

BURKITTSVILLE NEWS

Summer 2012

DATES TO WATCH

Vacation Bible School

July 9-13
6:30-8:30pm Open to
all kids 3 to 12 yrs old.

Zumba Classes

Tues. & Thurs, 6:30-
7:30pm \$5 Parish Hall

Food & Clothing Drive

July 7, Aug. 4, Sept. 1
9am – Noon.
Bring donations to St.
Paul's

Yard Waste Pick-Up

July 24
Aug. 28
Sept. 25

Guided Town Tours

Sept. 11, 7-9pm
Sept. 14 12-6pm
(See Insert for Details)

SMHS Open

July 7, Aug.4, Sept. 1

Adopt a Road

September 15th & 16th
Contact Lisa at
edeckerorr@comcast.net

Run for the Bathroom

October 20th
For more info, contact
sillybusa@hotmail.com

If you have a submission for the Fall Edition

Please email it by Sept.
15th to:
burkittsvillenewsletter@gmail.
com

CARNIVAL! JULY 15-21



For the **51st** year, The **Burkittsville Ruritan** will be bringing us this great event. Good food, games and nightly entertainment are always delivered, and this year's carnival has plenty in store.

The first thing you may notice is the **Ladies' Auxiliary** serving ice cream and selling baked goods from enclosed portion of the completed Pavilion, while in the open air portion you'll see lively games of Bingo.

For *one night only* on Sunday, **The Burwitch**, a sandwich that's a meal in itself, will be making an appearance. Don't miss out ... it's so good it's scary!

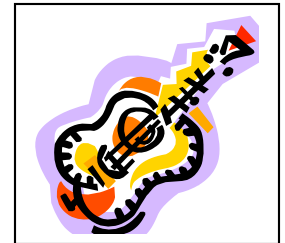
The musical groups will be as follows:

Sun. 15th Grassy Ridge, Mon. 16th Bullseye,

Tues. 17th The Shades, Wed. 18th River's Bend

Thurs. 19th Whistle Pigs, Fri. 20th Brushfire,

Sat. 21st Compromise



Summer Projects In Mind? Remember your Permits.



Permits from the Town and - in most instances - the County are required for most construction projects. This includes fences, porches, decks, pools, hot tubs, and larger sheds. If you have questions, or to submit an application, please contact Brad Dyjak, Town Zoning Administrator at BurkittsvillePlanner@gmail.com or [240-457-7583](tel:240-457-7583).



The Inside Story on The Green Homes Challenge - I Saved Money!

By Debby Burgoune

I just wanted to let everyone know how much fun it was to participate in Frederick County's Green Homes Challenge. It was painless and, most importantly, **money saving**.

The one thing that had me dragging my feet was the FREE home energy audit. The last thing I wanted was a stranger going through my house from attic to basement (I am Domestically Challenged). I finally caved and had the audit. The auditors are not housekeeping police, they don't post pictures on youtube and didn't call my mother.

That being said, the Home Energy Audit was really entertaining. We thought we knew where all leaks were in this old house. Surprise! Bottom Line, five months after implementing some of the auditor's suggestions (the free ones) and then reading my own meter I contacted Potomac Edison and they have forgiven us two months of electric bills.

If you want more information on Frederick County's Green Homes Challenge, visit www.sustainablefrederickcounty.org

Remember To Curb Dog Waste During the Dog Days of Summer

As there has been a noticeable recent increase in dog waste throughout town, please remember to be courteous to your neighbors and curb your dog's waste. Please be aware that besides being a nuisance, improper disposal is also in violation of both Town and County ordinances and subject to fines. Please contact the Frederick County Animal Control Department [301-600-1544](tel:301-600-1544) or the Town Environmental Management/Zoning Administrator at [240-457-7583](tel:240-457-7583).

"Pet waste contains nutrients and pathogens that impair waterbodies. Nutrients can cause algal blooms that rob water of oxygen and kill the plants, insects, and fish that would otherwise live there. Pathogens like e.coli can make water unsafe for swimming and drinking. "

Shannon Moore, Manager, Frederick County Office of Sustainability and Environmental Resources"

KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR YOUR SURVEY -

This summer the P&Z will be looking for your input as it finalizes the Comp Plan for the Town. Not only will a survey be sent, you are asked to give your ideas about the plan before it is submitted to the Mayor and Council. Please keep an eye on the Bugle Online and the Newsletter for more information.



Congratulations to Kara Badell and Erika Burgoyne-Hongell who both graduated with Highest Honors from Brunswick High School this year.

Burkittsville Bluebird Update, 2012 - Adapted from email and conversations with **Rainer Rothen**

The data right now are a little sketchy... it is still coming in. (Note: we've added updates to the update while writing. The chicks do not care about deadlines. – editor.)

I have three birdhouses on public ground - one in the Guyton Memorial Park and two in the Cemetery.

Ants infested the birdhouse in Guyton Park all Spring. I applied "Tanglefoot" (a very sticky substance) around the pole underneath the baffle not so long ago ... we'll see how that works out.

One house in the cemetery (the one closer to Route 17) was occupied by House Sparrows several times. I destroyed the nest and trapped the female. This female bird was released, but only after I trimmed her major flight feathers. She will be able to fly and take care of herself- but will not breed anymore during this season. The male sparrow was my real target, but he was lucky. Males I will not release, by the way. The reason for this is male House Sparrows are more aggressive toward Bluebirds (and all other cavity-nesting birds). They attack and kill nesting females in order to take over a nest.

The other house (on higher ground along the path) had two Bluebird chicks hatched about three weeks ago. A new nest was built before I could remove the old one, and now has four chicks in it! That nest of Bluebirds was constantly harassed by House Sparrows therefore I mounted a "Spooker" on the box. (Spookers frighten the nesting pair as well, but they overcome this to care for their young.)

