



“Along the Gooney”

Browntown Community Center Association

January, 2024

Vol. 32 No. 01 Editors: Jackie Hodgkiss Jackie.BCCA@gmail.com & Tom Lacombe tomlacombe@comcast.net

BCCA Board of Directors - 2024

President	Martha Buracker	540-671-6349
Vice Pres.	Mary McKinney	540-635-4725
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Trustees	Allan Brockway	540 635-7783
	Denny Pennington	540 635-5568
	Wes Deavers	540-631-0016

Browntown Calendar

Jan. 1st Happy New Year 2024
 Jan. 8th BCCA Public Meeting 7:30p.m.
 Jan. 29th Mon. deadline for February 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.

Limeton United Methodist Church

Pastor: Taeshin Kim

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

11:15 a.m. Sunday Worship Service

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



Paint Party - Sunday, February 18, from 1:00 to 3:30. Join Kelly Walker, (The Studio for Learning), at the Browntown Community Center to paint a gorgeous landscape picture of Hogback Mountain with a Redbud Tree Branch Overhanging. Kelly is a great instructor and you will leave with a great piece of art that you have created yourself. Space is limited. There will be snacks available to purchase. All materials will be provided. Cost for the class and a picture of what we will be doing will be posted on our Facebook page.

Contact Martha Buracker

BCCA Browntown Spring Yard Sale – March 8 & 9 (Friday and Saturday)

9:00 to 2:00

We need donations! And if you want to rent a table for yourself, contact Patsy Pennington at 540-635-5568. Space for personal tables is very limited inside, but outside we have lots of space, just dress warmly.

We will take clothes, furniture, tools, dishes, linens and even Christmas decorations that you don’t use or need anymore.

In the early 2000's the Masemer Planing Shop was demolished. This building was built in the late 1800's and had most recently served as apartments. Photos by Rob Harding. Ray Ruhling and Powel Harding in center photo. Gerry Henry did the demo.



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

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OJ's New Hours

O.J.'s will be open 9 till 5 Mon-Sat and Noon till 4 on Sundays. Look for the **Open** flag out front, and a sign on door in case we have to close up for unforeseen reasons. **Thanks again, Tom**

Deadline for February

News: Jan. 29th

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!!

**Don't forget -- area schools
Are now in session**

Gooney Valley History Club

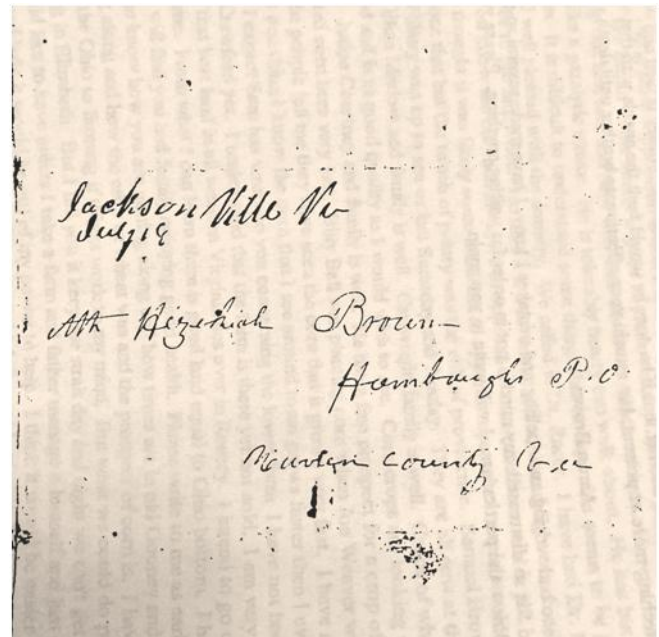
POSTAL DELIVERY IN THE GOONEY: PART 1: 1812 -67

Browntown Postmasters

Originally established as Humbaugh's Post Office in Shenandoah County. Spelling was changed to Humbaugh's Post Office in 1821.

<u>Postmaster</u>	<u>Date Appointed</u>
John Humbaugh	November 14, 1812
Discontinued on June 10, 1816	
Reestablished on March 10, 1821	
Charles M. Johnson	March 10, 1821
William Boyd	October 24, 1825
Changed to Warren County in 1836	
Discontinued on July 9, 1866	
Reestablished on October 4, 1867	
James W. Boyd	October 04, 1867
Name changed to Browntown on September 17, 1873	
James W. Boyd	September 17, 1873
LaFayette Updike	June 23, 1875
Eugene Boyd	April 03, 1882
Jacob Masemer	February 07, 1884
John A. Baublitz	August 23, 1889
Enoch A. Lake	May 04, 1893
John W. Rudacille	June 24, 1897
John A. Baublitz	September 12, 1902
Rennie L. Cooper	August 29, 1906
Leonard A. Rudacille	July 17, 1929
Eduard W. Rudacille	August 30, 1930
William Lee Mays	May 01, 1935
Mrs. Mildred M. Good	June 01, 1936
Mrs. Annice V. Rudacille	March 31, 1939
Discontinued on September 27, 1963	
The office was converted to a rural station of Bentonville with the following two ladies working out of Browntown as contractors reporting to Bentonville:	
Mrs. Louise Dodson	September 27, 1963
Mrs. Deloris K. Cooper	June 1965 - December 31, 1985

Sources: National Archives and Records Administration Northeast Region, 10 Conti Drive, Pittsfield, MA 01201 and National Archives Personnel Records Center of United States Postal Service, Washington, D.C.



