

Community Developments

Happy New Year! Please enjoy our first 2014 edition of Community Developments!

Planning Commission Update

December 2nd

Two applications were heard at this meeting:

1. The petition of the [Roanoke County Board of Supervisors](#) to rezone approximately 0.51 acre from R-1, Low Density Residential, District to C-2, High Intensity Commercial, District, located at 3319 and 3323 Westmoreland Drive, Cave Spring Magisterial District. *The Planning Commission recommended approval and the Board of Supervisors withdrew the application at its December 10th meeting.*

2. The petition of [Gary and Tamera Tickle](#) to rezone approximately 0.93 acre from C-1, Low Intensity Commercial, District to C-2, High Intensity Commercial, District and to obtain a Special Use Permit for the operation of a car wash, located at 1905 Electric Road, Windsor Hills Magisterial District. *The Planning Commission recommended approval and the Board of Supervisors approved the petition at its December 10th meeting.*

December 16th

The Planning Commission heard presentations on the proposed water tower at Green Ridge Recreation Center and on Explore Park.

January 7th

No new land use applications have been submitted for this date. The Planning Commission will elect officers for 2014.

January 21st

The Planning Commission will hear a presentation on the Host Community Fund associated with the Smith Gap Landfill and discuss the 2014 Work Plan.

February 4th

Two applications will be heard on this date:

1. The petition of [Carol Lachowicz](#) to rezone approximately 15.72 acres from PRD, Planned Residential Development, District to AG-3, Agricultural/Rural Preserve, District, located in the 7600 block of Apple Grove Lane, Windsor Hills Magisterial District.

2. The petition of [Daniel Smith](#) to obtain a special use permit for a

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Roanoke County Launches New Campaign Against Littering

Gum Springs Road Construction Project Complete

Temporary Sign Reminder

Make a New Year's Resolution to Save Money in 2014

Like us on Facebook 

Like *Roanoke County Planning Services* on Facebook for current updates on community meetings, development projects, traffic notices and more!

Follow-up Links

[Planning Commission](#)

January 7 @ 4:00 p.m.*

January 21 @ 6:00 p.m.

February 4 @ 4:00 p.m.*

February 18 @ 6:00 p.m.

[Board of Supervisors](#)

January 14 @ 3:00 p.m.

January 28 @ 3:00 p.m.*

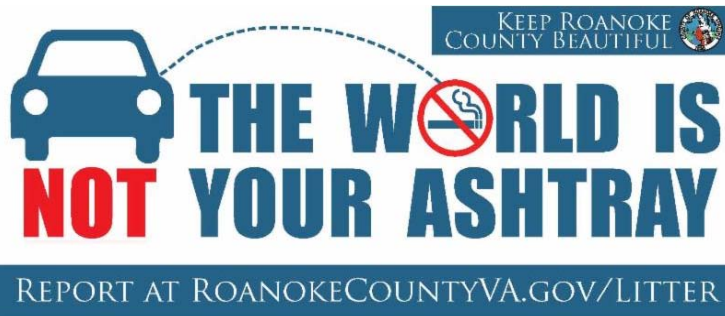
February 11 @ 3:00 p.m.

February 25 @ 3:00 p.m.*

*Work Session Time, Public Hearing Begins at 7:00 p.m.

restaurant, drive-in or fast food (snow cone stand) in a C-1, Low Intensity Commercial, District, on approximately 0.33 acre located at 3540 Brambleton Avenue, Cave Spring Magisterial District.

Roanoke County Launches New Campaign Against Littering



From cigarette butts at local intersections to discarded trash strewn along Roanoke County's roads, litter continues to be an issue for our community. To raise awareness about this problem, Cave Spring Supervisor Charlotte Moore has led a new initiative to help combat littering in Roanoke County.

Beginning in January, drivers will see temporary road signs at major County intersections reminding everyone that "The World Is Not Your Ashtray," a clear reference to the growing number of cigarette butts appearing at intersections and road medians.

Along with the intersection signs, this new program will feature a local partnership with Lamar Advertising for billboard space and also include signage on County vehicles, including the County's fleet of trash collection trucks.

"Supervisor Moore's campaign against discarded cigarette butts is a great starting point for this program," Assistant County Administrator Richard Caywood said. "It's a visible problem that thousands of County motorists see every day. Our hope is that by raising awareness of this first issue, we can open everyone's eyes to the larger problem of litter in the County. We plan on bringing additional ideas to the Board of Supervisors in the future."

To support the launch of this new anti-littering campaign, Cave Spring Supervisor Moore and Virginia Senator Ralph Smith hosted local media at the Roanoke County Administration Center on Friday. Moore and Smith made remarks about the new efforts, highlighting the importance of working together to keep our community beautiful.

Roanoke County has also launched an online form citizens can use to report littering. This convenient web form will send littering complaints directly to Roanoke County Police for follow-up. Website visitors are encouraged to look for the Report Littering button on the County's home page or see www.roanokecountyva.gov/litter.

Gum Springs Road Construction Project Complete

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has completed work to construct a cul-de-sac at the end of Route 714, Gum Springs Road, in Roanoke County. Gum Springs Road is a dead-end road which, until recently, did not have an adequate turn-around area at the end. This project allows school buses, trash trucks, fire engines and other large vehicles to turn around without using neighbors' driveways.

The project was funded through the VDOT Revenue Sharing Program; a matching funds program where VDOT and Roanoke County share the costs of the project. Roanoke County engineering staff assisted with citizen contact, and plats for right-of-way donation. The Western Virginia Water Authority relocated two residential water meters, and made other adjustments to a water line under the cul-de-sac. VDOT administered the construction.



