

FREE ~ Take one and find out what's happening around Marshall ~

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



Marshall Minute

OCTOBER 2019

Meet them personally!
Come Tuesday, 7:30 pm
October 8th for
The MBRA's Annual
Candidates Night

The MBRA wants you to be able to ask the questions important to you in a respectful atmosphere during our Q&A time directly with the candidates. Stay for a meet & greet beginning at 8:30 pm, immediately after our meeting!

Confirmed to be attending are:

Ronnie Ross for State Senator
Laura Galante for State Delegate
Paul Petrauskas, Supervisor
Angela Smith, Comm. of the Rev.
Duke Bland, School Board Member

Marshall Community Center
4133A Rectortown Road, Marshall, VA

We've heard your interest:

Stay tuned for an upcoming MBRA
Community meeting featuring
Van Metre Companies!

Also make your plans for:

MBRA's Annual Make Marshall
Merry Main Street Christmas
Decorating Contest! Decorate
your place in time for:

MBRA's 2nd Annual Small Business
Saturday Sidewalk Stroll, Nov 30th
the Saturday after Thanksgiving!

It's never too soon to be planning
your parade entry! The MBRA
Marshall Christmas Parade is
Saturday, December 7, 2019

Contact Brenda Payne for entry forms.
Brenda's # is 540-270-1795 or email her:
marshallchristmasparade@gmail.com

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

Editor: Mary Wilkerson ~Copyright October 2019

Just For Clarity

We understand there is some confusion that an upcoming Ruritan 'town hall' meeting on October 3rd is in some way an MBRA event. Please note that the MBRA is not involved with the Ruritan event, despite the wording at the bottom of the event flyer. Please contact the Ruritans with those questions.

MBRA ONE YEAR AGO

The MBRA was originally formed as an action, advocacy 501(c)4 group.

One year ago the MBRA hosted two community meetings for County officials to present and discuss their proposed Main Street Improvement Project for the one block between Frost and Winchester roads.

Since the MBRA was the original grant applicant for the project when it began about 10 years ago for the entire length of Main Street, the MBRA Board felt we had a responsibility to weigh in on the current project last year. Among our Board there were a variety of opinions and issues with the project that our Board discussed, not simply the lack of undergrounding.

While some of our Board members supported the project as it was, the majority of our Board at that time did not, and we issued a public statement to that effect last September, 2018.

From our November 2018 Newsletter:

"The MBRA Board has a diversity of opinions on the Marshall Main Street Improvement Project, as does our membership. No matter what your view on the project, we support you and encourage you to make it known in the polite fashion of civil discourse."

This is your town, and we would like to know how you feel. Let us know your opinion! Simply email mbraeditor@gmail.com or message our official Facebook

or call us at 540-364-3400.

Are you in favor of the County's proposed \$6.2 million Main Street Improvement Project which will beautify one block between Frost & Winchester Roads, bury utility lines and narrow Main Street by 2 feet, and significantly increase the Special Lighting Tax?

For latest project details, see link to County's project on our website, Just go to www.MarshallVirginia.org, and click on "Main Street" tab; OR

Do you prefer an Alternative Plan some citizens have suggested to beautify and improve Main Street using state funds & saving millions while still making it handicap accessible, and including all of Main Street, keeping it wide?

For details on Alternative Plan, see non-MBRA website:

www.ShapingMarshallTogether.com

Did you know that we now have a channel for our local Marshall meetings and events on YOUTUBE? You can keep up with what's going on locally via the MBRA's very own YouTube Channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChFkdTdMwpCP9aTVVti9IKQ>

Have a seat with your favorite beverage in the comfort of your own home and catch up on all that's been happening around town! Simply follow the above link or go to youtube.com and search

"MBRA Marshall VA"

It's FREE and you don't have to miss anything when you can watch and/or listen on YouTube!

Also visit our website: www.MarshallVIRGINIA.ORG

Sept 10th Community Meeting Notes:

The meeting was opened by the **President, Mary Wilkerson**, at 7:38pm. She gave a shout out to the Marshall Community Center's Marshall Day event this past Saturday. Very well attended; Patrick Workman estimated about 350 - 400 attended. The weather was great and we understand from Patrick that this was the first year that everything was totally free.

Mary referred to the Marshall Minute's announcement of the MBRA's September Party on Main Street Showcase Mixer, which is on Thursday, September 19th from 5:00 - 6:00pm at Johnny Monarch's! They will have a free door prize there, also.

Tuesday, October 8th is our Annual MBRA Candidates Night here at the Community Center starting at 7:30pm. About 5 candidates are confirmed to be attending. Our event allows questions from the audience.

