



“Along the Gooney”

Browntown Community Center Association

April, 2024

Vol. 32 No. 04 Editors: Jackie Hodgkiss Jackie.BCCA@gmail.com & Tom Lacombe tomlacombe@comcast.net

BCCA Board of Directors - 2024

President	Martha Buracker	540-671-6349
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Browntown Calendar

April 1st Mon. April Fools Day
 April 14th Sun. 1:00 litter pick up
 April 19th Early setup for crafters 12:00 – 3:00
 April 20th Redbud Festival 9:00 - 3:00
 April 21st Lone Pine Day Front Royal
 April 28th Deadline for May newsletter

Browntown Baptist Church

browntownbaptistva@gmail.com

Pastor: Sherman Kaipha Brown

Worship Service @ 11 a.m. Fellowship @ 12 p.m.
 Baptist Church provides food at the Fellowship Hall.
 Every Wednesday is “Free Food” for Browntown residents who need help with feeding their families.
 Hours are: 12:30 to 2:30 (for pick up).

Cool Spring Church of God

Pastor: Jeff Fletcher

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

Asbury United Methodist Church

Pastor: Taeshin Kim

10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship Service
 "Limeton church is no longer within the Warren Charge".

C-CAP Needs YOU!

Just one shift – 3 Hours a month
 Please contact Joanne Koszyk 540-551-3815
 Or email ourccap@gmail.com

Thanks so much for your help, Joanne



Browntown Redbud Festival's Gooney Creek Duck Race



Saturday, April 20, 2024

Start Time – 1 pm

1st Prize - \$100, 2nd Prize - \$50,
 3rd Prize - \$25
 \$5 per duck

Benefit: Browntown Community Center

Tickets available@

O.J. Rudacille General Mdse. 540-636-2149 in
Browntown

Weichert Realtors-Blue Ribbon – Martha

The Warren County Izaak Walton League is conducting a litter pickup on Browntown Road ahead of the Redbud Festival, Sunday April 14th at 1:00pm. We meet in the parking lot of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints at the Highway 340 end of the road. We have orange bags, reflective vests, and pickup tools. We put out two VDOT "Litter Pickup Crew Working" signs to alert drivers to our presence. Children are welcome if accompanied by a parent. You do not need to be a member of the IWL to participate. Please help out and put our best foot forward for the festival.

Please help us keep trash out of our streams and rivers. Work as long as you can, but most events last 3 to 4 hours.

Bill Lacy , IWL Anti-litter Coordinator

Obituaries

Catherine "Kay" Wynne Cutler, 90, of Bentonville, passed on March 13. Catherine, was a beloved wife, mother of five, and grandmother of seven. Kay had a fulfilling career as a Graphic Artist for Hallmark Cards at the Palladium Times in Oswego, NY, and for a private company that produced the Yellow Pages. Kay was very proud of her father, Arthur Wynne, a Welsh immigrant to America who was the inventor of the cross-word puzzle in 1919. Kay is survived by her children, Karen, Catherine, Christopher, Mark, and her grandchildren, John, Jon, Anna, Jonathan, Lux, Skyler, and Kimberley. She is preceded in death by her ex-husband Richard and her son Eric. A private service will be held for Kay. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to a charity of your choice in her memory.

Kay Partlowe Cameron, 80, of Front Royal passed March 19 at Winchester Med. Ctr. Kay was born in Front Royal, daughter of the late George L. and Edith Frances Updike Partlowe. She was married to the late William E. Cameron. She retired, after many dedicated years, from Micron. Surviving is a son, W. Todd Tobin of Martinsburg, and many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews. Kay was preceded in death by her parents; husband; two brothers, Owen L. Partlow and Douglas L. Partlowe; and a sister, Georgianna Baggardy. Memorial gifts may be made to Blue Ridge Hospice, 333 West Cork Street, Winchester, Virginia 22601 or Marlow Heights Baptist Church, 517 Braxton Road, Front Royal, VA 22630.

Rebecca Ann "Tootie" Gue, 66, of Bentonville, passed on March 7, at Winchester Med. Ctr. Tootie was born in Bentonville, to the late Glenning and Doris Smelser Weatherholt. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her son, Raymond Gue; two sisters, Linda "Punkin" and Dorothy "Dot"; and a brother, Jimmy. She was like a mother to so many, especially her grandchildren. Survivors include her husband of 52 years, Clyde "Ed" Gue of Bentonville; son, Andrew Weatherholt (Alison Weatherholt) of Stephens City, Virginia; daughter, Priscilla Ann Jones of Front Royal; brother, Terry Weatherholt (Lisa) of Bentonville; best friend, Brenda Lansberry of Rileyville, Virginia; six grandchildren, Christian Gue (Leigha Gue), Nicholas Gue, Jacob Gue, Brooklyn Gue, and Hunter Jones; five great grandchildren, Cali, Lillian, Reagan, Mason and Waylon; and several nieces and nephews.

