



Brentsville Journal

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"CULTURED" CHILI COOK-OFF COMIN' CO-CHAIRS COOK UP ANOTHER YARD SALE

Our 5th Annual Chili Cook-off and 2nd Annual Yard Sale will be graced by a bit of culture on Saturday, May 4th. This year we're teaming up with the Prince William Art Society to hold an art show and sale. So, we'll have a full schedule of events on the Courthouse grounds for our annual spring fundraiser.

Last year, our spring yard sale was such a hit that our two seasoned Co-Chairs have stepped forward again to organize this event. Thanks to Fran Hibbs and Betty Machen, bargain hunters and treasure sellers will have an opportunity to meet on the Courthouse green at 9:00 AM. Beginning at 11:00 AM, bargain hunters will be able to re-fuel with a bowl of chili. Both the yard sale and the chili cook-off will last until 3:00 PM.

A new feature to this full day of activity at the Brentsville Courthouse will appeal to patrons of art. The Friends of Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre, Inc. are proud to announce that we will co-host an art exhibit and sale with the Prince William Art Society. Artists and their work will be on view in the Brentsville One Room School House, where selected works of art will be available for purchase.



In coming weeks, members of the Art Society have scheduled "paint-outs" across Prince William County to

paint local landscape and sites. If you have a favorite spot in our county, perhaps someone with a painter's eye has captured the magic on canvas for you. For a fair price, perhaps you can be the owner of a fabulous work of art fashioned by one of our own local talents. Plan to shop early and stay for lunch.



Now is a great time to start that pile of donations to the Friends for the yard sale. Last year, we netted over \$1000 at this event, thanks to people who generously donated some *quality goods* to us to sell. We are looking for household items, books, kitchen ware, tools, furniture, children's toys and baby items, white elephants, bric-a-brac and "soon to be" antique items. Please, no clothing, computer equipment, large household appliances, or exercise equipment as we do not have the space to accommodate these items.

We can arrange to pick up items for donation and we can store some items

prior to the event. Please call Betty Machen at 703-368-5952 or Fran Hibbs at 703-368-3042 with any questions, or to arrange for a pick-up. Outdoor space to crafters or other *family* yard sale sellers will also be available for \$25.00 a space, due by 8:00 PM, May 3rd, or no set up.

Sorry, we cannot accommodate any professional vendors at this event. Since this is a *fundraising event* for the Friends of Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre, Inc., *to raise money for historic preservation*, we will not permit any other food items (other than those items provided by our organization) to be sold on site.

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**NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: A POTLUCK SUPPER
SATURDAY, APRIL 13th, 4:00—6:00 PM (History Presentation begins at 5:00 PM)**

Please bring a dish to share! Be as generous as you can in your portions...

we're growing in more ways than one!

"CULTURED" CHILI COOK-OFF (con't from pg. 1)

Chili cooks should be on alert to perfect recipes. First through third place trophies are awarded to winners. Any citizen who would like to donate a crock pot full of chili is welcomed to join in the fun. You don't have to enter the contest, if you do not want to. Chili donations are vital. Every bowl we sell is money earned for historic preservation.

We will also sell a variety of delicious sides and desserts, in addition to hot dogs for non-chili lovers. This is one of our biggest fundraisers to support ongoing restoration projects at the Brentsville Historic Centre site, so please pitch in and make a food donation.

Judging of the chili begins promptly at NOON. Trophies will be awarded at 1:30 PM.



Even if chili is not your specialty, we also need cornbread and "finger food" desserts, e.g. cookies, brownies that can be individually packaged in baggies for bargain hunters who may want to "eat and run."

Fill out the enclosed form so we know what you plan to contribute. If you are undecided or need ideas, check with Gladys Eanes at 703-368-5166 for suggestions as to what to bring. Keep in mind that we can always use chili — even if it's just a "generic" mild "crowd pleasing" recipe!