Marshall District Supervisor Mary Leigh McDaniel reported on the Marshall Main Street Improvement Project: VDOT finally gave approval to release the bids. She said it will hopefully go to bid in the next 10 days, according to **Erin Kozanecki, Project Manager and Director of the Office of Management and Budget**. Once they send the bid out it is a minimum of 21 days because it is a Federal project. Bids to come in at the end of October. Audience Q&A: Does the project still include undergrounding? Mary Leigh answered that at this point, yes of course. What is the total cost at this point? Mary Leigh answered that they don't know the cost, they know the budget for the project. The Budget is about \$6.2 million dollars between state, federal, and the funds raised for the undergrounding. Mary Leigh said that they have been continuing to raise funds the past 10 years. She explained that the one concern is that this is a very hot time for construction, so they don't know what the costs will be. Q: When will we have to start writing checks? Mary Leigh said the funds have been set aside, so when the bids come in, they will look at whether the costs come in higher than the budget.

Q: Is PATH Foundation helping? Mary Leigh answered that PATH has agreed to give us \$385,000 towards the

undergrounding. Q: Before the last bid I think you guys allocated \$5 to \$6 million two years ago. Now this thing should cost almost double, should cost maybe \$9 to \$10 million dollars. Mary Leigh answered she does not think that is the case; they have been closely monitoring what the costs are & have been in conversations with the various contractors that they expect to bid, so she will not know until they get the bids in.

Mary Leigh ended by giving a shoutout to Ben Shoemaker; he is an incredible addition to WSA and he has been a great partner to the Board of Supervisors.

Ben Shoemaker, Executive Director of Fauquier County's Water and Sanitation Authority (WSA), was our featured speaker of the evening and shared a PowerPoint presentation (see video at www.MarshallVirginia.org). Ben started here on March 5th of 2018, and in June 2018 he came to speak at the MBRA for the first time. Ben gave an overview of WSA, and said that Mary was nice enough to solicit questions for him in advance.

WSA: Ben said they are an authority and are a standalone local government entity. WSA's peers are other authorities in the state.

A very good mechanism to separate WSA, which is still local government, from the County government whose focus is on the entire County, is that WSA is focused solely on their customers.

WSA takes no tax money; they are funded by users/customers. WSA has a 5-member Board appointed by the Board of Supervisors. **Mike Focazio** was appointed by Mary Leigh McDaniel to serve on the WSA Board for Marshall. Ben said Mike Focazio is a really good asset to the Marshall District.

WSA is customer-funded but they work with County on things of mutual interest to both parties. The Plains: grant-funded in the '70s. Town of Remington was several years ago.

WSA service area runs the whole County from Paris up through Remington. They have 7,000 customer accounts, 48 employees, & 16 groundwater (well) systems throughout the County, generally in Service Districts.

**Don't miss
Johnny Monarch's 1st Annual
Halloween Bash!
5-9 pm Thursday, October 31st
8374 West Main Street, Marshall
Games, Music, Face Painting
Costume Contest, Family Fun
All aboard the haunted bus!**

Fauquier County Parks & Rec offers the following Fall activities, plus more! Pick up a "Good Times Guide" or call the Marshall Community Center at 540-422-8580

*Pottery Wheel Throwing, 10/28-12/9 Mondays, 6-8pm; Fee \$102 or \$153
Gentle Yoga, T, Th, or Sat mornings
Fee \$53 or \$80*

*Women's Self-Defense, Mon, Nov. 4
Fee \$20 or \$30, Register by 10/30/19*

**12-5 pm Saturday October 19th
FREE Howl-O-Ween Paw-ty
Northern Fauquier Community Park
at 4155 Monroe Pkwy, Marshall VA
Costume contests for kids & dogs;
Bring a picnic lunch and make a
day of this FREE event!**

Sept. 10th Meeting notes, continued:
WSA also has other systems they have accepted over the years. They have five home systems at the smallest, and 3,000 in New Baltimore, so WSA spreads across quite a big spectrum.

Only practical solutions. The government works together to get remediated systems.

He explained that wastewater is quite different. It has very regionalized systems, and he listed 3 different ones. Marshall District is the Eastern part of the County all the way down to Opal.

WSA occasionally works with Fauquier County. In 2016, Fauquier County was looking at Midland and Marshall for economic development prospects.

Continued on next page —>

Sept 10th Meeting Notes Continued:

They were looking at commercial and industrial parts of Marshall, but they found infrastructure to be a limiting factor. Water and sewer lines to the eastern portion of Whiting Road, where there will one day be a throughway on Whiting Road.

