

Alleghany • Elliston • Ironto • Lafayette • Shawsville

LINC Letter

Linking Individual Needs in Our Community

March/April/May 2024

Volume 26 Issue 1

LINC Celebrates 25 Years of Service

This issue marks the 25th anniversary of the LINC Letter, which was published for the first time in March 1999.

Spearheaded by Dale Mull, whose many contributions to the community we highlighted in the last issue, the LINC Letter was originally made possible by a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Since that time, LINC has continued to stay true to its original vision, which was to “create a community that communicates.” This has been made possible by the generosity of our supporters and the loyalty of our readers and advertisers.

The following is from the cover story on issue number one, titled “Shawsville-Elliston Team Receives Grant”:

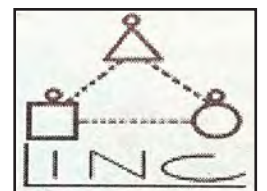
“The W.K. Kellogg Foundation brought a wonderful opportunity to the New River Valley in March 1998. The Kellogg Foundation created a Managing Information in Rural America (MIRA) grant, which could bring more than \$300,000 to the New River Valley. A large group of citizens throughout the New River Valley applied for this grant, and we were chosen as one of five communities throughout the United States to receive this grant.

“Ten teams representing Floyd County, Giles County, Montgomery County, Radford City, and Pulaski County were created. Several citizens in the Shawsville-

Elliston community started talking and developed one of these teams to represent our community. Each team was required to have at least ten members attend each of six workshops. The workshops were held at the New River Community College starting in June 1998 and lasting through November 1998. By meeting this requirement, each team earned the opportunity to apply for a \$15,000 grant. All ten teams will receive these grants beginning in March 1999. The Kellogg Foundation wants the teams to utilize some type of technology that will enhance each community.

“Through many long hours of work the Shawsville-Elliston team became Project LINC (Linking Individual Needs in Our Community). Our **Vision** for this project is to create a community that communicates. Our **Mission** is to use technology to create partnerships which instill community pride, enhance community awareness, and empower citizens to help themselves and their neighbors. The **Goal** of the team is to create ways to link the needs of the community with the means to address them.”

Look for articles from LINC's first year interspersed throughout this issue, indicated by this original LINC logo.



See the back of this newsletter for locations to pick up your FREE copy of the LINC Letter.

From the Editor ...

Fret and Worry

In a poem titled “The Wasteland,” T.S. Eliot declared, “April is the cruellest month,” apparently because it stirs up all sorts of feelings and things that might be better left unstirred. You know, spring and all that. Charles McDowell, one of my favorite columnists back in the old days — back when people read newspapers on paper — claimed February was the cruelest month because it so often alternated between spring-like weather and wintery bitterness with mud and wind in between. It kept getting McDowell’s hopes up and then crushing them, like a Valentine dropped out a school bus window into streams of traffic.

This year, January seemed to be the month most disliked by the most people. When it ended, social media had lots of posts that said something like, “January was a tough year, but we made it through.” And there was the reworking of that old rhyme about months and days: “Thirty days has September, April, June and November. All the rest have thirty-one, except February, which has twenty-eight unless a leap-year is its fate — and January, which has two thousand, four hundred and seventy-two.”

Or something like that.

So here we are (at least when this edition is new) with two of the dreaded months already in the rearview mirror and a whole month between us and the one Eliot disliked such much. But Eliot’s gripe against April is all wrong. He — or the speaker in his poem, at least — seems afraid of life and living and all the messiness that can involve. Goodness knows sometimes the messiness is much messier than any of us would wish, but it’s also the stuff of life.

Well. Some of it is, anyway.

It’s probably best not to worry too much about months and cruelty. Dread has a way of coming true — or, at least, of fretting us so much that it may as well have come true. “I know not all that may be coming,” some sailor on a fictional whaling ship once said, “but be it what it will, I’ll go to it laughing.”

Another book tells us, “Take therefore no thought for the morrow, for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.”

Linking Individual Needs in our Community

Project LINC is an affiliate of the Eastmont Community Foundation, a nonprofit organization.

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Call 540-230-9433

Meadowbrook Public Library

FREE GED Classes

Mondays and Tuesdays, 5 to 8 p.m.



New River Community College is offering free GED classes at the Meadowbrook Library. You may join the classes at any point over the course of the program. You may also reach out directly to the instructor, Laura, at lcrame@nr.edu, with any questions about the classes.

Free Prom Dress

March 1 through April 30
only at the Meadowbrook
Library



Do you need a prom dress? Meadowbrook Library has prom dresses of all sizes available for FREE for all juniors and seniors attending public or private high school in Montgomery, Floyd, and the New River Valley. Drop in during library hours with the exception of the last hour open. For more information, call 540-268-1964.



Meadowbrook Public Library

267 Alleghany Springs Rd.
Shawsville, VA 24162
540-268-1964
www.mfml.org

Hours of Operation:

Monday–Thursday 10 am to 7 pm
Friday 10 am to 5 pm
Saturday 10 am to 4 pm
ALL PROGRAMS FREE



NEED SOME CRAFTS?

The library will have a variety of take-and-make craft kits. Free while supplies last.

PRESCHOOL STORYTIME

Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.
Stories, rhymes, music and movements,
and craft as a family.



Talking About Books — the library's book discussion group.

- Thursday, March 14, 11 a.m. – *This Tender Land*, by William Kent Kruger
- Thursday, April 11, 11 a.m. – *The Light We Give*, by Michelle Obama
- Thursday, May 9, 11 a.m. – Choose a classic



Parent/Child Mindfulness Group.* Wednesdays March 13, 20, 27 and April 3, 10, 17 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Families with children in 3rd through 5th grade are invited to participate in free support groups for neurodivergent children and their care-

Meadowbrook Library (cont'd)

givers to improve wellness, build executive functioning skills and habits, organize daily routines, and find support from others. Facilitated by Radford University Occupational Therapy Students and Faculty. *Registration is required. Please contact Kaley Sweeney to register: kesweeney@radford.edu, 540-819-0547.



American Red Cross Blood Drive. Saturday, March 16, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Help save a LIFE by donating blood at the Waldron Wellness Center–Carilion Community Room. Schedule your appointment at

redcrossblood.org. Brunch will be provided for donors, and they may select a used book to take home. Books compliments of Friends of the Library–Meadowbrook Chapter. Blood drive sponsored by Craighill Masonic Lodge and Meadowbrook Library.

Spring Eggstravagana. Wednesday, March 20, 4:45 p.m. Meadowbrook Courtyard. We will have an egg hunt, take-home crafts, and an Easter basket drawing. Don't forget your basket and camera. Everyone is invited!



Tax Aide. Saturday, March 23, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. AARP Tax-Aide is the nation's largest free volunteer-run tax counseling and preparation service, preparing tax returns and answering tax questions FREE of charge. *You*

do not have to be a member of AARP nor a senior to use this service. AARP Tax-Aide offers free electronic filing using IRS-provided tax preparation software. No business or farm returns will be done. Registration required. Call the library for more information, 540-268-1964.

Learn about Harmonicas. Thursday, March 28, 2 p.m. Thor Hanes from New River Blues Society will be join-



ing us to talk about harmonicas and give us a lesson on how to play them. Everyone will get a free harmonica to take home. Registration is required. For children ages 8 and up.

Homeschool STEM Club. Monday, March 28 and April 15, 2 p.m. Join us for homeschool STEM Club, where we explore science, technology, engineering, or math! Ages 8 and up.

BINGO! BINGO! Saturday, April 13, 1:30 p.m. Come out for an afternoon of Bingo fun. For all ages, but must be accompanied by an adult.

Quilting Marathon. Saturday, April 27, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. The Meadowbrook Quilters are hosting a quilting marathon! The public is invited to see these skilled individuals quilting. The group will be working on individual projects. This is a great opportunity for you to see their handiwork and bring your quilting projects or questions for assistance. This program is open to the public.

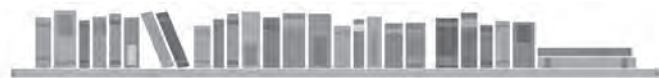
Notary Public!

Do you need documents notarized? We can help! This service is available at all branches and is FREE! Call to make an appointment.

Curbside Service Still Available. Feeling sick? In a hurry? Pull around to our drive-thru and call or ring the doorbell. We will bring your holds out to you.

Many more programs to come. Check mfri.org or call us at 268-1964 for information about any of these programs.

Don't forget to check out the Friends of the Library Book Sale. Great bargains on used books!



MEADOWBROOK QUILTERS

The Meadowbrook Quilters was formed in 2008 to serve Eastern Montgomery County. The club's mission is to stimulate and encourage the knowledge and love of quilting and to promote, through education and active participation, the improvement of the community in which we live.

All age groups and skill levels are encouraged to participate in this informal gathering of individuals who love quilting or just want to learn the craft.

Our meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month from 6:30 until 8 p.m. in the Studio Room of the Meadowbrook Center.

For more information, please contact Marie Goodwin, margood1010@gmail.com, or just come to one of our meetings. We would love to see you.

2024 Schedule

Meetings:
Meadowbrook Center
Studio Room
6:30 p.m.

March 21
April 18
May 16
June 20
July 18
August 15
September 19
October 17
November 21
December 19

Quilting Marathons:
Meadowbrook Library
Community Room
8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Free

Bring a project to work on and food to share.

Saturdays:
April 27
July 27
October 26



The Meadowbrook Library monitor, located in the periodicals section, is featuring a display of images depicting our community's rich African American history. These images, from the Meadowbrook Museum collection, will continue to be on display throughout the month of March.



Pompey Callaway House, Elliston
Built circa 1910 by ex-slave Pompey Callaway



Elliston First Baptist Church – 1920

Complementing this display is an exhibit in the hallway right outside the museum rooms, accessible whenever the Meadowbrook Center is open.



Listen Up!

by Tim Thornton

March Music (with more to come)

Beans and Banjos has evolved into a once-a year event, but you shouldn't have any trouble finding musical entertainment until that rolls around again. Here's what's happening in March. Look for updates in our April and May emailed newsletters. (Sign up to subscribe to those at eastmontcf.com/linc-letter.)

Bud Bennett, banjo-playing archivist who organizes Music Monday performances at Radford University, is doing a solo show on Friday, **March 1**. Bennett will be playing classical, Celtic, ragtime, and original music on the banjo. This show is the First Friday Listening Room at the Fine Arts Center of the New River Valley at 21 West Main Street, Pulaski. The event runs from 5 until 8 p.m. The Fine Arts Center folks ask that you get tickets ahead of time because seating is limited. It's a free event, but they suggest a \$5 donation.

On Saturday, **March 2**, Lowground is playing at the Village Grill at 1802 Memorial Ave SW in Roanoke at 8 p.m. Bandleader Steven Paul once described the group's musical style as "twenty-minute versions of fiddle tunes — rarely the melody." That's an exaggeration, but Lowground is an acoustic jam band with two guitars, mandolin, and bass often playing old tunes in new and innovative ways. Paul is the hot guitar player who was part of Fort Vause for a while. The band's other guitarist is Isak Howell, who's played as part of the Black Twig Pickers and Eight Point Star.

The same evening, you could be dancing at the Blacksburg Square Dance. The dance begins at 7:30 p.m. at 199 Wilson Street in Blacksburg. You don't need experience or even a partner to join in. The caller is Phil Louer of Hoorah Cloggers fame. The Lovely Mountaineers and their fiddler Jason Dilg will provide the music. Admission for everyone 13 and older is \$10.

Fiddler Mike Gangloff plays what he calls free Appalachian music, which includes traditional old-time tunes, improvisation, and his own songs that draw on a wide assortment of sounds and influences. Gangloff has a show begin-

ning at 6 p.m. **March 16**, at Rising Silo, 2351 Glade Road in Blacksburg. He'll be joined by Isak Howell, Kaily Schenker and special guest Ash Devine. Howell plays guitar, banjo, and harmonica and has collaborated with Gangloff for years. Schenker is a cellist, singer and harmonium player. Devine is a well-known New River Valley performer who sings and plays a wide range of acoustic music on guitar and ukulele. Her sets range from bluegrass to blues to her own songs.

Gangloff has another show on **March 22** at the Newport Community Center, 434 Blue Grass Trail, Newport, over in Giles County, with guitarist Ethan WL, who plays folk and jazzy originals.

On Saturday, **March 30**, Tim Thornton will be playing at the Floyd Country Store as part of the store's Americana Afternoons. The Country Store is at 206 S Locust Street in Floyd. Thornton's set begins at 1:30 p.m.

If you, your church, your band, your cousin's band, or any other group with some connection to East Mont is hosting or playing any kind of music the public is invited to hear, let us know at lincstories@gmail.com. If anyone in East Mont is hosting such music, let us know that too. We'll need your information by the first week of May for the June/July/August LINC Letter.



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First Responder Scholarship Fund

In July 2023, Eastmont Community Foundation received a donation from the sale of the former Shawsville Volunteer Rescue Squad as part of their dissolution agreement. ECF

deposited the funds into an endowed fund with ECF and established the First Responder Scholarship Fund. These scholarships will remain in the Eastern Montgomery community to be used toward first responder and medical education. Annual disbursement amounts from the fund are based on the ECF operating guidelines.

There are two types of grants available. The first is for annual scholarships for post-secondary education in a first responder, nursing, or medical doctor field offered by an accredited university/college. This is available for graduates of Eastern Montgomery High School (or its predecessor, Shawsville High School).

The second type of grant is for certifications, skills acquisition, and/or programs to increase skills in a first responder field. These are available to benefit an individual non-profit or public entity that meets the criteria for first responder or local non-profit. In addition, special requests made by the Sheriff of Montgomery County, Chief of the Elliston Volunteer Fire Department, or Director of the Montgomery County Fire-EMS for training for department staff/volunteers will be reviewed by the ECF board.

Eastmont Community Foundation is appreciative of first responders willing to serve, protect, and care for others. ECF supports making education attainable for firefighters, EMTs, police officers, and those in the nursing/medical field.

We would like to thank the Shawsville Volunteer Rescue Squad for their service of time and skills to the Eastern Montgomery community, as well as those who supported the rescue squad financially that have made this scholarship possible.

OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE FOR RENT

MEADOWBROOK CENTER in Shawsville, VA

Each office is approximately 16'x12' with all utilities plus wired internet service included with the rent. Some have full private bathrooms with tub and shower. All offices are in the same complex as the Waldron Wellness Center, Meadowbrook Library, Meadowbrook Museum and Meadowbrook Community Center.

Rental rates from \$175.00 to \$225.00 per month.

Contact George Smith, Facility Manager

Email: mrbanjo111@aol.com

Call 540-392-6280

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- Single Car Garage
- GENERATOR for house
- 20' Steel Storage Container
- AIR Compressor
- 12' x 16' Shed/ Roof in 2023
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*Need decent downpayment, credit and income.

Appointment/questions: 540-599-4256

Photos: bcross2020@gmail.com

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Lafayette: Tiny Village, Long History

As you pass Dixie Caverns, you cross the county line into Montgomery County and approach the Sunset Deli Mart. Passing the Mart,

you may not notice the green street sign to the right labeled “Lafayette Road” descending into a hollow. Some don’t bother and continue toward Elliston; but if you were to turn down that road, you would soon find yourself travelling back to an era where a sleepy community was once a bustling, 19th century turnpike town — the most populous area between Christiansburg and Salem for nearly a century. Its story even predates the town’s establishment.

Issac Taylor was the first settler to arrive here in 1751. He acquired more than 400 acres of property in the path of the Ingles Ferry Road, or the “Wilderness Road” as it was also called. He sought to prosper in the business of ferrying traffic across the Roanoke River, like the Ingles Ferry across the New River. His land tracts were said to have stretched from the head of the Roanoke River to Fort Lewis, and his home was built shortly after he arrived in the area. The Taylor home was located on the west side of the South Fork of the Roanoke River, along present-day North Fork Road on property now owned by Flat Hat Farms.

In 1769, the “New Derry” congregation, led by John Rayburn, met at the “Forks Meeting House,” which supposedly was built in 1746. John Craig — another prominent settler in the area — accounted for the meeting and the congregation’s proposal for the establishment of a settlement here, but the Forks Meeting House was not noted in the Lexington Presbytery in 1786. Presumably, it had been abandoned by then, and was later found in ruins in 1791.

In 1807, John Rayburn in his will stated that “the spot where the meeting house stands shall not be sold while that house is there, but may be sold afterwards.” Thus in 1818, several members of the congregation

(James Barnett, Thomas Mitchell, A.H. Robinson, and John Pepper) were appointed to repair the Forks Meeting House. It is not known if they built a second building or renovated the first. A grist mill and sawmill were built at the forks of the Roanoke River in 1822 on land owned by Issac Taylor’s heirs, until it was sold to the mill owners four years later. Because of the mills, and more residents eventually moving in, the town of Lafayette was officially established by the General Assembly in 1828. The town was rumored to have been named after the French General Marquis de Lafayette from the American Revolution. During his 1824 tour of America, Lafayette supposedly spent the night at the W.W. Gardner home, a tavern at the time, while traversing on the Wilderness and Great Roads through Virginia. Whether such events actually happened remains unconfirmed, but the local legend persists.

