

# TROUTVILLE Tidbits



*Brought to you by Friends of the Park*

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## Troutville Town Park History

*by Doretta Switzer*

The park has been located in downtown Troutville for years, and was originally given to the Botetourt County School Board by E.C. Firestone to be used as a playground/ballfield for Troutville High School. The Troutville Lions Club built the shelter and put up a swing in the 1970's, and the park was the site for many youth league ballgames. Lord Botetourt High School's softball team called it home until 1991.

In 1986, the Botetourt County Board of Supervisors gave the land to the Town of Troutville. At that time, several citizens contacted Jewell Tyndall (then Mayor of Troutville), saying they thought it would be good to have a walking track at the park. They started work on the track in November 1991, and installed dusk-to-dawn lights for safety at night.

In January 1992, Town Council started on other projects for the park. The original committee that began work on the overgrown and little-used park were: Councilmen Bruce Switzer, A.R. Poulin and Robert Harris, with help from Raymond Whitlock, Lowell Cole and Dean Paderick. Their contributions included:

- Raymond Whitlock, a welder by trade, provided the pipe and labor needed to put the swings together, as well as the underpilings for the bridge. He also made the waterwheel located at the back of the park near the culvert.
- Lowell Cole, who lived near one edge of the park at that time, donated paint and did all the painting on the shelter, a storage building and various other items; he also painted the caboose several years ago.
- Rachel Nichols, from the Apple Barn, donated the materials that were used to seal the surface of the tennis courts.
- Councilmen Bruce Switzer, A.R. Poulin and Robert Harris worked many, many hours clearing out all of the brush in the creekbed; they also worked to clean up various areas of the park before bringing in the playground equipment.

Because the Councilmen and several townspeople donated their time and labor, the project only cost about \$8,500 – one-third of the estimated cost if done professionally. Funding came from town revenues. Throughout the years, there have been many other improvements to the park including adding the caboose.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual "PARTY IN THE PARK" on Saturday, September 13, will raise money for improvements to the Park tennis court and security. Tickets are available at the Town Hall or call 819-6335. If you are unable to attend but would like to make a donation to help with the "Park Safety" campaign, please send your check to Town of Troutville, P.O. 276, Troutville, VA 24175. For your added convenience, *Friends of the Park* will also be at the Post Office on Friday morning, September 5<sup>th</sup>.

## Troutville Trivia

*by Fred Bard*

Remember when the Fire Hall on Sunset Avenue was a car lot? What was it called? (*Hint: It was a Chrysler & Plymouth Dealer.*) ANSWER on the back page.

Have a Troutville Trivia Question? Send it to us @  
P.O. Box 276, Troutville, VA 24175  
Or call: 540/819-6335



## GREEN TIP

**PESTICIDE DISPOSAL DAY**  
Friday, September 19, 9am-1pm  
Greenfield Education Training Center

Botetourt County Residents can safely dispose of unwanted, outdated or banned pesticides for FREE. You can register by calling 804/371-8598 at least two weeks prior to the collection date.

To access a registration form online, visit -  
[www.vdacs.virginia.gov/pesticides/pdf/files/disposalregistration.pdf](http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/pesticides/pdf/files/disposalregistration.pdf).

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