Ben showed Marshall Service District Map: He discussed the District and the part on Whiting Road that is all zoned to be industrial. Wastewater service is there but there is no water service yet.

Watersheds: Marshall is the intersection of 3 major watersheds. It is great that there is no risk of flooding, but the downside is that water is flowing away from town in every direction. This is challenging.

As far as reservoirs, Fauquier County actually decided about 20 years ago to be groundwater (wells) focused only, so no reservoirs. We rely on 50 wells total providing water to Service Districts throughout the County. Ben said that depending on well water allows you to grow in small stages. One of the downsides when placing production wells is that the area is probably not being recharged; these are very small areas. They try to figure out what area is recharging this aquifer area.

One thing Marshall faced years ago, before WSA, was mold contamination. You want a well site to be more out in the countryside; working with the County and hydrologists to identify what the recharge areas are and monitor the old wells.

Ben discussed averages, peak use days, and maximum demand.

Right now Marshall is served by 4 wells. WSA is working on connecting the well that is north of Rt. 55, east of the tracks, to the system. This well does not necessarily give new capacity, because a lot of this is getting back to where we should have been anyway, before some of Marshall's wells failed.

Water Quality: The interesting and sometimes bad thing about groundwater wells is that each is unique. There is

not much variation in a river or lake, whereas groundwater wells may have vastly different quality.

Over time, as things expand, they will look at ways to remove manganese and iron. Ben explained that everything meets state and federal requirements right now, but they are always looking at ways to improve.

Radiologicals: They actually do test for contaminants.

Volatile Organic Compounds: They probably stem from the '50s/'60s era, fuel tanks that may have leaked, etc. Very little of Marshall water comes from old parts of town, to avoid the long-standing, many decades old contaminants in the ground.

Ben shared another informative map. He said that long-term, they are probably right to go outside the Service District into undeveloped land for water. They may have to pay a bit more for piping in order to bring the water into the Service District, but your day-to-day operations are cheaper and you do not have to treat the water as much. He also explained that the purple circles of problem areas depicted on the map just reinforce why they look outside the Service District for water versus inside the Service District.

Ben shared a map of conservation easements that the County has recorded, depicted in blue. Ben said they look to these areas for wells.

Marshall Wastewater: Ben said the first wastewater reference was in 1929, likely on Frost Street. A private wastewater company then acquired it in 1969. Ben explained that Marshall discharges to the Rappahannock watershed. WSA has a lot of regional cooperation among the states. WSA is dealing with people all the way from New York to the southern tip of Virginia.

Ben shared a map of the area across Rt. 66 and a map of watersheds, and discussed the Chesapeake allocation of the Bay. The idea was that the total level has gone down and the Bay is cleaned up. The downside is that more

people are moving into Virginia rather than moving out. So, they have the same fraction of the Bay that they started with, but a lot more people now. Ben explained that when they all got together 12 years ago, they developed a trading program. It is a major success story of the EPA.

With Fauquier County, he said they bundled Remington and Marshall plants together when talking about nutrients that affect the Bay. If they manage the allocation of the Bay then they can save up, upgrade Marshall; save up, then upgrade Remington.

In 2017, Virginia was the first to meet its Chesapeake Bay goal, and did it better than anybody else did! (See chart, about 45-49 minutes into video)

WSA got together with Virginia's Natural Resources folks. Ben shared a slide about that.

Agriculture - this sort of program is where all the grant money comes from.

Developed Lands - talks a lot about objectives for more low-impact development, capture and prevent runoff.

Septic Systems -- a lot of grant money comes from here, as well.

Multiple Sectors - a catch-all that covers climate change, etc.

Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTPs): Here at Marshall we are a very small, decentralized system that may need a little grant money and assistance.

Ben talked about a vision for the Authority: what are WSA's long term challenges? Where do we need to be investing? WSA is reaching a conclusion with the Board of Supervisors and they are moving forward with a series of initiatives, which he is happy to roll it out here in the future. Ben is focused on more and better communication and feedback with customers and stakeholders.

Continued on next page —>

Sept 10th Meeting Notes, concluded:

Audience Q&A time followed:

Q: What is needed in order for the County to pursue reservoirs? Ben answered that about 20 to 30 years ago, the County decided to focus on groundwater (wells) only for water supply for the County for the foreseeable future. It was written into the Comprehensive Plan to focus solely on that. Before he got here, there were discussions with WSA and the County about maybe we should look at surface water (reservoirs). Right now, however, WSA is focused on following the Comp Plan.

