

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

ROANOKE COUNTY, VIRGINIA



Happy New Year! This special edition of *Community Developments* includes information about Roanoke County's first-ever Community Strategic Plan and how you can help shape the County's next five years!

Help Decide Your Community's Future!

As part of its Community Strategic Plan, Roanoke County is seeking residents of all ages, from all corners of the county, to participate in Focus Groups that will guide the future of our community for years to come.



Focus Groups are open to the public and are scheduled to begin meeting in early 2016. We are seeking a diverse group of residents to participate in several broad discussion groups. Up to four evening meetings will be held for each Focus Group between the months of February and April, with the final Community Strategic Plan to be completed in early summer after significant public review and comment.

Focus Group members will develop goals and objectives in several areas that will include topics such as Economic Development, Education, Public Safety, Transportation and other areas.

Learn more about the Community Strategic Plan and sign up for a Focus Group today at www.RoanokeCountyVA.gov/CSP.

In This Issue

Community Strategic Plan
Focus Groups

Planning Commission Update

February 6th - Tons of Fun!

Brambleton Area Business
Association Update

Tips for Homeowners:
Stormwater Best Practices

Consider "Driving Small"

[Planning Commission](#)

January 19 @ 6 p.m.

February 2 @ 7 p.m.*

February 16 @ 6 p.m.

[Board of Supervisors](#)

January 12 @ 3 p.m.

January 26 @ 3 p.m.*

February 9 @ 3 p.m.

February 23 @ 3 p.m.*

*Indicates public hearings
starting at 7 p.m.

Planning Commission Update

December 1st

This meeting was canceled.

December 15th

The Planning Commission reviewed the status of Roanoke County Greenway projects and the [Explore Park Master Plan](#) process with [Roanoke County Parks, Recreation and Tourism](#) Staff.

January 5th

One public hearing was scheduled:

The petition of [Drew Patterson](#) (Verizon Wireless Agent) to obtain a Special Use Permit for a broadcasting tower (cell tower) approximately 150 feet in height in an I-1, Low Intensity Industrial, District on approximately 64.62 acres, located at 7014 Old Mountain Road, Hollins Magisterial District. *The Planning Commission held the public hearing and voted to postpone action until its March 1st meeting.*

January 19th

The Commission will hear a presentation on the [Roanoke County Community Strategic Plan](#) and it will review existing zoning and future land use information.

February 2nd

The agenda for this meeting has not been set.

February 6th - Tons of Fun!

The 17th Annual Event will be held **February 6, 2016 10 AM - 4 PM**

[Roanoke County Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism](#), along with support from [Roanoke County's Department of Economic Development](#) and a wide variety of Roanoke Valley organizations and businesses, present "Tons of Fun" at [Tanglewood Mall](#). This free family fun day of activities include clowns, puppet shows, music, magicians, games, craft activities, caricatures, carnival rides, entertainment and much more spread throughout the Mall. Tons of Fun is designed to enthrall, engage and bring a smile to the faces of children and their families.



Organizations like the [Roanoke County Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism](#), [Camp Roanoke](#), [Goodwill Industries of the Valleys](#), [Mill Mountain Zoo](#), [Virginia Tech](#), [Macaroni Kid Roanoke](#), [Clean Valley Council](#), [Taubman Museum of Art](#), [Roanoke Star Soccer Club](#) and [Roanoke Ballet Theatre](#) are just a few of the organizations that help continue the growth and excitement of this family event.

This annual event held the first Saturday in February is constantly expanding with both new attractions and new exciting entertainment for children. Celebrating the 17th

anniversary will surely bring lots of surprises to this popular event. With over 10,000 attendees each year, you can see that there is sure to be "Tons of Fun" for all. All activities are free, thanks to the sponsorship of [Tanglewood Mall](#), [Roanoke County's Department of Economic Development](#) and [Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism](#). So "Dive into the Fun" and join us!

Brambleton Area Business Association Update

The Brambleton Area Business Association (BABA) met on December 10th. Topics discussed include:

- The membership application is being distributed and dues are being collected
- [BrambletonBusiness.org](#) is the organization's new website
- [The Coffee Pot](#) is being sold
- Resources for businesses include:
 - [ScaleUp Roanoke Valley](#)
 - [SCORE](#) through the [U.S. Small Business Administration](#)
 - [Roanoke Times](#) cooperative advertising options
- A Silent Auction fundraiser will be held at [Potentially Chic](#) on February 11th
- Roanoke County and Roanoke City updates:
 - Da Bella at Springwood Park will have a Grand Opening in January
 - La Petite Fondue (opening in the former Misty Meadows location) will open in January
 - A female cyclist was hit by a car in front of Papa John's
 - Business burglaries are occurring in the area
 - Warning about credit card skimmers on ATMs and fuel pumps

BABA will hold its next meeting on Thursday, January 14th, at 9 a.m. at [Woodlawn United Methodist Church](#).

Changes to Bed and Breakfast Zoning Regulations

In September of last year, the [Roanoke County Board of Supervisors](#) amended the [Roanoke County Zoning Ordinance](#) Use and Design Standards as they relate to the Bed and Breakfast use. The Zoning Ordinance defines a Bed and Breakfast as:

A dwelling in which not more than five (5) bedrooms are provided for overnight guests for compensation, on daily or weekly basis, with or without meals.

The following changes to the [Use and Design Standards](#) allow for more flexibility for the changing market needs for property owners located in the R-1 (Low Density Residential district) and R-2 (Medium Density Residential district) zoning districts:

- One guest sleeping room or accommodation shall be allowed as a by-right use provided that the maximum number of guest occupants does not exceed four guests.
- On lots that are greater than 5 acres in size, a bed and breakfast shall be considered a by-right use.

Please contact Planning Staff by phone at 540-772-2065 or



by [email](#) for more information.

Tips for Homeowners: Stormwater Best Practices

Tips for Homeowners Stormwater Best Practices

Introduction

The County of Roanoke has a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) program to protect and improve water quality in its receiving waters, which includes the Roanoke River and all of its tributaries. Currently, many of these waters are impaired due to excess levels of sediment, bacteria, and PCBs.

Many pollutants from lawns, such as leaf and grass clippings, sediment from bare lawn areas, and nutrients from fertilizers end up in the storm drain system where they are carried - **UNTREATED** - to the nearest receiving waters.

Also, new paved surfaces like rooftops, driveways, and sidewalks associated with the construction of new homes and businesses cause an increase in the volume and velocity of stormwater runoff, because rainwater cannot percolate through such hard surfaces. The result: more flooding and erosion damage on neighboring properties and in local creeks, streams, and rivers.

As part of the County's efforts to protect and improve its local waters, like the Roanoke River, business owners and residents alike are being asked to take a proactive part in protecting water quality and to become part of the bigger effort to clean up these waterways.

By following just a few Best Management Practices (BMPs) on your residential lot, you can make a difference in the quality of stormwater runoff and the receiving waters into which it drains and still have a beautiful new home, complete with a lush, green lawn.

Minimize Stormwater Runoff

To help slow down and decrease the volume of runoff from your property, consider implementing one or more of the following:

- Minimize paved areas.
- Mulch all flower beds.
- Build a rain garden planted with ornamentals.
- Keep lawn areas thick and healthy.
- Convert concentrated runoff from downspouts to sheet flow by directing it to well-vegetated areas, not pavement.
- Where feasible, grade lots to drain toward undisturbed, naturally-vegetated areas, like woods or meadows.

Maintain and Enhance Natural Waterways

- Avoid clearing, grading, and fertilizing directly adjacent to waterways.
- Avoid dumping grass clippings and leaves into waterways, storm drains, curb and gutter systems, ditches, and detention ponds.
- Plant native vegetation along drainage-ways to prevent erosion.

Reuse / Re-direct Rainwater

- Install rain barrels attached to roof downspouts to capture rain for later use to water lawns, gardens, trees, shrubs, and other plants.
- Reusing rainwater decreases the amount of stormwater, nutrients, sediment, and other pollutants that eventually flow to local creeks, streams, and rivers.
- Direct runoff from rooftops, concrete, asphalt, and other impervious areas to lawn areas, instead of into storm drains, to minimize runoff and enhance groundwater recharge.



RAIN BARREL
Photo source: <http://www.epa.gov>

Utilize Proper Erosion and Sediment (E&S) Controls for Residential Land-disturbing Projects

- Sediment from erosion clouds waterways, preventing the growth of aquatic grasses; this adversely affects all other life in such waters.
- Mudlick Creek, Mason Creek, and the Roanoke River are all currently impaired due to sediment. Without use of proper E&S controls for land-disturbing projects, other local waterways may become similarly impaired from excessive sediment.
- Although your landscaping project may not require an Erosion and Sediment Control plan or a land disturbance permit, it is still important to utilize E&S measures to prevent erosion.
- Employ these BMPs to prevent erosion and to protect receiving waters: (1) install silt fence around bare areas, (2) cover dirt or mulch stockpiles when not being used, and (3) install straw mulch or matting over newly seeded areas.

Implement Alternative Lawn Maintenance Practices

- Install grass alternatives like ground cover, plants, shrubs, trees, and perennials to decrease runoff and pollutants, like fertilizer and herbicide, especially in areas with highly erodible soils and steep slopes.
- Utilize slow release fertilizer or till in some compost on lawns.
- Test the soil every year to ensure that the correct amounts of soil amendments are being used.
- Use a Nutrient Management Plan, which is tailor-made for each lawn and details how much fertilizer to use and when to use it.



For questions or more information, contact:
Roanoke County Stormwater Program Manager
540.772.2036
stormwater@roanokecountyva.gov

County of Roanoke · Community Development · Stormwater Management · P. O. Box 29800 · Roanoke, VA 24018
(540) 772-2080

Click on image to access flyer in [Stormwater Public Education Documents](#)

Consider "Driving Small"

This holiday shopping season, you probably read something about the Shop Small movement. This effort promotes the importance of

spending and keeping money in our communities by patronizing our small, locally owned businesses. But if you spent any time over the holidays stuck in rush-hour traffic or circling a mall parking lot looking for a decent space, you've seen another area where our local economies are bleeding money: the gas in our cars.

About 90% of what we spend on every gallon of gas leaves our local economies. According to the [U.S. Energy Information Administration](#), here's how the cost of a gallon of gas breaks down:

- 20% taxes
- 19% distribution and marketing
- 15% refining
- 47% crude oil

About half of what is paid in taxes goes to the Federal gas tax, so really only a little over 10% stays around in the form of state and local taxes. Fully 81% of what you spend on a gallon of gas leaves not only the local economy, but Virginia in some way. Even more importantly, that 47% dedicated to crude oil - much of that is probably leaving the country altogether.

When you save money on your transportation costs by using options like carpooling, bicycling, and taking the bus, that means more money in your pocket - and more money to spend at the amazing local restaurants, shops, and attractions right here in central and southwest Virginia. And every dollar you spend here is more likely to stay here and get spent again and again - about half of every dollar spent at a local business is [reinvested locally](#), versus 14% spent at a chain store.

What are some ways you can drive small to help support the valley's economy? Here are a few ideas:

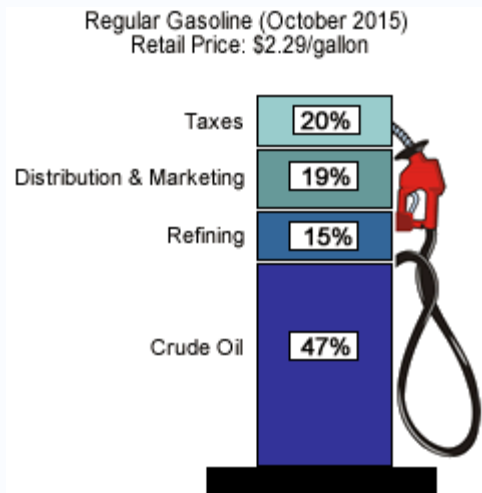
- Carpool to work with your coworkers on Mondays, then use what you save to take everyone to lunch at a local restaurant.
- Buy a monthly bus pass for commuting and other trips. Take what you'll save to visit a local bookstore and buy some reading material for your rides.
- Walk or bike to your neighborhood grocery store rather than driving to a big box store. Use what you'll save to splurge on a local craft brew.

The holiday shopping season may be over, but your commute takes place every day. So, along with shopping small, consider driving small - this winter, and all through the year!

Have a wonderful 2016!

Sincerely,

Megan Cronise, AICP
Principal Planner





Despite the cold, wintry weather there are lots of activities, events, and planning efforts going on around Roanoke County! Join us!

Planning Commission Update

January 5th

One public hearing was scheduled:

The petition of [Drew Patterson](#) (Verizon Wireless Agent) to obtain a Special Use Permit for a broadcasting tower (cell tower) approximately 150 feet in height in an I-1, Low Intensity Industrial, District on approximately 64.62 acres, located at 7014 Old Mountain Road, Hollins Magisterial District. *The Planning Commission voted to continue the public hearing until its March 1st meeting.*

January 19th

The Commission heard a presentation on the [Roanoke County Community Strategic Plan](#) and it reviewed existing zoning and future land use information.

February 2nd

This meeting was canceled.

February 16th

The Planning Commission will receive updates regarding:

1. [House Bill 2](#) transportation projects submitted by Roanoke County and the Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization for funding consideration;
2. January 30th Board of Supervisors Retreat on the [Community Strategic Plan](#); and
3. [Roanoke County Citizen Survey](#) (telephone survey) conducted in November, 2015.

March 1st

One public hearing is continued from January 5th: The petition of [Drew Patterson](#) (Verizon Wireless

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Planning Commission Update

Board of Supervisors Kicks Off Community Strategic Planning Process

Leaders Celebrate Blue Ridge Parkway Trail Repairs and River Access at Ribbon Cutting

February 17th - "Coffee with a Cop"

Tons of Fun had another Great Year!

Brambleton Area Business Association Update

Vote, Comment and Share your Ideas on Transit for the Roanoke Valley Transit Vision Plan!

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Ride Hailing vs. Ride Sharing

[Planning Commission](#)

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March 1 @ 4 p.m.*

March 15 @ 6 p.m.

[Board of Supervisors](#)

February 23 @ 3 p.m.*

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March 22 @ 3 p.m.*

*Indicates public hearings starting at 7 p.m.

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Agent) to obtain a Special Use Permit for a broadcasting tower (cell tower) approximately 150 feet in height in an I-1, Low Intensity Industrial, District on approximately 64.62 acres, located at 7014 Old Mountain Road, Hollins Magisterial District. Additional materials were submitted on February 9th and are available on the [Planning Commission webpage](#).

March 15th

The agenda for this meeting has not been set.

April 5th

One public hearing is scheduled:

The petition of [David B. McClure](#), Apex Towers, LLC to obtain a Special Use Permit for a broadcasting tower (cell tower) approximately 154 feet in height in an I-2, High Intensity Industrial, District on approximately 4.58 acres, located at 5119 Hollins Road, Hollins Magisterial District. Additional materials are available on the [Planning Commission webpage](#).



Board of Supervisors Retreat Kicks off Community Strategic Planning Process

On Saturday, January 30, the Board of Supervisors held a Retreat at the Vinton Library, along with many County Department Directors and key staff, to officially begin the Community Strategic Planning process. The Community Strategic Plan will guide the direction of the County for the next five years. At the Retreat, the Board reviewed the results of the Roanoke County Citizen Survey, a telephone survey prepared by the Roanoke College Institute of Policy and Opinion Research in November, 2015. Dr. Harry L. Wilson, Director of the Institute, explained that the statistically valid survey shows that although Roanoke County citizens enjoy an extremely favorable quality of life and are generally pleased with County services there are some areas of concern that they share. The [Survey Report](#) is available on the [Community Strategic Plan webpage](#).

The Board of Supervisors also worked with Facilitator Christy Dooley to develop a Vision

Statement:

Roanoke County is a vibrant, innovative, and scenic community that values our citizens, heritage and quality of life.

The Vision Statement was informed by the Board's community and personal values and it will guide the strategic planning process as well as future policy decisions.

The Board also confirmed the Focus Group areas and hosts:

Focus Group	Meeting Hosts
Community Health and Well-Being	Supervisor Martha Hooker
Economic Development	Chairman Jason Peters and Supervisor Al Bedrosian
Education	Superintendent of Schools Dr. Gregory Killough
Public Safety	Chairman Jason Peters
Quality of Life	Supervisor Joe McNamara and Supervisor Al Bedrosian
Transportation	Supervisor George Assaid

Over 340 people signed up to participate in Focus Groups. The Focus Groups will collaborate on topics, goals and objectives for the Strategic Plan. Focus Group meetings will be held between February 29 and April 28 at locations around the County. The schedule of times, dates and locations for the Focus Group meetings is available [online](#). These meetings will be open public meetings and citizens are invited to attend.

To learn more about the Community Strategic Planning process and how citizens may participate, visit the [Community Strategic Plan webpage](#).

For additional information please contact Assistant County Administrator Dan O'Donnell by phone at (540) 772-2017 or by [email](#).

Leaders Celebrate Blue Ridge Parkway Trail Repairs and River Access at Ribbon Cutting

United States Congressman Bob Goodlatte, Parkway Superintendent Mark Woods, and Chairman of the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors P. Jason Peters, along with other community leaders and numerous volunteers, gathered today at Milepost 114.9 on the [Blue Ridge Parkway](#) to celebrate the newly rehabilitated Roanoke River Trail access. The ribbon cutting was the final step in a multi-year project to rehabilitate the trail from the overlook to the Roanoke River.

(View the [RVTV Roanoke River Trail Ribbon Cutting & Centennial Hike video](#) documenting the event)

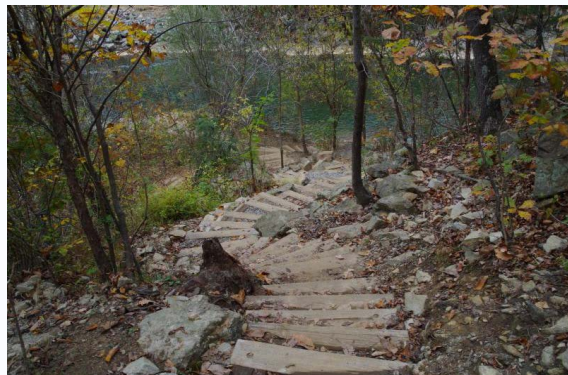
In kind donations from a number of partners were acknowledged as a key component of the projects success. Staff, materials and volunteers from the [National Park Service](#), [Roanoke Valley Greenways](#), [Pathfinders for Greenways](#), [Friends of the Rivers of Virginia](#), [Friends of the Blue Ridge Parkway](#), [Float Fishermen of Virginia](#) and the Creek Freaks of Franklin County contributed over 3000 hours of volunteer time and nearly \$3000 of in-kind materials. Specific improvements at the site include putting in a culvert, re-building the gravel trail surface, installing 206 steps down steep terrain, widening parts of the path, fixing broken handrail and taking measures to reduce erosion from runoff.



