



## BIG ARM ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER JULY 2007

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**“Less than two years after Big Arm residents got word that their fire station would close, the community celebrated a remodeled fire hall and a transformed, unified neighborhood.” Linda Sappington, Valley Journal.**

**The Grand Celebration on June 30th was a huge success, thank you so much to everyone who helped make this day so special.** So many neighbors were involved it would be almost impossible to list everyone. We were all rewarded by the opportunity to get acquainted with a large group of great people and on the day, seeing huge smiles on kid's faces and watching families thoroughly enjoying themselves. Thank you to those who planned, created and ran the carnival games; to those who prepared the grounds and erected tents twice!; to those who organized and ran the water wars; to those who organized, baked and ran the bake sale, to those who planned and cooked for the hamburger fry; to those who provided the pony rides and magic show; to the Polson Rural Fire Department for loaning tables & chairs and bringing fire equipment and the huge flag; to the organizers and artists who participated in the first annual craft show; to the speakers and their kind words and to the musicians; to the owners of the vintage cars and tractors; to everyone who worked such long and hard hours finishing the landscaping in time for the event. A very special thank you to all who supported us by attending the event. Well done and once again thank you! ... We are already planning next year's event!

**Treasury Report:** the fund balance is \$ 4,311.66. The Celebration grossed just over \$6,000 fairly evenly split between the BAA and Polson Rural Fire Dept. and after expenses were paid both netted about \$1500. BAA will be paying the required PRFD insurance and utilities and also office & misc. expenses.

**Boat Parade:** I hope everyone had a chance to either participate or watch the large boat parade of 28 boats which were decorated with festive flags. On the Weidrich boat a young soldier stood to attention proudly holding the flag, in another boat Uncle Sam was the captain, other people wore silly hats and all were cheering and wishing everyone a happy July 4th. We are looking for ideas for next year and would like to have some volunteers to help plan this fun event, please call!

**We would like to thank The 4H Club** for volunteering to help with our celebration. Anyone wishing to join the 4H Club please call Tracy at 849-6666, or Lisa 849-5098.

**A special mention to the Artists** who attended our recent craft show and gave gifts for the raffle: Tiskus & Simpson with jewelry and watercolors; Peter Reuthlinger's glass humming bird feeders; Clarice Coverdell's pottery; Pat Wallace's rose malling; Bob Granzow's photography; Janice Brook's beadwork; Ray & Nancy Miller's photography; and Bill & Shirley Newby's blown glass. To contact any of the artists please call 849-6628.

**Our friend and neighbor Wilfred Kenmille entertained us at our celebration. Wilfred recently suffered an aneurism and is still in intensive care but he is making steady improvement. Our prayers and wishes go to him for a speedy recovery.**

**A Musical Potluck is planned for this Wednesday, August 1st, 6:00 pm at the Fire Hall.** Dorothy Williams will be delighting us with a variety of music on her keyboard. Please come along, listen, sing, dance or chat with your neighbors. Bring your family, your friends and your favorite dish.

The next BAA event will be August 27.....topic to be announced. We need good ideas, interesting speakers, musical ideas, or anything the community would enjoy, please call.

**Big Arm T-Shirts, Sweatshirts, Sun hats & Base Ball Caps** are available and make great gifts! Please call with your order or buy them at our next event.

**Community News:** We know there are new comers to our community, special events and accomplishments happening. Anyone with news please call so that we can share it with everyone. New comers would make a great newsworthy story and it would allow us to welcome them to our community.

**Heroes Among us! Lee Johnson and her family** would be the last to consider themselves heroes. Recently when the motor bike accident occurred outside their house, it was their quick thinking and knowledge that saved a young man's life.

**Volunteer firefighters** in the last couple of weeks, have spent many hours protecting us during some ferocious storms. Now they are spending day after day protecting structures from the very dangerous wild land fire in Irvine Flats.

**Big Arm is blessed with such great people.**

**BE FIRE WISE!!!** No camp fires even by the lake. Everything is extremely dry, even a spark will do enormous damage. Clean out your gutters, keep a large area around your house free of debris and well irrigated. Smoke only indoors. Do not park a warm car on grass or drive over dry grass. Please call the Fire Department at 883-8220 for more information about fire safety. They can also advise you about suitable times to run outdoor machinery.

**Save Our School (SOS)** On Monday, August 13th at 7:00pm at district #23 administration building, the School Board will meet with the Commissioners to discuss saving our historic school. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** Big Arm residents need to attend this meeting to show support for preserving this historic building. Please call Alison if you can attend so seating can be arranged. No one needs to speak to the issue we just need your support. Commissioner Mike Hutchin is hoping to discuss the win-win solution of swapping county owned property for the school site. The BAA plans to restore the building by applying for grants; this historic building will then be used as a community hall.

Excerpt from a recent letter from John & Agnes Nelson "..... you "great" people who have put Big Arm on the map..... you all can be proud of yourselves for your efforts, thank you again. "