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REPURPOSED & REJUVENATED

Local Landmark Home to New Arts Gallery

A classic landmark in McGaheysville, the circa 1905 Stonewall Bank building, is now host to its newest tenants. This once bank, convenience store and antique emporium has been repurposed again, this time as an arts gallery.

Stoney Run Artisans Galleries opened last month at the newly renovated building, located in the heart of 'downtown' McGaheysville, just across from the community post office. The building, lovingly restored by McGaheysville businessman and history lover, J.L. Hopkins III, has not only found its new lease on life, but so have some members of the Stoney Run Artisans group. The venue represents a rejuvenation of their own dream that went into hibernation for about two years. But more on that later.

Seven artisans show and sell their wares in the 900-square feet of the ground floor. Art runs the gamut from vintage furniture and interior decor to jewelry, pottery, baskets, photography, hand drawn art, stained glass and textiles. Artists come from Massanutten, Richmond, Keezletown, and the Harrisonburg areas. The gallery takes its name from Stoney Run, the creek that flows directly beside the gallery building.

Key to the gallery concept is that it should be more than just a retail venue for art, says Gallery head Sally Cureton of Massanutten. "Our goal was not just to create a gallery space but a community gathering space for all of McGaheysville."

Comfortable arm chairs, located near a coffee station, bring an unexpected coziness to the wide open space. Ceiling fans stir lazy breezes. The original heart pine floors are now nicely glossy yet still show their character. The wood ceiling soars to 12 feet and is made of one-inch wide pine strips. Warm wood wall display areas and low key track lighting blend with the simple architecture. "It is such a great building and a convenient location," says Cureton, noting that her group had looked for nearly two years to find a new gallery space after leaving their former home in Massanutten's Hopkins Park.

The space features two gallery curiosities. The original bank vault, complete with its old steel door and bank's name, is fun to see. So is the vintage public telephone booth, donated to the artisans by Hopkins. The walk-in booth has the old-timey funnel shaped hand held ear and voice equipment, and would be cool even if the telephone didn't work. But it does. If you want to reach the gallery, call 289-5132.

Artists showing include Karen Arnold of Massanutten, who is well known in the area for her spectacular nature and still life photography. Arnold has a great eye -be it for photographing a blooming dogwood or a colorful arrangement of cowboy boots.

Also from Massanutten is Suzanne Comeau with her line of hand crafted jewelry. Pieces include bead jewelry, nickel-free titanium and gold-filled ear wear, and sterling silver and copper jewelry. Also showing jewelry is Terri Good, who features necklaces, ear wear and bagels using an interesting mix of natural stones and unusual beads. Tim Knicely brings his hand drawn art that ranges from whimsical animal studies to more serious still life works. Two artists showing at Stoney Run are expanding their venues from OASIS, the well known and popular downtown Harrisonburg artist cooperative. Barbara Camph sells lovely stained glass mirrors, window art and jewelry while Brenda Fairweather is a master potter and basket weaver. Her baskets are colorful and her signature pieces feature handles made of natural woods and vines.

Sarah Upshur of Richmond is the only artisan who does not, technically, hail from the region. But Sarah's maiden name is Hopkins and she is J.L.'s daughter. She grew up just a few miles down the road on the family farm at Cave Hill.

Upshur's Highland Designs is a business that specializes in re-purposing, restoring, upcycling and finding unusual textiles, furniture and art. "I absolutely love the sunny and wide open space," says Sarah of her father's renovation effort. "The



STONEY RUN, continued on page 2

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Quality of Life, Utilities Big Issues For MPOA Board Candidates

Candidates to the Board of Directors for Massanutten were given the opportunity to explain what they like most about their community; what they like least; and what they would do to change Massanutten if elected this month to the property association's governing body.

Board candidates also address questions in this issue from The Villager on pages 3 and 4.

The three part question came from owner Steve Kozup at the Meet the Candidates forum, offering insight into what seven of the eight candidates see as assets and liabilities in Massanutten.

Seeking election this month are incumbents Eric Millard, Betty Newell and Liz Walker. Running for the first time are Sam Good, Andrew Jezioro, Richard Kraemer, June Martin, and Mike Stockwell. Kraemer did not attend the forum.

For all the candidates, the quality of life in Massanutten was what they enjoyed most about living in the community and their goal as a board member would be to maintain and enhance that asset.

"I have a small lot to maintain but a lot of open area," said incumbent Liz Walker about what she likes best about living in Massanutten. That "access to natural resources" was also cited by incumbent Eric Millard, noting that Massanutten was surrounded by nearly 1000 acres of the George Washington National Forest and the western slope of the Massanutten Mountain.

Mike Stockwell said it was the natural resources of Massanutten that attracted his family to the community and believes Massanutten should do more to "identify what makes Massanutten Village unique to better compete with other housing in the market."

Incumbent Betty Newell said Massanutten offers "an incredible quality of life that cannot be matched for its sheer natural beauty. It is peaceful, quiet and a safe place to live."

FORUM, continued on page 5



Small Hands - Big Effort

read the article on page 19



Sally Cureton and Sarah Upshur inside the Stoney Run Galleries in McGaheysville.

business is a good fit. It allows me to be close to mom and dad at this point in their lives, and gives me a chance to continue in my interior design interests." Sarah holds a degree in interior design from Virginia Tech and has worked as both a commercial and residential designer in Richmond.