O.J. Rudacille Gen. Mdse.

Phone 636-2149

Sunday Noon till 4pm

Mon thru Sat 7:30am till 5pm

Mon thru Fri, closed 2pm till 3pm

Serving Browntown for 132 years



There's a New Kid in Town
Rob and Jen Castillo are proud to
announce the birth of Asher Thomas
Castillo. Asher was born March 19,
weighing in at 7 lb.10 oz.



Deadline for May News: Apr. 28th
 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. I'm sure many of you have been going down the road and find an oncoming vehicle across the center line.

GOONEY VALLEY HISTORY CLUB POSTAL DELIVERY IN THE GOONEY - PART 3

The Civil War Years: May, 1861 to April, 1865

Much of what happened in our valley during the Civil War years remains a mystery. Our only post office during the first half of the 19th century was Hambaugh's. William Boyd had become postmaster in 1825 and we know that he still held that position in 1850 and very likely until at least 1861 when the first rumor spread that Virginia had seceded.

When the conflict between the northern and southern states finally exploded into war, tearing the country apart, the nation's communication system was also ripped in two. Postmaster General Montgomery Blair cut off mail service to the rebellious Southern states and the 3¢ US stamp was not valid in the CSA after June 1, 1861 when the Confederate Post Office took over mail service operations and 8,535 of the nation's 28,586 post offices came under Confederate control.

Hambaugh's post office disappears from the official record and presumably closed. 571 men from Warren County entered the Confederate army from Warren County, joining such units as the 49th Virginia Infantry (the "Warren Blues"), Mosby's Brigade, Chew's Brigade, and, the Ross' Brigade ("White Cavalry"). Many volunteered, while others were conscripted when the Conscription Act of April 16, 1862, made any white male between 18 and 35 years old liable to three years of military service. By February, 1864, conscription had expanded to men of 17 to 50 years old, for service of an unlimited period.

It was possible for postmasters to claim exemption from conscription but this does not seem to have made any difference with respect to Hambaugh's post office. When the Confederates listed the new postal route from Luray to Front Royal in April 1863 there was no mention of Hambaugh's and the nearest post office was listed as Bentonville. Times must have been hard for both white and black families living in the Gooney Valley during the war – most white men had gone off to war and sending and receiving mail would have required a long ride to Bentonville or Front Royal, with major delays in delivery and no guarantee that soldiers would be able to receive or send letters. It is not known how many enslaved people in the Gooney stayed and continued to work for their owners during those years.

After the war ended it took some time to get the US postal service working again. Hambaugh's post office was reestablished on October 4, 1867 with the new postmaster being James W. Boyd. On July 1, 1868 the postal route (No. 4667) between Front Royal and Hambaugh's was reinstated, with Charles Leech contracted to collect and deliver mail.

"DON'T THROW IT OUT!"

If you have old copies of local newspapers, photos, or family or historical artifacts please let Tom Lacombe know or bring them to his shop. Also, if you would like to join our club or learn more, please phone Tom (540 636 2149), or email him (tomlacombe@comcast.net).

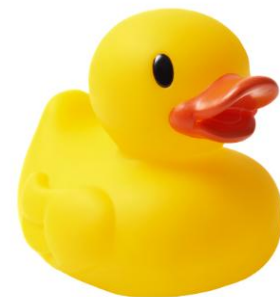
Browntown's Annual Redbud Festival



Saturday, April 20 from 9am-3pm

- **Craft Sales - Two locations!**
- Browntown Community Center and Browntown Baptist Church Fellowship Hall
- **Silent Auction** - ends at 2:30 pm
- **Live Music** - 10-2:30
- **Bake Sale**
- **Antique Car Show**
- **Browntown Museum Open**
- **Redbud Seedlings for Sale**
- **Gooney Creek Duck Race 1 pm**
- **Kitchen Open + Outdoor Hamburger stand**
- **C&C Ice Cream Truck**

**Gooney Creek
Duck Race**
1 pm Race Time!
\$5 per ticket
Available at
OJ Rudacille Gen Mdse
in Browntown or
Martha Buracker at
Weichert Realtors in
Front Royal
Also available the day
of the Festival.
Need not be present to
win



96 Browntown Rd, Browntown, VA

From Front Royal take 340S, Left on Browntown Rd. Go 8 miles to the Village of
Browntown

For more info call Martha Buracker 540-671-6349 or
marthaburacker@gmail.com



APRIL, 2024 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 -HELP FIRST RESPONDERS TO FIND YOUR HOUSE

3
5
1
2

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

Order yours at BEARRGroup.com or email Chris Lewis at chris@BEARRGroup.com or call 540-313-6185.



