

January 2024



Hello!

Happy New Year!

Our Roanoke County Planning team wishes health and happiness to you and yours in the new year ahead. We are looking forward to many exciting projects in 2024!

Public Meetings



December 13th - Board of Zoning Appeals

The [Board of Zoning Appeals](#) held a public hearing on:

1. The petition for a variance requested by [James and Angela Wooten](#). **(WITHDRAWN BY APPLICANT)**
2. The petition for a variance requested by [James and Patricia Sheppard](#). The Board of Zoning Appeals voted to approve their request for a variance.

January 2nd - Planning Commission

Due to having no Land Use Applications, there will be no Public Hearing in January. Instead, the [Planning Commission](#) will hold a work session on the Draft [200 Plan](#) and elect its officers for 2024.

January 16th - Planning Commission

The [Planning Commission](#) will hold a work session on the Draft [200 Plan](#) and discuss possible amendments to the Zoning Ordinance.

News & Updates



2023 State of the County Address

Business and political leaders from across the region attended the 2023 State of the County Address by Roanoke County Board of Supervisors Chair Martha Hooker. The 2023 event was hosted at Green

Ridge Recreation Center, with opening remarks by the Roanoke Regional Chamber's President Eric Sichau. See the [State of the County website](#) for video, remarks, and event photos.

2023 Roanoke County Highlights

See what sets Roanoke County apart from other localities in this [video](#) snapshot of our community, and produced by the creative team at Roanoke Valley Television (RVTV-3). Live, Work, and Play in Roanoke County!



Your invitation to join the Greater Williamson Road Area Business Association (GWRABA) in 2024!

GWRABA's basic purpose and role - as set forth 40+ years ago - is to represent the interests of local businesses, attract new businesses, and collaborate with both the City of Roanoke and Roanoke County to help those businesses grow, with a unified voice. GWRABA focuses on business support, community engagement, and area improvements.

The greater Williamson Road area continues to experience incredible progress and vitality – but not without the support of great members. A strong greater Williamson Road area is essential to regional success and GWRABA members help by continuing to provide quality events and services.

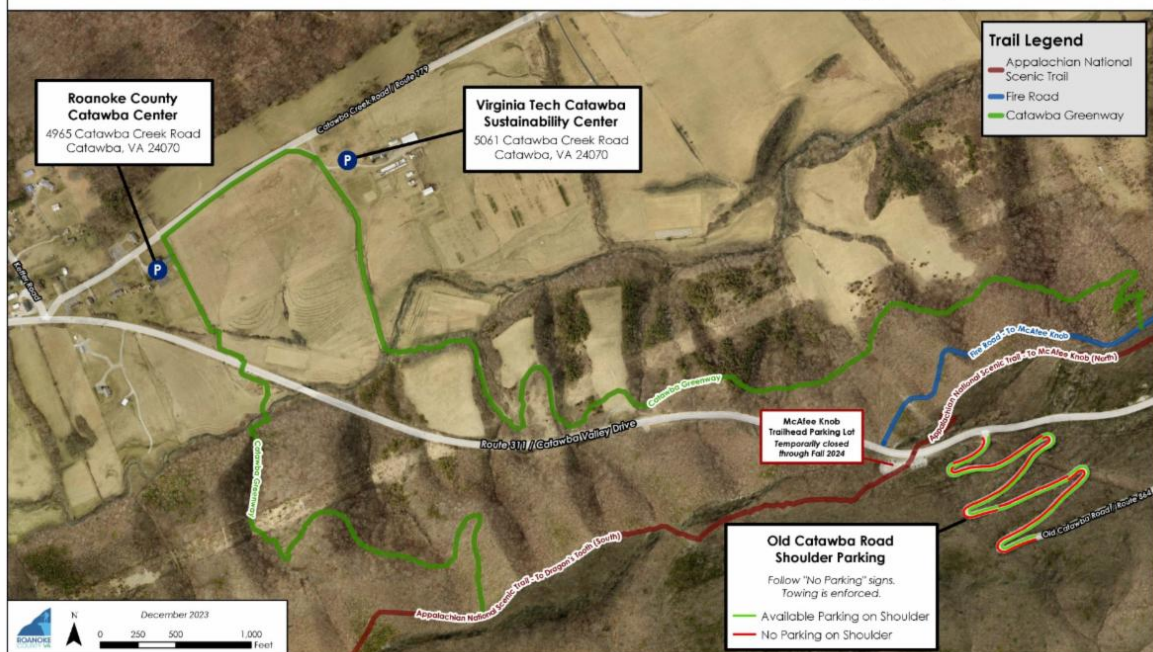
As a member of the Greater Williamson Road Area Business Association, you not only support our efforts to improve the road and its surroundings, you have an opportunity to be actively involved.

Members benefit from all that the greater Williamson Road area provides, which includes more than 400+ businesses, thousands of residents and many thousands of visitors each year.

Learn more about GWRABA at: williamsonroad.org

#YesRoanoke #HollinsCenter

McAfee Knob Alternate Parking Options



The McAfee Knob Trailhead parking lot on Route 311/Catawba Valley Drive is closed until late 2024 during construction of a [pedestrian bridge](#) to carry the Appalachian National Scenic Trail over Route 311. Hikers can park in these alternate locations:

1. Virginia Tech Catawba Sustainability Center at 5061 Catawba Creek Road, Catawba, VA 24070
2. Roanoke County's Catawba Center at 4965 Catawba Creek Road, Catawba, VA 24070
3. Old Catawba Road shoulder, paying attention to "No Parking" signs where parking is prohibited and towing is enforced.

Starting March 1, 2024, Roanoke County's [McAfee Knob Trailhead Shuttle](#) will resume operations on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and holiday Mondays between the Interstate 81 Exit 140 Park and Ride and the trailhead pull-off with new stops in the City of Salem and in Roanoke County.

Find [more information](#) about accessing McAfee Knob.

Events & Activities

Winter PRT Programming

Roanoke County Parks, Recreation & Tourism's [Winter recreation program lineup is now available](#)! Pick up a copy of the Winter RecLife Brochure at Green Ridge Recreation Center, Brambleton Recreation Center and Explore Park.



ExploreRecreation.com

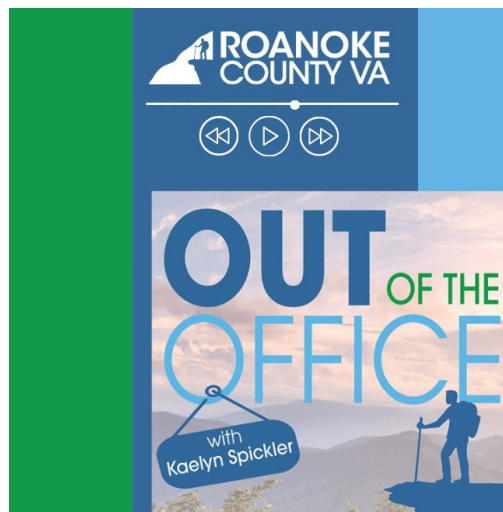
Your Library One-Stop-Shop

Roanoke Valley Libraries (RVL), consisting of libraries in Botetourt County, City of Roanoke, City of Salem, and County of Roanoke, has launched a new app, RVL Mobile, allowing patrons to take a Roanoke Valley Library with them on the go. Learn more [here](#).



Out of the Office Podcast

Catch up on the Roanoke County Public Information's ["Out of the Office"](#) podcast episodes from 2023. Listen now on Spotify and Apple Podcast!



Development News

FREE SEPTIC SYSTEM PUMP-OUTS

Roanoke County and the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission (RVARC) have partnered using grant funds from the Virginia Environmental Endowment to provide a no-cost septic tank pump-out program for

qualified Roanoke County residents.

WHO IS QUALIFIED TO APPLY?

Households in the County of Roanoke with an annual income at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Line are eligible to apply for this program.

HOW TO APPLY FOR A FREE PUMP-OUT? Apply [online](#).

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS? Call RVARC at 540-343-4417 (x308) or Roanoke County at 540-772-2036.

As tempting as it may be, especially during the winter, please do not feed the wildlife. To learn more, click [here](#).

Sincerely,
Cecelia Thomas,
Planning Administrative Assistant

[Visit our Website](#)

February 2024



419 Town Center Plan & Design Guidelines Implementation Updates



Hello!

Happy February!

Watch the latest Roam RoCo as we roam the Route 419 corridor checking in on the implementation of our 419 Town Center Plan since it was adopted by the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors in 2019. We discuss many of the transportation and economic development projects recently completed and underway. See how recent changes have made the Tanglewood area a more vibrant and walkable destination for residents and businesses, while also improving traffic flow. Learn more about the [419 Town Center Plan and Design Guidelines](#).



Public Meetings



February 6th - Planning Commission

1. The petition of [Patricia M. Sink](#) to rezone approximately 5.545 acres from AG-3, Agricultural/Rural Preserve District, to AV, Agricultural/Village Center District, located at 3455 Pitzer Road, Vinton Magisterial District.

2. The petition of [Appalachian Power Company](#) to rezone approximately 3.255 acres from C-2, High Intensity Commercial District, to I-2, High Intensity Industrial District, located at 1835 Loch Haven Drive, Catawba Magisterial District.

February 15th - Community Meeting for Starkey Road and Ogden Streetscape Improvements

(Inclement Weather date February 22, 2024)

Roanoke County Administration Center, Third Floor Training Room

5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

February 27th - Board of Supervisors

1. The petition of [Patricia M. Sink](#) to rezone approximately 5.545 acres from AG-3, Agricultural/Rural Preserve District, to AV, Agricultural/Village Center District, located at 3455 Pitzer Road, Vinton Magisterial District.
2. The petition of [Appalachian Power Company](#) to rezone approximately 3.255 acres from C-2, High Intensity Commercial District, to I-2, High Intensity Industrial District, located at 1835 Loch Haven Drive, Catawba Magisterial District.

March 5th - Planning Commission

1. The petition of [Kevin Manor](#) to obtain a special use permit to operate a short-term rental on approximately 1.23 acres of land zoned R-1, Low Density Residential District, located at 4127 Mockingbird Hill Road, Hollins Magisterial District.
2. The petition of [Neil Aneja](#) to obtain a special use permit to operate a short-term rental on approximately 0.30 acre of land zoned R-1, Low Density Residential District, located at 2726 White Pelican Lane, Cave Spring Magisterial District.

News & Updates



Second Community Meeting for Starkey Road and Ogden Road Streetscape Improvements

Roanoke County is hosting another community meeting about potential transportation and streetscape improvements for Starkey Road between Route 419 and Ogden Road, and for Ogden Road from the railroad bridge to Route 419:

Date: February 15, 2024 (Inclement Weather date February 22, 2024)

Time: 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. as an open house-style meeting where attendees can come and go as they please

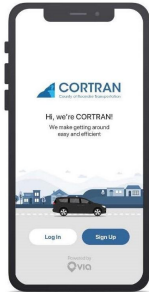
Location: Roanoke County Administration Center, Third Floor Training Room - 5204 Bernard Drive, Roanoke, VA 24018

A total of 89 surveys were completed in October 2023 that told us that pedestrian and bicycle accommodations are desired along Starkey Road and Ogden Road. We have considered how to add this infrastructure and want your thoughts on the concepts our consultants have designed.

Please attend the community meeting to view concepts and to give

us your feedback. If you cannot come to the meeting, the concepts will be posted online after the meeting and a survey will be available at www.RoanokeCountyVA.gov/StarkeyOgden, until March 15, 2024 until March 15, 2024. Paper copies are available upon request.

Please contact [Megan Cronise](#), Roanoke County Assistant Director of Planning, for more information at (540) 772-2106.



CORTAN Happenings

Roanoke County hosted a CORTAN rider event at the South County library on January 24, 2024. The event aimed to engage both existing riders and individuals interested in learning more about the transportation service. Via, the county's vehicle partner, was present to assist with the CORTAN App and showcase the Roanoke County branded CORTAN van. This event provided valuable information and assistance for those using or considering using the CORTAN service.

The CORTAN rider appreciation event continues through February 27, 2024, to say THANK YOU to our CORTAN riders. Enrolled riders may take two free rides on the service courtesy of VIA. Riders must be enrolled and use the promo code CORTAN FREE when scheduling their ride. Rides may be scheduled by phone, the CORTAN APP or the web portal.

This a great opportunity to see what the service is all about or revisit the service if it has been a while since using the service.

CORTAN provides essential transportation to eligible Roanoke County residents that are age 65 or better or that have a disability. To complete an application or learn more about the service, visit, www.roanokecountyva.gov/CORTAN.



McAfee Knob Trailhead Shuttle

Work continues on the [Appalachian Trail pedestrian bridge over Route 311](#) in Catawba. Stonewall Bridge is currently constructing the foundation

elements for the pedestrian bridge and associated walkway ramp to be located next to the existing parking lot.

While the Appalachian Trail is open through this area, the McAfee Knob Trailhead parking lot is entirely fenced off for construction and emergency services staging for the rest of the year. If you plan to start your hike near here, please park in one of the following locations indicated on the [McAfee Knob Alternate Parking Options](#) map:

1. Along the shoulder of Old Catawba Road/Route 864 where signs indicate parking is allowed;
2. The Virginia Tech Catawba Sustainability Center, 5061 Catawba Creek Road, Catawba, VA 24070; or
3. Roanoke County's Catawba Center, 4965 Catawba Creek Road, Catawba, VA 24070.

The [McAfee Knob Trailhead Shuttle](#) will resume service with expanded stops on March 1, 2024. To learn more about hiking to McAfee Knob on the Appalachian Trail, please view Roanoke County's [McAfee Knob webpage](#).

New Businesses on Route 419



[Pike Title](#) celebrated a ribbon cutting at their new location on Electric Road.



[Beacon Credit Union](#) celebrated the ribbon cutting of their first Roanoke County location in Promenade Park on Electric Road.



Please share your thoughts about funding for transportation projects in the Roanoke Valley through February 14!

Take the
Survey

Events & Activities

Winter Reading Challenge

From January 29 – March 16 for children up to age 11! Children can pick up a BINGO card at their favorite RCPL location and return it for a small completion prize. Each participant will also be entered for a grand prize drawing at each branch.

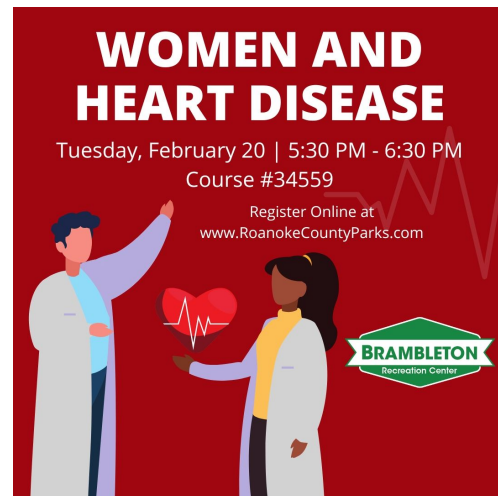
BINGO cards must be returned by 5pm on March 16 to be eligible for



Women and Heart Disease at Brambleton Recreation Center

Join us to learn about the importance of hydration, mineral balance, blood sugar regulation and proper digestion in supporting your heart health. Instructor: Aimee Valenzuela, MPH, NTP.

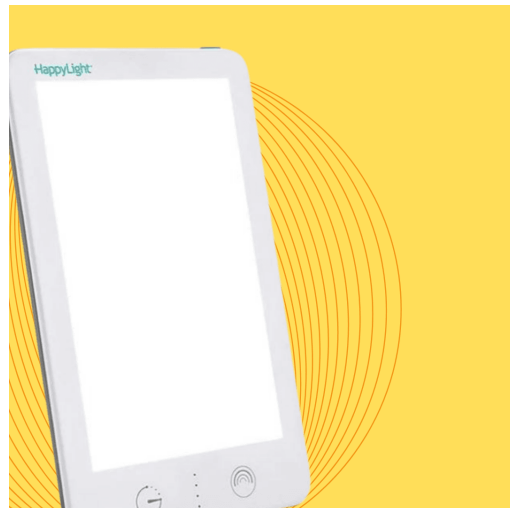
February 20th, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
[Register online!](#)



Tired of Gray Days?

HappyLight can help with winter blues, light deprivation, jet lag, Circadian rhythm disruption, and more. RCPL's therapy lights are available for 14-day checkout.

Sunlight is essential for a healthy lifestyle. A therapy light brings daylight indoors by emitting a bright white, full spectrum light that safely mimics sunlight (and without the UV-rays).



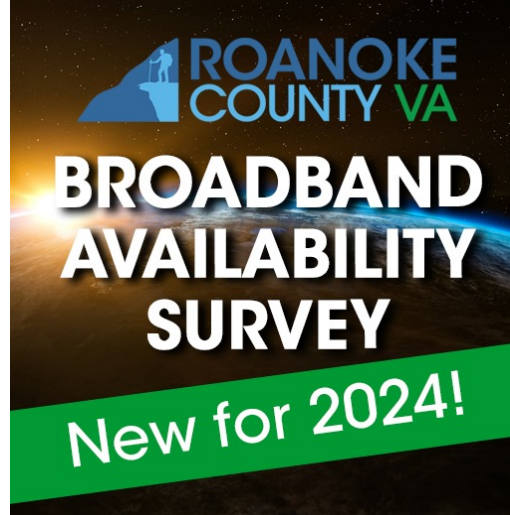
Place one on hold [here!](#)

Broadband Survey

Roanoke County needs your input! We've launched a new resident connectivity survey to better understand local Internet and cell phone connectivity needs county-wide.

Survey Closes on Wednesday, February 14, 2024! See more info

about the survey on our [website](#).



Development News

*The HEART of Roanoke County is. . .
The "RIVAH"*



Keep it CLEAN

- Limit lawn fertilizers.
- Contain trash and litter.
- Throw NOTHING in a storm drain.
- Bag pet waste, then put it in a trash can.
- Cover bare dirt with mulch, or seed/straw.
- Bag or compost leaves and grass clippings.
- Apply absorbent materials to oil leaks or spills.
- Remove leaves from roadside gutters and swales.

The Roanoke River

Keeping the Roanoke River pollution-free is vital to the well-being of the localities through which it travels, especially Roanoke County. WHY? A healthy river helps maintain the quality of life that residents have come to expect; provides safe water-related recreational opportunities; attracts nature-loving tourists; keeps wildlife healthy; and supports the vital local industries that depend on it.

Sincerely,
Cecelia Thomas,
Planning Administrative Assistant

[Visit our Website](#)

March 2024



Hello!

McAfee Knob Trailhead Shuttle Expansion Ribbon Cutting

The McAfee Knob Trailhead Shuttle kicked off the season with a ribbon cutting for the expansion of the service on February 29 at one of the new shuttle locations at Longwood Park in Salem.

With over 60 people in attendance, the event offered a ride on the new on demand shuttle bus to visit the new shuttle locations, as well as view the progress at the McAfee Knob Trailhead of the construction of the pedestrian bridge to carry the Appalachian Scenic Trail over Route 311 to increase safety for hikers.

The trailhead parking lot closed in late November to all vehicles and is expected to remain closed until late 2024. Visitors are encouraged to utilize the shuttle to alleviate the hassle since no parking is available at the trailhead.

Hikers may choose to board the shuttle at one of the following four predetermined, on demand locations. Longwood Park at 601 East Main Street, 101 South Broad Street, both located in Salem, Virginia.

The Park and Ride located at the Orange Market on Route 311 will also offer an additional stop. Later in the season, VDOT will construct a shuttle pull off near Dragon's Tooth on Route 311 to access the trailhead. The shuttle will visit these locations only if a reservation is requested.