Trail Ribbon Cutting

Partnerships like the one in Roanoke were also recognized as important models to the success of the National Park Service's future. As the National Park Service commemorates its 100th Anniversary in 2016, increasingly park units will seek to duplicate these types of partnerships and successful projects. County Board of Supervisor Chairman Jason Peters stated, "The Blue Ridge Parkway - its protection, its maintenance, its programs, its very survival - is dependent on the support of neighboring communities and on partnerships with its friends and neighbors."

In addition, the involvement and presence of partners demonstrates importance of the Roanoke area's growing greenway and trail networks, its regional focus on outdoor recreation, and the importance of connections to the Blue Ridge Parkway. Comments from the speakers highlighted the growing recreation network in the Roanoke Valley, as this trail project creates a linkage from the Parkway to local blue way activities on the Roanoke River.



Reconstructed Steps

At the conclusion of the ribbon cutting event, several project volunteers accompanied Superintendent Woods and Congressman Goodlatte on a short hike of the new trail.

February 17th - "Coffee With a Cop"

On **Wednesday, February 17th**
from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.
officers from the Roanoke County
Police invite community members to
come together at [Mill Mountain](#)
[Coffee and Tea](#), located at **4309**

Starkey Road, to discuss community issues, build relationships, and drink coffee. All community members are invited to attend.

Coffee with a Cop provides a unique opportunity for community members to ask questions and learn more about the Department's work in Roanoke County neighborhoods.


The majority of contacts law enforcement has with the public happen during emergencies, or emotional situations. Those situations are not always the most effective times for relationship building with the community, and some community members may feel that officers are unapproachable on the street. *Coffee with a Cop* breaks down barriers and allows for a relaxed, one-on-one interaction.

Coffee with a Cop is a national initiative supported by the [United States Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services](#). Similar events are being held across the country, as local police departments strive to make lasting connections with the communities they serve.

This program aligns with our mission to engage and unite with our community, allowing officers and community members to build relationships one cup of coffee at a time.


For additional information, contact Assistant Chief of Police Jimmy Chapman by [email](#) or by phone at (540)777-8603.

Mill Mountain Coffee and Tea
and
The Roanoke County Police
proudly host "Coffee with a Cop"



- No agenda
- No speeches
- Ask questions
- Share concerns
- Get to know officers

Wednesday, February 17th
from 8:00 am - 9:30 am
Mill Mountain Coffee and Tea
4309 Starkey Road



Tons of Fun had another Great Year!

Tons of Fun was held on February 6th at [Tanglewood Mall](#) by [Roanoke County Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism](#), along with support from [Roanoke County's Department of Economic Development](#) and a wide variety of Roanoke Valley organizations and businesses. Thank you to all who came out to have "Tons of Fun" with us!

View [RVTV's video](#) featuring this wonderful event!



Brambleton Area Business Association Update

The [Brambleton Area Business Association](#) (BABA) met on January 14th. New topics discussed include:

- Roanoke County [Community Strategic Plan](#)
- A Silent Auction fundraiser will be held at [Potentially Chic](#) on February 11th between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. *This event has since been canceled.*
- Roanoke County and Roanoke City updates:
 - Da Bella at Springwood Park had its Grand Opening on January 15th
 - La Petite Fondue (opening in the former Misty Meadows location) will open in late February
 - A Joint Neighborhood Watch is being organized by both Roanoke City and Roanoke County Police Departments
 - The next Roanoke County Citizen Police Academy class is starting soon
 - There have been three commercial break-ins in Roanoke City recently

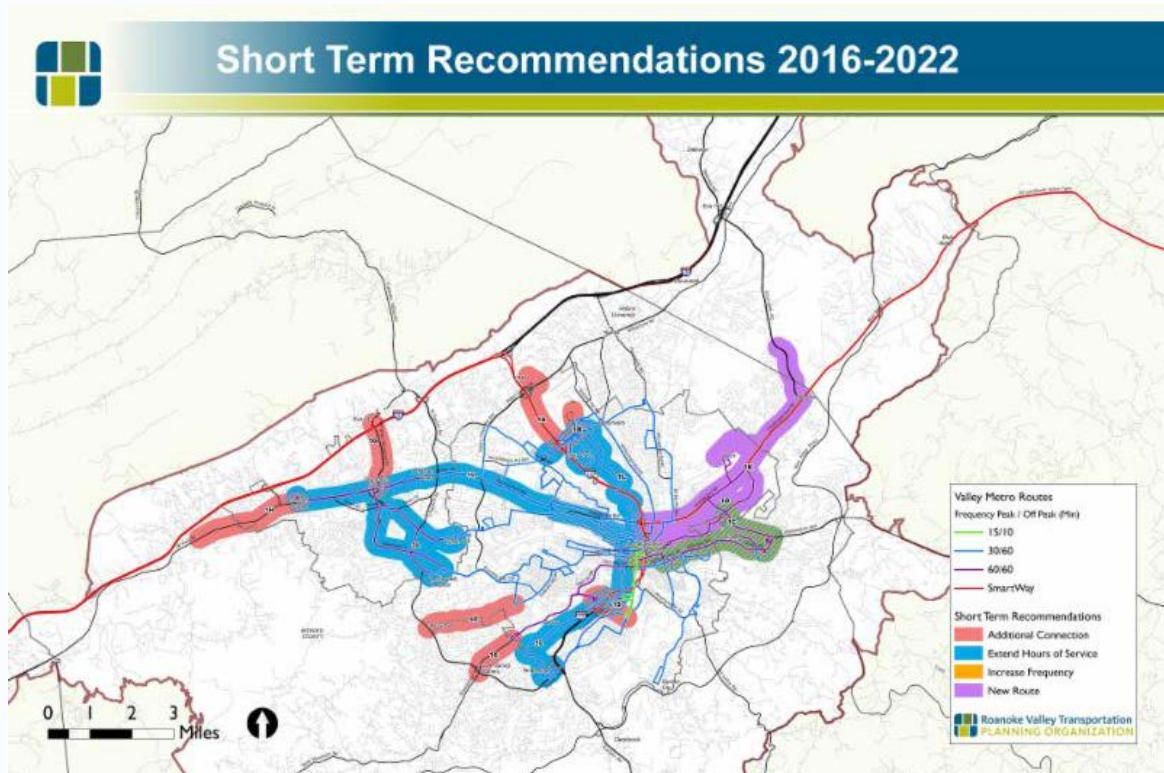
BABA will hold its next meeting on **Thursday, February 11th**, at 9 a.m. at [Woodlawn United Methodist Church](#). Topics will include:

- Presentation by Brian Blevins, VDOT, regarding upcoming Brambleton Avenue milling and paving with a new striping plan to include bicycle lanes
- Discussion with Bart Smith, Director of the Roanoke Regional Small Business Development Center
- Discussion with Luke Curry, Community Development Director for Sam Rasoul's office
- Silent Auction

- BABA Lunch & Learn
- Discussion with Levi Buck regarding Scale-Up Roanoke

Vote, Comment and Share your Ideas on Transit for the Roanoke Valley Transit Vision Plan!

The draft recommendations for the future of transit in the Roanoke Valley are [available for review and comment](#). The Roanoke Valley is not like it was 25 years ago, nor will it be like it is today in 25 years. Will these recommendations help the Roanoke Valley become a more livable community? Please review the recommendations, share your thoughts, and comment on the thoughts of others using an [online forum](#).



Transit Vision Plan Short Term Recommendations (Draft)

For more information on the [Roanoke Valley Transit Vision Plan](#) contact Cristina Finch, Manager of Transit Planning and Programming with the [Roanoke Valley Alleghany Regional Commission](#), by [email](#) or by phone at (540)343-4417.

What is a Home Occupation?

The [Roanoke County Zoning Ordinance](#) allows certain small-scaled businesses and occupations to be conducted in a dwelling

unit as a Home Occupation accessory use provided a number of standards are met. The character and scale of such commercial activities must be subordinate and incidental to the principal use (residential dwelling), and must be consistent with the residential character of the property and/or the surrounding neighborhood. Some examples of permitted home occupations are:



- Office space for contractors working off-site,
- Computer-based services,
- Authors,
- Lessons in the applied arts, or
- Artists and crafters.

A limited number of employees, clients and customers are permitted depending upon the type of Home Occupation permitted.

Roanoke County has two different home occupation classifications based on the zoning of the property:

- **Type I** is defined as, "a home occupation of an intensity suitable for the more densely established residential areas typically found in the urban service areas of the county."
- **Type II** is defined as, "a home occupation of an intensity suitable for agricultural and rural areas of the county".

A [Business License](#) is required for all Home Occupation businesses and is issued by the [Roanoke County Commissioner of Revenue's office](#). The [Business License Zoning Compliance Checklist](#) must be completed as part of the Business License Application and it is reviewed and issued by the [Department of Community Development](#). The Zoning Compliance Checklist covers the [Home Occupation Use and Design Standards](#) that must be satisfied.

If you have any questions concerning zoning designations or requirements, please contact [Roanoke County Planning and Zoning](#) by phone at 540-772-2068 extension 221 or [by email](#). If you have any questions concerning Business Licenses or tax issues, please contact the [Commissioner of the Revenue's Office](#) by phone at 540-2046 ext.108.

Ride Hailing vs. Ride Sharing

By now, you're no doubt familiar with apps like Uber and Lyft. These, and a growing number of similar apps, are great additions to the transportation marketplace, filling in gaps in service in many communities, and providing new or competitive services in others.

Often, these apps refer to themselves, or are referred to in the media, as ride sharing services. However, this is not precisely true - and in Virginia, knowing exactly what is and is not a ridesharing service has important legal implications.



In Virginia, the term ride sharing is specifically reserved for folks who may be sharing a ride in a trip that at least one of them had already planned on taking, and for which no one is making a profit. Money is allowed to change hands in this situation, but only insofar as people in the ride sharing arrangement do so to compensate the driver for regular trip expenses, such as paying for their share of gas. Most often, this means participation in a traditional carpooling to work scenario, though other kinds of carpools - such as school pools or shopping pools - also qualify.

Uber and apps like it are more accurately called ride hailing apps. In most cases, the people who are driving for these services are doing so for-profit and are taking trips they would not normally take. When you get on your smartphone to request an Uber, you're not asking to sit in a ride that someone was already planning on taking, you're asking someone to come pick you up and deliver you somewhere. In this, they are closer to traditional taxi services than ride sharing services.

This is important, because in Virginia - and in other states where ride sharing is specifically defined - participants in a ride sharing arrangement don't have to worry about the same insurance and liability issues that someone would have to as a driver for Uber or other ride hailing service.

[RIDE Solutions](#) has been providing carpool matching services in the Roanoke Valley and beyond since 2001. While questions about insurance and liability have always been asked, the presence of new and exciting mobility tools has caused a little more confusion about the answer. Since participation in RIDE Solutions, either as a commuter or as an employer promoting carpooling, is voluntary and does not encourage trips for profit, it - and programs like it across the Commonwealth - meet the definition of ride sharing as described in the Code of Virginia.

So, not to worry: starting or joining a carpool is as hassle-free as it's ever been, and with new mobility apps coming into play in the region, it's easier than ever to get where you need to go in the Roanoke Valley.

Have a great month!

Sincerely,

Megan Cronise, AICP
Principal Planner



March Community Developments

Spring is coming with warmer weather on the way! Consider helping to plan Roanoke County's future by participating in a Focus Group. Additionally, several of our features include biking, running and cleaning up both inside and outside! Enjoy this month's edition of *Community Developments*!

Planning Commission Update

February 2nd

This meeting was canceled.

February 16th

This meeting was canceled due to inclement weather.

March 1st

One public hearing was continued from January 5th: The petition of [Drew Patterson](#) (Verizon Wireless Agent) to obtain a Special Use Permit for a broadcasting tower (cell tower) approximately 150 feet in height in an I-1, Low Intensity Industrial, District on approximately 64.62 acres, located at 7014 Old Mountain Road, Hollins Magisterial District. Additional materials were submitted on February 9th and are available on the [Planning Commission webpage](#). *The Planning Commission voted to recommend approval of this application. The Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on March 22nd.*

March 15th

The Planning Commission will receive updates on the following topics:

1. [House Bill 2](#) transportation projects submitted by Roanoke County and the Roanoke Valley

In This Issue

Planning Commission Update

Community Strategic Plan
Focus Groups Begin

March 16th - Give Big! Support
the Greenways!

April 22nd - Moonlight
Bootlegger 5K at Explore Park!

May 14th - 10th Annual Gallop
for the Greenways

Brambleton Avenue Repaving
Project with Bicycle Lanes

Brambleton Area Business
Association Update

It's time for Spring Cleaning!

Yard Management 101:
Protecting Stormwater from
Fertilizer Pollution

Ready for a Bike Ride?

[Planning Commission](#)

March 15 @ 6 p.m.

April 5 @ 4 p.m.*

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[Board of Supervisors](#)

March 8 @ 3 p.m.

March 22 @ 3 p.m.*

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April 26 @ 3 p.m.*

*Indicates public hearings
starting at 7 p.m.

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- Transportation Planning Organization for funding consideration;
2. January 30th Board of Supervisors Retreat on the [Community Strategic Plan](#); and
 3. [Roanoke County Citizen Survey](#) (telephone survey) conducted in November, 2015.

April 5th

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April 19th

The agenda for this meeting has not been set.



Community Strategic Plan Focus Groups Begin

On Monday, February 29th, the first round of meetings were held for the Community Health and Well-Being, Education, Public Safety and Quality of Life Focus Groups with 116 interested citizens in attendance. **The Economic Development and Transportation Focus Groups will meet on Thursday, March 3rd.** These Focus Group meetings are an important step in shaping Roanoke County's first-ever Community Strategic Plan. Monday night's Focus Group participants provided excellent ideas and formulated broad strategic topics. Goals and objectives will be created for each topic in future meetings. Collectively, this information will become the blueprint for how our community will grow over the next five years.

We look forward to the Thursday evening meetings with the Economic Development and Transportation Focus Groups:

- **Economic Development** will meet Thursday, March 3rd, at 7 p.m. at the South County Library, 6303 Merriman Road, Roanoke, VA 24018
- **Transportation** will meet Thursday, March 3rd, at 7 p.m. at the Vinton War Memorial, 814 East Washington Avenue, Vinton, VA 24179

We encourage all participants to attend all of the Focus Group meetings. We also encourage interested citizens who were unable to attend the first meetings to join us for future meetings to contribute to this exciting public engagement process. Your ideas are appreciated and important for your community's success.

The second round of Focus Group meetings will be held on March 14th and 17th. For details about upcoming meetings, visit the [Focus Group webpage](#).

To learn more about the Community Strategic Planning process and how you can get involved, visit the [Community Strategic Plan webpage](#).

For additional information please contact Assistant County Administrator and Community Strategic Plan Coordinator Dan O'Donnell by phone at (540) 772-2017 or by [email](#).

March 16th - Give Big! Support the Greenways!

Non-profits in the Roanoke region are joining with [Foundation for Roanoke Valley](#) for a "givebig" day on March 16. [Pathfinders for Greenways](#) is one such group. Pathfinders works with the [Roanoke Valley Greenway Commission](#) and assists Roanoke County by building trails like those at Green Hill Park, Read Mountain, and Tinker Creek at Hollins University. Its most recent project involved constructing 206 steps to from the Blue Ridge Parkway to the Roanoke River.

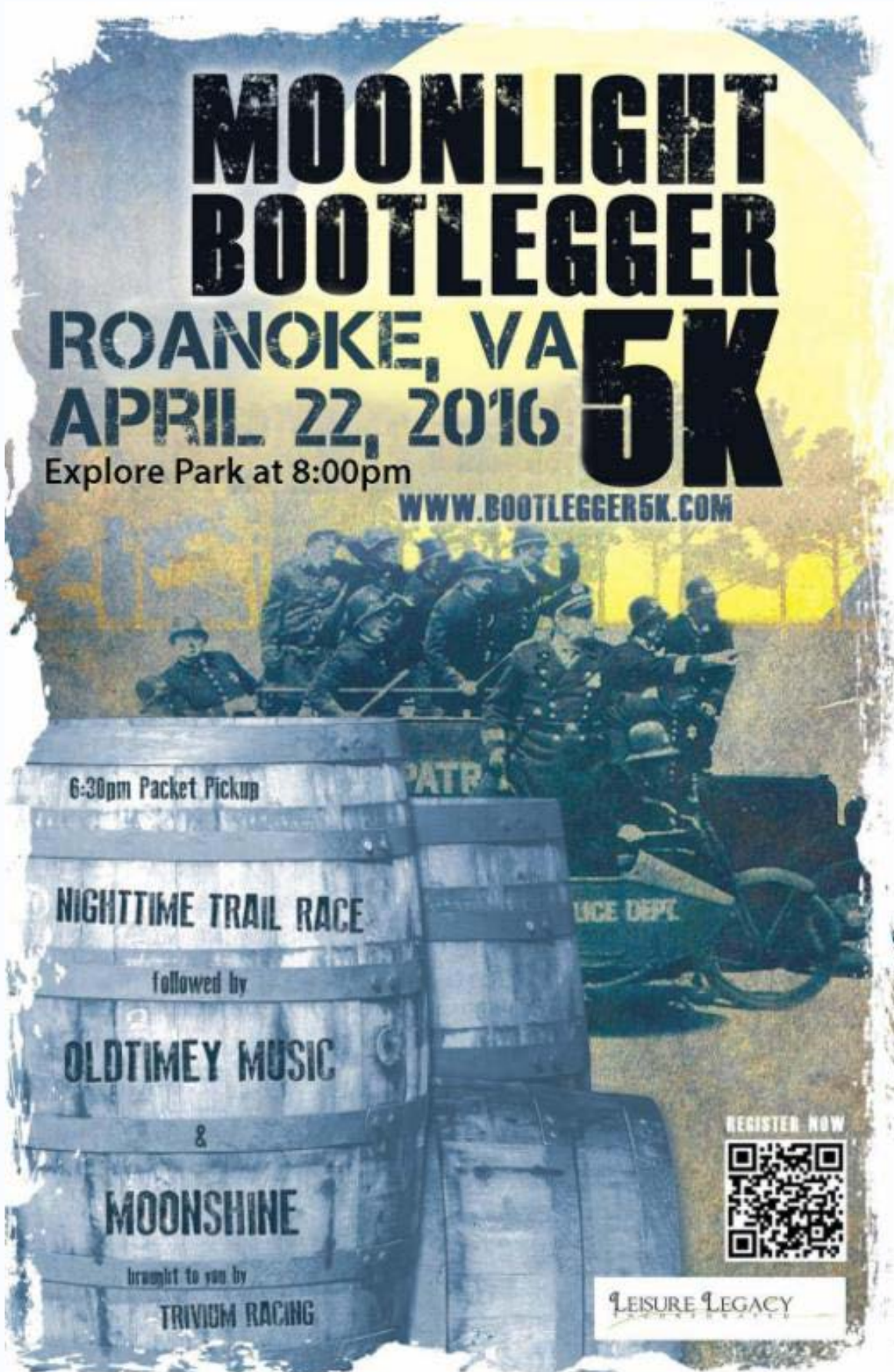
Plan to give back to greenways and trails in the Roanoke Valley by making a donation. You can donate now and have it "scheduled" for March 16th to be part of the big day and help us win incentive prizes.

