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VICFA | **Voice**

Sept. 30th
**REGISTER
 NOW**

Our Mission: *To promote and preserve
 unregulated direct farmer-to-consumer trade that fosters
 availability of locally grown or home-produced food products*

August 2012

In This Issue:

THE FARCE IN FAUQUIER

A storm is still brewing and we need to work together to clear it out

JOIN US FOR OUR EVENT ON SEPT. 30

We've teamed with Hilton McLean-Tyson's Corner to bring you a very special seminar and gourmet meal event! Register to reserve your tickets now! Be sure to read this section for info on where and how to register!

VICFA Notes: September Meeting & Announcements

The Farce in Fauquier

By Rose Lawhorne

Summer storms have been raging. In addition to the record-setting damage from the derecho that impacted Virginia, small family farms and wineries are under attack in Fauquier County - by none other than the County itself. In short, the local government is amending zoning ordinances in an effort to control and restrict activities on these entities. This type of travesty is something of which everyone needs to be aware. In fact, this situation seems to be the perfect storm and may be coming to a jurisdiction near you. If a precedent is set in Fauquier County, the storm will surely continue to spread.

This is a situation that has impacted us, personally. A VICFA member's farm is currently involved in one of these battles with the County. The Fauquier County Zoning Administration has served The Piedmont Agricultural Academy LLC (aka Paris Barns Virginia) an "Official Notice of Zoning Violation and Corrective Order"; and the property owner faces a fine of up to \$5,000 per violation. The violations cited in the notice state: Operating a farm sales establishment without approval or an administrative permit; conducting temporary and/or special events on site in conjunction with a farm sales establishment, without approval of a special permit, special exception or site plan.

The fact of the matter and basis of the pending appeal is that the property owner clearly identified the use of the property and lawfully obtained a business license for a "retail farm shop" that was approved by the county in June 2011. Approval of such a business license requires that the Department of Community Development ensure that the proposed use of the property and business is compliant with Zoning Ordinance requirements. In July 2011, the County Board of Supervisors approved an amendment to zoning ordinance to add language around "Farm Sales" and it is these subsequent changes that are being used as the basis of the alleged "violations". The citation itself does not specifically identify any particular activity or event for which the farm is being cited. Other documentation related to the case indicates that "pumpkin carving" on the farm requires a special use permit.

I really need to point out that the Virginia Right to Farm laws "preclude the enactment of any ordinance which would require a special exception or special permit..." The selling of agricultural produce grown on-site is not a use itself, but is incidental to and associated with agricultural production which is specifically permitted on the property.

A second hearing of the appeal on behalf of The Piedmont Agricultural Academy LLC, is scheduled for August 2, 2012 at 2:00 PM at the County Administration Building. If you are available, please attend the hearing in support of one of our member farmers and in support of our overall mission. If you can't attend and would like to support in other ways please contact Martha Boneta at (571) 839-1143.

In related news, an ordinance setting new restrictions and regulations on activities and events on the local wine industry was passed by the Fauquier County Board of Supervisors on Thursday, July 12, 2012. Interestingly enough, Virginia law prohibits this type of unreasonable regulation - Virginia Code Annotated § 15.2-2288.3(A) codifies these principles by recognizing "the agricultural nature of" local winery "activities and events." Virginia law prohibits local regulation of such "activities and events" that "are usual and customary for farm wineries throughout the Commonwealth...unless there is a substantial impact on the health, safety, or welfare of the public." The newly passed ordinance also includes other oppressive and burdensome regulations and restrictions on buildings, parking, food service, etc. The community is outraged and I fully expect an appeal of this decision as well. ■

REGISTER NOW for the VICFA Event of the Year

Featuring:

- Introduction by Wayne Bolton, VICFA
- Keynote Speakers: Joel Salatin, Polyface Farms; John W. Whitehead, Rutherford Institute
- 3-Course Dinner Prepared by Chef Thomas Elder, harth Restaurant (organic ingredients from local farms)

SAVE THE DATE
Reserve Your Plate!
Sept. 30, 2012
4 PM - 8 PM

Hilton McLean Tysons Corner
7920 Jones Branch Dr.
McLean, VA 22102

a 3-COURSE GOURMET MEAL EVENT

"Your Civil Liberties & Food Freedom"

Vendor Admission: \$75.00 Attendee Admission: \$65.00 *Space is very limited. Early Registration is Recommended.*

