

Friends of

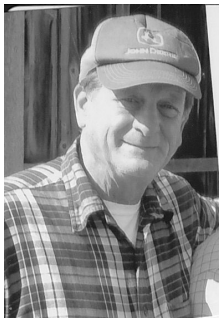


The Agricultural History Farm Park, Inc.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

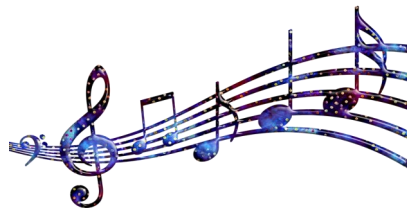
Maurice Ward

Dear Friends,

The 26th annual Gas and Steam Engine Show was well attended as an over-flow crowd enjoyed a fun-filled event that had something for everyone. There was a working sawmill, granary museum, Stanley Steamer and Rumley steam engine! There were steam trains, antique cars and tractors, music, pony rides, blacksmith demonstrations, craft vendors and much more.

As always, events such as these require contributions from all of our members and for that we are truly grateful. There are a few, however, who go beyond the call of duty. They start thinking about our events long before they appear on the calendar. They are the ones who do everything from making sure our equipment is in good working order to putting out tables and chairs to putting up signage. Then they have to re-set items in their proper places long after the events have concluded. Let's give a big shout out to Frank Banks, Bob Allnutt, Paul Buckner, Brian Marshall, and Nelson Palmer for all the work they do.

I sincerely hope everyone has a great summer and hope to see everyone at our next two events: our Friends' picnic in July and Bluegrass on the Farm in September.



SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, September 7th, is the date for our annual **Bluegrass on the Farm** concert event. Plan to join us at the farm from 12 Noon to 6 PM for some wonderful bluegrass music. Watch the Friends' website for more details regarding the bands playing that day and for ticket prices. It is sure to be a great day of music at the farm. <https://friendsofthefarm.org/>

Harvest Festival

Saturday, October 5th, 11 AM to 4 PM, Harvest Festival at the farm. \$20 per car.

The Friends Corner – by Susan Morris

Leonard Jerome Offutt, Jr., age 88, of Walkersville, MD, died on February 20, 2024. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Winifred (Pairo) Offutt; daughter, Catherine Offutt Murphy (Paul) of Hydes, MD; and grandsons, Paul O'Malley Murphy, Jr. and Joseph Thomas Murphy. He is also survived by his sisters, M. Loretta Pugh of Frederick and Helen Mazzuca (Ralph) of Washington, D.C. He was the son of Mary Loretta (Davis) and Leonard Jerome Offutt, Sr. of Barnesville, MD. A 1954 graduate of Poolesville High School, Leonard owned and operated Offutt Sharpening Service. He was a member of the MD Draft Horse and Mule Association, American Cream Draft Horse Association, and St. Peter the Apostle Roman Catholic Church. Our sympathy to the Offutt family.

We received notice that a long-time Friends member (Member #121), **Lois I. Brown**, passed away in recent months. We were unable to locate an obituary nor contact information for her family and friends. However, as mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, Ms. Brown designated the Friends of the Agricultural History Farm Park as recipient of a generous financial gift. What an exceedingly kind gesture from our late Friends member, Lois I. Brown!

Our secretary, **Anita Campbell**, has offered to send cards (e.g., sympathy, congratulations, get well, etc.) to Friends members. Please let her know your news and/or who might benefit from a card or note (lifeissweet91@gmail.com).

A note of appreciation to dedicated Friends volunteer, **Nelson Palmer**. Nelson took a few of our farm tractors to the annual May 3rd Transportation Day at Mill Creek Elementary School. The children enjoyed sitting on our equipment and learning about farming. Thank you, Nelson, for taking the time to do this for the local school children.

Photos by Larry Romans



Stepping Back in Time by Howard and Christina Williams

Sleigh Bells

A recent donation of a set of sleigh bells was made to the Granary Tool Museum by Sara King Stark of Wisconsin. These sleigh bells had belonged to her father, James S. King. James owned the King dairy farm in Germantown, which is now the MOOseum, from 1950 to 1960. Sara said he purchased the bells in southern PA sometime before 1960. The 29 bells are mounted on a seven-foot-long leather belt. The bells vary in size from three inches to one inch in diameter. The bells have been hung in the Granary on the side of the back door that connects the two rooms. Gas and Steam Engine Show visitors, young and old alike, got a kick out of ringing the bells.

Sleigh bells have always had a practical as well as a decorative purpose. They warned pedestrians and other drivers of the approach of oncoming vehicles. They also alerted potential customers that street vendors and delivery wagons were in the neighborhood.

The U.S. sleigh bell industry was started in East Hampton, CT in 1810 by William Barton. East Hampton later became known as "Belltown" or "Jingletown". By the end of the 1800s, East Hampton bell maker, N.H. Hill, developed a process for stamping sleigh bells out of sheet metal. When casting bells, two skilled workmen could produce 500 in one day. Using the sheet metal stamping method, one man could make 25,000 in one day! In 1850, East Hampton produced three million bells annually. By the late 1880s East Hampton provided 90% of the world's sleigh bells.

The invention of the automobile led to the rapid decline of the use of horses as a method of transportation. Consequently, this led to the decline of the sleigh bell industry. In 1937, the Wisconsin State Tourist Society had to perform an extensive search to find a set of sleigh bells to use at its Christmas party.

Today the only sleigh bell maker in East Hampton, CT is the Bevins Brothers Manufacturing Co.



Thank You!

