

Warrenton businesses emerge from pandemic stronger

Community support and outdoor seating helped keep businesses afloat

By Liam Bowman

PIEDMONT JOURNALISM FOUNDATION

When Pablo Teodoro woke up on March 17, 2020, he had come to grips with the fact that he was going to have to file for bankruptcy. Sales at his Great Harvest Bread Company franchise in Warrenton were on the decline, and he only had enough cash to survive one more payroll cycle. But when he arrived at work that morning, prepared to call a lawyer, he noticed that his shelves were bare. Local residents, panicked about the pandemic's potential effects on supply chains, had bought up all his bread.

Teodoro announced on Facebook that he would start baking to order, and calls began flooding in. One customer, worried about shortages at Fauquier Community Food Bank, offered him \$700 to supply the food bank with bread. Other donations soon followed-- including \$1,000 from town employees— and Teodoro realized that his business would not have to shut down, at least not immediately.

“What I didn't see coming was the deluge of generosity from the community,” said Teodoro. “That basically put us to work.”

The COVID-19 pandemic put tre-

mendous strain on Warrenton businesses, but an increase in community support and local spending helped many to survive. “It was nice, as a community, to come together on a shared focus,” said Town Manager Brandie Schaeffer. “We were able to put competing interests aside and focus on the here and now.”

Soon after the pandemic began, Zan Dial, co-owner of Ellie's Place, partnered with White Springs Senior Living to make box lunches for first responders. With funding provided by individual donations on its website, Ellie's Place began preparing meals for Warrenton police officers, paramedics, staff at Fauquier Health and other healthcare professionals. By mid-April, the restaurant had supplied more than 400 lunches.

The project was a stroke of luck for Dial, who had been struggling to make ends meet with takeout orders. “We had days that were \$25 to \$35 in sales,” he said, “and [first responder meals] helped just keep us going.”

The pandemic was especially hard on Ellie's Place because, as a relatively new restaurant, it did not have enough of a credit history to qualify for the Payroll Protection Program. The lack of grant money, combined with dwindling first responder orders and low visibility at the 70 Main St. location, eventually forced Dial to temporarily shut down the restaurant



Pablo Teodoro, owner of the Great Harvest Bread Company on Main Street, had resigned himself to closing his doors during the early days of the pandemic.

in the fall. “Seven months we were closed with zero income,” he said. “It got to the point where literally we were weeks away from having to fold up and lose everything.”

Toward the end of the year, Dial was finally approved for a PPP loan. And after pouring most of his savings into a new location at 26 Main St., he was able to reopen Ellie's Place in February 2021.

Especially during the early-pandemic sales slump, government funding like Payroll Protection and The Rebuild Virginia Grant Fund was crucial in helping many businesses pay bills and stay open.

Several shop owners said, too, that the early days of the pandemic saw cus-

tomers become more conscious about supporting local businesses. “Our community is so supportive,” said Kathleen Nevill, co-owner of Carter & Spence. “People tried to really figure out how they could shop with us. Whatever they could do to send money our way.”

Perhaps the most important support to local eateries, however, was the expansion of outdoor seating. In May 2020, with restrictions beginning to loosen under Phase 1 of Gov. Ralph Northam's reopening plan, town officials announced Roll Out Warrenton. The initiative allowed for parking spaces along much of Main Street to be blocked

See BUSINESS, page 22

LEWIS & CLARK, LLC REALTY



OFFICE SPACE FOR LEASE
historic Neavil's Mill circa 1769. Over 2200 square feet with multiple levels and work stations.

High speed internet available at site.

Rent includes grounds maintenance, water, sewer, parking and snow removal.

Located at Auburn, Virginia



LEWIS & CLARK LLC REALTY

6625 Electric Avenue, Warrenton, VA 20187

Phone: 540.428.1882 | Fax: 540.428.1883 | Cell: 703.517.2000

LEWIS & CLARK, LLC REALTY



UNDER CONTRACT

For Sale:

Delightful, 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath, colonial on 10+ acres, Includes gourmet kitchen with Granite countertops, 2 fireplaces, large deck, fenced paddock. \$625,000

LEWIS & CLARK LLC REALTY

6625 Electric Avenue, Warrenton, VA 20187

Phone: 540.428.1882 | Fax: 540.428.1883 | Cell: 703.517.2000

Warrenton businesses emerge from pandemic stronger

BUSINESS, from page 11

off and used for outdoor seating. It quickly became popular and helped to bring renewed economic activity to the town. People couldn't be inside, so outside tables gave restaurants a great opportunity to do business, said Todd Eisenhauer, owner of Black Bear Bistro & Brick Oven. "It was a very creative way for the town to jump forward."

With Roll Out Warrenton, businesses were able to open up more quickly than in other localities, which made the town a destination for people desperate to go outside again. "Providing outdoor seating was a magnet," said Warrenton Mayor Carter Nevill, who is also co-owner of Carter & Spence. "We had this sudden new influx of locals rediscovering their town and out-of-towners discovering Warrenton."

