

Greasy-Gooney 10K

Inside the BCCA

Upcoming Events

October 12 BCCA General Meeting
7:30 p.m.
October 24 Greasy-Gooney 10K
8:00 a.m.– noon

View the entire online calendar of events at
<https://browntowncommunity.com/calendar>



Submission Deadline

Early deadline for the November issue. All submissions must be received by October 19.

Get the Newsletter and Community Notices

To get the newsletter delivered to you by email, send an email to
newsletter+subscribe@browntowncommunity.com

For periodic announcements of items of interest, send an email to
community-notices+subscribe@browntowncommunity.com.

Choose one or both! You'll get an email that acknowledges your request to join. Simply reply to the acknowledgement and you should receive a confirmation that you have joined.

Back issues of the newsletter are available on [our website](#).

Community Engagement Committee Starts Planning Holiday Events

By Gène J. Raymond

In the latter part of 2025, the Community Engagement Committee (CEC) was initially formed as an ad hoc committee. Several months later, its purpose was formalized and became a standing committee. Early in September, a small group of volunteers got together to get the ball rolling, beginning with a broad list of ideas for potential functions during the year. Such events help promote the Association's mission to strengthen fellowship in the community as well as making use of the facility for functions of interest to the community.

We're barely a week into autumn. For the CEC members, discussions are focused on the winter holidays, particularly the Holiday Social. The group hopes to announce a date in the very near future as it solidifies the details of the function. In addition, they are evaluating options for some of the kids. Watch for an upcoming announcement with more details.

Current contributors to the CEC are Linda Arnold, Emma Bricker, Dianne Lacy, Debbie Sutton, Carole Tomhave. I am working with the committee to document event plans and results, not only for historical and archival purposes, but also so that similar events don't have to be reinvented from scratch in the future. The group is using collaborative resources from our Google Workspace tools to manage meeting notices, store and share documents, and host remote meetings.

If you're interested in participating in CEC, contact Emma at browntownbowls@gmail.com or hit the [Contact Us](#) on the website.- www.browntowncommunity.com.

President's Message

Greetings, everyone.

Well, it's October and the cool crisp fall air has arrived. We just wrapped up our Fall Yard Sale, so thanks to all who donated your treasures, thanks to Patsy and Denny Pennington for meeting the donors when they dropped off their items, thanks to Roxanne Campbell, Mary McKinney, Hope Kirtley and Cindy Cunningham for sorting and setting up all the yard sale items, and thanks to Roxanne, Debbie Sylvester, Mary McKinney, Cyrus Cornwell, Linda Arnold and myself for working the kitchen/sales floor and thanks to Dave Buracker for putting out the signs on 340. It was great to see old friends and neighbors and also to meet new faces in our community. Our yard sale was a big success; we were stuffed to the max inside our building and we are grateful. We use the Yard Sale proceeds to pay the bills at the Community Center – electric, propane, insurance and maintenance! It takes a lot to keep this historical building maintained! I don't have the exact total yet, but we raised somewhere close to \$7,000 with this yard sale! So, thanks to all who donated and helped! When you give in the community in which you live, you can see where your money goes!

Our new Kitchen Grand Reopening Open House was a success! Thanks to the Browntown Boys who entertained us with their music and for all the delicious food everyone brought. The final report by our Kitchen Project Manager Steve Merz was that we budgeted \$50K for the project. We spent about \$39K, received about 8K in in-kind items, and lots of donated labor by our Buildings and Grounds Committee and the Kitchen Sink Team. Big thanks to the estates of Doodle Campbell and Sam Updike for the generous donations that made the kitchen remodel possible.

We are still planning to add a Kids Club (actual name to be determined) for kids 7-15. We need kids and parents to accomplish this. An indoor movie night is being planned as a first get together and then we'll go from there. Once the movie night has been set, we'll post on [Facebook](#), website www.browntowncommunity.com and our community email distribution if it happens that the date is prior to our next newsletter.

Finally, our Christmas Bazaar is Saturday, Nov 21! So, save the date!

Take care,

Martha Buracker
President BCCA

Volunteer Opportunities

The BCCA is seeking candidates for officers, particularly for the Secretary and Treasurer roles. If you are interested in running, contact Martha at marthaburacker@gmail.com.

