

### Forkland's 2019 Scholarship Recipients

During the Forkland Community Center Annual Meeting on May 7, it was announced that there would be two scholarship recipients this year: Bailey Ellis and Kagan Walters. Bailey and Kagan both just graduated from Boyle County High School, where the actual scholarships were presented at a school awards ceremony. Bailey will be attending Bluegrass Community and Technical College (BCTC). As the daughter of FCC president Matthew Ellis, Bailey has helped with just about every Forkland event since she was quite young. Kagan will be attending Eastern Kentucky University (EKU), studying accounting. Kagan is a member of the Gorley family and has been serving at the Festival Supper Theatre since he was eight years old; he has also helped serve at Christmas Dinners. Congratulations, Bailey and Kagan, on winning the scholarships, and thanks for your continuing volunteer work! The essays Bailey and Kagan wrote as part of their scholarship applications appear in this issue, starting on the next page.



*Bailey Ellis and Kagan Walters  
at the Forkland Annual Meeting*

Each year, the Forkland Community Center hopes to award scholarships to one or more graduating high school seniors who have been active at the Community Center. To do this, we need contributions from the community. Please help this program continue. If you have an interest in supporting the Forkland Community Center Scholarship Program, celebrating the continuing tradition of academic excellence within the Forkland community, make a contribution to the scholarship fund. Mail your check or money order, specifying that the donation is to be used for the scholarship fund, to:

Forkland Community Center, Inc.  
16479 Forkland Road  
Gravel Switch, KY 40328

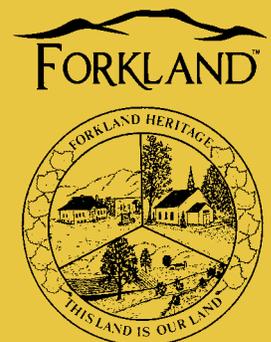
**Forkland Community Center**  
**16479 Forkland Rd., Gravel Switch, KY 40328**  
**859-332-7146, [www.forklandcomctr.org](http://www.forklandcomctr.org)**

Please send news, photos, announcements, art, etc. for the *Forkland Community Center News* to:  
Pat Williams, 750 Black Lick Rd., Gravel Switch, KY 40328, 859-332-7606, [gwill@mis.net](mailto:gwill@mis.net)

#### **Forkland Contacts**

President: Matthew Ellis, 859-583-0546, [MatthewEllis@woodsequipment.com](mailto:MatthewEllis@woodsequipment.com)  
Vice President: Doris Purdom, 859-332-7839  
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Art Classes: Pat Williams, 859-332-7606, [gwill@mis.net](mailto:gwill@mis.net)

Board meetings (on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m.) are open to the public



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### ***Scholarship Application Essay by Bailey Ellis:***

When you google for the definition of “community,” two definitions come up: 1. a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common, and 2. a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals. Reading the two definitions couldn’t explain the Forkland community any better.

Growing up, I always asked my dad why we waved at everyone going down the road. And he laughed and responded, “Down here we are all family. We all say ‘yes ma’am, no ma’am, yes sir, no sir, please, and thank you.’ We do that because we respect them and everything they have done for our community.”

Another thing I always wondered was why did I have to go to all of these functions (Pie Supper, Forkland Festival, Christmas Dinner, Twilight Christmas, and the Halloween Carnival)? But the older I got, the more I understood. That is when I learned how to talk to people, using my manners EVERYWHERE, and got to know names and faces. Now, when I see people who I have served or have helped, they remember me, and not only me, but the Forkland Community Center, and they want to come back again. They always talk about how welcome they felt, and how they loved the history.

I remember going to the Community Center in third grade, and coming home and asking my dad, “Why did we all go down there?”

“Did you have fun?”

“Yeah, we all did.”

“That’s all that matters, Bailey. You all came down here to show that you don’t have to have technology and you are one with nature.”

Which could not be any more true. That is one of the many reasons I love the Forkland community. I want to thank you all for the opportunity to apply for this.

