



The

Lodger

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NEWSLETTER FOR RESIDENTS AND FRIENDS OF THE LODGE AT OLD TRAIL

Judy Bowes Bids Farewell to the Lodge



Judy Bowes was right here on May 18, 2012 as the doors of David Hilliard's brand-new Lodge at Old Trail opened to welcome the first residents. As Executive Director of The Lodge, Judy has

been here every step of the way, steering the development of this senior living community to the mature, fully occupied, friendly home it is today.

Recently Judy announced her retirement effective May 25 to "explore our beautiful country in a travel trailer with my husband, Dave, a retired Navy flyer, and our Labradoodle, Elmo." After two years on the road, Judy, Dave, and Elmo will be at home in their Stuart, Florida, condo.

Lodge owner David Hilliard credits Judy with "helping to bring my vision for The Lodge to reality with her constant oversight, caring, and compassion. The atmosphere she helped to create here will make it easier for all of us to continue to live the vision."

Residents of The Lodge will long remember the gatherings called "What Bowes Knows," wherein Judy revealed the latest news, procedures, and plans for activities. Also memorable was her encouragement and yes, constant prodding, to organize the Residents' Association, which ultimately became a valued resource and conduit for volunteer effort and activities on the part of residents.

To all who call The Lodge home, Judy says, "Thank you for the beautiful memories, for sharing your lives with me, and for the fun and laughter."

RESIDENT FOCUS

Anni Ritschel started out in life living what could be called a normal existence in rural Romania with her parents, one sister, and two brothers. Her father raised pigs and other animals for marketing and young Anni helped with many of the farm chores back in the 1930s. Her large, closely-knit family had every reason to look forward to a happy future, but storm clouds were developing. Nazism was growing in Germany, the Russians were threatening to occupy the oil rich nation of Romania, and while trying to remain neutral, Romania was forced to join with the axis powers at the advent of World War II.

Anni's family was broken apart. Her father was conscripted into the German army for unknown purposes in the harsh climate of Siberia. Holocaust atrocities by the Nazis included dumping dead bodies on the steps of local churches, scaring people into fleeing their homeland. Ten-year old Anni, separated from her mother, fled with others to Germany where she was taken in by an aunt and uncle. Soon after, with the help of the U.S. Army and the Lutheran Church, she was transported to safety and sent to a children's foster home in Feldkirchen, Austria where she lived for the next 10 years.

It was then that Annie's life began to change for the better,



thanks to the foster home "house mother." She and her three young children had lived on a dairy farm in rural Yugoslavia where her husband was a small-town mayor. They, too, chose to flee from their homeland at the outbreak of the war. She and her children fled to Austria by horse and wagon on a 20-hour trek across the Alps.

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Resident Focus (cont'd)

Her son, Franz, worked to help support the family while his mother served as house mother, after which he, eager to live in the United States, enlisted in the U.S. Army and was assigned to protect the George Washington Bridge in New York City during the Korean War.

Anni was introduced to Franz by his mother. Whether she had intended to be a matchmaker or not, Franz and Anni fell in love and were married in Austria in 1955 while he was on furlough. After discharge from the Army, he and Anni moved to the states where they were queried by the Army on where they wanted to live. Anni remembers his response "where there are jobs," which resulted in their move to Cleveland, Ohio where they lived for 62 years. Their 62-year marriage ended in 2017 when Franz died. Anni moved to The Lodge in January 2018.

Franz's mechanical abilities won him a job with Cleveland's Horton Dairy for 38 years as a machine operator. During that time, he and his closest friends, who had also come to the states as European immigrants, pooled their respective building and craftsman skills to jointly renovate a number of houses in the Cleveland area. He and Anni also financed the construction of a home for his family in Feldkirchen, Austria by mailing them periodic payments for a number of years.

Famed garment maker, The Joseph and Feiss Company, hired Anni and trained her to be an accomplished seamstress. (Considered a leader in progressive industrialism, the company founded in 1907 employed thousands of immigrants and second generation Americans who manufactured upscale men's clothing. The huge main plant where Anni worked was closed in 1998 and the company is now owned by a producer of Hart Scaffner Marx suits.)

