



No. 30: January 2017

# What's Happening in LG

A Free Local Newsletter  
Sponsored by the Locust Grove Arts Alliance

*Creative Community group wants town's input -- Page 1*



## Hero Costume Contest deadline is January 21

The Locust Grove Arts Alliance is sponsoring a costume contest with judging and prizes at the 1<sup>st</sup> Pryor Creek Comic Convention Jan. 21, 2017, at the Graham Community Center in Pryor.

To enter, make an original comic book hero costume made only of paper, cardboard and tape. The costume can be displayed on a hanger or mannequin or can be worn.

Cash prizes will be awarded in three categories of Most Creative or Artistic, Most Technically-Difficult and Most Original. There will be prizes in three age groups: 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade, 7<sup>th</sup>-12 grade and adult.

For more information, visit [lgartsalliance.com](http://lgartsalliance.com) or pick up a flyer at Wonder City Coffee, 118 E. Main.

## LGAA plans Beans/Bingo night at VFW Feb. 9

The Locust Grove Arts Alliance will host a fundraiser on Thursday, Feb. 9 from 6-8 p.m. A beans and cornbread dinner will be served. Bingo will follow with "cool" prizes offered.

Also, In store will be a junk drawer baggie sale with small bags of unique items for \$1 and large bags for \$3. They can be bought at any time during the evening.

The cost for the dinner and bingo is \$10. The LGAA has very few fundraisers, and needs the support of the community to continue to help Locust Grove teachers, students, and artists in the community.

The Arts Alliance provides funds for teacher supplies, art supplies for area artists, sponsors art contests and events, pays for arts scholarships and more.

Beans and Bingo will be held at the VFW Hall. For more information, visit [lgartsalliance.com](http://lgartsalliance.com).

## LG citizens needed to attend CC meet at VFW Jan. 19

On Thursday, January 19, LG Creative Communities will be holding a town meeting that everyone is encouraged to attend. The LGCC group has been meeting since March of 2016 and is working on ways to bring people together and discuss ways to improve our town.

One of the main goals of LGCC is to come up with a plan and funding to create a much-needed community/event/recreation center in town that is available for all people to use.

Creative Communities is a 20-month initiative/project from the nonprofit organization Creative Oklahoma. In February, 2016, the Oklahoma City-based organization picked 8 towns in the state to work with over this time period. They are hoping to help LG to improve quality of life by exploring creative ways to make positive changes in business, culture, etc.

The OKC facilitator for Locust Grove, Suzann Wade, will be at this meeting and will help explain the Creative Oklahoma project to the audience and to help people get acquainted with one another and with the project.

The LGCC committee currently does not have a chairperson, but questions can be directed to Shaun Perkins, [okiestoryteller@gmail.com](mailto:okiestoryteller@gmail.com), 918-864-9152. More information can be found at LG Creative Communities on Facebook.

The meeting on Jan. 19 will be held at the VFW Hall, starting at 6:00 p.m.

Please plan to attend the meeting if you live in Locust Grove and can help in any way to plan and get involved in creating a great future for our town.

## ROMP Poem Contest deadline is Jan. 7

The deadline for the Rural Oklahoma Museum of PoetryPOW! (Power of Words) Poetry Contest is on us. Compose and enter an original poem about an original comic book hero.

Winners will be announced at the Pryor Creek Comic Convention Jan. 21, 2017. The contest is for all ages and has three categories of K-5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> and adult, with cash prizes in each category.

For an entry form and more information, visit [rompoetry.com](http://rompoetry.com) or pick up a flyer and entry form at Wonder City Coffee, 118 E. Main.

## LG Seniors plan Jan. 7 dance

The Locust Grove Seniors will begin the New Year with a dinner, dance on Jan. 7 at the O. W. Killam Community Building.

The group stresses that the event, as are all of their events, is open to the public. "You don't have to be a senior to come," Janet Rogers said.

The dinner will be held at 5:30 p.m. on that Saturday night, and the dance will be held from 6:30-9 p.m. The Hole in the Wall Gang will provide music. Cost of the meal and dance is \$6.

No dance was held in December, but the group did get together for a Christmas party. The Locust Grove Coalition furnished the meal which was cooked by Toni Turner, "our fabulous cook." The group members exchanged gifts and there was even a visit from Santa Claus.

