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Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Gibson Flooring Makes Sure Not To Walk All Over Customers

Letter From The Editor



Gibson Flooring offers many colors of flooring samples.

Photo by Sherry Rhodes.

By Wendy Edwards

If you ask James Waverly Gibson what quality any great business should feature, he will have a difficult time deciding between honesty, quality and integrity. The 25-year veteran of floor installation could not sacrifice one trait for another, which is why the owner/installer of Gibson Carpet & Flooring in Scottsville has a strong reputation of dependable, trustworthy, impeccable service.

Waverly Gibson, as he likes to be called, began putting down floors out of junior high school, under the guidance of

Charlottesville business owner Ed Gentry.

"He taught me how to lay carpet and it just progressed from there," Gibson says. "I worked for him for close to 16 years."

For a time, Gibson worked as a heavy equipment operator, but he couldn't seem to get away from flooring. He kept taking jobs as time went along, working for private customers.

"Finally," he says, "I went back into it and stayed into it – full time for myself and doing sub-contract work for places in town. I've been in business for a while now working for myself. I've been

doing installations a long time. Now, I've got the retail store in Scottsville. This is just what I'm going to finish out doing."

He loves the work, but hopes to see more faces in his shop.

"I stay very busy on installations. Most of my business is by word of mouth, but now I have a retail store and everybody is nice, but they need to keep coming in until I see things are working," Gibson says. "We were down the street about a couple hundred feet on the corner on the Dollar General Store and nobody knew we were there. We've since

moved across from Pee Wee's Pit

Barbecue, and now we're starting to get business."

He'd like to do more work in Fluvanna and western Albemarle counties now that he has his retail shop out there.

"I do about 90 percent of my work in Charlottesville, where I don't have to advertise since people know me by word of mouth," says Gibson, who is hoping to enjoy the later part of his flooring career as a reputable salesman that the community will count on. "You come in the store and I'll ask what type of product

SEE GIBSON ON PG 2

By now, those of you who regularly read *The Rural Virginian* have already noticed:

The newspaper has changed. Instead of the tabloid size the newspaper was last week, it is now regular broadsheet size.

As part of a companywide shift by parent company Media General, *The Daily Progress* and other Virginia papers are converting to what has quickly become an industry standard—11 inches from side to side on each individual page. We, at *The Rural Virginian*, decided to take this opportunity to resize the entire format of our newspaper.

The change in size will save the company a substantial amount on its annual bill for newsprint, one of the fastest rising and most volatile costs facing publishers.

While the newspaper has a trimmer format, we're keeping popular, regular features, such as the crossword puzzle and horoscopes. But, we're adding a Religion Page and High School Happenings column written by a Fluvanna County journalism student.

In keeping with improving our newspaper, we've made a commitment to include more local stories in each weekly issue. One thing you will notice that will not be within the newspaper each issue is the free pages and pages of service directory notifications. We will continue to offer free space—as available—for upcoming community and church events.

Though the project has been planned and thoroughly tested, we expect kinks with any major change such as this. Please let us know if you spot something that needs our attention.

• Terry Karnes, editor, 978-7216, tkarnes@dailyprogress.com

• Carolyn Cullen, advertising director, 975-7112, ccullen@dailyprogress.com

Lake Monticello resident named Hokie Hero by Virginia Tech

Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets alumnus 1st Lt. Christopher Horsfall, U.S. Air Force, who received a degree in mathematics from the College of Science in 2006, has been selected as the Hokie Hero for the Virginia Tech versus Marshall football game.

The corps Hokie Hero program, started in 2006 by ISP Sports and sponsored by the University Bookstore, honors Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets alumni who are currently deployed. Recipients of this honor are highlighted by Bill Roth and Mike Burnop during the radio broadcast of Virginia Tech football games, on the corps website www.vtcc.vt.edu, on the corps alumni website www.vtcca.vt.edu and in the Corps Review magazine.

Horsfall is stationed at Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar as a member of 379th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, U.S. Air Force. Horsfall is the Officer in

Charge of the E-8C Joint STARS maintenance unit, providing support to forces in Operations IRAQI and ENDURING FREEDOM.

From Lake Monticello, this is Horsfall's first combat deployment. He is a Class of 2006 graduate of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets and was the Regimental Bugler his junior year and Third Battalion Commander during his senior year. Horsfall's father is a 1971 graduate of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.

The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets has been producing military and corporate leaders since the university was founded in 1872. It is one of just two remaining military corps within a large, primarily civilian university. The corps holds its members to the highest standards of loyalty, honor, integrity, and self-discipline. In return, cadets achieve high academic success and a long-lasting camaraderie with fellow members.