The shuttle will continue the fixed route between the I-81, Exit 140 Park-and-Ride to the McAfee Knob trailhead parking lot on a continuous loop.

The fare for a one-way reservation will remain the same as last year, \$5 plus processing fees. The shuttle will operate on Fridays Saturdays, Sundays and holidays that fall on a Monday. Hours of operation in March will be 7:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. For more information and to make reservations visit: www.McAfeeShuttle.com.



Public Meetings



March 5th - Planning Commission

1. The petition of [Kevin Manor](#) to obtain a special use permit to operate a short-term rental on approximately 1.23 acres of land zoned R-1, Low Density Residential District, located at 4127 Mockingbird Hill Road, Hollins Magisterial District.
2. The petition of [Neil Aneja](#) to obtain a special use permit to operate a short-term rental on approximately 0.30 acre of land zoned R-1, Low Density Residential District, located at 2726 White Pelican Lane, Cave Spring Magisterial District. (POSTPONED BY APPLICANT)

March 7th - Carson Road Safety Improvements Community Meeting

(Inclement Weather date March 14, 2024)
Bonsack Elementary School Cafeteria, 5437 Crumpacker Drive
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. See more information below.

March 18th - Peters Creek Road/Williamson Road Multimodal Safety Improvements Community Meeting

(Inclement Weather date March 20, 2024)
Hollins Library, 6624 Peters Creek Road
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. See more information below.

March 26th - Board of Supervisors

1. The petition of [Kevin Manor](#) to obtain a special use permit to operate a short-term rental on approximately 1.23 acres of land zoned R-1, Low Density Residential District, located at 4127 Mockingbird Hill Road, Hollins Magisterial District.

News & Updates

2023 Annual Report

The 2023 Annual Report for the Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals and Department of Planning is now available on the Roanoke County website!



2023 Annual Report

Roanoke County Planning Commission,
Board of Zoning Appeals &
Department of Planning



www.roanokecountyva.gov/pz | www.facebook.com/RoCoPlanning

Click [here](#) to read about our activities and achievements in 2023.

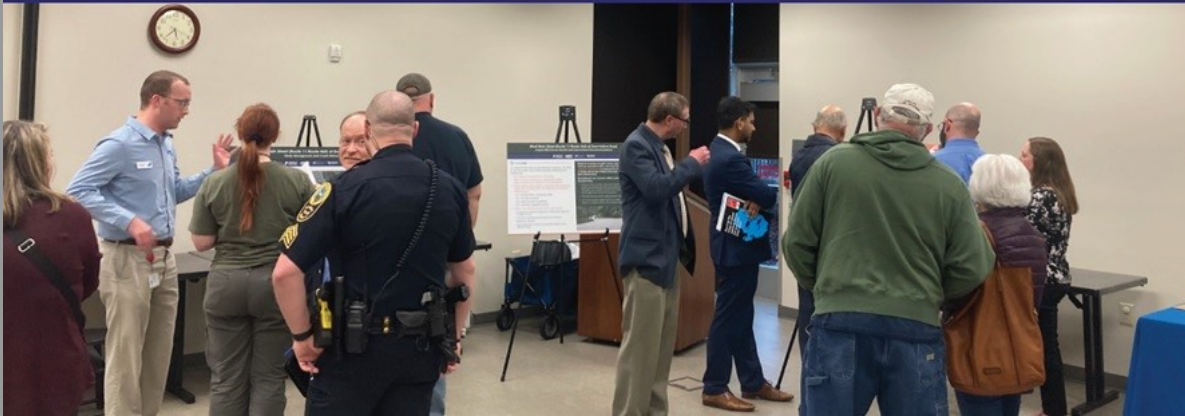


Starkey Road & Ogden Road Streetscape Improvements



A total of 21 people attended the meeting held on February 15th at the Roanoke County Administration Center to review proposed concepts for sidewalks, bicycle lanes, crosswalks, Ogden Road lane reconfigurations and a possible bus stop relocation. A [survey](#) is open until March 15th to provide feedback on the proposed improvements. View project information and proposed concepts on the [project webpage](#).

West Main Street (Route 11/Route 460) at Dow Hollow Road Intersection Improvements



An open house-style community meeting was held on February 28th at the Glenvar Library to review a “peanut” roundabout concept to improve safety at the intersection of West Main Street and Dow Hollow Road. A total of 74 people attended the meeting. View information on the [project webpage](#). Please complete the [survey](#) by March 13th to provide feedback on the proposed roundabout concept.



2nd Community Meeting for Carson Road Safety Improvements

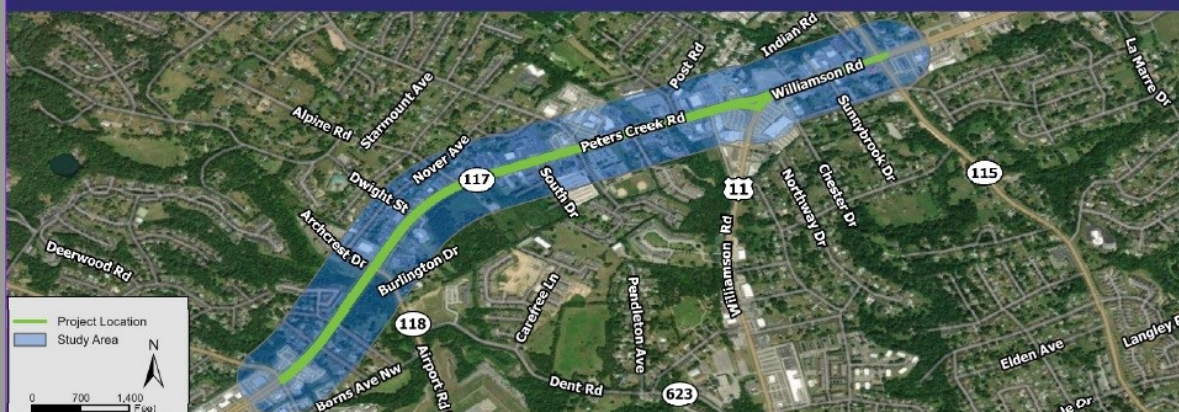


An open house-style community meeting will be held on **Thursday, March 7th**, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Bonsack Elementary School to review concepts to improve safety along Carson Road between Challenger Avenue and the City of Roanoke. A survey will open on

March 7th and will be available until April 5th. View information about the study and find the survey on the [project webpage](#).



Peters Creek Road/ Williamson Road Multimodal Safety Improvements



A community meeting will be held on **Monday, March 18th**, from **5 p.m. to 7 p.m.**, open house-style, at the Hollins Library to review potential intersection improvements and multimodal accommodations to improve safety along Peters Creek Road and Williamson Road between Wood Haven Road and Plantation Road. A survey will open on March 18th and will be available until April 1st. View additional information and find the survey on the [project webpage](#).



Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization

Public Participation Plan Survey



Dates: March 1st through March 14th

Please share with the Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization (RVTPO) your personal preferences for civic participation, media preferences, and knowledge of the RVTPO by **March 14th, 2024**. The feedback will help guide future engagement strategies to best serve our community.

Take the
Survey

Help Youth Arrive Alive this Spring and Summer!

ARRIVE ALIVE



IT'S A WHOLE VIBE.

Registration for the free 2024 *Arrive Alive* Campaign is now open. Any student, school (middle or high), club, class or youth group can get involved to help promote safety during the high-risk spring and summer months. This initiative is sponsored by Youth of Virginia Speak Out About Traffic Safety (YOVASO) in partnership with Virginia State Police, Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, and State Farm. The campaign runs March 4 through May 31 and encourages teens to take the lead in promoting safe driving and passenger safety at the school and community level. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three participating middle and high school groups. Any student, school (club or class), or youth group, can participate. The campaign, all materials, and incentive items are free.

Visit www.yovaso.org/arrive-alive or contact Casey Taylor at casey.taylor@vsp.virginia.gov or 540-739-4392 for more information or to register.

Blue Eagle Credit Union Showcases New Mural



Laurissa Thompson notes:

"Local muralist Jon Murrill has done it again! The talented local artist and muralist captures the beauty of our community, showcases the artistic talent in our area, and creates art that is eyecatching and engaging. Jon has completed two more beautiful works of art, which can be seen at Blue Eagle® Credit Union."

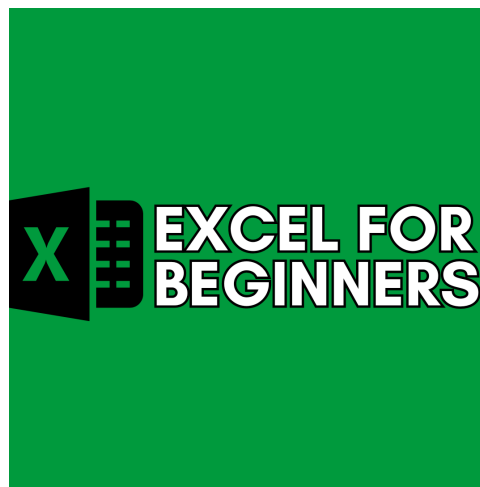
You can read the full press release [here](#).

Events & Activities

[Excel for Beginners](#)

New to MS Excel or need a refresher? Join staff at the Hollins library on Wednesday, March 13th, to learn the basics of creating and formatting Excel spreadsheets.

Register [online](#).



[Septic Workshop](#)

Join us for an educational workshop to see if you qualify for a free septic pump out!

March 9th, 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Vinton Library!



[Creations & Temptations](#)

Join Vinton Library Staff on Saturday, March 16th to decorate a flower pot with a cute and curious bunny sticking out.

All supplies are provided. Registration is required.

Register [here!](#)



South County Writers Workshop

Join the workshop at the South County Library on Tuesday, March 12th for time to write, share and critique.

March 12th
5:30-7:30 p.m.
Meeting Room 2



Development News

Roanoke County's Department of Development Services is pleased to present its annual Stormwater Guide for Homeowners. This newsletter is full of useful stormwater-related topics, including sign-up details for the next workshop about the County's FREE Septic Pump-Out Program. To learn more click [here!](#)

Sincerely,
Cecelia Thomas,
Planning Administrative Assistant

[Visit our Website](#)

April 2024



Hello!

McAfee Knob Trailhead Shuttle Ride with Senator Tim Kaine



The McAfee Knob Trailhead shuttle is off to a great start with 486 reservations for the month of March.

Visitors are encouraged to utilize the shuttle to alleviate the hassle since no parking is available at the trailhead. The trailhead parking lot closed in late November due to the construction of the pedestrian bridge over Route 311 to all vehicles and is expected to remain closed until late 2024.

Hikers may choose to board the shuttle at one of the following four predetermined, on demand locations. Longwood Park at 601 East Main Street, 101 South Broad Street, both located in Salem, Virginia. The Park and Ride located at the Orange Market on Route 311 will also offer an additional stop. Later in the season, VDOT will construct a shuttle pull off near Dragon's Tooth on Route 311 to access the trailhead. The shuttle will visit these locations only if a reservation is requested. The shuttle is continuing the fixed route between the I-81, Exit 140 Park-and-Ride to the McAfee Knob trailhead parking lot on a continuous loop.

For a \$5 fare plus processing fees for a one-way reservation, take the shuttle and don't stress about the parking. The shuttle operates on Fridays Saturdays, Sundays and holidays that fall on a Monday. Hours

of operation starting April through September will be 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. For more information and to make reservations visit:

www.McAfeeShuttle.com.

Public Meetings



April 2nd - Planning Commission

The Planning Commission will hold public hearings on the following items:

1. The petition of the [City of Salem Water Department](#) to obtain a special use permit for a major utility service (water tank) on approximately 0.38 acre of land zoned R-1, Low Density Residential District, located at 1490 Hearth Lane, Catawba Magisterial District.
2. The petition of [Sheetz, Inc.](#) to remove the proffered conditions on approximately 0.978 acre of land zoned C-2C, High Intensity Commercial with conditions, located at 4143 Franklin Road, Cave Spring Magisterial District.

April 11th - West Roanoke River Greenway Phase 2 Community Meeting

Time: 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. as an open house-style meeting where attendees can come and go as they please

Location: Fort Lewis Elementary School Gymnasium, 3115 West Main Street, Salem, VA 24153

See more information in the article below.

April 23rd - Board of Supervisors

The Board of Supervisors will hold public hearings on the following items:

1. Public hearing on the Virginia Department of Transportation's [draft Secondary Six Year Improvement Program](#) (SSYP) for Roanoke County. Learn about the projects included in the SSYP using our [Story Map](#).
2. The petition of the [City of Salem Water Department](#) to obtain a special use permit for a major utility service (water tank) on approximately 0.38 acre of land zoned R-1, Low Density Residential District, located at 1490 Hearth Lane, Catawba Magisterial District.

3. The petition of [Sheetz, Inc.](#) to remove the proffered conditions on approximately 0.978 acre of land zoned C-2C, High Intensity Commercial with conditions, located at 4143 Franklin Road, Cave Spring Magisterial District.

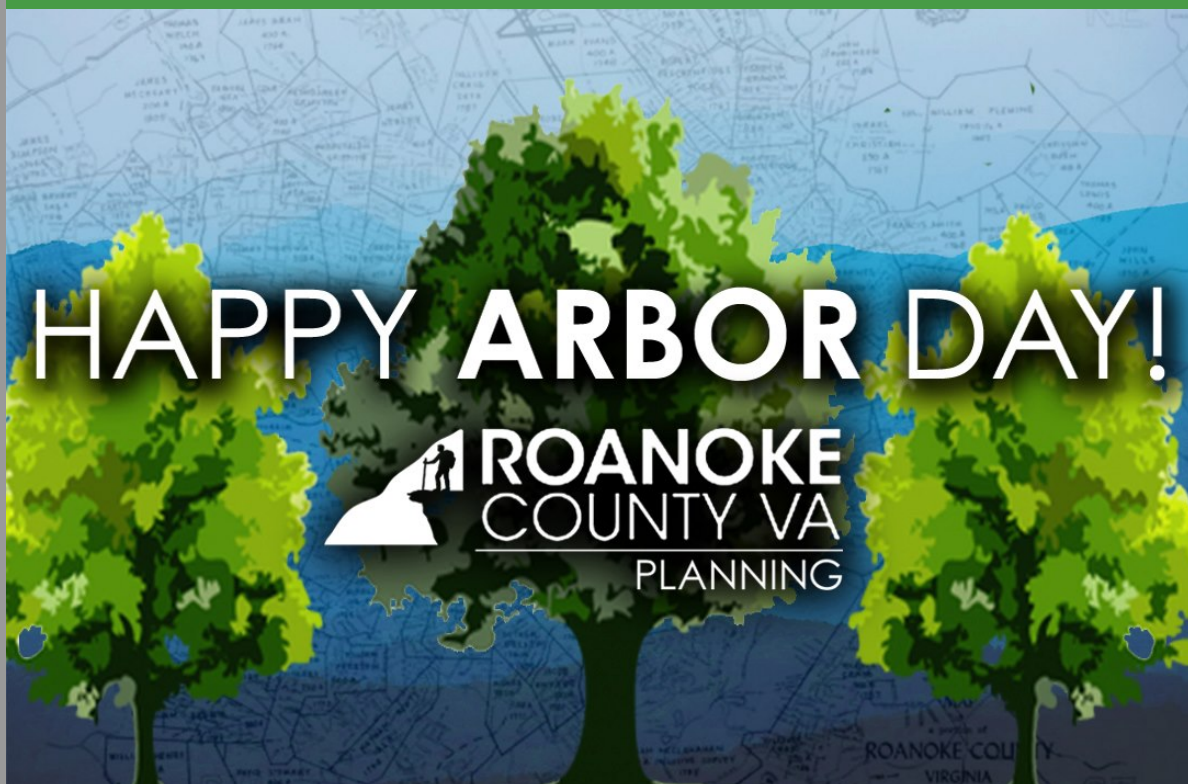
May 7th - Planning Commission

The Planning Commission will hold public hearings on the following items:

1. The petition of [Ramseys and Jesica Sandoval](#) to obtain a special use permit to operate a short-term rental on approximately 0.3794 acre of land zoned R-1, Low Density Residential District, located at 5207 North Spring Drive, Catawba Magisterial District.

2. The petition of [ABoone Real Estate, Inc.](#) to rezone approximately 16.27 acres of land from R-3C, Medium Density Multi-Family Residential District with conditions, to C-2C, High Intensity Commercial with conditions, to obtain a special use permit for mini-warehouse on approximately 19.73 acres zoned C-2C, High Intensity Commercial District with conditions, and to amend the proffered conditions on 32.323 acres of land zoned C-2C, High Intensity Commercial District with conditions, and R-3C, Medium Density Multi-Family Residential District with conditions, located in the 1300 and 1400 blocks of Edgebrook Road, Catawba Magisterial District.

News & Updates



Thursday, April 25th is the annual Roanoke County Arbor Day Celebration! Roanoke County Parks, Recreation & Tourism After School for Kids (ASK) program participants at Penn Forest Elementary School will participate in a tree planting to celebrate Arbor Day. This

event will help the County earn its Tree City USA designation for 26 years.

The April 25th celebration will be at 3:00 PM at the Merriman Soccer Complex in conjunction with the ribbon cutting for the newly constructed South County Trail Extension Project.



A promotional banner for the 'Swing for the Green' Golf Tournament. On the left is a large white golf ball with the 'Hunting Hills Country Club' logo. The background is a lush green golf course. The text 'Swing for the Green' is in a large, elegant script, with 'Golf Tournament' in a bold sans-serif font below it. To the right, a gold badge says 'Annual Event'. Below the title, a circular badge indicates 'May 10th Friday | 2024'. Next to it, a location pin icon points to 'Hunting Hills Country Club, Roanoke, Virginia'. A red 'REGISTER TODAY' button is also present. Contact information includes the phone number '540-362-3293' and email 'Valerie@WilliamsonRoad.org'. At the bottom, it states 'At the intersection of Community & Business' and 'Benefiting the community-building work of The Greater Williamson Road Area Business Association', with the GWRABA logo on the right.

The Greater Williamson Road Area Business Association (GWRABA) is hosting the annual Swing for the Green Golf Tournament at Hunting Hills Country Club on Friday, May 10. Learn more, register, or sponsor the event [here](#).



A banner for 'Carson Road Safety Improvements'. The top section has a dark green background with a white '460' shield logo on the left, the text 'Land Use & Connectivity STUDY' below it, the title 'Carson Road Safety Improvements' in large white font in the center, and the 'ROANOKE COUNTY VA' logo on the right. Below this is a photograph of Carson Road, showing a two-lane road with yellow double lines, surrounded by trees and a clear sky. The bottom section is a solid dark green bar with the text 'Survey Closing April 5th' in large white font.

On Thursday, March 7th, Roanoke County hosted a community meeting to gather input from citizens on potential safety improvements to Carson Road. Possible improvements include

sidewalks, a shared use path, crosswalks, spot curve improvements, mini-roundabouts at neighborhood streets, replacement of the one-lane bridge, improvements to the Carson/Challenger approach, cutting down a hill/vertical curve in the roadway and adding a new access road to the Kroger shopping center. The meeting was held at Bonsack Elementary School and was attended by 34 people. The exhibits displayed at the meeting are now available to review on the study [webpage](#) and a [survey](#) is open until April 5th.



West Roanoke River Greenway Phase 2 Community Meeting

Roanoke County is holding a community meeting to provide an update on construction of the West Roanoke River Greenway (Phase 1) between Kingsmill Drive and the new trailhead parking lot near Riverside Nursery, to share the history of the West Roanoke River Greenway (Phase 2) alignment proposed between Green Hill Park and the new Phase 1 under construction, and to consider potential alternative routes to connect the new Phase 1 under construction to the existing greenway at Green Hill Park.