Mike Proise is looking for two or three volunteers to serve on the ad hoc Technology Advisory Committee. You don't need to be a technology guru to participate. This group will develop policies regarding network usage, migration of the current copper-based phone line (POTS) to a digital solution, and evaluating options for an eventual implementation of a digital point of sales (POS) system.

Cyrus Cornwell is looking for kids from the ages of 7 to 15 who would be interested in youth activities at the Community Center. Additionally, the proposed group will need some adult volunteers to help coordinate the efforts and provide supervision. For more information, contact Cyrus at 540-305-0537 or Martha at marthaburacker@gmail.com.

Closing Loopholes: Renewed Focus on Deed Fraud

By Gène J. Raymond

Martha Buracker says, "Deed fraud has gotten to be a big thing." Deed fraud typically occurs when somebody forges a property owner's deed, files the falsified deed with the court, then fraudulently sells the property or lists it as collateral for a loan. When the legitimate property owner becomes aware of the crime, it's often just the tip of the iceberg in terms of resolving the legal ramifications. Buracker adds, "Most of the fraudsters are trying this on vacant land parcels."

Earlier this year, the Commonwealth enacted a couple of bills which are poised to put in place additional checks to the processes of deed recording. Santiago Montalvo, staff council for Virginia REALTORS®, released a blog post this past June titled [New Laws Aim to Fight Deed Fraud](#) in which he writes about recordkeeping changes that notaries had to implement this year. Additionally, he writes about an [alert system](#) that the Commonwealth court system has implemented. This alert system provides an avenue for property owners to be notified about court filings against their deeds. Landowners can register their properties for free at the online system, reachable at <https://risweb.vacourts.gov/VADeedAlert/>.

(Community in Motion, continued from front page)

Although the race is technically not a fundraiser, each year's proceeds are donated to the [BCCA](#) and to the [Humane Society of Warren County](#). Last year's 10K netted each organization \$643.26!

If you yourself would be interested in participating in the 10K as either a runner or a volunteer, visit GG10K.com for full event information and race registration, or contact race director Karsten Brown at karsten@gg10k.com or (540) 425-4771 if you'd like to help out on the morning of the 24th.

Treasurer's Corner

Greetings!

Welcome to fall, y'all! The Fall Yard Sale kicks off the autumn season and preliminary results show it was a huge success despite the power outage the first Saturday. The ladies got to test out the new kitchen so I know they were happy with a more organized space to work and a safe stove! Thank you to all the volunteers that made it a success; you are greatly appreciated!

August 2026 – Income ~\$52,160

- Christmas Bazaar Tables – \$160
- Treasury Bill Maturation – \$52,000

August 2026 – Expenses ~\$10,808

The majority of the costs fall into these categories:

- Electricity – \$203
- Newsletter – ~\$42
- Kitchen Renovation:
 - ◆ Gas Hookup – \$3,533
 - ◆ Supplies – ~\$1,598
- Mowing – ~\$345
- Website/Internet Service
 - ◆ existing service – ~\$151
 - ◆ Starlink – ~\$10
- Funeral Food Donation – \$99.99
- Treasury Bill Renewal – \$51,003.65

Reminder: If you want to make a donation to the BCCA, we have 3 separate funds set up now – (1) Soffit and Gutter Repair, (2) Kitchen Renovation and (3) Roof Replacement. Please annotate on your donation if you would like it to go to a specific project. All donations are welcomed and greatly appreciated.

We have three people that have requested to be nominated for the Treasurer position. THANK YOU! I will provide the candidates information separately (*see page 9*). We will invite them to the meeting Monday, October 12, to introduce themselves and their qualifications.