In the picture above right you can see a letter posted by Aaron Brown in Jacksonville, 1850 to his brother, Hezekiah Brown, who lived about a mile south of Browntown on Gooney Manor Loop. The letter is addressed to "Humbaugh Post Office, Att. Hezekiah Brown".

If you lived in a rural area anywhere in the USA in the early 19th century your mail would not have been delivered to the farm or house where you lived. Instead, like Hezekiah, you would have had to ride in all weathers over poorly maintained dirt roads to pick up your mail at the nearest post office.

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THE GOOD NEWS! Hezekiah had the good fortune to be receiving letters from his family in Jacksonville three years after the use of postage stamps was authorized. Until 1847 he would have needed to have some money in his pocket when he got to the post office. Before postage stamps were introduced the addressee, rather than the person sending the letter, was required to pay the postage due. And postage was expensive! Rates ranged from six cents to 25 cents per sheet of paper, depending on the distance traveled. Individual postmasters were paid by retaining a portion of the revenue they collected. Stamps issued in 1847 cost five cents, but this was reduced in 1851 to three cents for distances up to 3,000 miles, and in 1885 this was further reduced to two cents, without any limitation on the distance traveled.

Hezekiah would have ridden, by horseback or buggy or wagon, probably once a week, to the Hambaugh post office to check whether he had any mail. This post office was located near to the crossroads at Boyds Mill and is the first known post office in the Gooney valley. It was originally named "Humbaugh" after postmaster John Hambaugh, whose name appears in court records as postmaster in 1812. We also know that the Shenandoah County court, in 1812 excused John Hambaugh from service as a justice because of his position as a postmaster.

GOONEY VALLEY MYSTERY:

WHO WAS THE HAMBAUGH POSTMASTER FROM 1825 to 1867?

Unfortunately, we know little more about the life of John Hambaugh. We believe he was the original owner of the mill and farm that would later become known as Boyds Mill; it seems that he continued as the Hambaugh postmaster for several years, possibly until 1821, when Charles M. Johnson took over the post office. The mystery begins in 1825 when, according to the "Browntown Postmasters" list, someone named William Boyd became the next postmaster. This appears to be incorrect since the only known William Boyd living locally in the early 19th century died in 1823. All that we do know is that "Hambaugh" was still the official name for the post office until 1866/67 when James W. Boyd was appointed postmaster.

If you can shed any further light on any of the above, or have another story about the past that you would like to share, please contact Brian Wilkinson at bwilkinson57@verizon.net or call him at (703) 389-7288.

"DON'T THROW IT OUT!"

If you have any old copies of local newspapers, photos, or other local family or historical artifacts, please let Tom Lacombe know, or simply bring them to his store. We will treasure them, make sure they are preserved, and will glean information from them, that might otherwise be lost forever.

JOIN US: Our club continues to expand & have fun, sharing ideas & learning from one another. If you would like to join or learn more, please phone Tom Lacombe at (540) 636-2149, or email him at tomlacombe@comcast.net.

Greetings Everyone and Happy New Year!

First, I would like to thank outgoing President John Bell for serving as our President for the last 16 years! That is a super long time and we appreciate his service and commitment to our community. For any of you who might not know, John is also our Warren County Commonwealth's Attorney, and a local sheep farmer as well, is husband to Susan, dad and now granddad. So his schedule is pretty full to say the least. He's a great example of giving back to his community by making time to be our President for such a long tenure. And with that being said, I hope I do as well as he did ... those are some big shoes to fill.

Every little bit helps when it comes to this community center and how it "builds community" for all of us. Volunteers come in many forms. Whether it's attending meetings, baking a cake for an event, donating your unwanted items to our yard sale, donating items for our Silent Auctions, helping to set up, work or clean up for an event etc, all support is important.

I hope you will consider becoming more involved in the community this year. We need everyone to keep this community center maintained and available to our residents. We also would like to grow a little, and I for one would like to see more things for the kids, but in order to do that we need parents willing to bring ideas and help to get this done. We need the next generation to "step up to the plate" and get involved. One person can't do it alone, but together we can. Our next meeting is Monday, January 8 at 7:30 pm. Hope to see you there! If you can't attend, but would like to help in any way, please send me an email to marthaburacker@gmail.com.