Gum Springs Road Before



Gum Springs Road After

Temporary Sign Reminder



Temporary Sign Example

Does your business have a temporary sign? Remember that temporary sign permits must be renewed at the beginning of every year. The cost is \$25.00 and the [Roanoke County Sign Permit](#) application can be found on the [Planning and Zoning website](#).

The completed Sign Permit may be emailed, mailed, faxed, or brought in our office on the second floor of the [Roanoke County Administration Center](#) located at 5204 Bernard Drive. If you have any questions, please call (540) 772-2068.

Make a New Year's Resolution to

Save Money in 2014



Exercise more.

Spend more time outdoors.

Save money.

Buy local.

Go green.

There's a good chance at least one of these shows up on your New Year's Resolution list for 2014. Fortunately, [Save-a-Ton](#) can give you a head start on one resolution that can help you with all the others. Saving money by taking simple steps to cut your energy bills can help you keep all the resolutions on your list - and unlike going on that post-Christmas diet you might be planning, you won't have to feel like you're sacrificing anything to get there. Here are three simple energy-saving resolutions you can make in 2014 that will help you start the year off right:

1) Take one trip a week by bike, bus, or foot. Resolve to take one trip a week - to the store, to work, to visit a friend - by bike, bus, or on foot instead of driving alone. You'll cut anywhere from 2 to 10 miles a week off your driving, reduce the amount of money you spend on gas and vehicle maintenance, and get exercise doing something you would have done anyways, saving an extra trip to the gym or the need to buy expensive exercise equipment.

2) Replace all the light bulbs in your home. Starting this year, resolve to replace all the incandescent bulbs in and outside of your home with energy-saving CFLs or LEDs. Replace them as they burn out, or pick one or two fixtures a month to switch out to more efficient bulbs.

Not only will you see immediate savings in your power bill, investment in these longer lasting bulbs will give you a head-start on your 2015 resolutions.

3) Have an energy audit performed on your home. Many of our Save-a-Ton partners perform a wide range of audit and retrofitting services that can help you get the highest energy performance out of your home. A professional audit can not only help you save energy, it can identify other health and safety problems in your home, such as poor ventilation for a furnace or airflow that could be bringing high levels of allergens into your house. Even better, working with an auditor and retrofitter means supporting a great local business who will help you get the most out of your home for years to come.

This New Year, don't give anything up - get more out of your home,

your commute, and your community by taking some simple steps to cut your energy bill.

Have a wonderful 2014!

Sincerely,

Megan Cronise, AICP
Principal Planner



Community Developments



Have you had enough of winter yet? We have! Stay warm and peruse this month's *Community Developments*!

Plantation Road Citizen Information Meeting and Project Update



Future Lila Drive Traffic Signal Simulation (click for PDF)

A Citizen Information Meeting (CIM) was held on January 30, 2014, at Country Inn & Suites on Plantation Road to receive comments on the conceptual layout for the [Plantation Road Bicycle, Pedestrian and Streetscape Improvement Project](#). Over 100 people attended to review the renderings and concept plan for the project and to speak with County staff, the consultants from [Whitman, Reguardt & Associates](#) and [Land Planning & Design Associates](#) as well as VDOT staff. All of the materials from the meeting are available [online](#) including a [Comment Sheet](#) that can be completed and mailed back to Roanoke County by February 13th.

The project will now begin a detailed design phase using comments from the CIM. A Design Public Hearing on the 90 percent plans will be held in May.

Please contact [Megan Cronise](#), Principal Planner, or [David Holladay](#), Planning Administrator, with any questions or comments.

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Like us on Facebook 

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Follow-up Links

[Planning Commission](#)

February 4 @ 7:00 p.m.

February 18 @ 6:00 p.m.

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March 25 @ 3:00 p.m.*

*Work Session Time, Public Hearing Begins at 7:00 p.m.

Planning Commission Update

January 7th

The Planning Commission elected Martha Hooker as Chairman and Gary Jarrell as Vice Chairman for 2014. The Commission also visited the February petition sites.

January 21st

This meeting was canceled due to inclement weather.

February 4th

Two applications will be heard on this date:

1. The petition of [Carol Lachowicz](#) to rezone approximately 15.72 acres from PRD, Planned Residential Development, District to AG-3, Agricultural/Rural Preserve, District, located in the 7600 block of Apple Grove Lane, Windsor Hills Magisterial District.
2. The petition of [Daniel Smith](#) to obtain a special use permit for a restaurant, drive-in or fast food (snow cone stand) in a C-1, Low Intensity Commercial, District, on approximately 0.33 acre located at 3540 Brambleton Avenue, Cave Spring Magisterial District.

February 18th

The Planning Commission will hear a presentation on the Host Community Fund associated with the Smith Gap Landfill, will review the exhibits and comments from the [Plantation Road Citizen Information Meeting](#) and will discuss the 2014 Work Plan.

March 4th

No applications have been submitted for this meeting date.

Welcome to Cindy Linkenhoker!

Cindy Linkenhoker recently joined Roanoke County in its Department of Community Development, where she will serve as the County's Stormwater Program Manager. Cindy holds a Master's degree in Public Administration (2011) and a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering Technology (1980), both from Old Dominion University.



Cindy Linkenhoker, Stormwater Program Manager

Cindy has over 22 years of experience in managing and implementing the state's Stormwater Management and Erosion and Sediment Control programs, both at the state and local level. She most recently served as a Senior Water Resources Engineer for Parsons Brinckerhoff, assisting

municipal clients in shaping their programs to comply with Virginia's new Stormwater Management Regulations. Previously, she spent almost 15 years with the City of Portsmouth, serving there for nine years as the City's Stormwater Administrator/Erosion Control Program Administrator and managing all aspects of both programs. She also held the first Stormwater Engineer position in the Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation's Suffolk Regional Office.