After five years working in the garment factory, Anni retired to care for their children and pursued her avid interest in cooking by becoming a chef at a local restaurant and at a community college, all the while enjoying one of her favorite pastimes: growing flowers in her home garden.

The Ritschels traveled to Europe several times to visit family members including Anni's mother and brothers. She also tracked down her father, but found that he was a strangely different person, suffering the emotional and physical after effects of his servitude in Siberia.

Anni and Franz raised three children in Cleveland. Sons David and Jeff and their wives Joanne and Kelly still live in Cleveland. Evie, their daughter, and her husband, Warren, live in White Hall. They are both employed by the University of Virginia Medical Center. Evie and her brothers examined as many as 10 different senior living facilities before choosing The Lodge as the recommended choice for their mother.

Anni has nine grandchildren: David, Brian, Amy, Andrew, Ben, Holly, Alissa, Mark, and Katherine, one of whom is a pilot who rented a plane just to fly with another grandson from Cleveland to visit their grandmother.

A beloved husband and a loving family truly transformed Anni's life into a wonderfully happy experience. Do the traumatic memories of her earlier days affect her now? Not at all, according to Anni. "That is something I just don't think about any more," she says.



(Clockwise from top left) Wedding day in 1955, Anni and Franz in the 1970s, and Franz and Anni surrounded by their nine grandchildren while vacationing on the Outer Banks in 2003.

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of The Lodge at Old Trail.

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Park Master Plan (cont'd from back page)

An area is also designated for a second community garden should there be interest in it by the community.

Implementation of the plan is estimated to cost 5.5 million dollars and will be completed in three construction phases. Construction adjacent to The Lodge would be accomplished in the last phase.

Timing of the project, however, remains an unknown. County funds have so far not been appropriated and state and federal grants are to be

considered as possible supplemental sources of funding.

The 36 acres of parkland was contributed to the county by the Old Trail Developer in 2005 as trade-off for higher housing density approval. Most of the area is considered not buildable due to wetlands, floodplain, and constraining slopes.

Maintenance of Western Park is currently provided by crews stationed at nearby Mint Springs Valley Park.

Chiles Family Enters 2nd Century of Growing Fruit

It was 106 years ago when Cynthia Chile's maternal great-grandfather planted his first peach tree in western Albemarle County at a time when Crozet was considered a fruit-growing capital. Her paternal great-grandfather soon joined him as a business partner. Little could they have realized how family members would turn those inauspicious beginnings into a company of 1,000 acres of orchards that grows multiple varieties of apples, peaches, and more for its own retail sales as well as for world-wide export and commercial sales to grocery stores. Organized as the Crown Orchard Company, the business consists of three orchards and a major storage facility. The Chiles Peach Orchard is where it all started on Greenwood Road just 10 minutes west of The Lodge, one of few producers in Virginia that has survived fierce competition in the industry.



Cynthia Chiles manages retail sales at Chiles orchards.

Representing the fourth generation now running the family business, Cynthia Chiles manages the retail end of the business while her brother Henry is in charge of overall operations and sister Sarah runs the storage and cold storage facility in Coveseville. Back stage is an aspiring fifth generation including a nephew who is studying horticulture at Virginia Tech.

But the driving force behind the growth of Crown Orchard Company is their father, Henry, who took over the business at

the age of 19 when his father, Henry, died. He can be found daily to this day at the age of 82 still checking on things. Known throughout the industry for his hard work and innovative ideas, he was granted the coveted America's Apple Packer of the Year award in 2014 by the U.S. Apple Association, the trade group that represents apple growers throughout the nation.

A tradition with the Chileses, all the boys in the family have been given the name of Henry in honor of great-grandfather Henry Chiles, the original orchardist. Affectionately known as Henry the Eighth, Cynthia's charming and hard-working third-generation father has nothing in common with England's infamous Henry VIII except a distant connection with the English Crown. The story is that Crown Orchard got its name after the Queen of England began importing Chiles apples duty-free because she liked them so much.



