



“Along the Gooney”

July, 2021

Vol. 28 No. 07

Editors: Jackie Hodgkiss 1015jkh@centurylink.net & Tom Lacombe tomlacombe@comcast.net

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Browntown Calendar

July 4th Sunday - Independence Day
July 12th Monday - BCCA Public Meeting 7:30
July 13th Tuesday - Baptist Church Community
Luncheon @ 12:00 noon.
July 20th Tuesday - SWVFD public meeting 7:30
July 28th Wednesday - 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

Sunday School @ 10:00 a.m.

Worship Service @ 11a.m.

Limeton United Methodist Church

Pastor: Sherry Waddell

10 a.m. Sunday School

11:15 a.m. Sunday Worship Service

Rev Sherry Waddell

SherryWaddell@vaumc.org



Next year 2022. We are going to have a July 4th Parade and Festival. No fireworks. Parade, Entertainment, Food and Good Friends/Neighbors

BROWNTOWN WEB PAGE:

www.browntowncommunity.com

Check out our new Web page:

Along the Gooney Newsletter (current 4 months)

BCCA Events

Browntown History pages

Photo Galleries

Advertising, Sponsors & other info.

Webmaster: George Hodgkiss

1015gwh@centurylink.net

Please send any information for the newsletter to:

Jackie: 1015jkh@centurylink.net or

Tom: tomlacombe@comcast.net

Browntown Yard Sale

We are currently accepting items for the next yard sale. Please donate items to the center; to arrange for drop off, call:

Patsy 635-5568 or

Jackie 636-3588

Our plans are to have the center open for the yard sale on Fridays and Saturdays:

Sept. 3rd and 4th

October 1st and 2nd

10:00 a.m. to 2:00

Free Cargo Nets

The Warren County's Anti-Litter Campaign is giving away free cargo nets to County citizens. These fit small or large trucks or utility trailers in order to cover and secure trash to keep it from blowing off while going to convenience sites or to the transfer stations. Three sizes are available: 36x60, 48x72, and 72x96. Quantities are limited and are available at the Warren County Planning Office or, in the future, at the Bentonville Transfer Station.

Obituary

Jean Chrisman Rudacille, 68, of Bentonville, passed on June 5, at the Winchester Med Ctr. Jean was the daughter of Anna Mae Dodson Chrisman of Bentonville and the late John Perry Chrisman. She was the owner, operator and designer at Donahoe's Florist in Front Royal for twenty-three years. Jean loved camping, Kayaking down the Shenandoah River and collecting antiques. She enjoyed going to the Front Royal Moose Lodge #829 with friends, where she was a member of the Women of the Moose. She was one of the board of directors for the South Warren Volunteer Fire Department for many years. Surviving along with her mother are a brother, Ronnie Chrisman and wife Brenda of Front Royal; one nephew, Rodney Chrisman of Bentonville, whom she loved very much; fiancé, Micky Licklider of Front Royal; two step-nephews, Wayne and Greg Foster of Stanley; step niece, Melissa Pullen; and a host of cousins and numerous friends. Jean will be greatly missed. Memorial gifts may be made to Northwestern Community Services, 209 West Criser Rd, Front Royal, VA 22630



Adam Oberdiehr Broom Factory. Ca. 1880

This one-story frame building has a stucco exterior and a metal-sheathed side-gable roof. The door and window openings of the asymmetrical three-bay front elevation are covered with plywood. A wide garage-bay like door has been created on the south gable end. Other features include exposed rafter ends, a plywood-covered opening in the south gable, and a stone foundation. This was the broom factory and carpenter shop of Adam Oberdiehr.

O.J. Rudacille Gen. Mdse.

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OJ Rudacille Store

Customers may call 636-2149, to order items, which I will put in the black Washington Post box on my front porch. Customers will be asked to leave the money for the items in the black box. This service will be available from 8 a.m. till 2 p.m., Monday through Saturday. For newspaper customers, the Post and the Daily will be in the black box for pick up 7 days a week, just leave money in the box. I am open to suggestions in regards to this decision. I thank you, my friends for your support over the years. Hopefully things will be back to normal soon.

Thanks again,

Tom

Deadline for Aug News, July 28th

Make A Note: Patsy Pennington is the person to contact if you want to rent/use the Center.

