



# “Along the Gooney”

Browntown Community Center Association

## July, 2024

Vol. 32 No. 07 Editors: Jackie Hodgkiss [Jackie.BCCA@gmail.com](mailto:Jackie.BCCA@gmail.com) & Tom Lacombe [tomlacombe@comcast.net](mailto:tomlacombe@comcast.net)

### BCCA Board of Directors - 2024

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

July 04<sup>th</sup> Happy July 4th  
 July 08<sup>th</sup> BCCA Public Meeting 7:30p.m.  
 July 15<sup>th</sup> Mon – July 18<sup>th</sup> Thurs 6 p.m. – 8p. m.  
                     Summer Art Camp  
 July 29<sup>th</sup> Deadline for August newsletter

### Browntown Baptist Church

[browntownbaptistva@gmail.com](mailto: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 at 9:30 and Worship at 10:30.

### Limeton Community Church

9 Limeton Main St. Bentonville, VA

Pastor Lorne Fyfe

SS at 10 and service at 11

## Izaak Walton league

Calling all Browntowners. Our next scheduled trash pick up on Browntown Road is July 14. Please mark your calendars and help the Izaak Walton league keep the road looking good. More information to follow. Bill Lacy, Anti-litter coordinator. Warren County Izaak Walton league

### Martha’s Message:

Adult Paint Party with Artist Kelly Walker is scheduled for Sunday, August 11. Save the date! It starts at 1 pm and will be \$45. Actual picture we will paint will go out on our Facebook Page and email distribution list as soon as we have it! So stay tuned!

Also, our Fall Yard Sale is Friday, September 13 and Saturday, September 14. We are now accepting donations. To make a donation call Patsy Pennington at 540-635-5568.

# Summer Art Camp

## Mon July 15th - Thurs July 18th



### 6pm-8pm



## Browntown Community Center

Ages: 7-12 years old

Price: \$100 per child

All materials included.

Host: Jessie Sprouse

Contact: 540-622-4592

[jessielynnsprouse@gmail.com](mailto:jessielynnsprouse@gmail.com)

{ You must prepay to reserve a space.

15 tiny artists max. }



### Obituary

**Richard William Smelser Sr.**, 82, of Front Royal, Virginia passed away on Friday, June 21, 2024 at his home. Funeral services will be private. Mr. Smelser was born on February 7, 1942 in Front Royal to the late Bennie and Clara Mathews Smelser. He was also preceded in death by his wife, Margaret Smelser; three brothers, Lloyd Smelser, Roger Smelser and Lee Smelser; grandson, Chad Smelser and granddaughter, Stacey Prechtel. He retired from Perry Engineering. Survivors include his son, Richard William Smelser Jr. (Vanessa Van Meter); two daughters, Joyce L. Smelser (Tommy Jenkins) and Jeanne A. Smelser (Jason Brittain); brother, Larry Smelser (Marsha); sister, Lorraine Brannon; four grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren and his dog, Buddy. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to Blue Ridge Hospice, 333 West Cork Street, Winchester, Virginia 22601.

**Roxanne Campbell** passed on this photo to me at the last BCCA meeting. The back of the photo is dated April 1990. From left to right, I have 1) **Phyllis Manuel** 2) **Petsy Rudacille** 3) **Mary Baggarly** 4) ? 5) **Lois Baker** 6) ? 7) **Reba Partlow** 8)? 9)? 10)? 11)?12)? 13)? 14) **Anna Rae Rudacille White** 15)? 16)? Any corrections or additions will be greatly appreciated.

## 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*



**Deadline for August News: July 29<sup>th</sup>**  
 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.  
**Watch out for Tractors Hauling Hay**



# Gooney Valley History Club

Last month we asked whether you recognized the people in these two photos and promised to tell you more this month. Here is what we know.....



