

Help us grow wisely & well
... become an MBRA member!



Marshall Minute

FEBRUARY 2019

3rd Annual

LOVE MARSHALL!

MBRA Community Meeting

**Tuesday, February 12th
7:30 to 8:30 pm**

*Marshall Community Center
4133A Rectortown Road
Marshall, VA 20115*

All Are Welcome!

2019 MBRA Membership Application
Forms & Bylaws Will Be Available

**FREE refreshments for YOU
starting at 7:15 pm!**

Our featured guest speakers

**Duke Bland, Marshall District
School Board Member since 2005**
will give us an update and introduce:

**Dr. David Jeck, Superintendent
Fauquier County Public Schools**

**Ms. Lynne Richman Belle,
Executive Director
Boys & Girls Clubs of Fauquier**

Pick up your free copy of the
Marshall Minute Newsletter
at the following locations:

Marshall Post Office

Old Salem Café

Custom Cuts

Joe's Pizza & Subs

Glascocock's Grocery

Countryside Family Practice

Marshall Community Center

Visit our website:

www.MarshallVirginia.org

Have questions or suggestions for speakers?
Contact Mary Wilkerson, MBRA President
(540) 364-3400; mbraeditor@gmail.com

Editor: Mary Wilkerson; Copyright February 2019

Join us for our 3rd Annual

LOVE MARSHALL!

MBRA Community Meeting

See old friends; meet new ones

Hear our

**guest
speakers!**

**Enjoy free
refreshments!**

**Free raffle of
door prizes:**

**Joan of Art Gift,
\$20 Cash,
Pecan Pie,
and more!**

<--See sidebar for more details



**8am, Sunday, February 24th
All You Can Eat Breakfast at
the Marshall Fire Department**

**Adults ~ \$8 Seniors ~ \$7
Kids 4-12 ~ \$5 3 & under ~ Free
4160 Rectortown Road, Marshall VA**

**Ice Rink at Northern Fauquier
Community Park**

Rink will be open on weekends and
school holidays.

Skates are available for rent.

Call 540-422-8582

*Happy
Valentine's Day*



2019 MBRA Memberships

In researching MBRA documents our
Board has recently learned that our
membership must come from the
Marshall Service District, not the
Marshall Magisterial District.
Regrettably, this means that some
who have been MBRA members
may no longer be able to be members.

This is not a decision by our officers or
directors, but is based on the original
documents upon which our
organization is structured.

Business advertising in our newsletters
will continue as usual.

***MBRA Networking Group
for local businesses!***

**Stop by anytime between 5 & 6 pm
and meet with other businesses in the Marshall Area!**

**Monday, February 26, 2019
Marshall Community Center Café**

Free refreshments

**This is a great chance to exchange flyers or business cards~
Give an update on your business!**

Call (540) 364-3400 for more info

~ Join the MBRA ~

The Marshall Business & Residents Association (MBRA) is a local, independent, autonomous private civic group of businesses and residents in the Marshall area. We are a 100% volunteer organization and we take NO tax dollars. Our mission statement is "To protect and enhance the quality of community and professional life in Marshall, VA."

What the MBRA created and began in 2018:

Showcase Mixers: To spotlight a particular local small business, inviting both residents and businesses to attend.

Dinner & Conversation: A free meal to enjoy while learning/discussing an important topic.

MBRA Networking Group: B2B events for Marshall-only businesses.

Small Business Saturday Sidewalk Stroll: An event for local shopping the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

Creations the MBRA continued in 2018:

Love Marshall! Community Meeting each February; Make Marshall Merry Decorating Contest; Marshall Minute Newsletter; MarshallVirginia.org website expansion; Monthly Community Meetings open to the public now offering free refreshments and free door prize raffles.

Coming New Items for 2019:

MBRA Decal for Members; Welcome Basket for Resident Members, and so much more!

We would like to thank you, the people of Marshall, for participating with us! Special thanks go to those business members that helped us get our very first year of "Showcase Mixers" off the ground by being gracious hosts for the community:

**Big Dog Pots ~ Barrel Oak Winery ~ Carr & Hyde Insurance ~ Flying Heron Herbs, Spices & Teas
Paws For Holistic Health Care ~ Hottle & Associates ~ Custom Cuts**

Thanks to Patrick Workman and all the Marshall Community Center front desk staff for the excellent service and assistance the MBRA has received during our use of the facilities for our various meetings.

Many thanks go to the Marshall Ruritan Club for providing us all with a wonderful experience in a delightful setting for our October creation of "Dinner & Conversation" with the featured topic: Marshall Main Street Improvement.

The MBRA does all of this with dedicated volunteers and by putting all of the monies we receive back into the community. If you like what we do and how we operate, perhaps you'd like to support us with your membership?

Thank you for your patience as we prepared our new 2019 forms! Simply contact us through our website, www.MarshallVirginia.org or by phone (540) 364-3400 or email mbraeditor@gmail.com or come to our **Community Meeting** to get a membership application form! Only \$30 per year per resident member or \$50 per year per business member. Advertising in our newsletter is for Marshall area businesses, and you can always find our newsletters at the Marshall Post Office.

