

Burkittsville News

Spring 2017
April, May, June



Photo by Rebecca Remaley

DATES TO WATCH

Events & Notices

TOWN MEETINGS

Town Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month, starting 7 pm, at 500 East Main Street, Ruritan Club Building.

PLANNING & ZONING

P&Z Meets on the first Monday of each month starting 7:00 pm at the SMHS, 3 East Main Street.

GREEN TEAM MEETINGS

The Green Team meets the 4th Thursday of Every Month at 7pm at 3 East Main, the SMHS Building Contact edeckerorr@comcast.net or www.sustainableburkittsville.org.

SMHS OPENS FOR THE 2017 MUSEUM SEASON

Sat., April 1, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
Join us for guided tours of the historic Resurrection Reformed Church and explore our newly renovated exhibits which narrate the story of Burkittsville from its settlement to the present day.

YARD WASTE PICK UP IS BACK!

Starting in April, Yard Waste will be picked up on the first Tuesday of the month.

Yard Waste pick-up 1st Tues./month

Guidelines

Keep it biodegradable! Yard waste must fit inside the yard waste bags, branches wider than 3 inches in diameter cannot be processed, bundle yard waste with biodegradable string or twine - no tape, plastic or wire ties, please. As usual, no dirt, rocks, or household trash. Contact Key Sanitation with questions.



Green Streets and Stormwater Master Plan (GSSMP)

Adopted March 15, 2017

Burkittsville now has a Green Streets and Stormwater Master Plan which will help Burkittsville move forward with infrastructure upgrades; especially our roads, sidewalks and storm water management.

If you'd like to see the plan, please visit <http://burkittsville-md.gov/Government.php> or contact the town office.

Adtek engineering provided us with an excellent document to start planning for the future.

A special thanks to Lisa Orr, who secured the grant which funded this much-needed master plan; we couldn't have done it without all her help and input.

Thank you to everyone who participated in any and all stages of this process, it truly was a community effort. *Thank you all.*

Mayor and Council



Well-attended presentations by Adtek



Dog Waste Stations a Big Success in 2016 Next Step, 2017: Ordinance Adopted

Two notes on the issue of health and safety in Burkittsville: 2016 turned out to be a year of good dog deeds. The town's dog waste stations provided a remarkable one thousand two hundred bags to canines and their humans. The main complaint about the service was a testament to the success of the program: People asked that waste containers be emptied more often. We still had a way to go, though. Despite widespread cooperation, the end of 2016 saw complaints about dog waste on farmer's land along the alleyways, which they kindly mow for us, in the playground and other public areas, as well as unwelcome deposits on private property not belonging to the dog's owner.

The start of 2017 finds us aiming higher than simple convenience. The Planning and Zoning Commission had already been tasked with creating an easily accessible compilation of town codes, with additions or updates for consideration if necessary. It was a natural move to the passage of 2017's first ordinance of the year, which brings us into compliance with common concerns over "water quality and public health, safety and welfare" by taking the next step from providing the public service of dog waste stations to updating town code. To view the Dog Waste Ordinance, visit www.burkittsville-md.gov (click the Government link) or contact the Town Office.

A. Elwell Cox

Photos: Waste Station, Dare & Tree by Rebecca Remaley



"Dos and Don'ts"



Will there be a Town Yard Sale this year?

For the last several years, Burkittsville and St Paul's have held a Burkittsville Community Yard Sale on the 1st Friday and Saturday in June. St Paul's is **not** doing a yard sale this year. If more 10 or more households are interested in participating, please let the town office know and Burkittsville will advertise the event in local newspapers. We have 3 "yes" answers already. **It's up to you.**

Bulk Trash will be scheduled for Monday June 3rd, 6 am, (2 pieces per household), regardless.



INAUGURAL "MAKIN' HAY 10K"
Sat., April 15, 7:30 am -10:30 am
The Run begins at 8:30 am, at the Catoctin Creek Nature Center, and benefits the South Mountain Heritage Society.

EASTER EGG HUNT

Sat., April 15
Food: Noon -1pm, Egg Hunt: 1pm
500 East Main Street, Ruritan
The Annual Easter Egg Hunt is sponsored by: Burkittsville Ruritan Club & Ladies Auxiliary, Town of Burkittsville. The Egg Hunt starts promptly at 1 pm. Open to all children in the Burkittsville area (ages 1-12). Children must be accompanied by an adult and bring a basket or bag to collect eggs. Prizes are awarded in three age groups. For information call 301-371-7795.

