



# “Along the Gooney”

Browntown Community Center Association

*April 2026*  
Volume 34, Number 4

## BCCA Executive Board – 2026

President	Martha Buracker	540-671-6349
Vice President	Mary McKinney	540-635-4725
Secretary	Kristen Pence	540-230-1155
Treasurer	Nancy McDermott	703-975-8668
Trustees	Bill Lacy	
	Denny Pennington	540-635-5568
	Wes Deavers	540-631-0016

## Upcoming Events

April 13	BCCA General Meeting 7:30 p.m.
April 18	Redbud Festival 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

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

## Submission Deadline

The customary deadline for content submission for the newsletter is the 24<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding the month of publication. Send your submissions to Gène at [gene.raymond@browntowncommunity.com](mailto:gene.raymond@browntowncommunity.com).

## The Soffit and Gutter Project of 2026

By Steve Merz

Last summer we started noticing damage around the rooflines of the Center and invited professionals to evaluate the roof for us. Their consensus was that we should have 5-15 years left in the roof before the leaks got ahead of us. The deteriorating condition of the roof edges, soffits, and gutters should be addressed in the meantime to preserve the Center's outside walls.

We invited three contractors to bid and went to

contract with the low bidder. The Board approved a project budget of \$25-30,000, including a contingency for repairing hidden damage.

We started work last week and have been progressing faster than anticipated, due to great spring weather and minimal surprises. A majority of the work required less effort than planned. The primary areas of intensive repair are the southeast corner over the back steps, and the southwest corner over the front entrance.

Weather permitting, we will complete the repairs next week, and should have everything buttoned up, good as new, in a couple of weeks.

On schedule, and under budget.

## National Volunteer Appreciation Month

By Gène J. Raymond

In the United States, the week of April 19 through April 25 has been designated as National Volunteer Appreciation Month. Volunteers are the backbone of the BCCA. Without them, the building might have already crumbled. Without them, there would be no Redbud Festival and no Holiday Bazaar. Without them, there would be no food and drink services at these events. Without them, the playground might remain in disrepair and the grass might overtake the yard.

Fortunately for the community at large, the building is being repaired. The grass will soon be cut. A new flag flies outside the building. The place is cleaned up. Vendors will gather for the spring festival, and food will be available. All of this is made available thanks to volunteers.

Why not make it a point to meet a couple of them at the Redbud Festival and thank them for the time, talent, effort, and overall investment in keeping the facility available for you to enjoy.

## Homecoming for New Pastor at Cool Spring Church of God



Cool Spring Church of God in Browntown welcomed its new pastor in November 2025, but for Pastor PG Coverstone...it was just like going home. Born in April of 1963, PG lived in Browntown until moving to Front Royal at the age of two. Son of Bob and Flo Cooper Coverstone, grandson of Pete and Marie Updike Cooper and great-grandson of Mac and Ada Updike from Browntown, PG and his parents eventually moved to his father's homestead in Fort Valley when he was 16.

Growing up attending Cool Spring Church of God was one of the highlights of PG's upbringing. Memories of Sunday School classes with "Miss Jennie" Baggaly, "Miss Maralyne" Kidwell, and "Miss Cordelia" Manuel are as clear as day, with Bible songs like "Deep and Wide," "Fishers of Men" and the infamous "The Lord's Army" (hand motions included) etched in his memory. There are also many fond stories of baptisms in Gooney Creek, church camp at Camp Mac, Vacation Bible School at the community center... and the old, rickety outhouse squeaking during church services!

After serving 6 yrs in the United States Coast Guard, PG came back to the Valley and worked for over 35 years in the corporate world before accepting the call of God on his life to become a pastor. For the last 10 years, he and his wife Barbara have served at several churches throughout Shenandoah County before

coming home to Warren County and Cool Spring Church. They are looking forward to finding a home in Browntown and becoming a part of the community once again. They would like to invite everyone to come and join them for services on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. and Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.

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## Club Performs Road Cleanup

By Tom Lacombe

The Gooney Valley History and Preservation Club did their biannual Spring Clean-up on Smith Run Road and Bentonville Road recently, and would like to thank Steve Merz for his help with this project. Beverage containers continue to be make up the bulk of the trash.