Ben added that it is not an easy subject. Right now, people in other areas are looking to turn quarries into reservoirs. Loudoun County is to develop 4 quarries on Goose Creek long term. Fairfax County has planned to have their reservoir by the year 2100. Ben said that it is a very long-term discussion. Getting into unchartered area. Everyone in the region is looking at reservoirs. One day in the future, Fauquier County will look at it.

Q: Has the County owned reservoir sites in the past, and did they sell them, or what happened? Ben answered that the Auburn Dam was controversial in the '90s. It does show that the future reservoir, abandoned in the 90s. There were a couple others planned: the Salem Dam toward Remington, and there was one at Carters Run.

Q: Once a well is contaminated, is it contaminated once and always? Ben said that treatment systems vary, and gave a thorough explanation. If it is something identifiable - i.e. cleaners 50 years ago that caused the contamination - it could be possible to treat it, but he said you just don't see it much. It's a value proposition.

Q: Have you had to move equipment in Marshall since you have been here? Ben answered that during the drought year in 2017, it got low enough in the pumps that they had to drop it 100 feet; after that we had the wettest year on record and things improved.

Q: Do you know if Van Metre has found any water? Ben answered that originally, there were a couple wells in the Cunningham Property in 2016. V.M. has done a lot of investigation for water. V.M. is still operating under 2014. Ben said that WSA has not received any drop down testing from V.M. since 2016.

Q: If a citizen lives within 1 mile of the Service District and has a high yield well, what should they do? Ben said that WSA would be interested in talking with the property owner. He explained that it is expensive for them to explore water sources for the Service District. The biggest problem today is that they do not know where the future groundwater (well) source is going to be, and that they do exploration to drill to find the best spot. It may be cheaper to buy it from a property owner who has water on their property, than it is for the WSA to go drill their own. Right now, Ben said that WSA is getting the *Salem 3 Well* on; after that, WSA is figuring out where our needs are. They did do exploration in 2016/2017.

Q: What would be a high yield well? Ben answered that this is the difficulty of groundwater. They are looking at larger wells than small ones.

Q: How many gallons per day does Marshall use? Ben illustrated from his presentation, and further explained that Marshall actually uses less water now than it did 2 years ago, because WSA found 2 leaks since that time; one big leak was found near the fire department.

Q: Ever since you came on board with WSA, everything is more efficient. When can we start seeing prices of water go down? Including for businesses on Main Street and the townhouses? We are having trouble paying it. Water costs in Marshall are one third higher than in Bealeton. Ben answered that the only difference is in usage, because all 3 WSA service areas are charged the same.

Q: If the utilities on Main Street are buried, is WSA on board to do any repairs needed? Ben answered that WSA has actually already gone out and completed the sewer assessments.

There was a 12-inch water main that they ran all the way down Rt. 55 and even to Rectortown, as he recalls. Ben explained that it is only 10 years old or less. WSA will be out there when they are working on burying utility lines, so he does not anticipate problems.

Q: You mentioned that all the regions around us are already making long term plans for reservoirs for sustainability. Why is Fauquier waiting? Ben answered that it is driven by the need. 1) Big utilities around us rely on the Potomac River. Anyone new coming in has to pay to maintain their own storage. 2) Three years ago, the Dickerson Power Plant in Maryland had a leak in their oil machine. People were shutting down until it was figured out. All power companies got together after that and the government said they needed to not all rely on the same source because if one does something to mess it up, it is bad for all. Find a way to store it. Ben said that one thing he likes about Marshall's well system is that if one well goes down, you still have a couple others. He said that they want to build resiliency in the system either way they can.

Q: Is WSA looking to harvest rainwater? Ben answered that WSA does not really have an opinion on it, but harvesting rainwater is certainly allowed.

The meeting closed with the Pledge of Allegiance at 9:06 pm. Congratulations to our Free Door Prize Raffle winner! Minutes by Mary-Elizabeth Wilkerson, Secretary.

See MBRA video soon at www.marshallvirginia.org.

Nominations for the MBRA Board of Directors are accepted from 10/1 to 10/31

Have someone you'd like to nominate for election in January to serve as a Director? Nominations can be mailed: P.O. Box 533, Marshall, VA 20115 or emailed to: mbraeditor@gmail.com or handed in to a member of our Board: Mary Wilkerson; Bill Hines; Patty Cloud; Joe Sarsour; Robert Doane; Mary-Elizabeth Wilkerson

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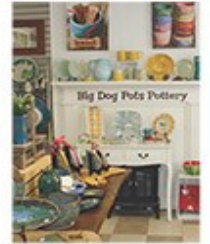
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