

PUBLIC ISSUES

July 1 – September 31, 2019

July 1 9:35-9:50am Betty Crookshanks discusses the activities for the July 4th Celebration in Alderson. The Beauty Pageant, Homecoming Banquet, river activities, games for all ages, home decorating contest, concerts and fireworks plus the Big Parade on the 4th.

July 5 9:35-9:50am Betty Crookshanks discusses the 4th July Celebration activities in Alderson and the Ivy Terrace Concerts in Lewisburg as being family activities to enjoy this July. Families are encouraged to bring a picnic dinner and lawn chair or blanket to set on the lawn during the Ivy Terrace Concerts that start at 6pm. Also, swimming pools and state parks in area provide lots of family fun. And the summer programs at the public libraries for children as well as variety of camps at the 4H county camp.

July 12 9:35-9:50am Betty Crookshanks discusses the Farmers Markets: Alderson on Tuesdays, Rainelle on Friday evenings, and Lewisburg on Saturdays. Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Vouchers are available as well as SNAP to purchase produce at the markets. This provides fresh produce from the local farmers to the table which is healthier and provides a market for the local farmers as well. Herbs are also sold along with baked goods and crafts. And each farmers market has entertainment and activities for attendees.

July 19 9:35-9:50am Betty Crookshanks discusses the World Boy Scouts Jamboree which starts July 22 in Mt. Hope. This is the second time a World Jamboree has been held in the U.S. Local people can purchase a ticket for a day trip and enjoy the activities of the camp. I did not know and probably most people of our area did not know local people could purchase the ticket for a day during the Jamboree. The camp is also made available to other groups during the year. This is a city primarily of teenagers from all over the world. Close to 45,000 Scouts plus adult leaders and staff came into W.Va. virtually overnight.

July 26 9:35-9:50am Betty Crookshanks points out that there is an increase in individuals seeking help from trauma, and or addiction at a young age. The W.Va. Recovery Coach Academy provides an excellent program which will train Recovery/Life Coaches. A class at the Bascum United Methodist Church will be available August 20-23 8:30-5pm. Tuition for students and school staff is fully funded and college credit earned. Juniors and Seniors in high school are encouraged to attend the training.

August 2 9:35-9:50am Betty Crookshanks reported activities related to the opening of the W.Va. State Fair including dates, special deals at the gate, new attractions as well as outstanding old attractions, and grandstand concerts. Due to the increased need, the Greenbrier Health Department will hold additional food handlers classes at the administrative offices at the state fair Monday, August 6th and 7th. A Spanish language class will be held at the Health Department August 8th at 10am. Temporary job opportunities are available at the Fair.

August 8 9:35-9:50am Betty Crookshanks reports activities of the opening day of the W.Va. State Fair. Lots of new eating places and A New Barn with lots of interesting items and activities. Great entertainment in the grandstand and several are free with gate admission. Lots of free entertainment offered throughout the week at various locations on the fair grounds. Horse shows and other livestock

shows including 4H competitions are lots of fun to watch. The Fair also provides several scholarships for students.

August 9 9:35-9:50am Betty Crookshanks reports activities of the day at the W. Va. State Fair. Betty Crookshanks reported that applications are being accepted through August 25 for controlled deer hunts at W. Va. State Parks. Controlled deer hunts are to reduce number of deer to levels that prevent habitat loss etc. and still provide enough deer to allow visitors to enjoy viewing deer and maintain a healthy herd.

August 16 9:35-9:50am

Betty Crookshanks provides information from the W. Va. Board of Education approving a new regional school to replace the old Meadow Bridge High School. For a number of years the Meadow Bridge people have been worried about the Fayette County Board of Education transferring the high school students to Midland Trail High School next to Ansted or more recently consolidation of Meadow Bridge and Midland Trail to another school across the river. This would have meant a very long ride over dangerous roads in the winter time.

