

GEAR POST

Waynesboro
Rotary Club
5780

April 2021

President: Rebecca Shin
President Elect: Leonard Poulin
Secretary: Mary Ann Everly-Maupin
Treasurer: Laurie Landes
Immediate Past President: Lowrie Tucker
Directors: Dick Clark, Vonda Lacey,
Charlie Guggenheimer, Frank Carey
Gear Post: Francine Johnston



Save the date

Salvation Army fundraiser: "Rock the Kettle" is Sunday **June 5**, 12:30 to 5 pm in Ridgeview Park Ampitheater. Food trucks will be on site.

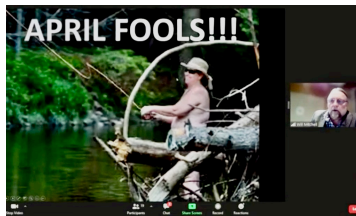
March 25th



Homeless Services during Covid-19

Debra Freeman-Belle, executive director of WARM, emphasized how their collaboration with local agencies and churches has made it possible to provide homeless services at a higher-than-normal level during the past year. When churches could no longer open for the homeless, they were housed at the Day's Inn and provided with three meals a day. At the same time, WARM has still been able to develop new initiatives and meet their goal of finding stable housing for clients.

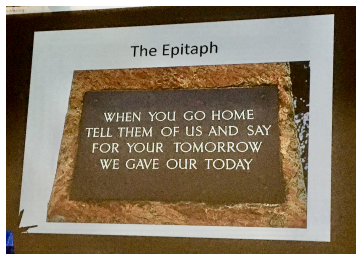
April 1st



South River Resort?

Will Mitchell shared an impressive plan for a resort in Jones Hollow that would include fishing, a community center, spa, golf course and a semi-conductor R&D facility. The plan began to sound less promising when he announced his goal of making "Waynesboro the nudist capital of the mid-Atlantic states". Turns out this nudist resort hoax was first planned 6 years ago by Jeff Fife and his cousins and they finally had a chance to hoodwink the club when April Fool's Day again fell on a Thursday.

April 8th



Battle of Kohina

Christopher Kolakowski of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum joined us via zoom to report on the Battle of Kohina that took place in the wild terrain of the India/Burma border. With photos and maps he gave us an overview of a little know, but critical, battle in which British and Indian troops resisted the efforts of Japan to invade India and break the railroad supply line to China. It was the first time the Japanese were defeated, and it changed the course of the war in Southeast Asia.

April 15th



UVA Center for Politics

Damen Irby, who is the director of Global Initiatives at the UVA Center for Politics, was introduced by fellow employee Meg Huebeck. Over the years Damen and Meg have involved over 1500 participants in international exchange programs and hosted high school students locally in homestays. Everyone is invited to attend their Ambassador Speaker Series that feature speakers from around the world. The goal of the Center is to increase civic engagement.

April 22nd

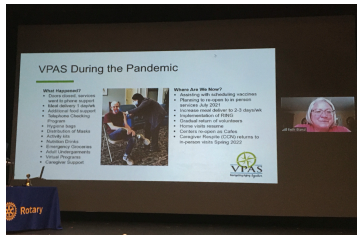


Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation

Audrey Pearson is from a nonprofit foundation designed to raise money to supplement federal funds for the Blue Ridge Parkway. She reminded us of what a gem we have here in our backyard but pointed out the threats to the Parkway. Audrey described a number of projects they have paid for such as educational programs, trail maintenance and preservation of historical buildings.



April 29th



Senior Community Needs Assessment

Carrie Budd from Bridgewater Retirement Home and Beth Bland from Valley Program for Aging Services (VPAS) were our speakers today. Carrie summarized findings from surveys used to assess needs of local seniors. Key issues include affordable housing, transportation, social isolation, financial insecurity and navigating the health care system. Beth brought us up to date on the services offered by VPAS which tries to address many of the identified needs through programs such as Meals on Wheels, day care centers and caregiver support groups.



Service at the Salvation Army April 1st

It was chilly, but Nancy Whitlock, Charlie Guggenheimer, Fiona Allison, Meg Hueback, Harold Cook, Tom Brown, and Francine Johnston made quick work of emptying, organizing and refilling the storage building at the Salvation Army under Rachel Pruitt's direction.



South River Clean-Up Service on Saturday April 3rd

Lowrie Tucker with family, Francine Johnston, Sarah Paiste,, with husband Wyn, and Mike Wilhelm met at Constitution Park April 3rd to help with the annual Stream Clean event. They joined about 40 other people - including many in waders from Fly Fish Waynesboro / Shenandoah Trout Unlimited who came prepared to brave the chilly water. Our folks stayed dry on the banks, quickly filling the orange bags with trash collected between the Main Street and Broad Street bridges.

Notes from the Board

The board approved the following contributions: \$3200 to the YMCA to support a bike safety program as part of the Summer Enrichment Academy as well as an updated website, and \$750 to the Wayne Theatre. Starting in June we will start collecting money again for "Happy Dollars". Rick has given us a deal with \$5 box lunches during the month of April, but they will be \$14 starting in May.