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## Service Opportunity

By Bill Lacy

Please consider coming out on Sunday, April 12 to assist the Izaak Walton League with trash pickup on Browntown Road. This is our quarterly road pick up ahead of the Redbud Festival. We are tasked with making the road presentable for all the folks who will be attending the Redbud Festival and we take our job seriously. If you or someone you know would like to help, please come to the Mormon church parking lot at the 340 end of Browntown Road. We meet at 1 p.m. and the job generally takes a couple of hours. Wear appropriate foot gear with good tread and bring some work gloves and hydration. A safety vest, trash bags, and trash pickers will be provided. We hope to see you there.

Questions? Email me at [blacy358@gmail.com](mailto:blacy358@gmail.com).

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## Obituary

**Donna Bell Reedy**, 64, of Browntown, Virginia, passed away on, Feb. 24, 2026, at St. Anne's Loving Arms in Front Royal.

Donna was born Aug. 1, 1961 in Front Royal, Virginia, daughter of the late James Robert "Bobby" Bell and Jean Almarode Bell. Donna was a graduate of Warren County High School, Class of 1979 and attended Northern Virginia Community College. She worked as a dental assistant and office manager for the dental office of Dr. Ray Collins in Front Royal for many years and then for Dr. Heard and Dr. Broadhead and retired from the dental office of Amos Family Dentistry in Winchester, Virginia.

Donna truly enjoyed life and loved being in the outdoors. She enjoyed numerous camping trips with her late husband, Mike, and sons, Matt, Jamie and Jason. They attended NASCAR races and often could be found on the beaches of the Outer Banks in North Carolina with family and friends.

Donna is survived by her two sons, Matthew Scott "Matt" Reedy and wife, Chrissy of Bentonville, and Jamie Ryan Reedy and wife, Heather of Front Royal; stepson, Jason Michael Reedy and wife, Tabatha of Falling Waters W.Va.; two brothers, J.R. Bell and wife, Cindy of Richmond, Va. and Bruce Bell and wife, Barbara of Front Royal; one sister, Laura Bell Balun and husband, Paul of Springfield, Va.; nine grandchildren, Ava Jean Reedy, Alexis Reedy, Brady Strickler, Jackson Strickler, Lane Hirsch, Robert Hernandez, Bella Montanio, Larry Montanio and Aubrey Montanio; and several nieces and nephews. Along with her parents, Donna was preceded in death by her husband, William Michael "Mike" Reedy who died on April 17, 2008.

Donna's request is to have memorial donations made to the Humane Society of Warren County, 1245 Progress Drive, Front Royal, Va, 22630 or St. Jude's Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, Tenn. 38105.

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## Center Temporary Unavailable

The Center will be unavailable for rental beginning May 1, 2026 through July 31, 2026 due to scheduled repairs and renovations. Should the project end early, this will be reflected on the online calendar.

## Browntown Baptist Church A Legacy of Faith

### *Dedicated to Seeking God and Serving People*

Our first Quarterly Gathering was a great success, with approximately 25 to 30 attendees, including both church members and visitors. These gatherings are designed to unite people in a warm, spiritual, and loving atmosphere, where we celebrate each other through good food and joyful laughter. Details about our next dinner will be shared soon.

We warmly invite you to join us for our Easter celebrations. Mark your calendars for the following events:

- Good Friday Service on Friday, April 3. Enjoy food at 6:30 p.m., followed by the service at 7:00 p.m.
- Easter Egg Hunt for all ages on Saturday, April 4 from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be served during this time.
- Easter Service at 11:00 a.m.

We are proud to participate in the Hike Kidz Foundation Boxes to Basics Campaign as a drop-off site. Donations of *new* clothes and shoes (for all seasons) are welcomed for children ranging from newborns to youth size 16. Collection will take place at the Fellowship Hall, which will be open every Tuesday from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and every Thursday from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., beginning March 31. The Boxes of Basics program partners directly with the Hike Kidz Foundation and other local organizations in Warren County, working together to provide basic clothing essentials for children in need within our community.

Peaceful blessings,  
Tina Presley,  
Clerk of Browntown Baptist Church

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## The BEARR Group Keeping Our Community Safe

By Brian Wilkinson

### *Reflective Address Signs*

The cost is \$25 payable on delivery with free installation on an existing post or fence. To order, text or call Alan Thompson at 520-730-4272 or Brian Wilkinson at 703-389-7288.

