HAPPY BIRTHDAY BAND!

On January 18th of last year, 34 people dusted off their instruments and participated in the birth of the Blacksburg Community Band. The first rehearsal held great promise, and as is evidenced today, that promise is being realized. Of the first 34 members, 18 are still playing with us on a regular basis, with the our steady attendance around 35.

This band is YOUR band, and it is a great tribute to each and every one of you who has attended a rehearsal or concert, that the band is alive and well today. After the concert at the town recognition dinner, there is no doubt by anyone that the band is here to stay! Let's have a great time in this, our second year.

BAND BROCHURE

The band brochure will be getting quite a bit of exposure in the next few months. Ron Gibbs (French Horn) will be working to get it into the Blacksburg Chamber of Commerce monthly mailing. Copies of the brochure will also be available at the Chamber of Commerce office, the Recreation building, and the Town offices. If you know of a public place where we could have them available, get in touch with Ron Gibbs at 953-2537.

ANNUAL SPRING CONCERT

One of the traditions that the band will be starting is that of an annual Spring concert. This will be an opportunity to present a "formal" concert in the Blacksburg High School auditorium for friends, family, and the Town of Blacksburg. Rather than going to play for another organization's event, this will be our own.

Let's get this tradition off to a running start by getting as many musicians to play for the concert as we can, and also by putting the word out and filling the house on Friday, April 27! We will give tickets to all band members at rehearsal to sell, and will also be available through the Parks and Recreation office.

A party will be held immediately following the concert across the street at the Parks and Recreation Center and will be open to band members, family, friends, and whoever else would like to come. (See a related article in this newsletter).

CONCERT SCHEDULE

A list of the scheduled concerts for this Spring can be found on the back page of this newsletter. The concert music list will be similar for each concert this Spring and is listed below. Please look this over carefully and give me a call if you have and questions.

The band will wear white shirts/blouses and black pants/skirts through May. June and later we will switch to the tan pants/skirts. Please be responsible, as always, for bringing your own instrument and your own music stand. If you have your music, that is fine, but I will see that the music box with the rest of the music gets there.

THANKS AGAIN!

Thank you again for all of your hard work and enthusiasm for the past months, and let's keep up the great performance tradition!

MAPS FOR CONCERTS

Maps will be available for all of the concerts with written directions. All of the current concert locations should be easy for most of you to find. If not, please contact me for a copy of those maps that you need.
PLEASE, RETURN OLD MUSIC!

We have had a few problems with people not returning their music. There are still a few folders that have not been returned from last fall. Since we have had new music for several months, we should have returned the old music back to the High School. Unfortunately, there are still a few folders left unaccounted for. Please, if you have music to return, at least call us and make arrangements for us to pick it up. We will need to start calling you if we don't hear from you soon, so please, return any music that you are not using! If you want copies, we can provide you with the copies that you desire. Please contact Ed Schwartz if you have music that needs to be returned!

SPRING CONCERT MUSIC

The Billboard March
South Pacific Highlights
Concerto for Trumpet (Haydn)
Shepherd's Hey
Folk Song Suite

The Klaxon March
Highlights From Fiddler On The Roof
Music Man Selections
Original Dixieland Concerto
Sinatra In Concert

Extra Music

Semper Fidelis March
Barnum & Bailey's Favorite March
Stars & Stripes Forever

LOOKING TO THE SUMMER

The band will be getting into full swing again this summer with several concerts already planned. We have been invited to play at the Cambria Whistlestop Arts Festival on Saturday, June 23rd or Sunday the 24th. We have again been asked to play for the Town of Blacksburg Town Picnic on June 23rd and 4th of July festivities in the late afternoon or early evening. The 4th is on a Wednesday this year. We will be playing Wednesday evening concerts at Warm Hearth, Brookmead, Heritage House, Pulaski Gazebo, and the VA Hospital, and several other possible concerts. Please let me know if you have any requests or suggestions.

NEW PERSONALS SECTION

This newsletter issue will debut a new personals section. The section might attempt to take a humorous look at the antics of our fellow band members or possibly share news about someone's family, job, or other personal accomplishment. Whatever it is, it is meant to be a fun way of getting to know your fellow band members a little better. If you have any new that you would like to share about yourself or another member of the band, contact the newsletter editor. The editor reserves the right to make the final decision on which news items will be included.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

We are currently in our Spring Membership Drive. We are trying to contact all of those musicians that have played with us before, but have not rehearsed with us lately. We want to renew their interest in the band if at all possible. We wish to thank those people that have agreed to contact previous members, and ask that they finish their calling.

