



# “Along the Gooney”

Browntown Community Center Association

May, 2025

Vol. 33 No. 05 Editors: Jackie Hodgkiss [Jackie.BCCA@gmail.com](mailto:Jackie.BCCA@gmail.com) & Tom Lacombe [tomlacombe@comcast.net](mailto:tomlacombe@comcast.net)

## **BCCA Board of Directors - 2025**

President	Martha Buracker	540-671-6349
Vice. Pres.	Mary McKinney	540-635-4725
Secretary	Kristin Pence	540-230-1155
Treasurer	Nancy McDermott	703-975-8668
Trustees	Allan Brockway	540 635-7783
	Denny Pennington	540 635-5568
	Wes Deavers	540-631-0016

May 11<sup>th</sup> Sun. Mothers Day

May. 12<sup>th</sup> Mon. BCCA Public Meeting 7:30p.m.

May 28<sup>th</sup> Wed. Deadline for June newsletter

## **Browntown Baptist Church**

12 Browntown Road

Bentonville, VA 22610

Pastor: Sherman Kaipha Brown

Worship Service @ 11 a.m. Fellowship @ 12 p.m.

Check out Browntown Baptist Church's new website:

- Watch/listen to sermons
- Send in a prayer request
- Log on to Bible Study every Wednesday night
- Read about the history of our church
- See calendar of events

Much appreciation to church member Tracy Abbott for his hard work on our website. Stay tuned for more updates. Below is the link.

[\*\*browntownbaptistva@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:browntownbaptistva@gmail.com)

## **Cool Spring Church of God**

Pastor: Jeff Fletcher

Sunday School at 9:30 and Worship at 10:30.

## **Limeton Community Church**

9 Limeton Main St. Bentonville, VA

Pastor Lorne Fyfe

SS at 10 and service at 11

**HIDDEN SPRINGS**  
SENIOR LIVING

**DESTINATION HIDDEN SPRINGS**  
More than a place to live, it's a community built on trust, compassion, and the belief that every stage of life deserves a celebrated destination.

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## **GO FETCHETT LAWN CARE LLC**

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511 Fetchett Road  
Browntown, VA 22610



**John Randolph Kenney Sr.**, 90, of Bentonville, passed on April 18. John was born September 23, 1934 in Fauquier County, Virginia, son of the late Noah W. and Ethel Jenkins Kenney. John was a member of LifePoint Church, formerly First Assembly of God, of Front Royal for over 50 years. He loved socializing with his friends, listening to gospel music and watching westerns. He was always ready with a story or a joke for his grandchildren, Adrienne Wooddell and husband Steve, Jason Kenney and wife Kelly, Chad Williams, Avery Kenney and wife Becky, Whitney Berry and husband Wayne, Corey Kenney and wife Patricia, and Justin Lowe and wife Kayla. Papaw loved watching and bragging on his great-grandchildren. He leaves behind family he was proud of including son, Ronnie Kenney and wife Vickie of Bentonville; son, John R. Kenney Jr. and wife Cheryl of Front Royal; daughter, Carolyn Williams of Front Royal; and son Gary Kenney and wife Lisa of Bentonville. John was preceded in death by his wife, Joyce Mathews Kenney; grandson, Andrew Kenney; and son-in-law, Roy Williams. Memorial gifts may be made to LifePoint Church, 1111 North Shenandoah Ave., Front Royal, VA 22630, Church at Skyline, 7655 Stonewall Jackson Hwy., Front Royal, VA 22630, or Rileyville Baptist Church, Joy Club, 7044 US-340, Rileyville, VA 22650.

**Jackie L. Andrews Sr.**, 73, of Browntown, passed away on April 12, at his home. Jackie was born December 11, 1951 in Warren County, son of the late Dorothea "Dot" Young. He was preceded in death by his mom, Dorothea Young; dad, Frank Young; and three brothers, Butch, Billy and Larry. He was a member of Grace Bible Fellowship and retired from Sysco in Warren County. Surviving is his devoted wife of 54 years, Nancy Atkins Andrews; two sons, J. Lynn Andrews Jr. of Bentonville and Jason Andrews and wife Jennifer of Front Royal; two brothers, Bobby R. Andrews of Roanoke and Ronald W. Andrews of Front Royal; special grandson, Zack Andrews; two special granddaughters, Seana Andrews and Kristina Andrews; and a very dear and special cousin and friend, Roy Menefee. Memorial gifts may be made to Ethnos 360, P.O. Box 8010, Sanford, FL 32772-8010 or to Grace Bible Fellowship Church, 15 Faith Way, Front Royal, VA 22630.