A year ago, Claire's at the Depot at 65 S. Third St. tried out different approaches, but owner Claire Lamborne found that aside from not being able to serve customers in her dining room, a crowded staff in a tight kitchen wasn't manageable, she said.

Lamborne said last April, "Before, we were trying to do food hot and that became very difficult. This time we'll be doing curbside meals that are cooked and ready for reheating at home." The new approach allowed for pre-planning menu selections and calming the previously busy kitchen scene.

Many Old Town businesses credit the Roll Out Warrenton initiative with helping businesses through the pandemic.



The restaurant began offering tent dining in November of 2020. "Well-ventilated and heated, with socially distanced tables, the translucent top allows sunlight to brighten the tent during the day and our bistro-style string lighting keeps the tent well-lit at night," the restaurant said in a post on Facebook.

Warrenton's outside dining program also extended to businesses outside Old Town and allowed restaurants to use nearby parking lots for seating. "It definitely helped us out," said Megan Massey, a manager at Ledo Pizza in Northrock Shopping Center, "and kept people coming into the restaurant rather than just doing takeout orders."

In May 2021, outdoor dining was further expanded to include "parklets" — fenced-in seating areas constructed by staffers in public works. Second and Third streets were

also fully closed off for dining. The Warm-up Warrenton Small Business Grant Program provided more than \$161,000 to businesses wishing to implement outdoor seating.

Currently, the expanded outdoor seating is set to expire in January 2022. But business owners are almost universally in favor of making it permanent. "Outdoor seating is helpful," said Nikki Guskiewicz, owner of Deja Brew Café. "It lets people know you're open, lets people know you're busy... It makes a big difference."

A permanent change, however, would require approval from the town council and the Virginia Department of Transportation, said Schaeffer.

Thanks in large part to the popularity of outdoor dining, business in Warrenton has actually grown during the pandemic. According to data from the town's Department of Finance and Human Resources, local

sales tax collection has been higher in 2020 and 2021 than in both 2018 and 2019. The bump is also due, in part, to the fact that commuters have been working from home and spending more money locally, said Nevill.

"Business in Warrenton is thriving. We're in a better position now than before we had a pandemic," added Schaeffer.

Business owners have echoed Schaeffer's assertion that business activity has more than recovered from the pandemic. "I know that the [shops] in Old Town were essentially revitalized," said Teodoro. "Sales are higher now than before the pandemic."

But owners remain concerned about the widespread employee shortage. "There are times when I only have enough staff to open [part of the restaurant]," said Eisenhauer, who often works double shifts due to the lack of help. "It's a hard thing to put your finger on."

Many employers point to the unemployment benefits as a contributing factor. "As soon as you take away the unemployment payments," said Dial, "you're going to see people starting to come back to work."

For Teodoro, who now supplies bread to seven food banks in the region, the experience of the pandemic has changed his outlook on running a business. "It filtered things down to what was really important," he said. "Do the essentials. Do them well. Do them fast."

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

SPONSORED BY MARINA MARCHESANI

Describe your *dream* home to me and I will find it!



ROSS REAL ESTATE 31 Garrett Street • Warrenton, VA 20186

www.rossva.com/marina-marchesani | (571) 237-8218

Marina Marchesani
Associate Broker



These property transfers, filed June 16-June 23, 2021 were provided by Clerk of the Court of Fauquier County.

(Please note that to conserve space, only the first person named as the grantor or grantee is listed. The kind of instrument is a deed unless stated otherwise.)

Top Dollar Deal: \$4,300,000 in Scott District

Cedar Run District

Eleanor A. Fletcher to Walter J. Hilliard, 2.0417 acres at 12330 Old Mill road nr. Midland. **\$420,000**

Ramon R. Rodriguez to Austin Butler, 9700 Logan Jay Drive nr. Bealeton. **\$440,000**

Bryan Weber to Winter M. Marchorro, 1 acre at 2553 Courtney's Corner Road, Midland. **\$285,000**

Rock Investments LLC to Michael David Leitch, 6062 Greenpark Lane, Warrenton. **\$535,000**

Lee District

Fannie M. Berry to Jonathan T. Thibodeau, 1.31 acres at 7370 Botha Road nr. Bealeton. **\$150,000**

Jonathan R. Friedrich to Octavio Cortes Esquivel, 11101 North Windsor Court, Bealeton. **\$475,000**

Travis Alexander Simoes Tr. to Harold William Boyd IV, 11185 Freedom Court, Bealeton. **\$480,000**

Kirsten Ledlum to June Cho, Unit 304, 6161 Willow Place, Bealeton. **\$185,000**

Nathan O. Miller to James C. Coyle, 2 acres at 8174 Buena Vista Drive, Warrenton. **\$550,000**