Brought to you by:
VICFA **Hilton**
VIRGINIA INDEPENDENT CONSUMERS & FARMERS ASSOCIATION MCLEAN TYSONS CORNER

Read speaker bios, learn about this gourmet meal and the missions of its chef, discover the food freedom issues and how you can get involved. RSVP to this special event today.
Ligon to: www.vicfa.org

September 30, 2012

We're working with Hilton McLean Tysons-Corner to bring you a 3-course gourmet farm-to-table meal prepared with local and organic ingredients by Executive Chef Thomas Elder. Keynote speakers will address topics around our civil liberties and farm food freedom. There will also be a variety of vendors and book tables.



The event will be held on Sunday, September 30 from 4:00 PM until 8:00 PM at Hilton McLean-Tysons Corner, and will feature an introduction by VICFA President, Wayne Bolton; keynote speakers Joel Salatin of Polyface Farm, John W. Whitehead of the Rutherford Institute, and a special three-course meal by Chef Thomas Elder of harth restaurant.

The purpose of this event is to educate and inspire support of the VICFA mission. This is critical during this election year, for the upcoming General Assembly and in light of what is happening to Paris Barns and the winery community in Fauquier County. Please spread the word around your community to support and encourage attendance at this event. Downloadable and printable marketing materials are available on the VICFA website.

You need to register NOW to reserve your space.

Simply visit www.vicfa.org to register!

You'll find a link on our homepage to walk you through the simple registration process.

Vendors: You can sign-up online, too! Please visit our website to view and download the Vendor Application Form. Please note that vendor registration is subject to confirmation. Register online and someone will contact you to confirm your participation as a vendor.

Need to register by phone? Please call one of the following Event Planning Committee Members:

Paula Barkley-Fensom, Secretary – 540-872-1465
Lois Smith, Vice President – 804-366-6051
Rose Lawhorne, Treasurer – 540-661-7544

Admission:

Vendors: \$75.00 Attendee: \$65.00
(Pay by check or online during the registration process)

VICFA Notes

Don't miss our Sept. Meeting

The Sept. Meeting will be held in Spotsylvania, VA on Sept. 9, 2012.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME HOURS ARE NOW IN EFFECT

We will share in a potluck lunch at **1:00** pm, followed by our general business meeting from 2:00 - 4:00 pm. VICFA membership meetings are open to the public. Please bring a dish and a big helping of enthusiasm to share. Broaden our reach - invite a friend or neighbor to join you.

Sunday, Sept. 9, 2012
hosted by Suzi Croes
7919 Blockhouse Road
Spotsylvania, 22551

DIRECTIONS:

From I-64: EXIT 143, toward Louisa/Ferncliff. Turn left onto VA-208/Courthouse Rd. Turn right onto E Main St/US-33/VA-208/VA-22. Continue to follow for 5.6 mi; Turn left onto E 1st St/US-522/VA-208. (Exxon is on the corner). Take the 1st left onto Louisa Ave/US-522/VA-208. Turn right onto New Bridge Rd/VA-208. Turn right onto Courthouse Rd/VA-606/VA-208. Turn left onto Lake Anna Pky. 7919 BLOCKHOUSE RD is just past Camp Town Rd.

Remember to find VICFA on
FACEBOOK

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1/4 page (size - 4"x5.25")	\$25	\$23.75	\$22.50
1/8 page (size - 4"x2.5")	\$12.50	\$11.88	\$11.25

VICFA

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VICFA

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Website: www.VICFA.org
E-group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/VICFA>.

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the publisher. Contribute to this publication via email to
editor@VICFA.net or by mail to Editor, VICFA, PO
Box 6838, Charlottesville VA 22906.

Share this newsletter with a friend - encourage others to join VICFA!

Annual membership is \$25.00.

Please make check payable to VICFA and send to PO Box 6838, Charlottesville, VA 22906.

MEMBERSHIP FORM (please print clearly)

* Required fields

*Date _____
*First Name _____ *Last Name _____
Company /Farm Name _____
*Address _____
*City _____ *State _____ *Zip _____
County _____ Congressional District _____
*Phone (_____) _____ - _____
E-mail _____
Website _____

Producers, please list the products that you sell:

*Do you want to be listed in the Membership Directory? Yes No

Note. Your directory listing will contain all of the above information unless you indicate otherwise below.

How did you hear about VICFA?

Comments: