



“Along the Gooney”

Browntown Community Center Association

July 2022

Vol. 30 No. 07 Editors: Jackie Hodgkiss Jackie.BCCA@gmail.com & Tom Lacombe tomlacombe@comcast.net

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	James Sylvester	540 636-7565
	Denny Pennington	540 635-5568

Browntown Calendar

July 4th Mon. Independence Day
 July 8th & 9th BCCA Yard Sale 1/2 price sale
 July 10th Browntown Road Litter pickup day. 1:00
 July 11th BCCA meeting 7:30
 July 28th Deadline for August Newsletter.

Browntown Baptist Church

browntownbaptistva@gmail.com

Pastor: Sherman Kaipha Brown

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

Cool Spring Church of God

Pastor: Jeff Fletcher

Beginning June 12 summer hours will be:
 Sunday School at 9:30 and Worship at 10:30.
 Summer hours will run until the end of September.

Limeton United Methodist Church

10 a.m. Sunday school
 11:15 a.m. Sunday Worship Service

Please send any information for the BCCA newsletter to:

Jackie: Jackie.BCCA@gmail.com

Tom: tomlacombe@comcast.net

BROWNTOWN WEB PAGE

www.browntowncommunity.com

Along the Gooney Newsletters (current 4 months)

BCCA Events

Browntown History pages

Photo Galleries

Advertising, Sponsors & other info.and links

Webmaster: George Hodgkiss

1015gwh@centurylink.net

BROWNTOWN ROAD LITTER PICKUP July 10, 2022

The Warren County Izaak Walton League is conducting a litter pickup on Browntown Road, Sunday July 10, at 1:00pm. We meet in the parking lot of the Church of Latter Day Saints, at the Highway 340 end of the road. I 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.

The grass is tall in places. Hoping VDoT will mow before Sunday.

Dennis Mosher, IWL Anti-litter Coordinator

(540) 635-3559

iwl.antilitter@gmail.com

Obituaries

Amy Blanche Jenkins, 74, of Browntown, went home to be with her Lord and Savior on June 16, at her home in Browntown. Amy was born April 28, 1948 in Warren County, daughter of the late Lovel Partlow and Verda Smelser Partlow. She was a member of the Flint Hill Pentecostal Church. Surviving are her loving and devoted husband of 54 years, Bobby Wilson Jenkins; three sons, David Jenkins and wife Christel of Browntown, Daniel Jenkins and Wife Frankie of Linden and Bobby "Buster" Jenkins and wife Misty of Strasburg; two brothers, Earl Partlow of Winchester and George Partlow of Stephens City; 8 grandchildren, Laura Corathers and husband Anthony, Matthew Jenkins, Jacob Jenkins, Courtney Davis and husband Justin, Brooke Robison and husband Cameron, Andrew Jenkins, Katie Funk, Linkyn Bosworth; and 7 great-grandchildren, Bradley, Lincoln and Charlie Corathers, Waylon and Aubrey (and Alana on the way) Davis and Charlotte and Bonnie Robison. Amy was preceded in death by her parents; brother, Robbie Partlow; and sisters, Clemmie Henry, Polly Matthews and Louise Seal. Contributions may be made Blue Ridge Hospice, 333 West Cork Street, Winchester, VA 22601 or the Flint Hill Pentecostal Church, 161 Aileen Road, Flint Hill, VA 22627.