John Pepper headed the development of the town of Lafayette, designating 10 acres for commercial use. He laid out six blocks centered near the Old Meeting House, which had been long abandoned by the time of the town’s founding and was again deteriorating. By the 1830s, the town was reaching its peak growth as there were 43 houses, a large mill with a mill race, a tavern, two general merchandise stores, a boot and shoe factory, a tanyard, a cooper’s shop, four smith shops, and several other small shops as noted in the census records.

The earliest map of the town was made by James Herron in 1833, showing the “Great Road” running straight through the center of town and across the North and South forks of the Roanoke River. The Lafayette Methodist Church, the oldest brick church in Montgomery County still used today, was built in 1848 atop the original Forks Meeting House site, becoming the centerpiece of the town. A muster ground was said to have existed on the edge of the church property as both local militias and later a Confederate unit during the Civil War mustered there.

The Town of Lafayette faced a brief decline in business starting in the 1850s as the Great Road relo-

cated south of Lafayette where present-day Route 11 runs. People still travelled through Lafayette, but the newer and faster route bypassed the forks crossings that would take travelers through the town. Additionally, the proposed canal route on the Roanoke River fell through. The Virginia and Tennessee Railroad made its way through SWVA in the late 1850s, but it passed the town on the opposite side of the Roanoke River, leaving no chance to establish a train station for Lafayette. The town does show on the railroad map, but the nearest station is Big Spring (Elliston).

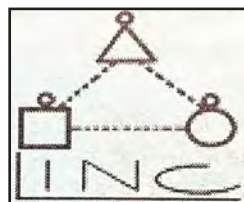
Throughout the late 19th century and into the first half of the 20th century, the population was still considerably high. Several more establishments were created, including a few schoolhouses, a post office, a Virginian Train Stop on the Virginian Line, and a barbershop. Several oral and written accounts had been recorded, including stories about growing up in the town, going to school, life around town, or working at the stores and mill between the 1870s and 1940, depicting Lafayette as a little, but prosperous community. However, by the 1950s, many businesses and residents began to leave Lafayette. The Federal- Aid Highway Act of 1956 further drove businesses and human traffic away from the town and Route 11. Additionally, residents left to places like Roanoke or to more suburban areas and communities for work. Those who remained were largely descendants of the first residents, and Lafayette maintained its status as a town, even with a smaller population. Its post office along with the Butt General store still operated until 1985, when the post office moved to its present location in Elliston.

In 1989, the Lafayette Historic District was added to the Virginia Landmarks Register, and in 1991, to the National Register of Historic Places. Made up of roughly 800 square feet, only four of the six original blocks still exist with extra lots extending to the water's edge and up to the hills to the east. The district included 19 buildings, dating between 1829 and 1940. Notable structures that can be visited include: The Pepper House (before 1829), Preston Waskey

House (1829-30), Lafayette Methodist Church, Butt General Store (early 20th Century), Gardner Store (late 19th Century), and the Sid Butt Barber-shop and House (1940).

Today, the town of Lafayette is a very quiet community with a population of roughly 449 (recorded in 2010). Lafayette's boundaries are confined to the original areas: north of Route 11, in between the South Fork and North Fork of the Roanoke River, and a small parcel on the west side of the South Fork. Rowe Furniture, Dollar General, along with both Camino Viejo Mexican Grill and the mobile home park opposite of the Sunset Deli Mart are also part of Lafayette Township.

A full story on the Town of Lafayette will be recorded later this year and posted on Spotify's "History from Southwest Virginia," a local history-based podcast created by Benjamin Jenkins, a former Shawsville resident currently residing in Vinton. Follow the podcast for future episodes and to support this platform. — Benjamin Jenkins, benthehistorian@gmail.com



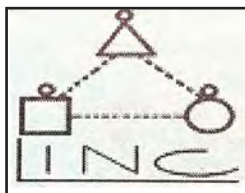
*From the October 1999
LINC Letter*

Food Pantry to Open October 23

by Dale Mull

Beginning October 23rd, the Shawsville Lay Ministerial Association will open a Food Pantry every Saturday morning from 10:00 AM until noon at the Big Spring Baptist Church in Elliston.

The Pantry will make minimal cost food from the Food Bank in Roanoke available to anyone in need. It will be staffed by volunteers from the community and run by participating churches.



*From the December 1999
LINC Letter*

New High School Mascot and Colors Chosen

by Nelson W. Simpkins, Principal

A committee of students representing all the clubs and groups in school, and PTSA and Athletic Boosters Club members met recently to decide on a school mascot. After narrowing down the choices to Bulldogs and Mustangs, the student body voted for MUSTANGS as the new school mascot.