Write it on your heart that every day  
is the best day in the year.  
-- Ralph Waldo Emerson

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## LGAA meets Jan. 11 at VFW

The Locust Grove Arts Alliance will hold its January meeting on Jan. 11, at 5:30 at Wonder City Coffee, 118 E. Main.

The LGAA is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that is dedicated to promoting, supporting and growing the arts in our community. It is open to anyone and always likes to see new people come and help plan and brainstorm ideas.

The LGAA will be hosting two big events this year, the Founder's Day Art Show and the Wonder City Arts Festival. Please come and help us plan these events and more. Everyone invited.

For more information, contact LGAA President Jennifer Henson, [jenniferh@rae-corp.com](mailto:jenniferh@rae-corp.com) or 918-530-1902 or visit [lgartsalliance.com](http://lgartsalliance.com).



## About *What's Happening in LG*

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** While this newsletter is produced by the LGAA and will contain our organization's news, we also want to publish information about any activities in Locust Grove that our community might be interested in.

Please contact Betty Perkins at [blperkins@sstelco.com](mailto:blperkins@sstelco.com) or 918-479-5617 (leave a message if no answer), if you have news on LG events, places, or people for inclusion in future issues. For advertising, call Roxann Perkins Yates at 918-530-5321 or email at [roxannperkins@gmail.com](mailto:roxannperkins@gmail.com). As LGAA is a nonprofit organization, advertising must support the publication of this newsletter. Your support is greatly appreciated.

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# Locust Grove part of SST's Big Pix



**SST AT WORK.** . . Scott Tye, left, and Brad Hokit, work inside SST's fiber trailer stripping the ends of fiber cables. Tiny glass strands within the cables are placed into specialized equipment where heat fuses the ends together.



A Locust Grove neighborhood - one mile east of the intersection of State Highway 82 and Alt 412 - will always have the distinction of being SST's first fiber-to-the-home neighborhood. FTTH became available there in late 2015.

A year earlier, SST had begun vigorous upgrades to its network in order to offer faster DSL and VDSL speeds throughout its 600-square-mile service area. At the same time, the company began burying more fiber, using outside contractors in order to proceed more quickly.

Other upgrades in and around Locust Grove include providing a 10 Mbps fiber connection to the Locust Grove Public Library, expanding fiber capacity between Locust Grove and Salina, and installing a new remote in Iron Post, south-east of Locust Grove.

"Locust's FTTH neighborhood was the beginning

of a lengthy multi-year program to deploy fiber throughout our territory," said Jerry Prather, SST's outside plant manager. "It took 70 years to build the existing copper network. There is no magic bullet for rolling out a fiber-optic network.

"It will require a sustained vision by the company for year-after-year investment and long-term dedication and perseverance by our construction crews."

Everyone at SST has rolled up their sleeves for the long haul to deploy FTTH.

Big challenges have faced SST since its inception in 1945. It has taken on each new technology in order to bring big city services to its communities and to meet the needs of its rural customers.

In fewer than 20 years, the company has progressed from dial-up Internet (1996) to DSL (2001) to VDSL (2014) to fiber to the home (2015).

Headquartered in Salina, SST is proud of its local employees and local offices; focused on excellent customer care; and, committed to all its communities.

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# Saturday night entertainment planned at Wonder City Coffee Shop on Main

A new gathering place in town, Wonder City Coffee, has live entertainment every Saturday night that ranges from music to stories to interesting conversations and games. The January lineup is full of great offerings.

On Jan. 7, from 7-8 p.m., come to 1st Saturday Story Hour, an hour of storytelling from master tellers, old-timers and impromptu tellers in the audience. This is a great community experience, and people can learn some fun things about our town and people.

Returning for the third time on Jan. 14, Ed "Home Skillet" Biggs, Tulsa, will be here to play some great rock, blues and folk tunes. Biggs is already a WCC favorite. He will play from 6-8 p.m.

On Jan. 21, WCC will have a very special guest, paranormal investigator Ken Storch, who will give

a talk that he says proves beyond a reasonable doubt of the existence of E.T. Storch has been on *Ancient Aliens*, *COPS*, and other shows. Don't miss it—from 6-7 p.m.

Unofficial town historian Hugh Callery, Jr. will be presenting a special slide show and video presentation about Locust Grove on Jan. 28, from 6-8 p.m. Callery has some great stories about LG history, and will be showing a clip from the infamous Goose Grab that used to be held in Locust Grove at Thanksgiving.

