



“Along the Gooney”

Browntown Community Center Association

October 2025

Volume 33, Number 9

BCCA Board of Directors – 2025

President	Martha Buracker	540-671-6349
Vice President	Mary McKinney	540-635-4725
Secretary	Kristen Pence	540-230-1155
Treasurer	Nancy McDermott	703-975-8668
Trustees	Allan Brockway	540-635-7783
	Denny Pennington	540-635-5568
	Wes Deavers	540-631-0016

Be part of something greater: Volunteer your time

We’ve all seen it: money doesn’t go as far as it once did. Gasoline prices go up and down on an almost daily basis. Eggs and poultry costs have fluctuated as farmers contend with avian flu outbreaks. Who knows what it will cost to keep our homes warm this winter? The Browntown Community Center incurs not only regular monthly utility expenses, but also requires periodic maintenance.

It takes a village to make it run smoothly. Your support is crucial to keeping this resource available to the community. The Christmas Bazaar is one of the organization’s major fundraising events and we could use your help to make this a success. All it takes is a few hours of your time. Do you like to cook? Consider baking something for the bake sale.

Maybe you prefer being outdoors in the fresh air and would be willing to help safely direct our visitors to parking spots. The organizers can always use a hand or three to set up and take down tables and chairs. How about assisting with the check-in of the vendors who will be participating and making sure they get to their assigned places? Or lending a hand to the kitchen staff to serve food? Join us for a few hours, for the morning or afternoon, or for the entire event!

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Your donation of time doesn’t only make our effort a success, it provides you with benefits, too! It’s a great way to meet new people and develop social skills that you can use in future business and personal relationships. You might learn some new skills in the process. Volunteer work is seen as something positive in college applications, civic organizations, and even employment solicitations.

It’s a win-win situation! Want to check it out a bit? Join us for the next general business meeting on October 13, 2025. If you can’t make it but still want to help, you can complete the [Volunteer Interest Form](#) online at browntowncommunity.com/volunteer and we’ll get your information to the event coordinators.

“It’s easy to make a buck. It’s a lot tougher to make a difference.” – Tom Brokaw

Upcoming Events

October 13	BCCA Public Meeting 7:30 p.m.
October 17-18	BCCA Yard Sale 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
October 24-25	BCCA Yard Sale 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
October 29	Browntown Conservation Meet & Greet 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

View the entire online calendar of events at
<https://browntowncommunity.com/calendar>

Obituaries

William “Duke” Hill, 80, of Front Royal, passed away on Sept. 12, at home. Duke was, the son of the late William and Eileen Hill. He retired after many dedicated years at UPS. Surviving are three step-daughters, Tammy Terry (Tim), Bobbie Jo Ledgerton and Stephanie Crowder; grandson, Forrest McGuinn; two granddaughters, Emma Ford and Chloe Ford; great-granddaughter, Mila McGuinn; brother, Bruce Hill (Denise); and nephew, Brian Hill. In addition to his parents, Duke was also preceded in death by his wife, Judy McDonald Hill and granddaughter, Victoria Gresham. Memorial gifts may be made to the family at Maddox Funeral Home, 105 W. Main St., Front Royal, VA 22630. Condolences may be sent to the family at the funeral home. Duke was a long-time Browntown neighbor.

Deborah Lynn “Dusty” Bailey passed away at her home, after battling cancer. Deb was born in Arlington to Russell Bailey and Marjorie White. In her youth she spent a couple of years living in Europe. She leaves behind four loving sons, Joseph Bailey of Port St. Lucie, FL, Matthew (Leslie) Bailey of Winchester, VA, Colton (Kirsten) Bailey of Morristown, TN and Robin Bailey of Front Royal, VA; and four beloved grandchildren, Calli Bailey, Colt Bailey, Colin Bailey and Halo Bailey. She is preceded in death by her father and mother. A private celebration of life will be held in her honor at Jenkins Cemetery, Stanley, VA, at a later time, upon Tanners Ridge, where she requested. For memorial contributions, please contact the Bailey family. Dusty was a long-time Browntown neighbor.

Editor’s Note

Hello friends of the BCCA!