This family photo was taken in the 1920s, most probably in the area we know as Boyd's Mill. The man on the far right is Stephen Miller Boyd, Sr. Sitting behind him is his brother, John Boyd, and to his immediate left is his wife, Ruth Ann Bell Updike Boyd. On Ruth's left are their daughter, Mildred Brown Boyd (one of their nine children) and Mildred's son Godfrey. We do not know the name of the woman sitting on the far left. Ruth was the eldest daughter of Lafayette Updike, an important figure in the history of Browntown.

Ruth would die in 1927, just a few years after this photo was taken. Stephen, her husband, outlived her by nine years and died in 1936.

This branch of the Boyd family played a very significant role in the history of the Gooney Valley. Stephen Miller Boyd went into the mill business that we know as **Boyd's Mill, located about one mile north of Browntown**, with his father, James Wilson Boyd, in the early 1880s. He would take over full control of the mill in 1900. Stephen and Ruth built a house across the road from Mount Echo, and operated the mill until it failed in 1910. In 1907 Stephen and Ruth sold, to the South River School District No. 2, a site for a graded school building at Browntown. **That building would continue to be used as a school until it closed in 1970 when it became the Browntown Community Center.**



The three men shooting the breeze in the back of the O.J. Rudacille store in the 1950s are all well-known local characters. On the left is **Francis Slaughter** who was the Sheriff of Warren County from 1951 to 1963. In the middle sits **Wilford George Frame** who lived on Smiths Run and worked as a carpenter in the White House in Washington DC (as did his son, Milton, for some 37 years). Finally on the right we have **William (Bill) Vincent Robinson**, one of the biggest farmers and landowners in Browntown in recent memory. **His father, Vincent Robinson, served in Mosby's brigade during the Civil War of 1861-1865.**

**Photos like these are sometimes the only link we have with the past. Please help us to ensure that our memories of those who are no longer with us are preserved.**

## **“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 along to his store – We will treasure these, and will make sure they are preserved --- and draw on them to share knowledge and experience that otherwise might be lost forever.

**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 (540 636 2149), or email him at ([tomlacombe@comcast.net](mailto:tomlacombe@comcast.net))**

Roxanne Campbell turned over some old obituaries to the Gooney Valley History Club a couple months ago, and I had an extra page this month so thought I would share four of them. I guess the most interesting may be in the center. Dr. Charles T. Updike, served as Browntown's lone health care provider for many years.

### OUR BELOVED SLEEPS

In sad, but sweet remembrance of John Mantel, who departed this life one year ago today, March 22d, 1915.

Oh, the home is dark without him and we wished for him so much, but the angels came down for him, and removed him from the back.

He will come perhaps, at evening

When the smiling life is sweet;

When the arms are strong, unweary'd

By the noonday toil and heat;

When the undimmed eyes look tearless

Up the shining heights of life,

And the larger soul is panting,

Yearning for some noble strife.

If he only finds us waiting

Lining for his sudden call,

Then his coming when we think not,

Is the sweetest hope of all.

Calm, on the bosom of thy God,

Fair spirit, rest thee now,

While with thy footsteps trod,

His seal was on thy brow.

Low are the paths and sad the bowers,

Whence thy mock smiles are gone;

But oh, a brighter home than ours

In heaven is thy own; why should

our tears in sorrow flow, when God

recalls His own, and bids them,

leave a world of woe for an immortal

crown; is not death a gain to

those whose life to God was given,

gladly to earth their eyes they close

to open them in heaven.

Their toils are past, their work is

done and they are fully blest; they

have fought the fight, the victory

won, and entered into rest.

Then let our sorrow cease to flow,

God has recalled His own;

And let our hearts in every woe,

Still say "Thy will be done!"

By his niece,

A. V. M.

### IN MEMORY

In sad but loving remembrance of our dear husband and father, Dr. C. T. Updike of Browntown, Virginia, who departed this life five months ago today, March 14, 1920.

Here is grief that cannot find comfort

And wounds that cannot be healed

And sorrow deep in the human heart

That cannot be revealed.

