



The Friends of Mountwood Park Newsletter

Fall 2025 Issue Vol. 16, No.4

Hello Fall!



Photo WV: Tourism.com

Officers of The Friends of Mountwood Park

Peggy Squires, President
Rose Russell, Vice President
Dina Braniff, Secretary
Mike Naylor, Treasurer

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PARKERSBURG, WV 26102
You can contact Mountwood Park by
calling (304) 679-3611.

*What would happen in the
world without volunteers?
Nothing.*

New Volunteers/Members

We are happy to announce we have two new volunteers to add to the Friends family. We extend a welcome to:

Tina Hescht
Dawn Sturdevant

Letter From the President

It has been a very busy and productive year. A lot has been accomplished thanks to our volunteers and the Park staff. The Park staff has been very supportive in helping us to achieve our goals and dreams. Thanks to all who contributed monetarily or through their labor and time.

Adventure Camp was a lot of fun for all and went smoothly. Mother nature even cooperated and provided water for the creek but no rain on our camp.

We had programs with Search and Rescue Dogs (thank you Angie). Built a Birdhouse (thank you Bob) and learned about snakes and reptiles on a hike with Adam and Daniel (thank you guys). They enjoyed fishing (thank you Bob) and a nature program (thank you Dina).

Enjoyed archery (thank you Big Red Archery), some toured the museum (thank you Mike) and we finished the week with a picnic. A great week!

We held our 15th annual Woof Fest on September 14th. We had Pageants, vendors, and activities for dogs and owners including contests; blessing of the animals and a 5 K mud run on an obstacle course through the park. We are working on some surprises for next year. Next year, the event will be September 13. Mark your calendar.



Also, we will work on Memorial Brick Drive and continue to add Bricks to the Dog Park. If you want to purchase a brick, there are applications on line you can complete to show whatever you want to have engraved in memory of your pet. We will be adding paved paths to the benches.

There was a grand opening for the museum. The Diorama and new addition were very popular as well as the new (old) hit and miss engine. The museum

and outdoor displays continue to grow. We will be open through October. If you have groups who would like to visit let Mike, the Park, or me know. We will be glad to arrange a time for you to visit. Soon, we will begin planning for next year. If you would like to join us, we would love to hear your ideas. Usually, we meet at 1 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. However, this is subject to change so check our website for meeting information.

Hope to see you at Mountwood Park

Peggy Squires, President of The Friends of Mountwood Park

"If you fall during your life, it doesn't matter, because you're never a failure as long as you try to get up. The most important thing in life is, if you have a dream, I mean a real good dream., follow it. follow that dream."
Evel Knievel

Dedication of the new Addition to the Volcano Museum

By Dina Braniff

The Mountwood Park dedication of the new addition to the Volcano Museum August 26th was a great success! The Friends and Park staff worked tirelessly cleaning the Museum and the Park, making everything shine. Park staff did a great job setting up the refreshment tables, the tables and chairs under canopies,

and seating on both sides of a center aisle. The set up was perfect!

We were blessed with wonderful attendance of 75 or more people! Our attendees included members of the Mountwood Park Board, Jeremy Cross, Park Superintendent and his staff, Peggy Squires, President of The Friends of Mountwood Park, and many of the Friend's group. Other guests attending were many generous park patrons who have faithfully made donations enabling the Museum's efforts to preserve and promote the history of Volcano! Jimmy Bee who constructed the diorama of Volcano also joined us. Representatives from the Parkersburg Community Foundation also attended! Members of the Flywheelers attended, vendors participating in Volcano Days and the Mountwood Park Market attended, and all seemed eager to celebrate with us.

The day and weather could not have been better for a celebration. The 19th Street Meat Market catered our refreshments, and they were delicious. Wood County Parks Director Jeremy Cross's welcome and remarks to our guests were well received!

Several people did a remarkable job keeping the secret of the dedication and naming of the Naylor Room Volcano Museum. It has always been Mike Naylor aspiration to have a museum to showcase Volcano's rich history.

Our dedication not only celebrated the new room that doubled our museum's space but celebrated Mike and his wife Carolyn's life

quest to uncover the wonderful history of Volcano!

Our guests enjoyed our color program celebrating the dedication of the Naylor Room! Every guest was in awe of the exhibits.

We want to thank all those who came out to the Park to celebrate with us and support our every effort! Mountwood Park and The Friends of Mountwood Park are grateful to all who share our passion for promoting and preserving the rich history of Volcano!

*"To be good, and to do good,
is all we have to do."*

*John Adams, 2nd President
of the United States*

Museum Update

By Mike Naylor

From May 1 through the end of September, we had 1,791 visitors at the museum. We might break 2,000 by the end of October!

I want to thank the individuals who steadfastly volunteered to work in the museum so it could be open for you to enjoy. A big thanks goes to Rose Russell, Peggy Squires, Dina Braniff, Dawn Sturdevant, Tina Hescht, Kyra Scadden, Jimmie Bee, Krista Bee, and Carolyn Naylor.

We are fortunate to have Mountwood Park staff as partners. They provide

great support; and without them, we would be stumbling along.

