

BULL RUN OBSERVER™

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REAL ESTATE ISSUE

INSIDE

Famous address

World's most famous piece of real estate is a short drive. Take a look inside...page 12.

Signs of the times

New signage is on tap for downtown Nokesville and Brentsville District's best known mall ...pages 6-7.

Good eating

Can Ben Thompson really rustle up a good bowl of chili or is he bluffing? Find out on May 5...page 15.

Landscape artistry

Meet Patricia Skinner, who translates "real estate" into landscapes that are in a major solo show ...page 4-5.

INDEX

Business	6-7
Classified	19
Gardening	9
Good Eating	14-15
Horses	10
Mailbag	8
Milestones	16
Names in the News	17-18
Profile	4-5
Religion	13
Spare Time	11
Sunday Ride	12

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Digging for history at 250-year-old Beverley Mill

By HARRY LEACH
Observer staff

Spring-cleaning time has come to the Beverley Mill, located on the Prince William-Fauquier County line just off Interstate 66.

Eileen Vroom, Executive Director of the Turn the Mill Around Campaign, reports that a major clean-up effort was launched on Good Friday with the arrival of a large crane, from McGee's Crane, Inc. The crane was able to reach over the top of the mill walls and remove tons of debris left inside the mill after the fire.

In addition, the metal sheets that had served as the roof of the mill were consolidated into a single pile. Among the materials removed by the crane was a large millstone used to grind the grains into flour.

William J. Davis, a consulting engineer from Richmond, is hard at work drawing plans for the erection of the steel supports and the required footers needed to stabilize the walls. Competitive bids for the job of erecting the steel supports and the pouring of the footers will be announced soon.

continued on the back page



Harry Leach / the Bull Run Observer

Remnants of the wheels and gears that were used to grind flour at Beverley Mill were retrieved during recent cleanup that began on Good Friday. Members of the community are being asked to help dig for remnants of history and to share oral history memories and old newspapers, diaries and correspondence. See page 20.

New engine at Evergreen! First with compressed air foam

By MICHELLE BAKER
Observer staff

Evergreen Fire and Rescue Department rolled into town this week with a new 2001 Pierce Rescue Engine—the first engine in Prince William County equipped with a compressed air foam system.

During the last 15 months, a five member committee of experienced members made several trips to the manufacturing plant in Appleton, Wisconsin to inspect and ensure top quality production of the truck. The team worked hard on the specifications to ensure the truck met station's needs.

A crew accepted delivery and drove the truck down from Wisconsin this past weekend.

According to Keith M. Ludeman, Apparatus Committee Chairman, the average life span for an engine is 15 years. This new rescue engine will replace Evergreen's current engine which is almost 19 years old. Because of the increase in development and traffic in the western end of the county, the Evergreen station chose to go with the "Rescue" engine concept said Ludeman. The new engine functions both as a standard fire engine as well as a special rescue truck. "It is designed to carry more extrication and rescue equipment than a standard fire engine," he said.

Because the engine carries

more equipment, Evergreen fire fighters will be better equipped when extricating patients from automobile accidents. The firefighters respond to a multitude of emergencies such as house fires, automobile accidents, medical emergencies, brush fires, and hazardous material emergencies.

Some unique features of the engine include storage space for up to 750 gallons of water, a light tower, a 12,000 lb. wench, and a high tech compressed air foam system (CAFS). The CAFS system requires less water to extinguish fires as compared to using regular water. The compressed air foam system is the latest in fire fighting

technology and allows fire fighters to conserve water, which is very important in a rural setting where water is hard to come by added Ludeman.

Keeping a cool head under stress is important both figuratively and literally for crews who work out in sweltering heat in the summer. This rescue engine's cab is equipped with air conditioning to provide the crew with a safe and comfortable ride.

"The members of Evergreen are proud of their new purchase and invite everyone to come by a take a look," said Ludeman.