Daniel Ridgeway to Aarrianna E. Smith, Unit F at 11228 Torrie Way, Bealeton. **\$166,900**

Center District

John C. Henson to Corey Sellner, 0.6919 acre at 7203 Manor House Drive, Warrenton. **\$625,000**

Ronald Kauffman to Sana Peter Tr., 153 Menlough Drive, Warrenton. **\$710,000**

Mark LaFleur to Andrei Racila, 7438 Cedar Run Drive, Warrenton. **\$645,000**

Fairfax Hackley to C&M Foster LLC, 1/3 interest in 1 acre at 460 Oliver City Road, Warrenton. **\$25,000**

Shaun A. Stacks to Jaime H. Machuca, 7119 Alleghany Street, Warrenton. **\$380,000**

Samuel B. Tarr Jr. to Robert H. Tarr, interest in 322 Norfolk Drive, Warrenton. **\$280,000**

NVR Inc. to Sandra Louise Nethery, 0.1813 acre at 224 Norma Dean Drive, Warrenton. **\$570,500**

Mary L. Olinger Devs. to Donald H. Lail, 0.3336 acre at 67 Frazier Road; 0.2048 acre and 0.0093 acre on Frazier Road, Warrenton. **\$311,000**

Fox Den 70 Main LLC to Alpine Schuiling T. Inc., 0.1586 acre at 70 Main Street, Warrenton. **\$3,241,875**

Suzanne E. Adams to Marisa Lynn Coyle, 243 Windward Court, Warrenton. **\$477,000**

Nicholas Anthony Metrokotsas to Garry Brown, 6348 Nordix Drive, Warrenton. **\$410,000**

William Henry Scott V to Janis C. Cartwright, 431 Ridge Court, Warrenton. **\$280,000**

John Debnam III to Jose Eduardo Vazquez, 0.2613 acres at 7333 Hazelwood Court, Warrenton. **\$495,000**

Tony Gaige to Casey Jenna Miller, 226 Cannon Way, Warrenton. **\$589,000**

Vickie L. Burns to David T. Murphy OII, 7069 Highland Court, Warrenton. **\$509,000**

Austin J. Royal to Matthew Pavlo, 46 Quarterpole Court, Warrenton. **\$352,000**

Joel G. Cabanban to Christina M. Kerns, Unit 212 at 635 Waterloo Road, Warrenton. **\$181,000**

Rita G. Hawes to Monica Marie Constantine, 226 North View Circle, Warrenton. **\$449,900**

Scott District

Carl Zaslow to Bridgett Feehan, 6838 Lake Anne Court nr. Warrenton. **\$692,000**

Cheree L. Nichole to Jeffrey Ian Kessler,

17.3946 acres west of Rt. 810 nr. Middleburg; 14.7326 acres on Old Goose Creek Road nr. Middleburg; and 5.2040 acres west of Rt. 810 nr. Middleburg. **\$3,175,000**

Lynn A. Pirozzoli to Donald MacGregor Ralph Jr., 6908 Mill Valley Drive nr. Warrenton. **\$859,000**

Laura Barrera to David Joel Glassett, 1.0775 acres at 5391 Farrington Lane, Broad Run. **\$525,000**

Marcus Kenneth Joseph Brugger to Girma W. Tadesse, 7133 Hills Lane nr. Warrenton. **\$750,000**

David C. Jones to Derek Moore, 6928 Tanglewood Drive nr. Warrenton. **\$815,000**

Denise E. Procter to Faith Tarr, 5.6283 acres at 3669 Bull Run Mountain Road nr. The Plains. **\$740,000**

Marc J. Eisenstein to Scott Jeffrey Semelbauer, 4642 Bee Court nr. Warrenton. **\$695,000**

Terry L. Canard to David J. Hedberg, 7002 Settlers Ridge Road nr. Warrenton. **\$400,000**

Gabriel M. Wilson to Matthew Richard Allen, 7115 Auburn Mill Road, Warrenton. **\$715,000**

PP&L LLC to STN Enterprises LLC, Lots G, H, I, J, K and L at 6799 Kennedy Road, and Lots M and N, 6790 Kennedy Road nr. Warrenton. **\$4,300,000**

Kenneth D. Mitchell to Derek Wayne Kelley, 1.9266 acres at 6451 Emily Anne Court, Warrenton. **\$710,000**

Charles Niland to Aaron Peter Jones, 6754 Eckert Court nr. Warrenton. **\$724,999**

Raymond Hensley to Kimberly Keller, 6.8790 acres at 6910 Blantyre Road nr. Warrenton. **\$1,250,000**

Sandra Varnon to Garrett C. Hundley, 7040

Panorama Court nr. Warrenton. **\$460,000**

Deborah L. Fleming to Jeffrey Allan Harris, 2.7375 acres at 5405 Baldwin Street nr. Warrenton. **\$625,000**

