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Marshall Minute

March 2018

Come to the next
MBRA Community Meeting
7:30 pm on Tuesday
March 13, 2017

ALL ARE WELCOME!

*Free refreshments begin at 7:15 pm
and chance to win a door prize!*

Held at the
Marshall Community Center
4133 Rectortown Road
Marshall, VA

Our featured speakers:

Marshall District Supervisor
Mary Leigh McDaniel
will be speaking to us about the
proposed Fauquier County Budget

Dr. David Jeck
Fauquier County School
Superintendent since May 2013
And winner of Region IV
Superintendent of the Year 2018
will be speaking to us about
Fauquier schools & budget needs

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

*Editor: Mary Wilkerson
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Fauquier County wants *your* feedback on possible 11.7% tax increase to homeowners

Our Supervisor, Mary Leigh McDaniel, encourages all of us to get involved in the budget discussions regarding the increase which would take effect this July. Please come to our next meeting (see sidebar) at 7:30 pm, March 13th to learn about the proposal and have a chance to ask questions. Supervisors will vote on County budget proposal on March 22, 2018. For more info, go to:
www.fauquiercounty.gov and
click on "County Administration"
then click on
"Office of Management and Budget"

The Marshall Middle Science and Engineering Fair on February 8th was a resounding success!

Students from the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades competed with projects ranging from biology to mechanics to computer science and everything in between. Congratulations to the following top 12 student projects selected to advance to the Junior Regional Fair:
Conner Mollberg "Effect of Parachute Material on Free Fall"
Ellie Henry "The Brain Game"
Andrew Locke "The Shocking Impact of Mobile Solar Panels"
Shannon Seiler "Material Causes of Wi-Fi Interference"
Caden Nelson "Modern Day Devices: Helpful or Deadly"
Jefferson Uzzle "How Dirty is Your House"
Marjorie Davenport "Solar Energy"
Ignacio Godoy "With Overlays or Without?"
Piper Nelson "Do Goats Have a Color Preference?"
Andrew Brown "The Affect of Wind on a Paper Airplane's Distance"
Nora Waide "Vabulous Voltages"
Sadie Richards "The Effects of Acid Rain on Seed Germination" (Can't attend regional fair.)
Liam Bowman "Energy in Fruits"—(Replaces Sadie Richards at the regional fair.)

The next step for these students is to compete at the county-wide Junior Fair held at Fauquier High School on Saturday, March 17th with public viewing from 2-3 pm and awards ceremony at 3 pm.
All are encouraged to attend!

What can the MBRA do to support Marshall Businesses?

The MBRA is having Networking Meetings for our Marshall Businesses & Professionals! Thanks to all of you for coming out to our very first one on Monday, February 26th. It was a great time of socializing and learning about other local businesses! The next such event will be our very first

MBRA SHOWCASE MIXER: spotlighting

Big Dog Pots
8287 East Main Street
Marshall, VA 20115
www.bigdogpots.com

All Marshall Businesses are invited to attend this Business-to-Business event Thursday, March 22, 2018 Come by anytime from 5:30 to 7 pm

Lori B. Langford, Artist & Owner, will be hosting our first Showcase Mixer and will graciously be providing refreshments for us! Come learn about all that Big Dog Pots has to offer, see their newly renovated space, and meet fellow businesses in your community!

MBRA Showcase Mixers are free to all MBRA Business members and \$5 for non-member Marshall businesses

You may also join or renew your MBRA business membership at the event. For questions, or if you would like to be put on the list to host a Showcase Mixer, call: (540) 364-3400.

Mark your Calendars for the next Marshall Community Blood Drive Monday, April 2nd. 2 to 7 pm Marshall Baptist Church 4121 Winchester Rd, Marshall, VA 20115 Contact Suzy Neessen at 540-317-3344

Marshall United Methodist Church Invites you to their **Pot Luck Lunch** at noon on the 1st Thursday of each month! Bring a dish if you wish, but it's optional 405 W. Main St, Marshall, VA 20115

MBRA February 13th Meeting Notes

Mary Wilkerson, President, called the meeting to order at 7:33pm.