### ***Scholarship Application Essay by Kagan Walters:***

As kids, we always took things for how they were, rather than seeing the real meaning and purpose behind them. I attended the Forkland Festival for the first time at a very young age, and as any other kid would, I took it for exactly what it was. I never understood the real history and meaning behind the Forkland Community Center, and I never understood why the majority of individuals wore overalls or dresses, making visitors seem improperly dressed. What I did understand when I first arrived was that they had a variety of food booths, desserts, toys, and activities available for all of the people there. All the people seemed to be having a good time and talking amongst themselves, and many families attended the Festival each year. I always attended with my family and met with other family members who set up in booths outside the building. It wasn’t until I was eight that I served at the Festival for the first time. It was difficult the first year because I had never had experience with doing work similar to that. It was a completely different atmosphere, mostly with people I had never met before. The community made the work seem less like work and more of an opportunity to connect with other people and have fun serving others. As I grew older, I began to develop new relationships with the people at the Festival and enjoyed attending again and again each year. While tip money was something I yearned for each year as a kid, the money was a non-factor as time passed. Throughout those few years, I learned that my family roots run deep in the Forkland Community Center. My great-grandmother helps cook each year and attended Forkland High School before it was transformed into

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the Community Center. My dad, aunt, uncle, sister, and cousins all served at the bean supper before I did. As well as that, my family always set up in booths or worked to help set up and clean up the event each year. As I traced my roots further back, I continued to find more family that was connected with the Community Center and the school it once was. At that point, I finally understood why my family wanted me to serve. My family history is engrained in the Community Center, and the bean supper and Christmas Dinner allow the Community Center to continue to operate. Serving the Community Center was more than the money we made or relationships we gained, it was about preserving my family's lineage. As I grew older, I started to become a mentor to the youth who would continue to serve each year. I would help them learn the ropes of serving the dinner and would often aid them in serving tables when they needed. It no longer was something I had to do, it was something I truly enjoyed and loved to be involved with. I no longer saw the Community Center for physically what it was. Now when I see the Community Center, I find a community of tight-knit families and friends who continue to want to serve an area that they all enjoyed being a part of. Nobody felt forced to work in this place, it was the desire of the past, present, and future of the Community Center that brought everybody back each year. From then on, service never became something I had to do for school to be able to graduate or to fulfill a club's duties, rather it became an aspiration of mine to help others.

Since I started at Forkland, I have picked up a variety of other community service opportunities I participate in annually. In eighth grade, I picked up community service with my Sunday school group by delivering presents and singing carols to a local nursing home. The joy that was brought to their faces was truly inspiring and continued my urge to help others. Throughout high school, I have rung a bell for Salvation Army. This experience allowed me to meet a variety of people from many different backgrounds and to learn many of the stories of the Salvation Army changing people's lives. It's inspiring to hear these stories and to know that ringing the bells help the people who need it most. I also find service opportunities through the school system to give back to the place that taught me everything I needed to be successful. As a freshman, I aided the middle school in coaching for the MathCounts team, which is a team for students who are advanced in mathematics. They go to different competitions and test their skills in math against nearly 100 other schools. Being a part of this team when I was in middle school allowed me to advance myself academically, and I wanted to help other kids who wanted to do the same to be successful. Lastly, I also aid in the after-school program at Woodlawn Elementary School. We help to coordinate activities for the kids to do until their parents are able to pick them up from the school.

The Forkland Community Center now doesn't look the same to me as when I first saw it. When I see the Community Center, I don't just see booths of food as I did as a kid, or even the tight-knit community I saw a few years ago. For me, I saw the Forkland Community Center as a start to something greater, even when I didn't realize it. It allowed me to start caring more for others and taught me how to serve others with respect and dignity from a young age. It showed me the importance of leadership and teamwork, and it established a principle of giving to others rather than taking for myself. I have enjoyed every moment I served at the Forkland Community Center, and I believe that it has shaped me to be prepared for whatever life plans to throw my way.

## Upcoming and Ongoing Events

**FCC Board Meeting:** Monday, June 10, 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

**Forkland Lincoln Museum:** Saturdays, noon to 4 p.m. Come see the new displays and search for your family's genealogical information! The Gift Shop is open, too, with some great Forkland items: T-shirts, caps, aprons, wall hangings, pens, books, and more.

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**Summer Arts & Crafts Classes for Kids:** Every Tuesday, May 28 through August 6, 7 to 8:30 p.m. These free classes are for children ages 4 to 18 (even younger if an adult helps). There will be *two* classes, one for younger kids and another for older ones. Drawing, painting, clay modeling, paper crafts, weaving, and more! We do something different each week that each child can do at his/her own level. Come any week or all weeks. Art is messy, so be sure to wear old clothes. For more information, contact Pat Williams, 859-332-7606, gwill@mis.net.



**Boyle County Library Summer Reading Program:**

The Bookmobile will be visiting the Forkland Community Center every Tuesday from 2 to 3 p.m. throughout June and July. This year, the library is celebrating the 50th year anniversary of the moon landing with the theme “A Universe of Stories.” Free books will be given to kids each time they visit the Bookmobile in June and July. And everyone is invited to participate in the Summer Reading Program where you win prizes for reading! The grand prize this year is a telescope you can use to view all types of astronomical objects! This is a great opportunity to keep kids interested in reading over the summer! Don’t miss it.