Our Community Meetings & Showcase Mixers are open to the community; we look forward to seeing you there!

MBRA November 13th Meeting Notes

The meeting was called to order by the **Mary Wilkerson, President**, shortly after 7:30 pm. The annual elections took place during the first portion of our meeting. Mary Wilkerson, President, shared with everyone the guidelines for tonight's meeting and format and asked for respect for all of our Board members.

"Good evening, everyone, and welcome to our 1st Community Meeting of the year! Neither our Board nor our general membership want our meeting format disrupted so we have ground rules for tonight; I regret it's necessary, but it is warranted after last meeting's disruption.

This is not the proper forum for comments or grievances; if you do not already have our contact info from previous newsletters, please take the handout on the table at the back. We have listed four ways to contact our Board:

- 1) Through our website contact form
- 2) Our email address on our newsletters and website
- 3) Our phone number on our newsletters and website
- 4) Our P.O. Box 533, Marshall VA 20115

We are a 100% volunteer private organization made up of hard-working volunteers who deserve to be treated with respect. The following ground rules will apply:

If someone is interrupting or disrupting our meeting format tonight, I will ask you to please stop. If someone refuses to stop, I will have to ask you to leave our meeting. Also, we had planned to have our 2019

Membership Forms and 2019 Bylaws ready for you tonight, however, we won't have them till later this month. If you have not received yours by the end of this month, please contact us.

First thing on our agenda tonight is our annual election, and each of you who were a paid member in 2018 should have received a ballot when you checked in at the door. If you have not gotten your ballot, please see the Secretary at the back. We have three Directors on the ballot tonight: Gina Hilleary, Mary-Elizabeth Wilkerson, and myself. Please vote for not more than three. Our Officers

are on the ballot for re-election and they are:

Mary-Elizabeth Wilkerson, Secretary,
Patty Cloud, Treasurer,
John Suter, Vice President,
and I am on for President.

If you have not already voted, please take a few minutes now to complete your ballot and drop it in the slot of the grey file box that is in the back with a Board member. Voting will close in a few minutes, so please make sure to vote now.

I ask for your polite conduct, your consideration for all in attendance, and your respect for our meeting format.

Our 3rd Annual "Love Marshall" Community Meeting occurs next month on Tuesday, February 12th. We have a lot of fun at this event, with special refreshments and door prizes.

After our voting closes, we will hear from our Marshall District Supervisor Mary Leigh McDaniel and our local School Board Member, Duke Bland. Then our special guest speakers are the Toddhunters, who own Three Fox Vineyards in Delaplane! We have a very special door prize tonight—a bottle of wine donated by the Toddhunters! Our Free Door prize raffle drawing will be immediately after the Toddhunters' presentation and then we will end with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Marshall District Supervisor Mary

Leigh McDaniel gave her report. She announced good news: they have been successful in raising approximately \$750,000 towards the undergrounding in the Marshall Main Street project. She said that will allow them to do the bulk of the undergrounding and do the infrastructure of the duct banks. Most of the wires go underground. The only problem is they will not have immediately the undergrounding of the Dominion wire which is the highest and the thinnest at the top; however, that does give them time to try to raise money to get that done before they complete construction. She thanked everyone who worked to get the money raised.

Q&A: Have you done anything to generate the funds to help people pay the taxes? Mary Leigh answered that there were really good issues raised at the community conversation project meeting

on November 27th by folks in the community who will be impacted by the project, and she wants everyone to know that she heard that, takes it very seriously, and will work hard to address those.

Mary Leigh had a conversation with a gentleman named Kyle Myer, whom she walked around Main Street with back in December. He is with Virginia Department of Housing and is heading up the Main Street Projects for the Commonwealth; they have a program called 'How to Survive a Main Street Construction Project,' so Mary Leigh said they are going to ask him to come to their next community meeting to begin sharing how to best address the issues we will be facing as we go through the construction process.

Debbie Cloud said she thinks it is the responsibility of the members of the community to come up with something to help people pay the taxes for the project. Mary Leigh agreed and said that part of the conversation is how these issues get addressed as we go through the process.

Marshall District School Board Member

Duke Bland gave his report. They have been making strides and improvement with the middle school concepts but they are currently at an impasse, unfortunately. They are not yet ready to move on a conceptual design or on which school would be the one to be renovated. They hope to make a decision within 60 days.

The School Board has been working with consulting company ABM, a global contractor. They asked ABM to do an in-depth analysis of their schools, including for lighting, air-purification, HVAC, water usage, etc. to find ways to reduce energy and operational costs.

In grade letter format, the initial findings found that 13.6% of our equipment was rated A, 15.6% was rated F, and so forth. Sadly, much of the equipment is at, near, or has surpassed the in-service life cycle. Due to budgetary constraints over the years, the School Board has not always been able to fund their replacement and upgrade strategy.

ABM identified over \$40 million worth of potential upgrades.