Cindy is an outdoors enthusiast and is looking forward to enjoying the many outdoor recreational activities available in the Roanoke Valley region.

Stormwater Advisory Committee Public Meetings

Roanoke County staff will host a series of public meetings to educate residents on recent and ongoing changes of Virginia stormwater requirements that are impacting the County. At the upcoming meetings, the Roanoke County staff and the consultant will present the Stormwater Advisory Committee (SWAC) draft recommendations for public consideration. The public will also have the opportunity to provide comments on the draft plan before the SWAC finalizes its recommendations to the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors.

The public meetings will be held from **6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** as listed below:

February 3, 2014

[South County Library](#)

6303 Merriman Road, Roanoke

February 4, 2014

[Glenvar Branch Library](#)

3917 Daugherty Road, Salem

February 5, 2014

[Green Ridge Recreation Center](#)

7415 Wood Haven Road, Roanoke

February 6, 2014

[Vinton War Memorial](#)

814 Washington Avenue, Vinton

February 7, 2014

[County Administration Building](#), 4th Floor

5204 Bernard Drive, Roanoke

For more information, contact the Department of Community Development at (540) 772-2080, or visit www.roanokecountyva.gov/swm.

Submit Your Film to the 2014 Bike Shorts Film Festival

[Ride Solutions](#) is now accepting submissions for the 2014 Bike Shorts Film Festival, premier to be held at the [Taubman Museum of Art](#) on Friday, May 2, 2014, with follow-up screenings in Lynchburg on May 16th at the [Riverviews Artspace](#) and the New River Valley later in the month.



Our submission guidelines are simple - make a short film, 10 minutes or less, about anything you want, so long as it features a bicycle.

All submissions are due by midnight, March 31st, 2014. For more information on the Bike Shorts Film Festival, visit our event page [here](#).

What is Debris?

Are you concerned about junk or debris on private property in your community? Is it considered trash under Roanoke County Code? Per Section 13-154 of the [Code of the County of Roanoke](#), it



shall be unlawful for the owner of any parcel to allow the accumulation of trash on any parcel or property. The owner of any parcel or property shall maintain all exterior property areas in a clean, safe condition free from the accumulation of trash. Any owner who violates this provision shall be subject to a civil penalty, which may be increased for subsequent violations within a twelve (12) month period.

Trash is defined as "abandoned personal property, garbage, refuse, rubbish, litter or debris."

Please report your concern through our [Code Compliance Complaint Form](#) accessed from the [Roanoke County Planning and Zoning webpage](#). Be sure to include the specific location of the alleged violation, a detailed description of your complaint and your contact information. A Code Enforcement Officer may need to contact you for additional information.

Call 772-2068 with any questions.

Have a great month!

Sincerely,

Megan Cronise, AICP
Principal Planner



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Like us on Facebook 

Like *Roanoke County Planning Services* on Facebook for current updates on community meetings, development projects, traffic notices and more!

[Planning Commission](#)

March 4 @ 4:00 p.m.

March 18 @ 6:00 p.m.

April 1 @ 4:00 p.m.*

April 15 @ 6:00 p.m.

[Board of Supervisors](#)

March 11 @ 3:00 p.m.

March 25 @ 3:00 p.m.*

April 8 @ 3:00 p.m.

April 22 @ 3:00 p.m.*

*Work Session Time,
Public Hearing Begins at
7:00 p.m.

Community Developments

Let's hope the rest of March brings warmer weather and no more snow! Enjoy this month's newsletter.

Planning Commission Update

February 4th

Two public hearings were held:

1. The petition of [Carol Lachowicz](#) to rezone approximately 15.72 acres from PRD, Planned Residential Development, District to AG-3, Agricultural/Rural Preserve, District, located in the 7600 block of Apple Grove Lane, Windsor Hills Magisterial District. *The Board of Supervisors approved this request at its February 25th meeting.*

2. The petition of [Daniel Smith](#) to obtain a special use permit for a restaurant, drive-in or fast food (snow cone stand) in a C-1, Low Intensity Commercial, District, on approximately 0.33 acre located at 3540 Brambleton Avenue, Cave Spring Magisterial District. *The Board of Supervisors approved this request at its February 25th meeting.*

February 18th

The Planning Commission heard a presentation on the Host Community Fund associated with the Smith Gap Landfill, reviewed the exhibits and comments from the [Plantation Road Citizen Information Meeting](#) and discussed the 2014 Work Plan.

March 4th

The Planning Commission will review the new applications submitted for the April 1st meeting and will hear a presentation on the new GIS (mapping) website.

March 18th

The process of consolidating the County's Design Guidelines will be discussed at this meeting.

April 1st

Four applications have been submitted for this public hearing date:

1. The petition of [State Central Bank](#) to amend the proffered conditions and Planning and Design documents

for Loblolly Mill by amending the sections dealing with trails and lighting. The Loblolly Mill Planned Residential Development is located on Sterling Road and is approximately 104.4 acres in size, Vinton Magisterial District.

2. The petition of [Corporate Properties Services, Inc.](#) to obtain a special use permit for a restaurant, drive-in or fast food in a C-1, Low Intensity Commercial, District, on approximately 1.3825 acres located at 3814 Challenger Avenue, Hollins Magisterial District.

3. The petition of [McDonald's USA, LLC](#) to obtain a special use permit for a restaurant, drive-in or fast food in the CVOD, Clearbrook Village Overlay District, on approximately 1.0 acre located at 5347 Franklin Road, Cave Spring Magisterial District.

4. The petition of [Richard and Nancy Koplow](#) to obtain a special use permit to operate a bed and breakfast in a R-1, Low Density Residential, District, on approximately 2.35 acres located at 864 Dexter Road, Hollins Magisterial District.