Patsy's number is 635-5568

Please Slow Down on our Beautiful Browntown Roads. Remember, the Speed limit here in Browntown is 25 mph. Hay season is here, so please watch for slow moving farm equipment.

Browntown Historic District Added to Virginia's Register of Historic Places!

Here is a bit of the history from Daniel Pezzoni's research

The Browntown Historic District encompasses most of the village of Browntown. The village occupies an area of the county known since the eighteenth century as Gooney Manor, through which flows Gooney Run, a tributary of the South Fork of the Shenandoah. The Gooney Manor valley is surrounded on the east and south by the Blue Ridge Mountains, which locally rise to over 3,000 feet in elevation, and on the west by several smaller mountains. Browntown itself lies mostly at elevations of between 900 and 1,000 feet above sea level. The village, in its present form, was developed in the 1870s, and centered on the intersection of the east-west Bentonville Rd and the north-south Browntown Rd. and its continuation, Gooney Manor Loop. Development is most dense at the aforementioned intersection at the north end of the village, with farm fields predominating at the district's midsection and a smaller concentration of houses at the south end. The south end is where a small creek known as Broad Run flows into Gooney Run. A second small stream, Morgan's Spring Branch, flows through the district's eastern tip. Browntown's historic resources date largely from the 1870s to 1950s period, with a few structures dating to the first two-thirds of the nineteenth century. The majority of buildings are houses of one-story, story-and-a-half, and two-story height and frame construction, with weatherboard, stucco, or synthetic exterior siding. House styles include Italianate, Craftsman, and Minimal Traditional, though many houses are devoid of pronounced stylistic character. Stone foundations and brick chimneys and flues predominate (brick and cinder block also occur as foundation materials and there are a few stone chimneys). Houses are often accompanied by secondary auxiliary resources; in fact, Browntown is especially rich in secondary domestic resources. Secondary domestic resource types include garages, carriage houses, privies, smokehouses/meat houses, springhouses/wellhouses, a water pump and trough (along with a drinking fountain the district's only enumerated "objects"), and miscellaneous sheds. Two of the district's springhouses date to the antebellum period and number among the few resources built of stone. The most prominent buildings in the district on account of their height, architectural presence, and main road placement, are the two nineteenth-century churches, the ca. 1882 Browntown Union Church and 1897 Browntown Baptist Church (a third church, the ca. 1950 Browntown Pentecostal Church, is a low cinder-block building on a side street). Other important resource types include stores, notably the Baublitz-Rudacille, Manuel, and Smelser stores; the 1910s Browntown Bridge; and barns. The barns include the ca. 1885 Creekside barn, which shows Italianate influence, and the 1940s Shadybrook Farm barn, a large cinder-block bank barn with cupola-form ventilators and a concrete stave silo. The district's most unusual agricultural resource is the early twentieth-century corn dryer on the Edmonds-Nossett Farm, a bolted metal structure consisting of two silo-like elements joined at the top by a domical roof. The district possesses a high level of integrity of design, setting, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association. The majority of resources date to the period of significance and possess exterior integrity of design in that they retain their historic form, structure, and style. The district possesses integrity of setting in that it retains the character that developed during the period of significance. The majority of resources possess integrity of workmanship in that the physical evidence of the crafts involved in their construction and ornamentation remains evident. This includes the refinishing of a number of resources with stucco in the 1930s and 1940s, which falls within the period of significance. A few resources have been re-sided in vinyl, though the number is too small to adversely affect the overall integrity of the district. The majority of resources possess the materials that have characterized them since the end of the period of significance and the area as a whole conveys a sense of the particular period of time during which it was developed and gained its historic associations. The area possesses integrity of association in that it is directly linked to the historical and architectural developments that formed it. One prominent resource, the Charles F. Updike Doctor's Office and Browntown Post Office at 52 Browntown Road, was moved after the end of the period of significance, however the resource retains its association with its historic-period location and is classified as contributing.

BEARR GROUP UPDATE – JUNE 2021

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

WHO ARE WE AND WHAT DO WE DO?



The group was formed by the BCCA in early 2021 in response to widespread concerns about the capability of local fire and rescue services to respond effectively to emergencies in the Browntown valley. Currently the BEARR Group has eight volunteer members. Many of our members have recently become Associate Volunteers with the South Warren County Fire and Rescue Department.