Matthew L. Daye to Maria Vasilakos, 5570 Cattail Court nr. Warrenton. **\$699,900**

Alexander J. Hill to Samantha Bendigo, 0.6918 acre at 5071 Rock Springs Road nr. Warrenton. **\$338,400**

Randall W. Teune to Jay E. Teets, 10.49 acres at 8984 Woodward Road, Marshall. **\$784,001**

Karen D. Goula to Richard LaFrance, Unit 39, 6690 Stream View Lane nr. Warrenton. **\$530,000**

Marshall District

Atlantic Union Bank to OCS LLC, 15,000 sq. ft. at 8331 West Main Street, Marshall. **\$725,000**

Caroline Collomb to Michael O. Silver, 0.0625 acre and 11.3249 acres on Brixton Lane & Old Waterloo Road, nr. Warrenton. **\$180,000**

Easton & Porter Group LLC to Scott W. Keller, 7.5692 acres at 10157 John S. Mosby Hwy. west of Upperville. **\$760,600**

Earl Frederick Carter Jr. to Kimberly A. Chadwick, 1.5570 acres at 7884 Wellington Drive nr. Warrenton. **\$998,000**

Thomas Vernon Payne to Charlet Wang, 19.7234 acres at 10467 Vernon Mills Trail nr. Marshall. **\$630,000**

William A. Stern to Pamela Dreyfuss, 50.1254 acres at 3194 Lost Corner Road, Delaplane. **\$2,250,000**

Christopher Inman to Patrick Rice, 0.3166 acre at 7401 Filly Lane, Warrenton. **\$360,000**

William Shane Dolly Jr. to Paul Nicholas Taylor, 3.00299 acres at 3755 Sage Road, Delaplane. **\$410,000**



NIA ROGERS, JOEY SHULL NAMED KETTLE RUN ATHLETES OF YEAR, PAGES 21, 24, 25

Proposed brewery faces resistance from neighboring landowners

Neighbors claim brewery activity would disrupt ‘tranquility’ of area

By Liam Bowman

PIEDMONT JOURNALISM FOUNDATION

A landowner’s plan to build a brewery on his Watery Mountain property has faced opposition from neighbors over concerns that such a development would cause dangerous levels of traffic on a rural backroad and disturb the “peace and tranquility” of the area. The landowner says his “nanobrewery” would be compatible with the area’s character; he promises the business would be “small, private and intimate.”

Jonathan Waldron owns 48 acres on Keith Road, about two miles

See BREWERY, page 6



BASE MAP: FAUQUIER COUNTY GIS

Waldron plans to put his brewery along Keith Road, which connects to U.S. 17 and would serve as the brewery’s primary access. Travis Taylor, who owns Harkaway Farm right across Keith Road, has been one of the brewery’s most outspoken opponents.



Brandon Phelps at an awards ceremony in February of 2020

TIMES STAFF PHOTO/ROBIN EARL

Fire company president convicted in 2020 of issuing threat

WVFC bylaws: Criminal record is disqualifying for membership

By Coy Ferrell

TIMES STAFF WRITER

According to the Warrenton Volunteer Fire Company bylaws, no one who has been found guilty of “any crime, offense or regulatory violation” may be a member of the company. Last year, the organization’s vice president, Brandon Phelps, was criminally convicted of threatening two other fire company volunteers. Phelps is now the organization’s president, according to the company’s staff directory.

See WVFC, page 12

Therapists respond to calls alongside police in Fauquier and Culpeper



TIMES STAFF PHOTO/COY FERRELL
Therapist Justine Burns rides along with Fauquier County Sheriff’s Deputy Alexyn Morgan.

Embedded mental health clinicians help residents in crisis

By Randy Rieland

FOR FOOTHILLS FORUM

The call was about a man threatening suicide. In response, a Fauquier County sheriff’s deputy drove to the scene, hoping he could talk him out of it.

He never got the chance.

When the man spotted a police car pulling up, he rushed back inside his house. There, with little hesitation, he shot himself.

That death last summer stayed with Sheriff Bob Mosier. He wondered if things would have played out differently if someone other than a uniformed deputy had shown up. He knew that for some people struggling with mental health issues, just the presence of law enforcement officers can escalate matters. They fear they’ll be taken to an emergency room, or even worse, to jail.

See THERAPISTS, page 4

“An officer can give someone a card with phone numbers on it. But the plan was to have someone who could follow up with these folks, who would dig down into a person’s history. Someone who could help them navigate the services and keep them from becoming a chronic burden on a community that has very few resources.”

CHIEF CHRIS JENKINS
Culpeper Police Department



Fauquier’s Virtual Academy is accepting applications. See page 2.



Welcome to the new legacy!

Still your bank.

Visit TFB.bank for more information.



