

ESTILL COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Library Corner by Elizabeth Heyrman Youth Services

Hello, friends! My name is Elizabeth, and I'm the new Youth Services Librarian. I grew up in Berea and lived in Indiana, Japan, and Massachusetts before coming back home to Kentucky last year. In Japan I was an

English teacher, and I've always loved libraries, so I decided to combine my passions and become a children's librarian. (I also love writing, listening to music, and playing with my dog.)

I've been here at the Estill County Public Library for a couple months now, but I still feel very new. I'm looking forward to meeting more of our community and getting more programs going for kids and teens here at the library, especially with Summer Reading just around the corner. This year's theme is Tails and Tales, and it's going to be two months of animal fun starting on June 1st. We'll have a lineup of

mostly virtual programs again this year, but we hope to see you for some outdoor events as well.

For now, you can see me twice a week on Facebook Live for Storytime—Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. and Thursdays at 7 p.m. The Wednesday morning stories tend to be geared towards preschool-age kids, while Thursday night's stories are at an early elementary school level, but I try to pick books that will be fun for all ages. If you can't make it to the live event, most of the storytime videos are saved on our Facebook page and can be viewed anytime. Just scroll down to the "videos" section on

the left-hand side of the page. Soon I'll be posting some extra videos highlighting new books in our children's and teen collections that I'm excited to recommend to everyone, so keep an eye out for that!

Here's just a few of my favorites from the new arrivals: Just Because by Mac Barnett & Isabelle Arsenault (a picture book about asking questions), Measuring Up by Lily LaMotte & Anne Xu (a graphic novel about a cooking contest), and Clap When You Land by Elizabeth Acevedo (a YA novel about sisters).

In addition to live storytime, I've updated the "Storytime Room" page

linked on our website. Here, you can watch a special spring storytime video I recorded, and find links to lots of fun, kid-friendly online activities and resources. You can find the Storytime Room under "Teens/Kids" on the library website, <http://estillpublib.org>.

In other news, the Friends of the Library are organizing a drive-up book sale on Saturday, April 24th from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the old library location at 246 Main Street. Donate \$5 to support the library and get a bag of books!

Finally, our virtual Pickin' in the Park concert series returns Tuesday, May 4th at 6:30 p.m.

with Cameron White as our first featured guest. These are streamed live on our Facebook page and can be watched later on Facebook or YouTube if you miss them live. We've got some great artists and bands lined up. If you like live music, tune into the concerts on Tuesday nights from May to July!

The library is still open for curbside and limited in-person service—give us a call at (606) 723-3030 to find out our hours on any given day. Most weekdays, you can drop by and visit me in the children's room, where I'm waiting to help you and your family find your next favorite book.

Trash Hill 2

Contributed by Jerry Eltzroth

I wrote a story on this same subject two years ago. Very little has changed.

I thoroughly agree with Lisa Bicknell's editorial in the *Citizen's Voice & Times* April 1st edition — "Estill County is evolving into an eyesore." Just drive the length of Sand Hill Road and you will receive many 'eyesore' examples of the roadside litter and dumps in our little piece of Estill County.

I have lived in Greece and Ireland and traveled extensively in urban and rural areas of those countries, as well as other European areas. You do not see the proliferation of litter and roadside dumps like you do in Estill County.

When I was a youngster visiting my grandparents in Witt Springs (which is in the heart of the Sand Hill community) during the 1950's and 60's, there was little roadside litter, or dumps within sight of the road. The old-time residents of this area took pride in their property and its appearance. With the evolution of our 'throw away' society in the 1960's, all that began to change.

The dumps hidden from view back on the farms are still there, and overgrown with vegetation. They are illegal, but the ones of which I know the whereabouts do not seem to be used anymore, although they continue to wash litter onto neighboring farms. Some of them have been there nearly a hundred years. I never found any dumps on the Smithers farm. There is one spot where I found some broken glass, but the few pieces we kick up, we pick up. The Smithers were too poor to have any throw-away items and they were good stewards of their land.

If I ever found any litter on the Smithers farm, I picked it up. Mostly I found old pop cans and trash left by loggers, hunters, or trespassers. I always tell anyone I allow to hunt, "If you leave any trash, don't come back." I find an occasional balloon that was released from an event which found its way to my property. All those balloons released eventually become litter.

My Uncle 'Jiggs' Dickerson had a special spot where he deposited his empty pint whiskey bottles. It appeared that when he pulled into his parking place under the garage shed at the 3-mile marker, he drank his last swig and threw the bottle into a pile beside the shed. Bonnie and I cleaned up about five, 5-gallon buckets of pint bottles from that spot. Uncle Jiggs loved his whiskey. At least he did not throw his bottles out along the roadway.

