



FALL • 2022

• FALL •

UNISON, VIRGINIA

What's Been Going on in the Village?

By Jennifer Don

What's been going on in the village this summer and fall? Actually, quite a lot. Besides working to protect and preserve the village of Unison and the countryside surrounding it, the Unison Preservation Society (UPS) also aims to bring neighbors together simply to have a good time with friends and family. After dealing with the Covid pandemic over the last three years, helping the community get together again—and have a good time—was an important goal for UPS in 2022.

As part of this effort, we initiated the Music on the Porch summer series. On the third Thursday of every month from May through September, anywhere from 50-100 people would gather at the Unison Store and listen to Bluegrass, Folk and Country music (check out pictures on page 2). People would sit on the grass or in the parking area with their picnics, visit with neighbors and listen to some great music by local groups such as The Crooked Angles, Furnace Mountain Band or singer/song writer, Kimberly Burke. Given the success of our Music on the Porch series this year, we certainly plan to continue it in 2023.

One item to note, we relied upon email to promote these events in part because of cost, but also because in a few cases it rained on the third Thursday of the month and we had to notify people quickly that the event was cancelled and to reschedule it for another day. It is much easier to do this by email than snail mail. UPS would love to expand its email list for Music on the Porch and other community events

for next year. If you would like to be on it, or check if you are on it, please email us at events@unisonpreservation.org.

Besides hosting concerts on its porch, UPS continues to offer the store as a convenient location for all sorts of smaller community activities such as weekly yoga, pilates, and art classes. Neighbors have used the store for family gatherings when the dining room table in their home wasn't large enough to accommodate a large group of people. Artists in Middleburg also held an arts fair at the store the weekend of November 19-20.

Last but not least, on the last Saturday of October, Unison finally got to celebrate Heritage Day again after a two-year hiatus (see photos on page 3). The weather was perfect—a glorious fall day with sunshine.

Continued on back page.



Jennifer Don presents Unison resident, Elizabeth Wolf, with the first Unison Preservation Award for her stewardship of our countryside, including restoring a quarter of a mile of stone walls along Foxcroft Road and placing property she recently acquired next to the village in conservation easement.



The live auction included a ride in a firetruck for three neighborhood kids from their home to school sometime this coming school year. A great, not to mention unique, contribution to the live auction by the Philomont Volunteer Fire Department arranged by Unison resident, Jack Woulfe.

Music on the Porch Series Welcomes Local Musicians



A young Unison resident listens to Furnace Mountain Trio's old-time Appalachian harmonies in July. Photos by Zach Roszel.



Top: The June concert welcomed Kimberly Burke. Bottom: Laura Tsagarris and the Sisters performed in August. Photos by Dale Bright.

Monthly Unison Area Blood Drive for Dogs

For the last year, my wife and I have hosted on our farm, which is about a mile and a half down Bloomfield Road from Unison, a blood drive for dogs. It takes place on the third Thursday of every month. I asked Casey Mills, who is the Director of the North American Veterinarian Blood Bank (NAVBB), to explain why these blood drives are important and how Unison area residents, who are interested in participating, could sign up. - Howard Lewis



Colby, an award winning Clumber Spaniel and a regular donor, gets lots of attention from Caitlyn Parody of NAVBB.

The North American Veterinary Blood Bank (NAVBB) was founded in 2017 by members of the dog care team in the emergency room of a veterinarian hospital in Northern Virginia when a dog under their care needed a blood transfusion and no blood could be found anywhere in the area. The team, right then and there, decided to set up the NAVBB. To say the least, the NAVBB took on a big job.

We not only have to maintain a blood bank, which veterinarians all across northern Virginia can access, but we also have to educate people about the severe shortage of blood supplies for dogs, recruit dog owners to come to the blood drives, find people to host them, and organize the vets and vet techs to do the work collecting blood on the days when the drives occur. But all of this effort can make a big difference. Just one donation can help save up to four dogs in need.

The donation process is a positive experience for all parties involved. We do not sedate the donor, rather we ensure that they are comfortable by offering gentle restraint such as a weighted blanket, pillows, hugs from the staff, and their favorite treats. We even go as far as to provide a topical numbing cream to alleviate the slight pinch of the donation needle. Owners also benefit by receiving complementary annual lab work on their life-saving donor. A nurse's exam is completed prior to each donation to ensure that the donor is physically acceptable to donate on that day, similar to the process of human blood donors. We go above and beyond to ensure the safety of both the donor and the recipient.

The collected blood is then processed into various blood components depending on what veterinary hospitals have

Continued on back page.