Peaches were grown only for commercial production at Chiles Peach Orchard until a hard freeze in 1974 resulted in a substantial loss of fruit. Pick your own was not yet in vogue, but it was decided to open the orchard to the public to pick the few available peaches. That is how retail selling at the orchard began. "We advertised in the paper and set up a card table, and, amazingly, people came in droves. It was so popular that we set aside some 'pick your own' trees the next summer and sold peaches from under a pop-up tent," says Cynthia.

Buoyed by the response from the public, the family built a "shack" in 1976, despite not having either water or electricity, where Cynthia's mother Ruth and one other person would sit in front of a cash box every day during the peach season selling pick your own peaches.

It was in 2007 when the current Greenwood Road store was built. Seasonal pick your own now includes apples, pumpkins, strawberries, flowers, and peaches. The store is filled with a variety of edibles including jams, jellies, and frozen yogurt, fruits hand picked by orchard workers, and a selection of crafts and gift offerings.

A recently added kitchen and bakery produce fruit pies and cookies and the highly popular "cider donuts" as well as a menu of lunch items. Prince Michel wines and Bold Rock Cider are available for tasting and purchasing in separate tasting rooms. Chiles Orchard supplies many of the apples used in the locally produced cider and some of the grapes used by the Prince Michel winery.

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Chiles Orchard (cont'd)

Not evident to orchard visitors are the complex efforts and hard labor that it takes to grow quality fruit. During summer months, mowing, pesticide applications, fruit thinning and experienced hired labor at picking time are required.

Buyers are fussy and will reject fruit with blemishes. The Chileans try to limit spraying, but when insects like the stink bug dimple the fruit, it is no longer the perfect fruit the buyers look for. (Research is underway by the U.S. Agriculture Department in search of natural predators to control harmful insects.)

The perfection sought by buyers requires the natural wax on apples to be replaced with artificial wax for a shinier fruit.

Fruit trees need to be replaced about every 20 years. The replacements require several years to grow before they bear fruit. It takes careful planning to schedule the replacement plantings to assure a dependable supply of fruit. Strawberry plants, on the other hand, are replaced annually.

And then there is the weather. Much of the orchard is irrigated, but adequate rainfall is still relied on for decent fruit production. Weather forecasts are closely watched, especially early in the year when cold weather is a risk. Huge wind machines are deployed among the trees to draw down warmer air to prevent frost damage during light frosts. But for significant drops in temperatures, nothing can be done to avert costly crop losses.

Cynthia believes that an essential rule to successful orcharding is to concentrate on what matters most. We do that by "focusing on only what we can control," she says.

The strawberry season began in early May and is expected to last into June. Peaches are typically available beginning in July. Apple season begins in August and September.



TELEPHONE
434-823-1583

DIRECTIONS

- North on Old Trail Drive to stop sign
 - Left on Jarman Gap Road
 - 2.3 mi on Jarman Gap Road to Chiles Orchard on left
- Road name changes to Greenwood 0.2 miles before orchard

HOURS

Open every day except Thanksgiving until Dec 16

Monday - Saturday 9 am to 6pm
(10 to 5 beginning Nov 5)

Sunday 10 am to 6 pm
(10 to 5 beginning Sept 9)