Thank you for supporting our greenways!



New Steps to the Roanoke River

April 22nd - Moonlight Bootlegger 5K at Explore Park!



**MOONLIGHT
BOOTLEGGER**

ROANOKE, VA

APRIL 22, 2016

Explore Park at 8:00pm

5K

WWW.BOOTLEGGER5K.COM

6:30pm Packet Pickup

NIGHTTIME TRAIL RACE

followed by

OLDTIMEY MUSIC


&

MOONSHINE

brought to you by

TRIVIAM RACING

REGISTER NOW



LEISURE LEGACY

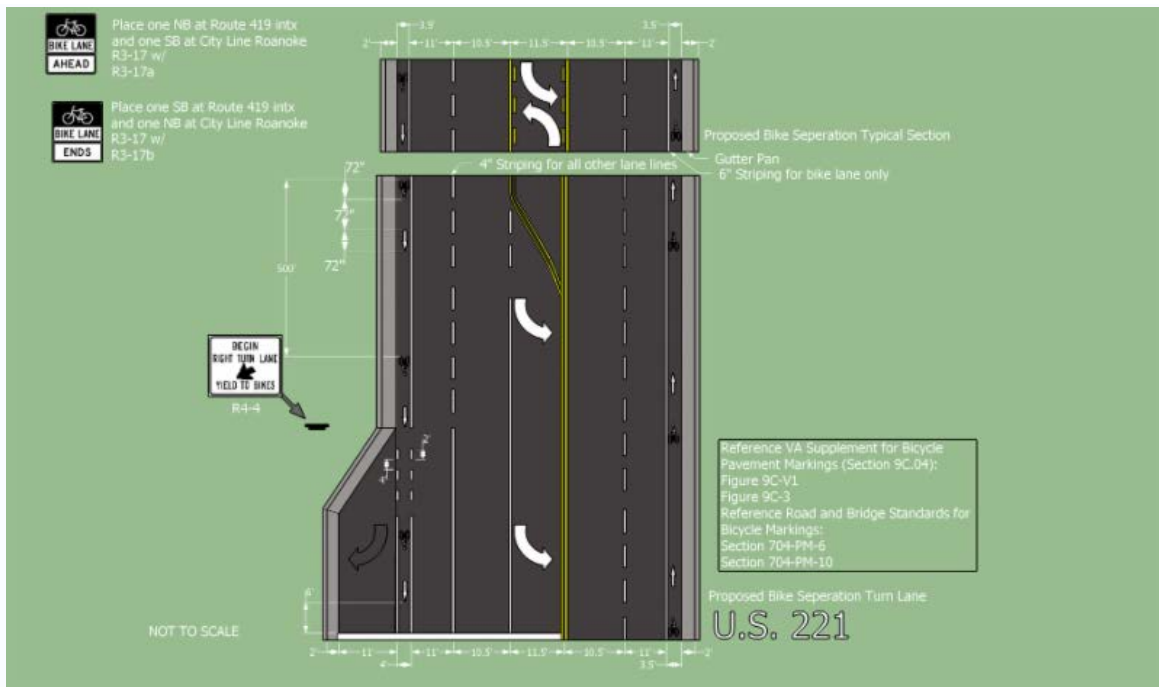
May 14th - 10th Annual Gallop for the Greenways



Come out for [Gallop for the Greenways](#) - the only race that gives all proceeds to greenways! This year there is a Kids' Race, 5k, and a 5-Miler. This race is unusual in that it is in the evening, followed by a party, with a band, beer, and food. Register for the race and come on down to celebrate 10 years of growing greenways! www.gallop4thegreenways.com

Brambleton Avenue Repaving Project with Bicycle Lanes

The [Virginia Department of Transportation](#) is planning to repave a large section of Brambleton Avenue this year. The planned project consists of milling and overlaying the existing pavement of Brambleton Avenue from the Roanoke City Limits to the intersection with Electric Road. The new pavement will be striped to allow for bicycle lanes in both directions by narrowing the lanes and the two-way left turn lane. Bicycle lane pavement markings and signing will be added to further delineate the area and make motorists aware of the presence of bicycles. The repaving project will be completed this year.



Click for larger PDF

Brian Blevins, VDOT Area Land Use Engineer, presented the project to the [Brambleton Area Business Association](#) at its February meeting.

Brambleton Area Business Association Update

The [Brambleton Area Business Association](#) (BABA) met on February 11th. New topics discussed include:

- Brian Blevins, VDOT Area Land Use Engineer, discussed a Brambleton Avenue repaving project planned for Electric Road to the Roanoke City line which will include restriping the road with narrower lanes to accommodate bicycle lanes.
- Bart Smith with the [Roanoke Regional Small Business Development Center](#) spoke about how the SBDC can assist small businesses.
- Luke Curry with Delegate Sam Rasoul's office discussed [shopnoke.com](#) which is a free resource for local businesses to sell goods and services.
- BABA's first Lunch & Learn will be held on March 23rd at Carlos; contact Mike Shelton to sign up.
- Roanoke County and Roanoke City updates:
 - La Petite Fondue (opening in the former Misty Meadows location) should open in March
 - A Joint Neighborhood Watch is being organized by both Roanoke City and Roanoke County Police Departments; the group will meet *tentatively* at Woodlawn United Methodist Church on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7 p.m.
 - The Career, Lifestyle and Financial Fitness Fair will be held at the Berglund Center on April 27th
 - Joint City/County Workshops are being held with Sandy Ratliff, [Virginia Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity](#), at the South County Library

BABA will hold its next meeting on **Thursday, March 10th**, at 9 a.m. at [Woodlawn United Methodist Church](#).

It's time for Spring Cleaning!

It's that time of year again, the weather is warming up, and it's time to start your spring cleaning routines. However, if you are getting rid of things that are needlessly filling up your home, there are many options available to property owners:

Recycle it: Roanoke County currently offers [several recycling drop off locations](#) in addition to the Tinker Creek Transfer Stations.

Sell it and Donate it: Garage sales or consignment shops are an option. Roanoke County allows garage or yard sales provided that such sales occur no more than two days in a two month period. Please call Roanoke County Community Development at 540-772-2068 for more information.

Dispose of it: If you choose to dispose of materials or household items, please refer to Roanoke County General Services [Bulk and Brush Collection information](#).

You may also call [General Services](#) at 540-387-6225 for further information.



Yard Management 101: Protecting Stormwater from Fertilizer Pollution

With spring just around the corner, now is a good time to brush up on the proper lawn fertilizing techniques to protect stormwater. But what does fertilizing have to do with stormwater pollution?

Excess fertilizer on lawns runs off of the land surface when it rains, polluting nearby creeks and streams. In fact, pollution from nutrient (i.e., fertilizer) runoff is one of the most severe problems facing local waterways. Runoff that carries excess nutrients causes excess algae growth, which reduces water clarity and decreases dissolved oxygen. This stresses fish and other aquatic plants and animals.

So, what is a yard owner to do? Certainly most of us want to have a beautiful, green lawn.

There are quite a few Best Management Practices (BMPs) that you can employ to ensure you have a lush, green lawn while protecting local waters from harmful, polluted runoff. Follow these easy steps:



- Apply fertilizer ONLY when your lawn is actively growing.
- Test your soil to determine how much fertilizer it actually needs.
- Fertilize just enough to get a dense stand of grass; this helps to prevent erosion and retain nutrients.
- Use slow-release nitrogen fertilizer, so it is there when the grass needs it.
- Set mower height to at least 3 inches to strengthen and deepen the root system.
- Retain clippings and mulched leaves on the lawn to add organic matter, which improves infiltration and soil health.
- Immediately sweep excess fertilizer from paved surfaces onto lawn areas.
- Do not apply fertilizer within 15 feet of a ditch, creek, stream, or river.
- Help stormwater infiltrate into the soil by aerating and topdressing it with 1/4 inch of compost once or twice a year when the grass is actively growing.
- Install rain gardens, permeable pavers, and rain barrels to reduce runoff.

Ready for a Bike Ride?

A few warm days in March have already got us thinking about Spring - and bicycles! Regardless of whether you are a veteran trail rider, a casual bike commuter, or a novice greenway tourist, it's hard not to look forward to getting outside.

If you're looking at sunny days ahead to get out on the bike for the first time, there are a few things you can do to get ready while there's still a chill in the air:

- **Give your bike a tune-up:** Like any vehicle, bicycles need regular maintenance to keep running their best. There are a few basic things you should do to make sure your bike is road ready: oil the chain, check the brakes, and inflate your tires to the appropriate pressure (as printed on the outside of the tube).



This YouTube video gives you a good rundown of some bike maintenance basics: <https://goo.gl/BJyA3Q>.

If you're not comfortable performing the maintenance yourself, a quick trip to your local bike shop can take of that, generally for a pretty reasonable rate depending on the service to be done.

- **Plan a route:** If you are bike commuting or just looking for a nice recreational ride, good route planning will help make sure you don't end up in an unsafe situation, riding on roads that you might not be comfortable sharing with automobiles.

Smartphone apps like Strava and MapMyRide allow you to browse routes that other riders have created and shared, even comparing skill levels and riding times so you make sure you are riding a route you'll be comfortable with. You can also check with your local bike club. The Blue Ridge Bicycle Club, for example, has members and rides all over the Roanoke Valley. They can help connect you to group rides or

riding routes that are best for you. Visit them at <http://brbcva.org/>.

Finally, if you are a new bike commuter, RIDE Solutions can help you find a safe route through our online Safe Bike Route Request form. We'll look at greenways, bike lanes, low traffic streets, even park-and-bike options to help you get where you're going as safe as possible. Visit <http://ridesolutions.org/commuters/bike-walk/> to request a route.

No matter if you're a longtime road warrior or a cycling newbie, a little planning and preparation will make sure your spring riding is as safe, comfortable, and fun as possible.

For more information about bicycle commuting and transportation options in general, visit www.ridesolutions.org or call 540-342-9393.

Have another great month!

Sincerely,

Megan Cronise, AICP
Principal Planner



April Community Developments

Welcome Spring! Check out several opportunities to get outside in this month's *Community Developments* newsletter!

Planning Commission Update

March 1st

One public hearing was continued from January 5th: The petition of [Drew Patterson](#) (Verizon Wireless Agent) to obtain a Special Use Permit for a broadcasting tower (cell tower) approximately 150 feet in height in an I-1, Low Intensity Industrial, District on approximately 64.62 acres, located at 7014 Old Mountain Road, Hollins Magisterial District. Additional materials were submitted on February 9th and are available on the [Planning Commission webpage](#). *The Planning Commission voted to recommend approval of this application. The Board of Supervisors approved the application on March 22nd.*

March 15th

The Planning Commission received updates on the following topics:

1. [House Bill 2](#) transportation projects submitted by Roanoke County and the Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization for funding consideration;
2. January 30th Board of Supervisors Retreat on the [Community Strategic Plan](#); and
3. [Roanoke County Citizen Survey](#) (telephone survey) conducted in November, 2015.

April 5th

One public hearing is scheduled: The petition of [David B. McClure](#), Apex Towers, LLC to obtain a Special Use Permit for a broadcasting tower (cell tower) approximately 154 feet in height in an I-2, High Intensity Industrial, District on approximately 4.58 acres, located at 5119 Hollins Road, Hollins

In This Issue

Planning Commission Update

Community Strategic Plan Update

April 9th - 38th Annual Clean Valley Day!

April 11th - Friendship Living Community Meeting

April 16th - Explore Park Visitor Center Opens for the Season

April 22nd - Moonlight Bootlegger 5K at Explore Park!

May 2nd to 8th - Williamson Road Restaurant Week

May 14th - 10th Annual Gallop for the Greenways

Brambleton Area Business Association Update

Grass: How Tall is Too Tall?

Minimizing Mosquitos Around the Home

Take the Clean Commute Challenge!

[Planning Commission](#)

April 5 @ 4 p.m.*

April 19 @ 6 p.m.

May 3 @ 4 p.m.*

May 17 @ 6 p.m.

[Board of Supervisors](#)

April 12 @ 3 p.m.

April 26 @ 3 p.m.*

May 10 @ 3 p.m.

May 24 @ 3 p.m.*

*Indicates public hearings starting at 7 p.m.

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Magisterial District. Additional materials are available on the [Planning Commission webpage](#).

April 19th

The Commission will hear a presentation on the draft [Roanoke Valley Transit Vision Plan](#) from [Roanoke Valley Alleghany Regional Commission](#) Staff.

May 3rd

Two public hearings are scheduled:

1. The petition of [Star City Church of Christ](#) to obtain a Special Use Permit in a C-2, High Intensity Commercial, District for the operation of religious assembly on approximately 1.21 acres, located at 5933 Williamson Road, Hollins Magisterial District.
2. The petition of [Julie Abernethy, Friendship Apartment Village Corp.](#), to obtain a Special Use Permit in a C-2CS, High Intensity Commercial, District with conditions and special use permit for outdoor gatherings on approximately 10.51 acres, located at 450 Springbeauty Street and Florist Road, Hollins Magisterial District. *A Community Meeting is scheduled for April 11th from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. See the [Community Meeting Notice](#) for additional information.*



Community Strategic Plan Update

To date, over 250 people have participated in the first and second Focus Group meetings. The input received has been outstanding and is compiled on the [Focus Group webpage](#). In the first and second meetings, participants created and prioritized topics and goals for each of the six focus areas.

Focus Group Meeting #3

The third round of Focus Group meetings will be held on April 4th and April 7th. In the third meetings, participants will identify specific objectives for each goal. The meetings are open to the public and everyone is invited to attend.

Monday, April 4th 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Location
Community Health and Well-Being	Social Services Building, 2nd Floor Conference Room 220 East Main Street, Salem, VA 24153
Education	Northside High School 6758 Northside High School Road, Roanoke, VA 24019
Public Safety	South County Library 6303 Merriman Road, Roanoke, VA 24018
Quality of Life	Glenvar Middle School Forum, 4555 Malus Drive, Salem, VA 24153
Thursday, April 7th 7:00 p.m. - 9:00p.m.	Location
Economic Development	Vinton War Memorial 814 East Washington Avenue, Vinton, VA 24179
Transportation	Public Safety Center , Emergency Operations Center (2nd Floor) 5925 Cove Road, Roanoke, VA 24019

Please note that the schedule for the remainder of the process has changed slightly.

Focus Group Meeting #4

When the third Focus Group meetings conclude, County staff will be using the Focus Group meeting input to compile Strategic Initiatives which will form the main content of the *Community Strategic Plan*. The fourth Focus Group meetings will be held to present the proposed Strategic Initiatives and to receive feedback. The meetings will be identical so Focus Group participants may attend either meeting. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.

Date and Time	Location
Monday, April 25th 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	South County Library 6303 Merriman Road, Roanoke, VA 24018
Thursday, April 28th 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Vinton War Memorial 814 East Washington Avenue, Vinton, VA 24179

Next Steps

After the Focus Group meetings have concluded, the next steps include:

1. Drafting the *Community Strategic Plan* document;
2. Posting the draft *Community Strategic Plan* online in June for public review and comment;
3. Hosting community meetings in June for additional public comment;
4. Presenting the *Community Strategic Plan* in a Board of Supervisors work session in July; and
5. Holding a public hearing with Board of Supervisors action in August.

To learn more about the *Community Strategic Plan* process and how you can get involved, visit the [Community Strategic Plan webpage](#).

Thank you to all who have participated thus far and we look forward to working with you in the upcoming weeks. For additional information please contact Assistant County Administrator and Community Strategic Plan Coordinator Dan O'Donnell by phone at (540) 772-2017 or by [email](#).

April 9th - 38th Annual Clean Valley Day!

The [Clean Valley Council's](#) (CVC) 38th Annual Clean Valley Day will be held on **April 9, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. until noon**. Individuals and groups are welcome to volunteer for this annual spring cleanup, which is a valley-wide clean up event to promote respect and care for the beautiful community we share.

It is a fun, team-building opportunity for corporations, civic organizations, youth and church groups. So, let's get going! Pick your spot - a park, playground, roadside, stream bank or your very own neighborhood. Help get rid of the litter and keep it out of our precious waterways, from the Roanoke River all the way to the Albemarle Sound! Let's make Roanoke Valley a cleaner, healthier place for all.



Bags and gloves will be provided by the CVC at the Sunshine Station in front of Troutville Park. For more information and to sign up a cleaning crew, call 819-6335, or visit the [Clean Valley Council website](#).

April 11th - Friendship Living Community Meeting

A Community Meeting will be held on April 11th at the Roanoke County Fire Station #1, 150 Hersherberger Road, to provide information about a land use application filed by [Friendship Living](#) requesting a special use permit to hold a series of outdoor gatherings (five summer concerts from May to September) on approximately 10.51 acres located at 450 Springbeauty Street, in the Hollins Magisterial District. **The meeting will be an Open House Format, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.** See the [Community Meeting Notice](#) for additional details.

April 16th - Explore Park Visitor Center Opens for the Season

The Blue Ridge Parkway Visitor Center at Explore Park, just off the Blue Ridge Parkway at MP115, will open for the season on Saturday, April 16. It will be open daily from 9:00AM to 5:00PM through Sunday, November 5. The facility features a unique gift shop, a museum highlighting

frontier culture in Southwest Virginia, an audiovisual presentation about the history of the Parkway as well as knowledgeable Visitor Center staff to answer all of your questions about the Blue Ridge Parkway and Roanoke Valley.



Visitor Center Gift Shop

This year the Visitor Center gift shop will carry a wide range of hand-crafted items from local and regional artisans including jewelry, pottery, art, carved wooden items, quilted crafts, autographed books from local authors, jams, candies, fun items for children, post cards and more. Also available for purchase will be a variety of snacks, beverages, Blue Ridge Parkway memorabilia and unique items created exclusively for sale at Explore Park. Come for a visit and look for special pricing on select items during opening weekend at the park.

Artisan Saturdays

Explore Park will once again host the 2nd Annual Artisan Saturdays series. Mark your calendars for **June 4, August 13 and November 5** and come visit the park for a day full of FREE fun. Artisan demonstrations, live music, clogging, children's crafts, food, fresh baked goods, and informative presentations will be available for visitors to experience. Artisans from Southwest Virginia whose work reflects both creativity and quality craftsmanship will be available for questions during the demonstrations. Additionally, their original pieces of work will be for sale. Each Artisan Saturday is unique and will provide tons of memory making family fun. Make a whole day of it and take advantage of Explore Park's hiking and biking trails and view the historical buildings at the park. Bring the fishing gear and fishing license to spend an hour or two on the Roanoke River or visit the museum located in the Visitor Center.

For more information regarding Explore Park or Artisan Saturdays please call the Visitor Center at (540) 427.1800 or visit us on the web at www.explorepark.org.

April 22nd - Moonlight Bootlegger 5K at Explore Park!

