

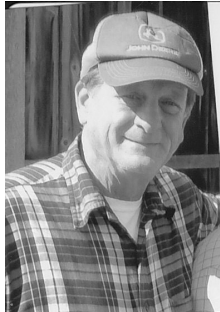
Friends of



The Agricultural History Farm Park, Inc.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Maurice Ward

Dear Friends,

Since we last spoke, the Friends ended calendar year 2025 with two successful events: our holiday party and "Christmas on the Farm." Many thanks to chairlady, Julie Carroll, and the many volunteers who made our year-end sponsored event so meaningful, including those who doled out apple cider, prepared baked goods, greeted visitors or assisted with the rabbit petting!

Your board has been hard at work preparing our schedule of program events for 2026. The schedule begins with our two-day signature event, the 28th annual Gas and Steam Engine show to be held at the Agricultural History Farm Park on April 25 and April 26. Since the pandemic, we have experienced a decrease in equipment using gas or steam....so if you have a piece of equipment or antique tractor....we need you!

The program year continues with "Bluegrass on the Farm" on September 12, the Harvest Festival on October 3, and closing out with "Christmas on the Farm" on December 5 and December 6. As always, these events, to be successful, depend on volunteers. Help is always appreciated---whether it is bringing a piece of equipment, serving or preparing food, driving a tractor, being a vendor, or superintending a registration table....see you at the Gas and Steam Engine show!



Mark your calendars and plan to attend and volunteer for these events!

- April 25 & 26, 2026 – Gas & Steam Engine Show
- July 2026 (date and time TBD)—Friends' Summer Picnic
- September 12, 2026 – Bluegrass on the Farm
- December 5 & 6, 2026 – Christmas on the Farm
- December 2026 (date and time TBD) – Friends' Holiday Party

The Friends Corner – by Susan Morris

A big **THANK YOU** to Sally Ruth Bourrie for her recent donation of antiques to the Friends, items ranging from a Leich Cracraft crank wall telephone with radio, Eclipse carpenter's hatchet axe/hammer combination tool, #72 Universal food meat grinder, cold chisels/files/punches/rakes/shovels/screwdrivers & masonry tools, to sheep shears made in England! A Singer treadle sewing machine is being repaired and will soon arrive at the farm. The detailed list of items stretched to five pages! We are grateful to you, Ms. Bourrie, for sharing these wonderful tools from years gone by.



Blasts from the past! Even goats enjoy a hay wagon ride! Our binding crew. How long would it take to plow an acre?! Our funnel cake making crew “back in the day”.



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Anita Campbell has offered to send cards (e.g., sympathy, congratulations, get well, etc) to Friends members. Let her know your news and/or who might benefit from a card (lfeissweet91@gmail.com).

Annual Gas and Steam Engine Show & Craft Fair – April 25 & 26, 2026

Make sure to mark your calendars for the Friends of the Farm annual Gas and Steam Engine Show, April 25 & 26, 2026. Parking and admission are free so plan to come by and visit the farm animals and see all the activities we have planned.

If you would like to bring a classic car or vintage tractor to display that weekend, please contact farmgirlmd@gmail.com. Contact Chris (hawckw@verizon.net) with any other Gas and Steam Engine Show inquiries.

The Gas and Steam Engine Show will have a Craft Show as part of the event. If you are a crafter or know a crafter who might like to participate, please contact Jean Phillips at (301) 785-8621 or email Phllpsfarm@AOL.com for information and an application.

Volunteers are needed! If you could work one (or more) shift on April 25 or April 26, we could sure use your help! Please sign-up with Chris (hawckw@verizon.net) for the shift(s) you'd be able to work and indicate if you can help with food, cashier, set-up and or clean-up.

April 25 - 9 AM-12, 12-3 PM, 3-6 PM (to cover cleanup)

April 26 - 9-11 AM, 11-2 PM, 2-4 PM (to cover cleanup)

Plans are still evolving but you can bet it will be a great weekend at the farm --

Once again, we are welcoming our local wood turners and wood carvers clubs to demonstrate their skills and display their wares.

Weather permitting, we hope to have the old sawmill running, at least on April 25. The sawmill demonstrations are always a treat for our visitors.

Live music is planned for Sunday, April 26 (PM), in the barn.

The Friends will be cooking and serving food. Stop by for delicious hamburgers, hot dogs, French fries, funnel cakes, and drinks!

We'll offer a Model Steam Train display and Granary Tool Museum to explore.

Look for our family-friendly hay wagon rides to give you a tour of the farm.

Pony rides (extra \$) are back again on Saturday, April 25, for all the budding cowboys and cowgirls. What a great photo op!

NOTES:

Vendors must bring and set up their own equipment. They are limited to their designated space. Limited electricity will be available on a first come-first served basis. Extension cords will not be provided.



***We hope to see you at the Gas and Steam Engine Show
on April 25 and 26, 2026!***

Stepping Back in Time by Howard and Christina Williams

Granary What's It? Ball Peen Hammer



Of the many hammers found in the Granary, a couple are ball peen hammers. This hammer is distinctive as one end of the head is rounded, like a ball, and the other end is a regular hammer head. The term, *peen*, is an old English word meaning to hit or strike. Ball, of course, means rounded.

The term, *ball peen hammer*, was first seen in print around 1874, when a mechanic's dictionary referred to it as a "metal worker's hammer with a spherical peen." The ball side isn't used to drive nails. Its purpose is to strike metal for shaping.