Nancy McDermott
BCCA Treasurer
nancymcd.bcca@gmail.com

BROWNTOWN COMMUNITY CENTER ASSOCIATION

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2027

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The BEARR Group

Keeping Our Community Safe

By Brian Wilkinson

Fall Cleanup Tips to Protect Your Home From Wildfires

Cooler temperatures do not eliminate wildfire risk. A little fall cleanup now can help protect your home and property. This fall, take time to:

- Clear pine needles, leaves, and other debris from roofs, gutters, decks, and around foundations
- Move firewood and other combustible materials at least 30 feet from your home when possible
- Trim grasses and vegetation around structures
- Remove dead branches, shrubs, and other dry vegetation
- Keep propane tanks and outdoor equipment free of vegetation

If you are burning brush remember the "BURN" protocol:

- B** – Be Prepared: Check the local weather forecast. Never burn on dry or windy days. Keep piles small (under 4 × 4 feet) and clear a 10-foot radius of bare dirt around the pile.
- U** - Use Safety Equipment: Wear cotton clothing (synthetic materials can melt onto skin). Keep a reliable water source, rakes, and shovels immediately next to the burn area.
- R** - Reference Burn Policies: Verify current regional restrictions, red flag warnings, or required burn permits before lighting anything.
- N** - Never Use Accelerants: Do not use gasoline, kerosene, or lighter fluid to start or revive a fire.

Fire Prevention Week to Launch

Warren County Fire and Rescue will mark the start of Fire Prevention week with a community event. The event will address risks related to lithium-ion batteries that are used in cell phones, laptop computers, power tools, and various other rechargeable devices. In addition, there will be educational tools for learning basic fire safety skills, home escape planning, and other safety activities.

The Fire Prevention Kickoff event will take place on October 4 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Front Royal Volunteer Fire Department, 211 North Commerce Avenue.

Gooney Valley History and Preservation Club

By Tom Lacombe and Brian Wilkinson

Some Memories Of Life In Our Area In Years Gone By

The article below was first published in the February, 1993 edition of the BCCA Newsletter. It is a summary of an interview with three long-time Browntown residents, Ruby and Leroy Compton, and Truman Baggarly. Our understanding is that the interviewer was Emily Stimson.

"All were born at home (Truman was delivered by Dr. Updike, who made house calls riding horseback) and as children they walked to Browntown from one to three miles each way.

When they were young in the '20s and '30s, people were quite self-sufficient. They planted crops of wheat and corn for sale and to be taken to mills in Front Royal and Bentonville to be ground into flour for home use. Animals were raised for market, cattle, sheep, and hogs, and for personal consumption. There were apple orchards on the farms surrounding Browntown and a local distillery where Mrs. Smelser's store now stands; residents could stop in for a drink of apple brandy. At one time the store, now Rudacille's, used a second room and sold a large variety of general merchandise. Even so, people traveled to Front Royal, perhaps once a week. When the trip was made by horse and wagon or buggy it took two or three hours. In winter "irons" were heated in the stove and wrapped in rugs to provide warmth on the trip.

Without television, entertainment depended on social interaction. Everyone enjoyed the square dances that were held in private homes, where music was provided by fiddlers, guitar and banjo players (tunes like Turkey in the Straw and Old Joe Clark) and a hat was passed to pay the musicians. There were dances at the Moose Lodge in Front Royal, too, and Bailey Circus when it came to town.

Automobiles, trucks, and mechanized farm equipment have replaced horses, and children now travel to school by bus. Electricity and telephones make daily life more comfortable. However, Ruby still cooks by preference on a beautiful white enamel wood stove, although she also has a gas range. Truman maintains an old-fashioned saw mill on his property and uses it. And sometimes the Comptons still build the rock walls traditionally used to fence fields and farms.

The apple trees were not replaced when they died and people only occasionally put in crops now, but cattle are being raised for market and homes heated by wood stoves. Many area residents continue to plant large vegetable gardens. Were the winters colder too? Well, maybe. They remember the three to four foot snowfall in the '60s when it was several days before the roads were cleared by a bulldozer. And it was usual to have snow at Christmas time.



*Truman and Frances
Baggarly posing for a picture
in their root cellar*

Were times better then than now? Ruby and Leroy think they were just different. They have wonderful memories of the past but they enjoy the present too. However, as Truman pointed out, farming was hard physical work requiring early rising and constant chores and life is certainly a lot easier now."

To learn more about the history of Browntown, visit the Gooney Valley History Club's website at gooneyvalleyhistory.com.