March 5th - A Trees Virginia Workshop



"Under the Big Top... the Wild Life of Trees" will be held on Wednesday, March 5th, from 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at [Virginia Western Community College](#).

View [more information](#) about this program and

register to attend.

March 10th - McDonald's Community Meeting



Proposed McDonald's Elevations (click for full application)

[McDonald's USA, LLC](#) has submitted a Special Use Permit request for 5347 Franklin Road in the Clearbrook area. A Community Meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 10th, at 6:30 p.m. in the Clearbrook Elementary School Gymnasium. See the [Community Meeting notice](#) for additional details.

Welcome to our New Planners!

Mary Zirkle joins us as Planner II from her most recent position as Chief of Planning for Bedford County, where she served for over seven years. As Chief of Planning she

supervised the Division of Planning in Community Development, which included planning and code enforcement staff as well as permitting staff. She managed the development review process and long-range planning. Prior to that position, she served private and government clients as the Senior Planner for the local planning and design firm of Hill Studio, PC. Her part-time job is a farm hand raising Angus cattle and watching horses and a miniature donkey graze. A native of Roanoke, she looks forward to the new planning opportunities presented in Roanoke County.



(L) Tammi Wood and (R) Mary Zirkle

Tammi worked in the private sector in various capacities prior to coming to work for Roanoke County in 2000. She started her career as a Program Support Specialist for both the Development Review and Planning divisions of Community Development, then was promoted to Planner I/Code Enforcement Officer in 2003, transitioning to Planner I/Site Plan Reviewer in 2005. In May 2013, after 13 years with the County, she left her position for 8 months to assume the position of Zoning Administrator for the City of Roanoke. After much thought and consideration, Tammi pursued the Planner II position and returned to Roanoke County in February 2014. Although she obtained a vast amount of knowledge while being employed at the City of Roanoke and will miss her co-workers in the City, she is looking forward to working with her County co-workers and serving the County citizens again.

We are thrilled to have Mary and Tammi on board. They have begun working on a variety of long range and short range projects.

Residential Chickens

Residents in non-agricultural



areas may keep up to six chickens (no roosters) as an accessory use to a single-family dwelling on their property. If you are interested in keeping chickens:

1. Review the [County Code regulations](#), Chapter 5, Section 5-38; and
2. Apply for a Zoning Permit on the Second Floor of the [Roanoke County Administration Center](#) at 5204 Bernard Drive.

Call (540)772-2068 with any questions.

What Makes a Pothole?

Potholes are created when moisture seeps into the pavement, freezes, expands and then thaws.

This weakens the pavement. Traffic loosens it even more, and it eventually crumbles and pops out.



See [VDOT's webpage](#) for additional information on potholes and [contact VDOT](#) about any potholes on public roads.

LEARN. CHANGE.
Save a ton.

Find out how at SAVEATON.ORG

DO A LITTLE
SAVE A TON

Save Money with a Home Energy Audit

Working with a professional auditor and respected contractor can be one of the best ways to save energy at your home and increase your home's value. Undertaking an energy retrofit can not only seal up nearly-invisible holes in your home that are letting energy - and money - escape, doing so can make your home healthier, more secure, and can serve as preventative maintenance to prolong its life. Such retrofits can be one of the best long-term investments you can make in your home.

However, a poorly performed audit or shoddy retrofit can end up costing you even more. Investing in energy conservation measures only make sense if you are sure you will save money, which means you need to trust your auditor's analysis and recommendations, and your contractor's skill. A knowledgeable team can find hidden

leaks in your home, recommend upgrades to appliances and HVAC systems, and provide calculations on cost savings and payback periods to help you make informed decisions on home improvements. An unqualified auditor or contractor, however, can not only overstate potential energy savings, but can make recommendations that do more harm than good. It's important to verify the qualifications of your auditing firm or contractor before getting any work done on your home. Below are a few tips for ferreting out potential scams:

- Be wary of auditors or contractors that promise miraculous-sounding energy savings. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), most houses built before 1940 can expect 25%-35% savings from an energy retrofit, while houses built in the 90s and after can expect to see 12%. Auditors or contractors that promise to cut your bills in half immediately may be overstating their claims.
- If possible, work with an organization that can refer contractors. Save-a-Ton's list of auditor partners is a good place to start.
- Make sure you use a certified auditor with proof of certification - either BPI or RESNET preferably.
- If the firm claims to use BPI-certified workers, ask for names and BPI numbers. You can verify BPI certification by contacting Lynn Griffith, Manager of Certifications, at BPI.org. This Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy website also contains a list of BPI-certified professionals in Virginia.
- An auditor should be able to document experience if asked. And the consumer should ask.
- Assessment costs are variable, but generally average between \$300 and \$500. Be wary of assessments much outside of this price range.
- If the auditor shows up with nothing but a clip board do not let them in your house. A professional audit based on approved best practice involves sophisticated diagnostic testing and at a minimum will involve a blower door, infrared scanner/camera, heating system safety and combustion safety testing equipment, and a duct blaster.
- An audit cannot be done in a short amount of time. Length of the audit will vary but will require, in general, at least 2 hours.

A home energy audit is an important next step to maximizing your home's performance and reducing your energy bill. But remember - there are a ton of simple, DIY things you can do around the house to start knocking your power bill back almost instantly. Check out the energy conservation and weatherization tips at www.saveaton.org for more ideas, and Like our [Facebook page](#) to connect with other fans within and around Roanoke County for tips, tricks, and references.

Have a great month!