Courtesy photo

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COLUMN // Ask Cheryl

Cat Enclosures

My daughter told me not to write in this question because it makes me sound like a “creepy stalker.” However, I’ll risk my reputation to satisfy my curiosity. I pass your house all the time and love watching you with your animals out in the yard. You are like the Pied Piper with both dogs and cats following you around inside the fence. I learn so much from watching you interact with them. The other day I passed by a couple of times, and you were busy working on something at the top of your fence. I can’t really see what’s there, but you were at it all day. Can I ask what it was you were doing as I’m sure it was something for your animals?

The first time I got a question about what I was doing in my backyard I was a little freaked out that people watch me so closely. I now realize it’s not creepy so much as curiosity as what the animal lady is up to now. As a result, though, I no longer pooper scoop in my PJs!

As far as what I was up to the other day, I was adding some cat-proofing to the top of the fence so my cats can have more time outside. Up to now, they had a small outside enclosed pen they could access, and they came outside when I was out with the dogs. (Yes, even my cats have a recall so they come inside when I call them.) The other day one of the cats decided to pull an escape routine and scaled the fence heading for the neighbor’s yard to torment their cat. It was then I realized I needed to do something to the fence to make such escapes impossible or go back to restricting my cats to just the house and their outside run.

Different countries have different ideas on how to keep happy, healthy animals. When I lived in England, the cats I adopted from a rescue came with a clause they were NOT allowed to be kept as house inside only. They felt that in order for cats to be happy, they needed to have outside access. This went against all my instincts to keep my cats safe as I didn’t want them wandering into a street and getting hit or being attacked by other animals so I built an outside cat run. I discovered that the cats really are happier having access to fresh air, grass and little critters to bring inside to share with me. (The latter I could live without, but they seem to get great joy from it.)

Recently, I decided to see if I could expand on the idea of a cat run and added a “shelf” to the top of my six-foot

chain-link fence to prevent the cats from climbing out. The “shelf” is made of L-brackets (used to hold wooden shelves) and deer fencing. I wove the L-brackets into the chain link fence and attached them with plastic zip ties. I then put the deer fencing along the top of the fence with a fold at the break in the L-brackets so half of the deer fencing ran along the fence and the other half attached to the arm sticking out from the bracket (once again using zip ties to attach the deer fencing). This created a “shelf.” When the cats scale the fence, they run into the shelf and cannot reach back over their heads to get over and around the shelf.

This concept won’t work on a four-foot fence as most cats can jump to the top of the shelf from the ground on shorter fences. With a six-foot fence, the cat must climb so the shelf keeps them from getting over the top. One of my cats tested the fencing at almost every section (the one who had the successful escape attempt earlier), so it’s important to attach the deer fencing to the chain link fence every foot or less so a cat cannot maneuver under the deer fencing. If you have a wooden fence the same thing can be accomplished by screwing the L-brackets into the fence, or making your own out of two-by-four pieces of wood in an L-shape at the top of the fence.

Be aware that cats that are outside (even in a fenced yard) are still exposed to diseases if stray or neighborhood cats have access to your yard. Some diseases are spread just by having cats go nose-to-nose through a fence, so make sure your cat is fully inoculated if allowing outside access.

I’ll post pictures on my website for those interested in learning more. I’ll also put some ideas on how to create an outside cat run in case you don’t have a fence to cat proof. Whether you have a safe outside area or keep your cats inside, please remember cats need stimulation and exercise. Make sure you have a variety of heights for cats to explore using shelves and multi-level cat scratches to help your cat be healthy and happy. Thank you to my “creepy stalker” for bringing up an important quality-of-life aspect for our cats.

Cheryl Falkenbury has been helping people solve mind-boggling animal behavior problems for more than 20 years. Send your questions and stories to: Center Hill School, 3682 Bybees Church Road, Palmyra, VA 22963. cheryl@centerhillschool.com



Old Farm Day Contest Guide

The Old Farm Day has announced the rules and regulations for its contests and exhibits at this year’s Oct. 3 event. Several require advance registration, including the Apple Pie Contest and others are extremely popular, such as the Homemakers and Gardeners Exhibit and Old Farm Day Photography Contest.

Registrants for the Apple Pie Contest must enter only 12 pies and registration must be done in advance, though space is limited. Pies become the property of the Old Farm Day Committee and after judging and awards; slices will be sold for fundraising. Registration must be in by Oct. 1. Call (434) 589-9405 to enter. There will be awards given for first, second, third and honorable mention.

When we think of such events, we can’t help but conjure up images of the products usually submitted to the Homemakers and Gardeners Exhibit, which is co-sponsored with the Fluvanna Farm Bureau. There is no exhibit entry fee, however admission to Old Farm Day is required to participate. Canned products must be in standard canning jars with contents labeled, but no names, please. Fresh picked products should be brought in threes of any one variety per bowl or basket. One entry per category or variety is allowed, but exhibitors may enter as many categories as they’d like. There will be two divisions, adult for those 16 and older and youth for those 8-

15. During judging no one may be in the exhibit area but by 1 p.m. ribbons will be put in place. There will be first, second and honorable mention ribbons awarded. Categories include: jellies; jams; pickles; fruits (canned will be separate from fresh picked); vegetables (canned separate from fresh picked); and looks like a contest where entrants give the odd-shaped fresh-picked vegetable a name.