## Recent Happenings

**FCC 49th Annual Meeting:** Forkland Community Center’s 49th Annual Meeting was held on Tuesday, May 7, 2019, with a good crowd. Reports on various events and activities were presented, and financial reports were discussed. This year’s Forkland Scholarship awards were announced (see first page). The five board members with expiring terms (Lynn Ellis, Rebecca Kernodle, Doris Purdom, Steve Shepperson, and Pat Williams) were re-elected. Robin Burger won the \$100 door prize. Everyone enjoyed the delicious refreshments provided by various members and a chance to talk with fellow Forklanders.



**Genealogy and History Workshop:** On Saturday, May 11, the Forkland Lincoln Museum held this annual workshop. Jim Jacobus started out with a very interesting story of meeting his unknown sister, which led him to find a U.S. veterans’ cemetery in the Netherlands where each grave is adopted and tended by a local family. Jim visited this cemetery and got to know some of the adopting families of soldiers’ graves connected with him. Wayne Thurman followed with a detailed description of an old and unusual tax book that is in the museum. He figured out how the taxes were calculated and learned a lot about who lived in this





area and their family connections. After a delicious lunch provided by Melton's Deli, Jamie Helle told the group about various free internet resources that genealogists can use to help find their families' histories. The last session was a beautiful video of Elder Cemetery made by Chris Carey. With information provided by Doris Purdom and Shirley Sheperson, Chris narrated the video, telling the story of this large local cemetery and many of the people who are buried in it. If you have family there or just live or have connections in this area, you will be sure to find this video interesting. You can view it on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aLnzBoCGgoU>

## In Memory of Recently Deceased FCC Members

***Jerry Ursprung, February 1, 1951 to February 24, 2019:*** Jerry, 68, was a farmer and a logger. He and his wife Ann lived for many years on Scrubgrass Rd., where he had a sawmill. He loved working with wood and was a gifted wood carver. He is survived by his wife Ann; two sons: Jonathan Ursprung and Ross McQuerry, II; two daughters: Tonya Ursprung and Lisa Lique (Roger); and five grandchildren. Jerry is missed by friends and family.

***Carolyn Conder Lee, April 6, 1956 to April 25, 2019:*** Carolyn, 63, was the daughter of Howard Lee and Mary Thelma Holt Conder. Carolyn lived with her husband Bro. Ronnie Dale Lee on Elk Cave Rd. She is survived by her husband of 45 years; her daughter, Tina Marie (and husband, David) Gourley; granddaughter, Alexis Storm (Austin) Gregory; five brothers: Jerry (Becky) Conder, Neal (Pat) Conder, Bobby (Anna) Conder, Gary (Barbara McFarlane) Conder, and Ricky (Debby) Conder; two sisters, Mary Ann (Ronald) Douglas, and Judy (Bro. Jeff) Sparks. Carolyn is missed by family and friends.

***George White, January 4, 1927 to April 26, 2019:*** George, 92, and his wife Peggy, owned a home and property on Elk Cave in addition to a home in Danville. He served in the United States Navy during World War II and retired from The Williamson Company after 30 years as a Sales Engineer. He is survived by his wife, Peggy; two sons, David Alan White and Stephen Douglas (Kathy) White; four daughters, Nancy Lee White (Dr. Gregg) Neikirk, Kathy (Baxter) East, Bev (Jeff) Starks, and Janie (Jim) Murphy; and ten grandchildren. George and Peggy were always active at Forkland, selling burgoo at early Festivals and helping at the welcome desk in later years. George is missed by family and friends.

## Around the Fork

Jolene Davis is putting on a "Summer Fun Day on the Fork" at Forkland Community Center on Sunday, June 23, 2:30 to 7 p.m. The focus of this event is speaker Dr. Kenny Davin Fine who will speak on the latest information on gluten, allergies, and how to improve your health. Dr. Fine's research brought gluten sensitivity to public awareness. Dr. Fine is also a singer and songwriter and will present a 45-minute concert with Jolene joining in on violin. There will also be games and food. Admission is free. Jolene is looking for Forkland farmers/gardeners who have farm produce, flowers, or healthy foods that they would like to sell at this event. She is also welcoming volunteers who can help with games that she has planned for kids of all ages. Contact: [jolene\\_music@yahoo.com](mailto:jolene_music@yahoo.com).

Information about Dr. Fine is available at [www.kennydavinfine.com](http://www.kennydavinfine.com) and [www.finerhealth.com](http://www.finerhealth.com).

(Note: While happening at the Forkland Community Center, this is not an FCC event.)