Sincerely,
Megan Cronise, AICP
Principal Planner

Community Developments

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Join Our List

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Quick Links

Planning Commission

April 1 @ 4:00 p.m.*
April 15 @ 6:00 p.m.
May 6 @ 4:00 p.m.*
May 20 @ 6:00 p.m.

Board of Supervisors

April 8 @ 3:00 p.m.
April 22 @ 3:00 p.m."
May 13 @ 3:00 p.m.
May 27 @ 3:00 p.m.*

Social Media

[Like us on Facebook](#) 

Like Roanoke County Planning Services on Facebook for current updates on community meetings, development projects, traffic notices and more!

The weather has finally warmed up! Below are several opportunities to get outside and enjoy it! Happy Spring!

Planning Commission Update

March 4th

Four new applications submitted for the April 1st meeting were reviewed and the Planning Commission heard a presentation on the new GIS (mapping) website which will debut in late April.

March 18th

The Planning Commission discussed consolidating the County's Design Guidelines and the 2014 Work Plan.

April 1st

Four applications were submitted for this public hearing date:

1. The petition of [State Central Bank](#) to amend the proffered conditions and Planning and Design documents for Loblolly Mill by amending the sections dealing with trails and lighting. The Loblolly Mill Planned Residential Development is located on Sterling Road and is approximately 104.4 acres in size, Vinton Magisterial District. *The Commission recommended approval.*

2. The petition of [Corporate Properties Services, Inc.](#) to obtain a special use permit for a restaurant, drive-in or fast food in a C-1, Low Intensity Commercial, District, on approximately 1.3825 acres located at 3814 Challenger Avenue, Hollins Magisterial District. *The Commission postponed action on this item until its May 6th meeting. The applicant submitted a revised traffic study last week and VDOT has not completed its review of the revised traffic study.*

3. The petition of [McDonald's USA, LLC](#) to obtain a special use permit for a restaurant, drive-in or fast food in the CVOD, Clearbrook Village Overlay District, on approximately 1.0 acre located at 5347 Franklin Road, Cave Spring Magisterial District. *The Commission recommended approval of the special use permit with four conditions.*

4. The petition of [Richard and Nancy Koplow](#) to obtain a special use permit to operate a bed and breakfast in a R-1, Low Density Residential, District, on approximately 2.35 acres located at 864 Dexter Road, Hollins Magisterial District. *The Commission recommended approval of the special use permit with one condition.*

April 15th

The agenda for this meeting has not yet been set.

May 6th

One application has been submitted for this meeting:

1. The petition of [Airport Road Holdings II, LLC](#) to amend the proffered conditions including the Masterplan in a R-4C, High Density Multi-Family Residential Development District with conditions for the Suncrest Community, a residential development with a maximum of 115 dwelling units, located on approximately 6.656 acres near 6044 Peters Creek Road, Hollins Magisterial District.

April 5th - 36th Annual Clean Valley Day

Date: April 5th, 2014

Time: 9:00am -12:00pm

Clean Up: Your location of choice

[Clean Valley Council](#) welcomes individuals and groups to volunteer for our annual spring cleanup. This year marks our 36th year of cleaning up our Valley! In 2012, we had 70 teams composed of 1400 volunteers that collected 34 tons of trash and 430 tires. Our volunteers came from the Cities of Roanoke and Salem, the Town of Vinton and the Counties of Roanoke and Botetourt.

This valley-wide clean up promotes respect and care for the beautiful community we share. It is a great fun, team-building opportunity for corporations, civic organizations, youth and church groups. So, let's get going! Pick your spot - a park, playground, roadside, stream bank or your very own neighborhood and help get rid of the litter and make it a cleaner, healthier place for all. Please help us to keep our valley beautiful and its waterways clean. All volunteers are provided with trash bags and gloves. [Register today!](#)

April 17th - Airport Road Holdings, II, LLC, Community Meeting

A land use application has been filed with the Roanoke County Department of Community Development by [Airport Road Holdings, II, LLC](#). The request is to amend an approved rezoning application to allow multi-family dwellings (apartments) on approximately 2.21 acres within the Suncrest community on Peters Creek Road at Airport Road in the Hollins Magisterial District.



*Suncrest Master Plan
(click for larger PDF)*

A community meeting regarding this request will be held as follows:

DATE: Thursday, April 17, 2014

PLACE: Burlington Elementary School, 6533 Peters Creek Road

TIME: 6:30 p.m.

If you have any questions please call Mary Zirkle at (540) 772-2068, extension 267 or email at mzirkle@roanokecountyva.gov.

April 25th - National Arbor Day

Did you know that the oak tree is America's National Tree and the flowering dogwood is Virginia's State Tree? Arbor Day was founded in 1872 by J. Sterling Morton in Nebraska City,



Nebraska and an estimated one million trees were planted that day. In honor of National Arbor Day, Roanoke County encourages residents, business, and organizations to plant trees on April 25, 2014! Not sure what trees to plant? The [Arbor Day Foundation's Tree Wizard](#) can help you. For a list of native trees growing throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia, check out the [Virginia Department of Forestry's Tree Identification Guide](#).

Designated as a [Tree City USA Community](#) for 16 years, Roanoke County is observing National Arbor Day with a celebration at [Fort Lewis Elementary School](#) on April 18, 2014. The celebration will include a ceremonial tree planting, a presentation by the [Virginia Department of Forestry](#) on the importance of trees, and a presentation by students. The [Clean Valley Council](#) and the Virginia Department of Forestry are sponsoring tree plantings on the school grounds. Among those invited to the ceremony are Roanoke County officials, Roanoke County School Board members, administrators and staff, and parents of the students who will be involved in the program. An invitation will also be extended to members of the Clean Valley Council, the Virginia Department of Forestry and the local media. State foresters and [Smokey the Bear](#), a symbol of protection of America's forests, will be at the ceremony to help celebrate Arbor Day!