Looking ahead to February, you also will not want to miss the Feb. 11 poetry reading and presentation from Emily Kzany, called Love You to Death: Valentine Poetry. Kzany is a teenage goth poet from Yukon, OK (or is she?) who will bestow some of her dark, heart-wrenching

poetry upon the good town of Locust Grove from 5-6 p.m. She will also have some of her books available for purchase.

All events at Wonder

City Coffee are free and open to the public. For more information, visit Wonder City Coffee on Facebook or call 918-479-2885.

## Local photographer has work chosen for OKC exhibition

Roxann Yates, a member of the LG Arts Alliance, has had one of her photographs accepted for the Individual Artists of Oklahoma show Jan. 20-Feb. 10 in Oklahoma City. The annual juried show will feature artists from all across Oklahoma. The artwork will be priced for sale.

Yates's 11 by 14-inch photograph depicts a pair of old, neglected, dirty eye glasses on which a wasp has built its nest.

"I was digging through a box stored in the garage when I came across the glasses," said Yates. "There was something about the



**MUDDY VISION...** is the title of Roxann Yates's picture chosen by a state organization for its exhibit.

way they looked that made me take them out and shoot a quick picture."

She added that she placed the glasses on an orange covered table top with the sun shining through, creating a reflections in front.

The IOA exhibit will be at 706 Sheridan Ave., Oklahoma City.

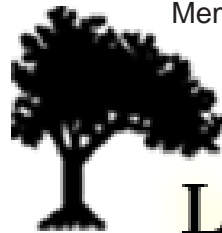


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**SAM THE SKUNK** is a legal resident of Mayes County and Oklahoma and lives with Mayes and Wanda Key.

## This tale (tail) smells just fine!

Sam is a 1-1/2 year old skunk. He weighs in at 12 pounds. Sam was born in Iowa, and at the age of eight weeks, we met him at the airport. Sam flew in on American Airlines and became a member of the Mayes Key Family.

The game warden came to our house to make sure he had a good home. He has all his shots, and yes, he is descented. The game ranger issued a license for him to be legally in Oklahoma. As far as we know, Sam is the only legal pet skunk in Mayes County.

He loves to play and eats fresh fruits and vegetables. We order a special food for him. He is shy when people come to visit. He hides until they leave.

--Written by Wanda Key

# Editorial: Downtown needs an art gallery

Willard Stone. Jason Stone. Verna Bates. Connie Jenkins. Joan Shoemaker. Ben Shoemaker. Bill Glass, Jr. Demos Glass. Roy Boney, Jr. Dwight Stone. Linda Stone Callery. Letitia Keene. Ray Grass. LaTasha Duncan, Letitia Keene.

This is only the beginning of the list of skilled and award-winning artists who grew up and/or still live in Locust Grove. These artists have a wide variety of world-class honors and awards they have received for their artwork.

We could fill a page with the names of wonderful artists from our little town. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have a downtown space devoted to displaying and perhaps selling the works of our talented artists?

Continual research shows that the arts bring people to an area. The

LGAA, along with the LG Chamber, continue to be committed to improving the business and entertainment climate in our town and to revitalizing our downtown area.

Our children deserve a town that has things for them to do in it and also things in which they can take pride.

The recently-opened Wonder City Coffee displays artworks by some local artists, and it would also be great to have a whole gallery/shop devoted to this. There are empty spaces downtown that possibly could be fixed up and used for such a purpose.

So many small towns like ours are losing their downtown areas. We realize that downtown is not the only place that matters—we have wonderful businesses all over our area—but downtown is still the heart of a town. It is where people can walk between businesses and from their homes and where we gather for Founder's Day, Christmas and other celebrations.

We would love to have more tourists and visitors to our town, and people are attracted to downtown areas where they can see what

(Continueds on Page 8)

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# Window contest winners announced



**CHECK PRESENTATION.** . . Jennifer Henson presented Ethan Simpson a check for \$50 for his winning entry in the Age 13-18 category of the Christmas Window Decorating Contest sponsored by the Locust Grove Arts Alliance. He painted the window at the Hometown Shirt Shack.



**AGES 12 AND YOUNGER.** . . Jennifer Henson, left, president of the Locust Grove Arts Alliance presents Sierra and Macy Hurt with a winner's check at the LGAA meeting Dec. 14. The girls painted the window at Rowland's Quick Shop at the corner of Highway 82 and Main Street.