This event gets bigger every year and so does the amount of hungry people we serve. That's why we must know IN ADVANCE what FOOD people plan to contribute. **The enclosed form should be returned by mail to P.O. Box 732, Bristow, VA, 20136 by April 30th.**

Even if you do not return a form, we will call you to see if you can help us out. So far, we have NEVER had any leftovers — nor have we ever run out of food.

Please mark this date on your calendar. Plan to arrive early at 8:00 AM on Saturday, May 4th to help us set up the yard sale, tables and chairs for our dining guests. Bring your friends! We can always use more hands to help.

Schedule Of Upcoming 2002 Meetings

Please take the time to mark your calendar TODAY. We just don't have the time to personally remind each member—INCLUDING BOARD MEMBERS about upcoming meetings. Your regular attendance is deeply appreciated and encouraged. We've got lots to do in 2002!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

4th Mondays @ 7:00 PM

Monday, April 22

Monday, May 20*

(note change due to Memorial Day holiday)

Monday, June 24

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

2nd Saturdays until May
2nd Thursdays thereafter

Saturday, April 13th
Pot Luck SUPPER
4:00—6:00 PM

THURSDAY,
MAY 9th, 7:00 PM
DESSERT POT LUCK

THURSDAY
June 14th, 7:00 PM
DESSERT POT LUCK

ANNUAL MEETING & 2003 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Thursday, December 12
7:00 PM

VIRGINIA ASSEMBLY GRANTS BRENTSVILLE FUNDS IN TIGHT YEAR

We are pleased to announce that the 2002 Virginia General Assembly has budgeted funds to support the Brentsville Historic Centre project. As most Virginians are aware, for the second year in a row, budget wrangling has been heated in Richmond, due to the tight resources available at the state level.

We were delighted to learn that when all the dust settled, the Brentsville Historic Centre was still on the "A" list to receive funding. At press time, pending

Governor Warner's signature, the Friends have been authorized approximately \$28,000.

On behalf of the Friends of Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre, Inc. we are deeply grateful to Delegate Harry Parish and to Senator Chuck Colgan for their expertise in guiding the required legislation through all the hoops to land on the Governor's desk. That Brentsville survived is indeed an incredible feat and a tribute to our state legislators! Thank you Harry and Chuck!



AH! THE NEWNESS OF SPRING

Any visitor to the fair Town of Brentsville this spring will be treated to new sites and new faces. With the newly refurbished cupola in place and the Brentsville Union Church now set firmly upon her foundation, construction fences have been removed from the building perimeters. Once again, the Brentsville Historic Centre looks inviting to guests. Although we still can't access the interior of the buildings, evidence of both restoration and preservation abound.

Recent Virginia tourism industry newsletters report that since 9/11 Americans are staying closer to home and exploring local sites. We hope that citizens across Prince William and Manassas will take advantage of the many events scheduled for May 4th in Brentsville and travel out to the Courthouse green to see what's happening.

Also new this spring is our first "cultural" partnership with the Prince William Arts Society. So, bring some extra cash to support local Prince William County artists. We hope this event will become an annual show that can one day show off artistic talent inside a totally refurbished 19th century courthouse.

Lastly, if you have not RENEWED your membership lately, chances are it's due. Reminders in our next newsletter!

RESEARCH CONTINUES TO BLOSSOM

One of the ongoing projects behind the scenes is research. Although we don't talk about it much, several members of the Friends of Brentsville are avidly tracking down bits and pieces of Brentsville's past. Some of the information gathered is available to the public, so we thought we would enlighten you as to where you can find it.

We are very excited about a recent partnership launched between the Friends and Robin Meyer-ing's Hylton High School Archaeology students. A big part of an archaeologist's job is historical research in order to be able to place artifacts within a proper historical context.

Approximately ten teams of two students chose research topics suggested by the Friends to pursue. This research involved the Internet, already published local histories, microfilm of old newspapers, interviews of Brentsville School alumni and Prince William County property tax lists, just to name a few sources. Students have been working on these projects for several weeks, so we are anxious to hear what they've discovered. Some students will make a presentation at our next meeting on April 13th.