Marshall District Supervisor Duke Bland

announced that the Teacher Of The Year Awards presented at last night's School Board Meeting went to Debbie Studley, a Marshall Middle School 6th grade math teacher; Kellie Green, a Coleman Elementary kindergarten teacher; and Deborah Burrow, a Claude Thompson Elementary 2nd grade teacher. These three will compete with others for the prestigious Washington Post Teacher of the Year Award. Also, Claude Thompson 3rd and 4th graders won the County 24 Challenge Trophy.

The School Board is busy working on the budget. Their first brush suggests an increase of 5.2% or roughly \$7m (\$144,506,320), which is needed to offset rising health and retirement benefits, workforce investments, upgrades in technology, and safety and security enhancements. They have had a public hearing, and will meet with the BOS on March 8th.

They were blessed with an anonymous donor for renovating the area under the stage for the after school tutoring and perhaps intervention programs. It will also be a computer lab. Work is underway and completion is expected soon.

Middle School renovation project update: Preliminary findings from the Geotech study they requested show that soil conditions at a proposed site between Taylor and Brumfield are the same as what Walmart, Home Depot, and other schools are built on. Having this study done makes it easier to send bids out for proposals now that they know soil results. The special committee is preparing RFQs for design, bid, build scenarios. Doing it this way will give a more realistic estimate rather than guessing what architects' costs will be. The committee will compare these costs with renovation costs.

Our first speaker was Roger Beavers of the Fauquier Livestock Exchange (FLE).

The FLE is a stock company with about 1,150 shares right now. F.L.E. has about 1,500 owners and a fifteen-member Board of Directors that are elected each year.

What they do: they mainly sell cattle and are an agent to buy/sell livestock of many kinds, including emus. They are looking at starting up their horse sales again because this is horse country. They sell to you and for you as high as they possibly can. They have conducted a Spring and Fall equipment sale for the past two years. One time they started at 9am and did not finish until dark.

Attendance at FLE sales is large is large.

Livestock History: April 1962 was the first sale. Mr. Simpson from Chicago Stockyards was the first manager. This was a brand new market, and FLE was the top stock market in the state and region for years but things have changed because of suburban homes.

The largest sale the Livestock Exchange ever had consisted of 2,800 head. Roger said that really was too many; pens were busting with cattle. They made extra gates to get more

cattle in by backing up seven or eight straight trucks and making pens out of those. The Livestock Exchange has since gone to an A-B system, so everyone would not come at once.

September 2010 was the major fire. The market portion was completely destroyed. FLE had a 3-phase rebuild: 1) Livestock Pens and Scales – They had insurance for that. 2) Livestock Arena – Now it is just like it used to be and is really nice. 3) Livestock restaurant – A space is set out for it; it will be a long process before they have that.

Instead of building just another barn, they wanted to look to the past and be innovative just like the forefathers had done. Thus, they started looking into an integrated solar system. Their system was the largest privately-owned integrated solar system, measuring 42,000 square feet, just under one acre of coverage on their roof. Their electric bill is now \$1,000 to \$1,200 per month, which is covered entirely by their system. Since they decided to cover the entire roof rather than cover just enough to pay for their electric bill, they sometimes have extra which they sell back to NOVEC, although not for much money.

Roger said green energy will be helping the community. Their system is by Uni Solar, a Michigan Company, and is new generation solar laminate. It is 7 ounces per sq ft, as opposed to 7 lbs like the old panels are. The environment under the roof is 30% cooler because it is like a shade tree. The system provides 248,000 kilowatts of energy per year. The FLE receives 250-280 carbon footprint credits. The FLE was the largest solar system in Virginia for six months and was getting attention for it. They were written up in NOVEC Magazine. In January 2012, the FLE Inc received the 2011 citizen of the year award from Scott District Supervisor Holder Trumbo.

They hope and pray it is always a livestock exchange. 12/13/2011 was the first sale since their renovation following the fire. At that sale, they sold 1,100 head of cattle. Last December was their anniversary party, "55 Years in Business on Route 55." They celebrated 55 years, rather than 50 years, because the arena was previously delayed due to the fire. They have been on TV several times, on stations like RFD-TV, and in 2014 were on channel 231. Anyone on the internet can buy from them from anywhere. They also can sell by phone. Dec. 2,20107: They have had their ups and downs but were able to keep things going mainly thanks to community support from around the County. Roger Beavers thanked everyone for their continued support. **For more info, call 540-364-1566 or visit**

FauquierLivestockExchange.com.