Mary Elizabeth Farris Morrison, of Bentonville, passed away peacefully on June 1, at Woods Cove Assisted Living in Front Royal. Mary was born on August 21, 1940 in Leesburg, to the late Matthew Elijah Farris, Sr. and Ethel Marie Turman. Mary has now rejoined her beloved late husband of 55 years, Harry Richard Morrison. She was also preceded in death by her son, Randall Alan Morrison; her sister, Annie Elizabeth Farris Hawes; and three brothers, Claude "Pete" Franklin Farris, David Leonard Farris and Matthew Elijah Farris Jr. Mary went on to attend James Madison College in Harrisonburg, where she completed her B.S. Collegiate Professional degree. Mary spent 42 years as a teacher: One year with Rockingham County Public Schools while her husband was finishing college and 41 years with Prince William County Public Schools with the majority of her career being a fourth grade teacher. Mary was very much dedicated to her students, having told everyone she'd only missed one day of school in her 42 year career. In 1993, Mary was recognized as the Elementary Teacher of the Year from Dale City Civic Association of VA. After her retirement in 2006, Mary and her husband relocated to Bentonville to enjoy their final years together with their family. Surviving Mary are her son, Victor Morrison of Bentonville; her two granddaughters, Samantha Morrison (Matt) of Front Royal, and Lindsey Rosenthal (Shawn) of Winchester, and her siblings, Hazel Dove Lemon, Charles Lucas Farris, Ruth "Marie" Farris Moore, Mandy Louise Farris Baun, Nancy Jane Farris Edwards and Fred Lee Farris Sr. Memorial Gifts may be made to: SWVFD in Bentonville, VA and Blue Ridge Hospice.

O.J. Rudacille Gen. Mdse.

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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 August News: July 28th

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

Please Slow Down on our Beautiful Browntown Roads

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.

Slow Down, Enjoy the Ride!

THE GOONEY VALLEY HISTORY CLUB

Three Communities, Browntown, Bentonville, & Limeton – 12,000 Years of History

“Remembering Yesterday, Preserving Our Tomorrow”

July, 2022

LATEST NEWS



Our group continues to have great fun sharing ideas and learning from one another. If you would like to join our group or learn more please contact Tom Lacombe by phone (540 636 2149) or email (tomlacombe@comcast.net). We are currently working on designing a “Our Valley in the 18th Century” car tour and walking guide for visitors. The first step will be to produce a map of how our area looked around 200 years ago.

GOONEY VALLEY MYSTERY #1: THE FORGOTTEN SCHOOL

We recently acquired a highly detailed illustrated map of Warren County by famed local historian Eugene Scheel. The map shows the location of a “ruin” located on the West side of Gooney Run, just north of the BCCA. The ruin is labeled “Browntown School (Negro)”. To its immediate north is another ruin labeled “St. Paul CME Church”.

Very few of us had ever heard of either this school or this church so we decided to do a little online research and came across a website called Local Heritage Trail (<https://criserhigh.myevent.com>) authored by Robert King. This site has some interesting information about the school and the CME Church, including the following:

- The origins of this “Negro” school were confirmed in 1963 by James Mclendon in his thesis “Negro Education In Warren County” (page 3). According to Mclendon, this school was one of the first schools established in Virginia to offer formal education to free and formerly enslaved blacks, in line with the 1870 Underwood Constitution that required Virginia to establish free public schools.
- The school opened in Browntown in 1886 in a one-room log cabin. Its founder and educator was Nathaniel N. Baker, together his wife Maria. This same Nathaniel Taylor would later become the Principal of the progressive District 1 (“Freetown”) Colored School in Front Royal until his retirement in the 1920s.
- The Mount Carmel Baptist Church on Indian Hollow Road in Bentonville was initially created in Browntown as St. Pauls Methodist church for African Americans worshippers.

“DON’T THROW IT OUT!”

If you have any old local newspapers (especially The Warren Times) or old copies of Along The Gooney, or have a story about the past that you would like to share, please let Tom know or simply bring them along to his shop – We will treasure these, make sure they are preserved, and draw on them to share knowledge and experience that otherwise might be lost forever.

We hope to be able to be able to find out a lot more about this forgotten school and church and the African Americans and white Americans who lived and worked in Browntown in the late 1800s and early 20th Century. If you can shed any further light on this period of our local history please contact Brian Wilkinson by email at bwilkinson57@verizon.net or call him on 703 389 7288.

BROWNTOWN'S EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND RISK REDUCTION GROUP*"KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE"*

BEARR GROUP UPDATE –JULY, 2022

**911 HOUSE NUMBERS – HELPING EMERGENCY RESPONDERS TO FIND YOUR HOME**

Emergency services often experience difficulties “finding” a property. Vital time is then lost that could make the difference between life or death or whether or not a property suffers major damage. These reflective numbers make it easy for emergency responders to find your house.

