



“Along the Gooney”

Browntown Community Center Association

November, 2022

Vol. 30 No. 011 Editors: Jackie Hodgkiss Jackie.BCCA@gmail.com & Tom Lacombe tomlacombe@comcast.net

Board of Directors

President	John Bell	540 635-9705
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	Jim Sylvester	540 636-7565
	Denny Pennington	540 635-5568

Browntown Calendar

- Nov. 5th Benefit for Mary & Lee Henry Baptist Fellowship Hall Church
- Nov. 6th Daylight Savings Time (Clocks back 1 hour)
- Nov. 8th Virginia Election Day
- Nov. 14th BCCA meeting 7:30
- Nov. 12th Limeton Church Bazaar
- Nov. 12th Skyline Highschool Fall Bazaar
- Nov. 19th Browntown Christmas Bazaar 9-3
- Nov. 24th Thanksgiving Day
- Nov. 29th Deadline for Dec. 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

Pastor: Anne Sisson

10 a.m. Sunday school

11:15 a.m. Sunday Worship Service

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

1015qwh@centurylink.net

Thank You

On behalf of Dennis (Gene) Willingham and myself, Carolyn Willingham, we want to send our family and friends a “sincere thank you” for all of your support for the benefit helping Dennis (Gene) with his medical-related expenses.

A special thank you to my sisters, Patsy (and Denny) and Lou, for their organization of the event and generous donations.

A special thank you goes out to all of the folks and businesses who donated silent auction items, baked goods, yard sale items, monetary gifts and food. Another special thank you to all of the volunteers, including but not limited to, Jayne, Neil, Marianne, Roxanne, Pauline, Tommy, Connie, Junior, Jan and Deloris. We greatly appreciate all of the love, and may God Bless you!

Annual Holiday Bazaar

Limeton United Methodist Church

9 Limeton Main Street. Bentonville, VA 22610

540-635-8675

Saturday, November 12, 2022 - 8 am to 2 pm

Crafts by Limeton Ladies

Holiday Wreathes

(great Thanksgiving and Christmas items)

“Bakery” by Limeton Ladies

Jams, Jellies, Apple Butter and more

Available for sale to go:

Country Ham Sandwiches

Sausage Biscuits

FREE:

Coffee and Cider

Come sit with us for a while! We’ve missed You!

Proceeds to benefit Mission and Outreach

Obituaries

Lori Jean (Robinson) Bowers, 60, of F.R., passed away at Winc. Hospital on Sept. 25th. Surviving are her husband, Thomas Bowers; 3 children, Tarah Washbourne, Holly Washbourne, and Jeffrey Washbourne; daughter-in-law, Hailey Chaffin; two grandchildren, Mylie and Stevie Washbourne; brother, Mike Robinson and wife Kathy; and sister, Debbie Wolford.

Andrew J. "Doodle" Campbell, 87, of F.R., passed, Oct 9, at the Blue Ridge Hospice. Doodle was born Feb. 2, 1935, in Browntown, son of the late Henry S. "Snoots" Campbell and Mazie Willingham Campbell. Doodle was married to Ruth E. Campbell, for 57 years. He was a US Army veteran and for 37 years operated Campbell's Citgo in F.R.. Surviving, are his siblings, Donald R. "Billy" Campbell and wife Johana of F.R., Ernest B. "Buster" Campbell and wife Judy of F.R., Lois C. "Mettie" Baker of Browntown, and Retha C. Smith and husband Jimmy of F.R., as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins, and countless friends. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by siblings, Lawrence S. Campbell, Edith C. Welsh, and Charles B. "Charlie" Campbell; siblings-in-law, Cordelia "Dee" Campbell, Jerry "Pete" Welsh, and Orviel Baker; and 2 nieces and nephews.

Ruth Eastham Campbell, 92, of F.R., passed on Oct. 14, at Blue Ridge Hospice. Ruth was born Nov. 12, 1929 in Arco, VA, daughter of John A. Eastham and Gertrude Pomeroy Eastham. Ruth was married to Andrew "Doodle" Campbell, for 57 years. Surviving is her brother, Glenn Eastham; sisters, Helen Settle, Joy Rosa, Linda Eastham and many nieces, nephews and cousins. Ruth was a pillar of strength for family and friends. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, "Doodle", and siblings; William Eastham, Robert Eastham and Elaine Ring Burke. Mem. gifts for Doodle and Ruth may be mailed to Blue Ridge Hospice, 333 West Cork St, Winc. Va. 22601

Thomas ""Tommy"" G. Tharpe, Sr., 73, of Browntown, passed on Oct. 3, at home. Tommy was born July 21, 1949, in Browntown, son of the late Vernon David and Edith Virginia Rudacille Tharpe. He worked for Kibler Furniture Co. in F.R. for 50 years. Surviving is his devoted wife of 53 years, Sharon B. Tharpe; one son, Thomas ""Tommy"" G. Tharpe, Jr. and wife Melissa of Winchester; one brother, Roger ""Perks"" Tharpe of Kenansville, NC; three grandchildren whom he dearly loved and cherished, Tyler Faye Tharpe, Chloe Elizabeth Tharpe and Thomas Evan Tharpe; a very special friend, Stephanie Tharpe, mother of Tyler Faye Tharpe; many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; and two brothers, Eddie Tharpe and Jack Tharpe. Memorial gifts may be made to Blue Ridge Hospice, 333 West Cork Street, Winc., VA 22601.

