



*Winter, a lingering season, is a time to gather golden moments,
embark upon a sentimental journey, and enjoy every idle hour.
- John Boswell*

A message from BRMCA President

- Joe Donovan

The BRMCA Board, with the help and support of many volunteers, has been able to continue its work to protect the natural beauty of our mountain community during these unprecedented times. There have been a few changes; Margit Royal and Jason Robinson have both made the decision to leave the Board and focus on other endeavors. We thank them both for the many years they have dedicated to the BRMCA and the vital work they have accomplished. Bill Waite has been named interim Vice President and Patty Craighill is the new BRMCA Secretary. In the coming year, I ask that you volunteer and take on positions within the Board/Committees. Please reach out to any board member to identify ways in which you can help. On Behalf of the Board and Committee's we wish you all a happy and safe holiday season and look forward to seeing you in 2022.

Interim Vice President

- Bill Waite

Safety of our community is a number one priority for the Board. As such the Board wants to make all of you aware of a recent change in the Clarke County communication tower that resulted in delayed notification to 1st responders and a reduction in emergency response times. We contacted the Sheriff's department and were informed that they are aware of the situation and have a temporary fix in place to resolve the notification process. The County is also investigating a change to a different communication tower to provide a permanent fix. We will continue to monitor the situation to ensure our residents receive the appropriate response times to a family emergency.

Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let each new year find you a better man.

- Benjamin Franklin

Please send a \$30 check for membership dues no later than March 31, 2022.

P.O. Box 303 Bluemont, VA 20135

We are currently working on a way to pay your membership dues online. More info to come.

THANK YOU.

- *Andrew Maruich, Treasurer*

Check out the BRMCA official website:

www.blueridge-mountain.org

Winter begins December 21st, 2021 and ends March 20th, 2022

Firewise Update

Thanks to those of you who reported your hours and expenses. I can not emphasize how important it is to get that information to me in a timely manner. Our chipping grant depends on it. I will inform the Board as soon as I know whether the grant is forthcoming.

*Kindness is like snow - it beautifies everything it covers.
- Khalil Gibran*

COVID Update, the Omicron Variant

In November, scientists in South Africa discovered a new variant of the Coronavirus. The WHO named it Omicron. The WHO has categorized Omicron as a variant of concern. In response, many countries have banned travel from South Africa.

There are many things that are not known about Omicron. What is known, it is highly transmissible, more so than the Delta variant. Omicron is expected to be found in almost 25% of the world by the end of the first weeks in December. The Omicron variant does not seem as strong as the Delta variant. The CDC encourages that anyone 18 years of age or older receive a Covid-19 booster.

According to the CDC, any adult 18 years or older may receive the booster 6 months after receiving their 2nd vaccination for Covid or 6 months after receiving the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. The CDC does not recommend one vaccination over another. Children older than 5 years of age are eligible to be vaccinated (but not to receive the booster).

Commercialization Committee

- Scott Seeberger

During September, the Land Use/Commercialization Committee engaged the Clarke County Historic Preservation Commission at their regularly scheduled meeting and the commission voted unanimously to move forward with a Bears Den Rural Historic District Historic Highway Marker. The marker will be the distinctive metal sign seen throughout Virginia with black lettering on a silver background. The county is working with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources for the marker's final approval and asked the BRMCA to identify suitable locations for placement. Two locations have been identified and forwarded to the county and VDOT. These locations are within the heart of the historic district along the shoulder of Blueridge Mountain Rd where vehicles can safely pull off. BRMCA is pleased with the county's actions to better recognize our mountain's historic district and inform citizens of its existence. This has been a goal of our association for some time.

The committee continued to lobby the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors (BOS) concerning the proposed Short Hill Mountain AT&T tower leading up to the BOS final vote in October. Although this tower would not be located within the BRMCA boundary, our leadership felt the issue significant enough to warrant supporting our nearby neighbors who opposed it. The final BOS vote took place in early October, with 8-1 voting against the AT&T request. This was a tremendous victory for the western Loudoun County community and all organizations that worked together to fight the request. If the tower had been approved, it would have set a powerful precedent for additional unsightly towers along mountain ridgelines - further threatening the natural, rural beauty of western Loudoun County. Thank you to all membership who petitioned the county in an effort to win this battle.

