



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Pay It Forward

A good friend of mine, Alan, was describing his college experience. Growing up in a lower to middle class family, he did not have the financial wherewithal to pay for school. He would sing at weddings, receptions, special events, and even funerals to earn extra cash. One day, the local church called him and asked if he would sing at a funeral of a young man, who had passed away. So, he did. A few weeks later, the parents of that young man approached Alan to explain how much they missed their son, but how much they wanted to continue his legacy. They decided to pay for Alan's undergraduate degree, as well as his master's degree. He became the son they wanted to support.

Today, Alan (who eventually obtained his PhD) would tell you that his success in life reverts back to a couple who had paid it forward. As local residents, you have the distinct privilege and opportunity to pay it forward. Come participate in the Bobby Blue Bland Festival on June 1, 2019 as well as the Country Fair at Rosemark on September 28. By paying it forward, you are growing the community, producing a quality way of life, and you're leaving it better than you found it.

Rev. Cary Vaughn, *President, H.A.R.E., Inc.*
cvaughn@lwf.org.

Rosemark Civic Club

By: William "Trip" Jones, III, *President*

The Rosemark Civic Club met at Richland ARP Church on multiple occasions during the winter months to address various topics such as updates on the Telephone Exchange Museum and Lighting of the Christmas Tree.

Without a doubt, however, the dominant topic of the meetings was that just prior to Christmas we learned that Memphis Stone and Gravel (MSG) had filed ANOTHER special use permit (SUP) with the Shelby County Office of Planning and Development (OPD) to open a gravel pit on approximately 174 acres on what is known as the Moffatt Farm just west of the intersection of Rosemark Rd. and Mulberry. A brief history of this issue is that Memphis Stone and Gravel has tried unsuccessfully, since 2006 to begin a gravel mine in the area combining two properties in Atoka that total about 500 acres. Around 2010, they began a campaign to join that with the Moffatt property and create a haul route in Shelby County. This proposal in one form or another has been turned down in Shelby County in 2012 and upheld in Chancery Court in Memphis then turned down in Atoka in 2016 and upheld in Chancery Court in Covington. After a four-step process, the latest proposal was rejected unanimously again by the full Shelby County Commission on February 11, 2019. MSG had 60 days to file a lawsuit on the issue but did not do so.

Throughout this latest process the citizens of Atoka and Rosemark joined together AGAIN in an overwhelming show of unity to lobby their representatives, sign petitions, attend meetings, and donate time and financial resources to prevent this unwanted industry from entering our historic community. Thank you to all who got engaged during this campaign.

You do not have to live in Rosemark to be a member and attend meetings of the Rosemark Civic Club. We invite anyone in the surrounding areas to attend. Watch for meeting notices at the Rosemark Historic District Facebook page and email notices.

Bobby Blue Bland Day in Barretville

June 1, 2019 – 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

HARE and the Bobby Blue Bland Day ("BBB Day") Planning Committee are hosting the Third Annual BBB Day to honor the memory and musical legacy of Grammy Award Winner and north Shelby Countian Robert Calvin "Bobby Blue" Bland.

This evening of music and community will include food and beverages from local vendors Long Road Cider, Double D's BBQ, H.Y.P.E. and Jack's Frost. The planning committee includes: Dr. Barret Matthews, Scott Patterson, Major Deidre Bush, Judge Karen Williams, Ruthie Wilburn, and William "Trip" Jones.

The Performers: Hal Reed and Will Gustofson are a blues duo reminiscent of the downhome blues alleyways peppered throughout the Delta. Hal, born a few miles from the Mississippi Delta, is a major force in the Blues world. Now an educator of music, he honed his skills up and down the Delta. His harmonic musical abilities are legendary. His raspy blues rifts are paired with his sometimes partner, Will Gustofson, a guitarist and blues musician in his own right.

Also on the marquee is native Memphian "Glamorous" Bertha Payne. As a Soul Blues Singer, she may be glamorous, but once Betha begins flexing her chops her voice overflows you with Downhome Blues and Southern Soul.

Bobby Blue Bland Day would be missing a key ingredient if native Memphian Michael Townsend was missing from the lineup. With music mentors such as Beale Street's own Preston Shannon and Willie Mitchell, Michael Townsend captivates audiences with his live performances deemed "smooth and sensational".

The Honoree: Robert Calvin Bland (or "Bobby Blue Bland" as he later became known) lived in Barretville as a young boy. His father Leroy Bland worked as head ginner at the J. H. Barret & Son Gin across the road from the general store. When he was interviewed in 2009 for An Illustrated History, Bobby Blue Bland recounted his memories of growing up in the community. "After I was eight or nine (1938 or 1939), I would go up to the Barret's Store every day. By age 11, I had my own little business, watching the cotton wagons and running errands for the drivers waiting in line at the gin." He loved to sing and was known to sing well. His daily adventures at the store often featured singing country-western songs on the front porch of the store for farm hands, wagon drivers, and other customers who would pay him pocket change to hear their favorite tunes. He recalled that "I'm Walking the Floor Over You," written in 1941 by Ernest Tubbs, was his most popular request. "I would get 50 cents to sing that one," he said. He fondly remembered that his grandmother encouraged his singing—church music, hymns, and spirituals. "—But not the Blues. The Blues were not allowed at my grandmother's house at all! But you could get away with a little Blues singing at my mother's house, as long as she wasn't with you."

And that is how, from his own account, the legendary career of Bobby Blue Bland began.

The Artist: When the Planning Committee for Bobby Blue Bland Day in Barretville was recently seeking an emblem or drawing



Logo incorporating artwork by Artist, David Lynch of Covington

drawing representing the front porch of the historic J. H. Barret and Son General Store where Bobby Blue Bland began his legendary singing career in the late 1930's — but David agreed to contribute his drawing entirely free of charge. The Committee is extremely grateful and plans that David Lynch's drawing will become the permanent logo for the annual Bobby Blue Bland Day in Barretville celebration.

This article contains contributions from Deidre Bush and Barret Matthews.

Artist Contributes for BBB Day

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 –

which might become the symbol or logo for the local music festival, they decided to ask David Lynch — but didn't honestly expect that he would say, "Yes." David is a nationally recognized artist whose colorful paintings and drawings have sold for thousands of dollars. To their surprise, David not only agreed to create a unique, artful

Progress Report – The Museum and Park

By: Lee Henwood

The transformation of an abandoned historic building into a vibrant community attraction is nearing completion. Visitors to the 2018 Country Fair saw artifacts and other displays relevant to local history. Additional items have been acquired, enabling the Rosemark Telephone Exchange Museum to tell an even more compelling story.

Since the last newsletter, we received and are very appreciative of another \$20,000 grant from the Shelby County Commission to aid in completion of Phase II and Phase III of the Rosemark Telephone Company Exchange Building Museum and Community Park Project:

- The foundation of the building was "rubbed" to give a more aesthetically pleasing appearance;
- All circuits in the building are now working including outlets and overhead lights;
- New permanent underground wiring was added to provide lighting for the flagpole; and
- New permanent underground wiring was added to provide lighting for the "Welcome to Rosemark" sign and the Community Christmas Tree.

The museum will be open during Bobby Blue Bland Day on June 1 and the Country Fair on September 28, 2019. Special tours on other days can be arranged by calling Trip Jones at 901-461-4260.

– SAVE THESE DATES –

- **May 21, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.** - Garden Club of Rosemark/ Lunch and Plant and Garden Sale, 9655 Mudville Rd.
- **June 1, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.** - Third Annual Bobby Blue Bland Day in Barretville, 9053 Barret Rd.
- **June 3-7, 9 a.m. to Noon** - "Sonshine Beach" VBS (Pre-K thru Elementary students) at Richland ARP Church, 8658 Rosemark Rd. (www.RichlandARP.org)
- **July 20, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.** - Great Tomato Contest at the Agricenter, 7777 Walnut Grove Rd.
- **July 20, 3 p.m.** - H.Y.P.E. (Helping Young People Excel) Annual Awards at Baker Community Center, 7942 Church Street, Millington
- **Sept. 28, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.** - TRA 5K Run and Fall Carnival, 8696 Rosemark Rd.
- **Sept. 28, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.** - The Country Fair at Rosemark and "The Market at Rosemark", 8658 Rosemark Rd.

The Garden Club of Rosemark

By: Brenda Hise

The Garden Club of Rosemark is proud to be involved in the historic community of Rosemark. Since the founding of the Garden Club in 1965, we continue to have many opportunities to serve our club and our community.

On Saturday, September 28, 2019, the Garden Club will host The Country Fair at Rosemark Home and Garden Exposition which will include a National Garden Club Horticulture Specialty Flower Show. This is a community horticulture show and everyone in the north Shelby and south Tipton area is invited to participate by bringing horticulture specimens and photography entries to Memorial Hall of the Richland A.R.P. Church, 8658 Rosemark Road in historic Rosemark. Photography exhibits should all relate to horticulture, gardening, or landscape design. We hope more community gardeners will consider entering horticulture and/or photographs in 2019.

The Garden Club of Rosemark is delighted to be involved in the Rosemark Telephone Exchange Museum grounds landscaping project this year. We have many talented Garden Club members who have volunteered to give of their time and talents to the landscaping project. Skilled gardeners are helping plan and implement the landscaping of the museum/park grounds. Hopefully the weather will cooperate.

The Garden Club of Rosemark would be excited to have you join our regular meetings, the fourth Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. August through May at the Richland A.R.P. Church Memorial Hall. Because of Memorial Day our May meeting will be Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at 9665 Mudville Road (Brenda Hise at 901-829-3717). **This will be our last meeting until August and will include our Plant and Garden item sale. Lunch is pot luck so bring a dish.**

Garden Club Officers: President, Marge Smith, First Vice President, Luellen Dearen, Secretary, Kim Vance, Corresponding Secretary, Ruth Billingsley, Treasurer, Brenda Hise.

Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker moved to Downtown Rosemark

By: Molly Hampton and Penny Glover

With progress comes change, and during the summer of 2018, the Blue Star Memorial Highway marker, a fixture at the corner of Austin Peay Highway (State Highway 14) and Millington-Arlington Road (State Route 205) for over 20 years, was moved to Veterans' Memorial Park/Rosemark Community Park at the corner of Rosemark Road and Kerrville-Rosemark Road. This relocation was initiated and completed by the Tennessee Department of Transportation, in cooperation with the Garden Club of Rosemark, due to anticipated construction as Austin Peay Highway is widened.

The Garden Club of Rosemark is a member of Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs and National Garden Clubs Inc. For more information about the Blue Star Marker program, please see the National Garden Clubs' website: www.gardenclub.org.

Pastor Andrew Brunson Update

By: Debbie Glenn

Following testimony in the fourth phase of his trial on October 12, 2018, the prosecution requested the lifting of Andrew's house arrest and travel ban. The judge issued a conviction, and imposed a sentence of time served. Andrew and Norine left Turkey that day.

On October 13, 2018, Andrew and Norine arrived in the United States. They and their family met with the President, Administration staff, lawmakers, and others in the Oval Office. On Thanksgiving Day, Andrew and Norine celebrated with our extended Brunson family at the home of his uncle in Bartlett. It was a wonderful reunion. In December he finally was able to walk his daughter down the aisle. The Brunsons are currently recuperating at their home church, Christ Community Church in Montreat, North Carolina.

We hope they will visit Rosemark soon.

2019 Country Fair at Rosemark The Old, the New and the Different

By: Bonnie Briggs

Have you ever wondered what it takes to put on a fair? This article should give you a good idea of what is required. Every year, starting in October, after the Country Fair at Rosemark is over, HARE begins planning for the next year's Country Fair. We go through everything from setting the date to determining what activities we need to expand and what activities we may need to drop or change. We are always looking for new ideas and while some prove to be more doable than others, we are always looking for ways to expand the Country Fair at Rosemark and make it better. And it is a long way from October to September – many things are discussed and reviewed along the way.

With planning well-underway for the 2019 Rosemark Country Fair, one of the big changes that we will implement for this year is "The Market at Rosemark". This large tent will focus on local craftsmen, artisans and vendors who represent a wide variety of skills and products. In order to pull all of these exhibitors together and create a walkway of exhibitors for visitors, we will be setting up a large tent just to the west of Richland Church. This tent will allow visitors to go from one booth to the next and see approximately 24 vendors who have been carefully vetted by the exhibitors committee.

Areas that will also be expanded include the agricultural equipment exhibit with several exhibitors with old and rare tractors as well as some of the modern equipment from local farmers. Farm Bureau has graciously agreed to allow us to use their agriculture simulator for the day. Also, we have had and will continue with expanded exhibits from the University of Tennessee Extension Service as well as the Master Gardeners. The livestock exhibit will be expanded to include a greater variety of animals. The sheep-herding demonstrations, which were very well received last year, will be expanded this year. There may be a few unusual additions in this area – have you ever seen ducks herded? – that visitors will definitely want to see.

Since it is only May, there are changes and shifts that will occur before 28 September 2019 but overall, this will be the biggest Country Fair at Rosemark ever – more exhibitors, more vendors and even more parking. **Mark your calendars now for the Country Fair at Rosemark. We will be starting an hour earlier this year so we will see you at 9:00 a.m. for a day of fun and fellowship.**

Northeast Shelby Solar Farm Dedicated Largest in Tennessee

April 23, 2019 finally saw the dedication in northeast Shelby County of the largest solar farm in the State of Tennessee. Located just east of Millington proper, the 53 megawatt solar farm generates enough power for 7,500 homes and has over 580,000 sun-tracking photovoltaic panels.

Dignitaries at the dedication included HARE President, Cary Vaughn, Shelby County TVA Director, John Ryder, Millington Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, Terry Roland, Millington Mayor, Terry Jones, and Millington City Manager, Ed Haley, as well as representatives of the United States Navy, and the Millington Industrial Development Board. Representing Silicon Ranch, Inc., contractor for the project, was Silicon Ranch CEO Matt Kisper.

