Fauquier Board Pushes ‘Buy Local’ Campaign

By Lila Azria
Washington Post Staff Writer

The Fauquier County Board of Supervisors wants residents to “buy local”—and notify businesses that make that possible.

“I’m tired of going to Manassas,” Supervisor William G. “Bill” Downey IV (R) said at a board work session Thursday. “We need to encourage these businesses to come to our county so our residents will have their goods and services right here.”

During a retreat in February, the board identified the creation of a countywide buy local campaign as a priority. The board has been examining about one priority a month since.

Board Vice Chairman Raymond E. Graham (R-Cedar Run) said Fauquier residents face a “supply gap” of items they would like to buy but aren’t available locally. He also cited a lack of restaurants and coffee shops as Home Depot. With a campaign to encourage the buy local concept, Graham said, “We will have businesses that stay in business.”

In addition, those stores would create jobs for people who would stay in the county all day, buying lunch and making other purchases. “It perpetuates itself,” he said.

Talma Reeves, Fauquier’s director of economic development, presented a marketing plan Thursday to encourage residents to buy locally. The plan involves news-

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The Past Recalled

Eugene Scheel

Lincoln Was No Favorite At the Polls

In the 1860 presidential election, Fauquier and Loudoun county voters cast shortly 12 ballots for the winner, Abraham Lincoln. The previous year, an unexpected revolt had frightened or worried many people who might otherwise have voted for the man who saved the Union and brought an end to slavery.

Loudoun and Fauquier were at the time the wealthiest counties in Virginia. Agricultural land sold for $80 an acre and more, the most expensive in the state. Corn, wheat and grain harvests were unsurpassed in the commonwealth and commanded high prices at the seaport of Alexandria, limited to the hinterlands by three well-kept toll roads.

Prosperity continued after John Brown’s Oct. 16, 1859, raid on Harper’s Ferry. Brown’s aim was to liberate and arm area slaves and set up an autonomous realm for them in the mountains of Maryland and western Virginia, where there were few slaveholders.

That such an insurrection could happen only a half mile from the Loudoun border—even though it lasted just 24 days and involved 22 insurgents—to an abrupt change in the county’s political climate, from apathy to uncertainty. There was outright fear in the between the hills and Lovettsville areas, a few miles from the ferry.

Fauquier’s reaction was more subdued, began 25 miles from the ferry at its closest point, the village of Paris. Furthermore, Fauquier’s military companies were commanded by experienced leaders such as Brig. Gen. Turner Ashby and Capt. John Scott Jr. Gov. John A. Wise ordered three Fauquier and two Loudoun companies about 250 men.

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A Spooky Search for Souls

Walking Tours in Leesburg Focus on Town’s Haunted History

By Karen Burrell
Washington Post Staff Writer

“Tannara Wright describes herself as a ‘very much a feet-on-the-ground kind of girl,’ but one of the women who walked us through the streets of Leesburg said, ‘I was not focused on the physical world, and I think for one second I got a glimpse of something that’s probably here all the time’,” said Wright, a settlement processor.

The woman, Wright figured, was the spirit that is said to haunt Patterson House, the 1701 building that houses her office and is one stop on a Halloween weekend ghost tour that will showcase eight eerie spots in Leesburg all day, some say, the dead still roam.

The tour, organized by the Loudoun Museum, is one of the town that offer participants some seasonal spookyness and, organizers say, a reason to believe in ghosts.

The museum’s 11th annual “spooky walking tour” will also include stops at the Loudoun County Courthouse, the Billirfer Road Cafe, Leesburg Presbyterian Church, private homes and other places where workers and residents have spotted specters over the years.

At each location, storytellers in period garb will tell tales of the soldiers, slaves and widows—and sometimes, their gruesome deaths—who lived or died there and left their souls behind.

There are no special effects, just true histories and the chance to cross paths with poltergeists, said Erika Castillo, the museum’s education director and a tour leader.

Castillo has not seen the ghosts. But she promised that at least two of the sites, something happens every year. Whether you

See GHOST, Page 12.
John Brown’s Raid Ruined Lincoln’s Chances in Loudoun, Fauquier

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to the ferry. They spent most of their time drilling and on guard duty until their tour ended in mid-December with an oyster and champagne supper at Charles Town, where Brown had been tried and imprisoned and hanged Dec. 2. When the Fauquier companies returned home, they were led by the women of Warrens and a pre-Christmas ball at the old Warren Green Hotel.