MOONLIGHT BOOTLEGGER

ROANOKE, VA

APRIL 22, 2016

5K

Explore Park at 8:00pm

WWW.BOOTLEGGER5K.COM

6:30pm Packet Pickup

NIGHTTIME TRAIL RACE

followed by

OLDTIMEY MUSIC

&

MOONSHINE

brought to you by

TRIVIUM RACING

REGISTER NOW



LEISURE LEGACY
EXPERIENCES

Click for Additional Information

May 2nd to 8th - Williamson Road Restaurant Week



Join the [Williamson Road Area Business Association](http://www.wraba.org) in celebrating the diversity of cuisine and culture represented on Williamson Road! Here we have 36 restaurants representing over 9 cultures from American to Greek, Korean, Mexican and more! Visit www.wraba.org and look for the Restaurant Week button that will be activated on May 2nd. Browse the restaurants and their specials and go! It is so easy and tasty you will want to choose a different restaurant each day of the week!

Williamson Road has been celebrating Restaurant Week since October 2013 at least once, if not twice a year. This is a great time to try a new place and see all of the businesses along Williamson Road who are ready to serve you. Be a part of the fun!

May 14th - 10th Annual Gallop for the Greenways



Come out for [Gallop for the Greenways](http://www.gallop4thegreenways.com) - the only race that gives all proceeds to greenways! This year there is a Kids' Race, 5k, and a 5-Miler. This race is unusual in that it is in the evening, followed by a party, with a band, beer, and food. Register for the race and come on down to celebrate 10 years of growing greenways!

www.gallop4thegreenways.com

Brambleton Area Business Association Update

The [Brambleton Area Business Association](#) (BABA) met on March 10th. New topics discussed include:

- John Hunter with [SCORE](#) discussed resources available to help small businesses grow
- Ronald Fulcher with [The Roanoke Times](#) discussed advertising opportunities
- A Lunch and Learn will be held on March 23rd at Carlos on the topic of how to protect your business
- Roanoke County and Roanoke City updates:
 - La Petite Fondue is open!
 - Mr. Bill's Wine Cellar is holding a Grand Opening on March 31st at 11 a.m.
 - The Coffee Pot is celebrating
 - The Career, Lifestyle and Financial Fitness Fair will be held at the Berglund Center on April 27th
 - Grandin Court Baptist Church is holding its 13th Annual Road and Trail Challenge 5K/10K Race on May 14th at 8 a.m.
 - Woodlawn United Methodist Church is holding multiple events for Easter
 - Roanoke City Police reported that there was one larceny on Brambleton Avenue in February and there have been no larcenies in March; RPD can also perform threat assessments for businesses
 - Roanoke County and City Police are holding a joint neighborhood watch meeting on April 11th at Woodlawn United Methodist Church
 - A Help Save the Next Girl vigil will be held at Woodlawn United Methodist Church on April 16th

BABA will hold its next meeting on **Thursday, April 14th**, at 9 a.m. at [Woodlawn United Methodist Church](#).

Grass: How Tall is Too Tall?

It's the time of year to clean off your lawn mower! Remember that any plant, grass or other vegetation covering a substantial portion of a parcel zoned for residential, business, commercial or industrial use **must be kept shorter than 12 inches tall**. Taller than 12 inches? Please visit the new neighborhood concern submission form:

www.RoanokeCountyVA.govZoningApp



Minimizing Mosquitoes Around the Home

Mosquitoes not only inflict painful bites that itch, these pesky insects can also transmit a variety of dangerous diseases, including West Nile virus, heart worms for dogs, dengue fever, eastern and western equine encephalitis, chikungunya virus, malaria, and Zika virus, among others. The West Nile virus has been detected in all of the lower 48 states and most



of the other listed diseases can be contracted when traveling overseas. For specific information on these and other mosquito-borne diseases, refer to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website](#).

Tips to Limit Mosquito Breeding

Adult mosquitoes lay their eggs in slow-moving or ponding water and on moist soil or leaf litter in areas likely to collect water. The best way to limit mosquito production is to eliminate such water sources.

- Keep all outdoors garbage or recycling containers covered to keep water out.
- Keep gutters clean and unclogged. Be sure downspouts properly drain and do not leave puddles in the drainage area. Reroute downspouts or add extensions to carry water away from buildings.
- Keep swimming pools cleaned and chlorinated, even when not in use. Homeowners who go on vacation without chlorinating their pools may return to find a mosquito hatchery.
- After rain, look for areas in the landscape that are not draining well. If puddles remain for four or more days, re-grade the area.
- Aerate ornamental ponds to keep water moving, which will discourage mosquitoes from laying eggs. Also, consider stocking the pond with mosquito-eating fish.
- Dump standing water in bird baths, non-chlorinated wading pools, garbage can lids, buckets, pet bowls, flower pot saucers, and pottery at least twice a week, as these items will all attract breeding mosquitoes.

What is the best way to prevent mosquito bites?

- Wear insect repellent! When used as directed, insect repellent is the BEST way to protect yourself from mosquito bites - even for children and pregnant women. Higher percentages of the active ingredient provide longer lasting protection. Here are some repellents to consider:
 - DEET: Products containing DEET include Cutter, OFF!, and Skintastic.
 - Picaridin (also known as KBR 3023, Bayrepel, and Icaridin). Products containing picaridin include Cutter Advanced, Skin So Soft Bug Guard Plus, and Autan (outside the United States).
 - Oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE): Repel contains OLE.
 - IR3535: Products containing IR3535 include Skin So Soft Bug Guard Plus Expedition and SkinSmart.
- Cover up. Wear long-sleeved shirts and pants, if possible.
- Keep mosquitoes outside. Use air conditioning or ensure that window and door screens are in good repair.
- Research before traveling. Learn about your destination's specific health risks by visiting the [CDC Travelers' Health website](#).

Take the Clean Commute Challenge!



Each year, RIDE Solutions challenges area commuters to take miles off our region's roads by exploring their commute options. And each year, commuters throughout the Roanoke Valley and beyond find creative ways of avoiding tens of thousands of miles worth of trips.

If you haven't participated before, either as an individual or an organization, now is your chance to help make the Roanoke Valley a cleaner, safer, and more prosperous place to live - just by picking one day during the month to leave your car behind and use alternative transportation.

To participate, visit ridesolutions.org/cleancommute to log in to your existing account or create a new one.

How Does the Pledge Work?

You can participate in the Clean Commute Challenge in two ways:

1. Simply take our online pledge to try biking, walking, using public transportation, or telecommuting instead of driving to work. Taking the pledge illustrates your commitment to exploring your commute options - and makes you eligible for weekly prize drawings and other rewards!
2. Throughout May, log any clean trip you take at ridesolutions.org. You can log commute trips, social trips, trips to the grocery store, dining, even business meetings. Log as an individual or part of a team. Logged trips earn you extra entries into weekly contests; and, if you are part of a Clean Commute Team, the chance to win a free breakfast from Breadcraft!

Why Take the Challenge?

Using alternative transportation can have a positive impact on almost every aspect of our community. For example:

1. Saving you money: carpooling, taking the bus, and cycling all cut your commute costs in half or more - that means more money in your pocket!
2. Keep dollars local: 90% of what you spend on a gallon of gas leaves the local economy, so saving money by driving less means more of the money you keep will be spend right here in the Roanoke Valley, supporting local businesses.
3. Keep it clean: Driving less reduces vehicle emissions, which helps keep our valley's air clean and our skies blue. May is the traditional start of the summer ozone pollution season, so getting out of your car from time to time helps reduce the

changes of smog on summer's really hot days.

4. Keep fit: Using alternative transportation is a good way to fit exercise into your daily routine, whether it's a five-mile bike ride to work, or a one-block walk to the bus stop.

Visit ridesolutions.org for more information on the challenge and for tons of resources to help you explore your options, from Google Transit to safe bike route requests and free carpool matches.

Have another great month!

Sincerely,

Megan Cronise, AICP
Principal Planner



May Community Developments

This month's edition features many more outdoor events and activities, as well as an update on the *Community Strategic Plan* and Focus Group wrap-up. Enjoy!

Planning Commission Update

April 5th

One public hearing was scheduled:

The petition of [David B. McClure](#), Apex Towers, LLC to obtain a Special Use Permit for a broadcasting tower (cell tower) approximately 154 feet in height in an I-2, High Intensity Industrial, District on approximately 4.58 acres, located at 5119 Hollins Road, Hollins Magisterial District. *The Planning Commission recommended approval and the Board of Supervisors approved the application at the April 26th meeting.*

April 19th

The Commission heard a presentation on the draft [Roanoke Valley Transit Vision Plan](#) from [Roanoke Valley Alleghany Regional Commission](#) Staff. The Commission also received an update on the [Community Strategic Plan](#) process.

May 3rd

Two public hearings were scheduled:

1. The petition of [Star City Church of Christ](#) to obtain a Special Use Permit in a C-2, High Intensity Commercial, District for the operation of religious assembly on approximately 1.21 acres, located at 5933 Williamson Road, Hollins Magisterial District. *The Planning Commission recommended approval of this application. The Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on this application on May 24th.*
2. The petition of [Julie Abernethy, Friendship Apartment Village Corp.](#), to obtain a Special Use

In This Issue

Planning Commission Update

Community Strategic Plan Update

May 12th - Harris Family Bridge Naming on Route 221

May 14th - 10th Annual Gallop for the Greenways

May 14th - 4th Annual Rally for Road Safety

June 4th - Artisan Saturdays at Explore Park

Roanoke Valley Association of Realtors Bench Dedication

Roanoke County Celebrates Arbor Day at Burlington Elementary

Roanoke River Blueway Receives a Governor's Environmental Excellence Award

Murray Run Stream Restoration at Ogden Road

Brambleton Area Business Association Update

Would you Like to Keep Bees?

Change your Perspective - Make Space for Bikes this Bike Month

[Planning Commission](#)

May 17 @ 6 p.m.

June 7 @ 4 p.m.*

June 21 @ 6 p.m.

[Board of Supervisors](#)

May 10 @ 3 p.m.

May 24 @ 3 p.m.*

June 14 @ 3 p.m.

June 28 @ 3 p.m.*

Permit in a C-2CS, High Intensity Commercial, District with conditions and special use permit for outdoor gatherings on approximately 10.51 acres, located at 450 Springbeauty Street and Florist Road, Hollins Magisterial District. *The Planning Commission recommended approval of this application. The Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on this application on May 24th.*

*Indicates public hearings starting at 7 p.m.

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May 17th

The Planning Commission will discuss proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments and will receive an update on the [Community Strategic Plan](#).



Community Strategic Plan Update

The Focus Group meetings for the *Community Strategic Plan* wrapped up on Monday, April 25th at the South County Library and Thursday, April 28th at the Vinton War Memorial. 100 people attended the final meetings which combined the six Focus Groups. The presentations given reviewed each group's topics and goals, as well as the seven

Strategic Initiatives created utilizing their work. After the presentation, attendees posted many comments on the draft Strategic Initiatives. Meeting notes including comments have been posted on the [Focus Group webpage](#) along with the presentation, agenda and photos.

The draft Strategic Initiatives include:

- Connect Roanoke County to the World
- Position Roanoke County for Future Economic Growth
- Promote Neighborhood Connections
- Ensure Citizen Safety
- Be a Caring and Inclusive Community
- Promote Lifelong Learning
- Keep Roanoke County Healthy, Clean and Beautiful

Draft *Community Strategic Plan* Document

All of the combined ideas from the Focus Groups, as well as the data from the [telephone survey](#) completed last December by the [Roanoke College Institute for Policy and Opinion Research](#), will form the basis of the *Community Strategic Plan* draft document

currently being written. The draft *Community Strategic Plan* will be available for public review and comment on the [Community Strategic Plan webpage](#) and in Roanoke County Public Libraries from **June 1st** through **June 30th**.

Community Meetings

We have also scheduled four Open House-style Community Meetings in June for review and comment on the draft *Community Strategic Plan* document:

Date and Time	Location
Thursday, June 16th 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Vinton War Memorial 814 East Washington Avenue, Vinton, VA 24179
Monday, June 27th 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	South County Library 6303 Merriman Road, Roanoke, VA 24018

Board of Supervisors Meetings

After the Community Meetings have wrapped up, the draft *Community Strategic Plan* will be presented to the Board of Supervisors in a Work Session on **July 19th**. The Board of Supervisors will hold a Public Hearing on the document at its **August 9th** meeting.

Additional Information

Please visit the [Community Strategic Plan webpage](#) for:

- [Focus Group](#) meeting presentations, results and photos;
- [Telephone Survey](#) results; and
- Additional information regarding the *Community Strategic Plan* process.

Thank you to all 276 involved community members who took the time to attend the Focus Group meetings and share their thoughts. The *Community Strategic Plan* simply would not be possible without your hard work. Please mark your calendars for the June Community Meetings and Board of Supervisors meetings so that you can continue to help us complete the *Community Strategic Plan*.

Please contact Dan O'Donnell, Assistant County Administrator, with any questions by phone at 540-772-2017 or by [email](#).

May 12th - Harris Family Bridge Naming on Route 221

The Back Creek Civic League is hosting a special event on **May 12th at 7 p.m. at the Back Creek Fire and Rescue Station #11** to recognize the Harris family. Route 221 is located on property that was in the Harris family for many generations and family members have responded to many requests for assistance from stranded motorists over the years. This event is an opportunity to recognize and thank the Harris family.

May 14th - 10th Annual Gallop for the Greenways



Come out for [Gallop for the Greenways](http://www.gallop4thegreenways.com) - the only race that gives all proceeds to greenways! This year there is a Kids' Race, 5k, and a 5-Miler. This race is unusual in that it is in the evening, followed by a party, with a band, beer, and food. Register for the race and come on down to celebrate 10 years of growing greenways!

www.gallop4thegreenways.com

May 14th - 4th Annual Rally for Road Safety

The 4th Annual Rally for Road Safety event will be held on Saturday, May 14 from 10:00AM - 3:00PM in the front parking lot of Tanglewood Mall. This FREE and fun community event will educate young and old alike on road safety laws and protect users of the road! Roanoke County P,R&T, RIDE Solutions, VDOT, Carilion Trauma Services, local law enforcement, other members of the Blue Ridge Transportation Safety Board and media sponsor WFXR have partnered together to invite the community to come out for a day filled with informational fun!

For the first time at Rally for Road Safety, Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital- Trauma Service, will set up a Distracted Tricycles Obstacle, which will demonstrate to guests the dangers of distracted driving. The Roanoke County Sheriff's Department will be offering ID Fingerprinting for children. Representatives from the Street Survival program will be available to answer questions about the program which is a hands-on driving experience for teens that teaches them how to handle real-world driving situations. Returning again this year is AT&T with a texting and driving simulator, Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control's state of the art mobile command vehicle will be on hand, and DMV2Go, the wireless office on wheels with the latest technology will also be on site. They will be offering services right on site that are



normally only available for citizens at the local DMV office! Make sure to visit The Virginia Department of Transportation's booth where they will be testing guests' knowledge of roadway signs and road rules and children will be able to try on roadwork personal protective equipment. Additionally, VDOT Human Resources will be providing information regarding employment at VDOT.

Roanoke County Police will have the DUI Simulator available, a crash vehicle and the K-9 officers will make a special appearance. Roanoke County Parks, Recreation and Tourism will offer prizes for guests who complete a Road Safety Passport, Temporary Tattoos and photo ops.

RIDE Solutions will once again host the Bicycle Rodeo, conduct bicycle safety training for kids and adults, offer bicycle helmet giveaways and fittings, games and prizes! The Bicycle Rodeo is an exciting experience for children of any age and participants are strongly encouraged to bring their own bicycle and helmet to the event.

With experts on hand to educate the community as well as kid-friendly attractions including magician, David Castree, caricature artist, Kyle Edgell, and Skyway Animal Farm Alpacas, Roanoke County's Rally for Road Safety event is a fun opportunity for all citizens throughout the community to become more aware of road safety. Join Roanoke County P, R&T, RIDE Solutions, VDOT, local law enforcement, and other members of the Blue Ridge Transportation Safety Board for a day filled with fun and informative activities. For more information please call Wendi Schultz at (540) 777-6326 or visit us on the web at www.roanokecountyparks.com.

June 4th - Artisan Saturdays at Explore Park

2nd Annual

Free Event!



Artisan Saturdays

at Explore Park • 10am – 3pm
June 4, August 13, & November 5

Watch local artisans demonstrate their craft right before your eyes on select Saturdays this season. These events will include activities such as book signings, live music, fresh baked goods, informative presentations and children's crafts.

Browse and shop our unique gift shop
open 9am-5pm everyday.

Come out to Explore Park just off the Blue Ridge Parkway,
mile post 115. Hike, fish and shop your way into summer fun!

More info: www.ExplorePark.org or call (540) 387-6078 ext 0



**Roanoke Valley Association of Realtors Bench
Dedication**



Left to Right: Laura Benjamin, Liz Belcher, Doug Blount, Jill Loope, Mark Courtright, Supervisor Martha Hooker, Donna Marie Harris

The [Roanoke Valley Association of Realtors](#) (RVAR) held a dedication ceremony on April 21, 2016 for a new bench along the Hanging Rock Battlefield Trail in Roanoke County. Members of the RVAR Board of Directors and Community Service Committee dedicated the bench at a ribbon cutting ceremony along with representatives from the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors, Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department, and the Economic Development Department. RVAR received grants in 2015 from the National Association of REALTORS® and the Virginia Association of REALTORS® to install the bench which features an accessible pad for individuals with mobility issues. "We [REALTORS®] understand Greenways play a key role in making Roanoke a better place to live, work and play," stated Donna Marie Harris, 2016 RVAR President. RVAR hopes that folks will "Sit! Relax! Linger!" at this tranquil spot along Mason Creek.

If your company is interested in sponsoring a commemorative bench or tree in a park or along a greenway in Roanoke County, please contact [Wendi Schultz](#), Roanoke County Parks, Recreation and Tourism, at (540) 777-6326.

Roanoke County Celebrates Arbor Day at Burlington Elementary

Students at [Burlington Elementary School](#) observed Arbor Day on April 22nd with student presentations, music, a visit from Smokey Bear, and a ceremonial tree planting. This event will help Roanoke County retain its Tree City USA designation by the [Arbor Day Foundation](#), honoring the County's commitment to effective urban forest management. Roanoke County has

held the title for 18 consecutive years, and is currently one of only three counties in Virginia to hold the designation.

During the event Dr. Greg Killough, Superintendent of Roanoke County Public Schools, read a proclamation recognizing April 22nd as National Arbor Day in Roanoke County. Board. Students shared songs and poems about the value of trees. Finally, [Department of Forestry](#) spokesman Chris Thomsen captivated the students with lessons on the importance of environmental stewardship.

The Arbor Day Observance was one of four requirements for the [Tree City USA](#) designation, including: a tree-care ordinance, a tree board, an annual community forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita, and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.



Roanoke River Blueway Receives a Governor's Environmental Excellence Award

The [Roanoke River Blueway](#) has received a Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards Silver Medal for Implementation of the [Virginia Outdoors Plan](#). Congratulations are due to the Blueway Committee, local governments, organizations, and other supporting partners for making this recognition possible!

The Roanoke River Blueway provides cost-free opportunities for canoeing, kayaking, fishing, tubing, wading, wildlife viewing, and watershed education with convenient access to other outdoor and cultural amenities in Virginia's Blue Ridge all year long. The 45-mile Blueway, which includes 15 public boating access points, aims to promote healthy living and economic sustainability through increased use and awareness. Access points are located in local parks allowing for shared parking. In addition, information is provided for using the Valley Metro and bicycle accommodations. Watershed management and stewardship



Shane Sawyer, Roanoke Valley Alleghany Regional Commission

through education are supported through a dedicated webpage to water quality. Another educational tool is the [Roanoke River Blueway Interactive Map](#) which provides a range of information to facilitate safe use and enjoyment of this regional resource. Funding for the Blueway was leveraged from a variety of sources including private donators, the [Virginia Tourism Corporation](#) (VTC) Market Leverage Program, [American Electric Power](#), and [Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries](#) (DGIF).

Murray Run Stream Restoration at Ogden Road



HHHunt and Roanoke County are partnering to improve a 1/4 mile segment of Murray Run that flows through the Pebble Creek Apartments upstream of Ogden Road. HHHunt, the owner of Pebble Creek Apartments, was being impacted by erosion from Murray Run. The erosion was resulting in unsightly and unsafe high vertical banks and it was threatening to undermine an existing sanitary sewer. The stream could have been stabilized using traditional rip rap, but instead, HHHunt approached the County about partnering to improve the stream to restore some of its natural functions. HHHunt and the County agreed to work together to "naturalize" the stream. The stream channel and banks are being reshaped to better accommodate the flows that the stream sees due to the urbanization of the upstream watershed, and the banks are being protected from excessive erosion by the use of strategically placed natural stone and landscaping. Through the partnership, the County is providing 50% of the cost of the project through a state water quality grant and HHHunt is providing the 50% local cost match. When the project is completed, the apartment residents will be able to enjoy the improved natural conditions of the stream and Roanoke County will benefit from improved water quality due to less stream erosion. This project is currently under construction and is anticipated to be completed by the end of June 2016.

Brambleton Area Business Association Update

The [Brambleton Area Business Association](#) (BABA) met on April 14th. Topics discussed include:

Lunch & Learn

President Mike Shelton mentioned that the first Lunch & Learn program was well-attended and plans are being developed for subsequent programs. He asked members to consider leading presentations at future Lunch & Learn events.

Business Directory

Shelton distributed a draft template for a Brambleton Area Business Association business directory that would contain a map of member businesses and contact information. Shelton stated the directories would be available at two Kroger stores on the Brambleton corridor. Members were encouraged to send comments to Shelton on the draft template.

Roanoke County Police - Fraud Trends

Lt. McMillan of the Roanoke County Police Criminal Investigations Unit detailed recent examples of fraud perpetuated in Roanoke County. One scam involved phone from individuals claiming to represent the IRS. The other recent scam involved individuals calling residents of Roanoke County about missing mandatory jury duty. The caller then requested personal information from the potential victim. Lt. McMillan encouraged members to be suspicious of all requests for personal information and advised that government entities will never request confidential information, particularly financial information, over the phone.

Local Governments

Roanoke City - Lisa Soltis of the City of Roanoke advised that renovations were complete at Mr. Bill's Wine Cellar and that La Petite Fondue was now open. She encouraged members to visit both businesses. Soltis also reminded members about the April 27th Spring Career, Lifestyle, and Financial Fitness Fair from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Berglund Special Events Center. She said anyone interested in having a booth at the event should contact her.

Roanoke County - Tori Williams of Roanoke County provided a brief update on the County's Strategic Planning process and encouraged members to attend the fourth sessions on Monday April 25th from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the South County Library or on Thursday, April 28th from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Vinton War Memorial. Williams also advised that members will have ample opportunities to provide feedback and stated more information can be found on the County's website. Williams pointed out that the Williamson Road Area Business Association will host its Restaurant Week May 2- 8. He also reminded members that 10th Annual Gallop for the Greenways is set for May 14th at 5:00 p.m. Jay Brenchick of Roanoke County advised members about a free Marketing Workshop on April 28th from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. at the South County Library. He also pointed out that the Hive Business Incubation Center is hosting the Gauntlet Business Awards Ceremony on April 23rd from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Vinton War Memorial. Finally, Brenchick mentioned that Tanglewood Mall was for sale and

that the County will be using a consultant to study the Rt. 419 corridor.

Word on the Street - Members of the Association were given an opportunity to announce upcoming events and promotions at their respective businesses. Shelton thanked the members for coming and announced the next meeting is ***Wednesday, May 12th*** at 9 a.m. at [Woodlawn United Methodist Church](#).

Would you Like to Keep Bees?

Are you interested in beekeeping on your property? [Per Chapter 5, Article III](#), of the Code of the County of Roanoke, bees are allowed, however additional regulations must be met that pertain to:

- Distance from property lines
- Flight path barrier
- Number of hives per lot size
- Adequate water supply

In addition to Roanoke County regulations, the [Code of Virginia](#) regulates [beekeeping and apiaries](#).

In 2012 the Virginia General Assembly created the Beehive Grant Fund for the purpose of promoting the establishment of new beehives in the Commonwealth. Please contact the [Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services](#) for more information regarding [beekeeping and the beehive grant process](#).



Change Your Perspective - Make Space for Bikes this Bike Month

The Roanoke Valley is an increasingly popular and safe place to ride a bicycle, whether for recreation or transportation. With gorgeous rural vistas, miles of greenways and on-road bike lanes, and hundreds of miles of off-road trails for mountain biking, no matter how you want to cycle or where you want to go, chances are you can get there on two wheels. But as more and more people cycle, it becomes increasingly important for people - no matter what kind of vehicle you're piloting - to share the road. Whether you're behind

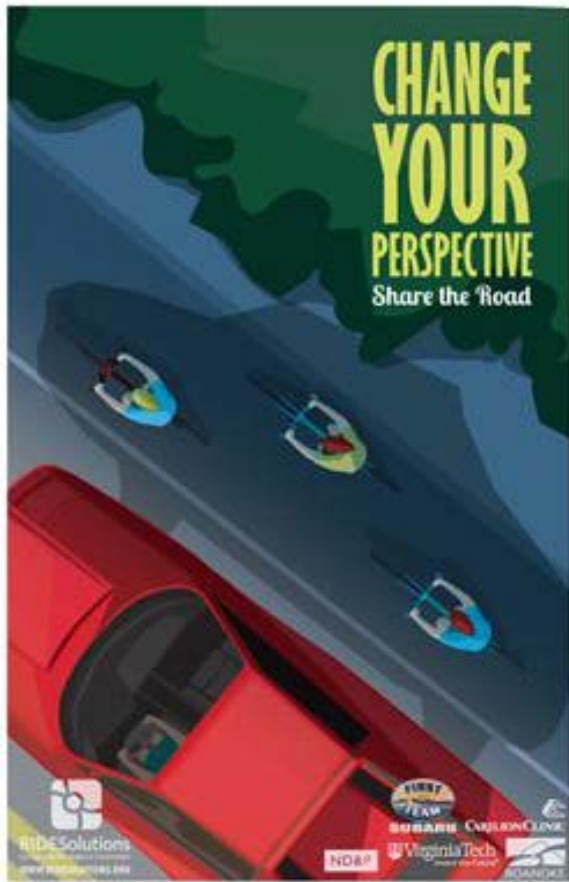
the wheel or hunched over the handlebars, every vehicle has a right and responsibility to use our roads safely, which means following all traffic laws, giving plenty of space to other road users, and behaving predictably and respectfully.

As the Roanoke Valley adds more bike lanes and more greenways, it's becoming even easier and safer for folks to ride for transportation. They may be riding to work, riding to the store or out to dinner, or just riding to visit friends instead of driving. Because they're riding for transportation, they'll be on roads that, as a driver, you may not have expected to see them, and they may be riding at times when traffic is heavier than a cyclist might be used to - such as rush hour. It's important, as a driver, to respect the cyclist's right to be there, and it's important, as a cyclist, to be safe and predictable while riding so drivers know what to expect from you. The more everyone acts like a vehicle on the road, the safer everyone will be. Here are a few other tips to help everyone have a safer trip:

- In Virginia, when passing a cyclist, a motor vehicle must allow at least three (3) feet of distance between the car and the bicycle. Passing too close is both dangerous and against the law.
- Cyclists may use the full travel lane, even if a bicycle lane is present. Sometimes trash, gravel, and broken glass can be swept into a bike lane or shoulder, making conditions dangerous for cyclists.
- Cyclists are considered vehicles on the road, and must obey all traffic signals and signs, including stop lights and stop signs. Because some stop lights may not be triggered by the presence of a bicycle, cyclists may go through a stop light after one full cycle or two minutes if safe.

Remember, cyclists aren't obstacles - they are our parents, siblings, coworkers, and neighbors. Respect everyone's right to be on the road.

For more information about safe riding and sharing the road, visit us online and Change Your Perspective at ridesolutions.org/changeyourperspective.



Have another great month!

Sincerely,

Megan Cronise, AICP
Principal Planner



June Community Developments

This month's highlight is the completion of the draft [Community Strategic Plan](#)! Please review and comment on this important document. Also included are many events, activities and updates.

[Planning Commission](#)

June 7 @ 4 p.m.*
June 21 @ 6 p.m.
July 5 @ 4 p.m.*
July 18 @ 6 p.m.

[Board of Supervisors](#)

June 14 @ 3 p.m.
June 28 @ 3 p.m.*
July 19 @ 3 p.m.*

*Indicates public hearings
starting at 7 p.m.

Like us on Facebook 



Community Strategic Plan Draft Available for Public Review

After significant public input, a draft of the *Community Strategic Plan* is available for public review on the [Community Strategic Plan webpage](#). Citizens are encouraged to review the draft document which will also be available at all Roanoke County Libraries on the public computers and as a hardcopy starting the week of June 6th. The public comment period will end **July 3rd**.

A brief online survey is available on the [Community Strategic Plan webpage](#) to give us your thoughts. Hardcopies of the survey will be available in [Roanoke County Libraries](#).

There will be four Community Meetings held this month where citizens can review, discuss and comment on the draft document.

Community Meetings

The Community Meetings will be Open House-style. There will be no formal presentation so you may come and go as you please. County staff will be available for questions.

Date and Time	Location
Thursday, June 16th 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Vinton War Memorial 814 East Washington Avenue, Vinton, VA 24179
Monday, June 27th 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	South County Library 6303 Merriman Road, Roanoke, VA 24018

Board of Supervisors Meetings

Once the comments are received and the draft document is updated, the draft *Community Strategic Plan* will be presented to the Board of Supervisors in a Work Session on **July 19th**. The Board of Supervisors will hold a Public Hearing and consider adoption of the document at its **August 9th** meeting.

Additional Information

Please visit the [Community Strategic Plan webpage](#) for:

- [Focus Group](#) meeting presentations, results and photos;
- [Telephone Survey](#) results;
- Draft *Community Strategic Plan*;
- Online Survey; and
- Additional information regarding the *Community Strategic Plan* process.

Thank you all who participated and continue to participate in helping us define the future strategic direction for our community. The Focus Group members' work was instrumental to bring this plan to fruition. Upon its adoption, the *Community Strategic Plan* will help Roanoke County to provide the right services in the best way possible to the citizens of Roanoke County.

Please contact Dan O'Donnell, Assistant County Administrator, to discuss any aspects of the Community Strategic Plan document or process by phone at 540-772-2017 or by [email](#).

Planning Commission Update

May 3rd

Two public hearings were held:

1. The petition of [Star City Church of Christ](#) to obtain a Special Use Permit in a C-2, High Intensity Commercial, District for the operation of religious assembly on approximately 1.21 acres, located at 5933 Williamson Road, Hollins Magisterial District. *The Planning*

Commission recommended approval of this application. The Board of Supervisors approved the request at its May 24th meeting.

2. The petition of [Julie Abernethy, Friendship Apartment Village Corp.](#), to obtain a Special Use Permit in a C-2CS, High Intensity Commercial, District with conditions and special use permit for outdoor gatherings on approximately 10.51 acres, located at 450 Springbeauty Street and Florist Road, Hollins Magisterial District. *The Planning Commission recommended approval of this application. The Board of Supervisors approved the request at its May 24th meeting.*

May 17th

The Planning Commission discussed proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments and received an update on the [Community Strategic Plan](#).

June 7th

A public hearing will be held on proposed [Zoning Ordinance amendments](#) including but not limited to:

- Article I (General Provisions), amending Powers and Duties of the Board of Zoning Appeals;
- Article II (Definitions and Use Types), amending the definitions of residential chicken keeping and variance, and adding definitions for bed and breakfast inn, country inn, and special events facility;
- Article III (District Regulations), to allow single family dwelling, detached with zero lot line option as a by-right use in the AR, Agricultural/Residential District, and to allow bed and breakfast inn, country inn, and special events facility as a special use in the AG-3, Agricultural/Rural Preserve District, AG-1, Agricultural/Rural Low Density District, and the AV, Agricultural/Village Center District;
- Article IV (Use and Design Standards), amending or adding standards for single family dwelling, detached with zero lot line option, bed and breakfast inn, business or trade school, country inn, and special events facility; and
- Article V (Development Standards), removing Maximum Off-Street Parking standards and amending the Bicycle Parking Standards.

June 21st

The work session agenda may include an update on the [Community Strategic Plan](#) and discussion regarding a different set of Zoning Ordinance amendments.

July 5th

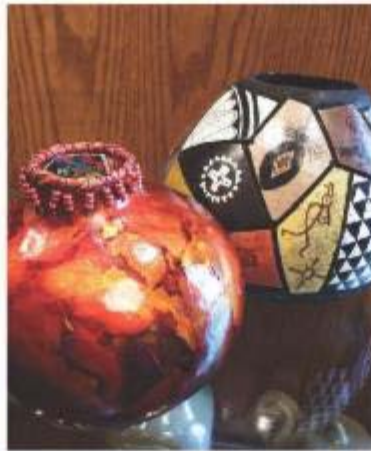
Two public hearings are scheduled:

1. The petition of [Kate Madison Properties, LLC](#) to rezone approximately 0.99 acre from R-1, Low Density Residential, District to C-1, Low Intensity Commercial, District on property located at 3746 Colonial Avenue, Cave Spring Magisterial District. A [Community Meeting on this application is scheduled for Monday, June 13th](#). See additional details below.
2. The petition of [Refuge Church](#) to obtain a Special Use Permit in a C-2C, High Intensity Commercial, District with conditions for the operation of religious assembly on approximately 1.92 acres, located at 4145 and 4173 West Main Street, Catawba Magisterial District.

June 4th - Artisan Saturdays at Explore Park

2nd Annual

Free Event!



Artisan Saturdays

at Explore Park • 10am – 3pm
June 4, August 13, & November 5

Watch local artisans demonstrate their craft right before your eyes on select Saturdays this season. These events will include activities such as book signings, live music, fresh baked goods, informative presentations and children's crafts.

Browse and shop our unique gift shop
open 9am-5pm everyday.

Come out to Explore Park just off the Blue Ridge Parkway,
mile post 115. Hike, fish and shop your way into summer fun!

More info: www.ExplorePark.org or call (540) 387-6078 ext 0



June 4th - Clean Valley Council Roanoke River Fest



 CLEAN VALLEY COUNCIL PRESENTS

ROANOKE RIVER FEST

**SATURDAY
JUNE 4, 2016
11AM - 5PM**
Smith Park / Wasena Park

ONE DAY, THREE GREAT EVENTS
to celebrate the Roanoke River!



Roanoke Rotary Club presents
**The 3rd Annual Great
Roanoke River Duck Race
Race at 1pm**

10,000 Rubber ducks race
down the Roanoke River.
Prizes, music, food, & more!
Buy a duck and test your luck
(1 for \$2, 3 for \$5) All funds
raised go to local charities.

Event Information:
www.rotaryroanoke.com



Clean Valley Council presents
**The Recycled Regatta
Race at 2pm**

Boats made of completely
recycled/reused/repurposed
materials! Watch Them Race
and See if They Float!
Gather a crew and race down
the Roanoke River!

Information & Registration:
www.cleanvalley.org/recycled-regatta-and-roanoke-river-fest.html



Grandin Chillage presents
**Chillage on the River
2pm to 5pm
\$\$ Entrance/\$4 Drinks**

Food, libations and great
music! Under 12 free.
Food by Green Goat
Restaurant. Music by
Monster Atlantic

Hosted by the Grandin Village
Business Association

Visit www.cleanvalley.org for more information!

June 6th - Community Meeting Open House for the Former Roanoke County Vinton Branch Library



OPEN HOUSE

You're invited to drop in for an Open House about the Proposed Rezoning of the Former Roanoke County Vinton Branch Library, located at 800 Washington Avenue, from RB Residential Business to GB General Business. The rezoning request is to allow the building to be renovated to accommodate a full service restaurant.

Where:

Vinton War Memorial
814 Washington Avenue
Vinton, VA 24179

When:

Monday, June 6, 2016

More Information:

Call (540) 983-0601

Time:

6:00 P.M.

TO

7:30 P.M.

Click on the flyer for additional information

June 11th - Mingle at the Vinton War Memorial Lawn for the 2016 Summer Concert Series

Mingle at the Market Memorial

2016 summer concert series
7-10 pm - vinton war memorial lawn

June 11 - Uptown
July 9 - Seven Mile Ford
Aug. 13 - The WORX
Location to be announced:
Sept. 10 - Superhold

\$5 admission • must be 21 + with valid ID
bring your own seating • no pets
beer garden • food vendors

presented by



www.vintonchamber.com
540.343.1364



Roanoke County • BNC Bank
Magnets USA • Cox Business
PFO • OCR Tires • Vertex
Grand Rental Storage • BB&T
Berkshire Health & Rehab
Lotz Funeral Home • AEP
Vinton Messenger
First Citizens Bank

June 13th - Kate Madison Properties, LLC Community Meeting

A rezoning application has been submitted by [Kate Madison Properties, LLC](#), to rezone approximately 0.99 acre located at 3746 Colonial Avenue from R-1, Low Density Residential District, to C-1, Low Intensity Commercial District. An Open House-Style Community Meeting has been scheduled for **June 13th between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.** at the [Roanoke County Administration Center](#), 5204 Bernard Drive, in the First Floor Board Meeting Room to review the application. View the [Community Meeting Notice](#) for additional information.

June 23rd - Star City Sock Hop

GEAR UP for Star City Motor Madness at the STAR CITY SOCK HOP!

The [Williamson Road Area Business Association](#) is holding the [Star City Sock Hop](#) to kick-off [Star City Motor Madness](#).