Over the next few months we will continue to focus our energy on four key issues:

(1) BUYING OR LEASING A REPLACEMENT/UPGRADED FIRE TRUCK

This is our top priority and we are working with our colleagues based at South Warren Fire Station 3 in Bentonville and other Warren County Fire & Rescue Chiefs to come up with an affordable option that can be brought into service this year. We will keep you posted on progress in upcoming editions of Along the Gooney.

(2) ENCOURAGING THE ADOPTION OF 911 REFLECTIVE HOUSE NUMBERS SO THAT EMERGENCY RESPONDERS CAN EASILY FIND OUR HOMES

The 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.

In the Bentonville/Browntown area there are approximately 1,000 households that have a variety of different address signs and, in some cases, no sign at all. Displaying a 911 reflective address sign makes it easier to find your house in case of an emergency.



Browntown "Fire & Emergency Sub-Station", adjacent to the Community Center.



HOW TO OBTAIN A SIGN FOR YOUR PROPERTY

After reviewing options available, we are supporting the installation of double-sided 6" x 18" signs with 3" reflective numbers on a blue background. The South Warren Volunteer Fire Department has made a bulk purchase of 50 sign blanks at a discount in order to achieve a significant cost saving.

The cost of these signs to South Warren residents is \$25 per sign/per property. This includes a small donation to the SWVFD to support their work. Installation to attach your sign to an existing post can be provided at no additional cost. However, there is a small installation charge to cover the cost of materials if a new post is needed.

If you would like to purchase one of these signs for your own address or need more information, **please send an email to Chris Lewis** at chris1908@gmail.com.

(3) PROVIDING MOBILE CANTEEN SERVICES FOR EMERGENCY RESPONDERS

Our idea is to have a **mobile canteen** that could provide drinks, snacks, ice water, terry cloth towels, etc to first responders battling a fire. This kind of service would likely be most critical/helpful in conditions of extremely high or low temperatures. Drinks and other supplies would be kept at the Browntown Fire sub-station.

We are currently searching for a suitable used truck, (also to be located at the fire sub-station), that could be adapted to meet our needs. If you know of such a vehicle that a person would be willing to donate, **please contact Allan Brockway** at abbrockway@yahoo.com. Also, let Allan know if you would be interested in volunteering to join a roster of drivers for the mobile canteen.

(4)IMPROVING CELL PHONE & INTERNET ACCESS IN AND AROUND BROWNTOWN

The BCCA has launched a PETITION that will be delivered to our Warren County Supervisors later this summer. Currently, more than 70 residents of the Browntown-Bentonville area have signed this petition but we hoping to increase this number to at least 200 over the next two months.

We will be reaching out to residents in our area over the next few weeks in a variety of settings to give them the opportunity to support this petition AND BRING ABOUT CHANGE.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADD YOUR NAME TO THIS PETITION PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL TO BRIAN WILKINSON AT bwilkinson57@verizon.net OR CALL HIM AT 703-389-7288. Continue on page 5

The “Petition” will be available at the next BCCA meeting at the community Center, July 14th at 7:30. Please come by and help make a change.

PETITION SUMMARY

The communities in the Browntown Valley are changing and evolving. We are facing a host of new economic, social, and educational challenges. An ageing population, adoption of online schooling, and remote working from home represent both vulnerabilities and opportunities. To respond effectively to these challenges and to ensure the safety and security of our citizens we need access to the same modern communication tools and technology that exist in the more urban areas of Warren County.

For many years we have tolerated a shameful lack of reliable and affordable cell phone service and dependable internet access. As a result the health and safety of our citizens, our children’s access to online education, and the viability of local businesses and “remote” working have been placed at considerable risk. The recent Covid 19 pandemic has only worsened this situation.

Continuing to give “lip service” to finding a solution to these problems is no longer acceptable to us.

We expect more from you as our elected Officials and demand that the county prioritize our situation and take action now to address these issues.

ACTION PETITIONED FOR:

We, the undersigned, are citizens who are seriously concerned about the current inadequate cell phone coverage and internet service available in our area.

We urge our leaders to act now to address these problems and ensure that

- (1) The health and safety of people living in Browntown and the surrounding area are protected,
- (2) Access to online education for our children is no longer at risk, and
- (3) Local businesses and home-based workers are able to rely on their cell phones and the Internet for essential business communications.

