers including lagers, an IPA, a stout, and porter with room to expand their current capacity for making 53,000 pints of beer. Seasonal beers are also planned. It will soon be available in restaurants and cans and bottles are planned within seven months or so.

Small and large glasses of beer are sold in their tasting room as well as 32 and 64 ounce "growlers." Growlers can be refilled after the initial purchase and are made of glass with sealable caps. They are popular among craft breweries because they allow beer drinkers to enjoy at home fresh beer at a reduced rate.

Master Brewer Jacque Landry has 20 years experience and 30 national and state awards for the beer he has brewed at other locations including South Street Brewery in Charlottesville.



Patrons get views of the brewery through a window wall in the tasting room.

After visiting many breweries in Virginia, the Lanmans were inspired to open their own and to demonstrate how abandoned structures can be successfully rehabilitated. Chris serves as the general manager and has an extensive background in the management and development of passenger rail systems. Bart is in charge of sales and marketing and was a consultant to restauranteurs while with food products distributor Sysco.

Chris admits that the huge structure in front is one of few items that did not come from the Metalcrafters building, but it made a perfect frame for the Basic City Beer logo. He says the structure, a stator, is part of a steam engine that generated electricity.

Whether you like beer or not, a visit to Basic City Beer Company can renew one's faith in our capacities for preservation.



Owners Chris and Bart Lanman (above) and Brewmaster Jacque Landry (left) pose inside the brewery.

VIRGINIA METALCRAFTERS was a Waynesboro business for 115 years before closing its doors in 2005. Beginning as a stove manufacturer in 1890, the company later produced sculpted artwork and brass and iron castings of early American historical objects.

Among its statues are the Triple Crown racehorse Citation as well as two 30-foot high winged figures mounted at Hoover Dam. Using original casting methods, Virginia Metalcrafters made reproductions for Colonial Williamsburg and Monticello. The unique Metalcrafters trivets and candle holders can still be found in well-appointed homes and boardrooms as well as the White House.

The company moved to the East Main Street location in the 1940s, occupying a 1926 building that had been vacated by Stehli Silk Company, and added the other buildings on the site to accommodate a growing business.

DIRECTIONS

- West on I-64 to Waynesboro Exit 96.
- Right at end of ramp on Delphine Ave.
- 2.7 miles on Delphine Ave. to first traffic signal.
- Right at traffic signal on E. Main St. to Basic City Beer on right at 1010 E. Main St.

HOURS

Monday: Closed
 Tues-Thur: 3:30 to 9:30p
 Fri :3 to 10p
 Sat: 12 noon to 10p
 Sun: 12 noon to 8p

Telephone: 540-943-1010