Date: Thursday, April 11, 2024

Time: 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. as an open house-style meeting where attendees can come and go as they please

Location: Fort Lewis Elementary School Gymnasium, 3115 West Main Street, Salem, VA 24153

A survey will be open on the [project webpage](#) to gather feedback between April 11 and May 10, 2024.

For more information, contact:

Lindsay Webb, Parks, Planning & Development Manager, by email at LWebb@RoanokeCountyVA.gov or by phone at (540) 777-6328

Megan Cronise, Assistant Director of Planning, by email at MCronise@RoanokeCountyVA.gov or by phone at (540) 772-2106.



Sarah Gilmore, Planner II

Sarah joins Roanoke County as a Planner II (long-range). Sarah holds a degree in Environmental Policy and Planning from Virginia Tech and a master's degree in Water Resources Law, Policy and Management from the University of Idaho. Sarah previously worked as a planner in northern Idaho and is excited to return to VA, where she grew up. In her free time, Sarah enjoys finding new adventures to take with her dog Leopold and looks forward to exploring Roanoke County.

Out of the Office Podcast

Episode 13 of Out of the Office is live on Spotify, Apple Podcast, and Roanoke Valley Television - RVTV YouTube. Tune in to hear of all the spring and summer fun happening in Roanoke County Parks, Recreation and Tourism. What are you most excited for?



Spring Cleaning Options



Think twice before taking all of your "trash" to the curb; there may be a better way:

Recycle it: Roanoke County currently offers several recycling drop off locations in addition to the Tinker Creek Transfer Station. Different locations accept different

materials, so it's important to learn what your location will accept.

Sell it or Donate it: Consider a garage sale or consignment shop! Roanoke County allows garage or yard sales provided that such sales occur no more than two days in a two month period.

Dispose of it: If you do choose to throw out materials or household items, please refer to [General Services Bulk and Brush Collection guidelines](#).

You may also call General Services at 540-387-6225 for further information.

Events & Activities

[Eclipse Party at the Library](#)

Never seen a solar eclipse? Register to join our Eclipse Party and get a pair of eclipse glasses when you get here for the event! One pair of glasses per family/group. There will be out of this world activities at all RCPL locations on Mon., April 8 from 2-4:30pm for all ages.

Register [online](#).



[Go Birdwatching!](#)

In partnership with the Roanoke Valley Bird Club, all Roanoke Valley Library locations now offer birding backpacks for checkout. Visit your favorite RCPL location or the online catalog to place a backpack on [hold](#).



[Kite Festival at Green Hill Park](#)

Join us at Green Hill Park for the

23rd annual Blue Ridge Kite Festival on Saturday, April 20! We will fill the sky with thousands of colorful kites with a fantastic family atmosphere throughout the day from 10 AM to 3 PM!



Treetop Quest

Treetop Quest at Explore Park opens on Saturday, April 6 for the 2024 season! Book your quest today to soar through the trees on weekends this spring at Roanoke County's aerial adventure and zipline course!

[Click here to book your quest!](#)



Development News

FREE SEPTIC SYSTEM PUMP-OUTS! SEE IF YOU QUALIFY.

Roanoke County and the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission (RVARC) have partnered using grant funds from the Virginia Environmental Endowment to provide a no-cost septic tank pump-out program for qualified Roanoke County residents.

WHO IS QUALIFIED TO APPLY? Households with an annual income at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Line are eligible to apply for this program.

HOW TO APPLY FOR A FREE PUMP-OUT? View the video on the following [website](#) and fill out the online application.

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS? Call Roanoke County 540-772-2036 or RVARC 540-343-4417 (x308).

Sincerely,

Cecelia Thomas,
Planning Administrative Assistant

[Visit our Website](#)

May 2024



Hello!

Arbor Day Celebration

Roanoke County has been designated a Tree City USA for 26 consecutive years. To celebrate Arbor Day this year we planted five new shade trees at Merriman Soccer Complex along the South County Trail Extension Project in the Cave Spring Magisterial District and six new shade trees along the Plantation Road Shared Use Path in the Hollins Magisterial District. These shade trees were covered by the Arbor Day Foundation regional grant submitted by us through the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission.

A joint Arbor Day and South County Trail Extension Project ribbon cutting event with Roanoke County Parks, Recreation and Tourism's After School for Kids (ASK) Penn Forest Elementary participants was held at Merriman Soccer Complex on Thursday, April 25th with guests from the Virginia Department of Forestry and Smokey Bear. The new South County Trail Extension Project is a 1.1-mile loop that includes

new trail extensions connecting Merriman Soccer Complex, Starkey Park South, Starkey Park North, and South County Library as called for in the [Draft Roanoke County 200 Plan](#)'s Cave Spring Community Planning Area Document. The new shade trees along the Plantation Road Shared Use Path further implement the adopted [Hollins Center Plan](#)'s (2020) recommendations of streetscaping and placemaking elements in the area



Public Meetings



May 2nd - Roanoke County (North) Safe Streets and Roads For All Community Meeting

Time: 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. as an open house-style meeting where

attendees can come and go as they please

Location: Hollins Library

See more information in the article below.

May 7th - Planning Commission

The Planning Commission will hold public hearings on the following items:

1. The petition of [Ramseys and Jesica Sandoval](#) to obtain a special use permit to operate a short-term rental on approximately 0.3794 acre of land zoned R-1, Low Density Residential District, located at 5207 North Spring Drive, Catawba Magisterial District.
2. The petition of [ABoone Real Estate, Inc.](#) to rezone approximately 16.27 acres of land from R-3C, Medium Density Multi-Family Residential District with conditions, to C-2C, High Intensity Commercial with conditions, to obtain a special use permit for mini-warehouse on approximately 19.73 acres zoned C-2C, High Intensity Commercial District with conditions, and to amend the proffered conditions on 32.323 acres of land zoned C-2C, High Intensity Commercial District with conditions, and R-3C, Medium Density Multi-Family Residential District with conditions, located in the 1300 and 1400 blocks of Edgebrook Road, Catawba Magisterial District.

May 9th - Community Meeting for Reed Road Solar 1, LLC Land Use Application

Time: 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. as an open house-style meeting where attendees can come and go as they please

Location: Bent Mountain Center, 10148 Tinsley Lane, Bent Mountain, VA 24059.

See more information in the article below.

May 13th - Community Meeting for Roanoke Valley Holdings, LLC Land Use Application

Time: 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. as an open house-style meeting where attendees can come and go as they please

Location: Bonsack Elementary School Cafeteria, 5437 Crumpacker Drive, Roanoke, VA 24019.

See more information in the article below.

May 28th - Board of Supervisors

The Board of Supervisors will hold public hearings on the following items:

1. The petition of [Ramseys and Jesica Sandoval](#)
2. The petition of [ABoone Real Estate, Inc.](#)

June 4th - Planning Commission

The Planning Commission will hold public hearings on the following items:

1. The petition of [Robert and Jerri Jackson](#) to obtain a special use permit to operate a short-term rental on approximately 0.5768 acre of land zoned R-1, Low Density Residential District, located at 1727 Mountain Heights Drive, Catawba Magisterial District.

2. The petition of [Franco and Dawn DeBartolo](#) to obtain a special use permit to operate a short-term rental on approximately 2.99 acres of land zoned R-1, Low Density Residential District, located at 3663 Chaparral Drive, Cave Spring Magisterial District.

3. The petition of [Evelyn Liu](#) to obtain a special use permit to operate a short-term rental on approximately 2.04 acres of land zoned R-1, Low Density Residential District, located at 4058 Keagy Road, Windsor Hills Magisterial District.

4. The petition of [Roanoke Valley Holdings LLC](#) to remove a proffered condition in order to develop a residential subdivision, on approximately 50.8 acres of land zoned R-1C, Low Density Residential District with conditions, located near the 6200 block of Crumpacker Drive, Hollins Magisterial District.

5. The petition of [Reed Road Solar 1, LLC](#) to obtain a special use permit for a major utility service (solar farm) on approximately 36.48 acres of land zoned AR Agricultural/Residential District, located at 9150 Reed Road, Windsor Hills Magisterial District.

6. The petition of [Neil Aneja](#) to obtain a special use permit to operate a short-term rental on approximately 0.30 acre of land zoned R-1, Low Density Residential District, located at 2726 White Pelican Lane, Cave Spring Magisterial District.

News & Updates

MCAFFEE KNOB TRAILHEAD SHUTTLE STOPS
Interstate 81, Exit 140 Park-and-Ride
Route 311 near McAfee Knob Trailhead
101 S. Broad Street
Longwood Park, 601 E. Main Street
Orange Market Park-and-Ride
Route 311 near Dragon's Tooth Trailhead

SEASONAL SHUTTLE SERVICE
Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays & Holiday Mondays
March 1, 2024 – December 1, 2024

March Hours: 7:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
April – September Hours: 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
October Hours: 7:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
November Hours: 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

SHUTTLE STOP

www.McAfeeShuttle.com

Dragon's Tooth Shuttle Stop is Open!

The McAfee Knob Trailhead Shuttle completed the 2024 expansion of the shuttle service to Dragon's Tooth this past weekend. This shuttle stop will be considered on demand and will pick hikers up once a reservation is requested. Roanoke County worked with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to construct the shuttle pull off near Dragon's Tooth on Route 311 to access the trailhead.

Other shuttle stops hikers may choose to board the shuttle are located in Salem, Virginia at Longwood Park at 601 East Main Street and 101 South Broad Street. The Park and Ride located at the

Orange Market on Route 311 also offers an additional stop. The shuttle will visit these locations only if a reservation is requested. The shuttle is continuing the fixed route between the I-81, Exit 140 Park-and-Ride to the McAfee Knob Trailhead parking lot on a continuous loop.

For a \$5 fare plus processing fees for a one-way reservation, take the hassle out of worrying where to park and hop on the shuttle. The shuttle operates on Fridays Saturdays, Sundays and holidays that fall on a Monday. Hours of operation starting April through September are 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. For more information and to make reservations visit: www.McAfeeShuttle.com.

The shuttle will operate on Memorial Day, Monday, May 27 from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Parking on Old Catawba Road

When visiting the Catawba area and hiking the Appalachian Trail to McAfee Knob, parking is available on Old Catawba Road. Visitors should adhere to the signs that indicate where it is safe and legal to park. A best practice includes not parking directly across from another vehicle. This will allow for traffic to still travel on Old Catawba Road and not impede any emergency vehicles that may need to reach a resident's home for an emergency. Towing and ticketing will be enforced.

Don't want to worry about where to park? Take the McAfee Knob Trailhead Shuttle. More information at: www.McAfeeShuttle.com

Preparing for a Hike

Hiking weather is upon us and now is a great time to think about getting outdoors. Want to have a fun time and enjoy your hike? Follow the tips below from the Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club (RATC) for a successful and safe hike.

- Eat a meal prior to your hike.
- Wear proper hiking boots or shoes.
- Tell someone where you're going and when you expect to return.
- Pack sunscreen, a hat and sunglasses.
- Bring rain gear and or a jacket.
- Pack a snack such as carbs or electrolytes.
- Bring a compass and map.
- Bring a light source, not just your phones flashlight.
- Bring a first aid kit.
- **Bring plenty of water, have enough water – bring more!**

Please remember:

- Start your hike at a time that will allow you enough time to finish and not be in the dark.

- Consider if the hike is appropriate for children and pack supplies for them. Same for dogs on the trail.
- Fully charge your cell phone prior to the hike.
- Carry out what you carry in. There's no trash pick-up in the backcountry, so footprints are all you should leave behind.
- Stop and smell the flowers. The summit views you're aiming for is just one part of the hike. The journey to get there holds just as many rewards if we slow down and enjoy them.



Regional Active Transportation Plan

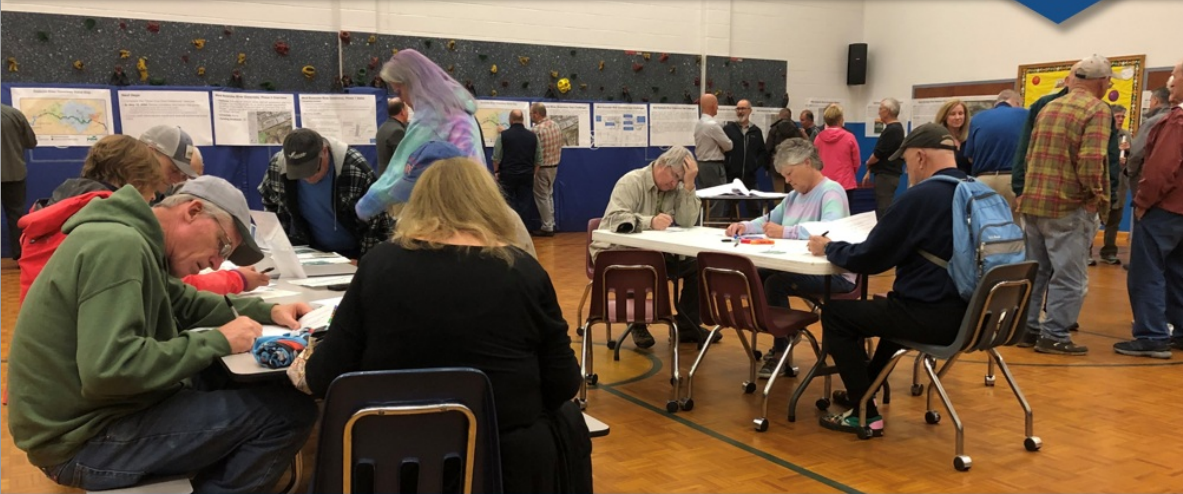


How do you choose to travel around Roanoke?

Whether you drive, ride the bus, walk, bike, or roll – having access to those opportunities is important to us. The Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission is accepting comments from the public about creating the Regional Active Transportation Plan. The survey is asking for feedback to better understand how and where people are accessing or would like to access destinations by walking, biking, or rolling. Help guide us to better serve and support the community by outlining the areas for improvements in active transportation. The survey is live from May 1st through June 15th.

[Take the Survey](#)

West Roanoke River Greenway Phase 2



Community Meeting Recap

On Thursday, April 11th, Roanoke County hosted a community meeting to provide updates on the construction of Phase 1 of the West Roanoke River Greenway (Kingsmill Drive to Riverside Nursery), share the history of the current unfunded alignment for Phase 2 of the West Roanoke River Greenway (Riverside Nursery to Green Hill Park), and consider possible alternative alignments for Phase 2. The meeting was held at Fort Lewis Elementary School and was attended by 95 people.

The exhibits displayed at the meeting are now available to review on the [project webpage](#) and a [survey](#) is open until May 10th.

Megan Cronise
Assistant Director of Planning
(540) 772-2106
[email](#)

Lindsay Webb
Parks Planning and Development
Manager
(540) 777-6328
[email](#)

Project Webpage and Survey Closing May 10th



Safe Streets and Roads For All 2024 Community Meetings

Open house-style meetings where attendees can come and go as they please

Roanoke County, Botetourt County and the Town of Vinton are collaborating on a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan through the Federal Highway Administration's **Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)** program with the goal of preventing deaths and serious injuries for all roadway users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, commercial vehicle operators, transit riders and micromobility users.

Community meetings are being held in each locality for you to comment on the high crash areas identified. These community meetings will be open house-style, where attendees can come and go as they please. Paper surveys will be available at the meetings and digital versions are open on each locality's SS4A webpage through May 21.



Roanoke County (North) | Thursday, May 2 | 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Hollins Library, 6624 Peters Creek Rd, Roanoke, VA 24019

Learn More: www.RoanokeCountyVA.gov/SS4A

Staff Contact: Megan Cronise, Assistant Director of Planning
MCronise@RoanokeCountyVA.gov | (540) 772-2106



Town of Vinton | Tuesday, April 30 | 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Vinton War Memorial, 814 Washington Ave, Vinton, VA 24179

Learn More:
www.VintonVA.gov/528/Transportation

Staff Contact: Cody Sexton, Assistant Town Manager
CSexton@VintonVA.gov | (540) 983-0607



Botetourt County (North) | Monday, May 6 | 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Eagle Rock Elementary School Cafeteria | 145 Eagles Nest Dr, Eagle Rock, VA 24085

Botetourt County (South) | Tuesday, May 7 | 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

County Administration Center at Greenfield | 57 S Center Dr, Daleville, VA 24083

Learn More: www.BotetourtVA.gov/SafeStreets

Staff Contact: Jonathan McCoy, Planning Supervisor

A second round of community meetings will be held later this year that will focus on proposed projects in each locality to reduce deaths and serious injuries on our roadways.



ALWAYS LOCK YOUR CAR!

When leaving your car unattended, take your purse, wallet, and ID with you, and hide any other valuables.

CAR BREAK-INS and THEFTS are on the rise.

The Roanoke County Police Department, along with law enforcement agencies across the region, are seeing a significant increase in the number of thefts from vehicles and fraudulent banking activity. Police have identified multiple known theft groups that travel the East Coast committing these crimes.

Their pattern of activity:

- Targeting vehicles in public parks, trailheads, gyms, schools during after-hours athletic events, and other areas where people commonly leave purses and wallets in vehicles.
- Breaking in by smashing the windows or breaking door locks, commonly on the passenger side door, and opening trunks as well.
- Stealing purses and wallets containing checks, ID cards and credit cards.
- Going to local banks using the stolen identifications and cashing checks, stealing thousands of dollars before leaving the area.
- They are also making large purchases at local businesses with the stolen credit cards, prior to victims being able to cancel the cards.

Prevention:

- DO NOT leave any personal items in your car, including the trunk.
- Be aware of out of state tags, rental vehicles and suspicious people in the areas listed above.
- Report any suspicious activity by calling Roanoke County Police Non-Emergency: 540-562-3265.

If your car is broken into:

- Call police immediately to file a report where the break-in occurred. Report all stolen checks, credit cards, and ID cards.

- Cancel your credit cards and notify the bank.

Events & Activities

[Splash Valley Season Passes](#) [On Sale Now!](#)

[Splash Valley Water Park](#) Season Passes are now on sale for the 2024 season! The first 50 passes sold at the discounted rate of \$69.00!

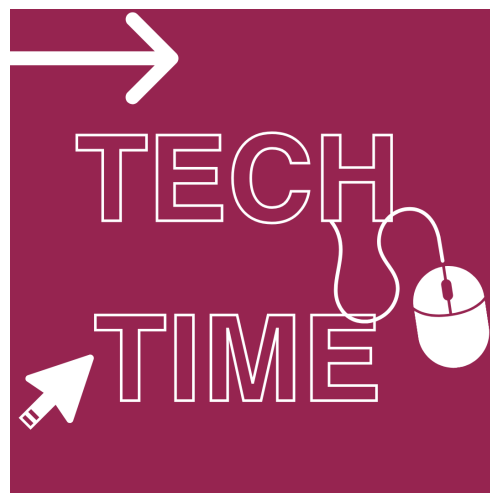
[Purchase your season pass online](#) or call 540-777-6300.



[Tech Time](#)

Come get help with your electronic devices! If this time doesn't work, call us to schedule a one-on-one appointment.

Wednesday, May 15, 2024
2:00-3:00 PM
Hollins Library



[The ABCs of Medicare](#)

Learn about the different parts and plans. Presented by Charles Prouty & Associates Insurance Services with Patrick Harmon.

Thursday, May 16, 2024
2:00-4:00 PM
South County Library
2nd Floor Flex Space



[Game Day](#)

Bored? Come and play board games at the library!

Saturday, May 25, 2024
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Mt. Pleasant Library



Development News

Roanoke County's Department of Development Services is pleased to announce its latest issue of [It's Just Dirt](#), a helpful and informative newsletter for land-disturbing contractors and others in the construction industry. Topics include:

- Stormwater Clean Award Winners
- Alternative Erosion and Sediment Control Measures
- Proper Containment for Concrete Washout
- Reissuance of Virginia's Construction General Permit
- Protecting Endangered/Threatened Species

Sincerely,
Cecelia Thomas,
Planning Administrative Assistant

[Visit our Website](#)

June 2024



Hello!

Happy June from the Hollins Center!

Watch the latest Roam RoCo episode as we roam the Hollins community checking in on the implementation status of the Hollins Center Plan since its adoption in July 2020. We discuss many of the recent transportation improvements, new amenities, and business expansions in the area. Visit the [Hollins Center Plan](#) webpage to read the plan and learn more!



Public Meetings



June 4th - Planning Commission

The Planning Commission will hold public hearings on the following items:

1. The petition of [Robert and Jerri Jackson](#) to obtain a special use permit to operate a short-term rental on approximately 0.5768 acre of land zoned R-1, Low Density Residential District, located at 1727 Mountain Heights Drive, Catawba Magisterial District.
2. The petition of [Franco and Dawn DeBartolo](#) to obtain a special use permit to operate a short-term rental on approximately 2.99 acres of land zoned R-1, Low Density Residential District, located at 3663 Chaparral Drive, Cave Spring Magisterial District.
3. The petition of [Evelyn Liu](#) to obtain a special use permit to operate a short-term rental on approximately 2.04 acres of land zoned R-1, Low Density Residential District, located at 4058 Keagy Road, Windsor Hills Magisterial District.
4. The petition of [Roanoke Valley Holdings LLC](#) to remove a proffered

condition in order to develop a residential subdivision, on approximately 50.8 acres of land zoned R-1C, Low Density Residential District with conditions, located near the 6200 block of Crumpacker Drive, Hollins Magisterial District. **(POSTPONED BY APPLICANT)**

5. The petition of [Reed Road Solar 1, LLC](#) to obtain a special use permit for a major utility service (solar farm) on approximately 36.48 acres of land zoned AR Agricultural/Residential District, located at 9150 Reed Road, Windsor Hills Magisterial District.

6. The petition of [Neil Aneja](#) to obtain a special use permit to operate a short-term rental on approximately 0.30 acre of land zoned R-1, Low Density Residential District, located at 2726 White Pelican Lane, Cave Spring Magisterial District.

June 17th - Route 419 Phase 2 Public Hearing

Time: 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM in an open house format with Roanoke County and VDOT representatives present to answer questions.

Location: Roanoke County Administration Center, 5204 Bernard Drive, Roanoke, VA 24018, Third Floor Training Room

See more information in the 'News and Updates' section below.

June 25th - Board of Supervisors

The Board of Supervisors will hold public hearings on the following items:

1. The petition of [Robert and Jerri Jackson](#)
2. The petition of [Franco and Dawn DeBartolo](#)
3. The petition of [Evelyn Liu](#)
4. The petition of [Roanoke Valley Holdings LLC](#) (POSTPONED BY APPLICANT)
5. The petition of [Reed Road Solar 1, LLC](#)
6. The petition of [Neil Aneja](#)

News & Updates



Route 419 (Electric Road) Road Improvement Project DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING



Monday, June 17 | 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Open house-style meeting where attendees can come and go as they please.

Roanoke County Administration Center | Third Floor Training Room

5204 Bernard Drive, Roanoke, VA 24018

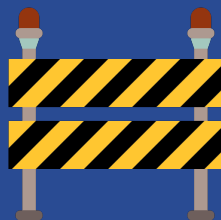
Find out about a project to improve safety and traffic flow on the 0.3-mile section of Route 419 (Electric Road) between Ogden Road and Starkey Road. The project entails constructing a third lane in both directions of Route 419, adding new sidewalks, crosswalks and bicycle lanes.

In addition, the intersection of Route 419 and Starkey Road will be modified with a thru-cut concept and signal phase reductions. The intersection of Route 419 and Ridge Top Road will be changed to a restricted crossing U-turn (RCUT). Both intersection changes will improve traffic flow on Route 419.

VDOT and Roanoke County representatives will be present to answer questions. Give your written or oral comments at the hearing or submit them by Thursday, June 27, 2024, to Eli Mannon, Project Manager, Virginia Department of Transportation, 731 Harrison Avenue, Salem, VA 24153.

You may also email your comments to Eli.Mannon@vdot.virginia.gov (Please reference "Route 419 Improvements" in the subject heading)

Find more Information
Here



Highland Road Closure Starting June 18th

The greenway route approved by the National Park Service/Blue Ridge Parkway requires using the Blue Ridge Parkway underpass on Highland Road. As a result, the roadway will be narrowed to one, fourteen-foot-wide (14') travel lane to allow the eight-foot-wide (8') greenway to be located adjacent to the roadway behind a concrete barrier. VDOT has approved this design, which includes the installation of "Yield" bars and signs on either side of the underpass for drivers to take turns driving through the underpass.

In order to construct the greenway, install the concrete barrier, and resurface the road, Highland Road will be closed between Hogan Road and Rutrough Road starting on June 18, 2024. This work was planned to coincide with Roanoke County Public Schools' summer break, and the roadway is anticipated to reopen by August 14, 2024 before school starts on August 15, 2024.

On June 4, 2024, Portable Changeable Message Boards will be

placed and active at the following locations:

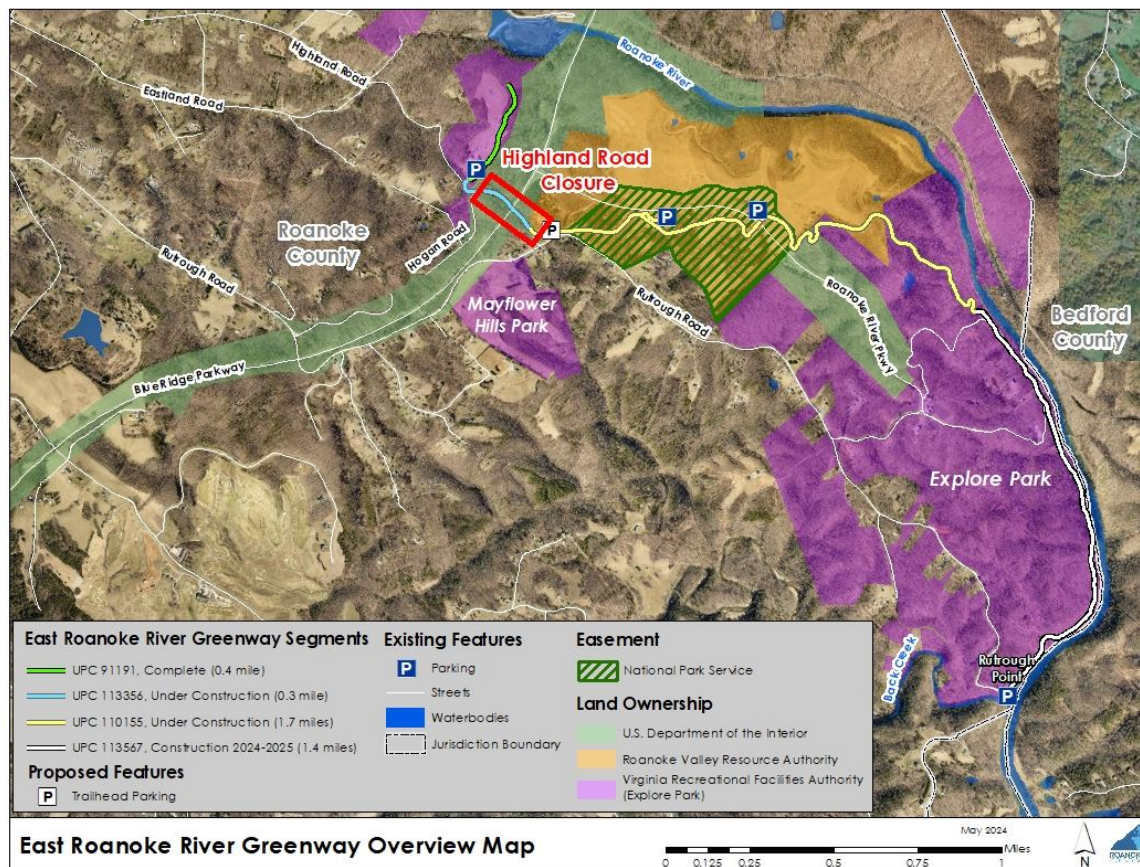
- Bennington Street at Riverdale Road, SE in the City of Roanoke
- Rutrough Road at Mayflower Hills Park

Additional barricades and signs will be installed when the road closure begins on June 18, 2024. Drivers will need to use Rutrough Road to pass under the Blue Ridge Parkway during the Highland Road closure.

David Henderson
County Engineer
(540) 772-2083
[email](#)

Lindsay Webb
Parks, Planning and
Development Manager
(540) 777-6328
[email](#)

Project Information Page



Urban Tree Canopy Assessment

On April 16th, staff from the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission (RVARC) attended the Planning Commission meeting to review the finalized Urban Tree Canopy Assessment for the Roanoke Valley. This report includes a survey of the existing tree canopy coverage for the entire region as well as individually for Roanoke

County, City of Roanoke, City of Salem, and the Town of Vinton. The report also provides guidance on where tree canopy should be preserved, where tree canopy could be expanded, and what areas within our region would benefit most from the natural benefits of tree canopy. The data suggests that Roanoke County is roughly three-quarters covered in tree canopy with between 15% to 20% of the remaining land being considered as potential planting areas, including public land and excluding land designated for agriculture, sports fields, or other similar uses. Watch the video below to learn more.

[Click Here to Read the Plan!](#)

[Click here](#) to learn more about how RVARC is actively involved in urban forestry.



MCAFFEE KNOB TRAILHEAD SHUTTLE STOPS

- Interstate 81, Exit 140 Park-and-Ride
- Route 311 near McAfee Knob Trailhead
- 101 S. Broad Street
- Longwood Park, 601 E. Main Street
- Orange Market Park-and-Ride
- Route 311 near Dragon's Tooth Trailhead

SEASONAL SHUTTLE SERVICE

Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays & Holiday Mondays
March 1, 2024 – December 1, 2024

March Hours: 7:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
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November Hours: 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

SHUTTLE STOP

www.McAfeeShuttle.com

McAfee Knob Trailhead Shuttle Service in Full Swing!

With the arrival of the much-anticipated summer season, the shuttle service is back in full swing, promising a seamless experience for all. Whether you're a day hiker, section hiker, or through hiker, the shuttle service is your ticket to convenience, comfort, and adventure.

Looking for a place to park while the McAfee Knob Trailhead parking lot is closed for construction of the pedestrian bridge? No need to – hop on the shuttle and start your journey to the trailhead and prepare for your hike.

The shuttle offers an affordable fare option, \$5 plus processing fees for a no hassle parking option. The shuttle operates on Fridays through Sundays and holidays that fall on a Monday. Hours of operation starting April through September will be 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. For pick up locations, live shuttle tracking and to make a reservation visit: www.McAfeeShuttle.com.

With reliable service, comfortable rides, and six predetermined shuttle stops, the possibilities are limitless. So, get your backpack, grab your friends, and take the shuttle!



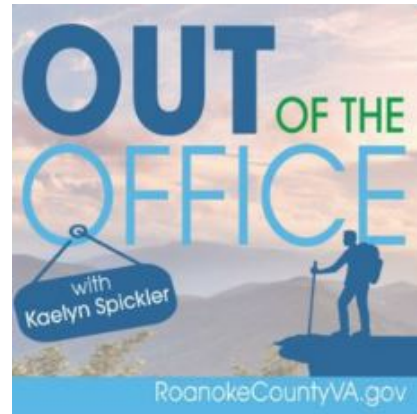
Jason Nowak, Planner I



Jason joins Roanoke County as a Planner I (Code Enforcement). Jason recently located to Roanoke from snowy Buffalo, NY (Go Bills!) where he received a degree in Environmental Design from the University at Buffalo. Jason enjoys many hobbies, including making wine and getting lost in the woods while taking photos of nature. He is eager to start his career and get to know the Roanoke Valley region.

Out of the Office Podcast

Episode 15 of Out of the Office Podcast is live on Spotify, Apple Podcast, and **Roanoke Valley Television** - RVTV YouTube. Tune in to hear from **Roanoke County Parks, Recreation, and Tourism** about all the fun things going on this summer. What's on your summer bucket list?



[Listen on YouTube](#)

Regional Active Transportation Plan



How do you choose to travel around Roanoke?

Whether you drive, ride the bus, walk, bike, or roll – having access to those opportunities is important to us. The Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission is accepting comments from the public about creating the Regional Active Transportation Plan. The survey is asking for feedback to better understand how and where people are accessing or would like to access destinations by walking, biking, or rolling. Help guide us to better serve and support the community by outlining the areas for improvements in active transportation. **The survey is still open until June 15th!**

**Take the
Survey**



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- Targeting vehicles in public parks, trailheads, gyms, schools during after-hours athletic events, and other areas where people commonly leave purses and wallets in vehicles.
- Breaking in by smashing the windows or breaking door locks, commonly on the passenger side door, and opening trunks as well.
- Stealing purses and wallets containing checks, ID cards and credit cards.
- Going to local banks using the stolen identifications and cashing checks, stealing thousands of dollars before leaving the area.
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Prevention:

- DO NOT leave any personal items in your car, including the trunk.
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If your car is broken into:

- Call police immediately to file a report where the break-in occurred. Report all stolen checks, credit cards, and ID cards.
- Cancel your credit cards and notify the bank.

Events & Activities

[Summer Reading
Program Kickoff](#)

Come kickoff the Summer Reading Program (SRP) with food and fun! Can't make it? [Register Online](#) for the SRP, which runs June 8th through August 10th.

Thursday, June 13, 2024
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Vinton Library
Meeting Room, VN



Hello Summer Festival

Kick off the summer season with live music, food, beverages, and family-friendly activities. Admission is free!

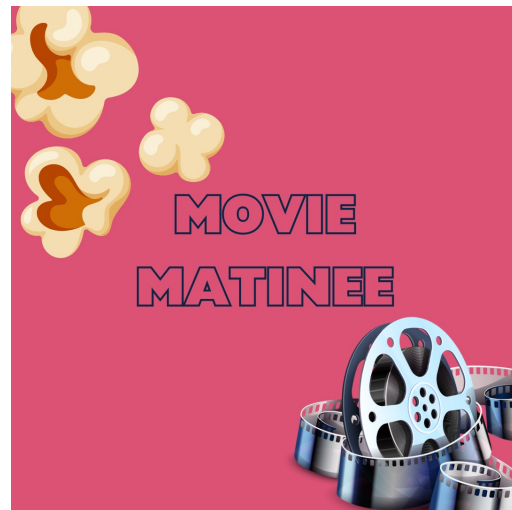
Friday, June 21, 2024
5:00 - 9:00 PM
Green Hill Park



Movie Matinee - Barbie!

Join us for a movie matinee featuring Barbie (2023)! Enjoy the movie with friends and snacks. Rated PG-13.

Saturday, June 22, 2024
2:00 - 5:00 PM
Hollins Library
Meeting Room, HL



iPhone for Beginners

Discover the world of iPhone including phone functions, camera tips, and internet tricks. [Registration Required.](#)

Monday, June 24, 2024
2:00 - 4:00 PM
South County Library
Meeting Room 2



IPHONE FOR BEGINNERS

Development News

FREE SEPTIC SYSTEM PUMP-OUTS! SEE IF YOU QUALIFY.

Roanoke County and the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission (RVARC) have partnered using grant funds from the Virginia Environmental Endowment to provide a no-cost septic tank pump-out program for qualified Roanoke County residents.

WHO IS QUALIFIED TO APPLY? Households with an annual income at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Line are eligible to apply for this program.

HOW TO APPLY FOR A FREE PUMP-OUT? View the video on the following [website](#) and fill out the online application.

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS? Call Roanoke County 540-772-2036 or RVARC 540-343-4417 (x308).

Roanoke County's Department of Development Services is pleased to present its annual [It's Just Dirt](#) newsletter for land-disturbing contractors and developers. It is full of useful stormwater and erosion and sediment control topics, including the following:

- A reminder that DEQ's Construction General Permit is about to expire. The new (re-issued) 5-year permit, which will become effective July 1, 2024, adds turbidity requirements for construction dewatering.
- Stormwater Clean Award Winners
- Alternative Erosion & Sediment Control Measures
- Protecting Threatened & Endangered Species
- Preventing Illicit Discharges from Construction Sites

Sincerely,

Sarah Gilmore
Planner II

[Visit our Website](#)

July 2024



Hello!

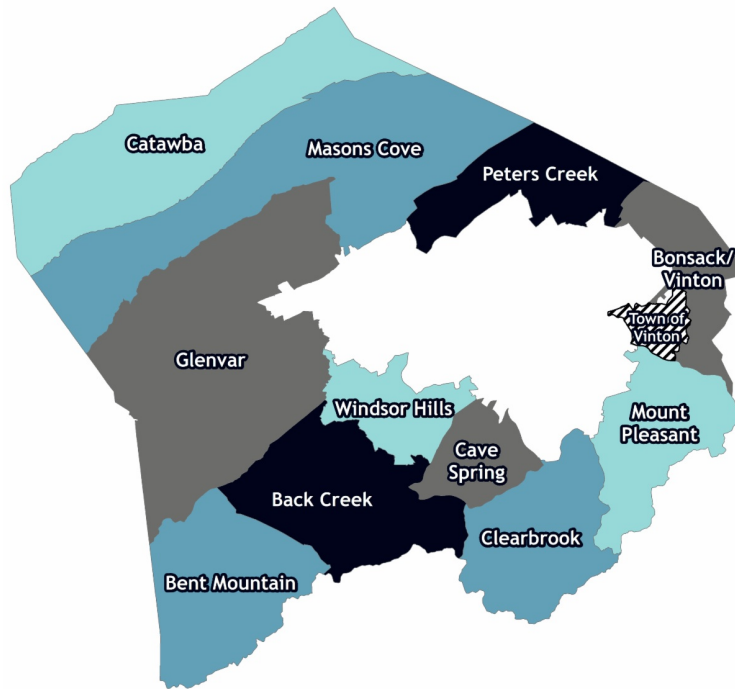
Draft Roanoke County 200 Plan Community Planning Area Documents

The Roanoke County 200 Plan Community Planning Area (CPA) summary documents are in their final draft form and are ready for review! The CPA summary documents are key components of the 200 Plan that summarize the individual needs of each CPA in the county and identify unique goals and recommendations for implementation. View the map below to see where each individual CPA is located, and click the button below to read their draft summary documents. To find more information about CPAs, [click here](#).

**Read the Draft CPA
Documents**

The Roanoke County 200 Plan drafting is in its final stages and adoption of the plan is anticipated in the upcoming months. Stay informed on our [Planning Schedule Webpage](#) where we will provide

dates and information regarding upcoming public hearings.



Public Meetings



July 2nd - Planning Commission

The Planning Commission will hold public hearings on the following items:

1. The petition of [Brad Prescott](#) to obtain a special use permit to develop on a lot without public road frontage and to obtain a special use permit for custom manufacturing in a C-2, High Intensity Commercial District, on approximately 1.44 acres of land located in the 2900 block of Peters Creek Road, Catawba Magisterial District.
2. The petition of [Jonathan Kenneth Burns-Carrera](#) to obtain a special use permit to operate a short-term rental on approximately 1.42 acres of land zoned R-1, Low Intensity Residential District, located at 5909 Old Mountain Road, Hollins Magisterial District.
3. The petition of [Trail Development Group, LLC](#) to rezone approximately 9.67 acres from I-1, Low Intensity Industrial District,

to C-2, High Intensity Commercial District, located near 3475 and 3801 Challenger Avenue, Vinton Magisterial District.