The other purpose of the drive is to recruit new members. We are especially in need of the low brass instruments, so there is a special push for those that play trombone, tuba and euphonium (baritone). Any possible members or friends of possible members should contact Ron Gibbs (French horn) at 953-2537 for more information.

BLACKSBURG COMMUNITY BAND NEWS

Editor
ED SCHWARTZ (Director)

Correspondents
JEFF BEVIS (Percussion)
RON GIBBS (French Horn)
KENDRA KOHL (Clarinet)
MARY RHODES (Percussion)
BOB THOMAS (Bass Saxophone)
LINDA VANCE (Piano)

Personal Correspondents
DEEP THROAT (Mouthpiece)

The Blacksburg Community Band News will hopefully be published four times yearly as an internal source of information for the Blacksburg Community Band. The contents of this publication are the views of the editors and not necessarily the views of the Town of Blacksburg Department of Parks and Recreation.
AFTER CONCERT PARTY!

The band has been given permission to hold a Family After-Concert Party on Friday, April 27th in the Parks and Recreation building across the street from the High School. Beginning after the concert at about 9:45 PM, the party is open to the families and friends of anyone who has played with the band in the past year, or wishes to play with the band. This will be another great opportunity to get to know your fellow band members. We will, again, provide name tags to preclude embarrassing moments with those people that you see every week, but don't know their names.

We will be arranging for veggie and cheese platters, and a liquid refreshments to be available. Details are being worked out, but if you would like to donate a dollar or two to towards a food platter, or be willing to make one, contact Mary Rhoades (percussion) at 652-6508.

I hope to see everyone at the party who has participated in the band over the past year, even if you have not attended recently!

BAND VOLUNTEERS

Several members of the band have been working overtime with special jobs for the band. Ron Gibbs (french horn) has been working as head of the publicity committee. He has been bringing our name into the public eye. The others on the committee are: Linda Vance (flute), Mary Rhoades (percussion), Kendra Kohl (clarinet), and Jeff Bevis (percussion). Mary and Kendra have also been planning a few surprises for our party on the 27th of April, while Linda has been working as Marlan (band librarian). Mary Greenawalt (clarinet) has been taking care of our band finances as treasurer. Mary Keffer (clarinet) has been transposing parts for the baritone section. Grace Baldwin (clarinet) has recently agreed to start work on our band history with fellow clarinetist and historian Kendra Kohl (clarinet). Pat Furey (alto sax) has been another faithful volunteer who has been taking attendance for the past year.

These people and probably a few more that I have missed have been a tremendous asset to the band, and should be commended for their herculean efforts over the past year. THANKS TO YOU ALL! If you would like to assist the band in one way or another, contact Ed Schwartz.

PEARISBURG COMMUNITY BAND

Pearisburg has announced the beginning of a community band. A recent edition of their local paper put out the call for musicians. We will monitor the situation closely and offer any assistance that may be needed. Good luck to their efforts!

BAND BANNER

Several people have expressed the need for a band banner. This banner would be used to display our name at our concerts. As they say, a little advertising never hurts. If you know of anyone who makes all-weather type banners, please contact Ron Gibbs (french horn).

NEW RIVER ARTS COUNCIL

As many of you know, Ed Schwartz is the president of the recently created New River Arts Council. They have been working very hard to pull together a wide range of arts groups and organizations in the area to provide a community focus on the arts. The council will be sending letters to close to 1,000 people in the New River Valley who would be interested in the arts. The letter will invite membership into the council.

There are two immediate benefits to joining the council. First, the council has created a calendar to the arts in the New River Valley. This calendar will provide a list of the arts events for all of the main organizations and institutions in Floyd, Montgomery, Pulaski and Giles counties. Several special events are listed in Roanoke as well. Second, the council will be publishing a directory of the arts in the New River Valley. This directory will contain a list of local arts organizations, local community performing groups, local professional performing groups, local visual artists, local museums and galleries, local businesses that provide materials and supplies in the arts, and all of the museums in the state of Virginia.