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 December News: Nov. 29th

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, 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 school is back in session
so watch for the kids and their big
yellow bus**

Three Communities, Browntown, Bentonville, & Limeton**12,000 Years of History****THE GOONEY VALLEY HISTORY CLUB****“Remembering Yesterday, Preserving Our Tomorrow” November, 2022**

Last Month an article about a Browntown Picnic held in 1878, now an article about the Browntown Picnic, held in 1879.

**Warren Sentinel, Vol. 11, # 20, 22 August 1879, page 3:**

Dear Sentinel: I seldom attempt to write for the public, first, because of incompetency, and for the further reason of a disinclination to bore editors and printers. However, as it is one of the duties of a local paper to inform its readers of all that is going on in the various sections of its county, I shall for the present forget my consideration for you and your co-laborers and tell you something of Browntown, its picnic, public speaking, etc. Browntown is located about ten miles from and in a Southwest direction from your county seat, in a basin formed by the peaks of the Blue Ridge. The adjacent lands are undulating, or to express myself more accurately, are broken, yet of average fertility, producing fine corn and rye. The village seven years ago would hardly have deserved that name, for it could only boast of three or four houses, a blacksmith shop and, in apple time, a brandy camp. Yet it has had the appellation of Browntown so long: “that the memory of man runneth not to the contrary.”

The Browntown of today, however, is in fact a prosperous village; thirty or forty tasty dwellings now adorn the place with a population of from two hundred to two hundred and fifty, striding with all their energies to keep pace with Front Royal. All seem willing to accord this progressive spirit to the Cover Bros. These gentlemen have erected within the corporation limits a large steam tannery which has been remunerative to its owners, furnishing employment regularly to fifteen or twenty hands, besides distributing annually thousands of dollars to the bark peelers of the neighborhood. This enterprising manufactory is turning out about fifty sides of leather per day and has stacked upon its yard \$30,000 worth of tan-bark.

The people of this vicinity are a sunburnt, double-fisted, hard-working, sensible class, fond of fun. They will ride fifteen or twenty miles to attend a circus or a dance. They are in the habit of meeting annually to enjoy themselves at a picnic, and it was at one of these grand jollifications your correspondent had the pleasure of being on August 16th, and really a good time he had. On one of those shaded hillsides, too steep to climb except by the aid of bushes by which one could pull himself up as it were, some two hundred and fifty or more persons had assembled. A portion of the hill had been dug away and a platform as horizontal as the location would admit of had been erected, and this point seemed to be the center of attraction. On one side of the platform, leaning against a huge oak, sat two of African descent, with eyes shut, mouths open and feet patting, they, with banjo and violin, made music for a number of young and enthusiastic dancers.

About two o’clock dancing was suspended and feasting began, and such baskets of nice things will ever make the people of Browntown proverbial for something good to eat as they are for something bad to drink—we fear, however, many more picnics will exterminate Updike’s Rocky Mountain Sheep.

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. (Note: we will have more to tell you about these jolly Browntown Picnics in the next edition of this newsletter)



2022

**Browntown Christmas Bazaar
Browntown Community Center &
Baptist Church Fellowship Hall
Saturday, November 19th
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Christmas Crafts, Wood Works, Hand Crafted Items,
Candles, Music Boxes, Soaps, Candles, Country Items,
Handmade Jewelry and much, much more!
Expanded this year with outside crafters and vendors as
well!

40 Craft Tables

(Wi-Fi now available for the BCCA property area)

Sill Sitters, Browntown Cookbooks, Browntown Hats.
Our Browntown Cups are also available.

GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Popular from last year, Chinese Auction Table with
donated items from our talented crafters

Our famous **“Browntown Bake Sale Table.”**

(All proceeds benefit the Browntown Community Center)

Menu

Sausage Gravy and Biscuits, Homemade Ham Biscuits,
Chili, Homemade Clam Chowder and Chicken Noodle
Soups,

Hot Dogs, Chili Dogs, Chicken Salad Sandwiches,
Drinks, and Homemade Desserts. (Carry-out available)

Directions: From Front Royal take Rt. 340 South 1/2 mile and turn
left onto Browntown Road.

Go 8 miles to the Village of Browntown.

96 Browntown Rd, Browntown, VA

BEARR GROUP UPDATE –NOVEMBER, 2022
BROWNTOWN'S EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND RISK REDUCTION GROUP
"KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE"



NEW THIS MONTH: The BEARR GROUP IS NOW ONLINE!

You can help to spread the word about the BEARR Group by "liking" and "following" our social media sites, below, and signing up for our newsletter at www.BEARRGroup.com

Facebook: BEARR Group

Instagram: @bearr_group

Twitter: @bearr_group



BECOME A VOLUNTEER FIRE-FIGHTER – HELP ENSURE THAT THE BROWNTOWN FIRE SUB-STATION WILL CONTINUE TO SERVE OUR NEEDS

For more information please contact Allan Brockway, Assistant Fire Chief,
 South Warren Volunteer Fire Department, at 540 635-7783.