After many years of service to the BCCA, Jackie Hodgkiss has retired from her longtime duties of newsletter editor. The proverbial torch has been passed to me and this is my initial newsletter. You’ll notice that things look a little different, yet mostly familiar. The subtle differences can be attributed in part to newer software. Those who read the electronic version on the [BCCA website](#) will likely notice more active links, allowing you to visit materials referenced in the newsletter with a simple click. We’re also adding some structural elements so that in the electronic version, you can easily jump from the front page to the BEARR group to the President’s Message without having to scroll through the entire newsletter. Try it out by looking for the Bookmarks tab in your PDF viewer.

Otherwise, we’re coming into the last part of the year. It will be a busy time between upcoming events and the holidays, so I don’t anticipate any major changes here soon. Why not [send me an email and tell me briefly about one of your favorite holiday foods](#)? Perhaps we’ll include your thoughts in an upcoming article.

A quick thank you to all who have supported this transition: those who attended the meeting and voted on the amendment to the bylaws, those who have been answering my many questions, those who have contributed content, and those who continue to read it. Thank you, all.

Gène J. Raymond



Gooney Valley History Club

Cam Tilleman's Wonderful Painting of Two Old Buildings in Browntown

Cam Tilleman, our hard-working president's mother, preserved Browntown history in her 1988 painting of the Keene Updike Store on the left and the Masemer's Store on the right. Both of these buildings had been converted into apartments, perhaps twenty years before this rendering of the structures. The Updike building was originally the K.D. Updike Garage, and the Masemer building had been a planing shop with an icehouse attached. The icehouse still stands, although Larry Comstock, a previous owner of the property, remodeled it as a train station to house his model train setup. The Updike Building originally had big sliding barn doors on the front with a porch above. In this painting, we see a door with some framing, which is all that remains of the porch. Both of these buildings fell into disrepair and were demolished in recent years. The Updike building made room for the Browntown Baptist Church Fellowship Hall and the Masemer building was removed as an unsafe structure.

Visit our website to read more stories about the history of our valley and its people at <https://gooneyvalleyhistoryclub.com/>.



President's Message

Happy Fall y'all,

Lots going on in our sleepy little town, I'll try to catch you up on what's happening.

We are rapidly approaching our **Fall Yard Sale dates of October 17 and 18, and October 24 and 25!**

Check out the flyer in the newsletter and on our Facebook Page. We could use some help; here's what we're looking for:

- ◆ **Donations** – This is the easiest way to help. Just round up your good items that you no longer use, call Patsy Pennington at 540-635-5568, and she'll coordinate the drop off with you.
- ◆ **Set up** – Roxanne and Mary have been busy setting up, but it's an overwhelming task. If you would like to help, again call Patsy and she will pass your contact info to Roxanne. Or if you see a white Jeep at the BCCA, just stop in and lend a hand.
- ◆ **Cashier and Kitchen Help** – We need help in the kitchen and with checking out all the wonderful folks who come to support us by purchasing our yard sale goodies. If you would like to help during the sale itself, please contact me at marthaburacker@gmail.com or 540-671-6349. The first weekend is always the busiest. It's like a tornado coming through, so we need all the help we can get.
- ◆ **Packing Up** – Once our Yard Sale is done, we have to pack up what's left as the building is rented for a family event 4 days later. Again, let Patsy know if you can help.

After this, we start getting ready for our **Christmas Bazaar on November 22**. This is a local favorite and we are proud of that fact. Here's how you can help with that:

- ◆ **Bake Sale Items** – Browntown has been famous for its good bakers. How about making us a pie, cake or cookies? Bread and rolls are also popular! Call Patsy Pennington at 540-635-5568.
- ◆ **Silent Auction Items** – Donate a one of a kind item, create a themed gift basket or donate a gift card. If you have something for the Silent Auction contact me at marthaburacker@gmail.com or 540-671-6349.

Know a crafter that wants to sell? Have him or her go to our website www.browntowncommunity.com and download the vendor application. Get it in right away as we always have more crafters than we have space for!

I'll have more updates on the Bazaar in our next Newsletter.