Upshur features textile items - needlepoint pillows and rugs. Of particular interest is her line of Old Hickory furniture, often seen in National Park lodges. She also features a line of furniture that features a "live edge," where the bark is still intact. Small painted and standard finish vintage and antique furniture, like small desks, tables, stools and chairs, are featured as artwork, both new and "gently loved."

J.L. Hopkins undertook renovation of two historic McGaheysville structures last year, one being the former Stonewall Bank, which operated from 1920 to 1933. Hopkins painted the exterior a mauve with bright blue trim, borrowing a color scheme from similar renovations he had seen in Richmond. The other renovation was of an original log home, located near the bank building, which he hopes to rent. In both instances, the renovations saved the structures which many thought were beyond hope.

As for the Stoney Run Artisans, they

were also thought, by some, to be down and out.

Stoney Run is a rejuvenation of the artisans group that originated the concept of using Hopkins Cabin in Massanutton Village for art shows and sales. Cureton, Arnold, Knicely, Good, and Comeau were all members of that group.

A disagreement over contractual provisions erupted in the summer of 2013 between the Massanutton Property Owners Assn. and the Rockingham Springs Arboretum Inc. RSAI is a non-profit group that used the proceeds from its art sales to maintain the natural gardens that surround much of Hopkins Cabin. The group also originated, coordinated and funded the free Concerts in the Park musical series.

Trouble began when Massanutton officials raised objections over what it considered RSAI's failure to follow through with submitting financial reports per a 2011 agreement. The agreement also stipulated that RSAI was to pay for the electric and water utility bills during the months that RSAI primarily occupied the cabin and pro-rated shares for other times

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of use. Those bills, however, were never sent to RSAI, according to Sally Cureton, who is now President of the Stoney Run Galleries and continues as President of RSAI, which never disbanded.

The two parties could not resolve the issue and RSAI artisans vacated Hopkins Cabin amid much community controversy. Massanutton officials, in turn, found another arts and crafts group to take over the cabin and outsourced the free Concerts at the Cabin music series.

Cureton said RSAI put all the materials they had purchased to upgrade the cabin, such as lighting and retail displays, in storage, always hoping to find another home.

Interestingly, Hopkins Cabin, the

group's old home, is the former hunting cabin retreat of the Hopkins family constructed by J.L. Hopkins on property owned by his ancestors. Ironically, the group's new relationship with J.L. Hopkins brings the artist group full circle, so to speak, since the Hopkins family has played an integral part in both structures used by group.

Cureton says the Stonewall Bank location should not only help the new group capitalize on vacationers to Massanutton, but The US 33 corridor from Penn Laird to Elkton. "You can browse around easily and we have a great variety of gifts at good prices." Adds Upshur: "And you can buy local."



- . There is always a resident artist at the gallery during operating hours.
- Stoney Run Galleries is located at 9945 McGaheysville Rd, across from the McGaheysville Post Office.
- It is open Saturday, Sunday, Monday 11:00 am to 5 pm.
- Stoney Run welcomes volunteers to help at the gallery. Call Cureton at 289-9543 for more information.

TOWN OF SHENANDOAH 18TH ANNUAL Memorial Day Festival & Parade

SATURDAY
MAY 23, 2015

MEMORIAL DAY FESTIVAL AND PARADE

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

EVENT

- Family Fun Night
- Memorial Day Pageant
- Food/Games
- Cruz-In/DJ/Food
- Music/Food/Games
- Lawn Party/Bingo
- Flag Retirement

WHERE

- Shenandoah Elementary School
- Shenandoah Community Center
- Carnival Grounds - Third Street
- First Street
- Carnival Grounds - Third Street
- Shenandoah Community Center
- Shenandoah Veterans Park

WHEN

- Friday, May 15 - 5 to 8pm
- Sunday, May 17 - 2pm
- Thursday, May 21 - 5 to 10pm
- Friday, May 22 - 6 to 9pm
- Friday, May 22 - 5 to 11pm
- Friday, May 22 - 6pm to ???
- Friday, May 22 - 7 to 8:30pm

SATURDAY, MAY 23

EVENT

- WELCOME BOOTH
- Church Yard & Bake Sale
- Memorial Ceremony
- Thanks USA Tennis Tournament
- Car & Truck Show
- Tractor Show
- Motorcycle Show (Blue Ridge Bank)
- Book Sale
- Dog & Cat Adoptions (Page SPCA)
- Music/Food/Games
- STEAMED SHRIMP Available
- Lawn Party/Bingo
- Cavalade of Cars, Tractors & Motorcycles Leading PARADE
- Racing "Military Night" All military 1/2 Price Admission

WHERE

- Corner Route 340 & Shenandoah Avenue
- Pentecostal Church, Shenandoah Avenue
- VFW Avis O Comer Post 8613
- Town of Shenandoah Tennis Courts
- KVA Parking Lot - 500 Quincy Avenue
- KVA Parking Lot - 500 Quincy Avenue
- Shenandoah Machine Shop - Pulaski Ave
- Shenandoah Library - Route 340
- Carnival Grounds - Third Street
- Carnival Grounds - Third Street
- Carnival Grounds - Third Street
- Shenandoah Community Center
- MD Ave/First St/VA Ave/Third St

TIME

- 8am to 4pm
- 8am to 2pm
- 9am to 10am
- 9am
- 10am to 3pm
- 10am to 3pm
- 10am to 2pm
- 10am to 11:30pm
- 11am to 1pm
- 4pm
- 10am to 2pm, 4:30pm to ???
- 3pm
- 7pm

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