If you would like to find out more about these signs or are ready to purchase one for your home, please email Chris Lewis at chris1908@gmail.com or call him on 540 313 6185.

**“STOP THE BLEED” TRAINING PROGRAM - PROTECT YOURSELF & OTHERS**

The BCCA and the BEARR Group are partnering with the Warren County Fire Department and the Browntown Baptist Church to present this program on Thursday, July 7 at 6:30 pm.

LOCATION: BROWNTOWN BAPTIST CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO SIGN UP! Please contact Joanne Koszyk at jkoszyk1955@gmail.com to register or for more information.

HOW CAN WE BEST HELP YOU AND YOUR NEIGHBORS IN 2022?

The BEARR Group is a committee of the BCCA which exists to help you. There are lots of issues we could work on in 2022 but we want to make sure we are focused on just a few that could really make a difference to “Keeping Our Community Safe”. If you would like to join one of our meetings to tell us about what is on your mind or simply talk to one of us, please call 703 389 7288 or 540 313 6185 or email Brian Wilkinson at bwilkinson57@verizon.net .

THANK YOU!

Message from SWVFD -- After consulting with the Board of Directors , here is our update:

"South Warren Volunteer Fire Department is continuing to follow up on the membership's initial vote to disband the organization; adhering to the process outlined in the organization's Bylaws. Regardless of disbandment status, the South Warren community will recognize no difference in its' public safety response. SWVFD is staffed with Warren County Fire & Rescue professional first responders 24 hours per day/ 7 days a week"

Kristie Atwood
President South Warren Volunteer Fire Department

Any questions can be referred to:
station3@warrencountyfire.com

BCCA yard sales: Wow, This year we have done excellent with all the donated items, furniture, pictures and clothes. The first weekend we made \$3,620 which includes the backroom and kitchen food sales.

**The center will have the next yards sale on July 8th and 9th. 9:00 to 2:00 Friday and Saturday. Everything will be ½ price, (unless larger items marked “not half price”).
Clothes will be “stuff a bag” for \$3.00.**

These yard sales would not be possible if it weren't for the following people: Thanks to them for the many days and long hours that they spend unpacking, setting up and pricing. Jayne is our decorator and she sets up the furniture to show off how everything might look at your home.



Pictured are Patsy Pennington, Marianne Thomas, Jayne Guilford, Jan Haines and daughters.

Roxanne works both the backroom and kitchen.

Carolyn Willingham, Roxanne Campbell and Lou High.

Carolyn and Lou are Patsy's sisters and they are the cooks for Browntown. We have to thank them for all the good food and so many home made desserts.

Thanks Girls



The BCCA Shed has been ordered and should arrive around the end of August. It will be 4'x 20' and be the same color scheme as the community center with a metal roof. We will be able to store the extra chairs, boards that we use for the Redbud Festival and a lot of our decorations that are crammed in the hallway closet. We currently use people's buildings and garages for yard sale furniture and donated items for our yard sales. We have already made \$3,620 on the first weekend of the sales. The next weekend on July 8th and 9th will be the last so that we can clean out the center for renting and meetings. Thanks to Mark Thomas, Denny Pennington and Reds Manual for cutting down the tree in the back yard so that now we have a perfect place for the shed. Thanks guys for all your hard work.



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Weichert
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marthaburacker@gmail.com

We are always looking for news, articles and stories for the newsletter. Please send them to Jackie to help fill up some of the blank pages. Pictures are always welcomed to show what is going on here in Browntown.

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Public Hearing for 5865 Gooney Manor Loop

At a public hearing held on June 28 plans for this property to be used for short term rentals, as well as for a retreat center, moved forward. Emilia Cirker and her brother Mark Saunders' plan is to run a holistic wellness retreat, where up to 10 to 12 clients at a time would stay on the premises for a week or so. Emilia, who was once a chef for the Redskins, and a contestant on the Food Network, will certainly serve some healthy meals. Attendees can participate in any number of workshops, classes or lessons which would include yoga, nutrition, cooking classes, swimming and breathing exercises, meditation, massage therapy, etc. There is much work to be done before the retreat will be ready for guests. The folks in attendance at the hearing, as a whole, felt that this business will be a good fit along the Gooney.