The Fauquier Bank



Proposed brewery faces resistance from neighboring landowners

BREWERY, from page 1

from an existing winery on Falcon Glen Road -- Mediterranean Cellars -- north of Warrenton. A Virginia ABC judge recently approved a limited brewery license for his business, 4J's Farm Brewery, over the fierce objections of some neighboring landowners. Applying for an ABC license was just the first step in the process; for Waldron to build the brewery and begin production and sales, he would need to go through a building permitting process with Fauquier County.

Waldron has stressed that his plan to build the brewery is "by-right," due to the size of the proposed site and the fact that "farm breweries" are allowed on land zoned for agriculture. This means that his plans would require no special exception permits or public hearings at the county level.

As ABC strictly governs the production and serving of alcohol, it is common for prospective businesses to pursue an ABC license before filing applications with the local authorities. ABC is required to notify county officials whenever it receives an application.

ABC conducts hearings when there are objections to the granting of a license. The hearing is meant to determine whether or not the operation of the license will have a detrimental effect on the surrounding area.

Senior Special Agent John O'Connell, who reviewed Waldron's ABC application, testified at Waldron's hearing that he had notified Fauquier County law enforcement, county supervisors and the local zoning administration when the application was filed in February. He also testified that "none of those agencies noted an objection to issuance of the license."

The window for appealing the ABC license ends July 30, and Waldron said he will begin filing applications for building permits with the county soon after that license is finalized. Some neighbors vow to appeal the granting of the license to the state ABC board, citing concerns about the brewery's potential effects on traffic, water quality, noise, property values and the "usual quietude and tranquility of the area."

"We have retained legal counsel who is an expert in the subject matter," said Travis Taylor, who owns Harkaway Farm, across the road from Waldron's property.

Beyond those objections, some neighbors have expressed concern over the type of people who frequent breweries. "If successful, the brewery



Waldron's concept for the main brewery building. The 40 x 60 building, he said, is designed to fit with the agricultural character of the area.

COURTESY OF JONATHAN WALDRON

will attract a particular clientele, people looking for a more social environment, and that's not consistent with the character of the area," said Gary Roughead, who owns a farm about a mile away from the proposed brewery site.

The area surrounding Waldron's property "is almost all an equestrian community," said Taylor, "and the enjoyment of equestrian activities requires quiet and calm." The noise of brewery activity would be "a definite threat to that equestrian enjoyment."

Waldron, though, said those claims "couldn't be further from the truth." A construction safety manager with a degree in natural resource management, Waldron has emphasized that he intends to build and operate a brewery that will have little impact on the surrounding area.

Waldron testified at the ABC hearing that he had conducted sound studies to ensure that his neighbors would not be disturbed and that no amplified music would be played at the establishment.

The proposed brewery site, according to him, would include a 40 by 60 foot building, a parking lot and covered areas outside for customers and food vendors.

He also plans to plant Leland Cypresses to shield in the site and act as "natural sound barriers."

The "one to two acres of property" is zoned as an agricultural district and a conservation district. "This isn't Anheuser-Busch moving in," Waldron said. "It will be an extension of our home ... a family-friendly place to have some good beer, eat some good food and relax responsibly."

Taylor and other opposing neighbors have claimed that such an establishment would bring down property values. But the ABC judge, in his decision to approve Waldron's license, ruled that "the greater weight of evidence demonstrates that rural real property values are not harmed by operation of a brewery."

The judge's decision went on to say that the objectors "also failed to establish reasonable cause to believe that a license would substantially interfere with the nearby residences' current level of peace and tranquility."

The objectors' most "compelling concern," according to the judge, was that the brewery would pose a threat to road safety.

Several neighbors have maintained that Waldron's brewery would bring more traffic onto the area's backroads, increasing the likelihood of accidents.

Keith Road, which would serve as the brewery's primary access road, is not suited to high levels of traffic, said Janice Cessna, who lives a short distance from the Waldron property. "It has blind curves, narrow lanes and lacks sufficient lighting."

Cessna, who has worked as a statistician, highlighted an informal study she had conducted, which found that "crash rates on Keith Road

are two to four times higher than on comparable roads" according to VDOT crash rate statistics.

"It's not a safe road to drive on," said Roughead, "especially for someone who might be more than a little impaired."

Waldron, however, said that his plans went through a VDOT review process earlier in the year and were approved, provided that he widen the entrance to his property.

"The speed limit is 25 mph with a stop sign at each end of the road," he added. "Safety is very important to me and our family, and we would work to stress the importance of safe driving and obeying the posted speed limits, which seem to be a concern and issue currently."

Taylor, who is leading neighbors in their appeal to ABC, has also claimed that the brewery will negatively impact the environment.

"The huge requirement for fresh water that goes into the brewing process poses a great threat of exhausting the local water table," said Taylor.