Obituaries

Barbara Tilden Neitzey, 86, of Front Royal and formerly of Browntown, passed away on September 15, 2026, at the Lynn Care Center in Front Royal. A graveside service was held on September 24, at 2:00 p.m. in Panorama Memorial Gardens with Sammy Campbell officiating. Mrs. Neitzey was born September 1, 1940 in Boston, Massachusetts, daughter of the late Robert and Caroline Haller Tilden. She was a member of the U.S. Army Women's Corp. Surviving is one son, John Matthew Neitzey of Edgewater, Maryland; and a brother, Chris Tilden of Boston, Massachusetts. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Howell Randolph Neitzey; a son, Stephen Andrew Neitzey and a brother, Robert Tilden. In 1980, Barbara and Randolph moved to a house on Boulder View Lane that Randolph built. Barbara was a very active member of the Browntown Community Center, through the 80s, 90s and early 2000s. Her husband's family owned Liberty Hall farm in the 50s. Condolences may be sent to the family at maddoxfuneralhome.com

Tim Larry Clem; With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of a beloved father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, and friend. He departed this life leaving behind a legacy of kindness, generosity, and unwavering love for his family and friends. A true outdoorsman at heart, he found his greatest joy in the woods and fields, where he spent countless hours hunting, exploring nature, and appreciating its beauty. Sharing stories with friends and family brought him much joy. He was a man of integrity whose handshake was firm, whose word could be trusted, and whose heart was always open to those in need. Known for simple values and a deep respect for others, he found purpose in helping those around him and took great pride in treating everyone with kindness and fairness. Those waiting to welcome him home included his beloved wife, Lorraine Clem, and his daughter, Teresa Clem Rowland. Though their loss was deeply felt his kind and generous spirit, he never met a stranger and was always willing to lend a helping hand. Friends, family, and neighbors could count on him for support, sound advice, or simply a listening ear. His warmth, humor, and genuine nature left a lasting impression on everyone fortunate enough to know him. Guided, the bond they shared as a family never diminished, and their memories will be cherished always. He is survived by his son, Larry Clem; his

brother, Colin Clem; his cherished grandchildren, Stephanie, Mary, Danielle, Timothy, Katelyn, Alexis, and Logan; and his treasured great-grandson, Jameson. He also leaves behind many extended family members, lifelong friends, hunting companions, and neighbors who will deeply miss his presence, wisdom, and friendship. Though our hearts are saddened by his passing, we take comfort in knowing that his legacy lives on through the family he loved so dearly and the many lives he touched through his generosity and kindness. His memory will forever be found in the woods he loved, in the stories shared among friends and family, and in the hearts of those fortunate enough to have known him. Graveside and interment services were held in Prospect Hill Cemetery, Front Royal, VA, on, September 17, 2026.

John Deane O'Connell, 72, of Mechanicsville, VA, passed away peacefully at home on September 3, 2026 after a courageous battle with cancer.

Born on January 4, 1954, in Arlington, VA, he was the son of James and Virginia (Deane) O'Connell. Deane spent many of his early years living in Okinawa, Japan and later attended Flint Hill School, graduating in 1972. Deane then went on to graduate from Lynchburg College in 1976 and worked as an optician before retiring in 2018.

Deane was a magic enthusiast and was deeply passionate about honing his craft. Deane was a lifetime member of the International Magicians Society and in 2002 was elected a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians.

Known for his quick wit and generous heart, Deane spent much of his free time doting on his children and grandchildren. Deane truly enjoyed sharing his knowledge of movies, magic, and jokes with everyone he met.

Deane was preceded in death by his parents and siblings, James and Diane. He is survived by his children Tiara and Ryan (Caitlin); grandchildren Julian, Bella, Beau, Patrick, and William; and sister Maureen (Daniel). Deane also leaves behind many beloved nieces, nephews, and dear friends.

Many of you may remember Deane as Renee's husband. They lived in the old Deaver's "Big House" near Win Smedley's.

Meet the Candidates:

Who Is Running for BCCA Treasurer?

By Nancy McDermott, BCCA Treasurer and member of the Nominating Committee

Brandy Poe

I am interested in the Treasurer position for the Browntown Community Center if you are still looking for someone. I worked for FEMA for 27 years as an accountant and am currently working for the Warren County Government as a Deputy Commissioner of Revenue III. I'm experienced in QuickBooks and Excel, in addition to the Government specific financial software.