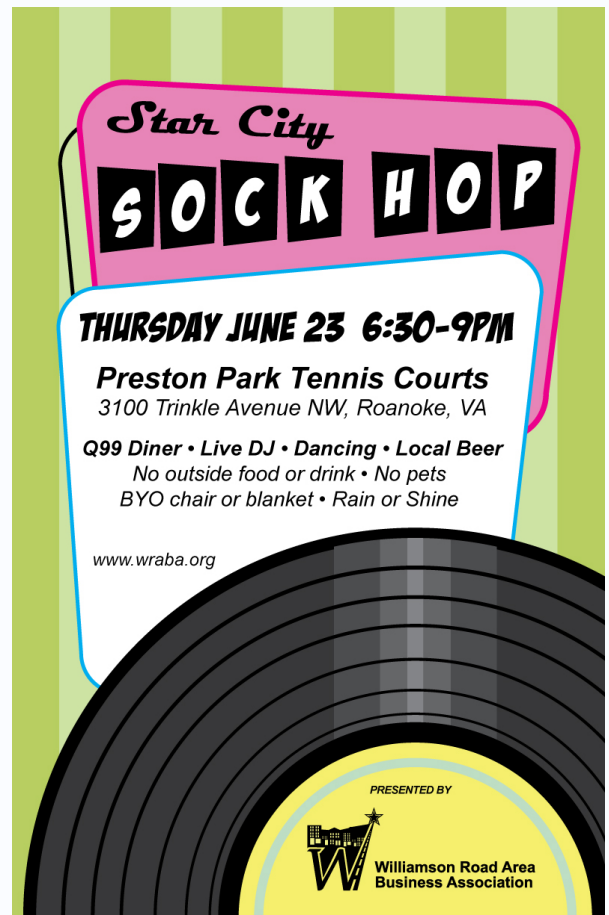
The Star City Sock Hop will be on **Thursday night, June 23, 2016**, on the Preston Park tennis courts (3100 block of Trinkle Avenue) from 6:30-9:00 p.m. Star City Cruise night is **Friday June 24, 2016**, from 6:00-10:00 p.m.

The Star City Sock Hop Celebrates Americana and Williamson Road sock hop history and features DJ Kevin Scott, the Q99 Diner, local brews and food by Club Friendship.

We will have a Costume and Dance Contest with prizes and the Q99 prize wheel! Dress in 50's costumes or come as you are to relive Roanoke City's sock hops of the 1950s & 60s on the Preston Park Tennis Court!

Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased at www.wraba.org. Click the [Sock Hop Poster](#) and make your purchase. You can also purchase them at the WRABA office located at 4804 Williamson Road. Call ahead so we will be there. Tickets do not include beer or food which are sold separately. Hop rules are:

- No pets
- No outside food or drink
- No backpacks or coolers
- BYO chairs/blankets
- Must show valid ID for beer purchase
- Must show valid ID of ticket purchaser to pick tickets up at Will Call



[Star City Motor Madness](#) Cruise night is **Friday, June 24th**, and celebrates Americana through our automobile history. Remember the days of cruising Williamson Road? Well, Friday night is all about that and more! This event is free to the public. Parking fee donations apply at Berglund Credit Line and Breckenridge School.

Let's celebrate the wonderful history that is a part of what makes Williamson Road great! See you there!

July 14th - WRABA Walks Continue in Roanoke County

The [Williamson Road Area Business Association](#) (WRABA) in conjunction with the Roanoke County Administration, Police, Community Development, Economic Development and General Services Departments as well as the [Virginia Department of Transportation](#) (VDOT) will be continuing our series of walks on Williamson Road in Roanoke County.

The first County walk will take place on **Thursday, July 14th**, at 4:00 p.m. (rain date July 28th at 4:00 p.m.) from the City/County Line at 5411 Williamson Road to Brookside Plaza and back. Our next walks will also be in sections and are scheduled for:

- **Thursday August 18th**: Brookside Plaza to the intersection of Williamson Road & Peters Creek Road
- **Thursday September 22nd**: Peters Creek Road to a location to be determined
- **Thursday October 20th**: From a location to be determined to Shadwell Drive at the Botetourt County line

Past walks in the City of Roanoke have facilitated improvements, repairs and conversations regarding possible improvements along Williamson Road. Continued walks in Roanoke County may identify similar opportunities to help Williamson Road move to the next level.

Contact [Wendy Jones](#) for more information at (540)362-3293.

Cotton Hill Road Project Update

Progress continues on the reconstruction of Cotton Hill Road in southwest Roanoke County. Crews are currently installing sidewalk along the new roadway.

Starting on **June 20th**, a portion of Cotton Hill Road, between Monet Drive and Raintree Road, will be closed to through traffic while construction crews lower a section of the road. Weather permitting, the road is expected to reopen by mid- July.



Cotton Hill Road Sidewalk Under Construction

Route 221 Bridge Naming for the Harris Family

On May 12, 2016, the Back Creek Civic League honored the Harris family for their sacrifices for the good of the community. With many members of the Harris family in attendance, the civic league unveiled a sign to name the new Route 221 bridge over Back Creek the "Harris Family Memorial Bridge".

Genny Henderson, with the Back Creek Civic League, spearheaded the effort to name the bridge, and the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors requested the signs from the [Virginia Department of Transportation](#).



Brambleton Area Business Association Update

The [Brambleton Area Business Association](#) (BABA) met on May 12th. Topics discussed include:

- A discussion with Roanoke County Police Chief Hall regarding how reporting property damage from vehicle crashes will be changing;
- A presentation from Brian Hughes, Roanoke County Planner I, regarding what the Department of Community Development does, what zoning is, what constitutes a zoning or code complaint, and how to file that complaint;
- The Grandin Court Baptist Church annual Grandin Court Road and Trail Challenge taking place May 12th;
- An update on the Business Directory in the works highlighting BABA dues-paying members; and
- A prize drawing to coincide with the Breakfast Event.

BABA's next meeting is **Thursday, June 9th at 9 a.m.** at [Woodlawn United Methodist Church](#).

A Stormwater Guide for Homeowners Newsletter

The second edition of [A Stormwater Guide for Homeowners](#) has been mailed to Roanoke County residents. View the newsletter to read several articles on stormwater and how we can keep our water clean.

Additional stormwater educational materials are available [online](#).

Inside this issue:

- Why Regulate Stormwater?* 2
- Minimizing Mosquitoes Around the Home* 3
- Clean Stormwater Starts at 4/5 Home*
- Kids Corner: The Amazing Journey of Stormwater* 6
- Before You Blow, You Should Know: A Guide for Leaf Blowing and Lawn Care* 7
- Report Illicit Discharges* 7
- The World is Not Your Ashing* 8

Of Special Interest:

- Why Worry About Pesky Little Mosquitoes?
- What Every Leaf Blower Should Know . . .
- Where to Report Littering
- Where Does Stormwater Go?

What is an MS4 Permit?

Roanoke County is classified as a small urban locality because its population falls under 100,000. As such, it has been issued a "General Permit for Discharges of Stormwater from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems" (MS4s) from Virginia's Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

The permit, commonly called the MS4 permit, authorizes the County to discharge stormwater from its municipal system (comprised of underground pipes, ditches, drainage structures, etc.) into "surface waters within the boundaries of the Commonwealth of Virginia."

The County's current MS4 permit has an effective date of July 1, 2013 and an expiration date of June 30, 2018. Under this general permit, small MS4s, like Roanoke County, must develop, implement and enforce a program that includes the following six "Minimum Control Measures" (MCMs), which are aimed at reducing pollutants in stormwater runoff:

- MCM 1** - Public education and outreach on stormwater impacts
- MCM 2** - Public involvement and participation
- MCM 3** - Illicit discharge detection and elimination
- MCM 4** - Construction site stormwater runoff control
- MCM 5** - Post-construction stormwater management in new development and redevelopment
- MCM 6** - Pollution prevention/good housekeeping for municipal operations



Pollutants reach streams thru storm drainage inlets and underground pipes.

Pursuant to the MS4 permit, the County's program must be designed and implemented to control the discharge of pollutants from the storm sewer system to the maximum extent practicable in a manner that protects the water quality in nearby streams, rivers, wetlands and bays. ■

Which Programs in Roanoke County Relate to Stormwater?

There are several programs operated by Roanoke County that relate to Stormwater Management, which include the following:

- **Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)** - requires the County to lower the discharge of certain pollutants (PCBs, sediment, and bacteria) to meet numeric limits for its DEQ-designated impaired streams, including the Roanoke River and 11 creeks/streams.
- **Floodplain Management Program** - regulates land development in the floodplain and helps to lower flood insurance rates.

• **Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Program** - regulates land development projects during construction that disturb 2,500 square feet or more of land area.

• **Virginia Stormwater Management Program (VSMP)** - regulates projects during construction and long-term runoff after construction.

All of these programs are state-mandated; Roanoke County opts to fund them through its General Fund, and the Department of Community Development takes the lead in implementing them. ■

Are you Planning a Garage or Yard Sale?

Are you a homeowner interested in having a garage or yard sale? Please be aware of the following information, per Section 30-88-2 of the Roanoke County Zoning Ordinance: garage or yard sales may occur accessory to residential use types "provided that such sales occur no more than two (2) days in a two-month period." A permit is not required.

Please keep in mind Roanoke County sign regulations prohibit any sign, except an official public notice, which is nailed, tacked, posted, or in any other manner attached to any utility pole, or structure supporting wire, cable, or pipe; or to public property of any description.



If you have any questions, please contact the Planner of the Day at 540-772-2068.

More than the Commute

When addressing regional transportation demand, it's traditional to focus on commute trips. These are often the longest trip a person takes in the day, and it's certainly the most regular and predictable. It's also the trip most likely to contribute to traffic congestion and long travel times, and the majority of commuters enter our major corridors at roughly the same time each morning and evening.

However, commute trips make up only a minority of trips any one household makes. Indeed, most people spend their driving time doing something other than going to work: running errands, attending church, shopping, or visiting friends. While not as predictable as commute trips, these trips can have just as big an impact on our region's roads, air quality, and economic vitality.



Fortunately, they also represent major opportunities for individuals who might be looking to drive less explore transportation options. If the work commute is too long or doesn't provide many alternatives, it may be that a shopping or dining trip represents an opportunity to take some miles off the road and put some money back in their pockets.

In 2015, [RIDE Solutions](#) opened our annual Clean Commute Challenge to exactly these kinds of trips and the results were astounding - 41% of all trips logged as part of the contest were non-commute trips. In 2016, the results have been even more striking, with half of all trips coming from non-commute sources.

What does that mean? It means people in the Roanoke Valley are not just making the choice to carpool, bike, take the bus, or walk to work. They're cycling with their families to a neighborhood restaurant for dinner out, or carpooling to business meetings with coworkers. They are taking the bus to visit friends, or walking to a corner store instead of getting in their cars to drive across town.

Besides the positive impact these trips have on the region's roadways, there's another reason to be excited about this: when people don't drive, they tend to spend more, and to spend more locally. A 2012 study in Portland, Oregon - arguably America's bicycle capital - showed that cyclists and walkers spent [more over the course of a month than did drivers](#). It makes sense, really: patronizing small, neighborhood markets and restaurants makes a lot more sense when you start making smaller-scale transportation decisions.

It makes sense for one other important reason: spending less on gas means spending more in the local economy. For every dollar spent on a gallon of gasoline, 90 cents leaves the local economy, and 50 cents leaves the US economy altogether. Taking miles off the road and putting gas money back in drivers' pockets means not just saving money, but that the money saved will more likely be spent locally.

Commute trips will always be a major focus of RIDE Solutions, but the growing impact of choosing not to drive for everyday trips should not be overlooked. For businesses, local governments, neighborhood groups, and anyone interested in the vitality of this great region, making it easier for anyone to take any kind of trip by something other than car will have a significant, positive impact on our economy and

quality of life.

Have another great month!

Sincerely,

Megan Cronise, AICP
Principal Planner



Community Developments

We are keeping very busy with many plans, projects and activities! Read more about what's going on below.

[Planning Commission](#)

July 18 canceled

August 2 @ 4 p.m.*

August 16 @ 6 p.m.

[Board of Supervisors](#)

July 19 @ 3 p.m.*

August 9 @ 3 p.m.*

*Indicates public hearings starting at 7 p.m.

Like us on Facebook 



Roanoke County's *Community Strategic Plan* Process Nearing Completion

The planning process for the *Community Strategic Plan* is the most inclusive civic engagement process in many years for Roanoke County. Citizen input began with 604 residents answering a telephone survey regarding strategic issues and services performed by the Roanoke College Institute for Policy and Opinion Research last November. 276 area residents participated in 20 Focus Group meetings between February and April, and 40 people attended the June 16th and 27th Community Meetings at the Vinton War Memorial and at the South County Library. *A total of 897 individuals have been involved in the Community Strategic Plan process so far.*

Board of Supervisors Meetings

On **July 19th** the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors will be presented the draft *Community Strategic Plan* and citizen comments in a work session. There will be a public hearing for community input on the *Plan* at the **August 9th** meeting of the Board of Supervisors, along with Board consideration of a resolution of adoption. If adopted, the Plan will provide the County and the community a five-year road map to help shape our community.

Additional Information

Please visit the [Community Strategic Plan webpage](#) for:

- Comments on the draft Community Strategic Plan (available soon);
- Focus Group meeting presentations, results and photos;
- Telephone Survey results;
- Draft *Community Strategic Plan*;
- Online Survey; and
- Additional information regarding the *Community Strategic Plan* process.

Finally, thank you to all of the community members who have been involved in the creation of Roanoke County's first *Community Strategic Plan*. The overall strategic direction of the *Plan* comes from the ideas and desires of the participants. The goal of County employees is to implement the strategies in the *Plan* to make Roanoke County the best community it can be.

Please contact Dan O'Donnell, Assistant County Administrator, to discuss any aspects of the *Community Strategic Plan* document or process by phone at 540-772-2017 or by [email](#).



*Draft Community Strategic Plan Public
Service Announcement*

Planning Commission Update

June 7th

A public hearing was held on proposed [Zoning Ordinance amendments](#) including but not limited to:

- Article I (General Provisions), amending Powers and Duties of the Board of Zoning Appeals;
- Article II (Definitions and Use Types), amending the definitions of residential chicken keeping and variance, and adding definitions for bed and breakfast inn, country inn, and special events facility;
- Article III (District Regulations), to allow single family dwelling, detached with zero lot line option as a by-right use in the AR,

Agricultural/Residential District, and to allow bed and breakfast inn, country inn, and special events facility as a special use in the AG-3, Agricultural/Rural Preserve District, AG-1, Agricultural/Rural Low Density District, and the AV, Agricultural/Village Center District;

- Article IV (Use and Design Standards), amending or adding standards for single family dwelling, detached with zero lot line option, bed and breakfast inn, business or trade school, country inn, and special events facility; and
- Article V (Development Standards), removing Maximum Off-Street Parking standards and amending the Bicycle Parking Standards.

The Planning Commission recommended approval and the Board of Supervisors approved the Zoning Ordinance amendments at its June 28th meeting.

June 21st

This work session was canceled.

July 5th

Two public hearings were held:

1. The petition of [Kate Madison Properties, LLC](#) to rezone approximately 0.99 acre from R-1, Low Density Residential, District to C-1, Low Intensity Commercial, District on property located at 3746 Colonial Avenue, Cave Spring Magisterial District. A [Community Meeting](#) on this application was held on Monday, June 13th. *The Planning Commission recommended approval of this application. The Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on the petition on July 19th.*
2. The petition of [Refuge Church](#) to obtain a Special Use Permit in a C-2C, High Intensity Commercial, District with conditions for the operation of religious assembly on approximately 1.92 acres, located at 4145 and 4173 West Main Street, Catawba Magisterial District. *The Planning Commission recommended approval of this application. The Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on the petition on July 19th.*

July 18th

This work session was canceled.

August 2nd

One public hearing is scheduled:

1. The petition of [Stephen Hartman](#) to remove all proffered conditions from property zoned C-2CS, high intensity commercial with conditions and special use permit. The property is approximately 0.459 acre in size and is located at 7637 Williamson Road, Hollins Magisterial District. The proffered conditions deal with the use of the property, lighting, screening, signage, and hours of operation.

August 16th

The agenda for this meeting has not been set.

Welcome to Bailey DuBois!

Welcome to Bailey DuBois! Bailey was hired as a Planner II in June to to work on long-range planning and transportation projects. She takes the place of Naomi Siodmok.

Bailey received her Master in Urban and Environmental Planning from Arizona State University and a B.A. in Geography and East Asian Studies from Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio.

Bailey previously worked as a Planning Intern for the City of Tempe, Arizona and for the Maricopa County Flood Control District in Phoenix. As an undergrad she interned at a public relations firm and conducted independent field research on "ghost cities" in Inner Mongolia, China. This spring, she was awarded ASU's AICP Outstanding Student Award for leadership in a community visioning project and multi-modal transportation plan for the City of Apache Junction.

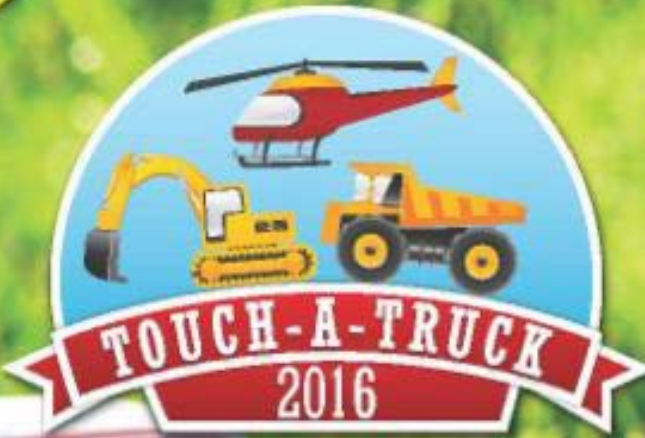
Bailey enjoys investigating the impacts of place-making and identifying creative strategies for public engagement. She is excited to make the Roanoke Valley her new home and contribute to the County's ongoing success.

Bailey will also begin writing and compiling the Community Developments e-newsletter in August.



July 30th - Touch-A-Truck!

8th Annual



July 30th
Saturday
10am to 3pm
Roanoke County's
Green Hill Park



See, touch, interact with and learn about dozens of cool vehicles. Look inside, sit inside and climb all over any of these unusual vehicles and talk to their operators. Additional favorite activities will include events involving "water" such as Firemen's Foam, water spray and much more. Magician, petting zoo, costumed characters, food vendors and other special attractions will help to add to the event's appeal. Over 200 vehicles will be there including:



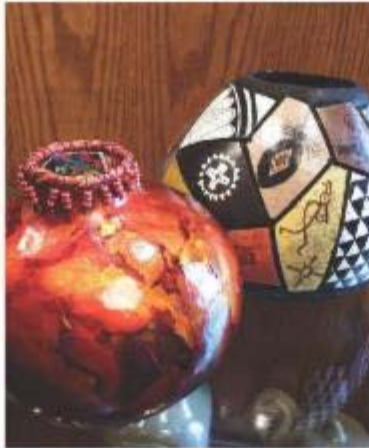
- Firetrucks
- Garbage Trucks
- Race Cars
- Postal Cars
- Back Hoes
- Army Cars
- Small Planes
- Tow Trucks
- TV Trucks
- Ambulances
- School Buses
- Helicopters
- Cement Mixers
- Motorcycles
- Monster Trucks
- Cherry Pickers
- Snow Plows
- Dump Trucks
- Tractors
- Police Cars
- and many more!