In addition one of our other members, Ron Turner has just published two new books chockful of stories about Brentsville. For sometime now, Ron has been reading through microfilmed copies of old newspapers, e.g. Alexandria Gazette in search of Prince William County references.

This is not as easy as it sounds, as you have to have a bit of background in both Prince William County history and genealogy to be able to identify whether or not some of these articles pertain to Brentsville, or not. Ron has transcribed his findings in four self-published books called "Newspaper Transcripts" that span most of the 19th century. These treasures are available at the Bull Run Library and highly recommended reading for anyone who wants to know a bit about Brentsville history.

Some of the trial accounts that Ron has uncovered are real page turners, especially items describing the Fewell-Clark trial in Brentsville. This murder trial involved a state senator, a young girl, a brother's revenge, a former Governor of the Commonwealth and an "audience" of over 1000 people! For you real die-hard Brentsville history buffs, there is also a very detailed description of the interior of two jail cells — the debtor's

cell and a ground floor cell — included amidst the "spicier" parts of the story.

Pam Sackett has also been following an exciting lead also involving a Fewell family member. Fewell is a family name that is associated with both Brentsville and Manassas history.

One of the Fewell women was a prolific author and an educator around the time of the Civil War. She published an account of a small Virginia town at the start of the war that in many ways appears to be similar to what may have happened in Brentsville.

An 1870 source that highlighted the author, then a Brentsville resident, states that she wrote an unpublished book about the Civil War! So far, we have been unable to determine if the book was ever published, although it appears unlikely, based upon a preliminary search conducted with the aid of Bull Run RELIC staff.

Still, the possibility that an eye-witness account of the Civil War written by a Brentsville native may exist in private hands is intriguing. Hopefully this treasure has been passed down through the family and we can find a contact in the future.

We are ALWAYS on the look-out for any information about Brentsville. Recently we were given copies of a series of newspaper columns written about Brentsville life during the late 1940s and early 1950's. Written by Mrs. Agnes Webster, the columns are brimming with colorful anecdotes of post WWII country living. A real keepsake.

Nelson Keys also continues to bring forth some interesting historical documents. Of note is the original 1961 Supplement to the *Manassas Journal Messenger* detailing the celebratory events of the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of 1st Manassas. Even the advertisements are a delight to read.

Please share ANY information you may have about Brentsville with us — however "insignificant" it may seem to you. This includes information that YOU may not consider "history," stories that happened in YOUR lifetime. Everyday we are MAKING history in Brentsville. Please help us to preserve it!

Friends of Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre, Inc.

A non-profit, 501(c)3 volunteer organization
Established in 1996

To support the restoration and preservation of the

Brentsville Historic Centre

ENCOURAGE community involvement;
CREATE volunteer opportunities for citizens of all ages
RAISE FUNDS and/or accept any gifts of property or artifacts
To benefit the Brentsville Historic Centre
SUPPORT educational and historical programs;
PROMOTE acquisition and management of historical artifacts
significant to the Brentsville Historic Centre site
SHARE discovered artifacts and uncovered research
with visitors and tourists
COMMUNICATE effectively to raise public support for the
Brentsville Historic Centre.

www.brentsville.org

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES:

INDIVIDUAL: \$15.00
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT: FREE
CORPORATE: \$125.00

A Friends Membership includes a subscription to our monthly newsletter.
Corporate fees include promotional opportunities. To join, simply write a check to

"FBCHC" and mail it to: P.O. Box 732, BRISTOW, VA, 20136.

High School students who desire to be on the newsletter mailing list should send us a note requesting to be put on the list to the same address.

For more information about the Friends of Brentsville
Courthouse Historic Centre,
call: 703-361-2318, visit our web site, or write:
P.O. BOX 732, Bristow, Virginia 20136



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