The Friends would like to thank the estate of **Lois Brown** for the generous gift recently received. Ms. Brown's donation will make a positive and lasting impact at the farm and we are deeply grateful.

Welcome Christina!

The Friends are pleased to announce the addition of **Christina Williams** to the Friends' Board. Christina, a long-time Montgomery County resident, brings a wealth of farming experience. She has been active with the MOOseum in Boyds for many years and serves on the Board of Directors of the Sugarloaf Citizens Association (SCA).

Welcome, Chris W!

Quilts for the Friends

Since 2014, Amanda and Frances, Friends life members, have gathered quilts to display at Friends events. You may have seen these quilts beautifully decorating the bluegrass stage. These antique, vintage and new quilts, and small quilted items (e.g., wall hangings, place mats, table runners) are sold, with all proceeds going to the Friends.

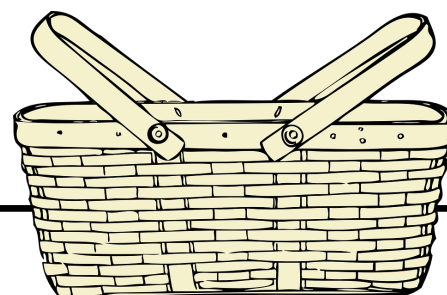
We would love for more members to donate quilts and quilted items to help us, as our quilt stash has diminished. Please email Amanda Mosko, acedgehill@hotmail.com, or leave message or text on her cell, 301-525-2033, to schedule a drop off. We would love to have some before September 1st.

Thank You!

Don't Miss the Friends' Summer Picnic!

Thursday, July 18, 2024 ~ 6:00 p.m. ~ Activity Center

Please join us for our annual summer picnic on Thursday, July 18th, 6:00 PM at the farm. Come a little earlier, if you are able, to help set-up. In recent years, we have held the picnic indoors at the Activity Center (Multi-purpose Room) at the farm, due to the heat, so that's where we will be this year, too. The Friends will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.



Membership Dues and News – by Susan Morris

Congratulations to our newest Life Members: **Wendy Ketcham** (#88) and **Lane Heimer** (#89). We so appreciate your commitment to the Friends!

Welcome, New Members! We welcome **Donald Street** (#1757), **Nancy and William Adams** (#1758), **Issa Haddad** (#1759), **Laila Haddad** (#1760), **Nuha Haddad** (#1761), **TeeCee's Boutique** (#1762), **Paula G. Thalys** (#1763), **Nikolai Kalinin and Family** (#1764), **Stephen Ondulich** (#1765), **The Turner-Tucker Family** (#1766), **The Wilde Family** (#1767), **Ashley and Arash Arabasadi** (#1768), **The Horrocks Family** (#1769), **Jill and Frank McCowan** (#1770), **Maxine Greenberg** (#1771), **Cheryl and Michael Keeney** (#1772), and **Robert Koehler** (#1773) to the Friends of the Agricultural History Farm Park. Thank you for your support.

Mailing Label Abbreviations: I=Individual, F=Family, O=Organization, B=Business, C=Charter Member, LIFE=Life Member; HLIFE=Honorary Life Member. If your dues are current, your label should look like this: Example: I24 or LIFE.

Members who receive mailed newsletters will find the membership code next to their names. Those who receive newsletters electronically will receive an annual membership status email message.

Please renew AND recruit new members! Those who do not choose to renew their memberships are moved into an inactive file and will no longer receive the Friends newsletters. If you know of anyone who may have neglected to renew, the Membership Application may be found on the Friends website or by contacting Susan Morris, membership chair (see below). Complete and mail the membership application and check (payable to Friends of the Agricultural History Farm Park, Inc.) to: Treasurer, P.O. Box 5810, Derwood, MD 20855. Thank you!

➡ **IMPORTANT:** please include your Email Address, if available. We will never share your email addresses with outside groups but we do need to quickly communicate with our Friends, upon occasion (e.g., bad weather, emergencies). Also, please note any additions or corrections to your contact information.

➡ **NOTE:** If you're willing to receive future Friends newsletters electronically (i.e., via email), please notify Susan Morris (skmorris1@verizon.net). Thank you!

If you have questions about your membership dues status, want a Friends membership card, or need to update your contact information, please contact Membership Chair, Susan Morris (skmorris1@verizon.net or 301-482-0439).

If you have questions about your dues payment or other financial issue (e.g., missing check, desire to make a memorial contribution or donation, need a receipt, etc.), please contact Treasurer, Debbie Lee (dalee1948@aol.com or 301-646-4961).

Friends of the Agricultural
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P.O. Box 5810
Derwood, MD 20855-5810

Please advise of any
incorrect names, spelling or address

Keep Up to Date! Visit the Friend's Website
<http://www.friendsofthefarmpark.org/>

(Use password **aghpletmein** to access member only information)

Dates to Remember

Friends' Summer Picnic, July 18 at 6 p.m.
Bluegrass on the Farm, September 7, noon - 6 p.m.
Park's Harvest Festival, October 5, 11 a.m.- 4 p.m.

Newsletter articles are due by August 15 for the September 2024 newsletter.

Send to Kendra and John Wells—kendrawells@gmail.com

14318 Woodcrest Drive, Rockville, MD 20853

Published Quarterly by

Friends of the Agricultural History Farm Park, Inc.

President: Maurice Ward, Vice President: Chris Suzich, Secretary: Anita Campbell, Treasurer: Deborah Lee
Other Board Members: Robert Lee "Bobby" Allnut, Jean Phillips, Christina Williams and Howard Williams