BENEFIT BREAKFAST!

Sat., April 15, 7 am -10:30 am
Burkittsville Ruritan, 500 E. Main
Proceeds will be donated to benefit Virginia "MumMum" Simms, the 95 year old lady who recently lost her home to fire on Gapland Road. The menu will include pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, fried potatoes, fruit cup, coffee, orange juice, and milk. Cost: \$7.00 for adults, \$4.00 for children (ages 6-12), and under age six free.

KOKOPELLI WOODWIND QUARTET

Sat., May 13, 7 pm,
St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran
Church, 5 East Main Street
Free will offering concert, given by one of Burkittsville's favorites!

CASH & BASKET BINGO Benefits Saint Paul Lutheran Church, Burkittsville

Fri., May 19, Doors Open 5:30 pm
Games Start 7 pm, Jefferson
Community Center. \$20= 20
games, and a chance at door
prizes. Specials, raffles, food on
sale & bake table!

BPA HOUSE & GARDEN TOUR May 20, Burkittsville, Maryland

This project is to aid in restoration of the Hamilton Willard Shafer Farm, aka The Mary Motherway House. Stay tuned for details & look for a flyer on your door soon! Want to help? Contact Aleetalynn or Rebecca.

The Mountain Spring Distillery John D. Ahalt's Rye Whiskey



Many residents in Burkittsville are aware of our town's former

status as a major exporter of rye whiskey. In the latter-half of the nineteenth century and the first two decades of the twentieth century, two large distilleries operated just outside of town, putting thousands of barrels of whiskey on the market up and down the east coast. Horsey and Ahalt's Distilleries are embedded in Burkittsville's history and culture, a reminder of the industrial golden age that fueled the growth of the town and produced many of the beautiful Victorian-era structures we admire today.

Burkittsville's larger and longer-operating distillery, operated by Outerbridge Horsey on the old Needwood Plantation south of town is more well known than its neighbor. In fact, while those who do remember the smaller distillery, little is known about its operation. **Though commonly referred to as "Ahalt's Distillery," owing to its proprietor, John D. Ahalt, the business was in fact called the "Mountain Spring Distilling Company," and it operated for nearly fifty years producing a highly sought-after rye whiskey branded as "The Antietam."**

John D. Ahalt was born in 1848 in Burkittsville, the grandson of German immigrants who had migrated to the area and settled. He attended school in Burkittsville under the instruction of Thomas Lamar and later attended school in Petersville before joining his father, Samuel in the operation of the family farm. At age thirty, Ahalt purchased an old flour mill, originally built by John Lee around 1848, located near the head of Samuels Run southeast of Burkittsville.

The distillation of rye whiskey in Maryland began shortly before the American Revolutionary War and remained a significant industry in the state until the passage of the Volstead Act in 1919 (prohibition). Likely inspired by the success of Horsey's distillery which by this time had been in operation for nearly thirty years, Ahalt set out to build his own whiskey business, taking advantage of the same mountain spring water and locally-grown grain that made Horsey's Old Maryland Rye such a successful product. He dismantled part of the mill in order to install a still and began production around 1880, slowly growing his output over the next decade. Historians who have examined distilling in Maryland point to **Ahalt as an innovator in the industry**. Like Horsey's, Ahalt believed in the importance of "sloshing" his whiskey as part of the aging process. **His whiskey was shipped from the port of Baltimore to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and back, a practice which produced "a unique and most agreeable softness" to the whiskey. Ahalt also implemented the "triple distillation process" at Mountain Spring, a technique for production widely used in Ireland but which had never been largely used in the United States.**

The Mountain Spring Distilling Company grew quickly throughout the 1880s thanks to Ahalt's innovative experimentation. In April 1890, Ahalt began construction of a 5-story warehouse at the distillery which was completed in the summer of 1891. An examination of Maryland State Tax Commissioner records illuminates the output of Mountain Spring from the mid-1890s through the opening years of the twentieth century. In 1897, the company's output was assessed at \$5,086.00. **Ten years later in 1907, this value had doubled to \$10,680.00. In 1910, the company was producing 120 bushels of mash every day.**

Despite this significant growth, the company never approached the output of the neighboring Horsey's Distillery (in the same 1910 listing, Horsey's was outproducing Ahalt's by 3 times as many bushels of mash per day.) In 1907, Ahalt reorganized his business, incorporating it as the Pure Rye Distilling Company and taking on four additional partners: John Hilleary Ahalt (his son), William Mahoney, C.H. Eckstein, and Frank J. Collins. The new **Pure Rye Distilling Company** was incorporated with \$100,000.00 in stock. Under this new name, the distillery continued producing whiskey until the effects of prohibition finally forced the closure of the business. John D. Ahalt did not live to see this happen. He suffered a stroke and died at his home on January 9, 1916.