4. The petition of [Roanoke Valley Holdings, LLC](#) to remove a preferred condition on approximately 50.8 acres of land zoned R-1C, Low Density Residential District with conditions, in order to develop a residential subdivision, located near the 6200 block of Crumpacker Drive, Hollins Magisterial District.

July 23rd - Board of Supervisors

The Board of Supervisors will hold public hearings on the following items:

1. The petition of [Brad Prescott](#)
2. The petition of [Jonathan Kenneth Burns-Carrera](#)
3. The petition of [Trail Development Group, LLC](#)
4. The petition of [Roanoke Valley Holdings, LLC](#)

News & Updates



Route 419 Streetscape Improvements Phase 2 (Ogden Road to Starkey Road) VDOT Public Hearing

Roanoke County hosted and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) held a public hearing on the Route 419 Streetscape Improvements project between Ogden Road and Starkey Road on June 17, 2024, at the Roanoke County Administration Center. Roanoke County was awarded regional Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funding for this project in 2020 which was leveraged for a SMART SCALE funding award in 2021. VDOT is administering this project and started design in early 2023.

The project extends improvements from Route 419 between Route 220 and Ogden Road to the next block, with the following features:

- Conversion of the shoulders to combined travel lanes and right turn lanes;
- Construction of sidewalks on both sides of the road;
- Striping for bicycle lanes on both sides of the road;
- Installation of pedestrian crosswalks and signals at the Starkey Road intersection;
- Modification of the Starkey Road intersection to a Thru-Cut configuration; and
- Reconstruction of the Ridge Top Road intersection near El Mezcal and Shell to a Restricted Crossing U-Turn.

A total of 59 people attended the public hearing to review and comment on the proposed project features. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2027.



New Bike Rack Installed at the 419 Town Center

A new bike rack has been installed at the 419 Town Center in front of Michaels Craft Store thanks to Roanoke County's successful application to the [FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge](#) and the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission's [Bike Rack Program](#)! Roanoke business [Lift Arc Studios](#) custom fabricated the branded bike racks, which further implement the adopted [419 Town Center Plan](#)'s (2019) recommendations of incorporating bicycle facilities in the area to improve connectivity.



Score a Grand Slam with the McAfee Knob Trailhead Shuttle!

The McAfee Knob Trailhead shuttle is teaming up with Mugsy from The [Salem Red Sox](#) for a special promo this July. It's simple - book your reservation at www.McAfeeShuttle.com to be picked up or dropped off at one of the shuttle stops in Salem and be entered to win a **family four-pack of tickets to a Salem Red Sox home game**.

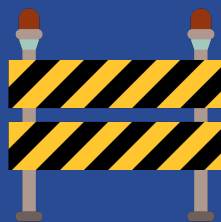
The shuttle has two on-demand stops in Salem at 601 East Main Street at Longwood Park and 101 South Broad Street and will run every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday starting from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. The last day to book a reservation is Sunday, July 28th and the winners will be notified the first week of August. There will be one winner per Salem shuttle stop.

See you on the shuttle and at the Red Sox game!



Appalachian National Scenic Trail
Pedestrian Bridge Beam Placement Complete

Construction of the new pedestrian bridge to carry the Appalachian National Scenic Trail over Route 311 at the McAfee Knob Trailhead parking lot is making great progress! Watch the video below to see a time-lapse of the bridge beams being placed over Route 311 on June 11th. The new pedestrian bridge is expected to open by the end of 2024. More information on the project can be found [here](#).



Highland Road Closed Until August 14, 2024

The greenway route approved by the National Park Service/Blue Ridge Parkway requires using the Blue Ridge Parkway underpass on Highland Road. As a result, the roadway will be narrowed to one, fourteen-foot-wide (14') travel lane to allow the eight-foot-wide (8') greenway to be located adjacent to the roadway behind a concrete barrier. VDOT has approved this design, which includes the installation of "Yield" bars and signs on either side of the underpass for drivers to take turns driving through the underpass.

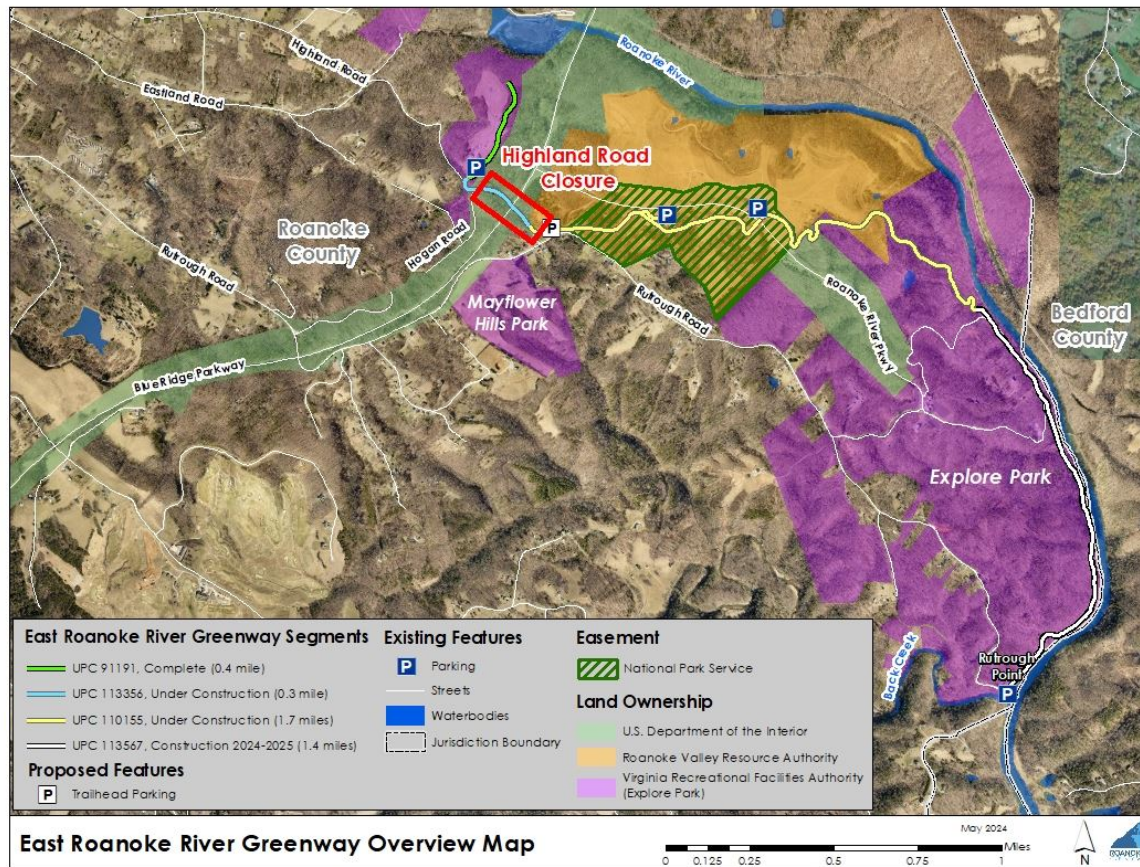
In order to construct the greenway, install the concrete barrier, and resurface the road, **Highland Road is closed between Hogan Road and Rutrough Road**. This work was planned to coincide with Roanoke County Public Schools' summer break, and the roadway is

anticipated to reopen by August 14, 2024, before school starts on August 15, 2024. During the Highland Road closure, drivers will need to use Rutrough Road to pass under the Blue Ridge Parkway.

David Henderson
County Engineer
(540) 772-2083
[email](#)

Lindsay Webb
Parks, Planning and
Development Manager
(540) 777-6328
[email](#)

Project Information Page



Alexander Jones appointed as the Assistant Director of Marketing and Business Development!

Congratulations to Alexander Jones on his appointment to the Economic Development Department as Assistant Director of Marketing and Business Development! Jones has spent the past 7 years leading the development of the Draft Roanoke County 200 Plan, developing and implementing the County's activity center plans and economic

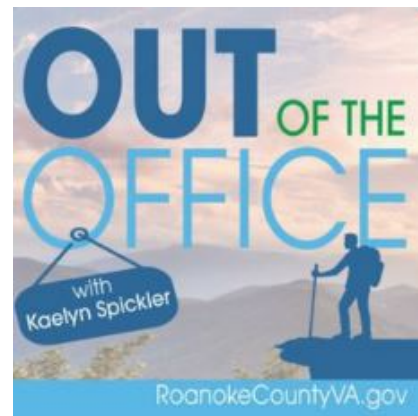
development projects, and serving as staff representative to Roanoke County's Career and Technical Education Citizen Advisory Committee. Alex assumes his new position on July 8th and we look forward to what he will accomplish next!



[Read the Press Release](#)

[Out of the Office Podcast](#)

The new episode of the Out of the Office Podcast is out! Join Roanoke County Public Library Marketing Manager, Caitlin Gills, and Senior Branch Librarian, Bayleigh Vidovich, to learn about all of the fun happening at your library this summer. Don't forget to sign up for the [Summer Reading Program](#) to earn your limited edition badges!



[Listen on YouTube](#)



ALWAYS LOCK YOUR CAR!

When leaving your car unattended, take your purse, wallet, and ID with you, and hide any other valuables.

CAR BREAK-INS and THEFTS are on the rise.

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If your car is broken into:

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- Cancel your credit cards and notify the bank.

Events & Activities

[Fireworks at the Vinton War Memorial](#)

Enjoy music, food trucks, and a free fireworks show on the front lawn of the War Memorial. Feel free to bring a chair or blanket!

Thursday, July 4, 2024
6:00 PM - 10:00 PM
814 E. Washington Avenue
Vinton, VA 24179



[Explore Park Eco-Fest](#)

Join Roanoke County Parks for a

day of fun, learning, and environmental stewardship. Check out the [Schedule of Events](#) for more information.

Saturday, July 13, 2024
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Explore Park



Smokin' Strings Bluegrass & BBQ

Come out for a toe-tapping, finger-licking good time at Smokin' Strings at Explore Park! Enjoy an evening of lively bluegrass music and BBQ.

Saturday, July 20, 2024
4:00 - 8:30 PM
Explore Park



Movies at Merriman

Join us for two free moving showings of Kung Fu Panda 4 (Rated PG) and Dune: Part Two (Rated PG-13) on the soccer field closest to the pavillion.

Friday, July 26, 2024
5:30 - 10:00 PM
Merriman Soccer Complex



Development News

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WHO IS QUALIFIED TO APPLY? Households with an annual income at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Line are eligible to apply for this program.

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- A reminder that DEQ's Construction General Permit is about to expire. The new (re-issued) 5-year permit, which will become effective July 1, 2024, adds turbidity requirements for construction dewatering.
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- Alternative Erosion & Sediment Control Measures
- Protecting Threatened & Endangered Species
- Preventing Illicit Discharges from Construction Sites

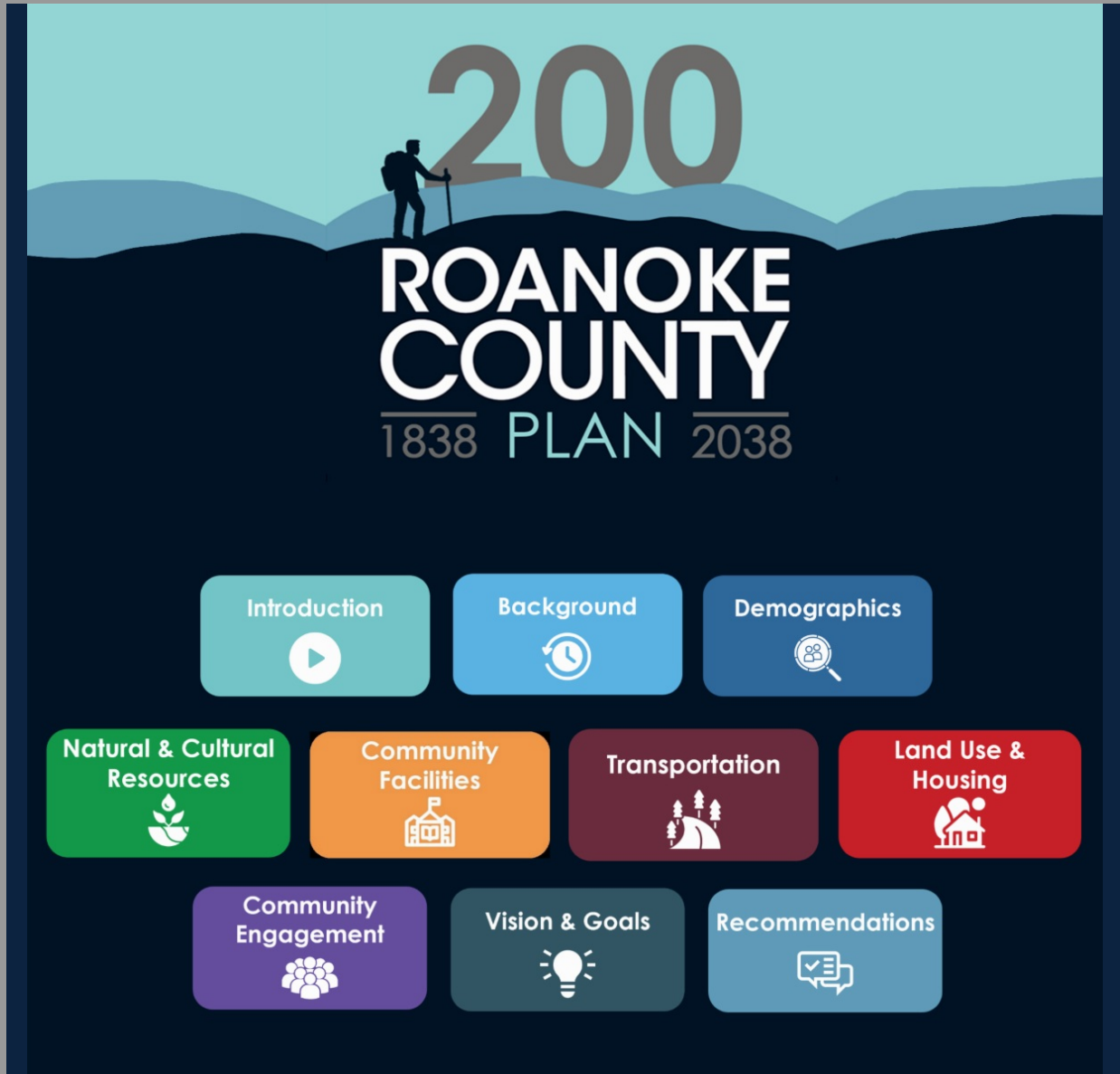
Sincerely,
Sarah Gilmore
Planner II

**Visit our
Website**



Text here

August 2024



Hi Alex,

Final Planning Commission Public Hearing Scheduled for the Roanoke County 200 Plan

All chapters of the Roanoke County 200 Plan are now available for review on the [200 Plan Webpage](#) or by clicking the buttons below. These chapters are in their final draft form along with the Community Planning Area (CPA) summary documents, which summarize the individual needs of each CPA in the county and identify unique goals and recommendations for implementation. To find more information about CPAs, [click here](#). These draft chapters and Community Planning Area summary documents will be taken to the Planning Commission for their [final public hearing on Tuesday August 6, 2024](#).

Introduction



Background



Demographics



Natural & Cultural
Resources



Community
Facilities



Transportation



Land Use &
Housing



Community
Engagement



Vision & Goals



Recommendations



Community
Planning Areas



Public Meetings



August 5th - Community Meeting (open house)

A community meeting (open house) will be held from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Hollins Library on the petition of [Dale Wilkinson](#) to rezone approximately 21.39 acres of land zoned I-1, Low Intensity Industrial District, to R-3, Medium Density Multi-Family Residential District, in order to develop a 225-lot residential subdivision, located at 7812 Sanderson Drive, Hollins Magisterial District.

August 6th - Planning Commission

The Planning Commission will hold a work session at 4:00 p.m. on the status of the [Safe Streets and Roads for All Comprehensive Action Plan](#) development and proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendments. Public Hearings will be held at 7:00 p.m. on the following:

1. The petition of [Joel Calfee](#) to obtain a special use permit to operate a short-term rental on approximately 0.2599 acre of land zoned R-1, Low Density Residential District, located at 1176 Nover Avenue, Hollins Magisterial District.
2. The petition of [Reed Road Solar 1, LLC](#) to obtain a special use permit for a major utility service (solar farm) on approximately 36.48 acres of land zoned AR Agricultural/Residential District, located at 9150 Reed Road. **(CONTINUED FROM JUNE 4th)**
3. The consideration of the draft [Roanoke County 200 Plan](#).

August 20th - Board of Supervisors

The Board of Supervisors will hold public hearings on the following items:

1. The petition of [Joel Calfee](#).
2. The petition of [Reed Road Solar 1, LLC](#).

August 22nd - Joint Design Public Hearing

A joint Virginia Department of Transportation and City of Roanoke Design Public Hearing will take place as an open house from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Bonsack Elementary for the projects in design along Route 460 between Blue Hills Drive in the City of Roanoke and Avery Row in Botetourt County.

See more information in the 'News and Updates' section below.



Route 460 and Route 220 Alt. Road Improvement Projects DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING



Thursday, August 22 | 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Open house-style meeting where attendees can come and go as they please.

**Bonsack Elementary School Cafeteria
5437 Crumpacker Drive, Roanoke, VA 24019**

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the City of Roanoke are hosting a design public hearing to provide information about projects to improve safety and traffic flow on Route 460 (Orange Avenue/Challenger Avenue/Blue Ridge Boulevard) between Blue Hills Drive in the City of Roanoke and Avery Row in Botetourt County.

The projects include improvements at six (6) intersections along Route 460 (Challenger Avenue) in Roanoke County. VDOT and Roanoke County staff will be available to answer questions. The following intersections in Roanoke County will be improved:

- West Ruritan Road
- Carson Road
- East Ruritan Road/Bonsack Road
- The Country Corner Store (4273 Challenger Avenue)
- Huntridge Road
- Cloverdale Road (U.S. Route 220 Alternate)

Give your written or oral comments at the hearing or submit them by September 1, 2024 to Brett Elledge (contact information below).

www.RoanokeCountyVA.gov/460Projects

VDOT Staff Contact:
Brett Elledge,
Project Manager
(540) 375-3580

Roanoke County Staff Contact:
Megan Cronise,
Assistant Director of Planning
(540) 772-2106

Email

Email

Dedication of the United States Navy Aircrewman

Rescue Swimmer James P. Buriak Memorial Bridge

Roanoke County hosted a ceremony on July 8th at Green Hill Park to dedicate the Diuguids Lane bridge over the Roanoke River as the United States Navy Aircrewman Rescue Swimmer James P. Buriak Memorial Bridge. Speakers included Supervisor Martha Hooker, Delegate Joe McNamara, State Senator David Suetterlein, Patrick Pollifrone (friend of the deceased) and Reverend Paul Henrickson. Members of the family in attendance included Jimmy's parents, wife and son. Five United States Navy Reserve members attended the event from Greensboro, N.C. Roanoke County Fire and Rescue staff provided a ladder truck displaying the American flag and an ambulance. VDOT Salem Residency staff coordinated the approvals and installation of the signs.