May 10th - Explore Park Open House



Click for larger PDF

[Roanoke County Parks, Recreation and Tourism](#) is thrilled to announce the grand re-opening of [Explore Park](#), Milepost 115 on the [Blue Ridge Parkway](#). An Open House will take place on **Saturday May 10, 2014 from 10AM-5PM**. Come and explore, enjoy and be reacquainted with the natural beauty this unique park has to offer.

Special attractions and a wide array of activities will be available for all to enjoy. Explore the great outdoors with guided hikes or our annual geocaching event, be captivated by a talented storyteller or musician, enjoy the variety of craft activities, or enjoy a challenging game of laser tag. Children can participate in the unique "paint" a rainbow activity using gumballs or engage their creative side in our Creation Exploration and create an image out of Legos and place it on a giant map of Explore Park.

[Camp Roanoke](#) staff will be offering fun and interactive sessions such as Tracks and Scats, Herb Planting, Orienteering with compass and map, a watershed game, build a bird feeder using unique recycled materials, natural/interpretive hikes, be introduced to some primitive skills including fire building/shelters/tool fabrication. There will also be a campfire and S'mores, ultimate frisbee, and outdoor still life painter, Ed Gowen will be on hand to introduce folks to Plein-Air painting.

Explore Park is also the home to Roanoke County's newest wedding venue, Mountain Union Church. With its old world charm, it is sure to attract many a bride and will indeed make a very welcoming venue for weddings. The church will be open to visitors and will host scheduled events and activities.

The lawn of the Brugh Tavern will play host to the Explore Park Wedding Expo! This tented area will allow visitors to see just how beautiful a wedding and reception can be when held at Explore Park. Information will be available regarding all aspects of what this venue has to offer as well as a glimpse into The Arthur Taubman Center. If you are interested in renting the facilities for a future event or wedding, stop by and take a look at what can be created here. Be sure to talk with any staff member to get complete details.

A unique sand sculpture will be on display in the Plaza and will be available for photo opportunities. The day would not be complete without food vendors, face painting, balloon

twisting, a magician, juggler and stilt walker! Hay Rides will be available to help transport visitors from the Plaza to the historic and open areas of the park. Plenty of on-site parking is also available.

[Into the Wild 5K Run](#) and 1 mile Fun Run to save the animals and benefit [Mill Mountain Zoo](#) will be held from 10 AM - 12 noon at Explore Park. (Please note that there will be a fee to participate in this run). Caching in on Scenery, the annual county Treasure Hunt and geocaching event will be held from 10AM-3PM for those who really would love to "explore" at Explore Park.

All Open House activities (except for the run) are FREE, courtesy of Roanoke County's Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism.

May 10th - Gallop 4 the Greenways



1 Mile Walk, 5k Race + FREE Fleet Feet Kids' Fun Run at River's Edge Sports Complex in Roanoke

DATE: Saturday, May 10th, 2014

TIME: 5:00 p.m.

PLACE: River's Edge Sports Complex

Come Out & Gallop For A Great Cause

[Gallop 4 the Greenways](#) is an annual fundraising event to support our growing network of pedestrian and bicycle trails. The annual Gallop 4 the Greenways will be held on Wiley Drive near [River's Edge Sports Complex](#). The 5k race and walk will take place on the beautiful Roanoke River Greenway. After the race, be sure to stick around for the post-race festivities including live music, food and a fine selection of beverages proper for adults and children. Mark your calendars today and join us in supporting one of the most important quality of life assets in the Roanoke area.

Stay After for our Roanoke River Beach Party!

When the race is over, the real fun gets underway. This year the post-race party will be in the new festival lot across the foot bridge from the starting line. Celebrate our Greenways with live music, great food and adult and kid-friendly beverages after the race.

This year, we'll feature the [SuperHold](#) on stage, and they'll accommodate our beach-themed after party that will include a mechanical surf board, beach-like volleyball and adult beverages from [Parkway Brewery](#).

Admission to the post-race party is absolutely free to the public, so invite the entire family to stay after and celebrate the Greenways and your completion of the Gallop 4 the Greenways race.

[Register](#) to race today!

May 17th - Rally for Road Safety

DATE: Saturday, May 17th, 2014

TIME: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

PLACE: Tanglewood Mall parking lot, beside Firestone

Roanoke County's [Rally for Road Safety](#) will be held beside Firestone in the Tanglewood Mall parking lot.

Kids and adults of all ages will learn how to Share the Road! Join us for this free and fun community event to educate the public on road safety laws and protect users of the road!

View more information at www.roanokecountyparks.com.



Click for larger PDF

Tips for Spring Cleaning

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

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

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

Dispose of it: If you choose to dispose of materials or



household items, please refer to [Roanoke County General Services Bulk and Brush Collection](#) information.

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

Celebrate Bike Month this May

The Roanoke Valley is one of the best places in Virginia to enjoy the outdoors, and what better way to enjoy them than on a bicycle? Each May, [National Bike Month](#) offers an opportunity to get out and explore your community by bicycle, and the regional [RIDE Solutions](#) program has organized a number of events for cyclists and non-cyclists alike.



Worried that your bicycle has been rusting in the garage all winter (or maybe even longer)? Visit the RIDE Solutions booth at the annual [Earth Day festival in Roanoke's Grandin Village](#) on April 26th, where they be offering free bike tune-ups courtesy of [Underdog Bikes](#). They'll make sure your bike is road-ready in no time. Then, refresh your riding skills with a bike rodeo and safety course from RIDE Solutions at the May 17th [Rally for Road Safety at Tanglewood Mall](#). Children and adults will have the opportunity to test their bike knowledge both on road and off, with certified instructors helping along the way.