For a museum to be successful, it can never be finished. New ideas and displays need to be forthcoming; otherwise, it will become stagnant and the public will not continue to visit. If you have any suggestions concerning the museum or artifacts to donate to the museum, please contact me or the Park.

The West Virginia Central Federal Credit Union has granted us \$1,500 to restore a Volcano era engine house. Once completed, a working engine will be moved in and will power a complete eccentric pump jack.

Haessly Lumber Company of Marietta has donated the necessary lumber and through donations and sales at the museum the Friends of Mountwood Park will give \$2,000 to complete the project.

Dear public, thank you!

*"Alone we can do so little,
together we can do so much."*
Helen Keller

Engine House Restoration Award **By Mike Naylor**

The West Virginia Federal Central Credit Union has awarded the Park \$1,500 to restore the Volcano-era engine house donated earlier this year. The Park and Friends pooled resources to acquire a

second working "hit and miss engine" to be placed in the engine house.



The engine will power an original eccentric pump jack system. This is similar to the endless cable system; however, it pumps multiple wells via steel rods attached to an offset plate.

*"Sticks in a bundle are
unbreakable."*

Kenya Proverb

Gifts to the Museum

By Carolyn Naylor

We want to thank Phil Rager for his recent donation to the Volcano museum—the mail box from the Catholic Rectory. Once the priest left, the Lee family moved into the rectory and used the mailbox.

We also want to thank Phil's wife Tina who donated several artifacts and memorabilia.

Thanks to donors like Phil and Tina, we can continue to preserve Volcano artifacts and educate our children about the history of that little Wood county oil boom town. Without donors like Phil and Tina, the museum could not complete its purpose which is to make sure Volcano history is not lost.

"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success."

Henry Ford

35th Annual Volcano Days at Mountwood Park

By Carolyn Naylor

The last weekend of September was humming with excitement during the 35th annual Volcano Days celebration. The festival commemorates the oil and gas history of our area and the oil boom town of Volcano.



The event brought to the Park over 120 vendors and crafters and live demonstrations. One vendor, Dan Lipscomb, owner of DanMade Knives and Blacksmith, had demonstrations with his forge and even allowed visitors to try out blacksmithing. This year there were a record number of hit-and-miss engines and visitors to the Volcano museum. I am happy to report there were approximately 919 visitors to the Volcano Museum during the event.

Everybody can experience the fun and excitement of Volcano Days—it is always free to the public. Donations are accepted and all donations go back to the festival for the next year.

"We may all have come on different ships, but we're in the same boat now."

Martin Luther King

Friends of Mountwood Park Adventure Camp!

By Carolyn Naylor

Adventure Camp was a successful event. The campers were physically active during each days' events.



What fun they had learning about reptiles and amphibians from members of The Appalachian Herpetological Society. The Society led them on a search to find animals we share the world with.



Each child had the opportunity to:

- Build a bird house to take home.
- Learn about the skills dogs possess to find lost humans and witness the dogs at work.
- Learn about entomology, bees, butterflies, and pollinators.
- Test their skills at archery and fishing.
- Learn about conservation and respect for our natural resources.

The children experienced so much more than what is listed above. The volunteers were happy to witness them talking and laughing with each other. They were running around in the grass and playing in the creek. I did not see any cell phones.

"The secret is to gang up on the problem, rather than each other."

Thomas Stalikamp

15th Annual Woof Fest, the Festival for Dogs and Owners By Carolyn Naylor



Woof Fest Royalty

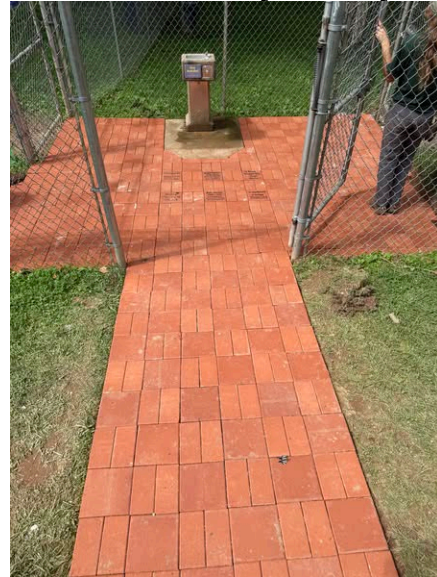
The 15th annual Woof Fest Festival was held at Mountwood Park on Sunday, September 14. Thanks to all the work Peggy Squires, The Friends of Mountwood Park president and coordinator of Woof Fest, the event was a success.

Peggy describes Woof Fest as a carnival for dogs and is a reminder to people that there are many feats dogs can do. They make great companions, can do tricks, and some work as therapy dogs. Dogs enjoy accomplishing tasks.

*“The greatness of a nation
and its moral progress can
be judged by the way its
animals are treated.”*

*Mohandas Karamchand
Gandhi*

Dog Park Memorial Walk By Carolyn Naylor



It is not too late to purchase a memorial brick to honor your pet that has passed. More details can be found on our website:
<https://Friendsofmountwoodpark.com>.
Then click on CONTACT.