Business Equipment Acquisition Program (BEAP)

Roanoke County's Economic Development Authority (EDA) has announced a new grant program to support our business community! The BEAP (Business Equipment Acquisition Program) Grant can help your business purchase equipment to help grow your business. On a competitive basis, the EDA will award grants of up to 50% of capital acquisition costs in amounts up to \$20,000 per award. **The BEAP Grant application deadline is September 1, 2024.** See more details and apply online on Roanoke County Economic Development's website at: www.YesRoanoke.com/BEAP

ROANOKE COUNTY

Economic Development Authority

BEAP Grant Program

*Business Equipment
Acquisition Program*

McAfee Knob Shuttle Now Stopping Near Dragon's Tooth Trailhead!

Let the McAfee Knob Trailhead Shuttle Take the Hassle Out of Parking for
Your Dragon's Tooth Adventure!

Are you planning to conquer the Dragon's Tooth hike on the Appalachian Trail but concerned about where to park? Say goodbye to the hassle and hello to convenience with the McAfee Knob Trailhead Shuttle. The shuttle service is designed to make your hiking experience seamless, allowing you to focus solely on the adventure ahead.

The McAfee Knob Trailhead Shuttle is in operation Friday through Sunday and has live tracking to see when the shuttle is on its way to you. Book your reservation today at: www.McAfeeShuttle.com

Embarking on the Dragon's Tooth hike is an experience you won't soon forget. Whether you're a seasoned hiker or a beginner looking for a challenge, the stunning views, unique rock formations, and the thrill of the climb make this trail a must-visit. So, reserve your seat on the shuttle, pack your gear, and get ready for an adventure of a lifetime!

Happy Hiking!

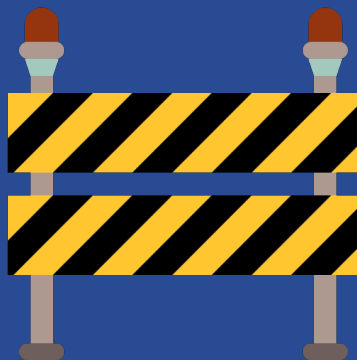


Roanoke County Library Annual Patron Survey

The Library is seeking feedback on library services during the entire month of August. Take the survey online or pick up a paper copy at your favorite RCPL Location.

Take the
Survey

Questions? Call (540) 777-8781 or stop by the library.



Highland Road Closed Until August 14, 2024

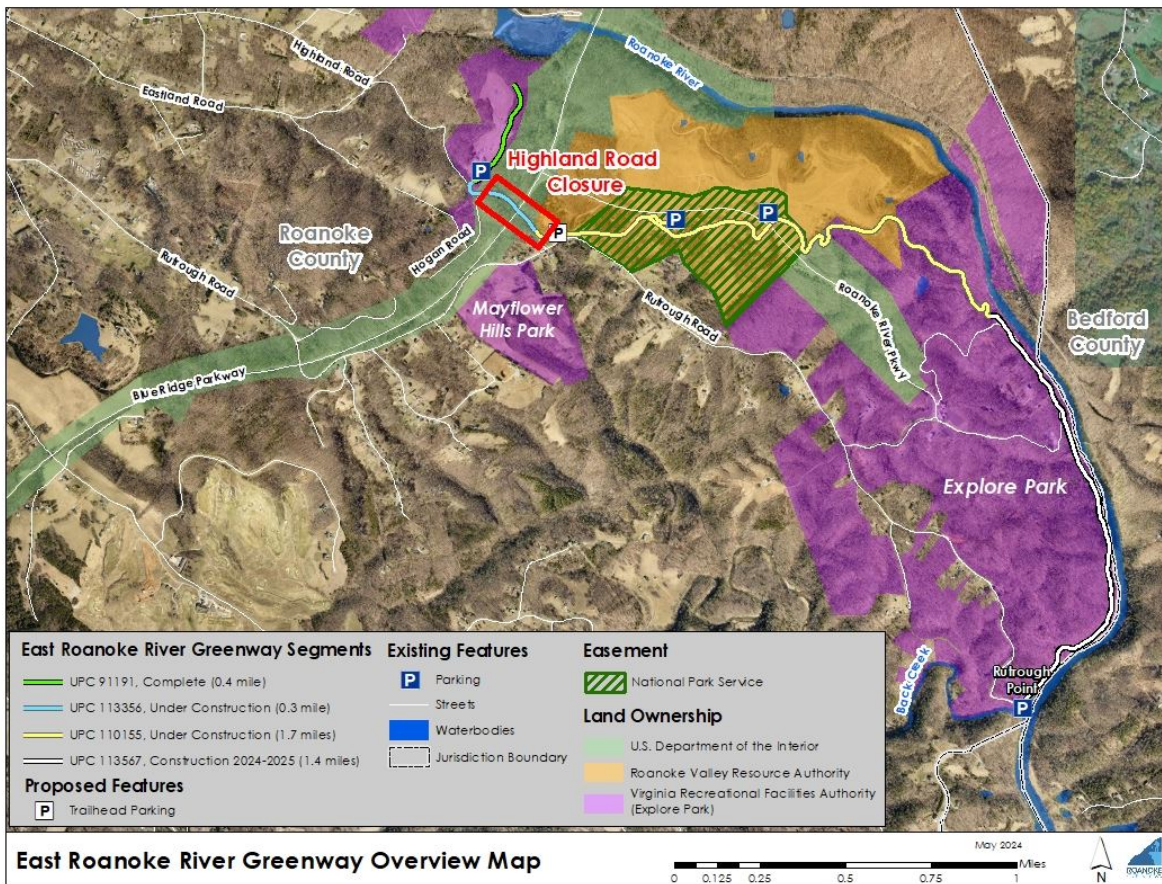
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David Henderson
County Engineer
(540) 772-2083
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Lindsay Webb
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Project Information Page





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If your car is broken into:

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- Cancel your credit cards and notify the bank.

Events & Activities

Books & Bites

Come pick out a new library book and enjoy delicious cuisine from a local

food truck each Thursday in August!
August 1st will feature Countryman Jamaican Grill.

August 1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd , 2024
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Glenvar Library



End of Summer Reading Party

Come celebrate finishing the Summer Reading Program with activities and food from the Sheriff's Department!

Saturday, August 3, 2024
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Glenvar Library, Room GV



Touch-A-Truck

Explore, interact, and learn about dozens of fascinating vehicles, take part in activities, and enjoy delicious food!

Saturday, August 10, 2024
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Green Hill Park



Food Truck Thursdays

Explore Walrond Park and enjoy the outdoors on your lunch break with food trucks! Can't make it? Check the schedule to see when and where the next food truck will park.

Thursday, August 29, 2024
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Walrond Park



Development News

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- Stormwater Clean Award Winners
- Alternative Erosion & Sediment Control Measures
- Protecting Threatened & Endangered Species
- Preventing Illicit Discharges from Construction Sites

Sincerely,
Sarah Gilmore
Planner II

Visit our
Website

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

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!



Text here

September 2024



Board of Supervisors Public Hearing September 24, 2024

Hi Alex,

On August 6th, the Planning Commission voted (5-0) to recommend approval of the Roanoke County 200 Plan, which the Board of Supervisors will consider at their **public hearing on Tuesday, September 24th**. The chapters of the Roanoke County 200 Plan are available for review on the [200 Plan Webpage](#) or by clicking the buttons below. These chapters are in their final draft form along with the [Community Planning Area](#) (CPA) summary documents, which summarize the individual needs of each CPA in the county and identify unique goals and recommendations for implementation.

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Background



Demographics



Natural & Cultural
Resources



Community
Facilities



Transportation



Land Use &
Housing



Community
Engagement



Vision & Goals



Recommendations



Community
Planning Areas



Public Meetings



September 3rd - Planning Commission

Public Hearings will be held at 7:00 p.m. on the following:

1. The petition of Dale Wilkinson to rezone approximately 21.39 acres of land zoned I-1, Low Intensity Industrial District, to R-3, Medium Density Multi-Family Residential District, in order to develop a 225-lot

residential subdivision, located at 7812 Sanderson Drive, Hollins Magisterial District.

2. Proposed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance that would: add an asterisk to retail sales indicating additional, modified or more stringent standards as listed in article IV, use and design standards in the C-1 Low Intensity Commercial District, C-2 High Intensity Commercial District, and I-1 Low Intensity Industrial District in Article III (District Regulations); add a use and design standard for retail sales prohibiting the sale of tobacco products, vapor products, alternative nicotine products, or hemp products intended for smoking on properties located within 1,000 feet of a principal school building in Article IV (Use and Design Standards); and amend the information required for site development plans listed in Sec. 30-90-1 of Article V (Development Standards).

September 5th - Safe Streets and Roads for All Community Meeting (North)

Time: 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. as an open house-style meeting where attendees can come and go as they please.

Location: Hollins Library, 6624 Peters Creek Road

See more information in the 'News and Updates' section below.

September 9th - Safe Streets and Roads for All Community Meeting (South)

Time: 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. as an open house-style meeting where attendees can come and go as they please.

Location: South County Library, 6303 Merriman Road

See more information in the 'News and Updates' section below.

September 24th - Board of Supervisors

The Board of Supervisors will hold public hearings on the following items:

1. The petition of Dale Wilkinson.
2. Consideration of the Roanoke County 200 Plan.

News & Updates



Safe Streets and Roads for All 2024 Community Meetings

Open house-style meeting where attendees can come and go as they please

Roanoke County, Botetourt County and the Town of Vinton are collaborating on a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan through the Federal Highway Administration's Safe Street and Roads for All (SS4A) program with the goal of preventing deaths and serious injuries for all roadway users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, commercial vehicle operators, transit riders and micromobility users.

Over 400 surveys were completed through the first round of community meetings to comment on high crash areas. The second round of community meetings will focus on proposed projects in each locality to reduce deaths and serious injuries on our roadways. **Surveys will be available starting on community meeting dates through Monday, September 30th.**



Botetourt County | Tuesday, September 3
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. | Cloverdale Elementary School
833 Cougar Drive, Roanoke, VA 24019

Botetourt County | Wednesday, September 4
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. | Colonial Elementary School
142 Murray Drive, Troutville, VA 24175

Learn more: www.BotetourtVA.gov/SafeStreets
Staff Contact: Jonathan McCoy, Planning Supervisor
JMcCoy@BotetourtVA.gov | (540) 928 -2075



Roanoke County (North) | Thursday, September 5
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. | Hollins Library
6624 Peters Creek Road, Roanoke, VA 24019

Roanoke County (South) | Monday, September 9
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. | South County Library
6303 Merriman Road, Roanoke, VA 24018

Learn more: www.RoanokeCountyVA.gov/SS4A
Staff Contact: Megan Cronise, Asst. Director of Planning
MCronise@RoanokeCountyVA.gov | (540) 772-2106



Town of Vinton | Tuesday, September 10
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. | Vinton War Memorial
814 Washington Avenue, Vinton, VA 24179

Learn More: www.VintonVA.gov/528/Transportation
Staff Contact: Cody Sexton, Deputy Town Manager
CSexton@VintonVA.gov | (54) 983-0607



Route 460 and Route 220 Alt. Road Improvement Projects Design Public Hearing Meeting Recap



A total of 187 people attended the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the City of Roanoke Design Public Hearing held on Thursday, August 22nd, at Bonsack Elementary. Attendees reviewed and commented on road improvement projects funded between Hickory Woods Drive and Cloverdale Road/Aerial Way. Visit the [Roanoke County project webpage](http://www.RoanokeCountyVA.gov/460Projects) to review exhibits and project details.

www.RoanokeCountyVA.gov/460Projects

Adventure Awaits on the McAfee Knob Trailhead Shuttle!

Are you ready to conquer the most photographed spot on the Appalachian Trail? This September, let the McAfee Knob Trailhead Shuttle be your ticket to breathtaking views and unforgettable memories! Hiking ☐ the trail is more than just a walk in the woods - it's an experience that will leave you in awe of nature's beauty! Whether you're a seasoned hiker or just looking for a refreshing escape, McAfee Knob is calling your name.

☐ Shuttle Hours: Friday through Sunday from 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.

What to Expect:

- Panoramic Views: Stand on the edge of the world with sweeping views of the Catawba Valley.
- Convenient Access: The shuttle drops you right at the trailhead—no parking stress, just pure adventure.
- Eco-Friendly Travel: Enjoy the journey knowing you're reducing your carbon footprint.

Don't miss out on this perfect opportunity to soak up the crisp fall air and witness the vibrant colors of autumn from one of the most iconic spots in

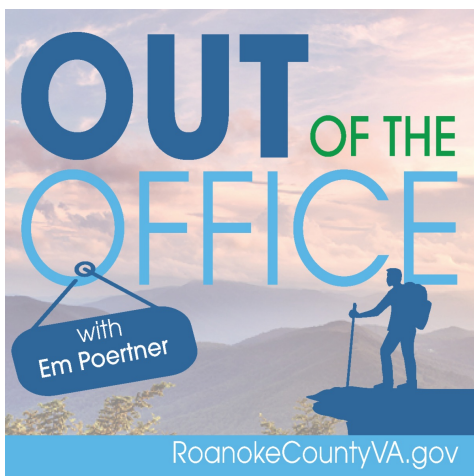
Virginia ☐☐. Reserve your seat on the shuttle today at www.McAfeeShuttle.com. Spaces fill up fast, so make sure to book early.

The trail is calling - are you ready to answer? ☐



Isaac Henry Promoted to Principal Planner!

Congratulations to Isaac Henry on his promotion to Principal Planner! Isaac has been with Roanoke County for 5 years working as a Transportation Planner and has lead the development of the West Roanoke River Feasibility Study, served as a staff representative to the Greenway Commission, and has contributed greatly to County funding initiatives and the development of the 200 Plan. Isaac assumes his new position on September 2nd and we look forward to what he will accomplish next!



Out of the Office Podcast

On this month's episode, Em Poertner, Ryan Shazor, and Alex North tell you how to get started hiking, even if you've never been. Once the basics are covered, the group shares great (easy) starter trails in Roanoke County!

[Listen on YouTube](#)



ALWAYS LOCK YOUR CAR!

When leaving your car unattended, take your purse, wallet, and ID with you, and hide any other valuables.

CAR BREAK-INS and THEFTS are on the rise.

The Roanoke County Police Department, along with law enforcement agencies across the region, are seeing a significant increase in the number of thefts from vehicles and fraudulent banking activity. Police have identified multiple known theft groups that travel the East Coast committing these crimes.

Their pattern of activity:

- Targeting vehicles in public parks, trailheads, gyms, schools during after-hours athletic events, and other areas where people commonly leave purses and wallets in vehicles.
- Breaking in by smashing the windows or breaking door locks, commonly on the passenger side door, and opening trunks as well.
- Stealing purses and wallets containing checks, ID cards and credit cards.
- Going to local banks using the stolen identifications and cashing checks, stealing thousands of dollars before leaving the area.
- They are also making large purchases at local businesses with the stolen credit cards, prior to victims being able to cancel the cards.

Prevention:

- DO NOT leave any personal items in your car, including the trunk.
- Be aware of out of state tags, rental vehicles and suspicious people in the areas listed above.
- Report any suspicious activity by calling Roanoke County Police Non-Emergency: 540-562-3265.

If your car is broken into:

- Call police immediately to file a report where the break-in occurred. Report all stolen checks, credit cards, and ID cards.
- Cancel your credit cards and notify the bank.

Events & Activities

[Branching Out: Catawba Farmers Market](#)

Stop by the Words on Wheels

(WoW) Bookmobile at the [Catawba Valley Farmers Market](#).
Get a library card or check out a book or two!

Thursday, September 5th
3:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Catawba Valley Farmers Market



Food Truck Thursday

Come enjoy the great outdoors on your lunch break while enjoying cuisine from a variety of food trucks!

11:00 AM - 2:00 p.m.
September 12th - Merriman Sports Complex
September 26th - Green Hill Park



Touch-A-Truck

Explore, interact, and learn about dozens of fascinating vehicles, take part in activities, and enjoy delicious food!

Saturday, September 21st
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Green Hill Park



Bent Mountain Fall Festival

Come celebrate Fall with a day of fun, food and festivities! Family fun from 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. and Oktoberfest 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 28th
12:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
Bent Mountain Center



Development News

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS Storm Drain Stenciling Program

Stenciling storm drains is an easy way to provide a visual reminder that stormwater goes, untreated, to nearby waterways. And, it is a direct and cost-effective project to remind people not to dump ANYTHING into the drainage system.

Volunteer storm drain stenciling projects offer an educational pollution prevention activity with a lasting effect. Storm drain stenciling is a practical, positive, easy first step toward public education, involvement, and support. Stenciled storm drains will raise citizen awareness and educate the public about stormwater runoff and nonpoint source pollution.

Please volunteer today! Download the application [here](#) and return to Roanoke County's Stormwater Program Manager:

Cindy Linkenhoker
5204 Bernard Drive
Roanoke, VA 24018
(540) 772-2035

clinkenhoker@roanokecountyva.gov

Clean water starts at home! Please do your part to keep stormwater clean and pollution-free. [Click here](#) to learn more.



Free Septic System Pump-Outs!

Roanoke County and the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission (RVARC) have partnered using grant funds from the Virginia Environmental Endowment to provide a no-cost septic tank pump-out program for qualified Roanoke County residents.

WHO IS QUALIFIED TO APPLY? Households with an annual income at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Line are eligible to apply for this program.

HOW TO APPLY FOR A FREE PUMP-OUT? View the video on the following [website](#) and fill out the online application.

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS? Call Roanoke County 540-772-2036 or RVARC 540-343-4417 (x308).

It's Just Dirt Newsletter

Roanoke County's Department of Development Services issued the latest [It's Just Dirt](#) newsletter in May, which is prepared for land-disturbing contractors and developers. Among other things, the newsletter highlights changes to [Virginia's Construction General Permit](#) and is full of useful stormwater and erosion and sediment control topics, including the following:

- A reminder that DEQ's Construction General Permit is about to expire. The new (re-issued) 5-year permit, which became effective July 1, 2024, adds turbidity requirements for construction dewatering.
- Stormwater Clean Award Winners
- Alternative Erosion & Sediment Control Measures
- Protecting Threatened & Endangered Species
- Preventing Illicit Discharges from Construction Sites

Sincerely,
Sarah Gilmore
Planner II

Visit our
Website

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

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!



Hi Alex,

On September 24, 2024, the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors voted (5-0) to approve the adoption of the Roanoke County 200 Plan as the County's Comprehensive Plan. The 200 Plan includes a main document as well as 11 Community Planning Area (CPA) summary documents that identify the individual needs of each CPA in the County and outline unique goals and recommendations for implementation.

The development of the 200 Plan has been a 3-year long process and would not have been possible without members of the Roanoke County community and the region. We would like to extend a thank you to all of those that participated in the Plan's development and helped shape the vision for the future of the County by its bicentennial anniversary in 2038. We look forward to implementation of the Plan over the next 15-20 years and using it as a guide for future decision making and development of County plans, programs, and policies.

Public Meetings



October 1st - Planning Commission

Public Hearings will be held at 7:00 p.m. on the following:

1. The petition of Dale Wilkinson to rezone approximately 21.39 acres of land zoned I-1, Low Intensity Industrial District, to R-3, Medium Density Multi-Family Residential District, in order to develop a 225-lot residential subdivision, located at 7812 Sanderson Drive, Hollins Magisterial District (**CONTINUED FROM SEPTEMBER 3RD**).
2. Proposed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance that would: add an asterisk to retail sales indicating additional, modified or more stringent standards as listed in article IV, use and design standards in the C-1 Low Intensity Commercial District, C-2 High Intensity Commercial District, and I-1 Low Intensity Industrial District in Article III (District Regulations); add a use and design standard for retail sales prohibiting the sale of tobacco products, vapor products, alternative nicotine products, or hemp products intended for smoking on properties located within 1,000 feet of a principal school building in Article IV (Use and Design Standards); and amend the information required for site development plans listed in Sec. 30-90-1 of Article V (Development Standards) (**CONTINUED FROM SEPTEMBER 3RD**).