## **O.J. Rudacille Gen. Mdse.**

### **Check us out on Facebook for Browntown History**

**Phone 540-636-2149**

***Serving Browntown since 1884***



**Hours: Mon-Sat 9 to 5**

**Sunday Noon to 4**

**Call Phoenix for auto detailing- 434-978-8968**

### **Deadline for June News: May. 28th**

**Make A Note:** Patsy Pennington is the person to contact if you need to use the Center. Patsy's number is 540-635-5568

***Leave Home A few minutes Earlier***  
**Please Slow Down, Enjoy the Ride**  
 Remember, our roads aren't designed for the amount of traffic they carry these days. I'm sure many of you have been going down the road and find an oncoming vehicle **across the center line**.  
**Watch out for Tractors Hauling Hay**

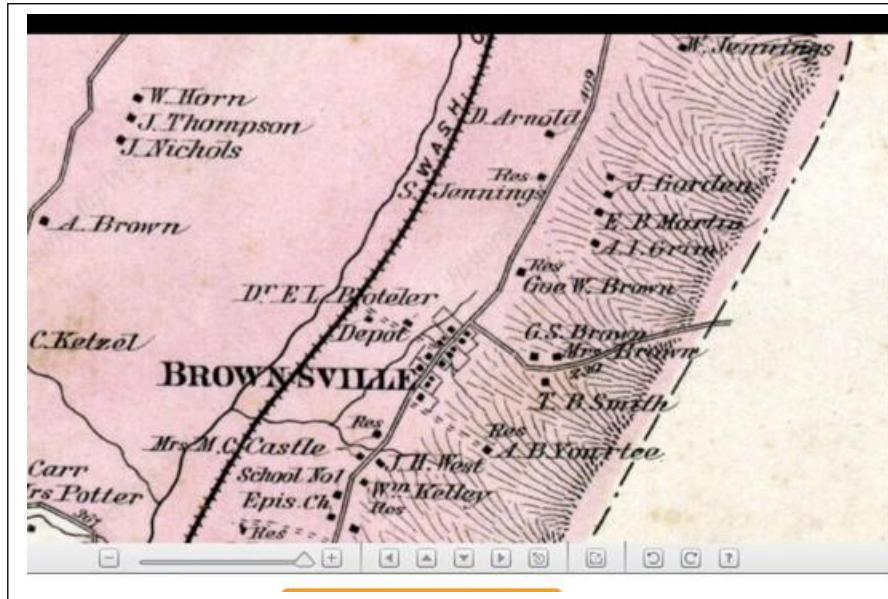
***Our 2025 Historic  
Browntown Calendar***  
 was a great success.  
 We printed 275  
 and **SOLD OUT**.  
 Please help us do  
 the same for 2026.

**Time To Dig Out Those  
Old Photos!**

## WHY OUR VILLAGE COULD BE CALLED JAKE'S TOWN RATHER THAN BROWNTOWN

NOTE: This is the first of two articles – this one focuses on the time before Browntown existed as a village. The second article, which will appear in a future edition of this newsletter, focuses on the man (i.e “Jake”) who actually built most of Browntown.

PART 1: In the early 1800s Gooney Manor (the area that encompasses most of the Gooney Valley) saw a small influx of settlers as land became available to lease or buy. Amongst these settlers were two brothers, Abraham and Samuel Brown, from Brownsville, MD. , near Harper Ferry. (see map below) They, like many of these settlers belonged to a strict religious faith with roots in Germany. The Browns were members of the Church of the Brethren, or Dunkards. It is probable that they still spoke mainly German. Our Browntown did not exist when Abraham and Samuel and their wives (Mary and Abigail Jennings arrived in the Gooney Valley).



The main center of commerce in the Gooney Valley at that time was the small community of Boyd's Mill. The two brothers each bought land (101 acres and 89 acres respectively) two miles south of that community. The 1837 landowners list for Gooney Manor also includes a Rudolph Brown (190 acres) and George W. Brown (100 acres). We do not know much about Rudolph and George but it seems likely that they also came from Brownsville, MD.

Abraham and Samuel were farmers & mill owners, milling grain & sawing timber for neighbors. Abraham also owned and operated a Woolen factory. The precise location of those mills and the woolen factory remains a mystery but they were clearly in the area we know as Browntown. Ironically, members of the Brown family prior to the Civil War did not refer to the area where they lived as “Browntown”. Family letters (known as the “Hezekiah Brown letters”) from the period 1843 to 1865 consistently refer to the area as “Old Gooney” or simply as “Gooney”.

