



“Along the Gooney”

Browntown Community Center Association

July, 2025

Vol. 33 No. 07 Editors: Jackie Hodgkiss Jackie.BCCA@gmail.com & Tom Lacombe 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

July 4th Friday Independence day

July 7th thru 29th Kids Summer Art Camp

(See Flyer on Page 6 for information)

July 14th Mon. BCCA Public Meeting 7:30p.m.

July 18th & 19th BCCA Yard Sale 9:00 to 3:00

July 24th Deadline for August 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

www.hidden Springs seniorliving.com

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973 Buck Mountain Rd | 540-636-2008

Obituary

Joshua James Ruhling, 1974-2025. Josh was the son of long-time Browntown residents, Ray and Linda Ruhling. My heart, my soul, my love.

Josh, you may have been born in Charlotte NC and raised in Roanoke, but our lives collided in the little town of Woodstock, when a cute young waiter and hostess became the best of friends. We shared many evenings of chocolate milkshakes at the local McDonalds getting to know each other. But, you decided the first day we met at the Spring House Restaurant as you stopped mid-stride with a tray of food in your hands just to check me out, that you would marry me. I wasn't convinced. So, you pursued me for quite a while until I finally gave in to your persistence, and our love story began. We shared many nights under the stars, bike riding, hiking in the mountains, surprising each other with getaways and so much more. One of my favorite memories is when I was in college and you showed up surprising me with delicious pastries you made from scratch along with a little love note. Another was the journal we shared. We took turns each week writing our daily thoughts and feelings to each other, which made our love stronger each day. It didn't take long for the marriage proposal and on September 27, 1997, we became one.

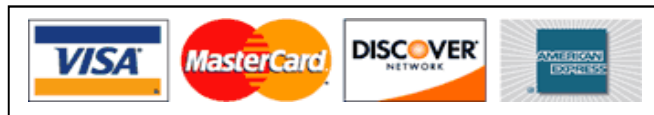
I gained a second family that day. Your parents, Ray and Linda, accepted me as their own from the very beginning. Your brother Erik was not quite a social butterfly like you, but he eventually gave into my hugs of affection and later his wife Sarah did too. In 2000, we finished building our first home and welcomed our daughter Winter the same year. You wanted a daughter so badly and when she was born, the love and pride for her was unmatched. From day one, she had you wrapped around her little finger and that grip never loosened. If that girl asked you for anything you would move heaven and earth to make it happen. In 2002 our family was completed when Silas was born. I think you two talked sports before he could even speak. He quickly became a Boston Red Sox and Washington Redskins fan because of you. But, our family wasn't quite complete, was it? Last year you walked Winter down the aisle and gave her away to Carston, who cherishes her just as you cherished me. Next month, we'll witness our son marrying Cameron, the girl of his dreams. But, you and I will just have slightly different views. We have been so blessed through the years as we have raised our family. Sweetheart, in our thirty years together we built a strong and beautiful marriage.

Continued next column

O.J. Rudacille Gen. Mdse.

Check us out on Facebook for
Browntown History
Phone 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 Aug. News: Jul 24th

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

Continued from previous column:

Were there ugly times? Absolutely, because what marriage doesn't have them? But we chose each other every single time. You set the bar high with how a husband should treat his wife and every day you made me feel like your queen. I already miss the little notes on my pillow, the surprise coffees at work because you just had a feeling I might need one, and the dinners you made me before you went to work. Then there were the flowers for the "just because" moments, the random texts telling me you love me, and holding hands. Oh, and I can't forget the weekly sushi and movie nights on Friday. We are soulmates and you spent every day demonstrating that. Baby, I don't know yet how I will navigate my way through this life without you because you're the half that makes me whole and I'm lost without you. Together we built a life full of friends and family. Our little village has felt your absence more than you could have ever imagined. Joshua James, you are worthy of the title of great husband and father. You are loved, and you are missed. Please thank our heavenly father for letting us borrow you for the time that He did. My peace is knowing I'll see you again.

GOONEY VALLEY HISTORY CLUB

WHAT WAS GOING ON IN BROWNTOWN 100 YEARS AGO?

SOME NEWSPAPER STORIES FROM 1925

Front Royal Record, 19 June 1925

William Smith with several friends from the Remount met with an auto accident Saturday evening, about two miles out from town on the Browntown Road when his car attempted to climb a telephone pole. Result, car very much damaged but no one seriously hurt

Front Royal Record, 24 July 1925

There will be all day singing at the Church of the Brethren at Browntown on Sunday, July 26. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy the day

Warren Sentinel, 21 August 1925

GASOLINE DROPS TWO CENTS: The drop in the price of gasoline reached Front Royal Friday, when a cut was made from 26 cts. to 24 cts. a gallon, by both the Standard and the Texaco companies. Overproduction is given as the reason for this action.