October 22nd - Board of Supervisors

The Board of Supervisors will hold public hearings on the following items:

1. The petition of Dale Wilkinson.

News & Updates

Happy National Community Planning Month!



It's National Community Planning Month! Planners across the United States work to improve the well-being of all people living within our communities by taking a comprehensive perspective on a variety of issues. This approach leads to safer, resilient, more equitable, and more prosperous communities. We celebrate the role that planning plays in creating great communities each October with National Community Planning Month!

The Roanoke County Department of Planning helps shape our community by:

- Engaging with citizens about land use and planning initiatives
- Administering the Zoning Ordinance and land use codes
- Preparing planning studies for neighborhoods, Community Planning Areas, Activity Centers, transportation corridors, and other special study areas.

Join the conversation throughout the month of October on our Roanoke County Planning Facebook page [here](#).

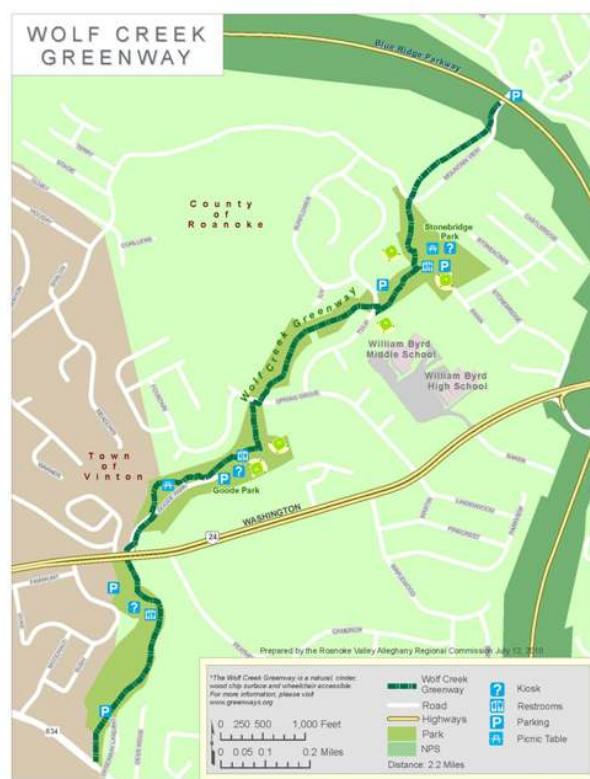
Learn more about #PlanningMonth from the American Planning Association [here](#).

Wolf Creek Greenway Survey Open Until October 4th

We want to hear your thoughts on the **Wolf Creek Greenway**! Take our brief survey (only four questions!) by Friday, October 4th.

The Wolf Creek Greenway is a cinder (gravel) trail located in the Town of Vinton and in Roanoke County, and we would like to hear your thoughts on whether the Roanoke County segment should remain a cinder trail or be paved with asphalt.

Take the Survey!



Safe Streets and Roads for All September 2024 Community Meetings

Roanoke County, Botetourt County and the Town of Vinton are collaborating on a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan through the Federal Highway Administration's **Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) program** with the goal of preventing deaths and serious injuries for all roadway users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, commercial vehicle operators, transit riders and micromobility users. About fifty people attended community meetings held over the past two weeks. Additional information is available on each jurisdiction's Safe Streets and Roads for All webpage:

[Roanoke County Project Webpage](#)
[Town of Vinton Project Webpage](#)
[Botetourt County Webpage](#)



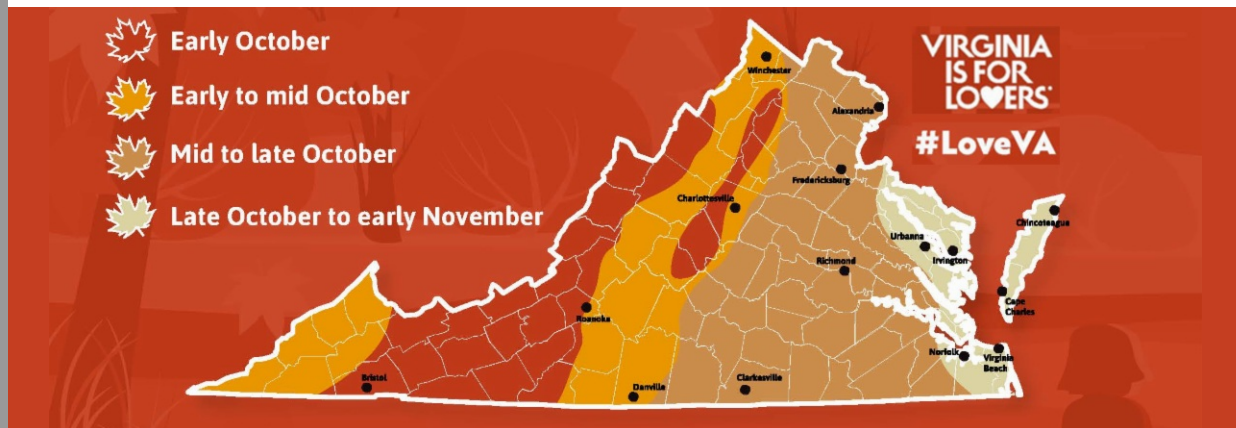
McAfee Knob Trailhead Shuttle Hours Changing with the Season!

☐ Fall is Almost Here – Reserve Your Seat on the McAfee Knob Trailhead Shuttle! ☐

As the vibrant colors of fall sweep across the Roanoke Valley, it's time to lock in your spot on the McAfee Knob Trailhead Shuttle! ☐ Starting in October, the shuttle will operate from 7:00 AM to 6:30 PM due to shorter daylight hours.

Whether you're chasing a stunning sunrise ☐ or soaking in the golden hour ☐, this is the perfect way to explore two of the region's most iconic hikes – McAfee Knob and Dragon's Tooth. Don't miss out on seeing these trails at their absolute best during Peak Leaf Season! ☐☐

☐ Reserve your seat today at www.McAfeeSchuttle.com and get ready for a breathtaking fall adventure! Learn more about the changing of the fall foliage [here](#).



Via is Hiring!



Earn \$300 as a new driver partner with Via and earn up to \$18 an hour in Roanoke, Virginia!

Via partners with CORTAN to offer efficient, shared rides, reducing congestion and emissions to Roanoke County residents through the CORTAN transportation service.

Why Drive with Via?

- \$300 new drive partner bonus*
- Earn up to \$18 an hour after vehicle expenses
- Flexible hours as an independent contractor
- 24/7 live support
- Vehicle leasing options

Requirements:

- 1 year of U.S. driving experience
- 21+ years old
- Complete PASS training
- Pass a background check and drug screening
- Personal auto insurance required

- available
- Healthcare subsidy if eligible
- Lease a vehicle from Via's partner

To apply, visit [this webpage](#) and select Roanoke.

Any additional requirements for participating in this service will be communicated to prospective Driver Partners as necessary.

* Complete 30 hours of driving within 10 days of onboarding to qualify for the \$300 bonus. Time offline, including breaks, will not be included in this 30-hour minimum.

* Registration Promotion Terms & Conditions: To be eligible, you must be activated with the Via platform and have completed the required safety training before activation. Payment will be made within 14 days of activation. This promotion may be revoked or altered at any time at Via's sole discretion, and these Terms are subject to change at Via's sole discretion.

Bagged Leaf Collection

As a reminder, Roanoke County does not offer vacuum collection for loose leaves. However, bagged leaf collection is provided on your regularly scheduled bulk/brush collection day. Please ensure your leaves are securely contained in tied bags or sealed boxes and placed at the curb by 7:00 AM on collection day. Find your collection day [here](#).



Always Lock Your Car!



ALWAYS LOCK YOUR CAR!

When leaving your car unattended, take your purse, wallet, and ID with you, and hide any other valuables.

CAR BREAK-INS and THEFTS are on the rise.

Events & Activities

[Spooky Movie Saturday](#)

Featuring Hocus Pocus!

Enjoy a spooktacular movie matinee perfect for the whole family, featuring Hocus Pocus (PG), yummy snacks, and crafts!

Saturday, October 5, 2024

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Hollins Library



Food Truck Thursdays

Come enjoy the great outdoors on your lunch break while enjoying cuisine from a variety of food trucks!

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

October 10th - Walrond Park

October 24th - Merriman Soccer Complex



GO Outside Festival

Check out the [schedule of events](#) for the 14th annual GO Outside Festival, which includes an air dog show, spikeball tournament, mountain bike demos, and more!

Fri, October 18 - Sun, October 20th

Adventure Outpost: Explore Park

Festival Basecamp: Elmwood Park



Spooktacular Saturday

Head out to Explore Park for family friendly spooky activities including pumpkin carving, costume contest, inflatable axe throwing, and more!

Saturday, October 26th
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Explore Park



Development News

Annual MS4 Report submitted to Virginia DEQ

The Department of Development Services is pleased to announce its submittal of the Annual Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Report (2023-2024) to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

The report summarizes the many activities in which the County is engaged on an annual basis to meet the requirements of the MS4 Permit VAR04, as issued by DEQ. The effective date of this permit is November 1, 2023, with an expiration date of October 31, 2028. The program is designed to reduce the discharge of pollutants from the County's regulated MS4 area to the maximum extent practicable (MEP) and to satisfy the appropriate water quality requirements of the State Water Control Law and its attendant regulations.

The County's MS4 program addresses the MS4 Permit's six Minimum Control Measures (MCMs) and the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements, as follows:

- MCM-1: Public Education and Outreach
- MCM-2: Public Involvements and Participation
- MCM-3: Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE)
- MCM-4: Construction Site Stormwater Runoff and Erosion and Sediment Control
- MCM-5: Post-Construction Stormwater Management for New Development and Development on Prior-Developed Lands
- MCM-6: Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping for Facilities Owned and Operated by the Permittee Within the MS4 Service Area
- TMDL: TMDL Special Conditions

[Read the Full Annual Report](#)[Read the Supporting Documents](#)

Only Rain Down the Storm Drain

Fall is a beautiful time of year in the Roanoke Valley! Bright colors, glorious views, crisp mountain air. But, once the annual leaf drop begins, the number of drainage and flooding complaints made to the County dramatically increases.

Why? Because folks often mismanage the leaves that end up on their property by improperly raking them or blowing them into the street, drainage swales, drainage ditches, curb and gutter system, or nearby creeks.

The Result? Clogged drainage structures and drainage-ways, and increased street flooding. To learn how to manage your leaves falling on your property, review the [Fall Foliage Fact Sheet](#).

Bagged Leaf Collection: As a service to its residents and to help prevent the above situation, Roanoke County offers bagged leaf collection during your regularly scheduled bulk/brush collection day. To find your bulk/brush collection day, click [here](#).

- Bags must be at the curb by 7:00 AM.
- Leaves must be contained in either tied bags or sealed boxes.
- Bags cannot weigh more than 30 pounds.
- Do not wrap loose leaves in tarps or plastic sheeting.
- Roanoke County does not provide vacuum services for loose leaves.



Other Ways to Manage Leaves: If you prefer a more environmentally-friendly approach to leaf management, you can let the leaves "work for you" by employing either of the following options:

- **Mulch/Mow:** Using a standard rotary or a mulching mower, chop the leaves in your yard and leave them in place. They won't hurt the lawn and may limit weeds.
- **Collect and Compost**

Did you know? Leaves that are deliberately swept, raked, or blown into the street, ditches, swales, drainage inlets, or receiving creeks, streams, or rivers constitute an illicit discharge into the County's drainage system! Learn more about illicit discharges [here](#) and report them [here](#).



Excess leaves smother lawns and clog drainage ditches and inlets.



CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS Storm Drain Stenciling Program

Stenciling storm drains is an easy way to provide a visual reminder that stormwater goes, untreated, to nearby waterways. And, it is a direct and cost-effective project to remind people not to dump ANYTHING into the drainage system.

Volunteer storm drain stenciling projects offer an educational pollution prevention activity with a lasting effect. Storm drain stenciling is a practical, positive, easy first step toward public education, involvement, and support. Stenciled storm drains will raise citizen awareness and educate the public about stormwater runoff and nonpoint source pollution.

Please volunteer today! Download the application [here](#) and return to Roanoke County's Stormwater Program Manager:

Cindy Linkenhoker
5204 Bernard Drive
Roanoke, VA 24018
(540) 772-2035

clinkenhoker@roanokecountyva.gov



Free Septic System Pump-Outs
See if you qualify!

Roanoke County and the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission (RVARC) have partnered using grant funds from the Virginia Environmental Endowment to provide a no-cost septic tank pump-out program for qualified Roanoke County residents.

WHO IS QUALIFIED TO APPLY? Households with an annual income at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Line are eligible to apply for this program.

HOW TO APPLY FOR A FREE PUMP-OUT? View the video on the following [website](#) and fill out the online application.

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS? Call Roanoke County 540-772-2036 or RVARC 540-343-4417 (x308).

Sincerely,
Sarah Gilmore
Planner II

Visit our Website

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

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SMART SCALE

*Funding the Right
Transportation Projects
in Virginia*

SMART SCALE Applications Submitted for Fiscal Year 2026

Hi Alex,

On August 1, 2024, Roanoke County submitted four SMART SCALE applications for transportation projects. Additionally, the Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization submitted two applications for projects in Roanoke County and the City of Roanoke submitted an application for a project on the City-County line.

The following SMART SCALE applications were submitted by Roanoke County (*click to view larger concept plans*):

[Starkey Road/Ogden Road Streetscape Improvements](#)

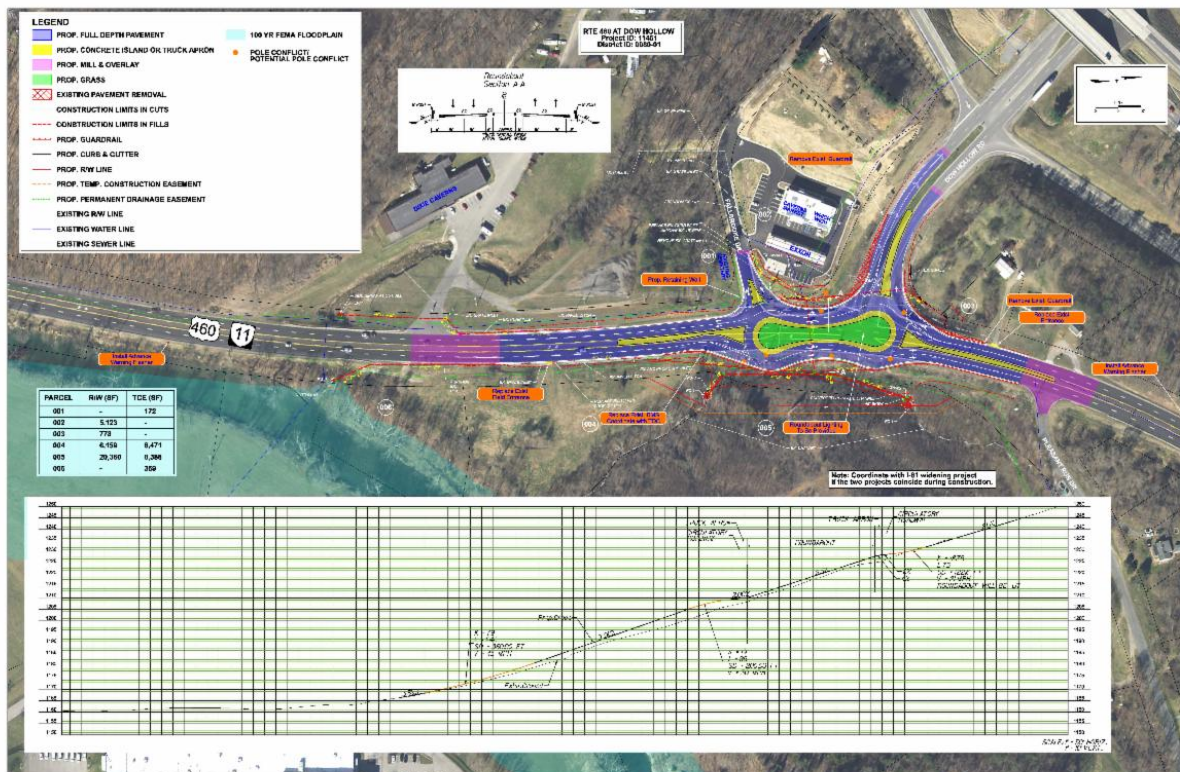
Peters Creek Road/Williamson Road Multimodal Safety Improvements

(from Deer Branch Road to Plantation Road)

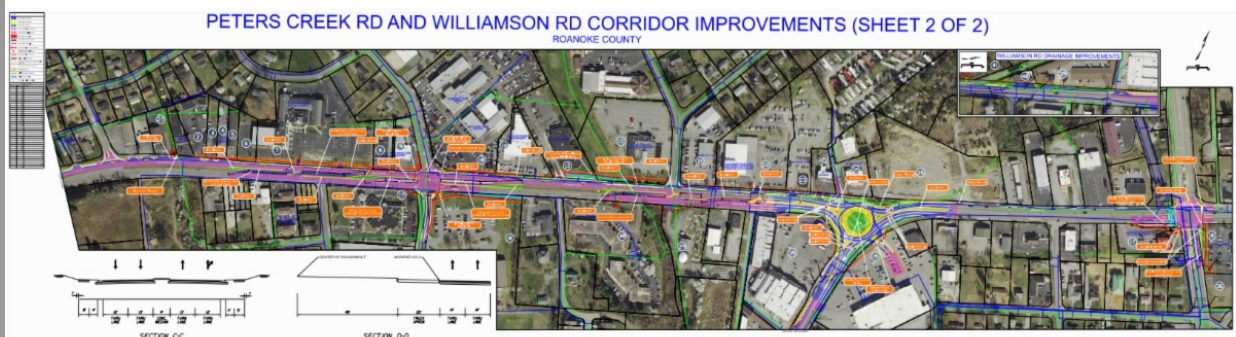


The following SMART SCALE applications were submitted by the Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization on behalf of Roanoke County:

Route 11/460 at Dow Hollow Road Intersection Improvements

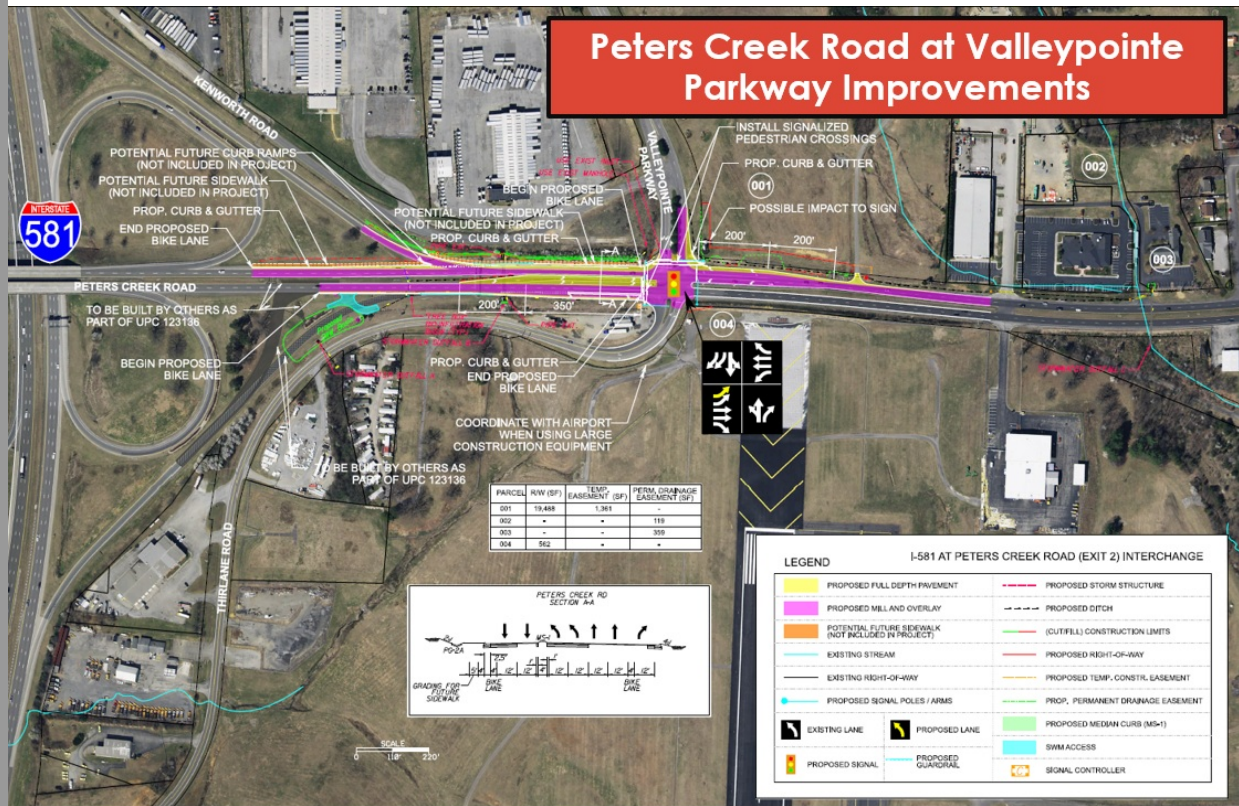


Peters Creek Road and Williamson Road Corridor Improvements (from Wood Haven Road to Plantation Road)



The following SMART SCALE application was submitted by the City of Roanoke on behalf of Roanoke County:

Peters Creek Road at Valleypointe Parkway Improvements



The **SMART SCALE** program is the Commonwealth Transportation Board's (CTB) process for distributing limited state dollars to projects that show the greatest benefit compared to their project cost. Proposed projects are evaluated based on how they improve safety, reduce congestion, increase accessibility, contribute to economic development, encourage efficient land use, and impact the environment. Since project applications were first solicited in 2015, over \$156 million in SMART SCALE funding has been awarded to projects in Roanoke County.