Our hearts are sad and lonely

Our grief too deep to tell

But time will come when we will meet

And all to you we will tell.

Dear, is the grave in which he is laid

Sweet is the memory that shall never fade

Heart of my life is buried deep Under the sod where my dear husband sleeps.

More and more each day we miss you

Friends may think the wound is healed,

But they little know the sorrow That lies within our heart concealed.

You are resting in peace dear father,

Five sad months have passed away

You are gone but not forgotten, As we think of you each day.

By his wife and children.

### Mrs. Ada A. Chrisman,

the beloved wife of Mr. George I. Chrisman, was born October 8, 1885, and departed this life on the 10th day of September, 1910,

aged 24 years, 10 months and two days, leaving husband and two little children to mourn the loss

of a true, faithful wife, and a loving, indulgent mother, besides numerous other relatives and a long list of loving friends.

Our darling has gone on before us, And left us so sad and so lone, We knew not how deeply we loved her

No, never! until she was gone!

This world will be dreary without her, Our paths will be wet with our tears

But out of the night of our sorrow The dawn of the morning appears:

Our Saviour knows best, and we trust Him—

He's taken back the jewel He gave! Our Saviour who knows all our sorrows

Jesus who wept at the grave!

Another link's gone from the chain— But denser and sweeter she be, When we meet her and greet her—

In heaven again!

By her grand-mother— Mrs. R. N. Jones 1885.

### OBITUARY

In sad but loving remembrance of our dear father, Charles B. Alger, who departed this life March 17th, 1917.

Since they have laid him beneath a mantle of flowers,

Our loved one we loved so dear, We miss him so much we listen,

And wait for one sound of his footstep.

His counsel and advice to us is given In heaven he is waiting for us to come,

For his life work is ended, And God has said well done,

Life's morn will soon be ended, And the evening's bells will toll,

Then our hearts will know no sorrow When the pearly gates unfold.

Yes, there is one who still will linger Near the spot where he was laid,

And will come and scatter flowers, On the spot where he is resting.

Written by his son.—E. L. A.

### 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



Meet your Warren County Master Gardeners at the Warren County Fair, July 29-July 31, 2024, 5pm-8pm. Information booth identifying invasive plants that are in your yard and replacing them with native plant alternatives.

Virginia Invasive Plant Species List - [www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural\\_heritage/invspinfo.shtml](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/invspinfo.shtml)

Native Plant Species List - download "Piedmont native plants, 2nd edition" for ideas <https://www.plantvirginianatives.org/plant-northern-piedmont-natives>

### BEEKEEPING

Interested in becoming a beekeeper? Want to learn more about beekeeping? Browntown beekeeper Denise Vowell will be teaching a free class--Beekeeping Basics--at the Warren County Community Center. The class will be offered twice, on August 10 and again on August 17. from 10-12. No preregistration is required.

**Sharon Tharpe**, One of our Browntown Residents is very sick.

If you would like to send her a get well card or message, her address is:

Sharon Tharpe  
5625 Gooney Manor Loop  
Browntown, VA 22610



## IZAAK WALTON



### 2ND ANNUAL

## music in the mountains



JOIN US FOR A FUN-FILLED DAY AT THE PARK

DJ RON 11:00 AM TO 5:00 PM

JESS ESTIENNE 12:00 PM TO 1:30 PM

PASSAGE CREEK RISING 2:00 PM TO 5:00 PM

\$20.00 PER ADULT, KIDS UNDER 12 ARE FREE

SCAN QR CODE TO PURCHASE TICKETS



- FIRESTORM PIZZA
- SILENT AUCTION
- DOOR PRIZES
- BAKE SALE

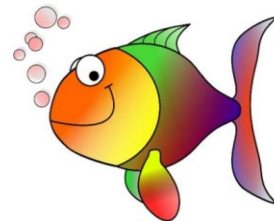
AUGUST 24, 2024

11:00 AM---5:00 PM

3364 GOONEY MANOR LOOP  
BENTONVILLE, VA 22610

### BROWNTOWN BAPTIST CHURCH GONE FISHING VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> - AGES 4 AND UP  
(YOUNGER THEN 4 SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT)