For information call (540) 387-6078
or visit www.RoanokeCountyParks.com

August 13th - Artisan Saturdays at Explore Park

2nd Annual

Free Event!



Artisan Saturdays

at Explore Park • 10am – 3pm
June 4, August 13, & November 5

Watch local artisans demonstrate their craft right before your eyes on select Saturdays this season. These events will include activities such as book signings, live music, fresh baked goods, informative presentations and children's crafts.

Browse and shop our unique gift shop
open 9am-5pm everyday.

Come out to Explore Park just off the Blue Ridge Parkway,
mile post 115. Hike, fish and shop your way into summer fun!

More info: www.ExplorePark.org or call (540) 387-6078 ext 0



WRABA Walks Continue in Roanoke County

On July 14, 2016, the Williamson Road Area Business Association (WRABA) hosted a walking tour of a segment of Williamson Road in Roanoke County. Participants, including WRABA members, County Community Development staff, County police, VDOT, and local media, trekked from 5411 Williamson Road to the Brookside Shopping Plaza. The Executive Director of WRABA, Wendy Jones, highlighted local businesses in the area and discussed potential ideas for infrastructure improvements. The next walks will also be in sections and are scheduled for:

- **Thursday August 18th:** Brookside Plaza to the intersection of Williamson Road & Peters Creek Road
- **Thursday September 22nd:** Peters Creek Road to a location to be determined
- **Thursday October 20th:** From a location to be determined to Shadwell Drive at the Botetourt County line

Past walks in the City of Roanoke have facilitated improvements, repairs and conversations regarding possible improvements along Williamson Road. Continued walks in Roanoke County may identify similar opportunities to help Williamson Road move to the next level.

Contact [Wendy Jones](#) for more information at (540)362-3293.



WRABA Williamson Road Walk

Brambleton Area Business Association Update

The [Brambleton Area Business Association](#) (BABA) met on June 9th and July 14th. Topics discussed included:

- A Business Directory draft is ready; it will be placed at both Brambleton Avenue Krogers for people to pick up free of charge.
- The meeting time has changed to 8 a.m. and the group will wrap up by 9 a.m.
- Nominations were accepted for the new slate of officers and voting will occur at the August meeting. Officer nominations include:
 - Mike Shelton, President
 - Beth Ruffing, Vice President
 - Bill Kyle, Secretary
 - David Via, Treasurer
 - John Snyder, Chaplain
- BABA is investigating holding a Christmas Parade this year. Contact [Mike Shelton](#) with ideas.
- Board of Supervisors Chairman Jason Peters spoke at the July meeting about the importance of

groups like BABA and the four topics he is focused on:

- Broadband
- The [Explore Park Master Plan](#)
- Tanglewood Mall De-Malling and the Route 419 Town Center Plan
- Airport Improvements
- The Joint Entrepreneur Workshop on June 9th went well and more will be planned; an Enterprise Development Growth Engine (EDGE) Workshop was held June 14th for engineering, manufacturing and tech companies.
- The Route 419 Town Center Plan will be getting underway shortly with a Kickoff Community Meeting to be held in August.
- Chief Hall mentioned that Roanoke County Officer Danny Bruch is taking over community outreach activities from Officer Rick Crosier. He said thank you for the support from the community in the wake of recent events.
- A joint County and City Brambleton Neighborhood Watch group met on Monday, June 13th at Woodlawn United Methodist Church. Contact [Officer Danny Bruch](#) for additional information.
- The Roanoke County Sheriffs' Office has several programs going on: Firearms Training and Safety course, Drug Takeback box for old and expired medicine, RAD classes for females and a social media class for parents of elementary school children is being held. Contact [Deputy Chad Beheler](#) for additional information.
- Roanoke City's [Parks and Arts](#) program is starting back up this summer with the next event taking place at Preston Park on July 16th from noon to 3 p.m.
- La Petite Fondue is doing well.
- The old 419 Library on Electric Road was purchased by American Healthcare for office space.
- Brambleton Avenue will be repaved from the Roanoke City line to Electric Road this summer. The contractor will probably not start until after its current project is finished, which is anticipated to be mid-August. Any updates will be forwarded to BABA.

BABA's next meeting is **Thursday, August 11th at 8 a.m.** at [Woodlawn United Methodist Church](#).

Zoning Ordinance Amendments Encourage New Lodging Types

At the Board of Supervisors June 28, 2016 meeting, several new zoning use types were approved to encourage tourism opportunities in Roanoke County. Three of the new use types include:

- **Bed and Breakfast Inn:** A single family dwelling, or portion thereof, where short-term lodging is provided for compensation to transient guests only. The operator may or may not live on the premises. Meals may be provided to guests only. Up to fifteen (15) guest rooms may be provided.
- **Country Inn:** A business which offers accommodations and dining in a rural area. Overnight lodging of up to thirty (30) rooms is available and a full-service restaurant may provide meals to guests and the general public.
- **Special Events Facility:** A place, structure, or other facility used for the assembly of or intention of attracting people for cultural, ceremonial, celebratory purposed or civic clubs for



The Carriage House Inn Bed and Breakfast in Lynchburg, VA

which there is a leasing fee. Such assembly includes, but is not limited to, anniversary and birthday celebrations, reunions, weddings, and receptions. Music concerts or festivals as a primary use shall be considered an outdoor gathering.

For more information for any of the above uses, please contact [Planning and Zoning staff](#) at 540-772-2065.

Dress for Bike Success

If you're considering cycling to work you might be concerned about what to wear; not for work, but for the ride. A common obstacle for those who like to commute by bike is the perceived need to gear up in skin-tight lycra like the road warriors you might see barreling down the bike lanes some evening. The logistics required to pack and transport clothes, get cleaned up at work, and still look professional can be daunting. But it needn't be.

It's important to remember that riding for transportation - whether commuting to work, visiting friends or shopping - has a different goal than riding for exercise and performance, and therefore doesn't require the same dress code.

Consider that bicycle commuters are often riding shorter distances (2 to 5 miles in general), at lower speeds, and often on neighborhood roads, greenways, or other low-traffic routes. The clothes a recreational rider wears, outfits built, essentially, for sports performance, are actually overkill for a low-speed commute or social ride. In that case, dress for your destination rather than for your ride.

It's true that high-performance clothes do a better job of wicking away sweat and can make for a more comfortable ride for long distances. But as a new or occasional rider, a few simple rules of thumb can help you get started for your short shopping or commute rides, and make sure you look good when you get there.

- **Keep a backup at work:** Having a suit, uniform, or other backup at the office or worksite can be useful for unexpected weather events or even an accidental splash through a puddle. If you need to wear a suit to work, keeping your jacket in the office can spare you a layer and spare the coat a few wrinkles.
- **Watch your cuffs:** Fortunately, you can ride a bike in pretty much any footwear, but if you're wearing pants you'll want to tuck your cuffs in your socks or get a strap to keep them from getting caught in your chain.
- **Remember to be visible:** If your bike commute has you riding in early morning or late evening, remember to wear light or even reflective clothing so you can be seen. You don't need a day-glo spandex kit, but a light-colored shirt or even a safety vest will go a long way to keeping you safe.
- **Invest in panniers:** While you can haul your work gear in a backpack or messenger bag, a good set of panniers can store your stuff and keep your body open to the breeze. This can help keep you cool and avoid working up a sweat on your ride.



Enjoy your summer!

Sincerely,

Megan Cronise, AICP
Principal Planner

Time's running out to share your thoughts about the Community Strategic Plan!



Community Developments

August 2016



Hello!

This month the Community Strategic Plan draws to a close with a final public hearing on August 9th before the Board of Supervisors. Mark your calendar!

This issue also includes events, activities and updates from around our busy office!

[Read More](#)

Upcoming Meetings:

[Planning Commission](#)
[Board of Supervisors](#)
[Community Strategic Plan](#)

Planning & Zoning Update

July 19th

The Board of Supervisors postponed the [petition](#) of **Kate Madison Properties, LLC** to rezone approximately 0.99 acre from R-1, Low Density Residential to C-1, Low Intensity Commercial on property located at 3746 Colonial Avenue, Cave Spring Magisterial District, until August 9th.

The Board of Supervisors approved the [petition](#) of **Refuge Church** to obtain a Special Use Permit in a C-2C, High Intensity Commercial District with conditions for the operation of religious assembly on approximately 1.92 acres, located at 4145 and 4173 West Main

Street, Catawba Magisterial District.

July 20th

The Board of Zoning Appeals denied the [petition](#) of a variance requested by **Charles W. Thurman** to reduce the minimum front yard setback from 30 feet to no closer than 22 feet, adjacent to Alpine Road. The purpose of this request was to construct an attached garage located at 1207 Nover Avenue, Hollins Magisterial District.

Aug 2nd

The Planning Commission approved the [petition](#) of **Stephen Hartman** to remove all proffered conditions from property zoned C-2CS, High Intensity Commercial with conditions and special use permit. The property is approximately 0.459 acre in size and is located at 7637 Williamson Road, Hollins Magisterial District. The proffered conditions deal with the use of the property, lighting, screening, signage, and hours of operation. The Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on the petition on August 9.

Aug 10th

Community Meeting: Intercept Youth Services

A [land use application](#) was filed by **IYS XXII, LC – Intercept Youth Services** to rezone the property from I-1S, Low Intensity Industrial district to C-2, High Intensity Commercial district to allow for general office and guidance services, on approximately 8.46 acres located at 5673 Airport Road, in the Hollins Magisterial District. A community meeting will be held at **Mountain View Elementary School at 6:30 p.m.** View the [Community Meeting Notice](#) for additional information.

Aug 15th

Community Meeting: Medical Facilities of America

A [land use application](#) was filed by **Roanoke H&R RE, LLP, Medical Facilities of America** to rezone 23.01 acres from R-1, Low Density Residential District, to PTD, Planned Technology District, and amend conditions for the existing PTD for the purpose of the following uses: Office, Nursing Home, Life Care Facility, and Residential. The property is located at 1325 and 0 Electric Road, and 4022, 4032, 4046 and 4058 Keagy Road, Windsor Hills Magisterial District. A community meeting will be held at **Hidden Valley Middle School between 6:00 and 8:00 p.m.**

Aug 16th

The work session agenda may include discussion regarding an alternative housing option for R-1, Low Intensity Residential District, which would allow new housing types including yurts, tiny homes and shipping container homes with a special use permit.

Aug 16th

One public hearing is scheduled for the Town of Vinton:

Amendments to the **Town of Vinton 2004-2024 Comprehensive Plan's** Land Use and Transportation Plan, including the Future Land Use and Transportation Map, the Vinton Area Corridor Plan, Traditional Neighborhood Design concepts and the designation of Urban Development Areas. [The meeting](#) will be held at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Vinton Municipal Building.

Aug 17th

One public hearing is scheduled for the Board of Zoning Appeals:

The petition of **Edward G. Elliott** (Catawba Gunsmiths, Inc.) for an administrative appeal of the Zoning Administrator's written determination of Zoning Ordinance Section 30-82-3, Use and Design Standards, as a basis for the denial of a Type II Home Occupation, proposed to be located at 3502 Jensen Place Salem, Virginia 24153. The property is zoned AR Agricultural/Residential District and is located in the Catawba Magisterial District.

Sept 6th

Two public hearings are scheduled:

- The [petition](#) of **Roanoke H&R RE, LLP, Medical Facilities of America** to rezone 23 acres in the Windsor Hills Magisterial District.
- The [petition](#) of **IYS XXII, LC - Youth Intercept Services** to rezone 8.5 acres in the Hollins Magisterial District.

News



Six Transportation Projects Receive State Funding

SMART SCALE is a system for choosing and funding transportation projects in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Within Roanoke County, six funded projects ranged in scale and type from an interstate highway to the Roanoke River Greenway.

[Read the Article](#)

The Last Word: Illegal Signs

We hear this one a lot. "More signs mean more business."

What's the harm in placing a few more highly visible signs on your property?

[Read the Article](#)

Upcoming Events



August 13th: Artisan Saturdays
Explore Park 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.



August 27th: Highland Games
Green Hill Park 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Greenways Photo Contest



ROANOKE VALLEY GREENWAYS

Deadline to Submit: September 15

Greenways Photo Contest
Accepting submissions through Sept 15th

ROANOKE GREEK FESTIVAL



September 16, 17, 18, 2016

September 16-18th: Greek Festival
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

GET TO KNOW THE CORRIDOR...



WALK WILLIAMSON ROAD WITH WRABA!

August 18th: WRABA Walk
Meet at **Brookside Plaza** at 4:00 p.m.

Roanoke County Parks, Recreation and Tourism



Discover the Foresters Trail

August 27 @ Explore Park

August 27th: Hike the Foresters Trail
Explore Park 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Don't want to wait for updates?

LIKE US ON **facebook**



Tell us what you want to hear about!



Like the Planning Services page for all these stories, events, tips and more, or let us know how we're doing in a review!

Keep an eye out for the upcoming Rt. 419 Town Center Study kick-off meeting!

Sincerely,
Bailey DuBois
Planner II



Try it free today

September 22nd is the last day of summer!



September 2016



Hello!

This month we begin a six-month market-based study for a new Route 419 Town Center. Please join us at a community kick-off event at the [Holiday Inn Tanglewood](#) on Sept. 15 from 6:30 -8:30 p.m. Share your ideas about creating new multi-modal connections and enhancing this important commercial center!

[Read more about the 419 Study](#)



[Email us](#) to subscribe to the 419 Town Center e-mailing list!

Planning & Zoning Update

Aug 9th

The Board of Supervisors:

- Adopted a resolution approving the [Community Strategic Plan](#). Six members of the public spoke in support.
- Approved the [petition](#) of **Stephen Hartman** to remove all

proffered conditions from property zoned C-2CS, High Intensity Commercial with conditions and special use permit. The proffered conditions deal with the use of the property, lighting, screening, signage, and hours of operation. The property is approximately 0.459 acre in size and is located at 7637 Williamson Road, Hollins Magisterial District.

- Approved the [petition](#) of **Kate Madison Properties, LLC** to rezone a property from R-1, Low Density Residential, to C-1 Low Intensity Commercial, on a parcel located on approximately 0.99 acre at 3746 Colonial Avenue, in the Cave Spring Magisterial District.

Aug 16th

In a work session, the Planning Commission recommended that staff investigate alternative housing options which would allow new housing types including yurts, tiny homes and shipping container homes.

Aug 16th

The Vinton Town Council approved the Planning Commission's [recommendation](#) to:

- Amend the [Town of Vinton 2004-2024 Comprehensive Plan](#)'s chapters, 'Community Facilities and Services' and 'Land Use and Transportation Plan of the Comprehensive Plan,' which includes the Future Land Use and Transportation Map.
- Amend the [Vinton Area Corridors Plan](#), Map 31 Vinton Area Corridor Plan: Future Land Use Scenario 4 Map, by incorporating and designating by reference, Urban Development Areas (UDA) sections and boundaries; goals and strategies; population projections data; and Traditional Neighborhood Design (TND) principles.

Aug 17th

The Board of Zoning Appeals denied the [petition](#) of **Edward G. Elliott** (Catawba Gunsmiths, Inc.) for an administrative appeal of the Zoning Administrator's written determination of Zoning Ordinance Section 30-82-3, Use and Design Standards, as a basis for the denial of a Type II Home Occupation, proposed for 3502 Jensen Place Salem, Virginia 24153. The property is zoned AR Agricultural/Residential District and is located in the Catawba Magisterial District.

Sept 8th

One public hearing is scheduled for the Vinton Planning Commission:

- A petition to rezone 17.8 acres at the former William Byrd High School, 100 and 156 Highland Road from R-2 Residential to MUD Mixed Use Development District. The Vinton Town Council will also hold a public hearing on September 20th. Both meetings will be held at the Vinton Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m.

Sept 20th

A work session is scheduled for the Planning Commission. Topic has not yet been set.



How to Get Commuter Fringe Benefits

Did you know? The IRS offers a handful of benefits for work commutes through employers. The easiest benefits to access are for parking, using transit and bicycling.

[Read the Article](#)



Christmas Parade **Entries Wanted**

The Brambleton Area Business Association is hosting a Christmas Parade on December 10th at 10 a.m. Local groups and businesses are encouraged to apply! **They are only accepting a limited number of groups.** Email [Michael Shelton](#) for information or to request an application.

[Request Application](#)



Volunteers Needed to Collect Data on Bike & Pedestrian Infrastructure

Volunteer a few hours on September 14th or 17th to count the number of pedestrians and bicyclists at designated locations for Roanoke's annual National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project.

[See Event Details](#)



Meet Our Newest Employees!

Carter Younger was hired as a Civil Engineer I and Nick Shrewsbury was hired as a Combination Code Compliance Inspector – Stormwater. Both started work at Roanoke County Community Development in August.

[Read the Article](#)

Upcoming Events

Greenways Photo Contest



Deadline to Submit: September 15

Sept 15th: Greenways Photo Contest
Accepting submissions through Sept 15th

ROANOKE GREEK FESTIVAL



September 16, 17, 18, 2016

Sept 16-18th: Roanoke Greek Festival
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church



BOONES MILL APPLE FESTIVAL

Sept 17th: Boones Mill Apple Festival
Town of Boones Mill 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.



Sept. 22nd: WRABA Walk
Williamson & Peter's Creek 4 p.m.

Williamson Road Area Business Association

RESTAURANT WEEK

October 3rd-9th



October 3rd-9th: Restaurant Week
Williamson Road Restaurants

16th Annual Fall Waterways Cleanup



October 1
Throughout the Valley

October 1st: Fall Waterways Cleanup
Multiple locations 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Zoning Tips

What's up with these pictures?

They were all violations found in the County... do you know why?

Learn the rules for storing your trailers, boats and other recreational vehicles:

[Read More](#)



See you at the Kick-off Meeting!

Sincerely,
Bailey DuBois
Planner II

County of Roanoke, Virginia | 5204 Bernard Drive, Roanoke, VA 24018

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Try it free today

In this issue: new ways to engage, events to attend and projects to celebrate!



October 2016



Hello!

Historic imagery gives us a rare insight into how land changes and develops every year. Scroll through our new interactive story map of the 419 study area to see what the corridor looked like every decade since 1953:

- [Explore the Story Map](#)

Inspired yet? Help us envision an even stronger, healthier future for this important community center:

- Fill out the [5-minute online survey](#), then
- Discuss your answers with others on [MySidewalk](#).



Join the Mailing List

*Get email updates about the
419 Town Center Plan!*



419 Town Center Open House Next Week

Drop by [Barrel Chest](#) on **Tuesday, October 11** for an informal open house event from **5 p.m. to 8 p.m.**

If you missed the kick-off meeting but still want to share your thoughts in person, come out and support a local business while you provide much-needed feedback on the future development of the [419 Town Center Study](#) area! There will be drawings and specials for attendees.