Browntown Summer Days Festival

Wow, what a success! The last minute decision to have this festival, instead of the Redbud Festival, turned out great. It was only possible because so many people pitched in and helped with everything. This was the best we have ever done, and we can’t thank the people enough who went out to all the vendors and asked for gift certificates and donations. I would like to name all the people who helped, but I am sure I would forget or leave someone out . . . so here is a big **Thank You to All**.

The kitchen never let up with customers; the silent auction was packed with items and over 50 gift certificates; the duck race conditions were perfect for them to “swim” down the Gooney.

Kitchen \$535.
 Bake Table \$334.
 Merchandise \$522.
 Duck Race \$465.
 Hot Dogs \$113.
 50/50 \$115.
 Pop Corn \$5.00
 Crafters \$330.
 Sponsors \$200.
 Photo Contest \$433.
 Historic \$128.
 Silent Auction \$5628.

Total: \$8,808.

THANK YOU



2022 Browntown Calendar Contest Results

Cover

Joanne Cherefko won for her wintry photo of cows on a snowy day on Stonehedge Farm. Joanne is once again graciously donating the prize money back to BCCA!

Winter

1st place goes to Tatiana Compton for her photo of their family dog, Abbie, frolicking in the snow on Compton Farm

2nd place goes to Christine Hartman for her sweet close up of the donkeys on Smith Run Road

3rd place goes to George Hodgkiss for his photo of his late, beloved Sheltie, "Jazz", tentatively walking on fresh snow

Spring

1st place goes to Joanne Cherefko for her photo of her beautiful Cavalier, "Taylor", posing among the spring irises on Stonehedge Farm

2nd place goes to Dale Thompson for her photo of a horse enjoying a spring day on Gooney Manor Loop

3rd place goes to Joanne Cherefko for her photo of a bird bathing in the pond on Stonehedge Farm

Summer

1st place goes to Dale Thompson for her photo of a hungry raccoon begging for food at 145 Wellspring Road

2nd place goes to Dale Thompson for her photo of an imposing buck at 145 Wellspring Road

3rd place goes to Cindy Cunningham for her stunning close-up photo of a butterfly on Waterhouse Lane

Fall

1st place goes to Tatiana Compton for her photo of sweet "Abbie" strolling on Gooney Manor Loop near Compton Farm

2nd place goes to Joanne Cherefko for her peaceful photo of geese on Gail Miller's pond surrounded by autumn foliage on Poe Hill Road

3rd place goes to Christine Hartman for entering Laura Skoff's photo of curious cows on Gooney Manor Loop with Hogback Mountain in the background

As always, we had many more beautiful photos then we could possibly fit into a 12-page calendar.

Always keep an eye out for the perfect shot throughout the year, as we will need to keep the beauty of our area in the forefront for our Browntown calendar!

A huge thanks to our amazing photographers who made this fundraiser such a success! And a special thanks to everyone who contributed to logistics for this event, especially Joanne Cherefko, Mark Thomas and Ana Lina & Mila Compton!

Keep in mind that now is the time to be placing your pre-orders. Until the calendar is actually in print (approximately September) there is a discount for these pre-orders--\$13 for the calendar (instead of \$15) & \$10 for the note cards (rather than \$12). These make great gifts and help enormously to support your BCCA!

Marianne Thomas
tspmdt@yahoo.com
571.228.1620



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2023 Browntown Calendars

Ok, it is never too early to start taking those pictures for the 13th annual 2023 Browntown Calendar. We just completed the 12 annual 2022 calendar. Pictures can be anything in Browntown with Browntown landscaping in the background.

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"Browntown Summer Days"

Phoenix helped me man an "Open House" at the 1882 Union Church next door to the Community Center. This church was built at the staggering cost of \$1,600, in a partnership of four denominations; Primitive Baptists, Southern Baptists, Methodists and Lutherans. An old newspaper clipping mentions that the church bell has the sweetest ring in the valley. Two seniors who are lifetime Browntown residents mentioned they had never been inside this historic church. Two others remembered coming here for Sunday School, before the Browntown Baptists bought their current church from the Lutherans, in 1943. The last congregation to worship here were the South River Primitive Baptists. The building is currently taken care of by the Browntown Baptist Church. A poignant note from one visitor had to do with World

War II and Operation Overlord. Many soldiers from the Shenandoah Valley took part in this operation, and many died. After the mission was announced to the public, children from the Browntown school were ushered to the Union Church to pray not only for the success of the mission, but for the soldiers taking part in this most important battle. D-Day, June 6, 1944.