In January 2025, staff of the Virginia Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment will recommend a SMART SCALE funding scenario to the CTB. In June 2025, the CTB will adopt the Six Year Improvement Program which will include the SMART SCALE projects that were chosen for funding from this round of applications.

Public Meetings



November 12th - Vinton Comprehensive Plan Community

Meeting

Time: 5:00 - 7:00 PM, with a presentation to begin at 5:30 PM.

Location: Vinton War Memorial, 814 Washington Avenue, Vinton, VA

See more information in the 'News and Updates' section below

November 14th - Dry Hollow Road Safety Improvements Community Meeting

Time: 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM in an open house format with Roanoke County and VDOT representatives present to answer questions.

Location: Camp Roanoke, 6498 Dry Hollow Road, Salem, VA

See more information in the 'News and Updates' section below

November 19th - Board of Supervisors

The Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on the following item:

1. Proposed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance.

News & Updates

Dry Hollow Road Safety Improvements Community Meeting November 14th

November 14, 2024 | 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Camp Roanoke Dining Hall, 6489 Dry Hollow Road, Salem, VA 24153

An open house-style meeting will be held to review updates for the Dry Hollow Road Safety Improvements project.

The goals of the project, where Dry Hollow Road and Dry Hollow Creek pass under the Norfolk Southern railroad bridge, are to:

1. Reinforce the roadway against the creek; and
2. Improve safety by widening the roadway.

Roanoke County and Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) staff will have project overview exhibits at the meeting and can answer questions.

[Click Here to View the Project
Webpage](#)



Experience Peak Leaf Season with the McAfee Knob Trailhead Shuttle!



The window for witnessing the vibrant fall foliage at McAfee Knob and Dragon's Tooth is closing fast. These famous hikes, part of the Appalachian Trail, are renowned for their stunning views, especially during peak leaf season.

Hikers have until Sunday, December 1st, to take advantage of the McAfee Knob Trailhead Shuttle service before it goes on a seasonal break. The shuttle service ensures easy access to the trailhead, allowing hikers to focus on their adventure without the hassle of parking.

As November offers fewer daylight hours, the shuttle will operate Friday through Sunday from 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Don't miss your chance to experience the fall magic. Book your shuttle tickets now at www.McAfeeKnobShuttle.com and prepare for an unforgettable journey into the heart of nature.

For those planning ahead, the McAfee Knob Trailhead Shuttle will be back in action starting in March 2025, just in time for spring hiking adventures. Whether you're a seasoned hiker or a first timer looking to explore one of Virginia's most iconic trails, mark your calendars and be ready for another year of outdoor exploration.



This past week, Planning Department staff Megan Cronise and Paula Benke joined with Em Poertner for the latest episode of the Out of the Office podcast. They discussed the process of getting the McAfee Knob Trailhead Shuttle on the road, the new pedestrian bridge that spans Route 311, and future plans for the McAfee Knob Trailhead parking area and shuttle. Listen to the episode on [Spotify](#), [Apple Podcasts](#), or on [YouTube](#).



The Town of Vinton Comprehensive Plan Community Meeting November 12, 2024

Come share your vision for the future of Vinton and join in the discussion with fellow community members! The Comprehensive Plan (often called the 'Comp Plan') is a guiding document for growth, development,



preservation, and investment in the Town of Vinton. It sets a vision for the future, looking ahead 25 years, in the year 2050.

What: Community Meeting for the Vinton Comprehensive Plan Update

When: Tuesday, November 12th from 5:00 - 7:00 PM - Presentation at 5:30 PM; Drop in anytime!

Where: Vinton War Memorial, 814 Washington Avenue

Who: Everyone! All Vinton residents, businesses, neighbors, community groups, and more are welcome to attend. We need your ideas!

Why: Community input is a valuable part of the process for building a comprehensive plan. In other words, we need your help!

Stay Involved: Have questions? Please don't hesitate to reach out. We can be reached at vinton2050plan@gmail.com.

Can't make it to the meeting, but want to stay informed? Bookmark the [Comprehensive Plan Update page](#) for regular updates and to sign-up to receive messages about the Plan.



Utility Trailer and RV Parking

If you keep a utility trailer or recreational vehicle, including a boat, at your home in a residential or AR zoning district (multi-family developments excluded), you must park the vehicle behind the front building line of your home (next to or beside your home) or within an enclosed garage. Call the Planning office at 540-772-2068 if you live on a corner lot and are unsure of where you can legally park an RV or trailer.



Note that RVs shall not be used for living or business purposes and shall not be connected to utility services except for maintenance purposes. For further information see Zoning Ordinance Section 30-91-2.2 or call the Planning office at 540-772-2068.

Always Lock Your Car!



ALWAYS LOCK YOUR CAR!

When leaving your car unattended, take your purse, wallet, and ID with you, and hide any other valuables.

CAR BREAK-INS and THEFTS are on the rise.

Events & Activities

Brambleton Center 31st Annual Craft Show

Get a jump start on your Christmas shopping! Join us at the 31st Annual Craft Show where there will be crafts, goodies, gifts and an opportunity to support your local artists!

Saturday, November 2nd
8:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Brambleton Recreation Center



Food Truck Thursdays

Come enjoy the great outdoors on your lunch break while enjoying cuisine from a variety of food trucks! Food trucks include [Hangrcy](#), [Big Daddy's BBQ](#), [Empanada Nirvana](#), [Grandpa Ike's Mini Donuts](#), and [The Coffee Bus](#).

November 7th
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Green Hill Park



Full Moon Hike!

Join a Roanoke County staff at Explore Park for a moonlight hike! Make sure to dress warm and bring your own flashlight (a limited number of flashlights available).

Saturday, November 16th

8:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Explore Park

[Registration Required](#)



[Illuminights at Explore Park](#)

Brighten your nights and explore your holiday spirit through a dazzling world of over 650,000 lights at Illuminights Winter Walk of Lights! Ticket sales start Nov. 1st.

November 23rd - 24th

November 29th - 30th

[View Entire Schedule](#)

[Reserve your tickets today!](#)



Development News

Annual MS4 Report submitted to Virginia DEQ

The Department of Development Services is pleased to announce its submittal of the Annual Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Report (2023-2024) to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

The report summarizes the many activities in which the County is engaged on an annual basis to meet the requirements of the MS4 Permit VAR04, as issued by DEQ. The effective date of this permit is November 1, 2023, with an expiration date of October 31, 2028. The program is designed to reduce the discharge of pollutants from the County's regulated MS4 area to the maximum extent practicable (MEP) and to satisfy the appropriate water quality requirements of the State Water Control Law and its attendant regulations.

The County's MS4 program addresses the MS4 Permit's six Minimum Control Measures (MCMs) and the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements, as follows:

- MCM-1: Public Education and Outreach
- MCM-2: Public Involvements and Participation
- MCM-3: Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE)
- MCM-4: Construction Site Stormwater Runoff and Erosion and Sediment Control
- MCM-5: Post-Construction Stormwater Management for New Development and Development on Prior-Developed Lands
- MCM-6: Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping for Facilities Owned and Operated by the Permittee Within the MS4 Service Area
- TMDL: TMDL Special Conditions

[Read the Full Annual Report](#)

[Read the Supporting Documents](#)

Only Rain Down the Storm Drain

Fall is a beautiful time of year in the Roanoke Valley! Bright colors, glorious views, crisp mountain air. But, once the annual leaf drop begins, the number of drainage and flooding complaints made to the County dramatically increases.

Why? Because folks often mismanage the leaves that end up on their property by improperly raking them or blowing them into the street, drainage swales, drainage ditches, curb and gutter system, or nearby creeks.

The Result? Clogged drainage structures and drainage-ways, and increased street flooding. To learn how to manage your leaves falling on your property, review the [Fall Foliage Fact Sheet](#).

Bagged Leaf Collection: As a service to its residents and to help prevent the above situation, Roanoke County offers bagged leaf collection during your regularly scheduled bulk/brush collection day. To find your bulk/brush collection day, click [here](#).

- Bags must be at the curb by 7:00 AM.
- Leaves must be contained in either tied bags or sealed boxes.
- Bags cannot weigh more than 30 pounds.
- Do not wrap loose leaves in tarps or plastic sheeting.
- Roanoke County does not provide vacuum services for loose leaves.



Other Ways to Manage Leaves: If you prefer a more environmentally-friendly approach to leaf management, you can let the leaves "work for you" by employing either of the following options:

- **Mulch/Mow:** Using a standard rotary or a mulching mower, chop the leaves in your yard and leave them in place. They won't hurt the lawn and may limit weeds.

- Collect and Compost

Did you know? Leaves that are deliberately swept, raked, or blown into the street, ditches, swales, drainage inlets, or receiving creeks, streams, or rivers constitute an illicit discharge into the County's drainage system! Learn more about illicit discharges [here](#) and report them [here](#).



Excess leaves smother lawns and clog drainage ditches and inlets.



CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

Storm Drain Stenciling Program

Stenciling storm drains is an easy way to provide a visual reminder that stormwater goes, untreated, to nearby waterways. And, it is a direct and cost-effective project to remind people not to dump ANYTHING into the drainage system.

Volunteer storm drain stenciling projects offer an educational pollution prevention activity with a lasting effect. Storm drain stenciling is a practical, positive, easy first step toward public education, involvement, and support. Stenciled storm drains will raise citizen awareness and educate the public about stormwater runoff and nonpoint source pollution.

Please volunteer today! Download the application [here](#) and return to Roanoke County's Stormwater Program Manager:

Cindy Linkenhoker
5204 Bernard Drive
Roanoke, VA 24018
(540) 772-2035
clinkenhoker@roanokecountyva.gov



Free Septic System Pump-Outs See if you qualify!

Roanoke County and the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission (RVARC) have partnered using grant funds from the Virginia Environmental Endowment to provide a no-cost septic tank pump-out program for qualified Roanoke County residents.

WHO IS QUALIFIED TO APPLY? Households with an annual income at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Line are eligible to apply for this program.

HOW TO APPLY FOR A FREE PUMP-OUT? View the video on the following [website](#) and fill out the online application.

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS? Call Roanoke County 540-772-2036 or RVARC 540-343-4417 (x308).

Sincerely,
Sarah Gilmore
Planner II

Visit our Website

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

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!



Hi Alex,

We're heading into cooler weather and longer nights, and with that, our Roanoke County Planning team would like to wish you a warm and bright Holiday season! It's been an exciting year for our department - from the adoption of the [Roanoke County 200 Plan](#) to the completion of many [transportation improvements](#) - and we're looking forward to what the New Year will bring us!

Please note that in observance of the upcoming Holidays, our department will be closed on December 24th, December 25th, and January 1st.

Public Meetings



December 3rd - Planning Commission

The Planning Commission will hold a work session at 4:00 p.m. on the Draft Safe Streets and Roads for All Comprehensive Safety Action Plan. A public hearing will be held at 7:00 PM on the following:

1. The petition of Tracy Etayo to obtain a special use permit to operate a short-term rental on approximately 0.1803 acre of land zoned R-1, Low Density Residential District, located at 5445 Endicott Street, Hollins Magisterial District.

December 10th - Community Meeting

A community meeting (open house) will be held from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the South County Library (Meeting Rooms) on the petition of ABoone Real Estate, Inc., to rezone approximately 15.01 acres from R-1 Low Density Residential District to R-3 Medium Density Multi-Family Residential District in order to construct 138 townhouses and to rezone approximately 1.32 acres from R-1 Low Density Residential Density to C-2 High Intensity Commercial District for commercial uses including retail sales and restaurant uses on property located at 6285, 6287, and 6288 Poage Valley Road, Windsor Hills Magisterial District.

December 17th - Board of Supervisors

The Board of Supervisors will hold a work session at 3:00 p.m. on the Draft Safe Streets and Roads for All Comprehensive Safety Action Plan and will hold a public hearing on the following case:

1. The petition of Tracy Etayo.

December 18th - Board of Zoning Appeals

The Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on the petition of Stephan Jones for a variance from Section 30-41-3(B) of the Roanoke County Zoning Ordinance to reduce the rear setback of a new subdivided lot from 25 feet to 15 feet. The property is located at 3506 View Avenue, Tax map #: 077.14-04-59.00-0000, Roanoke, VA 24018. The property is zoned R-1, Low Density Residential District, and is located in the Cave Spring Magisterial District.

News & Updates

New Bike Rack Installed at Green Hill Park

A new bike rack has been installed at Green Hill Park near the picnic shelter and playground area thanks to Roanoke County's successful application to the FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge and the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission's Bike Rack Program! Roanoke business Lift Arc Studios custom fabricated the branded bike racks, which further implement the adopted Glenvar Community Plan's (2012) recommendation of better accommodating cyclists by installing bike racks at community facilities.



What an Amazing Season for the McAfee Knob Trailhead Shuttle!

The 2024 shuttle season has officially wrapped up, and what a year it's been! With over **5,800 reservations**, hikers from near and far joined us to experience the breathtaking views of McAfee Knob and Dragon's Tooth, two of the most iconic spots on the Appalachian Trail.

We're incredibly grateful to everyone who chose to take the shuttle this season while the parking lot was closed at the trailhead for the construction of the Pedestrian bridge over Route 311. The Pedestrian bridge is due to open in late 2024.

As we bid farewell to 2024, we're already counting down to next year's adventures. Mark your calendars - **the shuttle returns in March 2025!**

Until then, happy trails, and we'll see you next spring! ☐



Dry Hollow Road Safety Improvements Community Meeting

A community meeting was held on Thursday, November 14th, to review updates to the Dry Hollow Road Safety Improvements project with neighborhood residents. A total of 13 attendees joined Supervisor Hooker, County staff, VDOT representatives and AECOM engineers to discuss the project anticipated to begin construction in 2027. The project is designed to improve safety of the roadway that shares space with Dry Hollow Branch, both of which pass under a historic Norfolk Southern railroad bridge. View more information on the [project webpage](#).



Winter Light Displays at Explore Park and Roanoke

County's Sister City, Opole, Poland

Illuminights Winter Walk of Lights is in full swing at Explore Park! Visitors can come and brighten their night by exploring a dazzling display of over 650,000 lights. In addition to new displays and trail enhancements, visitors can enjoy a variety of family fun activities including marshmallow roasting and visits with Santa on select nights. [Click here](#) to view the full schedule and to purchase tickets.



Roanoke County's Sister City, [Opole, Poland](#), hosts a similar display of lights with their annual [Christmas Fair](#) held in the Opole Market Square. Opole's annual Christmas Fair has been on the list of most atmospheric fairs in Poland for years and features a ceremonial lighting of the Christmas Tree and a March of Santa Clauses. During the fair, which runs from November 22nd through December 24th, a variety of family friendly events are put on including ice carving workshops, Santa Claus competitions, cookie baking workshops, and a Christmas Train.

Learn more about the Sister City partnership between Roanoke County and Opole, Poland [here](#).



Events & Activities

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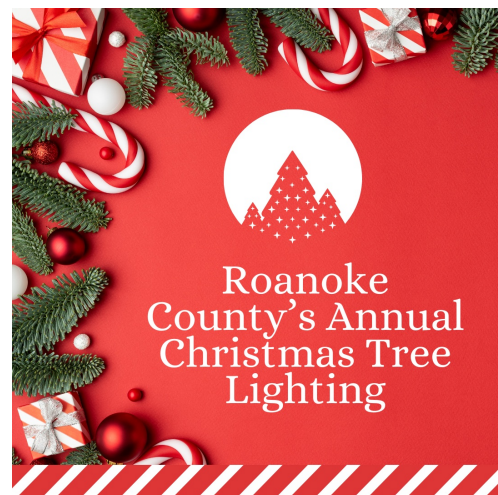
December 1st through 31st
[View Entire Schedule](#)



Roanoke County Annual Christmas Tree Lighting

Kick off the Holiday season at the Roanoke County Annual Christmas Tree Lighting! Family friendly activities will include a Cave Spring Jazz Band performance and a visit from Santa!

Monday, December 9th
 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM
 South County Library



Gingerbread Cottage

Come follow the Gingerbread Trail to the South County Library and pose for a photo in our Gingerbread Cottage! Find out more about the Gingerbread Trail on the Salem-Roanoke County Chamber of Commerce [website](#)!

Now through January 9th at the South County Library



Santa at the Library

Meet Santa at your favorite Roanoke County Public Library (RCPL) location this year! Hear stories and songs, do a craft, snap a picture and tell him what you'd like for Christmas! [Click here](#) to find an event near you.

Each RCPL location will also have a drop off for your letters to Santa from December 1st through 21st.



Development News

Bagged Leaf Collection

If you have leaves that have fallen on or around your property, please remember that improperly raking or blowing leaves into the street, drainage areas, or water bodies may result in clogged drainage areas and increased flooding during storm events. To learn how to properly manage leaves falling on your property, please review the [Fall Foliage Fact Sheet](#).

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Sincerely,
Sarah Gilmore
Planner II

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