911 REFLECTIVE SIGNS —HAVE YOU GOTTEN YOURS YET?

Over 140 of your friends and neighbors have purchased a **blue reflective address sign**. These signs are invaluable to first-responders when trying to find your house in an emergency. Next time you drive down your road at night, look to see how many signs are clearly visible, from both sides.

Make sure **yours** will be one of them—it could mean the difference between life and death!
 \$25 (payable on delivery) is a cheap price to pay for peace of mind.



Sign up online now at BEARRGroup.com. Alternatively, please email Chris Lewis at chris@BEARRGroup.com or call him at 540-313-6185.

You are the FIRST line of defense against fire. *Are You Ready?*
DO YOU KNOW THE CORRECT WAY TO USE A FIRE EXTINGUISHER?

Learn from the experts – Come to the fire extinguisher demonstration at the
 Browntown fire sub-station, (next to the Community Center),
 on Saturday, November 5, between 12:00PM and 2:00PM



Sorry, but this has been postponed till a later date)



HOW TO RESPOND TO A RESPIRATORY OR CARDIAC EMERGENCY

The BCCA and BEARR GROUP is partnering with WARREN COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE (WCFR) to offer CPR training programs for members of our community. For more information please call or Text Mary McLaughlin at 540-974-9672 or send her an email at ironmtn@centurylink.net

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

The BEARR Group exists to help you. There are lots of issues we could work on but we want to make sure we are focused on just a few that could really make a difference. 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, call 703 389-7288 or 540 313-6185 or email Brian Wilkinson at bwilkinson57@verizon.net



2023 BROWNTOWN JULY 4TH CELEBRATION – CAN WE MAKE IT HAPPEN?

A group of Revolutionary soldiers used to meet in Browntown every July 4th for many years to enjoy a festival, talk over their trials and shed tears of joy for the great victories they achieved and bequeathed for all coming generations. They would make an exhibition of the wounds they received during the clash of steel, and sing The Star Spangled Banner.

The tradition of a Browntown July 4th celebration was revived sometime later in the 20th century and was a regular event until 2010. The celebration included a parade, Bluegrass and Dixieland Jazz music, games, a cake walk, displays of crafts, a “Pony Plop” raffle, and even (in 1989) a belly dancer. Finally, at sunset, people would set up their chairs and enjoy a fireworks display.

Some of us would like to explore the possibility of reviving this tradition in 2023. It will take a lot of effort to make this happen but we are optimistic that “with a lot of help from our friends” we can start a whole new tradition of July 4th celebrations to be enjoyed by all.

If you would like to get involved or simply hear more, please meet with us at the Community Center on Monday, November 14 at 6:30 pm (just before the regular monthly BCCA meeting at 7:30).

If you can’t make it to this meeting but definitely like the idea of reviving this tradition, please let us know of your interest by calling either Brian Wilkinson (703 389-7288) or Patsy Pennington (540 635-5568).

Brian and Patsy

2022 Browntown Christmas Lights


This year marks the twelfth anniversary of the lighting of the Christmas Lights on the community center grounds. The tree lights, this year, will go on the new Blue Spruce tree located on the front grounds of the community center. The lights will be initially lit sometime during the first week in December and will be automatically lit every evening at dusk until January 1, 2023..

This year’s remembrance list of names and sponsors will be posted on a snowflake that will be placed on the inside the community center hall bulletin board. The list will also be published in the January newsletter issue. You may send in the names of loved ones and friends through the end of December.

This year we will be accepting donations of \$5.00 per name (snowflake).

If you would like to make a donation for a snowflake, please make your check payable to BCCA, and include the name of the person(s) you wish to have posted. Send checks and names to: BCCA, 96 Browntown Road, Browntown, VA 22610. The lighting of the tree will be Friday Dec. 2nd. Will have the reading of the names inside along with hot cider and refreshments. Names will also be posted on the inside bulletin board in the hallway at the center.

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*We are Thankful
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2023 Browntown Calendars and note cards are now available at Tom's store. We also have the Browntown School House sill sitter.

These items will also be for sale at the Christmas Bazaar on Nov. 19th Saturday 9:00 to 3:00

2023 Calendars \$15.00

2023 Note Cards \$12.00

Browntown CD's \$10.00

Browntown Hats.....\$15.00

Browntown Little Union Church...\$15.00

Browntown School Sitter...\$20.00



Weichert
REALTORS

Martha Buracker, Realtor

540-671-6349 CELL
540-635-8000 OFC
Buracker@gmail.com

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Browntown History

The Browntown History Committee is writing a book on the history of this region, from the colonial period to the present. Some of us are writing, some of us are editing. We meet by Zoom to coordinate the editing and writing of these chapters. We welcome people who are willing to participate in these tasks. For further information, contact Tom Lacombe at 540-636-2149, or stop to visit him at O. J. Rudacille Gen. Mdse.