Both Samuel and Abraham and their close families moved west in the late 1840s, to Wood County VA (later WVA). Abraham never returned and died in Wood County in around 1850. Samuel would later move back to Brownsville, MD. He died there in 1853. An 1847 Winchester newspaper advert for a “Gooney Manor Woolen factory, formerly occupied by Mr. Brown” confirms that the name Browntown was still not in use at that time.

**NEITHER ABRAHAM NOR SAMUEL WOULD EVER KNOW THAT THEY HAD A VILLAGE NAMED AFTER THEM.**





## MAY,2025 UPDATE - THE BEARR GROUP "KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE"

THE BEARR GROUP IS NOW ONLINE at [BEARRGroup.com](http://BEARRGroup.com)

Facebook: BEARR Group Instagram: @bearr\_group Twitter: @bearr\_group

### 911 REFLECTIVE SIGNS -HELP FIRST RESPONDERS TO FIND YOUR HOUSE

Cost: \$25 (payable on delivery)-- Free install on existing post or fence

Order yours at [BEARRGroup.com](http://BEARRGroup.com) or email Chris Lewis at [chris@BEARRGroup.com](mailto:chris@BEARRGroup.com) or call 540-538-9928

3  
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### VIRGINIA'S 4 P.M. BURNING LAW NO LONGER IN EFFECT



A NEW COUNTYWIDE OUTDOOR BURN BAN MAY BE ISSUED AT ANY TIME IF CONDITIONS WARRANT IT

**RECOMMENDED:** Call Warren County Communications Center at 540-635-4128 to let them know before you start burning brush.

For updates on local fire conditions visit: <https://www.facebook.com/ForestryVA>

OUR **SIGN** IN THE CENTER OF BROWNTOWN WILL INFORM YOU OF THE DAILY RISK OF WILDFIRES

NEVER BURN ON DRY OR WINDY DAYS BECAUSE IT IS EASY FOR YOUR FIRE TO SPREAD OUT OF CONTROL.

- Burn only yard debris. Open burning of any material that creates dense smoke or noxious odors is prohibited.
- Keep burn pile small or use burn barrel.
- Clear a 15' radius around a barrel and at least a 25' radius around a burn pile, Ensure no tree branches or power lines above. Wet down surrounding area before, during&after the burn.
- Always have water and fire tools nearby: a water-charged hose, bucket of water, shovel, and dirt or sand nearby.
- Stay with the fire. VA law requires that you monitor a debris burn continually until the fire is completely out.
- Extinguish the fire. Drown the burn pile with water, stir the coals&drown again. Repeat until fire completely out.

If the **FIRE** is beyond your control, **STOP** and **CALL 911**

**Presidents Message**

Greetings Everyone!

Here's the latest happenings at the BCCA.....

The **Redbud Festival** was last Saturday and although the morning started out with light rain, about 10 am the weather got nice and we had a great day. We did have a smaller crowd than usual, we suspect the morning rain changed some peoples plans. But for those who came, we hope you had a great time. It takes a lot of work in preparation for the Festival each year and lots of Volunteers. So I want to be sure to thank everyone who helped. If I miss someone, please forgive me. I try to keep track, but sometimes I forget someone. When you see this list you can see how much goes into the Festival.

**Volunteers**

**Kitchen** – Roxanne Campbell, Jessie Sprouse, Missy Moore, Patsy Pennington, Mary McKinney, and Peg Fryxell.

**Craft and Vendor Coordinator** – Emma Bricker and Linda Arnold BCCA and Jayne Guilford at the Church Fellowship Hall

**Outdoor Hotdog & Hamburger Stand** – Lisa and Steve Merz, Debbie and Damon Sutton, Hannah Gresty and Mike Swick

**Signs on the Road** – Mark Thomas

**Redbud Tree Seedlings** – Emma Bricker

**Bake Sale** – Lorraine Smelser and Sherry Thorpe

Thanks to all the Browntown Bakers who donated to the sale!