John D. Ahalt, Outerbridge, Horsey, and other industrious entrepreneurs of the late-nineteenth century **helped rebuild Burkittsville's economy** after the devastating years of the Civil War and reconstruction. Though the doors of the distillery warehouses have long since been shuttered, their impact is still seen today. Exploring the history of John D.

Ahalt's Mountain Spring Distillery is vital to understanding the forces that shaped the community in which we live.

Visit South Mountain Heritage Society to see artifacts from the distillery and learn more about Burkittsville's industrial age, www.southmountainheritagesociety.org.

Jody Brumage, Historian and Curator to the South Mountain Heritage Society, Consulting Archivist on the Shafer/Mary Motherway project for the Burkittsville Preservation Association, <http://burkittsvillepreservationassociation.org>, and is a regular contributor to the Burkittsville News.



ADOPT-A-ROAD

June, 10-11, 2017

The 2017 Adopt-a-Road effort is here! If you can help out, that would be greatly appreciated! With short stretches of road, it does not take long at all. As usual, vests, bags and gloves will be at 305 E. Main St in the parking area. You can volunteer anytime. Contact **Green Team Leader Lisa Orr** at edeckerorr@comcast.net to sign up & choose a section of roadside to clean

SEVERAL EASTER SERVICES

April 16, 11 am

Easter Service at St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, 5 E. Main St., Burkittsville, MD, Pastor Phil Fogarty will lead the congregation in Easter Celebration.

Locust Valley First Church of God invites you to celebrate Easter on **Sunday, April 16**. There are two services: Sunrise Service of Light and Word at **7:30 am**, followed by light breakfast; Easter Worship with Holy Communion at **9:00 am**. 1236 Mountain Church Road, Middletown www.locustvalleycog.org

HIKING: NEIGHBORS & FRIENDS

April 23, 9:30 am

Meet in the parking lot of the SMHS, 3 East Main Street, Burkittsville. We will carpool to the hiking location. Old South Mountain Inn (Turner's Gap) to Gathland. Lunch stop at White Rocks overlook in the middle of the hike. 7.4 miles total. Pack plenty of water and a lunch, we plan to be gone for a few hours. Volunteer of the Year Bill Susa, will guide.

THE FISHING DERBY IS BACK!

Sat., June 17

Registration: 9 am - 10 am

Derby: 10 am - 12 Noon

The Annual Fishing Derby, jointly sponsored by the Burkittsville Ruritan Club & the Town of Burkittsville will be held at the Town Pond (off Route 17) in Burkittsville, MD. This event is open for all children in the Burkittsville area (ages 1-15). Children must be accompanied by an adult and bring along their own bait and tackle. Prizes will be awarded in three age groups and there will be free hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, and cold drinks for all in attendance. For information call 301-371-7795.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP WITH THIS YEAR'S "FARM TO FORK TOWN PICNIC"?

Last year's Picnic was a blast! To keep the fun going, just contact the Town Office, PO Box 835 or email townoffice@burkittsville-md.gov

Thank You, Tammy & Congratulations on Your New Job!

Congratulations and to Tammy Drake on her new job, and a **Very Big Thank You** from Burkittsville

Sadly for Burkittsville this new position requires more of Tammy's time. Tammy's gain is our loss.

Chuck Rounds has agreed to step into the Clerk / Treasurer Role.

"It will be the first time since I have lived here that a man has held the position, which I think is very cool. Now they can see firsthand how hard the women have worked for the last 20 years" said Mayor Deborah Burgoyne.



Tammy & son Mason

Slower, Safer, Soon!

Burkittsville will be slowing down, well, the traffic in the Historic District on Main Street will slow down, anyhow. The town voted on a motion put forth at the October 2016 Town Meeting to reduce the speed limit to 20 mph. The motion was discussed at subsequent meetings, and has passed. Keep an eye out for new speed limit signs, they're on the way.

