

Gone by the Wayside

On December 31, 2019, the Wayside Tavern closed its doors after more than 45 years.

In 1972, Mary (Molly) Schuyler bought the property from Madeline Matthews and Mary Ann Wallego and built a small hot dog and hamburger stand, which later became the Wayside Tavern. Molly eventually leased the property to Joe DeVito Sr. and later sold it to David Colton and Ronald Dana in 1984. David and Ronald owned the business until 1991 when they sold it to Ronald and Dale White. During Ronald and Dale's ownership, an addition, which nearly doubled the size of the building, was added to house a pool table and shuffleboard table. The tavern was sold to Darlene White in 2000, and then to Andy and Kelly Wood in 2008. Andy and Kelly later leased the Wayside to Clayton and Kelly Vanbrocklin on a land contract. Clayton and Kelly ran the business until its closing on December 31, 2018. Andy and Kelly Wood still own the building, which is currently for sale.

The tavern, in its many years of operation, hosted many functions, such as Toys for Tots, poker runs, football parties, shuffleboard, and horseshoe tournaments. The tavern also sponsored many softball and soccer teams, and was a gathering for hunters and the Knox Memorial Alumni.

The Wayside was certainly a big part of the Russell community and will be missed by many.



Submitted by Richard Knox, Town of Russell Historian
Dates were obtained from the County Archives.