Many northern newspapers and magazines wrote editorials lauding Brown’s attempt to free slaves. But the Democratic Mirror, Fauquier’s most widely read local newspaper, wrote in an October editorial: “Upon calm consideration of this affair… it was one of the most complete and fearless plans for revolution… We think we see in it the direction and control of more intelligence.” The suggestion was that others, specifically northerners, had masterminded the attack. In his 1870 book, “From Frontier to Suburbia,” Northern Virginia historian Charles P. Poland Jr. analyzed Loudoun’s reaction to Brown’s raid from October to De-

cember 1859.

Poland cited one Mirror article about meetings in Hillsboro and Lovettsville where he said participants “denounced and attempted to prohibit peddlers, book agents, travelers, and vendors of goods from traveling through the county.” Their intent, Poland said, “might be to incite slave insurrections.” The Mirror also noted that Hillsboro area women had accused schoolteachers of provoking slaves to follow Brown’s example.

The Alexandria Gazette, which was widely read in Loudoun and Fauquier, constantly commented in its editorials in November and December 1859 that the aim of abolitionists such as Brown was to end slavery, even if that meant insurrection or war. The term “abolitionist” was used then as loosely as “liberal” is today.

The Gazette reprinted the jottings of a Washington Star correspondent who described the sentiment in Northern Virginia in November 1859. “This excitement is not a wild one… It is a calm and clear sentiment in favor of a speedy end of the Government of the United States, if it is to continue to be a means through which parties from the North may steal into the South.”

To make sure that no enemies would cross into Loudoun from the north, the county had raised and equipped eight military companies by 1860.

[“Loudouners” are armed to the teeth and ready for war! Being determined to defend our institution from all assaults of abolitionists if need be, at the point of bayonets and cannon’s mouth,” said a Democratic Mirror article cited by Poland.]

Fauquier’s elected officials also became cognizant of the barrage of warlike news. By 1860, its county court placed four well-armed volunteer military companies on active duty. Of the court’s $35,541 budget for that coming fiscal year, $20,000 went to fund the military companies. At the time, the court performed functions similar to today’s Board of Supervisors.

Fauquier’s court reminded the military companies “to use the utmost prudence and humanity in the discharge of their duties” and to allow deputized patrols of men “only when and where necessary,” according to court minutes.

A personal thought—one of few surviving in print—appeared in the diary of Rebecca R. Williams, a Waterford Quaker. Excerpts were published in the Waterford Foundation’s 1996 book, “To Talk Is Trason.”

“We have now started upon the year 1860,” she wrote. “What scenes are hid behind the curtain of time no eye can see. The future politically looks threatening. May the Almighty Father avert the evil and imbue the hearts of our Legislators with wisdom and right understanding to direct the affairs of the Nation.”

Five presidential nominating conventions met between April 23 and June 28, 1859. The Democratic Party met first but adjourned after southerners called for a platform that would have the federal government protect slavery in U.S. territories.

Minus the southern wing, the party met again two months later. It nominated moderate Stephen A. Douglas for president, and the party platform called for either the U.S. Supreme Court or a popular vote in the territories to determine whether each territory would allow slavery.

The breakdown pro-slavery Democrats met June 28 and nominated John Cabell Breckinridge, a slave owner from Kentucky who was vice president under sitting President James Buchanan. Their platform called for federal protection of slavery in the territories.

Another new party, the Constitu-
Fears of 'Revolution' Kept Voters From Choosing Lincoln

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tional Union Party, nominated John Bell, a Tennessee slave owner who was considered a moderate on the subject. The party evaded the slavery issue.

The Republican Party, formed in 1856, nominated Abraham Lincoln of Illinois. The party platform called for abolition of slavery in the territories.

Lincoln had a family connection to Faulkner, though it was not then considered one to boast about. David Herbert Donald, in his 1995 biography "Lincoln," quotes Lincoln as telling his law partner, William H. Herndon, in the early 1850s that Lincoln's mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, was "the illegitimate daughter of Lucy Hanks and a well-bred Virginia farmer or planter."

Donald quotes Lincoln as saying in 1860, when his friends asked him for autobiographical information that might boost his chances for the presidency: "My parents were both born in Kentucky, of undistinguished families—second families, perhaps I should say.

Nancy Hanks's father remains unidentified, but she was baptized in 1778 in the waters of Broad Run Road Baptist Church. The church then stood atop Saint's Hill, a mile north of present-day New Baltimore.

Louisa had voted for Whig Party candidates since 1832, including Millard Fillmore, who was personally opposed to slavery but preferred compromise rather than risk civil war, in 1856. Fillmore had been a Whig and served as that party's president from 1850 to '53. The Whigs were for protective tariffs to encourage the growth of industry and for stronger transportation networks.