On the farm, it is used to pound a rivet or metal fastener into place. It can also be used to create decorative marks in metal. It is often used in the blacksmithing trade. Some "distressed" materials, intended to look worn, might be the work of a ball peen.

GRANARY TOOL MUSEUM UPDATES—Howard Williams

We are in the process of making the following improvements to the Granary Tool Museum:

1. We are removing duplicate items to make more room for additional items. Some of these duplicates are milk cans, sleds, and scythes. Most of these duplicate items will be moved to the Newman Restoration Building.
2. Currently there are labels on about half of the Granary items. We plan to make labels for all items. This will be especially helpful during busy events such as Gas and Steam and Harvest Festival. During these busy times, Joe Ginther and I do not have enough time or space to show all the visitors around. This is why we refer to the Granary as "The World's Smallest Museum". In essence, the labels can give the visitors a self-guided tour. If they want more information on items, they can refer to the three-ring binder, near the front door, that has photos and information on all items.
3. The Granary's three-ring binder is being reorganized to make it more useful.
4. Recently, Friends received a huge donation of items from Sally Ruth Bourrie. We are still sorting through this donation. There are many new items that we do not have in the Granary. At one time, Sally's family ran a sheep ranch in Montana. The donation contains five manual sheep shears.
5. Soon we will be receiving items from the estate of Leonard Offutt. Leonard's family owned the Clarence Offutt Farm, near Poolesville, on West Offutt Road. Leonard bought a farm near Walkersville where he bred and trained draft horses. He participated in many draft animal events at the Farm Park.

I recently talked to his daughter regarding the items she may be donating, such as horse harnesses, horse-drawn farm implements and various farm tools. One item she mentioned that we do not have in the Granary is an ice saw which was used to cut blocks of ice from frozen ponds and rivers.

Membership Dues and News – by Susan Morris

Welcome, New Members! We welcome Sally Ruth Bourrie (#1816), the Maciorowski Family (#1817), and Jane Yamaykin & Family (#1818) to the Friends of the Agricultural History Farm Park. Thank you for your support.

Did you know? As of December 31, 2025, we have **98** Life Members within the Friends of the Agricultural History Farm Park membership. Thank you for your continued 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: I26 or LIFE.

MEMBERSHIP FAQs

Membership chair, Susan Morris (skmorris1@verizon.net or 301-482-0439), can assist with:

- Want to request a Friends membership card
- Questions about your membership dues status
- Update your contact information with any additions or corrections.
- Please include your email address if available so that we may communicate with you quickly due to bad weather or emergencies. Note we will never share your email with outside groups.
- Your willingness to receive Friends newsletters electronically via email. This helps us save on postage!
- Membership applications. They can also be found on the Friends website. Complete the application and check (payable to **Friends of the Agricultural History Farm Park, Inc.**) and mail both to **Treasurer, P.O. Box 5810, Derwood, MD 20855.**

Treasurer, Debbie Lee (dalee1948@aol.com or 301-646-4961), can assist with the following:

- Missing check
- Desire to make a memorial contribution or donation
- Need a receipt

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Susan Morris writes: "My brother, Bill, is a financial planner who works with farmers, ranchers, and other clients in KS and CO. He sent me the following which was in a funeral service brochure honoring one of his Western KS clients. I thought you might enjoy reading it (note: an author was not listed). It sure brings back memories for me!"

And on the 8th day, God looked down on his planned paradise and said, "I need a caretaker." So God made a farmer. God said, "I need somebody willing to get up before dawn, milk cows, work all day in the fields, milk cows again, eat supper and then go to town and stay past midnight at a meeting of the school board." So God made a farmer. "I need somebody with arms strong enough to rustle a calf and yet gentle enough to deliver his own grandchild. Somebody to call hogs, tame cantankerous machinery, come home hungry, have to wait lunch until his wife's done feeding visiting ladies and tell the ladies to be sure and come back real soon — and mean it." So God made a farmer. God said, "I need somebody willing to sit up all night with a newborn colt. And watch it die. Then dry his eyes and say, 'Maybe next year.' I need somebody who can shape an ax handle from a persimmon sprout, shoe a horse with a hunk of car tire, who can make harness out of hay-wire, feed sacks, and shoe scraps. And who, planting time and harvest season, will finish his forty-hour week by Tuesday noon, then, pain'n from 'tractor back,' put in another seventy-two hours." So God made a farmer. God had to have somebody willing to ride the ruts at double speed to get the hay in ahead of the rain clouds and yet stop in mid-field and race to help when he sees the first smoke from a neighbor's place. So God made a farmer. God said, "I need somebody strong enough to clear trees and heave bales, yet gentle enough to tame lambs and wean pigs and tent the pink-combed pullets, who will stop his mower for an hour to splint the broken leg of a meadowlark." It had to be somebody who'd plow deep and straight and not cut corners. Somebody to seed, weed, feed, breed and rake and disc and plow and plant and tie the fleece and strain the milk and replenish the self-feeder and finish a hard week's work with a five-mile drive to church. "Somebody who'd bale a family together with the soft strong bonds of sharing, who would laugh and then sigh, and then reply, with smiling eyes, when his son says he wants to spend his life 'doing what dad does.'" So God made a farmer.

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

Keep Up to Date! Visit the Friend's Website
<http://www.friendsofthefarmpark.org/>
(Use password **aghpletmein** to access member only information)

Dates to Remember

Annual Gas and Steam Engine Show
Saturday, April 25 and Sunday, April 26, 2026

Volunteers welcome!

Newsletter articles are due by May 15 for the next 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.

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