3  
5  
1  
2

### *Virginia 4 PM Burning Law*

The BEARR Group reminds you that the Virginia 4 p.m. Burning Law remains in effect until April 30 and carries a maximum fine of \$500.00. Call Warren County Communications Center at 540-635-4128 to let them know *before you start burning*.

### *Elevated Fire Danger Alerts Were Recently Issued For Our Area*

It is likely that more alerts will be issued in April and May if a combination of dry fine fuels, relative humidities around 20 to 30%, wind gusts of 20 to 25 m.p.h., and temperatures in the 80s lead to an increased risk of rapid spread of wildfires. If we are lucky, we may get some more rain to keep the wildfire danger in check.



Please make sure that you properly dispose of cigarette butts, matches, and any other flammable items in appropriate containers. Also, exercise caution if operating any equipment that could create sparks and keep vehicles off of dry grasses. Most dry grasses, dead leaves and other tree litter could easily ignite and spread fire quickly.

Two years ago, Warren County's tranquil landscape was transformed into a scene of devastation as several brush fires swept across the region. The blazes, fueled by dry conditions and strong winds, burned 120-plus acres, threatened homes, and tested the resilience of local communities. While nature slowly healed, the lessons from the disaster serve as a stark

reminder of the power and unpredictability of wildfires.

For more information about wildfire danger, burn restrictions, and wildfire prevention, visit the [Virginia State Forestry website](https://www.virginia.gov/forestry/) or join Warren County's emergency alert system at <https://warrencountyva.gov/791/Emergency-Alerts>.

## Here Comes the 2026 Redbud Festival!

By Emma Bricker and Gène J. Raymond

It'll be here before you know it: the 2026 Annual Redbud Festival! As Martha said last month, "It's a fun day to meet and greet your neighbors." It's also good for local crafts (see the vendor list below), local baked goods, and the local BCCA kitchen. Just how much time is left before this bash? Check out the countdown on the [BCCA website's home page](#).

Volunteers are still needed, particularly for parking attendants and the "Quick Bites" grill area. Even if you can only help for an hour, that's enough time to let somebody who's going to be working all day take a break. And it'll be a big help to us all. Contact Emma at [browntownbowls@gmail.com](mailto:browntownbowls@gmail.com) if you are able to help.

Wondering if one or more of your favorite vendors is participating in the 2026 Redbud Festival? Check out this list:

Country Grace Impressions  
Ray's Creative Design  
Valley Handcrafts  
Gourdcraft with Ann Hirschy  
Cheryl Jackson  
Clear Sky Animal Art  
Flags and Flamingos  
The Family Kettle  
Warren County Chapter of Izaak Walton League  
Mosby's Rangers/Warren Rifles Museum  
Lemmon & Hale, PLLC  
Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay  
Shenandoah National Park Trust  
Wood Stuff  
Mary Kay  
Chival Crafted  
Gooney Bottom Farm  
Tallowshine  
BK Crafts  
C & C Ice Cream  
UnEarth'd Lapidary Creations  
BeeKeepers of Northern Shenandoah (BONS)  
Shenandoah Sirens  
Browntown Antiques & Collectables  
Amia Jewelry Co.  
Local author Samantha Warren  
River Stone Farms, LLC

Shenandoah Valley Conservancy  
USDA-NRCS  
Skyline FFA  
Glitter Goddess Hair Studio  
The Scribe and the Seed  
Skyline Middle FFA  
Khimaira Farm  
Dominion Ridge Academy  
Signs and Designs

A big shout out to our supporters at [Revolution Mortgage](#), sponsors of this year's Gooney Creek Duck Race. Thank you!

## OPEN MIC plus *The Browntown Boys*

Wed., May 6  
7:00-8:00 Open Mic  
8:15-9:30 The Boys  
at the  
Browntown Community  
Center Association



Contact Roger Tomhave for an opportunity and a time slot to perform in the open mic portion of the evening.

[Roger.Tomhave@gmail.com](mailto:Roger.Tomhave@gmail.com)

(540) 551-0947

# BROWNTOWN REDBUD FESTIVAL'S

## GOONEY CREEK DUCK RACE

### April 18 at 1 pm

Tickets Available \$5 ea  
at OJ Rudacille Gen Mdse  
in Browntown or by calling  
Martha Buracker 540-671-6349  
And will also be available at the  
Redbud Festival !