Membership in the arts council costs $15.00 and will benefit most of the arts community in the New River Valley. Contact Ed Schwartz if you have any questions about the organization.
**BAND PERSONALS**

**STEPHANIE AND THE STORK**

As most of you are aware, Stephanie Thomas (our Parks and Recreation coordinator), gave birth to a baby girl on February 23rd. Little Samantha is doing great, as are the proud parents. Congratulations Stephanie and Mike!

**MORE STORK STORIES**

Speaking of storks, Grace Baldwin (clarinet) is expecting a child on or about April 5th. She is holding up well under the weighty situation. Not to be outdone, Mary Keffer (also in the clarinet section) is moving at a close pace and is due in June.

The rest of the section has been reluctant to speculate on any further need for the stork. Kendra Kohl (clarinet) has vigorously denied any need for the stork's services in the near future as has Karen Haga (clarinet), while Terry Munsey (clarinet) and Elizabeth Bowles (clarinet) have just laughed at the notion.

You might have noticed that Barbara Self (alto clarinet) and Beth Hulet (alto clarinet) have moved from clarinet to alto clarinet, and have kept their distance from the rest of the clarinets. Although the conditions of grace and Mary are not contagious, it has been speculated that the stork's interest in the section has had something to do with their move. Unfortunately, Mary Greenawalt (clarinet) has been unavailable for comment.

**SO-LONG SAMLY**

Sam McClintock (baritone) has just accepted a position at Penn State's Harrisonburg campus. Sam will be leaving us to work as an Assistant Professor in environmental engineering. Best of luck in your new job Sam, and don't forget to bring your horn on your next visit to the area!

**GET WELL SOON JEANNE**

Norman Brown (baritone) has been busy lately with domestic work while his wife Jeanne has been in the hospital undergoing hip replacement surgery. She has been released and we wish her a speedy recovery.

**MIKE'S MISHAP OR TROUBLE IN TUBALAND**

Mike Morgan (tuba) has been scarce lately due to his class schedule. Well, that has all been changed a bit. Mike was taking a well deserved spring break on the slopes, and was blind-sided by an errant slopester. Mike suffered a torn knee ligament and has undergone microscopic surgery. Get well Mike, and we hope to see you at the Spring Concert. No marching is required, and we will be happy to provide transportation for you and your horn.

**\* FOR WHOM? THE BELL TOLLS \***

Well, it happens to most people at some time or another, and for some, more than once... The wedding bells that is. Mary Riley (french horn) as just recently tied the knot. We wish you and your husband Mike the best Mary!

Not to be outdone, Joyce Marvin (flute) is planning to get hitched in July. It is rumored that several members of the flute section will be on-hand to witness the event. Best wishes Joyce!

It should be pointed out that Joyce and Mary have also been keeping their distance from the clarinet section... just in case.

(Editor's Note: The Personals will be anxiously awaiting any juicy tales from the altar, tall or otherwise.)

**RON GIBBS TAKES NEW JOB**

Ron Gibbs (french horn) has just taken the position of business manager at Anderson & Associates, Inc. in Blacksburg. This was a sudden move for Ron, but he was very pragmatic about it and began singing "Que Sera Sera." Doris Day watch out! Anyway, good luck in the new job Ron!

**DANCE OF THE SEVEN VEILS?**

It was overheard at Maxwell's the other night that a member of the flute section is experienced in performing the famed Dance of the Seven Veils. When pressed to produce one of the veils, this anonymous flautist was unable to locate even one of the veils needed for the performance. Admittedly, the lack of veils would make an interesting performance, but it is doubtful that it would have a family rating.
THE BALLAD OF KAZY KACIORIUS

The past month has given us the pleasure of Kazy Kaciorius in the clarinet section. Kazy has been in town visiting his daughter and now will be returning home. He plans to bring his clarinet and join us on his next trip to Blacksburg.

It came to the attention of this publication that Kazy did have a somewhat checkered past. Apparently, he was involved with a band of questionable repute some time ago in the windy city of Chicago. Kirby Joss (flute) was in Chicago at the time, and was reputed to have been involved with Kazy's activities.

In any case, we have enjoyed you here Kazy, and hope to see when you return! Keep on playing the clarinet!