Also in October (via the proffer of an independent third party), the committee and BRMCA leadership met with the Chief Operating Officer and General Manager of Bear Chase Brewing Company. The intent of the meeting was to encourage dialogue and stay abreast of future plans for the business. The meeting was cordial with the business proposing to improve the natural buffer between Blueridge Mountain Rd and its parking lot. The business also agreed to investigate installing a VDOT sign at the parking lot exit urging motorists to exercise caution at the Rt 7 intersection.

Spring Elections

- Kim Larson

As most of you know, the BRMCA will be holding elections for board positions this spring. I will be the chair of the election committee and, as such, will be canvassing the mountain with 3 BRMCA members who have volunteered to help find potential candidates. Anyone interested in running for a board position, please contact me:

kllkimmer@comcast.net



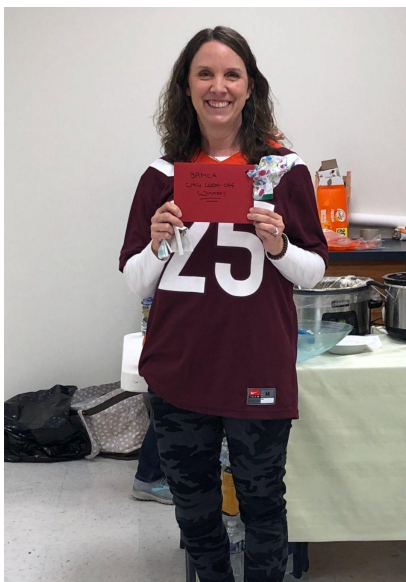
Social Committee

- Paz Andrae

Thank you to everyone who attended the Fall Potluck and entered our first BRMCA Chili Cookoff. The winners were, Holly Scott who won first place and a gift card for her amazing White Chicken Chili and our second place winner, Cathy Donovan who won with her delicious Lamb Chili. CONGRATULATIONS LADIES!

A big thank you to Bob Barnett and Patty & Bob Craighill for the excellent music they provided. There were many people singing along and a little bird told me that some regretted not getting up to dance.

Finally, a huge **thank you** to **Judy Whitehouse**, **Kim Larson**, and **Kristen Marusich** for representing the social committee. Without their hard work, the evening would not have been possible.



1st Place: Holly Scott



2nd Place: Kathy Donovan
(received by husband, Joe Donovan)



Live music performed by Bob Barnett, Patty Craighill and Bob Craighill

Home Energy Assessment

- Paz Andrae

Have you ever thought about receiving a home energy assessment? An energy assessment is when an energy expert examines your home and identifies ways in which you can save energy.

Do-It-Yourself Home Energy Assessments: www.energy.gov

OR

Dominion VA Power Assessment Program: www.domsavings.com/home

Dominion Program Details

Dominion Energy Virginia's Home Energy Assessment Program provides customers with an in-home energy assessment where a qualified participating contractor will conduct a 30-60 minute walk-through of your home and install simple measures like LED bulbs and water heater pipe insulation, while identifying other energy-saving opportunities. These additional opportunities, which may require separate appointments with specific contractors, include:

- Heat pump tune-up
- Duct sealing and insulation on heat pump systems and central air conditioners
- Heat pump system upgrades
- Upgrade to heat pump water heater
- ECM fan motor replacements on heat pump systems and central air conditioners
- Cool roof installation

Benefits of Participation

With a home energy assessment, you get:

- Access to pre-qualified contractors who can perform both the assessment and recommended improvements
- A personalized report containing cost-effective options and easy-to-follow recommendations to help you reduce your energy usage
- Potential financial incentives that help to offset cost for installing the recommended improvements

Participation is Easy

- Search and contact a local, participating contractor.
- Schedule an assessment with the participating contractor at a time that is convenient for you.
- The contractor will conduct a 30-60 minute walk-through of your home and install simple measures, while identifying other energy-saving opportunities.

The contractor will work with you to submit the rebate application for work completed at your home, on your behalf

Clarke County

- Bill Waite

On Monday, November 29th the Clarke County officials met with Senator Vogel, Delegate LaRock and Delegate Gooditis to discuss Clarke County's six legislative priorities. It's important to note that one of those priorities is of significant importance to our residents - Retention of Local Zoning Authority. Clarke wants local authority over local land use decision making, such as agribusiness/agritourism (farm wineries/breweries). Bear Chase, although in Loudoun County, was cited as an example.