\$100 1<sup>st</sup> Place  
\$50 2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
25\$ 3<sup>rd</sup> Place  
Need not be  
present to win

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**Browntown Community Center**

*Come enjoy the day at the Annual Redbud Festival in scenic downtown Browntown. This annual event benefits the Browntown Community Center (Old Browntown Schoolhouse). Shop for Crafts, bid at the Silent Auction, vote for your favorite Antique Car, buy some plants, watch the ducks race and enjoy the wonderful food and great entertainment. A great time for all! **Free Admission and Free Parking!***

**Entertainment Schedule**

(Bring Chairs!)

**9-11 Katie Ridge Band**

**11-2:30 Ryan Jewel**

**1 pm— Gooney Creek Duck Race!**

**2:30 Silent Auction Ends**



*Nashville Recording Artist and Warren County Native!*

*Ryan Jewel!*

*Bring your chairs and enjoy the show!*

*Sponsored by*



**Information:**

For Craft Vendor Entry Forms or more information contact : Emma Bricker at browntownbowls@gmail.com  
For Car Show Entry Forms, Silent Auction Donations or other questions contact: Martha Buracker at 540-671-6349 or marthaburacker@gmail.com

Browntown Baptist Fellowship Hall Craft Space contact: Jayne Guilford 540-636-4231 jayne96@gmail.com

***Browntown's 23rd Annual***  
**Redbud Festival**



***Saturday, April 18th 9a.m.-3 p.m.***

**Highlights**

- Redbud Seedling Trees
- Silent Auction—ends at 2:30 pm
- Craft Sales—two locations!  
Browntown Community Center  
Browntown Baptist Church Fellowship Hall
- Gooney Creek Duck Race 1pm
- Dave McDermott Annual Antique Car Show  
sponsored by Manor Line Ranch!
- \* Face Painting and Barrel Train for kids!
- Full Kitchen Menu! Bake Sale!
- Browntown Museum Open
- **Live Outdoor music**
- featuring Katie Ridge Band at 9 and **Ryan Jewel** beginning at 11 am till 2:30 p.m



**Gooney Creek Duck Race**  
**1 pm Race Time!**

**\$5 per ticket**



**Available at:**  
O.J. Rudacille General Store in Browntown 636-2149

and Martha Buracker-Weichert Realtors in Front Royal 671-6349 and at the Browntown Community Center on the day of the festival.

1st Place \$100  
2nd Place \$50  
3rd Place \$25

**This Event Sponsored by...**



**OTHER INFO**

Please leave the pets at home!

Sorry no Alcohol!

Free Shuttle from back parking lot to Community Center via Side by Sides

Bring Chairs to watch the Show!



Find us on online at:  
**www.browntowncommunity.com**  
**and on Facebook**

**Thanks to all our Sponsors!**

## Browntown Redbud Festival

# Antique Car Show

In honor and memory of our friend and fellow volunteer  
Dave McDermott

A great  
Family Day

**Saturday, April 18, 2026**

**9 am—1 pm** (check in between 8 & 9 am)

Showcase your antique or classic car at this event filled day. Visit the past and enjoy the present in scenic Browntown, VA at the Annual Redbud Festival!

*Sponsored by.....*



**Redbud Festival  
Events**

**9am—3pm**

Redbud Seedling Tree Sale

Silent Auction

Craft Sales 2 Locations

Bake Sale

Full Kitchen Menu

Gooney Creek Duck

Race at 1 pm

Live Music!

Katie Ridge Band

followed by Ryan Jewel!



**Trophy Prizes**

People's Choice

Participant's Choice

Best Paint

Best Interior

Voting Ends at 1:00 p.m.

Prizes awarded at 2 p.m at BCCA Stage

Bring your own chairs, No alcohol permitted.

Held in the Grassy Lot between the Museum and Browntown Community Center

Register early, space is limited.

\$15 Registration Fee

Please make check payable to Browntown Community Center Association (BCCA)

Complete registration below and mail to:

Browntown Community Center Association

96 Browntown Rd

540-671-6349

Browntown, VA 22610

marthaburacker@gmail.com

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Car Info**

Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Make: \_\_\_\_\_

Model: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## Proposals for Bylaws Amendments

Two proposals for amendments to the bylaws will be posted and introduced at the BCCA meeting on April 13, to be voted on at the following meeting on May 11. A brief description and the proposed text is included here. A more formal document for each, including an overview, the text of the proposed amendment, and what goals the proposed amendment strives to fulfill, is available on from the [online Library](#).