Continued on next page ———>

January 8th Meeting, continued:

After many more work sessions, site visits, and discussions, they were able to identify about \$11.7 million that they felt were top priorities that would give a better return on their investment. ABM project is an investment strategy to upgrade school equipment in a short timeframe. It is focused on energy conservation, operational savings, and to increase our capacity to fund future projects. It will be invested in 18 of our 20 schools, including all 3 of Marshall's schools and Fauquier High School. All 3 Marshall schools are aging.

All of this means they were able to secure a 15-year loan at a very low 3.31% finance rate, guaranteed. They are going to finance only \$10.7 million, though, because they are able to cash fund approx. \$700,000 just before the first installment due date of April 2021. They can do that because they will realize energy savings close to that amount. All of that money will be reinvested. Annual savings projected to be over \$950,000, conservatively. This project is a budget-neutral solution and all schools will benefit directly or indirectly. He will give monthly updates on this. Duke also announced that he will run for another term on the School Board

Our featured speakers of the evening were **Holli and John Todhunter of Three Fox Vineyards**. John shared a little bit about the state of Virginia wine industry. Marshall is in a good position in relation to that. Holli runs Three Fox Vineyards and technically John works for her. They did a presentation back in 2006 for the MBRA. At the time, there were around 30 or 40 farm wineries in Virginia, and not really any distilleries. Now there are almost as many farm wineries in Fauquier County as there were in the whole state back then: 27 - 30 in the County. The State as a whole now has 260-270 wineries.

The industry has had growing pains, the biggest of which is the weather. 2007 was a phenomenal vintage year; 2017 was even better; and in 2018, we drowned. By mid-November they had had over 5 feet of rain fall on their property. It was a problem all throughout the state, as some people lost all of their crop because it was just too wet. Grapes hate wet weather. John said they had some crop lost but they can survive it.

When they spoke in 2006, they talked about how Marshall sits in a sort of

Meet the MBRA Board!

Bobby Doane Gina Hilleary* Joe Sarsour

Jeff Symanski Mary-Elizabeth Wilkerson* Secretary

Patty Cloud* Treasurer Bill Hines

Mary Wilkerson *President John Suter* Vice-President

***Elected or Re-elected on January 8, 2019**

gateway right next to 66 and close to all these great places. There used to be just the Marshall Diner, Old Salem Cafe, and Joe's Pizza, all of which are still here. Now Marshall has more restaurants and farm-to-table activity, so Marshall is in a good spot.

Holli shared that they are a small winery, producing about 3,000 cases a year. They are open 5 days a week, and hours are 11:00 - 5:00 pm. Dog and children friendly. They do small weddings and would like to invite you if you want to have a business picnic or a meeting, they have all those facilities. They will be putting in a new bridge and once it is replaced, they will have a ribbon-cutting and lots of champagne flowing! Holli said they love being in the area and love everyone.

Three Fox Vineyards grows Italian-style grapes. This sets them apart from most other wineries, which grow French varietals. If you want to be in Tuscany, simply cross the river, come up the hill, and enjoy Sangiovese, Pinot Grigio, and Nebbiolo. Three Fox Vineyards is one of only 5 growers in the state of Virginia that can grow Nebbiolo.

Holli and John encouraged everyone to come see them, passed around cards for a complimentary wine tasting, and wished good luck to whomever wins their bottle of Cabernet Franc in the MBRA door prize raffle. A brief Q & A followed. Visit Holli and John at 10100 Three Fox Lane, Delaplane, VA. For more info, visit www.ThreeFoxVineyards.com or call 540-364-6073.

MBRA Door Prize Raffle Winners:

1st door prize, a pocket knife, went to a gentleman in the audience. 2nd door prize for the mug, notepad, and candy bar went to Dr. Royston. Our last door prize, a bottle of Three Fox Vineyard Cabernet

Franc, went to Bess Taylor.

Mary Wilkerson, MBRA President then spoke to the recent issues the MBRA Board has been facing, and that is the discovery of the loss of the MBRA's tax-exempt status and failure of previous leadership to file tax returns for approximately a decade.

When she was elected President in January of 2018, she asked to review the books. Upon doing so she learned that the MBRA had, in fact, attained tax-exempt status; however, tax returns were not filed for a decade and the status had been lost.

She really appreciates our current Board, who has had to deal with some tough things with what we inherited. We are working on that and getting that resolved. That is the larger issue before the Board. Because we have discovered that, it has created some hard feelings.

We also happen to have a very diverse Board with a diverse set of opinions; also because of that, it seems to have created some hard feelings. Everyone's opinion is important and valid, and she encourages you to stay true to yourselves.

Our current Board is doing a phenomenal job correcting the mistakes of the past and we are looking forward to presenting you with an even better situation for the Board going forward due to all our hard work, tireless hours, meeting after meeting, we have been putting a ton of work into it, and she applauds all the other Board members. She serves with a great Board of the MBRA and couldn't be happier.

Meeting closed with the Pledge of Allegiance at 8:26 pm.

Minutes by Mary-Elizabeth Wilkerson

For more on this meeting, see two-part video at www.MarshallVirginia.org.



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See you in the Spring!!

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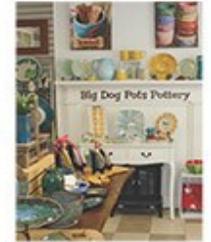
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