**Browntown Merchandise** – Paul and Teresa Stambaugh

**Silent Auction** – Martha Buracker, Neil Pennington, Patsy Pennington, Adina Short

**Museum** – Mary McLaughlin, Roger and Carol Tomhave

**Parking** – Carol Jaworski, Mike Prosis, Gene Raymond

**Side by Side Shuttles** – Tim Craig and Dave Buracker

**Duck Race** – Travis McKinney, Neil Pennington, Wes Deavers, Nancy McDermott, Doretha Wethington

**Antique Car Show** – Mark Huddleston and Ron Miller

**Fire Station Display** – Allan Brockway and Brian Wilkinson

**Face Painting** – Laura Alles

**Set Up and Take Down** – Allan Brockway, Wes Deavers, Dave Buracker, Tim Craig, Brian Wilkinson

**Photography for the Day** – Cindy Cunningham – Check out our Facebook Page with all the pictures!

**Sorry if I've missed anyone!**

**Our Sponsors for this Year:**

**Music Sponsor** – Weichert Realtors

**Duck Race Sponsor** – Blackstone Management – Forrest Baggarly

**Car Show Sponsor** – Manor Line Ranch – Edwin Wright

**Advertising Sponsor** – Martha Buracker – Weichert Realtors

**Fence Banner Sponsors** – Ellen Aders – State Farm

Tana Hoffman – Sager Real Estate

Hidden Springs Senior Living – Vickie Rudacille

City National Bank – Katrina Meade

Amanda Slate – Keller Williams

This year marked the first year we've had only one Musician. We've had concerns with getting equipment to the stage by vehicle in the middle of the festival when we have multiple musicians. They have been great, we just got worried that vehicles driving around in the middle of the festival could be dangerous to the kids. So we were just looking for a different option. We got lucky and Ryan Jewel happened to have our festival date open so we booked him for a 4 hour show. Ryan is from Warren County but now shares his time between here and Nashville. Check out some of his YouTube Video's as he not only sings well, but writes his own music! Many are about our area like "Up on the Drive".

Continued on page 6

**Duck Race Winners** – The Annual Gooney Creek Duck Race was great fun and was a neck and neck finish. First Place \$100 – Hank Horowitz, Second Place \$50 Lizz Elliot, Third Place \$25 John Lureau

**Car Show Winners- \$50 each winner**

Peoples Choice – George Glavis's 1929 Ford A

Best Paint – George Glavis's 1929 Ford A

Best Interior – Jim Poe's 1956 DeSoto

Participants Choice – George Pumphrey

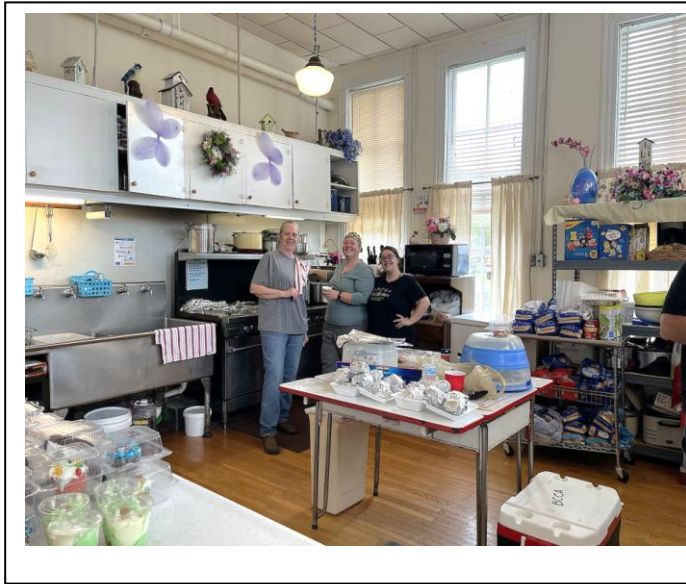
On to the next Event! We've been discussing a Community Yard Sale so that folks in our area can sell their "stuff" themselves. (The BCCA would not be having our own items, the next BCCA sale is September 12, 13, 19 and 20). At the last BCCA Meeting we selected **July 18 and 19 for the individual spaces Yard Sale**. I personally could fill a room, so I'm starting to get my items rounded up now. We will have additional details in the next newsletter and on Facebook.

I think that's it for now! The next BCCA Meeting is Monday, May 12 at 7:30.

Take care, Martha Buracker, President BCCA







The Redbud Festival was a success .... special thanks to all the volunteers.

Events like this require many volunteers. New volunteers are needed, as many of the current volunteers have reached the “Golden Age” and are not able to donate as much of their time. We always need help with annual events and yard sales. It would be a shame if we had to cancel an event due to a lack of help.



Browntown Community Center Assoc.  
96 Browntown Road  
Browntown, VA 22610  
Return Service Requested

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### 2025 Redbud Festival Duck Race A Huge Success!