The issue of speeding is a long-standing one, and has resulted in another change. You may have noticed the new speed bumps. Would you have guessed they were made of 100% post-consumer plastic? They were installed in the alleyway which is between Rte. 17 (AKA South Potomac Street) and West Main Street, due to the problem we have with commuters trying to avoid backups at the square corner. This should deter the dangerous misuse of our alley.

Another speed decision was reached recently. Solar-powered signs that tell the driver how fast they are going are also in Burkittsville's future. The price for these signs has gone down, they're effective, and they are part of a common goal: a safer hometown.

Art, Art, and more Art ..also, Spin the Bottle?

Lesa Cook is busy teaching at The Delaplaine in Frederick and Yellow Barn in Glen Echo, and **getting ready for a solo show at The Art League** in Alexandria Va, which opens in May. The reception is May 11th at 6:30 and the show will be up until June 5th, at 105 N. Union St, Alexandria, Va.

See her work in Hagerstown at **The Washington County Museum of Fine Arts' Cumberland Valley Regional Show** (fellow local artist **Julie Maynard** is also featured), until April 9th, and at **The Bridge Gallery**, 8566 Sheperdstown Pike in Shepherdstown, WV from April 12- May 21.

Lesa is also participating in a series of **free conversations on works of art from area museums** at The Delaplaine paired with a **related wine tasting from Spin The Bottle**. (for 21 and older.) When? Apr 7, May 12 & June 9 from 3-4.

Finally, Lesa will give a couple **drawing demonstrations** at The C Burr Artz Library in Frederick- one on Monday June 12th from 6:30-7:30 on drawing on white scratchboard and one on Sat. Aug. 12th from 2-3, on charcoal portrait drawing. **These demos are free and open to the public**. Check her website under classes/events: www.lesacook.com



"Bee" From Keeping a Nature Sketchbook



"Brittany" From Painting Portraits in Oil

“TAKE BACK OUR YARDS” with GATs !

The Mayor and Council, with the support of the Green Team, are trying a new program in mosquito reduction, to reduce the danger of mosquito borne illnesses as well as those pesky bites.

GATs (Gravid Aedes Traps) are economical, effective, and safe standing traps that lure in mosquitoes ready to lay eggs. A layer of environmentally safe canola oil coats the mosquito's wings rendering it unable to escape the trap, and containing any eggs.

This is a new project for the town and needs your participation to make a difference! 80% of the town needs coverage. Remove any standing water from your yard. Monitor your GAT daily to make sure it has water. Replace canola oil once a month. Remind your neighbors!

Let's take back our yards from mosquitoes!



Above: Council Members Rachel Carballo (L) and Rebecca Remaley (R) explain and demonstrate GATs at the first “Take Back Our Yards” meeting, held at the South Mountain Heritage Society on March 25, 2017. It was standing room only! The Town of Burkittsville purchased 100 GATs and made them available to residents at cost. Including traps for public parks, approximately half were purchased when first made available at this gathering - Burkittsville residents, please contact Rachel or Rebecca or contact the Town Office for a chance at the remaining traps at cost. Photos by Bill Susa

If You Like Fireflies...

No matter how old we are, it's hard not be enchanted by fireflies. Light is the language fireflies use to communicate – most importantly, they flash to signal for mates. While fireflies have not been extensively studied by scientists, based on anecdotal evidence, firefly populations are dwindling and in some locations have crashed. Why? And what can we do about it?

Development, loss of habitat, and pesticides are likely factors leading to the decline in firefly populations, but according to scientists, signs are indicating that light pollution is a major factor in the disappearance of fireflies all over the world. Where fireflies once had uninterrupted forests and fields to live and mate, homes and businesses with landscaped lawns and lots of exterior lights are spreading and disrupting the fireflies' ability to communicate and mate.

What Is "HEAL" & How Does it Help Us?

The Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) Initiative for the Mid Atlantic region encourages and helps Municipalities to adopt Health policies to complement or include in their Comprehensive Plans.

Importantly, becoming a certified HEAL community and adopting Policies promoting HEAL allows for partnerships and Grants where they are available. For example, *becoming HEAL certified could lead to Grant money for revitalizing Burkittsville's outdoor spaces.* Council Member Carballo arranged for HEAL representative Susan DeFrancesco to give an educational Presentation during the February 2017 Town Meeting, explaining what HEAL could offer a Municipality like ours.

Council Member Rachel Carballo is coordinating this effort and working with The GreenTeam, Council Member Rebecca Remaley on the Mosquito Control Project "Take Back Our Yards" using GATs, the SMHS and Bill Susa on Local Hikes and other groups in Burkittsville.