Here are our 2024 Officers and Trustees;
President - Martha Buracker
Vice President - Mary McKinney
Treasurer - Ian Fisher
Secretary - Kristen Pence
Trustees – Allan Brockway, Denny Pennington and Wesley Deavers

I also want to welcome Marianne Thomas and Roxanne Campbell as Co-Chairmen of the Ways and Means Committee!

Upcoming Events include:

Paint Party - Sunday, February 18 from 1:00 to 3:30. Cost \$45 (estimated) - Join us to paint a Browntown Landscape with Redbud Branches. Local Artist and owner of "The Studio" in Front Royal will be teaching us at the community center. She's a great instructor and this will be a fun way to spend an afternoon with friends, family or neighbors. Stay tuned to our Browntown Facebook Page for ticket information and to see the painting we will be doing.

Browntown Spring Yard Sale - March 8 & 9 - We need donations! And if you want to rent a table for yourself, contact Patsy Pennington at 540-635-5568. Space, inside, for personal tables are very limited, but outside we have lots of space, just dress warmly.

Browntown Redbud Festival - Saturday, April 20th

Lastly, just as a reminder, if you want to use the building for a birthday party or other event, contact Patsy Pennington at 540-635-5568 for scheduling.

Take care,
Martha Buracker

911 REFLECTIVE SIGNS -- HAVE YOU GOT YOURS YET?

3
5
1
2

SURPRISE YOUR NEIGHBOR OR FAMILY MEMBER WITH A GREAT NEW YEAR GIFT!

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How Smart are Smart Toys?

You may not have thought about it, but internet-connected toys typically have a built-in microphone and speaker and can potentially expose children and others in their household to data or identity theft. According to the [Federal Trade Commission](#), smart toys, just like any smart device, run the risk of being accessed by criminals. So, while they are educational and fun for kids, do a little research first to help bring some peace of mind. Check out this video by ERIE Insurance to learn more about how to be smart about smart toys:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OObajeOmPlk>



WILDFIRE EMERGENCY UPDATE

NEW FIRE DANGER RATING SIGN FOR BROWNTOWN IN 2024!

We would like to thank the Virginia Department of Forestry for giving us this sign. Next step will be to agree on the best place to locate it and then figure out how to keep it constantly updated.

The BEARR Group is proposing to make Wildfire Risk Management a top priority for 2024. We are currently just beginning to collect ideas and information.

AS A FIRST STEP we have been talking with Lauren Charles from the VA Dept. of Forestry about the possibility of enrolling in their "Firewise Community" Program. Please click on this link if you would like to know more:

<https://dof.virginia.gov/wildland-prescribed-fire/wildfire-preparation/protect-your-community/>

You can contact Brian Wilkinson (bwilkinson57@verizon.net) or Chris Lewis (chris@BEARRGroup.com) to learn more and/or join us in helping to keep our community safe from wildfires.



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



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Obituary

Dr. Philip Edward Wine, age 89, of Marshall, VA, passed peacefully on Dec. 21. He was born on November 20, 1934, in Prince William County, to the late John Melvin Wine and Mary Harris Wine. He attended Warren County High School in Front Royal, Va. He was described in his senior yearbook as having a devilish grin, being a sterling athlete, and being a guy with a manner all of his own. These qualities accompanied him throughout his life, defining an admired man in 2023 as much as they did a boy in 1953. He pursued higher education at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, VA, where he earned his bachelor's degree. He then went on to attend Georgetown University School of Dentistry in Washington, DC, graduating with honors in 1965 with a doctorate degree. He then opened a private dental practice that served all residents of Warren County for 38 years. His interests were as diverse as his accomplishments. During his retirement from the practice of dentistry, he dedicated himself to his farming, which included cattle and thoroughbred race horses in Fauquier County, VA. It was his devotion to his family that truly defined him. He leaves behind a legacy of love and devotion. He is survived by his daughters: Elizabeth (Theodore) Vaught of Front Royal, VA; Barbara (Walter) Hudson of Virginia Beach, VA; Jacqueline (Timothy) Hinson of Suffolk, VA; and Deborah (Richard Bender) Wine of Suffolk, VA. He is also survived by nine grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren, numerous nieces and nephews whom he cherished as his own, including the nephews that he practically raised, Ray, John, Ed, and Mark Pennington, and his life partner, Mary Mochary. He was preceded in death by his parents, as well as his siblings, Dr. Byron (BB) Wine, John (JW) Wine, Shirley Burke, and Bettie Anne Pennington, and his first wife, Charlotte Grow Wine. Philip passed peacefully at Winchester Memorial Hospital, surrounded by family. His twinkling baby blue eyes gently closed, marking the end of an extraordinary journey. A ceremony honoring his life will take place in the spring at the Wintergreen Family Cemetery in Nelson County, VA. We invite friends and family to join us in sharing expressions of condolences and cherished memories by signing his remembrance book at Maddox Funeral Home, located at 105 W Main Street, Front Royal, VA.