WEBSITE

chilesfamilyorchards.com

County Announces New Park Master Plan

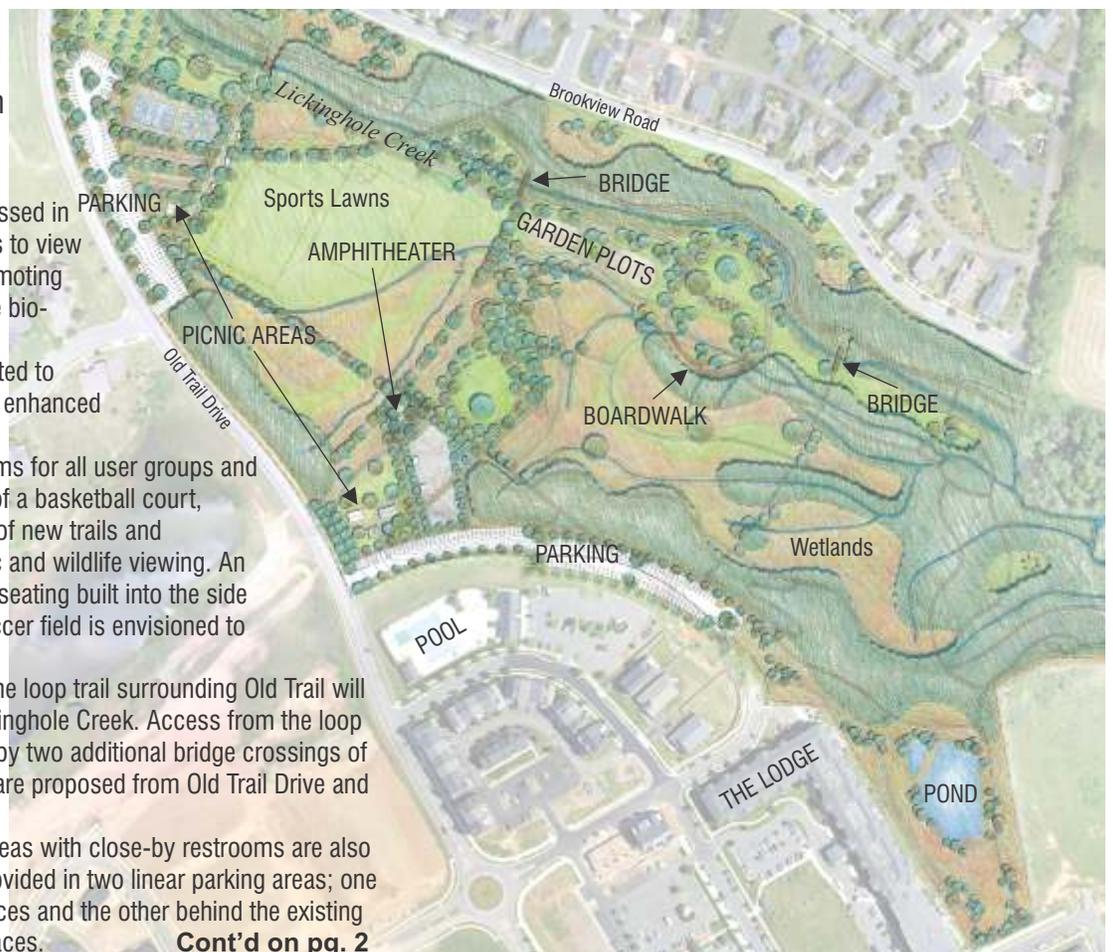
The updated master plan for Western Park, the county park bordering The Lodge, has been completed by Albemarle County's planning contractor.

In keeping with the desires expressed in citizen surveys, the county continues to view the park as a natural playground promoting native plant communities and wildlife biodiversity. The pond area on parkland immediately behind The Lodge is slated to remain essentially the same but with enhanced landscaping and added trails.

In support of recreational programs for all user groups and ages, the plan includes the addition of a basketball court, children's play areas, and a number of new trails and boardwalks for exercising and scenic and wildlife viewing. An amphitheater with stone or concrete seating built into the side of the hill overlooking the current soccer field is envisioned to accommodate up to 200 people.

The section through the park of the loop trail surrounding Old Trail will be relocated to the north side of Lickinghole Creek. Access from the loop trail to the park's interior is provided by two additional bridge crossings of the creek. Additional park entrances are proposed from Old Trail Drive and Brookview Road.

Two proposed sheltered picnic areas with close-by restrooms are also planned. Off street parking will be provided in two linear parking areas; one parallel to Old Trail Drive with 98 spaces and the other behind the existing swimming pool with another 102 spaces.



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