For a look at the Pierce Rescue Engine with compressed air foam capabilities ...page 2

Citizens hurl thunderbolts against proposed water tank

By ROSE MURPHY
Observer staff

Does Prince William County Service Authority need two two-million-gallon water storage tanks in Haymarket East of Antioch Road near Thunder Road? Have other locations for the tanks been considered?

Prince William County Planning Commission voted four to one to defer action on the proposal

at its April 18 public facilities review until these and other questions can be answered.

The site under consideration is on the East side of Antioch Road just North of Thunder Road and is zoned agricultural estate (AE) in the county's 1998 comprehensive plan. AE permits one home per ten-acre tract.

In casting the lone vote against deferral, commission

chairman Billy Isbell of the Woodbridge District, contended the plan does not threaten the rural crescent and is in keeping with the county's 1998 comprehensive land use plan.

The rural crescent is comprised of some 100,000 acres in the Western end of the county and is intended for ten-acre residential tracts. Isbell noted public water is allowed in the area.

Chuck Weber, a representative of the service authority, said each tank would be 100 feet in diameter and 45 feet tall. He asserted tall trees in the area would screen the tanks from nearby residences in Thunder Oaks subdivision. He claimed the proposed tanks would be preferable to highly-visible elevated ones.

continued on page 2

Dig for history—Volunteers asked to help determine what can be salvaged

continued from page 1

Officials hope the erection of the supports will be completed by this fall.

Eileen is also planning to hire a stonemasonry consultant to examine the stone structure of the mill to assess any damage caused by the fire and/or by age. Remember, the Mill has been standing on this site for almost 250 years. George Washington was only 20 years old when the construction of the mill began.

Several volunteer workdays are planned for this spring and fall. Eileen and a few volunteers have been working at the mill for the past few weeks, searching for the footers that were previously used to hold the inside structures of the mill in place.

Eileen thinks that a few large stones used as footers have been

Mountain View fun fair this Friday night

For a Friday night of frolic, stop by the Mountain View Elementary Fun Fair this Friday from 6 to 9 p.m. on the school grounds. The event includes games of skill for every level, slides, cake walk and silent auction. The school is located at 5600 McCloud Street in Haymarket off U. S. 15. In the case of inclement weather, activities will be moved inside.

located, but others are to be found. Volunteers are needed to sort through the piles of debris to determine what is trash and what can be salvaged as part of the mill history. The workdays will be held on weekends and also during the week so that all can participate. The workdays held during the week are aimed at the retirees who have too much time on their hands and want to escape lawn care duties. For further information on these volunteer days or for any other information relating to the mill, call Eileen Vroom at 703-753-3273.

Signups scheduled for youth football league

The Gainesville Haymarket Youth Football League (GHYFL) will be holding registration for football and cheerleading on the following dates: Sunday, April 29, 4-6 p.m. at Evergreen Fire House; Saturday, May 5, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in front of the Giant Food Store at Gateway; Wednesday, May 9, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Evergreen Fire House.

For football the fee is \$110. Ages 7-16 years as of Oct. 1, 2001. Must meet specific weight requirements to play. For cheerleading the fee is \$60. Ages 7 and up.

For further info call 703-754-1535 for football and 703-754-0082 for cheerleading or email us at GHYFL@aol.com.

Eileen urges all to be patient and asks residents not to trespass on the mill property. The mill and the surrounding buildings are still dangerous areas and should be avoided, she says.

The Turn the Mill Around Campaign will have a booth at the Haymarket Fine Arts and Crafts Festival to be held on Saturday,

May 19. Stop by to meet Eileen and some of her volunteers and learn what the Turn the Mill Around Campaign is all about.

In addition, the campaign asks that those with memories to share about the mill stop by the booth at the Haymarket festival on May 19. There is an ongoing process in place to gather all the available in-

formation about the mill that is available, and the campaign is looking for residents to share oral history memories and any written information such as old articles from newspapers, diaries and other correspondence. If you are not able to attend the Haymarket Festival, call Eileen at the mill office 703-753-3273.

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