Our final speaker of the evening was **Kevin DeMoss of Quality First Tax Service.**

He first gave a brief history of income tax and then spoke on three major topics: 1) 2018 Tax updates, 2) Tax ideas for retirees over the age of 70, and 3) Identity theft.

In 1913 was the first-ever tax return, which was 1% on the first \$3,000 you made. There were very few taxes in this country initially. 1862 saw the Civil War, the first income tax, and other taxes along with that. The IRS was also commissioned that year. An Enrolled Agent is a federal title for tax-specialization, as opposed to a CPA which is more state level. In 1895, the Supreme Court said that income taxes were unconstitutional, but the 13th Amendment and tax returns came by 1913. Fast forward to 2018, and more people will file in a different tax bracket than before. We still have seven tax brackets: 10%, 12%, 22%, 24%, 32%, 35%, and 37%. The personal \$4,050 exemption per person will be gone. Changes include more standard deductions that will be filed and some itemization is eliminated or reduced. Kevin talked about exemptions for those filing as Single, Married, and Single Head of Household, which is now up to \$18,000 from \$9,350. Miscellaneous tax deductions are eliminated, as well as investment expenses, and casualty and theft losses, unless you are in a disaster area. Filing fees can no longer be deducted, either. Alimony is eliminated for divorces after 2018 going into 2019. Child tax credit is going to double from \$1,000 to \$2,000. It used to be that if your income was more than \$110,000/year, that credit would shrink; now, the credit does not shrink unless your income is \$400,000/year. Tuition and fees have been eliminated but there are some credits available. Kevin explained that credits are better than deductions! Penalties for not having health insurance go away in 2019. Businesses are allowed a 20% deduction on certain income under certain rules. 2) Ideas for retirees - Doubling of standard deduction helpful. Once you are past 70.5 years old, you must start taking out of your IRA. How can you still give to church? Do a qualified direct rollover from your IRA to your church or charity. Example, if you roll \$4,000 of your \$10,000 IRA to church or charity, than the income listed on your tax return is just \$6,000.

Identity theft: Kevin urges everyone not to use Lifelock. He also said that lots of people do not realize they are impacted by identity theft until they file their tax return, and the IRS rejects it because someone else has already assumed your identity. If you are a victim of identity theft, file the identity theft with police, close out all open accounts, and keep a close eye on social security accounts. For more info, contact Kevin DeMoss at **540-364-1347 or visit www.QualityFirstTax.com.**

~Mary-Elizabeth Wilkerson, MBRA Secretary

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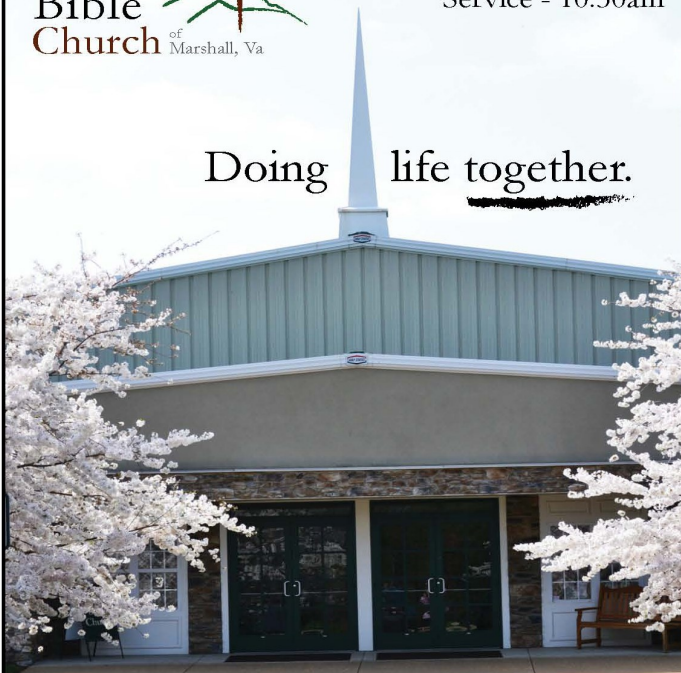
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