The student committee also met and decided that the new school colors will be maroon, black, and white.



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Want more good things to happen in your neighborhood?

JOIN THE RURITAN CLUB!

Organizations and activities supported by the Shawsville Ruritan Club include:

- Shawsville Streetlight Fund
- Median mowing and trash pickup
- EMHS — two annual scholarships to graduating seniors, track & field programs, choral group trip, Future Business Leaders of America competition trip
- SMS — Field Day (Mustang Madness)
- EMES — Backpack Program to supplement food at home
- Boy Scouts of America
- Meadowbrook Museum
- Literacy NRV
- Eastmont Community Foundation
- Southwest Virginia Wildlife Center
- Salvation Army



Join us as our guest on the 2nd Thursday of the month at White Memorial Church in Shawsville. Enjoy a home-cooked meal with neighbors and friends and learn about how you can help make our community better! Email melindasmith1744@gmail.com.



Casino Night is Back with a Roaring 20's theme!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 27, 2023, 5:30-9pm

Meadowbrook Center – 267 Allegheny Spring Road, Shawsville

Ways you can contribute to this important fundraiser for the **Eastmont Community Foundation**:

- Buy **Individual Ticket(s)** – (\$60 each) – includes dinner, a drink, 1 player ticket and \$10,000 in starter chips.
- Donate goods or services** for the Silent Auction.
Item(s) – _____
- Be a **Green Chip Sponsor** (\$300) – includes dinner, drinks, and player tickets for 2, and \$20,000 in starter chips with program sponsor listing.
- Be a **Red Chip Sponsor** (\$600) – includes dinner, drinks, and player tickets for 4, \$40,000 in starter chips with program sponsor listing.
- Be a **Blue Chip Sponsor** (\$1,200) – includes dinner, drinks and player tickets for 8, \$80,000 in starter chips and featured listing in event promotional materials.

Casino Night features authentic blackjack, roulette, poker and craps tables, horse-racing, slot machines and a live DJ from Creative Entertainment of Roanoke. We will have great food, great company, and great entertainment. Come enjoy an evening with Eastmont Community Foundation!

While the gaming is for show, the real winner is **Eastmont Community Foundation**. ECF operates **Old Town Fields, Meadowbrook Center**, and the **Waldron Fitness Center** in Shawsville. The **EastMont Thrift Store** in Elliston and assists with the **LINC Letter**. The Foundation also awards **scholarships** to local high school students and **grants** to local non-profits.

Tickets can be purchased at the Waldron Fitness Center front desk or email us at eastmontcf@gmail.com to make arrangements for tickets.

EASTMONT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

267 Allegheny Spring Road, Shawsville, VA 24162

(540) 268-1623

www.eastmontcf.com

Eastmont Community Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

Contributions are deductible for federal income tax purposes.

Your donation stays in the community!



FREE Adult Education Opportunities with Literacy NRV

Literacy NRV (formerly Literacy Volunteers of the New River Valley) helps adults achieve literacy-related goals to be successful parents, workers, and community members.

Are you ready to earn your GED?

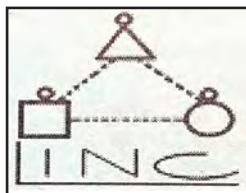
If you need help preparing for the GED exam but need a flexible schedule and ongoing support, we're here to help! Our new "GED on the Go" program is FREE and provides an online module for you to work through at your own pace with on-call tutor support in any areas that you're struggling with. Give us a call today at 540-382-7262 or email info@lvnr.org to learn more about this exciting new opportunity to help you reach your goal!

Looking for a new job and want to brush up your skills?

If you or a loved one could use help with studying for a driver's license, improving your English or preparing for the Citizenship exam, completing job applications or other forms, reading with children, or improving digital literacy to enhance job skills, we are here to help. With one-to-one and classroom tutoring, we can help make those dreams a reality! Please visit our website at www.lvnr.org or call us at 540-382-7262.

Literacy Volunteer Tutor Training

Are you interested in helping another adult to improve their skills in reading, writing, basic math, ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages), or basic computer skills, or to prepare for exams such as the GED or U.S. Citizenship Exam? We need your help! You can make a significant impact by helping adults in the Eastern Montgomery community improve their literacy skills. Volunteer tutors with Literacy NRV provide one-to-one or small group tutoring in public locations throughout the NRV, in-person or virtually. Visit our website at www.literacynr.org for more information or to join an upcoming tutor training class.



*From the May 1999
LINC Letter*

Chatter from the Shawnee Weekly ...