.UNISON. HERITAGE DAY

🌸 SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2022 🌸



1



2



3



4



5



6



9



7



8



11

1. Maria Eldredge, Ryan Michels, and Eliza Eldredge welcome attendees.

2. Harry Bigley congratulates a winning bidder in the live auction.

3. More music on the porch.

4. The Piedmont Fox Hounds made their annual visit.

5. Harry Bigley, Steve Chase and Tara Connell. Tara's leadership and service to UPS was recognized during the Heritage Day Celebration.

6. Tad Zimmerman, Gordy Keys and Jim Herbert.

7. Joe Tippett provided fresh oysters on the half-shell.

8. Pickles (far right) and crew from Piedmont Fox Hounds help Unison celebrate.

9. Bidding on a room full of silent auction items.

10. Terry Tibbs and James "Bubba" Thomas (rear) help tend bar.

11. Philomont firefighters.

12. Classic cars lined up on the Village Green.



10



12



Unison Preservation Society Newsletter

Published by

The Unison Preservation Society
P.O. Box 606
Middleburg, VA 20118
unisonnewsletter22@gmail.com
<https://www.unisonpreservation.org/>

Board of Directors

Jennifer Don, *President*
Maria Eldredge, *Secretary*
Roger LaRouche, *Treasurer*

Harry Bigley
Ron Blankenship
Ryan Michels
Jamie Steve
Chris Townsend
Jeff Van Allen
John Woulfe

Advisory Board

Tim Bates
Steven Chase
Jane Covington
Julie Diehl
Susan Ferster
Kim Hart
Caroline Helmly
Robin-Eve Jasper
Howard Lewis
Tobin McGregor
Gordon McKinley
Zach Roszel
Owen Snyder
Linda Stuntz

How to Support the Unison Preservation Society (UPS):

UPS depends upon contributions from people living in our community who want to preserve our historic village and the countryside surrounding it. Since the UPS is a not-for-profit 501 (c) (3) corporation registered in Virginia, all contributions are tax deductible. Contributions should be made to the Unison Preservation Society and sent to the post office box listed above.

Ideas for Newsletter Articles:

We are particularly interested in gathering material about Unison for future UPS newsletters. If you have ideas for newsletter stories, please e-mail us at

unisonnewsletter22@gmail.com



Follow Us!

Newsletter Design:

Dara Bailey Design • Bluemont, VA
darabaileydesign@gmail.com

Unison Preservation Society
P.O. Box 606
Middleburg, VA 20118

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Mr. Print
Purcellville, VA
20132

What's Been Going On in the Village *(Continued)*

A record \$48,000 was raised through ticket sales, sponsorships, a silent auction and a live auction, which after expenses netted us \$36,000. The live auction featured everything from a ride for three kids from their home to their local school in a Philomont firetruck to a seafood dinner party (with live music from The Crooked Angels!) for 40 people that the winner could host in their home or another venue around Unison; e.g., the Unison store.

The revenue generated by Heritage Day is critical to UPS for everything from maintaining the Unison Store to supporting the newsletter you are reading right now. But, as with the Music on the Porch series, the most important thing about this year's Heritage Day was the large turnout for the event—the Unison neighborhood getting together again. ■

Dog Blood Drive *(Continued)*

requested. Since the blood comes from our local community, we prioritize local vet hospitals to ensure the dogs within our community have a fighting chance. On numerous occasions, we have collected blood, and less than an hour later, it is being transfused at a local animal hospital due to emergency surgery or a critically ill patient.

Dogs have 12 different types of blood. So, it is not just worrying about having enough blood but enough of 12 different types of blood. Our most requested product, pRBC, has a shelf life of 35 days. While this may sound short, it is typically used within the first 72 hours after collection.

To help achieve our goal of saving the lives of countless animals in need, we partner with dog lovers who are generous enough to provide us with a space to host a blood drive. For the past year, Howard and Phillipa Lewis have been so kind to host a monthly blood drive at their farm on Bloomfield Road near Unison. We have a great group of regular donors who love saving lives, but we are always looking to add more to this wonderful program. Eligible dogs must be between 1-7 years old, weigh greater than 35 pounds, not be on medication for chronic illness, be on flea/tick preventatives, have a friendly temperament, and must have never previously had a blood transfusion.

Our amazing collection team takes the time to



Howard and Flip Lewis of Lazy Dog Farm at this year's Heritage Day.

bond with each donor and ensure that they are comfortable throughout the entire process. If the donor seems upset with the process, they do not donate that day. We pride ourselves on keeping this a positive and ethical process.

Interested donors in the Unison area can sign up at www.navbb.com or reach out to us via email at donate@navbb.com. When signing up, you can select the Lewis farm near Unison on Bloomfield Road as the location where you want to bring your dog if that is the most convenient site for you. ■

Would You Like to Stay Informed?

If you would like to learn more about what the Unison Preservation Society is doing for you, please make sure you are on our mail and email lists so you don't miss any important announcements and special events in and around Unison. Contact us at unisonnewsletter22@gmail.com. We would love to hear from you!