As the slavery issue became paramount, northern Whigs joined the Republicans in 1856, and southern Whigs joined the Democrats. The Whigs succumbed, to be resurrected in 1860 as the Constitutional Union Party. Its platform was "The Constitution of the country, the Union of the States, and the enforcement of laws." Bell, the Unionist candidate, was a clear favorite in Louisa.

He had also been dominant in Faulkner since 1832, but in 1856 the county voted for Buchanan, a Democrat who was considered a stronger proponent for slavery than Fillmore. Faulkner had more slave owners than Louisa, 48 percent of its population was enslaved compared with Louisa's 25 percent. Newspapers, especially in the South, predicted that if Lincoln won the election, there might well be war. Editorials pointed to such speeches as the one he gave at Alton, Ill., in October 1858: "The sentiment that contemplates the institution of slavery in this country as a wrong is the sentiment of the Republican Party. They look upon it as a moral, social, and political wrong."

"Lincoln and his party were often called "Black Republicans" by newspaper writers who were either neutral regarding the slavery issue or pro-slave.

On Election Day, Nov. 6, 1860, all white males 21 and older who had lived in the state for two years or more were eligible to vote. Turnouts in Louisa and Faulkner were the largest ever, and there were no surprises among the three candidates on the ballot, except for the top-heavy vote for Bell in Louisa.

His 2,033 votes, compared with Breckinridge's 776 and Douglas's 129, indicated that many Quakers and people of German descent, almost all of whom were opposed to slavery, wanted to maintain the prosperous status quo. Thus, they chose to vote for Bell, the moderate candidate, rather than the avowedly anti-slave Lincoln, for they thought he might act rashly and disturb southern trade with Europe and the North.

In Faulkner, Breckinridge defeated Bell 1,027 to 785, with Douglass garnering 39 votes. Bell won in the northern county precincts of Landmark, Paris, Salem and Upperville. As with the prosperous farmers and plantation owners of Louisa, their Faulkner counterparts did not want to risk a change in an accepted way of life.

Breckinridge's strength came in the county's center and south, especially in Liberty and New Baltimore, where farms were small and plantations fewer than in the upper county.

Lincoln, whose name did not appear on the ballot in Virginia, received 11 votes in Louisa and 25 in Faulkner. The Faulkner vote was cast by Henry Dixon, a wealthy militia colonel who lived at Vermont, a farm south of Salem in the valley bearing his family's name. He went to the polls with a pistol in his belt, and as there was no secret ballot, announced he had voted for Lincoln when he left the polling place. Many in the neighborhood said Dixon got what he deserved when he was killed in a street duel in Alexandria after the war.

Louisa's precinct returns have not been found, but Taylor M. Chamberlin, in his 2006 book "Where Did They Stand?" uncovered a 1923 Louisa Times newspaper clipping in which "One Who Was There" identified nine men and a probable 10th and 11th who voted for Lincoln. The 11 were usually voted in the Lovettsville, Purcellville and Waterford precincts.

Old-timers recalled that Robert Johnson, a possible voter for Lincoln at the Lovettsville station, and his son, both Kentuckians, defended a Lincoln banner he had raised near the poll.

A drawing from 1859 illustrates John Brown's inscription at Harper's Ferry.

Extra to List Groups

Needing Holiday Help

Many organizations need volunteers, clothing, food and other items during the holidays so they can help those in need. A list of organizations needing assistance will appear in Louisa Extra in November.

Nonprofit groups are invited to send a list of needs by e-mail to le Trapath@washpost.com, mail it to The Washington Post, Suite 100-A, 305 Harrison St. SE, Leesburg, Va. 20175, or fax it to 703-777-8457.

Please include in detail the number of volunteers and specific items needed, where donations can be taken and during what hours, a daytime telephone number and a contact person. For more information, call 703-777-8102.

Extra to List Groups

Information Sought For Community Guide

Louisa Extra plans to publish its next community/guide in April, and we're collecting information. If you have a community group or event, local arts or theater group, service club, business or organization or service for seniors that you would like us to consider including, please e-mail the information to le Trapath@washpost.com, mail it to The Washington Post, Suite 100-A, 305 Harrison St. SE, Leesburg, Va. 20175, or fax it to 703-777-8457.

Please include the name of the group, address, phone number, fax, Web site, e-mail address, days and other relevant details, and provide a contact name and number for verification. Copies of the 2006 Community Guide are available by calling 703-777-8102.

Eugene Schoel is a Waterford historian and is preparing a book, "Waterford's Civil War."

The following are copies of the Community Guide.