Shawnees Have Big MACC Wins — Recently in the Mountain Academic Competition Conference (MACC) Eastern Division Tournament, Shawnees teams won in two subjects. The Science Team was victorious over the Radford Bobcats 70 to 61, claiming the tournament championship. Congratulations to Brad Basham, Joy Dalton, Landon Smith, and Brand Stoudemire. The Social Studies Team showed poise and concentration in the finals and defeated the Blacksburg team by 68 to 61. They now have a date with the MACC Super Bowl. Congratulations to team members Dan Goff, Tommy Cerva, and Ivy Dalton.

What’s Happening in Our Schools?

A Well-Deserved Congratulations to ...

EMHS Teacher of the Year — Reading Specialist Kearah Donato

While many teachers are deserving and received some well planned nominations for this honor, Mrs. Donta was selected for many reasons, as reported by her peers:

“Kearah does everything she can to keep students aimed at the goal of crossing the stage on graduation day. She works tirelessly at motivating students to keep trying, even after they often feel defeated from multiple failed attempts. Better yet, I have seen Kearah rejoice in students’ successes as much as the students themselves.”

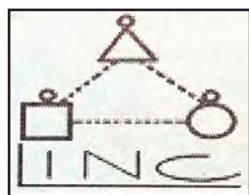
“From her first year at EMHS, Kearah has been an excellent ELA teacher and has positively contributed to our school as a whole. She works endlessly to close the gaps of our students. She also spends hours upon hours tutoring students in the most vulnerable of positions — on the fence of meeting verified credit requirements for graduation in reading and/or writing. She analyzes endless amounts of data and formulates comprehensive, individualized plans to set students up for success; she understands how to meet specific needs. Throughout this, she develops relationships with students and is able to help build students’ self confidence. Kearah has a genuine heart for the students in this community and it shows. Additionally, she serves on various site-based teams and can be counted on to step in when adult support is needed in our school. I feel so lucky to have her as my coworker and look up to her as an educator.”



Congratulations, Ms. Donato!

One of her students wrote this when informed that Ms. Donato was this year’s EMHS Teacher of the Year:

“Thank you, Ms. Donato, for all the hard work you’ve put in to help your students succeed. You have made a big difference in my ability to read and write well, and I know you will go on to help many more students and their ability to learn.”



From the December 1999 LINC Letter

Tips to Avoid Y2K Scams

by Master Deputy Jimmy Bowyer

The Year 2000 problem, also known as Y2K, appears in computer systems programmed to recognize dates with two digits instead of four. These applications will be unable to determine whether a year is 2000 or 1900, causing potential system failures or incorrect results.

The Y2K problem has the ingredients that make it ripe for fraud opportunities. [This was followed by “some common Y2K scams to avoid.”]

What's Happening in Our Schools?



Rigby Rodrigues (second from left) and Taylor Canode (third from left) participated in the Virginia Tech Block and Bridle Horse Judging Contest. Rigby won a ribbon. Congratulations SMS students!

-SENECA BAPTIST CHURCH-

Seneca Youth Club

EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT FROM 6:45 TO 8:00

AGES PRE-K (MUST BE POTTY-TRAINED) THROUGH 12TH GRADE

Our goal as a church is to share and teach God's Word from the Bible, and connect with the children in our local community.





Students in our Wednesday night classes earn points and prizes for class attendance, church attendance, scripture memory, and Bible study.

Dinner is provided for the kids before classes begin.

We offer van pick-up for the kids.

Please call us for more information or to request a ride.

Or send us a message on Facebook! Just search "SYC"

 (540) 268-1944 

What's Happening in Our Schools?

SMS Students enjoyed a Club Day with many different choices, including board games, chess, chromebook gaming, coloring, creative writing, FBLA, FCCLA, FFA, Mario Kart, paracord bracelets, perler beads, puzzles, science experiments, shrinky dinks, volleyball, walking, wiffle ball, and origami.



What's Happening in Our Schools?

State Junior Beta Convention



The SMS Beta Club traveled to Hampton, Virginia to compete in the State Junior Beta Convention.

Congratulations to the students who participated in this event.

A special congratulations goes out to our Visual Arts winners:

- Gracie Walker — first place in jewelry design
- Raylan Conner — first place in woodworking
- Brayden Kingery — first place in digitally enhanced photography
- Madi Hollins — third place in pottery

Also, the SMS Beta Club won third place in the t-shirt design, and Somaya Hassan placed 4th in the Spelling Bee at the State Convention. Go Mustangs!