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**CLASS WINNER.** . . Sydney Schwichtenberg, center, and Dayanie Rivers, right, accept a \$50 check from Locust Grove Arts Alliance President Jennifer Henson. The girls painted the winning window at the old bakery storefront for the High School Art Class. Other winners in the window painting contest were Pat Maner in the adult category, and the First Baptist Church Youth Group in the organization category. Maner painted her picture at the Graphiteez shop, and the youth group painted the windows at Elaine's Beauty Shop.



**READY FOR BUSINESS.** . . Emily and Brandy Sanderson stand in front of the counter at their new business at 102 East Main..

## LG Nutrition business opens December 12

Many people today are more cautious and aware of the food they put into their bodies. They welcome foods and drinks that are nutritionally sound. A new business that will feature just such products opened in Locust Grove in mid-December.


Owners of the business at 102 East Main, Locust Grove Nutrition, are Emily and Brandy Sanderson.

"We like the Locust Grove area," said Emily. "I wanted to open in a place that I'm interested in living in -- one that has a good school system."

The new shop has a variety of meal replacement shakes and energy teas.

"We offer additional nutrition products for the entire family," Brandy said.

The public is invited to come by the end shop in the old In-N-Out Center to have a shake that tastes good and is also good for the body.



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**LAMB SHOW AT FAIRGROUNDS.** . . Corbin Packard, Dylan Simpson and Logan Packard get their animals ready for the November show. More pictures on Page 10.

“The arts are an essential element of education, just like reading, writing, and arithmetic...music, dance, painting, and theater are all keys that unlock profound human understanding and accomplishment.”

—William Bennett, Former US Secretary of Education

## Editorial: art gallery

(Continued from Page 5)

the town has to offer and then branch out from there.

We hope that owners of empty storefronts will work with us to make an art gallery happen. We hope that any interested citizens would help us with

fundraisers to facilitate the purchase, renovation, and opening of such a gallery.

Also, we simply hope that an artist or group of artists might come together and make this art gallery happen. LGAA members would support it in any way that we can.

**This world is but a canvas  
to our imagination.**

*Henry David Thoreau*

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# Locust Grove teen gets honor from 'Honor Flight'

"Being an artist is fun, and I'm thinking about playing at places for free, but maybe I'll be paid in tips," said Canton Little, Locust Grove eighth grader and musician.

Little composes music and plays several instruments—trumpet, piano, trombone, baritone, ukulele, and drums.

"I played 'The Star Spangled Banner' with Locust Grove resident Christa Stark at the Mabee Center for the Oklahoma & Arkansas Honor Flight group. I felt very honored. There were a lot people there," he said.

According to the group's

Facebook page, "The Oklahoma & Arkansas (O & A) Honor Flight is part of a National Organization that is dedicated to taking veterans to Washington, D.C. for a FREE one day trip to see the memorials that were built to honor their service & sacrifices."

Though Little, the son of Alysha and Dustin Little, has played in large venues, he has lived in Locust Grove most of his life.

"I like the community, the history, and the people," he said.

Music is just one of Little's creative interests.

"I like to write poetry, stories, and math equa-



**LOCALARTIST.** . . Canton Little, an eighth grader at Locust Grove Middle School, is a musician of many types of instruments.

tions. I also play magic, chess and Dungeons and Dragons," he said.

His artistic flair is inspired by his family.

"My family is a very talented and loving bunch,"

Little said. They excel in areas of math, science, history and English.

Check out this young artist next time he performs, and consider leaving a tip!

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**JUDGING OVER. . .** A young lamb show participant leaves the arena.



**CONCESSION...** Behind the counter at the Mayes County Lamb Show in November (top photo) are John Poe, Dewey Talley, Don Hanna, Samantha Robinson, Lexi Hanna, Linda Rhodes, Kaden Rhodes, Kolbey Rhodes and Janet Larsen. The Locust Grove Masonic Lodge presented a combined total of \$3,000 to the 4-H Club and Band Boosters. "This is our one and only fundraiser. For every kid who turns in a book, we will pay half of their camp expenses in June at Quapaw Sky Ranch," said Polly Robinson, Locust Grove 4-H leader. Center picture shows Regina Conn, Janet Coger and Jennie Passmore behind pots of chili at the Covey Masonic Lodge's fundraiser to support the band boosters. "We help the little league, band, softball, and anything that has to do with the schools," said lodge member Dewey Talley.

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