Bike Month is full of events for non-riders as well, like the May 2nd [Bike Shorts Film Festival](#) to be held at the [Taubman Museum of Art](#) in Downtown Roanoke. Filmmakers from across Southwest Virginia and beyond will screen their short films featuring bicycles - though these aren't all documentaries. Past festivals have featured creative efforts from horror films to music videos, and this year is sure to show off the Roanoke region's cinematic creativity. At the end of May, you can attend the [Night Rider's Ball](#) at [Kirk Avenue Music Hall](#), featuring The Larry Keel Experience. The show is free to anyone who rides their bike or takes the annual [Clean Commute Challenge](#).

Of course, you don't need to attend an event to celebrate Bike Month. The Roanoke Valley features some of the best off- and on-road riding in Southwest Virginia, from [greenway](#) rides across the valley, to weekend rides along the [Blue Ridge Parkway](#), to mountain biking at [Explore Park](#). Whether you are an expert cyclists enjoying some of the beautiful vistas from along Roanoke County's rural roads, to a family taking an outing along [Green Hill Park's](#) trail, to a new bike commuter testing out your first few days on your ride to work, Bike Month offers a great opportunity to get outside and explore what the Roanoke Valley has to offer - all on two wheels.

Sincerely,

Megan Cronise, AICP

Principal Planner



Community Developments

In This Issue

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Join Our List

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Quick Links

Planning Commission

May 6 @ 4:00 p.m.*

May 20 @ 6:00 p.m.

June 3 @ 4:00 p.m.*

June 17 @ 6:00 p.m.

Board of Supervisors

May 13 @ 3:00 p.m.

May 27 @ 3:00 p.m."

June 10 @ 3:00 p.m.

June 24 @ 3:00 p.m.*

We have included lots of news and activities in this month's Community Developments! Enjoy!

Planning Commission Update

April 1st

Four applications were heard at this public hearing:

1. The petition of [State Central Bank](#) to amend the proffered conditions and Planning and Design documents for Loblolly Mill by amending the sections dealing with trails and lighting. The Loblolly Mill Planned Residential Development is located on Sterling Road and is approximately 104.4 acres in size, Vinton Magisterial District. *The Planning Commission recommended approval and the Board of Supervisors approved this petition at its April 22nd meeting.*

2. The petition of [Corporate Properties Services, Inc.](#) to obtain a special use permit for a restaurant, drive-in or fast food in a C-1, Low Intensity Commercial, District, on approximately 1.3825 acres located at 3814 Challenger Avenue, Hollins Magisterial District. *The Commission postponed action on this item until its May 6th meeting.*

3. The petition of [McDonald's USA, LLC](#) to obtain a special use permit for a restaurant, drive-in or fast food in the CVOD, Clearbrook Village Overlay District, on approximately 1.0 acre located at 5347 Franklin Road, Cave Spring Magisterial District. *The Planning Commission recommended approval and the Board of Supervisors approved this petition at its April 22nd meeting.*

4. The petition of [Richard and Nancy Koplow](#) to obtain a special use permit to operate a bed and breakfast in a R-1, Low Density Residential, District, on approximately 2.35 acres located at 864 Dexter Road, Hollins Magisterial District. *The Planning Commission recommended approval and the Board of Supervisors approved this petition at its April 22nd meeting.*

April 15th

The Planning Commission reviewed two landscaping projects proposed under the VDOT Comprehensive Roadside Management Program and were updated on current and future Roanoke County transportation projects.

May 6th

One application has been submitted for this meeting:

1. The petition of [Airport Road Holdings II, LLC](#) to amend the proffered conditions including the Masterplan in a R-4C,

Social Media

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Like *Roanoke County Planning Services* on Facebook for current updates on community meetings, development projects, traffic notices and more!

High Density Multi-Family Residential Development District with conditions for the Suncrest Community, a residential development with a maximum of 115 dwelling units, located on approximately 6.656 acres near 6044 Peters Creek Road, Hollins Magisterial District.

The Commission may also act on the [Corporate Property Services, Inc.](#) petition from the April 1st meeting.

May 20th

The Commission will be briefed on the results of Hollins University student focus groups held in April.

June 3rd

No applications have been submitted for this meeting date.

Roanoke County Launches Suite of New Mobile GIS Apps



Roanoke County has launched a new generation of public geographic information system (GIS) applications that allow greater and easier access to the County's mapping, tax parcel, zoning, and government services data.

The new applications can be found in the new Maps & Apps Gallery through the [County's GIS page](#). The gallery includes several single-focused applications for the most popular day-to-day uses, real estate parcel and tax information, government services, and voter information.

A separate desktop computer application leverages new technology to provide citizens with three dimensional imagery of the County. Several of the applications feature a distinctive new "Property Report" feature that combines parcel data, three dimensional views, and map data all in one convenient report, much like the popular website [Zillow](#).

Professional and power users of Roanoke County's GIS data will be able to access advanced tools with the new OneView application also found in the [Maps & Apps Gallery](#).

The new GIS applications are designed with the latest technology to serve the expectations of a growing audience of mobile and casual users. Most applications in the gallery are optimized to be "mobile friendly" for use on smartphones and tablets, and all of the applications are more accessible to a wider array of modern desktop and mobile Internet browsers.

"Along with greater accessibility, the framework behind the new GIS applications is more flexible as well," GIS Manager David Wray said. "This enables staff to more easily maintain the applications in-house, add new features when available, and create new GIS applications as needed." Efficient delivery of technology services is a core mission for Roanoke County's GIS Services group under [Communications and Information Technology](#).