Fortunately Teri Catlett, our Board of Supervisor, invited me to attend. Although I was only a spectator, Senator Vogel asked me what I thought of the Bears Chase situation. My response was twofold: 1) to request help to close the loop hole in the agriculture zoning rules to allow land use for a limited brewery on property that has not been farmed for years (if ever?) and 2) supported Clarke's request to have control over land use to ensure the safety and wellbeing of their residents; Bears Chase was built without any requirement for building permits, creating a dangerous amount (as many as 2000 to 3000 customers on a good day) of car/walking traffic on Route 601 and operates their septsics system on a pump and haul basis.

All three of these legislators are now fully aware of the negative impact Bears Chase has had on the residents and the environment and expressed their concern over the unplanned consequences of the agricultural zoning rules. They also agree that we do not want another commercial business on the mountain. Each legislator committed to investigate potential solutions. I take it as a good sign that although no specific solutions were voiced, they gathered privately after the meeting to discuss a way forward and committed to get back to the county.

Executive Committee of the Blue Ridge Mountain Civic Association (BRMCA)

President
Joe Donovan

Vice President
Bill Waite

Treasurer
Andrew Marusich

Secretary
Patty Craighill

Appointed Directors
Paz Andrae
Kim Larson
Melissa Pagano
Scott Seeberger

Upcoming Events

- BRMCA Social Committee event
- Spring Elections
- Spring Newsletter
- Firewise



Our History

Provided by Linda Martz
Out of the attic

HOTELS AND BOARDING HOUSES in the BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAINS			
Washington and Old Dominion Railway			
No responsibility is assumed for changes or omissions that may be made by the proprietors or managers of the hotels or boarding houses named.			
NAME	TERMS AND OTHER INFORMATION	NAME	TERMS AND OTHER INFORMATION
Bluemont, Va. J. M. Moreland	Located on mountain overlooking the Loudoun Valley; modern conveniences; excellent board. Rates on application.	Round Hill, Va. Fannie Wynkoop	Terms on application.
H. Bathone Smith	Accommodations for several guests on large white house on mountain; made at owner's residence close to main house; reasonable rates; references required.	Maul Wynkoop	Terms on application.
A. L. Longbrum	Best country board; terms moderate.	T. W. Best	Near town. Terms on application.
Mrs. Mildred Patterson	Excellent board; chicken, milk, fresh eggs, home garden. Terms \$2.00 per day; \$15.00 and \$12.00 per week.	Miss Copland	Terms on application.
"The Heights" Mrs. T. P. Simpson Troutman	Modern conveniences; splendid home cooking; Terms moderate.	Eliz. Finell	Terms on application.
Mr. M. A. Elms	Located on mountain; terms \$2.00 per day; \$12.00 per week. Meals and lunches.	Parcellville, Va. "The Hill Inn" Mrs. M. H. Best Proprietress	Modern conveniences; plenty shade; large garden vegetable. Terms \$8.00 per day; \$20.00 per month.
"The Loudon" J. C. Beatty Proprietor	Large lawn; tennis; comfortable room; modern bath. Single rooms, \$1.00 per week; double rooms, \$1.50 per person per week.	"The White Cottage" Miss Rebecca Lind Proprietress	Near town. Excellent table. Terms on application.
Round Hill, Va. "Bitters Home" F. P. Love	Near town. Terms on application.	Mrs. E. Shumaker E. P. D. No. 2	Near town. Large study lawn; fresh vegetables. Terms on application.
E. L. Donohoe	Terms on application.	Mrs. Alice Cedar	Near station. Modern conveniences. Terms on application.
		Hamilton, Va. Mrs. J. W. Chamberlin	Large study lawn; fresh vegetables; milk; cream; eggs. Modern conveniences; \$2.00 per week. Terms \$10.00.
		Loudoun, Va. "Lodging Inn" Mrs. Polton	Located in business section. A delightful place to spend day and weekend on return. Special Sunday chicken dinner.

Electric Trains leave from Roanoke Terminal Station (Washington), located South End Key Bridge, on Frequent Schedules.

Hotel rates
The Ames Williams Collection provides a peek back to the 1920s. It's the good old days when Washingtonians fled the humid days of July and August for a breezy hotel porch or a room with a view in Loudoun County.

BRMCA
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