The project is part of the United States Navy initiative to maintain long term energy sources so the Navy will have a reliable energy source in the event of natural disasters or sabotage.

Congratulations go to Millington on this significant achievement. We hope to see a representative of this project and perhaps a solar energy display at the Country Fair at Rosemark on September 28th.

3RD Annual GREAT MID-SOUTH TOMATO CONTEST

By: Jamie Childers

*"I'll bet you \$300.00 you can't grow the best tomato"
.... and that's how it started!*



On Saturday, July 20, 2019, from 9:00 a.m. until 4p.m., the Memphis Area Master Gardeners will present the 3rd annual Mid-South Great Tomato Contest! This event will be held at the Big Red Barn at the Agricenter International, located at 7777 Walnut Grove Rd., Memphis, TN 38120. This is a free event. There are no registration fees or parking fees. Community

members across the Mid-South are invited to enter their homegrown tomatoes in one or more of the following categories:

Slicing Tomato	Heaviest Tomato
Heirloom Tomato	Whatever Tomato (unique, ugly and/or unusual)
Cherry Tomato	

Awards will be given as follows:

Best Overall Tomato	\$300.00	Best of Show/Whatever	\$100.00
Best of Show/Slicing	\$100.00	Heaviest Tomato	\$100.00
Best of Show/Heirloom	\$100.00	Best Salsa	\$100.00
Best of Show/Cherry	\$100.00	Junior Winner	\$100.00

(Entries of youth up to 12 years of age)

Judges:

Vador Vance, Vador Vance Gardening Services and hostess of "In the Garden" radio program

Kenneth Mabry, Dan West Gardening Center and host of "In the Garden" radio program

Walter Battle, Haywood County, Tennessee Extension Agent

Paul Little, Little Hill Nursery

Hon. Jon McCalla, U.S. District Court, Western District of Tennessee

For information contact Agricenter International 901-752-1207 or devans57@comcast.net

Entries will be accepted on July 20th from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Judging will be held from 12 noon – 3 p.m.

Awards ceremony will be at 4 p.m.

Cooking demo at 2 p.m.

Special musical guest at 3 p.m. – Hawaiian North 40 Ukelele Players

All Day Events:

Ask A Master Gardener Table with Tomato experts

Learning displays about growing tomatoes

Kids activities – Make a tomato puppet, plant a tomato to take home

Andy Tweed Recognized

The Country Fair's and West Tennessee's Wildlife Resource Agent Andy Tweed received much deserved recognition in an extensive article in *The Commercial Appeal* on Sunday, April 7, 2019. The article included a picture of Andy with his son Hutch.

This year Andy, along with the rest of the crew from TWRA, will again be appearing at the Country Fair. It is an excellent chance to talk to our local wildlife officers, see their exhibit of pelts, and, for the kids, to practice their archery.

In 1997 Tweed was named TWRA Officer of the Year and he earned the Shikar Safari Award for Tennessee in 1999. He has also received awards as the Hunter Education Instructor of the Year and is a two-time winner of the Life Saving Award.

The Country Fair is proud to have the participation of TWRA and is proud of our own Andy Tweed for his contributions not only through TWRA but through his participation in the entire community.

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Save the Date!
September 28, 2019

www.rosemarkhistoricdistrict.com



Plan To Attend: Bobby Blue Bland Day In Barretville – June 1, 2019

(5:00 to 9:00 p.m.) at 9053 Barret Road

Sponsors include: HARE, Inc., Long Road Cider, Patriot Bank,
Barret and Delyn Matthews and Mary R. McCalla

Also visit the Rosemark Telephone Company Exchange Building Museum
which will be open specially for you on June 1st from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.



Photo by
Lee Ann Lofton

Tipton Rosemark's 3K Class visited the Telephone Exchange
Company Museum at 8727 Kerrville-Rosemark Rd. on February 15, 2019.
The teachers are (L to R): Jen Ford, Rebecca Downing, and Amy Easley.

HARE News® is a publication of Historic Archives of Rosemark & Environs, Inc., a 501(c)(3) corporation established for educational purposes including preserving the history of the small towns and communities of Northeast Shelby County and South Central Tipton County. H.A.R.E., Inc. does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities.

Thank You To Our 2018 Fair Sponsors

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Fair Sponsors provide not only the wherewithal to put on the
Country Fair but also to carry-out the other programs of HARE,
Inc. Using sponsorships, donations, grants, memorials and the
proceeds from the successful Memorial Brick Campaign, HARE
is able to promote community awareness and historic preservation.
These funds also allow educational programs involving the history
and culture of the rural communities and farms of Northeast Shelby
County and South Central Tipton County.

**This year consider joining the list of sponsors for the 2019
Country Fair at Rosemark! Call Cary Vaughn at 901-289-1254
or e-mail caryvaughn89@gmail.com.**