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

"Your Shenandoah Valley Expert"

Licensed in Virginia

Cell: 540-671-6349
Office: 540-635-8000
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REALTORS®

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Helping the Browntown Community Center doesn't have to mean attending meetings all the time. But everyone can help in their own way. This community center belongs to all of us and we need your support to keep this 1900's schoolhouse maintained and available for the community. Everybody has their own thing that they could do. On our website www.browntowncommunity.com there is a Volunteer Tab where you can find the link to our Volunteer Interest Form. Let us know where your interests and talents could be best utilized. Here's an example:

- ◆ **Share our Events that we post on Facebook!** Easy peasy. Just by sharing, the message goes to your friends and family and they will "Save the Date" and attend.
- ◆ **Bring yourself, friends and family to our Events!** The best thing about the events is seeing all the friendly faces! Lots of former Browntown residents like to attend because they get to see their past neighbors. Kind of like a family reunion, but with friends.
- ◆ **Sign up for our "Bakers List".** Patsy will call you when we have an event and let you know we need some baked goods. If you don't know by now, Patsy's number is-540-635-5568. She's had some health issues this year, but she's always happy to make and receive phone calls!
- ◆ **Help with Events**, including set up, clean up, kitchen, signage, etc, the list is huge. But every little bit helps.

This is just a small sample of what we need help with, a more comprehensive list is on our website.

There will be a Conservation Open House hosted by the Shenandoah National Park Trust at the Community Center on Oct. 29. See the flyer on the website and on Facebook for more details and to RSVP!

There are plans in the works for a **Christmas Art Camp for the kiddos with Jessie Sprouse**, so stay tuned to the newsletter, Facebook or our website www.browntowncommunity.com.

Our 2026 Historic Browntown Calendar will be going to print so be sure to grab a few for presents at our Christmas Bazaar. They will also be available at OJ Rudacille Gen Mdse. Special thanks to our Gooney Valley History Club for their hard work on this calendar. It turned out great!

Hope to see you at the Yard Sale and get those Yard Sale donations in! We appreciate your support!

Take care,

Martha Buracker

A beautiful photo we wanted to put in our 2026 Calendar, but we need more info. Does anyone know who these girls are? Maybe we can use it in 2027.





The BEARR Group **Keeping Our Community Safe**

Web
Instagram

BEARRGroup.com
[@bearr_group](https://www.instagram.com/bearr_group)

Facebook
X

[BEARR Group](https://www.facebook.com/BEARR_Group)
[@BEARR_Group](https://twitter.com/BEARR_Group)

Reflective Address Signs

3
5
1
2

These signs are invaluable to first responders trying to find your house in an emergency. The cost is \$25 payable on delivery. Order yours at our website, by email to Chris Lewis at chris@bearrgroup.com, or call Brian Wilkinson at 703-389-7288.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE! If you have already bought one of these signs but have not yet installed it, please contact us ASAP. We will be happy to install it at no charge other than the cost of a new post, if required.

Fire Prevention Week Kickoff



Join us as we kick off Fire Prevention Week with a fun, family-friendly event. Meet your local firefighters and learn lifesaving skills while having a great time. Bring the whole family!

- Fire truck displays 🚒
- Live demonstrations 🔥
- Safety tips & resources 🧯
- Kids' activities 👨‍👩‍👧‍👦

The event will be held on Sunday, October 5, 2025 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Front Royal Volunteer Fire Department, 220 N. Commerce Ave., Front Royal, VA.



It looks like the 2026 calendar will arrive early in October, at which time the price will be \$20. Pre-order at OJ's for \$18 before the stock arrives.

Browntown Baptist Church

12 Browntown Road
Bentonville, VA 22610

Pastor: Sherman Kaipha Brown

Worship Service @ 11 a.m.

Fellowship @ 12 p.m.

browntownbaptistva@gmail.com

Check out Browntown Baptist Church's new website:

- Watch/listen to sermons
- Send in a prayer request
- Log on to Bible Study every Wednesday night
- Read about the history of our church
- See calendar of events

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

Sunday School at 10 and service at 11

O. J. Rudacille Gen. Mdse.

Check us out on Facebook for
Browntown History

Phone 636-2149

Serving Browntown since 1884



Hours: Monday-Saturday 9 to 5
Sunday Noon to 4

Don't forget! We carry lots of Browntown
merchandise year 'round:

Hats, Sweatshirts, Cookbooks, etc.

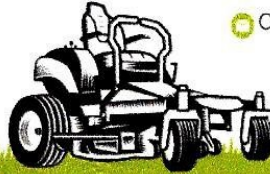
GO FETCHETT LAWN CARE LLC

DAVID JENKINS | OWNER

☎ (540)823-0744 & (540)636-4952

✉ davidjenkins930@icloud.com

📍 511 Fetchett Road
Browntown, VA 22610



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Browntown, VA 22610

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