August 23 9:35-9:50am Betty Crookshanks provides information on the opening of schools in Greenbrier County. Immunization requirements for 7th and 12th grade students that are required can be received at the Health Department on a sliding scale if the student does not have insurance. Rupert Elementary students will be attending the new Rupert Elementary School this fall. The old school had been flooded in 2016 so funds became available for the new school. Also, the state reported money is now being made available to replace homes that were in the 2016 flood. A problem of distribution of the money to rebuild homes /buy out flooded homes finally has been resolved.

August 30 9:35-9:50am Betty Crookshanks reported that property owners should get their assessment papers turned in assessor's office by Sept 3 for farm exemptions and Dec 3 for senior exemptions. And this year is time for the Census Bureau to count each person living in the U.S. It's important to answer information correctly. It is used to decide how \$675 billion is distributed in budgets and grants across the country. And we want to make sure W. Va. gets our share. Federal disaster money, roads, etc. It, also, provides information that can be used to show how many people are in what age bracket, etc. And it determines our representatives in House of Representatives and in state legislatures. It is very important that everyone is counted.

Sept. 6 9:30-9:50am Betty Crookshanks invites all to the Rupert Country Fling tomorrow. The day starts with the Parade and is full of games, crafts, music and country cooking. The Logger and Logging Industry is being saluted this year. A portable sawmill will be demonstrating how logs are sawed into boards. A Military Salute at the Greenbrier kicks off the 2019-2020 PGA Tour Season and will be free this year Sept 9-15. Upon registering for your ticket you can make a donation and you can provide the name of a living military member or first responder whom you consider an "Everyday Hero". Those names will be placed on the Greenbrier Wall of Honor and entered into a pool for drawings of prizes in excel of \$500,000. No prize will be less than \$1,000. Students from our area will be participating in various activities as well during the tournament.

Sept. 13 9:30-9:45am Betty Crookshanks reported that \$106 million in disaster relief has been approved for Greenbrier, Nicholas, Kanawha, and Clay counties infrastructure that was affected by the

floods in 2016 and 2017. Also, more houses are being built in our area with RISE money. FEMA plans to have a permanent office in W.Va. and are now placing 20 staff members in W. Va. Several economic development projects are progressing, including the Great Barrel Company in White Sulphur Springs.

Sept. 20 9:30-9:45am Betty Crookshanks reported that on September 25 the Greenbrier Landfill will accept up to 10 tires removed from rims free of charge. You must show W.Va. ID and bring the tires between 8:30am and 4pm. They must be passenger tires. It's very important that old tires and other items that collect water be removed from property to keep mosquitoes have a breeding area. Mosquitoes carry diseases and we have had children become sick because of them. Greenbrier County had one case of La Crosse reported this summer. Symptoms include a headache, nausea, fever, vomiting, drowsiness, disorientation, and in severe cases seizures or coma. On another note, overweight can cause dementia. So while the weather is still pretty we need to walk and get in shape. Walking is one of the easiest and best exercises. And it is always good to have a hobby or learn something new. Veterans Upward Bound is offering free Beginning Computer Class starting in October at the Community College. And Carnig

ie Hall always has a large selection of classes every fall from music to a variety of crafts.

Sept. 27 9:30-9:50am Betty Crookshanks stated that the public is invited to attend a community gathering at the Rupert Community Center from 5:30 – 7:30pm Monday, Sept 30. The Meadow River Valley has been designated a Blueprint Community and one of the projects is the repurposing of the former Rupert Elementary-High School to best serve the community's needs. The Meadow River Valley Association, the Rupert Improvement Council, and Fruits of Labor Café & Bakery will host the gathering. Dinner will be provided with reservations. Updates on local recreational initiatives, workforce development, the Early Childhood Development Center, Western Greenbrier Farmers Market, and Meadow River Valley Ministerial Association as well as the proposals for the main school building and gym. The section of land behind the Rupert Fire House has been given to the Fire House. Emergency landings of helicopters have been taking place for years behind the fire house. Thus, the fire department plans to build a helicopter pad. And the kindergarten building and cafeteria area has been designated for the Childhood Development Center to provide day care and other services. So the public is invited to give their ideas for the main school building and gym.