Planning & Zoning Update

Sept 13th

The Board of Supervisors approved the purchase of 9.87 acres at Jae Valley Park, the site of the former Sun Valley swimming pool property. The property will be transferred to Roanoke County for a new passive recreation park and canoe launch that provides fishing and boating access to Back Creek.

Sept 15th

The 419 Town Center study kicked off with a community meeting. Nearly 150 attendees participated in visioning exercises and discussions of the areas strengths and weaknesses. [Read the recap!](#)

Sept 20th

Following the Vinton Planning Commission's recommendation on September 8th to approve rezoning 17.8 acres at the former William Byrd High School from R-2 Residential to MUD Mixed Use Development District, the Vinton Town Council approved the rezoning on September 20th.

Sept 20th

At a work session the Planning Commission discussed annual economic impact projections for Explore Park's new master plan; County applications for VDOT's FY 18 [SMART SCALE](#) transportation project funding; and updates to the Route 419 Town Center Study, including outreach opportunities.

Sept 27th

The Board of Supervisors approved a [resolution](#) authorizing the execution of an agreement between Roanoke County and the City of Roanoke relocating portions of the boundary line between said governmental entities and authorizing certain other actions relating to such boundary line adjustment be taken as provided by law.

Oct 13th

A [community meeting](#) is scheduled for a request by **Valley Management Co. Inc.** and **Friendship Health and Rehab Center South, Inc.** to rezone 2.93 acres from R-1, Low Density Residential District, C-1, Low Intensity Commercial District, and C-1C, Low Intensity Commercial District with conditions, to C-2, High Intensity Commercial District, and to obtain a Special Use Permit for a Nursing Home and Life Care Facility on property located at 5665, 5647, 0, and 5669 Starkey Road, Cave Spring Magisterial District. This request is also to amend a proffered condition and Special Use Permit conditions on the parcel located at 5647 Starkey Road.

The meeting will be held in the Board of Supervisors Meeting Room, 5204 Bernard Drive, Roanoke, VA 24018 at 6:30 p.m.

Nov 1st

The Planning Commission will hear one [petition](#) by **Valley Management Co., Inc.** and **Friendship Health and Rehab**

Center South, Inc. to rezone properties located at or near 5647, 5665, and 5669 Starkey Road, Cave Spring Magisterial District. The Board of Supervisors will hear the petition on November 22nd.

News



Three Commutes for Enjoying Fall Colors around the Valley

To make the most of this gorgeous season, use transportation that allow you to take in all the natural beauty of the Roanoke Valley.

Here's three great ideas you have to try...

[Learn More](#)

Valley Cyclists, Time to Celebrate!

On the section of Brambleton Avenue between Electric Road and the Roanoke City limits, VDOT narrowed the width of the existing five lanes in order to make room for bicycle lanes in both directions. The result is over two miles of new bicycle lanes in Roanoke County.

[Read the Article](#)

Williamson Road Area Business Association
RESTAURANT WEEK
October 3rd-9th



Eat with WRABA this Week!

Plan a lunch or dinner date and explore the many diverse offerings and flavors available along Williamson Road! Find out who's participating this year:

[Learn More](#)

Roanoke's Transportation Priorities

The [Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission](#) wants to know where you go and how you get there, as well as how that might change. As they plan for transportation for 20 years from now, RVARC wants to hear what's most important to you. Got a few minutes?

[Take the Survey](#)

Upcoming Events



October 8-9: Plein Air Art Show
South Peak - All day



October 8: Vinton Fall Festival
Downtown Vinton - 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.



October 11: 419 Open House
Barrel Chest: 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.



October 14-16: Go Outside Festival
Rivers Edge Sports Complex - All day

Stormwater Tip



Don't pull that plug!

If you own a pool, spa or decorative fountain, it is your responsibility to ensure that no chemically-laden discharge is allowed to enter driveways, streets, or gutters, where it can travel to nearby storm drains.

A new brochure explains:

[Get the Facts](#)

Enjoy this busy and beautiful season!

Sincerely,
Bailey DuBois
Planner II

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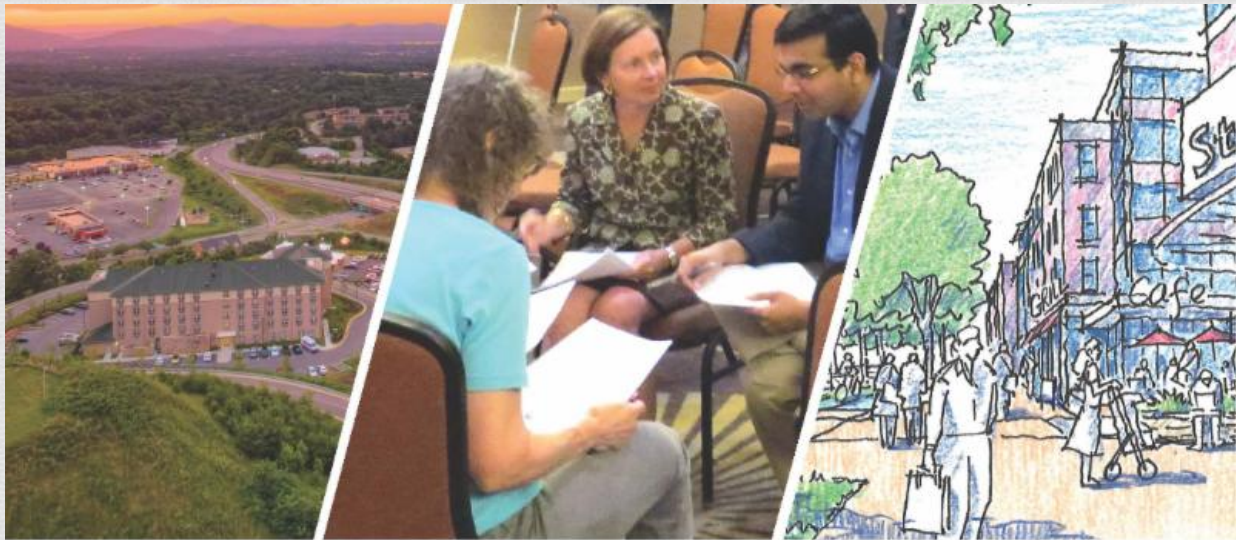


Try it free today

Welcome to the holiday season...this one will be packed!



November 2016



3-DAY DESIGN WORKSHOP

Hello!

This month we learned that many County residents see the 419 area as "congested" and "dated," but they want to see it become "exciting" and "modern." Is this your vision too?

Join us for the most important community event yet: a three-day-long Design Workshop on November 14, 15 and 16 at the Holiday Inn Tanglewood.

[Learn More](#)



Day 1. Community Workshop
Monday, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Day 2. Drop-in Work Day
Tuesday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Day 3. Community Presentation
Wednesday, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Planning & Zoning Update

Oct 13th

A [community meeting](#) was held for a request by Valley Management Co. Inc. and Friendship Health and Rehab Center South, Inc. to

rezone 2.93 acres from R-1, Low Density Residential District, C-1, Low Intensity Commercial District, and C-1C, Low Intensity Commercial District with conditions, to C-2, High Intensity Commercial District, and to obtain a Special Use Permit for a Nursing Home and Life Care Facility on property located at 5665, 5647, 0, and 5669 Starkey Road, Cave Spring Magisterial District. This request was also to amend a proffered condition and Special Use Permit conditions on the parcel located at 5647 Starkey Road. Thirty community members attended the meeting.

Oct 25th

The Board of Supervisors approved two transportation funding resolutions:

1. An application for \$125,000 of matched transportation funding through the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) fiscal year 2017-2018 Revenue Sharing Program for improvements to Huffman Lane, Lila Drive and Fort Lewis Church Road.
2. A petition to the Commonwealth Transportation Board to fund a Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Project for Williamson Road pedestrian improvements between Peters Creek Road and Plantation Road. The Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization also endorsed this petition on October 27.

Nov 1st

The Planning Commission will hear one [petition](#) by **Valley Management Co., Inc. and Friendship Health and Rehab Center South, Inc.** to rezone properties located at or near 5647, 5665, and 5669 Starkey Road, Cave Spring Magisterial District. The Board of Supervisors will hear the petition on November 22nd.

Dec 5th

The Planning Commission will hear one [petition](#) by **TAS Design, Inc.** to rezone approximately 1.49 acres to remove/amend a proffered condition on property zoned C-1C, Low Intensity Commercial, District with condition and to obtain a special use permit to allow a multi-family residential use greater than 50% of the gross floor area on site, located at 2602 Washington Avenue, Vinton Magisterial District.

News



Williamson Road Walks Eye Opening

This summer, WRABA's Wendy Jones pushed a stroller down Williamson Road to find out what it's like to be a pedestrian on this busy route. Here's what she learned:

[Read More](#)

How to Start a Carpool

You don't need to live on a bus line or a greenway to use alternative transportation; just look to the empty seats in your own car!



[Read More](#)

Upcoming Events



Now - November 6: Dine IN Vinton
Vinton Restaurants



November 5: Artisan Saturdays
Explore Park - 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.



November 10: WRABA Flag Retirement
Fire Station #3 - 6:30 p.m.



November 14-16: 419 Design Workshop
Holiday Inn Tanglewood



December 1: Vinton Tree Lighting & Christmas Parade
Downtown Vinton - 6 p.m.



December 5: Roanoke County Christmas Tree Lighting
South County Library - 6 - 8 p.m.

Seasonal Reminder



**Roanoke County
does not provide vacuum
collection for loose leaves.**

It's time to bag those leaves!

Roanoke County does not provide vacuum collection for loose leaves. The County will provide collection of bagged leaves during your normal, every other week bulk collection. Please place the bags to the curb on your normal collection day.

[See Your Pickup Day](#)

**Don't want
to wait
for updates?**

**LIKE US ON
facebook**



See you at the Design Workshop!

Sincerely,
Bailey DuBois
Planner II

County of Roanoke, Virginia | 5204 Bernard Drive, Roanoke, VA 24018

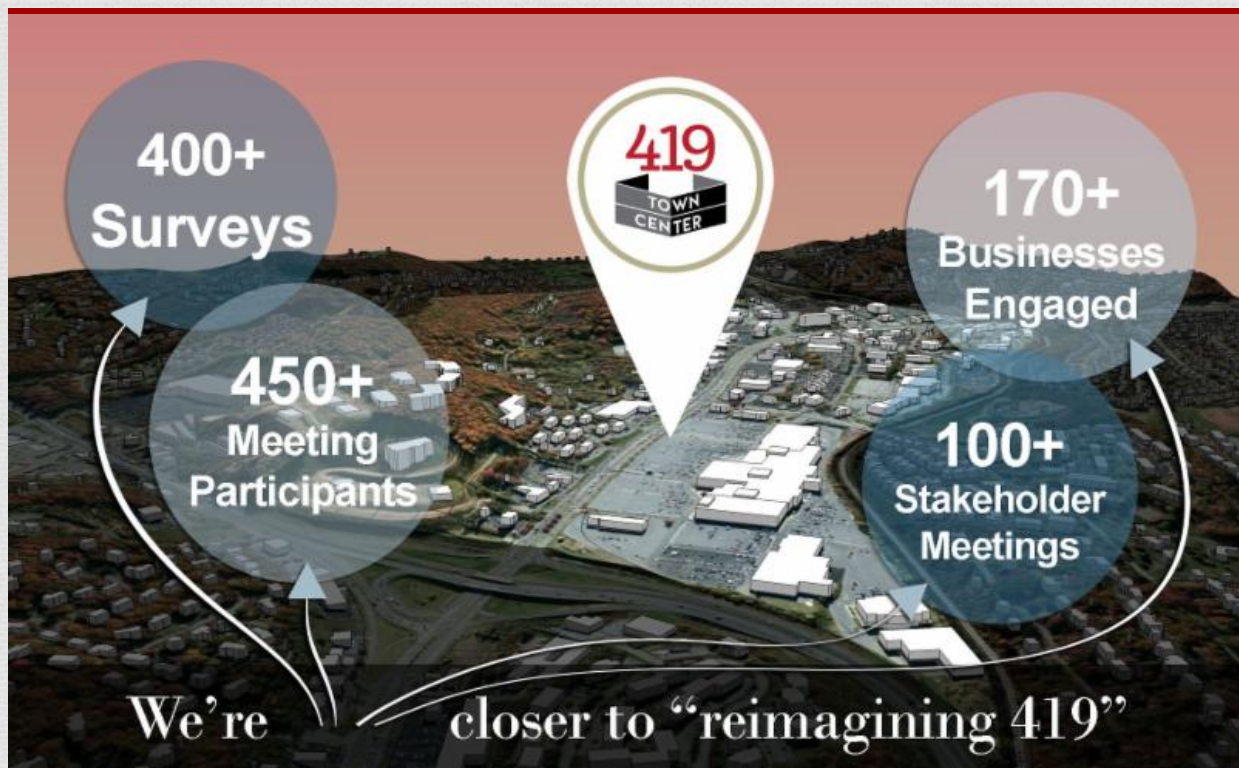
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Try it free today



Hello!

At the end of the three-day Reimagine 419 Design Workshop last month, we revealed both a 20-year, "What would it look like?", draft conceptual plan for the study area, and a more specific five-year plan based on market realities.

We compiled our **key insights** from the workshop, including four possible starting locations. Read the story and mark your calendar for our next public event on January 4:

[Read the Highlights](#)



Transportation Community Meeting

January 4, 2017
Location TBD

Planning & Zoning Update

Nov 1st

The Planning Commission moved to continue the public hearing for a [petition](#) by **Valley Management Co. Inc.** and **Friendship Health and Rehab Center South, Inc.** to rezone 2.93 acres from R-1, Low

Density Residential District, C-1, Low Intensity Commercial District, and C-1C, Low Intensity Commercial District with conditions, to C-2, High Intensity Commercial District, and to obtain a Special Use Permit for a Nursing Home and Life Care Facility on property located at 5665, 5647, 0, and 5669 Starkey Road, Cave Spring Magisterial District. This request was also to amend a proffered condition and Special Use Permit conditions on the parcel located at 5647 Starkey Road.

Nov 16th

The Board of Zoning Appeals approved the [petition](#) of a variance requested by **Thomas Engl** of Section 30-41-3(B)1 of the Roanoke County Zoning Ordinance to allow an accessory structure to be located in front of a primary structure and to establish a front setback of 25 feet and a side setback of 8 feet for the accessory structure. The purpose of this request is to allow a detached carport located at 5215 Eden Avenue, Cave Spring Magisterial District.

Dec 5th

The Planning Commission will hear one [petition](#) by **TAS Design, Inc.** to rezone approximately 1.49 acres to remove/amend a proffered condition on property zoned C-1C, Low Intensity Commercial, District with condition and to obtain a special use permit to allow a multi-family residential use greater than 50% of the gross floor area on site, located at 2602 Washington Avenue, Vinton Magisterial District.

Dec 12th

A [community meeting](#) open house will be held regarding the [petition](#) of **Henry L. Bennett IV** to rezone 0.67 acres from A-R, Agricultural Residential to A-V, Agricultural Village for the purpose of opening a hair salon on property located at 10102 Bent Mountain Road, Windsor Hills Magisterial District. **No formal presentation will be given**, however maps and other exhibits will be on display with the opportunity to ask questions of the applicant and Roanoke County staff. The open house will be held at **Back Creek Fire Rescue Station, 7125 Bent Mountain Road** and attendees may come at any time between **6 - 8 p.m.**

Jan 3rd

The Planning Commission will hear three petitions:

- The continued hearing of a [petition](#) by **Valley Management Co., Inc. and Friendship Health and Rehab Center South, Inc.** to rezone properties located at or near 5647, 5665, and 5669 Starkey Road, Cave Spring Magisterial District.
- The [petition](#) of **Henry L. Bennett IV** to rezone 0.67 acres from A-R, Agricultural Residential to A-V, Agricultural Village for the purpose of opening a hair salon on property located at 10102 Bent Mountain Road, Windsor Hills Magisterial District.
- The [petition](#) of **Triple J. Farm Events** to obtain a special use permit for the purpose of running a special events facility on 14.954 acres of property zoned AG-1 and AG-3 located at 5198 Blacksburg Road, Catawba Magisterial District.

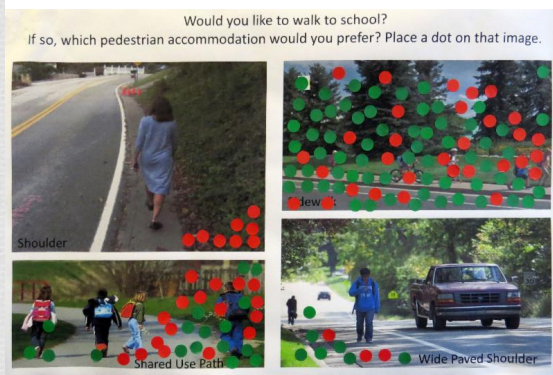
News

In Transportation Safety, Predictability is More Important than Politeness

There is one Golden Rule of transportation safety that everyone can live by: **Be Predictable**. Are you driving dangerously?



[Read More](#)



Cave Spring Students Weigh in on Better Ways to Walk, Bike to School

At the first annual Cave Spring High School Career Expo, Planning and Zoning staff demonstrated real life planning exercises by asking students what it would take to get them to walk or bike to class every day:

[Read More](#)



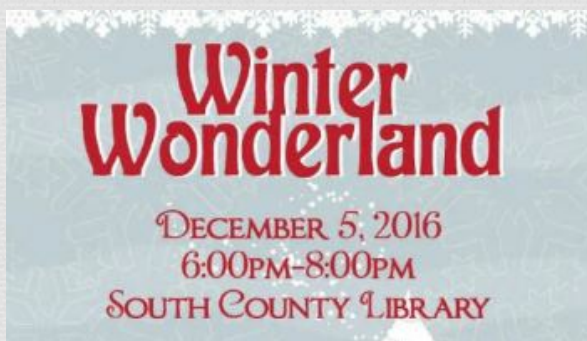
Welcome Alyssa Walker!

Meet Alyssa, our newest Permit Technician! A graduate of Radford University and native of Roanoke County, she joins us after a year working in the County Treasurer's office.

[Read More](#)

Upcoming Events

Click the photos for more information



December 5: Roanoke County Christmas Tree Lighting
South County Library - 6 - 8 p.m.



December 10: Brambleton Avenue Business Assoc. Christmas Parade
Brambleton Avenue - 10 a.m.



December 31: New Year's Eve Gala
Vinton War Memorial - 8 p.m. - 1 a.m.



Jan 4: 419 Planning Night
Location TBD

Time to renew?



Businesses must renew temporary sign permits at the beginning of every year.

The cost to renew is \$25 and information about the [Roanoke County Sign Permit](#) application can be found on the Planning and Zoning [webpage](#).

Your completed Sign Permit may be emailed, mailed, faxed, or brought in our office on the second floor of the Roanoke County Administration Center.

Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,
Bailey DuBois
Planner II

County of Roanoke, Virginia | 5204 Bernard Drive, Roanoke, VA 24018

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