He also expressed concern that wastewater generated during the brewing process would enter the nearby stream, Towser Branch, which feeds into the Warrenton reservoir. If the brewery is allowed to begin production, he said, "we might be witnessing some substantial contamination."

In a letter circulated to some of the neighbors in March, however, Waldron stated that "the wastewater will either be reused for the horticulture part of the farm or be in a septic system."

"We plan to be as green as possible," said Waldron, who has experience as a water treatment specialist. "This is our home, too. We want to take as good care of it as possible."

Feeling that their concerns were not given the attention they deserved by the ABC judge, the opposing neighbors asked the Fauquier County Board of Supervisors to intervene.

"The county's lack of comment in the current ABC hearing was taken to mean the county has no concerns of any kind," said Taylor at the July 8 supervisors' public meeting. He went on to ask that the supervisors "oppose the granting of an ABC license to 4J's Farm Brewery."

But rejecting an ABC license is not within the county's reach, said Marshall District Supervisor Mary Leigh McDaniel, the district representative for all parties involved in the dispute. "[ABC] lets us know as a courtesy, but we really have no input in that process."

"My first piece of advice to any applicant is to make sure you have the neighbors involved and on board with what you want to do," she added. "It can quickly go south otherwise." She suggested that public discussion can be useful in resolving disputes between neighbors.

"We've worked hard to get where we're at," said Waldron. "Not everyone has the opportunity to live in this area. We want to give people a taste of the good life."

Liam Bowman may be reached at lbowman@fauquier.com



LIAM BOWMAN/PIEDMONT JOURNALISM FOUNDATION
Jonathan Waldron bought his Keith Road property in February 2020. Now he plans to turn part of his land into a brewery, a move that has drawn vocal opposition from neighbors.

Baileywyck Antiques celebrates urban artist Brookie Maxwell

By Liam Bowman

PIEDMONT JOURNALISM FOUNDATION

The cavernous and faintly musty Baileywyck Antiques shop in The Plains is a maze of hand-carved furniture, chandeliers and stacks of porcelain dinnerware—all ornaments of a bygone era. But through a doorway in the back of the shop is a small gallery filled with vivid images of Harlem, urban construction workers and Rwandan refugees.

The Brookie Maxwell Gallery is named after the artist and social activist from New York City who depicted the city's urban landscapes and its inhabitants, especially the experiences of the working class and underprivileged, during the 1990s and 2000s.

Maxwell died in 2015 of ovarian cancer at age 59. Her friend and executor, Charles Wright, brought her collection to The Plains in 2019. Wright, a former dancer and choreographer, befriended Maxwell at one of his dance classes. Now retired, he restores furniture at Baileywyck and helps run the gallery.

The gallery fits in well with the town's other artistic offerings. With the portraits of bird-headed humans adorning the walls of The Front Porch and the contemporary realism studios around the corner at the Stuart Street Atelier, The Plains stands out for its range of unexpected finds.

See **MAXWELL**, page 8



PHOTO BY LIAM BOWMAN

The Building America portion of the Brookie Maxwell Gallery.

Supervisors to consider installing speed cameras in school zones

By Coy Ferrell

TIMES STAFF WRITER

Speed limits in school zones may soon be enforced by speed cameras. A public hearing on the proposal will be conducted this Thursday at a regular meeting of the Fauquier County Board of Supervisors.

If the proposed ordinance is approved by supervisors, a fine of \$100 would be issued automatically to the registered owner of each offending vehicle. (The owner would be able to appeal the fine if the driver of the vehicle is not the registered owner.)

The proposal came after feedback from school board members, school parents and the sheriff's office, explained Board Chair Chris Granger (Center District). There are "big speeding problems in school zones," he said, and there are simply not

enough sheriff's deputies to monitor traffic effectively everywhere.

The ordinance would apply to established school zones in Fauquier County, Granger explained, but would not apply to the school zones within the towns of Warrenton and The Plains unless those town councils passed similar ordinances.

The draft ordinance also requires a "conspicuous sign" informing drivers of the presence of a speed camera be placed at each school zone. Additionally, a 30-day grace period would be implemented after each speed camera is installed.

A violation caught by a traffic camera would not be considered a traffic conviction for the purposes of a person's driving record or insurance.

The program would come at no direct cost to the county government, explained County Attorney Tracy

Gallehr. "There are no direct setup or maintenance costs," she said.

A company called Optotrafic would install and maintain the devices; the first \$25 of each \$100

fine would go to the company, with \$75 going to the county. Optotrafic would receive an additional \$10 if the company successfully retrieves a fine that has gone to collections.

How to participate in the public hearing

The Fauquier County Board of Supervisors will hold a work session at 11 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 11. The regular meeting and public hearings will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Warren Green Building at 10 Hotel St., Warrenton.

Members of the public may participate in a public hearing either remotely or in person.

The full agenda for Thursday's meeting, the video livestream and information about how to participate in the public hearing remotely can be found at agenda.fauquiercounty.gov. The work session and meeting will also be broadcast on Comcast Government Channel 23.