BLACKSBURG COMMUNITY BAND PRACTICES SAFE SAX

It has been common knowledge that Joel Williams (tenor sax) has been investigating the finer aspects of safe sax. Sandy Lacy and Melodie Sutphin (alto sax) have been shining examples of the benefits of safe sax. Charlie Richardson (alto sax) has just returned after a short absence and was excited about the program. He said that sax was the most important aspect of his life right now, Phil Clauer (alto sax) and Mike Compton (tenor sax) have been resisting the pressure to participate in the group sax workshops, but after a recent potentially dangerous incident, it is understood that they are planning to attend the next sax education workshop. Pat Furey (alto sax) is proud of her safety record and has expressed her delight that the entire section will soon be practicing safe sax.

The last person in the section to receive sax education is Bob Thomas (bass sax). He claims that the training is a bunch of "Hoogy" and doesn't want the fuss is all about. "People have been playing these horns for years without any problem, so I don't know why we have to start worrying about the consequences now. I've always been careful, but not to these extremes. Anyway, the way I figure it, when your number is up, it's up!" Bob went on to say that even with his strong convictions, he would attend. He does, however, vow not to use the rubber reed because it lessens the enjoyment of the experience and they aren't made in a large enough size.

PERCUSSIVE PROBLEMS

Ever since the addition of Kim Harris (percussion) in the percussion section, it has been reported that the band's most eligible bachelor, Jeff Bevis (percussion), has been experiencing lack of control of his salivary glands. Although he has not actually been seen drooling on anyone (to date), the problem may eventually impair the grip on his sticks. Oral surgeon John Gregg (trumpet) has been consulted on this issue. A reliable source reports that Mary Rhoades (percussion) is insanely jealous and threatening mallet retribution. More to follow in the next issue.

VINYL MADNESS

Two members of the band will soon be celebrating the release of their new albums this Spring. Bob Thomas (bass sax), who plays the bass fiddle in the local folk group "No Strings Attached," is awaiting the release of their sixth album (Bobs fourth with the group) entitled Coffee at Midnight. It will be released as cassettes and CD's on the Turquoise Records label around mid-April. Contact Bob for ordering information, or visit Books Strings & Things in downtown Blacksburg.

Sandy Lacy (alto sax) plays bass fiddle and alto sax for another area folk group "Idewilde" and is working on a children's album of original music. The album will be entitled Out on a Limb and will feature a "backwoods-eclectic-new-age-disco-jazz" sound. (Say that three times fast!) She will be spending most of the weekends for the next two months in a D.C. studio recording the album with an expected September release. The album is expected to cost about $10.00 for record or cassette. Contact Sandy at (703) 763-2116 for ordering information.

HORSEING AROUND

Have you ever had someone get on your case for not closing a door by saying "what's the matter, do you live in a barn?" Well, John Gregg (trumpet) can answer "Yes" to that question. John lives in a barn on the Phoenix Nest farm with four horses, two dogs, a visiting sea gull and his wife Leslie.

After his unexpected solo in the Original Dixieland Concerto last concert, John was awarded the band's AD LIB MERIT AWARD in the "Most Creative Ad Lib Solo in a Rest" category. Overwhelmed by the award, John thanks the section for their help.
UPCOMING CONCERT DATES (Confirmed)

Sat., April 21 (4:30 - 5:30 PM) - New River Valley Mall Anniversary (Mall Food Area)
Wed., April 25 (7:30 - 9:30 PM) - Dress rehearsal for Spring Concert
Fri., April 27 (8:00 - 9:30 PM) - SPRING CONCERT, Blacksburg High School Auditorium
Sat., April 28 (Early afternoon) - Sidewalk Art Show, Downtown Blacksburg
Thu., May 24 (6:30 - 7:30 PM) - Harding Avenue School Spring Fling
Thu., May 31 (6:30 - 7:30 PM) - Harding Avenue School Spring Fling (Rain Date)
Sun., May 27 (3:00 - 4:00 PM) - Bike Race to Mountain Lake, Mountain Lake Gazebo
Wed., July 4 (late Afternoon) - Blacksburg 4th of July Festivities (Outside VA Tech Stadium)

POSSIBLE CONCERT DATES

Sat. or Sun., June 23, or 24 - Cambria Whistletop Arts Festival (Old Cambria Train Depot)
Sat., June 23 - Blacksburg Town Picnic (Blacksburg Pool)