What a display of talent from SMS. Thanks to Ms. Drew and the chaperones who made this trip possible.



Gracie Walker — Jewelry Design



What's Happening in Our Schools?

State Junior Beta Convention

The following students attended the State Junior Beta Convention in Hampton, Virginia:

6th Grade Students

Somaya Hassan, Kaylin Heldreth, Owen Lafon, Carson Lovern, Aubrey Elliott, Lainey Matherly, and Hunter Neuhs

7th Grade Students

Catherine Addington, Raylan Conner, Lexi Deweese, Kenzie Dunbar, Brayden Kingery, Lexi Perkins, and Ava Roupe

8th Grade Students

Yami Chavez Huerta, Carly Davidson, Evolet Gutierres-Torrez, Madi Hollins, Addison Long, Shelby Oldham, Nate Ollis, Logan Owen Sisson, Kellan Stewart, Gracie Walker, Grayson Welcher, Calvin Wilbon, Karsen Underwood, and Kenzie Work.



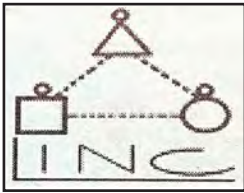
Madison Hollins — Pottery



Raylan Conner — Woodworking



T-shirt designs



From the April 1999
LINC Letter ...

Kellogg Celebration
by Dale Mull

The following people have been involved with the Kellogg LINC team for the past 11 months. Project LINC has just become incorporated, and officers are as indicated:

Dale Mull, President; Cyndi Hamilton, Vice-President; Rosemary Giesy, Secretary; Carroll Carr, Treasurer; Ophelia Battle, Director; Ora Taylor, Director; Clarence Taylor, Director, Marvin Ballard; Brad Basham; Ginger Conner; Mary Beth Dunkenberger; Daniel Goff; Craig Hixon; Adam King; Stephen King; Dave Mull; Andee Sears; G.R. "Bob" Smith, Jr.; Landon Smith; and Joe Young.

On April 18, 1999, members of the ten community teams and invited guests and dignitaries will celebrate completion of the workshops and receipt of the money with a dinner and awards ceremony at Chateau Morrisette sponsored by the Kellogg Foundation.

SMS Basketball



Form **1040** Department of the Treasury—Internal Revenue Service (99) **2023** OMB No.

FREE Income Tax
Preparation Assistance is Available.

- You do not need to be a senior or a member of AARP to receive assistance from the Taxaide program.
- Volunteers are trained and certified by IRS testing.
- Taxes are prepared at the Christiansburg Recreation Center 4 days each week from **Feb 1 to April 15, 2024.**

To make an appointment call 382-2349.

March 23, 2024, tax preparation assistance will be scheduled at Meadowbrook Library. **Call 268-1964** for an appointment on that day.

BOYS
VS. CRAIG COUNTY 54-27
@ CRAIG COUNTY 29-27
VS. NARROWS 39-17
VS. HIGHLAND 61-12
@ NARROWS 44-14
@ HIGHLAND 62-7

GIRLS
VS. CRAIG COUNTY 30-15
@ CRAIG COUNTY 26-21
VS. NARROWS 37-7
VS. HIGHLAND 31-10
@ NARROWS 29-5
@ HIGHLAND 37-10



OLD TOWN FIELDS

2024 CONCERT SCHEDULE

4219 Oldtown Road, Shawsville, VA

Join us for live music, food, and fun for everyone!

Saturday, June 1 – Miller Holler band

Saturday, June 15 – Midnight Blue band

Thursday, July 4* – band w/ Terry Hannabass

*July 4th also includes a 5k race in the morning, parade, and the Sisson & Ryan Independence Day fireworks after the concert.

Saturday, Sept. 28 – Out of Spite and That 80's Show

Additional concerts TBD

Gates open at 5:30pm and concerts last until 9:00pm

Admission is \$5 (age 12 & under are free)

Food and beverages

Concert sponsorships and advertising banner space are available to support the concert series.

Contact us if you are interested in reunion groups and company groups attending a concert so we can help you plan your get together.

Email us at eastmontcf@gmail.com for more details.

www.eastmontcf.com

Every dollar and volunteer hour makes an impact on our programs and facilities including scholarships, grants, Thrift Store, Waldron Fitness Center, LINC and Meadowbrook Center.

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Meadowbrook Museum
Carilion Clinic
Shawsville Family Dentistry
Shawsville Pharmacy
Shawsville Middle School
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