- Wednesday July 24<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 - 8:30 - Snack, Games, Craft, lesson
- Thursday July 25<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 - 8:30 - Snack, Games, Craft, lesson
- Friday July 26<sup>th</sup> - 6:30 - 8:30 - Lesson, Pizza & water night

Please register at:

<https://vbsmate.com/events/Browntownbaptist/29583>





## JULY, 2024 UPDATE - THE BEARR GROUP

“KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE”

THE BEARR GROUP IS NOW ONLINE at [BEARRGroup.com](http://BEARRGroup.com)

Facebook: BEARR Group Instagram: @bearr\_group Twitter: @bearr\_group



### 911 REFLECTIVE SIGNS - HELP FIRST RESPONDERS FIND YOUR HOUSE (THEY ALSO HELP GUESTS & DELIVERY DRIVERS EASILY FIND YOU!)

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

Order yours at [BEARRGroup.com](http://BEARRGroup.com) or email Chris Lewis at [chris@BEARRGroup.com](mailto:chris@BEARRGroup.com) or call 540-313-6185.



**PLEASE CHECK OUR NEW SIGN REGULARLY TO ASSESS THE CURRENT RISK OF WILDFIRES – & ENSURE YOU AREN'T THE CAUSE OF A NEW FIRE!**

**TRUCK PULLING RAKE DESTROYED BY FIRE ON GOONEY MANOR LOOP!**



We have been lucky in the last two weeks that local

shed and grass fires were contained by the quick

response of Allan Brockway, operating the brush truck stationed at the Browntown sub-station.

However, back up support from Station 3 and other local fire units was essential since our brush truck (with no air-conditioning) carries only 250 gallons of water and this was not enough to extinguish either fire completely.

**LESSON LEARNED: DON'T PARK OR OPERATE A VEHICLE WHERE ITS EXHAUST SYSTEM, CATALYTIC CONVERTER OR IT'S ENGINE HEAT COULD IGNITE DRY GRASS OR STUBBLE!**

**FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE AGAINST A HOUSE FIRE: SMOKE DETECTORS THAT WORK**

Believe it or not, installing smoke detectors isn't a one-and-done task. Generally, smoke detectors are only designed to last for around 10 years. Once they pass that 10-year mark, they lose their sensitivity and don't detect smoke like they are supposed to.

**FIVE SIGNS THAT IT IS TIME TO REPLACE YOUR SMOKE DETECTOR:**

<https://www.homeofintegrity.com/blog/5-signs-to-replace-smoke-detector/#:~:text=Generally%2C%20smoke%20detectors%20are%20only,like%20they%20are%20supposed%20to.>

**WARREN COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE DEPT. PROVIDES WARREN COUNTY RESIDENTS WITH FREE SMOKE ALARMS!**

If you require a visit, it will take about 30 minutes and they will provide and install free smoke alarms and heat detectors where risk is identified. Alarms for people who are Deaf or hard of hearing are also available. Contact the fire administration office at (540) 636-3830 or e-mail WCFRD at [fireprevention@warrencountyfire.com](mailto:fireprevention@warrencountyfire.com).

# HIDDEN SPRINGS

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Browntown, VA 22610



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



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marthaburacker@gmail.com

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## 2025 Calendars

Gooney Valley History Club News!  
Lots of folks were disappointed this year that the Community Center wasn't able to do a calendar, so our club is trying our hand at one, with a theme, "Browntown 100 Years Ago".

Proceeds will go to the Browntown Community Center. Also, if there are any folks that would like to join the club, we are looking to expand our membership. If you have any old photos of Browntown, we'd love to make copies, and return the originals to you. Here is a photo from 1931, which may make into our 2025 calendar. By the way we'll be selling ads for the calendar, to help defray the printing costs.