Today people use their front yards as dumps — piles of trash

bags (which they illegally burn in place), junk cars, junk mowers, and all types of litter everywhere. When a good wind blows the light weight litter travels to the other side of the roadway. But I have been told this is 'lifestyle' by a county official, not dumps. If it looks like a dump and smells like a dump, it is probably a dump. There is no law that can force people to take pride in their property.

There is a volunteer who comes around periodically to pick up roadside litter. I understand his non-profit organization receives payment for his efforts from a government grant (taxpayer money). He does not venture beyond the State right of way onto private land where a lot of the litter is blown or thrown. I find many Ale-8 bottles and beer bottles in our pasture along the road and occasionally in our front yard. They create a special hazard when I mow or bush hog. Since I came here in 1984, I have probably picked up enough roadside litter along our frontage to fill a Rumpke truck.

Prior to Easter I picked up the litter along our frontage and across the road once again. Out of curiosity I inventoried the contents of the two Walmart bags of trash that I found. The contents of the bags included: 2 glass Ale-8 bottles; 3 glass beer bottles (Bud light, Budweiser, Bush Lite); aluminum cans (4 beer, 2 Coke, 1 Pepsi, 3 Mountain Dew); plastic bottles (1 Ale-8, 5 water, 1 Mountain Dew, 1 Coke, 1 Pepsi, 1 A&W); drink cups (1 McDonalds, 1 Wendy's, 1 Hardees, 1 Burger King, 1 Rally's, 1 Captain D's); misc. condiments; several aluminum and Styrofoam plates, 1 small bag of fast-food trash; and 1 hypodermic needle. I find hypodermic needles on a regular basis. It appears our local litterers frequent all the fast-food establishments in Irvine and Richmond. These items usually do not blow out of the back of a truck, they are slung out the window.

A day after my clean-up efforts, litter has already begun to accumulate again. Our daughter, Deanna, who is visiting from Texas observed a red truck throw a pop can and some paper out the window as she was walking to our house. I saw the red truck as it passed. The owner evidently lives beyond our house because I see it pass on a regular basis. The same day Deanna found a 'Cash Express' advertisement which had been thrown out at her drive. I thought that littering practice had been stopped.

Last year I saw a vehicle parked by Barry Arthur's salvage operation. While the young lady was out of her car, someone threw something out of the back window as I approached. I stopped and informed the lady about the incident. She checked with the children in the back seat and reported to me that "they just threw



The sign pointing the way to Sand Hill at KY52 was knocked down over three years ago, and has never been replaced. If it is replaced, they should spell it "Trash Hill." (Jerry Eltzroth photo)



All this litter was picked up in just 800 feet of Sand Hill Road — both sides. (Jerry Eltzroth photo)

out some chicken bones." I suppose chicken bones are not litter.

My parents never had to preach to me about not littering. I always thought from the time I was a young child that it was improper to litter. The first time I ever saw my children attempt to litter from the car, I instructed them that they keep their trash in the car until we get to a place to dispose of it properly.

The county governments have limited ways of creating revenue to resolve this problem. There are stiff fines for those who litter, but you have to catch them in the act. It is illegal to burn your garbage, but that ordinance is not enforced. It may not be popular with some voters, but an ordinance clearly defining what is a dump or community eyesore may help county officials to police this litter/dump problem. It also may be time for a county universal garbage fee for every household in the county.

As much as I hate government intervention into my personal life, perhaps the State needs to pass a bottle bill and a fast-food bill to tax these carryout items. The funds secured could provide jobs for people

to pick up our roadways on a regular basis.

When I was working on the Sand Hill book, I noticed there is not one sign at any intersection identifying our community's main road as "Sand Hill." There is a sign at KY52 identifying the road as KY1457. There was a sign along with it at one time that stated, "Sand Hill Road." That sign has been gone for nearly 3 years now. The sign was apparently knocked over by a vehicle and laid in the ditch for a couple years. The KY1457 sign was damaged also. The KY1457 sign was eventually straightened, but the Sand Hill sign is gone. If the State or County Road Dept. ever replaces our sign, perhaps they should spell it "Trash Hill Road."

There are many good people in our Sand Hill Community who take pride in their property and should be commended for their efforts.

I hope our local County and State representatives are listening. I think Lisa Bicknell and I speak for a lot of Estill County citizens who want our roadsides cleaned up. Perhaps we need to vote for representatives who will start addressing this problem.