Warren Sentinel, 19 June 1925

Game Warden Shepherd arrested three young men for hunting on Sunday recently near Browntown. They were tried by Squire H. T. Compton and the bunch was fined \$48.50 including costs, and license on three dogs with them that had no tags.

Warren Sentinel, 7 August 1925

Mr. Will Derflinger exhibits some extra fine mammoth cucumbers raised by him at his home on the Browntown road. B. G. Wood of the Fork brought us in one of about the same size. See them in our window.

Warren Sentinel, 3 July 1925

The Browntown Baseball teams are improving. The Junior Team played the Front Royal Juniors and the score was 11 to 16 in favor of Browntown.

Warren Sentinel, 11 September 1925

THE 30th annual reunion of the MOSBY Rangers – 37 battle scarred old troopers, including Vincent Robinson of Browntown – took place on Thursday morning in the Murphy Opera House and later at the Mosby Monument at Prospect Hill. Automobiles then took the veterans to “Ivy Lodge,” the beautiful Davis home on Chester Street.

Continued on page 4

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✉ davidjenkins930@icloud.com

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Browntown, VA 22610



Continued from page 3

Gooney Valley History Club
What Was Going On In Browntown 100 Years Ago
Some Local Newspaper Stories From 1925
WHAT WAS GOING ON IN BROWNTOWN 100 YEARS
AGO?

SOME NEWSPAPER STORIES FROM 1925

Front Royal Record, 23 October 1925

JACOB MASEMER TO BE BURIED HERE TODAY

Jacob Masemer, a prominent contractor, died suddenly of heart trouble at his home in Browntown on Tuesday. He was apparently in good health and after finishing his supper went over to a store and talked and joked with his friends. After his return home he went upstairs and was suddenly stricken. Calling to the members of the family he told them to send for a doctor. His wife gave him some medicine that he had been accustomed to taking, but it had no effect and he passed away in a few minutes while sitting in his chair.

Front Royal Record, 22 September 1925

September 18th, 1925. Willys Overland, Inc., of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia: "Through the courtesy of your factory representative I had the pleasure of driving your new Model 66 Willys-Knight today. I took the car up Mel Henry Hill on the Browntown Road, starting at the bottom at about fifteen miles per hour and negotiated this hill at that speed, slowing down at the curves and finally opening the throttle and at the top of the hill easily made 35 miles per hour. I was amazed at its performance as it is about the finest car I have ever driven. Its power is wonderful, it has fine speed, and as for riding comfort it cannot be equalled."

****VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO READ MORE STORIES ABOUT THE HISTORY OF**
OUR VALLEY AND ITS PEOPLE: <https://gooneyvalleyhistoryclub.com>
"DON'T THROW IT OUT!"

Photos like those in our 2025 Calendar are sometimes the only link we
have with the past.

If you have any old copies of local newspapers, photos, movies, or other
local family or historical artifacts please let Tom Lacombe know or simply
bring them along to his shop



Martha Buracker, Realtor
Weichert Realtors
824 John Marshall Hwy
Front Royal, VA

"Your Shenandoah Valley Expert"

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Cell: 540-671-6349
Office: 540-635-8000
marthaburacker@gmail.com



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President's Message

Greetings Fellow Browntowners,

Wow, July already and summer is definitely here. First, I'd like to mention some of the Events at the Center this month:

Our summer **Community Yard Sale is July 18 and 19**. This is for anyone in the community who wants to have space for their own table to sell all their "treasures". A few inside tables remain, as well as outside space. A great time to declutter your house and make a little cash. See flyer for details.

Art Camp for Kids – There are multiple camps each with their own age group and theme, so get those little humans signed up for some fun! Space is limited and the first Camp begins July 7, so don't wait if you are interested. See the flyer for details and registration info.

The next meeting of the BCCA is Monday, July 14th at 7:30 so please know that all are welcome to attend.

Our regular BCCA Fall Yard Sale, where we sell items donated to the center is two weekends in September.

The first weekend is September 12 & 13 and then again on September 19 & 20. If you'd like to make a donation of your good used items, please contact Patsy Pennington at 540-635-5568 or Roxanne Campbell at 540-622-4117. Please note that both Patsy and Denny Pennington have had some health issues lately and we wish them both a speedy recovery. Actually for the next couple of weeks, it's probably better to contact Roxanne so that Patsy and Denny can rest.