This year’s Old Farm Day Photography Contest will take place during the event and must be received by Oct. 15 to be considered. The theme is “Old Farm Day is Family Fun.” Photos may be matted, but not framed and can be no larger than 10 inches. Submissions will be dropped at Fluvanna County Library in a box labeled for entries, which will not be returned. There is a limit of three entries per person. Name, contact, age, category, title or ID of subject should be attached firmly to the mat. Divisions are older than 16 and younger than 16. Categories are: people; animals; machinery; Old Farm Day (overall or specific event). There will be first, second and honorable mention ribbons for each category in each age division.

Other contests and exhibits include an animal calling contest; an antique car exhibit; and century farm equipment exhibit.

Visit <http://oldfarmday.org> for more information. The event will be held at Pleasant Grove in Palmyra.

The Fluvanna SPCA is raising money to erect an outside cat run for cats in its care. Right now the dogs have an outside area, but the cats are stuck in their cages all day. An outside run will allow cats to have some room to stretch and play, and a wonderful place for people to visit with a cat to decide if one will be a perfect forever friend for their family. If you would like to help the cats at the Fluvanna SPCA have a better life while waiting for their forever home, you can send or bring a donation to 5239 Union Mills Road, Troy, VA 22974. Please put “Cat Enclosure” on the check so the accountant will know where the donation goes. Thanks!

Voices for Animals hosts 13th Charlottesville Vegetarian Festival

The thirteenth annual Charlottesville Vegetarian Festival will be held Sept. 26 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Lee Park in the heart of the historic district of Charlottesville.

This free outdoor event celebrates a humane and healthy lifestyle and the Charlottesville Vegetarian Festival is one of the largest vegetarian festivals in the country with more than 100 exhibitors and 6,000 visitors expected to attend.

The festival is a family friendly event and includes something for everyone.

Restaurant booths will serve vegetarian food all day, with many different

types of cuisine represented. There will be free vegan food samples from natural-food companies.

Compassionate-living exhibitors will include local and national animal protection, vegetarian, environmental and peace groups offering educational literature. Also, practitioners of complementary medical therapies, such as chiropractors and acupuncturists, and exhibitors showcasing natural and cruelty-free personal-care products will be represented at the festival.

The Dog and Cat Adoption Fair will feature many local animal shelters and sanctuaries that will bring

some of their dogs and cats who need loving homes. These animal organizations will also raise money at the festival and sign up new volunteers.

Activities will benefit the Spay/Neuter Project of Charlottesville-based animal-protection organization Voices for Animals. These activities include a silent auction, face painting, a vegan dessert booth, and sales of vegan cookbooks and animal- and veggie-themed items.

The Kids’ Patch will include veggie-themed games and a children’s literature table with information about animal and environmental issues.

The Charlottesville Vegetarian Festival is coordi-

nated by Voices for Animals, which has been serving Central Virginia and its animals since 1984. The festival is organized entirely by volunteers and is made possible through the generous support of several sponsors, including local newspapers, magazines and radio stations, Healthy Living Directory/Birch Studio Graphics, Integral Yoga Natural Foods, Rebecca’s Natural Food and VegNews Magazine.

The festival venue, Lee Park, is one block north of Charlottesville’s historic Downtown Mall.

For exhibitor information or to volunteer, call (434) 979-1200, e-mail info@cvillevegfest.org or visit the festival’s website at www.cvillevegfest.org.



Courtesy photos



Caring for Creatures Pet of the Week



Ozzie

Ozzie would like people to know that even though right now he may be a 6-month-old rambunctious puppy in need of some manners, with gentleness and guidelines and training, he can be molded into the kind of family member you want him to be. Puppies do want to please their humans AND humans need to learn all they can on puppy behavior and why they do the things they do. This will not be an overnight adjustment but with time and lots of love, a wonderful union can develop.

Ozzie, a handsome white lab mix, was born at Caring For Creatures on March 8, one of a litter of nine puppies. Mom Friskie had been surrendered to the sanctuary when her person died. Ozzie had been adopted out once, and though much loved, he did not receive proper guidance in his formative months. But he is so willing to learn new behavior because as a puppy, he wants more than anything to love you, to be with you and to please you.

Ozzie has been recently neutered and is up to date on vaccines. He would love to meet some nice folks willing to give a puppy with great potential a second chance.

352 Sanctuary Lane • Palmyra, VA 22963
(434) 842-2404 • www.caringforcreatures.com