If you have any questions, contact Peggy Squires at 304-588-9148.

*“Power tends to corrupt and
absolute power corrupts
absolutely.”*

Lord John Dalberg-Acton

Postcard From the Past

By Carolyn Naylor

This beautiful post card was received by Volcano resident, Mrs. Lottie (West) Lee. Lottie was the daughter of George West.



This card is just one of several cards that were donated to the museum by Tina Rager. Tina, thank you!

Volcano Temperance League

VOLANO TEMPERANCE LEAGUE

DECLARATION,

Parkersburg Examiner, August 15, 1874—

WHEREAS, The interests of the liquor traffic control the cities and largely influence State legislation and the local priorities of the country, therefore

RESOLVED, That decisive temperance action has now become obligatory and

important, and that we, as representatives of the Temperance League of Wood county (sic), declare that in future elections we will support only anti-license men for office and those in favor of the suppression of the sales of liquors as a beverage.

RESOLVED, That if we cannot select men from the party candidates who are known advocates of the cause of temperance, we will in convention fill up with nominations that will support anti-license measures and for whom we shall canvass and vote.

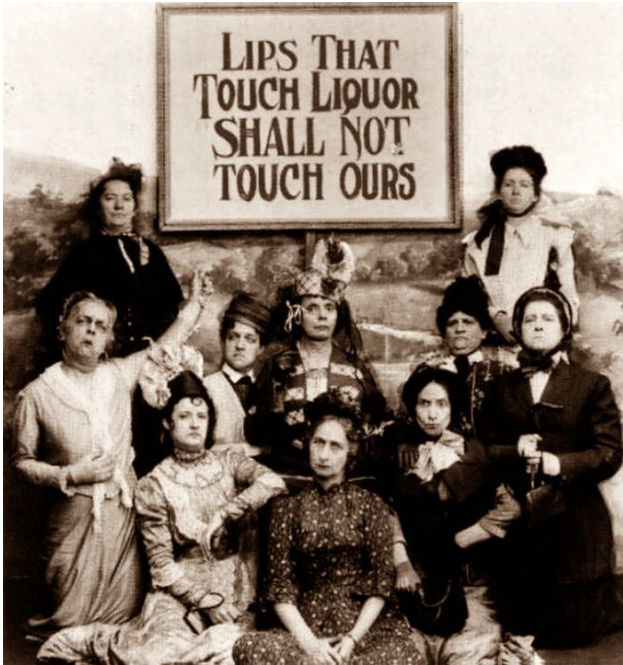
E. W. Staples, Chairman V. T. L.

G. H. Moore, Secretary

Volcano, August 9, 1874

What was the Temperance Movement and What Did it

do? The movement began in the early 1800s as a movement to limit drinking in the United States. The movement combined a concern for general social ills with religious sentiment and practical health considerations. The temperance activities eventually led to prohibition. The poster below is just one of many put out by the temperance movement.



“Prohibition only drives drunkenness behind doors and into dark places, and does not cure it, or even diminish it.”

Mark Twain

The Parkersburg Sentinel, May 3, 1901

LICENSE REFUSED

Both at Volcano and Waverly.
County Court Heard Protests From Each
Village.

From Monday's Daily

“The license term of the County Court began this morning and will be in session several days granting licenses to sell liquor.

The court decided this morning to issue licenses to all those who had certificates from the city, and those refused by the city would be refused by the Court.

Several of the latter made application but they were refused.

When Court commenced this morning there was a large delegation of prominent citizens present from Waverly. They addressed the court and protested against the granting of license to anyone at that place, for the reason that there was no adequate protection.

The court decided not to grant a license at that place, and an application that was made this afternoon by a man named Pettay was turned down.

A delegation of prominent citizens from Volcano, presented a petition signed by 105 persons of that village and vicinity, protesting against the granting of a license to sell liquor at that place.

Members of the delegation stated that a licensed saloon was a menace to society, property, and the lives of the people in the community. Liquor was sold, they said, to anyone who had the price, even to small boys, and drunken brawls were common. It was suggested by a member of the court that if the saloon was closed, speakeasies would be the result. The delegation stated that they would take care of any speakeasy that attempted to do business in that community.

The court decided not to grant a license at Volcano.”

Thanksgiving

Old Rhyme

Thanksgiving

The year has turned its circle,
The seasons come and go.
The harvest all is gathered in
And chilly north winds blow.
Orchards have shared their treasures,
The fields, their yellow grain,
So open wide the doorway
Thanksgiving comes again!

**We Hope you Have a Wonderful
Thanksgiving.**

Mountwood Park Meetings

Friends of Mountwood Park meetings are usually the 2nd Thursday of each month at 1:00 pm at the Stiles Administration Building. If you are unsure about the time and place, please check our Facebook page. If you are a member and if we have your current email address, you should receive a meeting notice. If you have any questions, please call or text Peggy Squires at 304-588-9148.

Wood County Parks and Recreation Board (Mountwood Park) meet on the 3rd Monday of each month, 6 pm, at the Stiles Administration Building.

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