Issac Elliott

I believe I would be well qualified to serve as Community Treasurer because of my strong connection to the community, along with my background in leadership, accountability, and service. I grew up in Browntown as a kid, so this community has always been important to me. Since retiring from the U.S. Army in November of last year, I have made an effort to become more involved in the community, including volunteering with the local fire department. During my military career, I held leadership and technical inspection positions that required attention to detail, accurate recordkeeping, accountability, and responsible management of resources. I am also currently pursuing a degree in business, which is continuing to strengthen my knowledge of budgeting, financial management, and responsible business practices. I would bring the same integrity, organization, and accountability that I learned through my military service to the Treasurer position. Most importantly, I see this as an opportunity to give back to a community that has been part of my life since childhood and to help ensure its finances are managed responsibly and transparently.

Sabrina Sinclair

I work for Warren County public schools. I was the Treasurer for Linden Heights Homeowners Association for years before we moved to Browntown.

Beyond the Inbox: Email Features That Can Help You Organize

By Gène J. Raymond

Early email systems were around long before there was the Internet that we know today. The first computer-to-computer message was transmitted in late October 1969 as part of a research project funded by the Department of Defense. The project was called ARPANET. In 1981, two academic institutions were working on a network system that supported functions to collect user email and files, store them, and then send them to the other location using their mainframe computers. This developed into BITNET, which eventually made email possible for students, faculty, and researchers across 3,000 facilities. Today, practically everybody has an email address. Although texting has probably cut into our use of email, we still rely on email for everything from keeping in touch with distant family members to getting utility bills. Sometimes you can be overwhelmed by all the email you get. Fortunately, most email programs include a rich set of tools to help rein in the chaos. Let's take a look at a few of them.

Tags – Tags are a way of categorizing your mail, usually with color. You apply the tag to specific emails and they show up in your email list in a different color or with a colored flag. For example, I worked in an office where multiple people monitored a departmental inbox. If I read an email that I was going to work on, I would tag it with a colored flag. Others reviewing the same inbox list would know that when they saw the light blue flag, I was actively handling the issue and they could move on to another message. If you get office and personal email at the same address, you could potentially add a colored tag to your personal emails so that they stand out in a different color in your inbox list. Or you might assign the color red to indicate Important, and when you have important emails, add the red tag so that it stands out in the list. During the newsletter cycle, I use an orange tag to indicate items that I need to review. I can later sort the list so all the orange tags are together. Once I've finished the review, I remove the tag. (In Microsoft Outlook, the feature is called **Categories**. In Gmail, it is called **Labels**.)

Filters – Filters can be summarized as automated rules that use a criteria that you define and, upon receiving an email that matches your criteria, an action is taken. This could be automatically forwarding the email to somebody else, automatically deleting the email, moving it to a specific folder, even applying a tag to it. For example, I have a purple tag that I defined to mean financially-related. I then created a rule that when I receive an email from my bank or certain utility companies, it is automatically tagged with the purple tag. When I view my inbox list, these purple entries stand out from the other list items. If you belong to an organization that sends out periodic emails, you might consider adding a filter to automatically put those emails in a folder outside your main inbox.

Snooze and Reminders – Just like your alarm clock's snooze button makes the noise stop temporarily, an email snooze temporarily hides the email from your list until a specified time. This feature is available in Gmail and some versions of Microsoft Outlook. Reminders work similarly in that you set a time and a reminder message pops up at that time, usually with the email's subject line, but the email isn't hidden as it is with a snooze. Reminders are available in iCloud Mail, Apple Mail, and Microsoft Outlook. (In Microsoft Outlook, set reminders using the Follow-up flag.)

Service Directory

Browntown Baptist Church

12 Browntown Road
Bentonville, VA 22610
Pastor: S. Kaipha Brown
Sunday School @ 10 a.m.
Worship Service @ 11 a.m.

Cool Spring Church of God

Pastor: PG Coverstone
Sunday School at 9:30 and Worship at 10:30.

Limeton Community Church

9 Limeton Main St., Bentonville, VA
Pastor Lorne Fyfe
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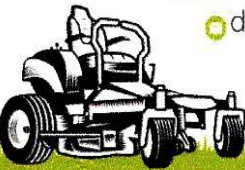
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