4 P.M. BURNING LAW STILL IN EFFECT UNTIL APRIL 30 - MAXIMUM FINE \$500.00

RECOMMENDED: Call Warren County Communications Center at

540-635-4128 to let them know before you start burning brush.



RECENT WILDFIRES - On March 18 an Elevated Fire Danger Warning was issued, followed by a Red Flag Warning on March 19. A day later Warren County Fire & Rescue reported multiple large brush fires caused by low humidity, high winds and downed powerlines. **These fires overwhelmed local fire and rescue and law enforcement resources. Multiple buildings were damaged and several emergency responders sustained injuries.**

WCFR reported on March 20 that "the County's emergency response system was operating on a "no units available situation" and that evacuations near McCoys Ford Road were being implemented and an emergency shelter was opened at the Rivermont Fire Station. Crews also worked on a large fire in the Milldale area where approximately five homes were evacuated. A Local State of Emergency was declared at 8pm that evening.

To learn more about the fires that spread through our surrounding area check out these two videos:

"More than 100 fires reported in the last 48 hours": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D8xQKx9upY8>

Fires in Page County and Prince William County: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jtqyDWUBPKw>

WHAT ABOUT THE RISKS OF WILDFIRES IN OUR AREA?

The Virginia Dept of Forestry (VDF) has carried out a Community Wildfire Risk Assessment for Browntown and the Gooney valley (approx. 4,200 acres). Key results from this assessment are as follows:

- Total Assessed Rating **142 = High Risk**
- Suppression Rating: **High Hazard**
- Surrounding Environment Rating: **High Hazard**
- Structures Rating: **High Hazard**

Clearly, our community needs to take steps to increase our preparedness for wildfires ASAP. If you would like to be involved in this work or would like to share your ideas on what needs to be done, please email Chris Lewis at chris@BEARRGroup.com or Brian Wilkinson at bwilkinson57@verizon.net.

Want to Know About Local Alerts, Emergencies or fire conditions?

Subscribe to the Warren County Alert Center: <https://warrencountyva.gov/List.aspx>

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

Browntown Redbud Festival

Antique Car Show

Saturday, April 20, 2024

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!

A great Family Day

Sponsored by.....



- Redbud Festival Events**
9am—3pm
 Redbud Seedling Tree Sale
 Silent Auction
 Craft Sales & Locations
 Bake Sale
 Full Kitchen Menu
 Gooney Creek Duck Race at 1 pm
 Live Music!
 Browntown Museum Open!



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

Complete registration below and mail to:

Martha Buracker

ph 540-671-6349

3452 Bentonville Rd

Bentonville, VA 22610

marthaburacker@gmail.com

Name: _____

Car Info

Year: _____

Address: _____ Make: _____

Model: _____

Phone: _____ Signature: _____

ASSISTED LIVING & MEMORY CARE

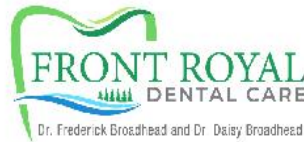


Be a part of a community with new friends, fun activities, and the services that you need.

Don't know where to start? Call Us Today!

540-636-2008

973 BUCK MOUNTAIN ROAD BENTONVILLE, VA HIDDENSPRINGSSENIORLIVING.COM



CALL OR TEXT US! (540)635-4567 www.frontroyaldentalcare.com

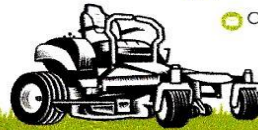
GO FETCHETT LAWN CARE LLC

DAVID JENKINS | OWNER

(540)823-0744 & (540)636-4952

davidjenkins930@icloud.com

511 Fetchett Road Browntown, VA 22610



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



"Your Shenandoah Valley Expert"

Licensed in Virginia

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

Weichert REALTORS

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

U.S. POSTAGE PAID
NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
BCCA
PERMIT #011

Postal Customer
Bentonville, VA 22610

An excerpt from schoolwork by Eva Mae Compton, from about 1940.

We have brooms to sweep with now, and father used to plant broom corn then to make a broom. Father took the broom corn and let it dry then started making a broom by putting the broom corn on a stick and fastening it with a string, and used it for a broom to clean a floor.

Children have paper to write on in school now. When mother and Dad were growing up they had a slate for writing paper, instead of a lead pencil they had a slate pencil to write with.