### *Proposed amendment to expand Article X, Section 1*

**Article X, Section 1A:** Alcoholic beverages will be allowed in the BCCA buildings and on the BCCA properties *only* during a BCCA sponsored event, or by permission of the Executive Board. Examples of BCCA sponsored events include, but are not limited to, the Redbud Festival and the Christmas Bazaar. Rental of the BCCA properties does not constitute a sponsored event. Thus alcohol is not permitted in these instances without explicit approval of the Executive Board. Smoking and vaping will not be allowed inside the buildings.

**Section 1B:** Any BCCA-sponsored event at which alcohol is made available shall be in accordance with local and state laws, with applicable permits on display.

**Section 1C:** All alcohol service will be on a strict “No ID, No Service” rule, and the BCCA in its capacity as event host must implement a mechanism to reliably identify those who are eligible to be served; e.g. wristbands, drink tickets, etc.

**Section 1D:** All events including alcohol service will terminate such services at least 30 minutes prior to the end of the event.

**Section 1E:** BCCA staff serving alcohol retain the right to refuse service to anybody who appears visibly intoxicated or aggressive.

### *Proposed amendment to create Article VI, Section 2*

**Article VI, Section 2:** The Community Engagement Committee - The Community Engagement Committee, under the direction and guidance of the Executive Board, shall be responsible for creating and implementing events to increase community awareness of and engagement with the organization and its mission. Key tasks include:

- to create, develop, and implement events and activities to promote the organization and bolster community engagement
- to collaborate with other committees to ensure consistent messaging and effective promotion of said events where possible
- to follow-up events with a data collection method to gauge effectiveness and impact of the event on the community and towards the goals of the committee

## Gooney Valley History and Preservation Club

### *The Browntown Road*

The Browntown Road has evolved much over the years. The current road evolved from a project completed prior to WWI, funded by a bond issue, with much of the labor done by convicts. At that time the residents of South River District had a 5 cent levy added to their taxes, that was later raised to 10 cents and was finally paid off in the early 50s. Up into the 30s, this was the road to travel if you were headed from Front Royal to Bentonville. Over the years SR 649 has been straightened some, in part due to the fact that modern vehicles can handle grades better than Model Ts. The original entrance to the modern day road was closer to the current Skyline Drive entrance, which has also moved south a couple of times in the last 80 years. As we head down the road near the Mormon Church we come to Cave Woods, with all the sink holes. The first steep grade comes next, and that is known as Mel Henry Grade, where Mrs. Henry ran a tap room. Passing Venables Cove, look up on the mountain and during the winter you'll see the "Devil's Icebox," known to some as "Sadie's Icebox". Then we cross Dry Run and go up the Poor House Grade. Now we're on Bill Rudacille Hill, then on to Glen Echo, by the Fish Schoolhouse, Ramsey's Hollow, and Gooney Manor Church. Buck Mountain is to our right and Walnut Ridge, way off to the left. Passing through Weaver's Flat we arrive at Boyd's Mill. By the way, Liberty Hall Road used to link up with Land's Run, but the Flood of '42 washed out a section of the road, and it has never been reopened. A windy section of road leads us to Barn Hill, where we see Bill Robinson's Spite Fence, with Updike Woods to our left on down to Baldwin's Flat and here we are in Browntown. Below is a section of a 1937 WPA Map .



See our website ([gooneyvalleyhistoryclub.com](http://gooneyvalleyhistoryclub.com)) to learn more about the history of Browntown.



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



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marthaburacker@gmail.com

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## 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  
Sunday School at 10 and service at 11

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

Check us out on Facebook for  
Browntown History

Phone 636-2149

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Hours: Monday-Saturday 9 to 5  
Sunday Noon to 4

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Hats, Sweatshirts, Cookbooks, etc.

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Browntown Community Center Association  
96 Browntown Road  
Browntown, VA 22610

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**Community**  
GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

**April 3rd - 6:30 PM**

*A time of singing, sharing,  
reflecting and a message  
from God's Word*

*Refreshments to Follow*

*Come  
Join Us!*

## Resurrection Sunday

### Sunday, April 5th

Early Worship - 8am

Breakfast - 9am

Easter Egg Hunt

10am

**He is Risen!!**

Cool Spring Church • 3705 Gooney Manor Loop