All these groups Promote something that HEAL stands for, a Healthier way of living, providing opportunities for all Ages and abilities to eat healthy and find exercise that fits their lifestyles, and of course **safe parks and outdoor space for the Next generation!**

The Rain Barrel



Program Continues

Are you new to Burkittsville, or have you thought about getting a rain barrel for the first time here in town

The town of Burkittsville makes it easy to join in on this age-old method of water conservation!

The town will pay for ½ the price of your household's first rain barrel from the Scott Key Center.

Find out more about these recycled, repurposed barrels at www.scottkeycenter.org or call 301.600.1600.

The barrels come with installation information, and a screen for mosquito management. To participate, please contact the Town Office before ordering your household's first barrel from the Scott Key Center.

It's an easy way to save water & money.

... think about turning down your outside lights

Light from cars and streetlights also makes it difficult for fireflies to signal each other during mating.

All this light means fewer firefly larvae are born each season. So if you like fireflies, consider reducing your outdoor lighting especially during their roughly two-week mating season. Give the fireflies a break and help them mate! When you start to see fireflies, it's time to turn out your outdoor lights; when you stop seeing them, their mating season is likely over.

You can find more information at www.firefly.org
Lisa Orr, Green Team Leader

Town Meetings: 500 East Main Street
Phone: 301-834-6780
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 485, Burkittsville, MD 21718
Email: townoffice@burkittsville-md.gov

Mayor
 Deborah Burgoyne
mayorburgoyne@gmail.com

Town Council
 Rachel Carballo, John "Jad" Drake *Mayor Pro Tempore*, Rebecca Remaley

Clerk/Treasurer: Chuck Rounds TownOffice@burkittsville-md.gov

Board of Appeals: Joyce Brown, Paul Gilligan, Michele Jones

Planning & Zoning: Andrew Burgoyne-Hongell, Chair
PZCTofBurkittsville@outlook.com

Mark Carroll, Laurel Gilligan, Keith Murray, Rick Poloway

Post Office: Phone number 301-834-9592
 Window service: Mon. - Fri. 12-4 pm, Sat. 9-12 pm
 P.O. Box/Lobby access: Mon. - Sat. 9-8 pm

Town Website: www.burkittsville-md.gov **Webmaster:** Carl Snook

Editor/Liaison: A. Elwell Cox
burkittsvillenewsletter@gmail.com

Town Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/Burkittsville.Maryland

What is the Burkittsville Backyard Produce Exchange? Find out here:
www.facebook.com/groups/BurkittsvilleBackyardProduceExchange

WHO TO CALL

NON-EMERGENCY SHERIFF LINE:
 301-600-2071

Please use this number or 911 to report crime, including theft, vandalism, & trespassing. See something? Say something!

Animal Control: 301-600-1546
Poison Control: 1-800-222-1222
Abuse Information: 1-800-422-4453
National Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255
 (1-800-273-TALK)
Recycling questions: 301-600-2960
Trash Collection questions: 301-668-8282

To report a non-life-threatening natural event, take shelter then call: 301-600-1603 or 911
 For traffic alerts and delay info: 511

To have an issue placed on record with the Town, placed on a Town Meeting Agenda or to request Town Meeting Minutes, put it in writing & send to:

townoffice@burkittsville-md.gov or
 Town of Burkittsville P.O. Box 485,
 Burkittsville, MD 21718

Burkittsville News Quarterly

Please send contributions
 to BurkittsvilleNewsletter@gmail.com
 or Town Office, PO Box 485, Attn: Newsletter

Deadlines (allow 3 extra days for letters):

Spring Edition	on or before March	15th
Summer Edition	on or before June	15th
Autumn Edition	on or before September	15th
Winter Edition	on or before December	27th

BURKITTVILLE RECYCLING 2017

APRIL						
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The kids have been acting up!

First it was Clio Smith, who played Mowgli's mom, Messua, in "The Junglebook The Musical" at Valley Elementary School this March.

Next, keep an eye out for Kaz Stronge, who will be in a performance with Riotous Youth, the Shakespeare Players in Frederick.

They will be performing Moliere's comedy "The Scams of Scapin" on May 19 at 7:30 pm and May 20 at 2 pm and 7:30 pm at All Saints' Episcopal Church in Frederick, MD.

Clio Smith in The Jungle Book The Musical



*Performed at Valley Elementary,
 March 10 & 11, 2017*