One box at my house produced three Bluebird chicks, which all fledged. The second brood was a complete loss. A small snake made it through the 1/2" hardware cloth of the baffle and chased the female off the nest (at around 23:00 – it was all caught on camera). It ate two chicks and left the remaining two chicks in the nest. With the temperature overnight dropping to about 60°F and the female frightened away, the chicks were dead by the time the female returned in the morning. The mother sat on the nest for one and a half days trying to re-vitalize the chicks before she finally gave up. The Bluebirds started another nest, but a Hawk killed the female before it was finished.

The tables have turned for the above birdhouse – we are happy to report that the baffle has been made even more secure against snakes, and the box itself is now home a new nest complete with four Bluebird chicks.

What I would like to urge everyone who is interested in helping birds like Eastern Bluebirds, Tree-Swallows, Chickadees, Nuthatches, Woodpeckers and other cavity-nesting species is this:

Keep an eye on the type of boxes you put out. I often see birdhouses without any predator guard or birdhouses situated low to the ground, making the birds easy prey to snakes and cats. Providing nesting sites like that is like playing "practical jokes" on the birds. Please don't do it. It is better not to mount a birdhouse at all, and let the birds find a **safer** location.

Add predator guards to your birdhouses! They are not always 100% effective - but we are *improving and sharing results*. (Make sure to visit the links provided, they are full of practical, helpful advice – editor)

DO NOT ALLOW House Sparrows (AKA English Sparrow) or European Starlings to nest in any of your boxes or at the house, barn, and so on. Both species were introduced during the late 19th century into the US (by some people who did not know better) and have proven to be an environmental disaster by fiercely competing with native cavity nesting birds.

Do not get fooled by the fact that Starlings eat stinkbugs. This happens mainly during the fall, when the army of bugs already has multiplied, been a nuisance, and is getting ready to go into hiding. By the way: other birds eat stinkbugs- Mockingbirds, for example.

Consider planting berry bearing shrubs and trees like black haw or hawthorn, etc. - their fruits can be a valuable food source for Bluebirds, Robins, and so on.

Here are some links to some websites that have very valuable information:

<http://www.mdbluebirdsociety.org/>

<http://www.sialis.org/hosp.htm>

<http://woolwinehousebluebirdtrail.com/>

<http://www.treeswallowprojects.com/>

NOT FOR THE FAINT OF HEART, STARLING ATTACK ON A NEST (-editor):

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=00ybRPxIRsg>

Thanks for reading.
Happy birding!



Ciderworks Offers a Taste of History

Opened in 2010, Distillery Lane Ciderworks is just down the street from the center of Burkittsville on Gapland Road. We now have over 3,000 apple trees (8 acres)! With this growth, and especially because we grow specialty apples that are not available in grocery stores, we are also starting to gain notoriety:

Last year, we sold 650 gallons of hard cider to the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association. *We are one of the few orchards that grow the same apples that George Washington grew on his estate.* The folks over at Mount Vernon wanted to recreate and sell the apple brandy that Washington would have made, so to do this they bought cider from us (the cider was made specifically from the apple varieties that Washington would have used),

We sell hard cider, fresh cider, and you can pick your own apples, too. We have a tasting room where you can come sample some of our different varieties of cider. We also offer classes on how to make hard cider. The farm is open on Saturdays from 10-5 and on Sundays from 12-5 starting in late July. Visit www.ciderapples.com or contact maevecampbell@gmail.com for much more information or to join our mailing list.

July 7: Cider-Making Class: Our final class for 2012 (they will start again in the beginning of our off-season in January). Please pre-register.

September 1: Third Annual "First Press of the Season" Enjoy cider tasting, apple picking, live music, fresh cooked seafood, ice cream, and tours.

September 14: 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Crampton's Gap Events - Tastings of a cider specifically named and brewed in honor of the Anniversary, presentations on the role that the farm played in the Civil War as the encampment for Union troops during the Battle of Crampton's Gap and other historically-focused fun.

TOWN INFORMATION

Town Office: 500 East St 301-834-678 **Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 485, Burkittsville, MD 21718 **Email** townoffice@burkittsville-md.gov

Mayor & Council

Deborah Burgoyne, Mayor
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Catherine Cox-Murray

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Audrey Stadnick
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Clerk/Treasurer

Michele Beller

Board of Appeals

Joyce Brown Paul Gilligan
Michele Jones

Town Bailiff

Robert Millard

Planning & Zoning

Andrew Burgoyne-Hongell Bill Susa
Laurel Gilligan John 'Jad' Drake
Joseph Nunberg

Environmental Management Administrator/Code Enforcement

Brad Dyjack burkittsvilleplanner@gmail.com

Editor

A. Elwell Cox burkittsvillenewsletter@gmail.com

Town Meeting - July 9th, 7:30pm

Town Workshop - Aug. 13th, 7:30 pm
Jody Brumage will be there to talk to residents about options for the Sesquicentennial. See insert in this Newsletter!

Town Meeting - Sept 10th, 7:30pm

All these events will be at the Ruritan

Burkittsville is now in Voting District 8 and our Representative is Chris Van Hollan Jr. More District 8 information can be found here:
<http://www.thepoliticalguide.com/Elections/2012/House/Maryland/8/>

The Planning and Zoning Commission has written an Animal Restraint Ordinance that was adopted at the last Town Meeting. The Animal Restraint Ordinance for the Town of Burkittsville will be available on the Town Website www.burkittsville-md.gov and by request from the Town Office. Thanks to P&Z for their hard work on this project.

Recycling Days
July 3, July 17, July 31

Aug. 14, Aug. 28

Sept. 11, Sept. 25