Residents 65 and older can arrange for vaccinations at CVS

By Robin Earl

TIMES STAFF WRITER

As of Tuesday, those 65 and older, eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine under Phase 1b, can register at <https://www.cvs.com/immunizations/covid-19-vaccine> to arrange for a vaccine through CVS Pharmacies. CVS will begin administering vaccinations on Friday, Feb. 12 at 36 locations.

Those who contact CVS will be able to make appointments for vaccinations through the site. An appointment for a second vaccination will be made when the first vaccination appointment is scheduled. Those without online access can contact CVS Customer Service at (800) 746-7287. Walk-in vaccinations without an appointment will not be offered.

Even if someone has registered with the Virginia Department of Health website, they will need to register through CVS as well.

The appointments will be made on a rolling basis, since when the week's doses run out, another supply will be arriving the next week. If no vaccination is available at a nearby site, registrants will be asked to

check back another day.

The federal government is providing the 26,000 doses per week to Virginia through the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program for COVID-19 Vaccination.

The original plan, according to the state's immunization lead Dr. Danny Avula, was to open CVS vaccinations to those 65 and older who had already pre-registered through local health departments of the Virginia Department of Health. Technical issues at CVS prevented the pharmacy's system from working with the VDH site. So, Avula said, if someone had already registered through VDH, they will not automatically be included in the CVS initiative.

Avula said the intent was to get vaccines to people who had already registered and had been waiting. Because of the technical issues, that didn't work out. "We've hit a dead end," said Avula.

He said, "The silver lining is that there are 26,000 more doses per week in Virginia... The vaccines given by CVS to those 65 and older should hopefully take some pressure off the people who are already on our list."

Avula said that essential workers or those 16 to 64 should still register through VDH sites if they haven't already.

NATIONAL SPORTING LIBRARY & MUSEUM
102 The Plains Road | Middleburg, VA
540-687-6542 | NationalSporting.org

Crossing the Line

Author Talk with Kareem Rosser

A FEARLESS TEAM of BROTHERS and the SPORT THAT CHANGED THEIR LIVES FOREVER

CROSSING

THE LINE

KAREEM ROSSER

Photo by Lezlie Hiner

Thursday, February 25 | 6pm

Free, Live, Virtual Event

RSVP for your spot: info@NationalSporting.org
or 540-687-6542 x 4

Celebrating artist Brookie Maxwell

MAXWELL, from page 3

The Maxwell collection seems particularly timely these days, in the era of racial reckoning, and was not without controversy in its day. Maxwell's subject matter often contains explicit messages about racism, poverty and other social injustices. Some took issue with a White woman portraying the Black experience and, at a time when the New York art scene was becoming increasingly experimental, Maxwell's work was deemed "too easy."

Others commended her. "Her art is special and timely," said Charles Daniel Dawson, professor of African American Art at Columbia University. "It advocates justice for every human being." Dawson, a photographer, exhibited one of his collections in Maxwell's Gallery 138. She created art out of relationships, he said. Her subjects had a say in how they were represented.

One of Maxwell's frequent collaborators was Satch Hoyt. "She was championing us, Black artists, back then when there was very little diversity," Hoyt said, "when you could count the [number of] Black artists that any of those Chelsea galleries were showing."

Emily Brooke Maxwell was raised in the Upper East Side of Manhattan. Her parents were Emily

Noyes Maxwell, a painter, and William Maxwell, a renowned fiction editor at the New Yorker magazine.

She studied art and worked as a magazine illustrator before creating "42nd Street: A Walk Across"—a panoramic sculpture that captured the entire length of 42nd Street in Manhattan—in 1985. Around this time, Maxwell founded the "Creative Arts Workshop," a nonprofit that sought to empower underprivileged children through art. Deeply affected by her experiences with the nonprofit, Maxwell spent years portraying the lives of the poor, mainly Black New Yorkers.

In 1999, Maxwell opened Gallery 138 in her Chelsea apartment. "When a show was up, the living room became a gallery," said Ellis Maxwell, her son. "It was always pretty exciting work." One major exhibition was "Brown v. Board of Education" (2004), a collaboration with Hoyt and other artists of color commemorating the 50th anniversary of the landmark Supreme Court decision ending desegregation in public schools.

Maxwell's art has been exhibited at the State Department, The Brooklyn Museum and The New Orleans Museum of Art. Her final project, "Coming Home: Journey, Community and Dialogue," was com-



PHOTO BY LIAM BOWMAN

This painting is part of Brookie Maxwell's "Deep Water" series.

missioned by Harvard's Kennedy School of Government (<https://vim-eo.com/193738883>).

The project told the story of combat veterans, some severely wounded, returning to their families and civilian life. She was working on the project when she died.