I can't think of much other news, so please stay cool in this heat and enjoy the summer.

Take care,

Martha Buracker,

President Browntown Community Center Association

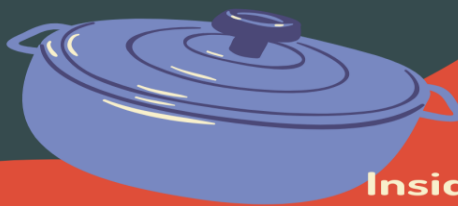
The Browntown Community Center is sponsoring a

Browntown Community Yard Sale

Friday, July 18 & Saturday July 19

9 am - 3pm both days

Sell your stuff! Make some cash!



**Inside Tables \$15 ea
Outside Space \$15 bring your
own tables and tent**

Food will be sold by BCCA in the Kitchen

**For more information or
reserve a spot call**

**540-671-6349 or email martha buracker at
marthaburacker@gmail.com**

**96 Browntown Rd,
Browntown, VA
22610**



**Creativity
Awaits**

KIDS SUMMER ART CAMP

**Browntown Community
Center**

**96 Browntown rd
Bentonville VA 22610**



Camp Dates & Theme (all camps are 2 days 9am-3pm)

- Food Sculptures (Ages 8-12) July 7th/8th
- All Things Bugs (Ages 4-8) July 10th/11th
- Fairy Garden (Ages 6-11) July 22nd/23rd
- Art CAMP (Ages 8-12) July 24th/25th
- Unicorns & Rainbows (Ages 5-9) July 28th/29th

Registration Information:

please reach out to me (Jessie Sprouse) to register your kiddo or feel free to ask me any questions. All materials are included. snacks and drinks will be provided. Please pack a lunch.



Join Me for a Summer
Filled with Fun, Learning,
and Exploration!

Admission
per camp
\$100

Text or Email

540-622-4592

jessielynnsprouse@gmail.com



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

THE BEARR GROUP IS NOW ONLINE at BEARRGroup.com

Facebook: BEARR Group Instagram: @bearr_group Twitter: @bearr_group

911 REFLECTIVE SIGNS -- HAVE YOU GOT YOURS YET??

These signs are invaluable to first-responders trying to find your house in an emergency.

Cost: \$25 (payable on delivery)

Order yours at BEARRGroup.com or email Chris Lewis at chris@BEARRGroup.com or call 540-538-9928.

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Hopefully, by the time that you read this article, recent extreme high temperatures will have moderated. During extreme heat, the body struggles to maintain a normal temperature. This condition is responsible for more annual deaths than any other weather-related hazard.

Sooo...if the extreme heat sticks around make sure to follow these important Safety Tips:

- Limit outdoor activities during peak heat hours
- Stay hydrated — drink plenty of water
- Wear lightweight, light-colored clothing and a hat
- Seek shade or air-conditioned environments whenever possible



And Don't forget your pets! Ensure they have plenty of water and a shady spot to stay cool.

This great advice was posted online recently:

"Bring your pets inside, only walk them in the early morning or after the worst heat of the day. Remember if sidewalk or pavement feels too hot to your hand, it will burn the pads on your dogs' feet. Finally, never leave your pet in a car!! Even with windows down a few inches, in the temps we are having, a car's interior becomes a deadly oven in minutes. I also put a big bowl of water out for wildlife. Deer appear during the day, and it's empty in the morning, so apparently everything from raccoons to foxes and bears visit while I'm asleep."

Let's look out for one another and stay safe during this heatwave. For any emergencies or heat-related concerns, contact your local emergency services.



NOTE: Warren County recently opened temporary **Cooling Centers** "to provide air conditioned spaces to rest, and access water to help prevent heat-related illnesses". **None of these Centers were located in the Bentonville/Limetown/Brownsboro area.** All ideas are welcome, about the best way for our communities to

address this problem . . . since it appears that some kind of community self-help is required.

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

Postal Customer
Bentonville, VA 22610



The Deavers Sisters, L to R, “Julia” Virginia, “Lucy” Larue, and Lillian Beatrice “Bea”

For many years these gals lived in what is historically known as the Lafayette Updike House, at 5865 Gooney Manor Loop. When these ladies lived there, it was usually referred to by family as “The Big House” and it sometimes was called the Deavers House. One thing for sure is these gals made sure no one left hungry. Even trick or treater’s knew this was the place to come for the best cookies and fudge ever. The Deavers bought the house in 1945 and it was sold in the late 80’s

Bea died in 1980, Julia in 1983, and Lucy in 1994. All laid to rest at Prospect Hill Cemetery.