

Marshall Minute

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July 2007



Meet Bill Green, Local Orchard Farmer

The Green family has been tending the farm known as Hartland Orchard for generations. Bill's father Henry was born in the 212-year-old house that still stands there today and Bill grew up on the rolling land he now maintains. The old homestead on the orchard is made up of several old buildings, including a dairy, smokehouse, slave quarters and blacksmith shop. In the 1960's the family opened up a small part of the farm to visitors who might like to pick their own produce. By 1980 most of the farm became a "Pick Your Own" business.

Hartland offers a variety of fruit as it comes into season. The month of



July is when the blueberries are ready to pick. In August the peaches are ripe. Late August through early October is apple time, and Hartland offers almost twenty different varieties. Visitors are welcome to bring a picnic and make a day of fruit picking. In October there's cider, honey and pumpkins and after

Thanksgiving they'll have Christmas trees and wreaths available. To find out what's ready to pick you can call the orchard at (540) 364-2316 or visit their website at <http://www.hartlandorchard.com/calendar.html>.

Bill's wife Sharon recently left her day job to help out at the farm full-time. They live on land adjacent to the orchard with their two daughters Diana and Gracie, who attend Claude Thompson Elementary School in Marshall. The Greens love the area and plan to carry their family's farming tradition into the future.

June MBRA Meeting Notes:

Jack Whiting was applauded for his fine work in managing the well-attended candidates' forum at the April meeting. He hopes to repeat that success this Fall with two more forums, when voters will have another chance to hear local candidates speak and to ask them questions. Mr. Whiting also spoke about the Community center annex, which has been tabled for the present because of construction costs. Some of the money in the budget has been moved to the Sports Complex project to help pay for unforeseen expenses, but will be repaid to the annex fund.

A question about the proposed town swimming pool was asked of Harry Atherton, who explained that the county still has the Mellon family donation for the Sports Complex, which stipulates that the pool be built, but is trying to decide on where to build it. There has been some talk about buying the Lone Oak property, but Mr. Atherton is of the opinion that it would cost just as much to refurbish and update that property as it might to build above ground on the originally planned area on the Marshall Community Center grounds. He says that the construction bids for the pool facility, access and parking have so far been prohibitively high and that other avenues need to be explored before the county can

make the most cost-effective decision.

MBRA president Joan Fries reported that the new and improved Marshall signs at each end of town are coming. The MBRA has put a down payment on the signs but still needs help from the community to pay the rest of the bill. Individuals and businesses that might like to find out how to contribute may contact Chris Robinson at Grace Bible Church by calling (540) 364-3832 or emailing him at chris@gbcmarshall.org.

LaDonna Gardner, Northern Region Parks and Recreation superintendent, talked about the Equal Footing Foundation, which creates Computer Clubhouses to help young people resist bad influences and develop positive skills by giving them free access to training and equipment by day. The Clubhouse teaches skills such as computer graphics (for example), which they can use in turn to help out the community by designing local flyers, posters, etc. They can also use the clubhouse to communicate with other clubhouses around the world to learn about other cultures and enter tournaments in areas such as virtual robot battling. In the evening the computer clubhouse would be open to adults and seniors who might have an interest in learning more about computers.

An anonymous benefactor has donated the money to start a Computer Clubhouse here, specifying the Marshall Community Center as the location. If this can be arranged, we would be the first such clubhouse in our county. Equal Footing, which is backed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will buy all the necessary computers, equipment and furniture. The only thing needed from the community is the salary for a Clubhouse manager. If they can get this, the clubhouse would open at the MCC downstairs across from the Pottery Studio by September 2008. Interested parties may call (540) 364-3886 to learn about making a tax-deductible contribution, or go online at <http://www.efooting.org/>.

Ms. Gardner also spoke about the many summer programs at the Marshall Community Center, including dance classes for children and adults, the pottery and fitness studios, day camps, open volleyball and basketball nights and much more. Please pick up a free Good Times schedule at the Community Center or several locations around town for exact dates and times.

Deborah Cosby of the John Marshall Library encouraged area students to attend the library's free summer reading program, which includes storytelling, games, free

Next Meeting

Tuesday,
July 17th
at 7:30 pm
at the

Marshall Community Center

Speakers:

Holli and John Todhunter of Three Fox Vineyards and Debra and Steven Charters of Northern Lights Seafood. Come and find out more about some of Marshall's gourmet attractions!

Note: There will be no August meeting or newsletter. The date of the next MBRA meeting after summer break will be Tuesday, September 18th at 7:30 p.m. Please check <http://www.marshallva.com/events.html> for further information about September's meeting.

Want to talk about a specific topic related to the Marshall area?

Want to hear from a local leader or speaker?

Let us know!

Please contact MBRA President Joan Fries at (540) 364-1688 with your requests and suggestions for topics and speakers.

MBRA meets regularly on the third Tuesday of the month in the Marshall Community Center.

family movie days, arts and crafts and more. This year's theme, "Virginia Trails" was inspired by the 400th anniversary of Jamestown and the children's book department is decorated to commemorate the early European explorations of the New World.

Come by the library, located in the Marshall Community Center on Rectortown Road, or call 540-364-4910 for further information.