Maxwell's smaller drawings sell for \$600 to \$1,800. Her larger pieces range from \$6,000 to \$23,000.

Wright said he was initially apprehensive about displaying her work in Virginia "because I didn't quite know how it would be received," he said, given its criticism of race relations and what he called Maxwell's "northern attitude."

A few people have dismissed her message, he said, but for the most part her work has resonated with

people. One such customer was Meredith Holland, who, after viewing Maxwell's work, decided to start volunteering at the gallery. "I came in this room and just fell in love with the artwork," said Holland. "I literally spent four hours in [the gallery] reading through her show books and fell in love not only with her art, but with her as a person."

The antique shop just off Main Street on Loudoun Avenue, contains Maxwell's life work, except the "Coming Home" project, which her son continues to show at universities, including the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 2017. "I would love to see large portions of the work donated to schools or community art programs," said her son, "anywhere using her art for instruction."

Program protects half of county's streams from livestock

FENCING, from page 1

fencing and three new cattle watering tanks. The fencing keeps his 90 cows from muddying and polluting the stream while the three new watering tanks, shared by six fields, let Miller rotate his cattle from field to field for grazing.

The Millers are participants in the conservation district's cost-share program, which reimburses Fauquier County landowners for projects that improve water quality. From July 2019 to June 2020, the district set a new record -- \$1.2 million -- in cost-share payments to landowners. And since last July the district has approved 84 new projects worth \$1.2 million more, according to Tom Turner, the conservation district's director. The reimbursements can run from \$1,000 to \$100,000 or more: they pay for livestock fencing; stream bank improvements and buffers; animal waste and fertilizer controls and other similar projects. Turner guesses his programs now protect 50% to 60% of his district's creeks from livestock.

"It's a win-win-win," that benefits the farmer, the community and the environment, said Patty Leonard. She and her husband, Jeff, run their 550-acre Al-Mara Farm near Midland, where they graze a 75-cow herd. Their cost-share projects include fencing and buffers and conversion of row-crop land into grass.

Water in Fauquier's streams is generally of good quality, and has improved over the years. Still, there are spots and stretches that exceed EPA limits for bacteria, and some, like Goose Creek, contain silt that smothers the bugs that fish feed on, according to the Goose Creek Association, a non-profit founded in 1970 to clean up and protect the watershed.

If a stream supports trout, it means that it is cool, clean and healthy, said John Odenkirk, a biologist with the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources. But one of the main enemies of clean water is livestock. Their sharp hooves erode the banks and



TIMES STAFF PHOTO/COY FERRELL

George Chester, whose family owns Virginia Farms, LLC, has built more than 10 miles of cattle fencing and 15 watering tanks, financed through the conservation district's cost-share program.

silt up the waters. "It's like a meat-grinder going up and down the stream," said Odenkirk. And their excretions load the streams with bacteria, making the water unsafe for human consumption.

The remedy is to fence the livestock out, and then plant buffers of grass, bushes and trees along the stream bank (called riparian buffers) to absorb runoff from fields and to shade the creeks from sunlight. Once a project is finished, change can be almost immediate, Odenkirk said. "I'm 100% behind this program," he said. "It's a complete no-brainer; it really is."

Yet Odenkirk has seen resistance.

Turner said some fear they will have to give up their land rights if they participate in his programs. They won't, he said. Some don't want to take money that feels like a subsidy. He said he tells them this is their tax money at work: "If you don't like paying taxes, this is one way of getting it back."

The biggest hurdle, however, is the fact that the district only reimburses the landowner after all the work is finished. So the landowner must front all the costs, which can be considerable.

Reimbursement formulas are complicated. On the plus side, some projects merit tax credits, and the district pays farmers for the grazing land they lose when buffers are created. But 100% reimbursement is not guaranteed, as the payment depends on the size of the buffer area, the number of years the fencing will be maintained, and whether contractor quotes exceed the district's estimates.

George Chester, whose family owns Virginia Farms, LLC, a 1,200-acre Delaplane assemblage that grazes 400 to 500 head of cattle, has property on Goose Creek, Kettle Run, Crooked Run and the small streams that feed them. He said that over the past 20 years he has been fencing off these streams from the cattle, all largely financed through cost-share programs. When he is finished, more than 10 miles of cattle fencing and 15 watering tanks will have been installed.

He said because his current project will surpass the district's allowed costs, he expects to be paid about \$100,000 on a project that will cost him \$150,000 or more.

For those who don't have the cash to pay upfront for their projects, several organizations have stepped in. The state Department of Environmental Quality has an agriculture best management practices loan program to lend money for projects that will reduce water pollution.

The Piedmont Environmental Council has tapped two conservation funds to provide no-interest loans for water-protection projects, said PEC Director of Conservation Mike Kane.

And Friends of the Rappahannock has a similar no-interest loan program to seed cost-share conservation projects, said deputy director Bryan Hoffman.