"We now have a platform we can use to deliver new services and products to support the needs of our citizen and business users," said CommIT Director Bill Hunter. "This launch is just the first step for GIS services in Roanoke County. Expect to see more citizen-focused, GIS-enabled tools and applications in the future."

Welcome to Angie Gwynn!

Welcome to Angela (Angie) Gwynn who began working for Roanoke County as a Principal Development Engineer in April.

Angie is a Virginia native, however she started her career in North Carolina. She then followed her husband around the country as he pursued his education. This provided her with a great opportunity to learn new skills, learn design regulations throughout the country, and remain current in ACAD Civil 3D software.



Angie spent the last 3 years working for McFarland-Johnson in Binghamton, NY as a Senior Engineer/Resident Engineer in the Aviation Department. Her duties included design of aviation projects throughout New York and Pennsylvania. Her duties also included construction administration and inspection of aviation projects in NY. She designed runways, taxiways, aprons, tee hangars, county roads, NAVAIDS, EMAS beds, etc. Angie was privileged to work on award winning designs while she worked there.

Prior to her time at MJ, she worked for Hess & Associates in Newbury, OH (outside of Cleveland) as a Project Engineer for 1.5 years. While there she managed and designed commercial and residential site plans.


Prior to Hess, Angie worked for DPR Associates in Charlotte, NC as a Staff Engineer/Job Captain for 8 years. She designed site, sewer/water, and roadway widening plans for residential, commercial, state/county parks, and university athletic fields throughout the states of North and South Carolina. She also certified and tested newly installed sewer and water utilities.

Town of Vinton Development Opportunities

Two development opportunities are available in the Town of Vinton for the former Roland E. Cook Elementary School Building and for the former William Byrd High School/Roanoke County Career Center Building. See the flyers below for additional information on these unique properties.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
Former William Byrd High School/
Roanoke County Career Center Building
69,740 sq. ft. Development Opportunity on 17.8 acres
100 Highland Rd., Vinton, Va.

Roanoke County is accepting proposals for the purchase and redevelopment of the former William Byrd High School building built in 1970, located at 100 Highland Road in the Town of Vinton. The two-story main building contained 62,760 sq. ft., including a two-story annex facility with 6,980 sq. ft. An additional parcel and a 25,020 sq. ft. school bus maintenance facility are also available. Formerly used as an educational and vocational training facility, the building offers a unique opportunity to be re-purposed for mixed use commercial, educational, cultural or residential uses.



Property summary:

- Within walking distance to downtown Vinton, and convenient access to recreational and commercial amenities including the new Vinton Library (under construction)
- Located in a mixed use area with nearby and adjacent land uses including residential and commercial, with adequate buffering between properties.
- Virginia and National Historic Landmark potential designation and historic tax credit eligibility (A Developer could be eligible to receive up to 20% of construction costs back through the use of Tax Credits).
- Condition Assessment Study completed in 2006, available upon request.
- Environmental study completed in 2012, available upon request.
- Zoned at Vinton zoning designation, R-2 Medium Density Residential.

*Click for larger PDF
(Former William Byrd
High School)*

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
Former Roland E. Cook Elementary School Building
17,642 sq. ft. Development Opportunity on 1.046 acres
412 S. Poplar Street, Vinton, Va.

Roanoke County is accepting proposals for the purchase and redevelopment of the former Roland E. Cook Elementary School Building built in 1915, located at 412 S. Poplar Street in the Town of Vinton. The two-story building, with basement, contained 17,642 sq. ft. on a 1.046 acres. Formerly used as an educational training facility (1915-2009), the building offers a unique opportunity to be re-purposed for mixed use commercial, educational, cultural or residential uses.



Property summary:

- Within walking distance to downtown Vinton, and convenient access to recreational and commercial amenities including the new Vinton Library (under construction)
- Located in a mixed use area with nearby and adjacent land uses including residential and commercial, with adequate buffering between properties.
- Town of Vinton zoning designation, R-2 Medium Density Residential.
- Building contains 17,642 sq. ft. of area and is situated on 1.046 acres of land.
- Parcel ID numbers 006.16-09-39 and 000.16-09-40

*Click for larger PDF
(Former Roland E. Cook
Elementary School)*

New Stormwater Management Ordinance Adopted



February Stormwater Advisory Committee Meeting

Roanoke County approved a new Stormwater Management Ordinance and established a new chapter for Illicit Discharge.

In the next few meetings, the Board of Supervisors will establish a new Stormwater Management Manual to reflect the new state requirements. The Board will also examine in a work session the findings and recommendation of the [Stormwater Advisory Committee](#).

May 3rd, July 30th and October 4th - Sustainable Gardening Training Series

About the Workshop

The [Catawba Sustainability Center](#) presents the [Sustainable Gardening Training Series](#) with Mark Schonbeck. These workshops will provide support to gardeners and small farm

producers throughout the growing season by addressing common issues and practices at the beginning, middle, and end of the growing season. Held at the Catawba Sustainability Center, each workshop will be composed of a classroom session and field session.

Saturday * May 3 * 2 - 5 p.m.

Preparing for Planting: Planning, Soil Amendments, Seedlings and Direct Seed, Planting in the Gardens at Catawba, and much more.

Wednesday * July 30 * 6 - 9 p.m.

Midsummer weed and pest management, Planning for fall crops, and much more.

Saturday * October 4 * 2 - 5 p.m.

Caring for the fall/winter garden, preparing the soil for winter, and much more.

About the Instructor

Mark Schonbeck has done sustainable agriculture research, consulting, and technical writing for more than 25 years. His areas of experience include organic vegetable production, soil and nutrient management, soil test interpretation for organic systems, cover crops, mulches, sustainable weed management, and soil and resource conservation. He does one-on-one consulting with farmers and gardeners, including soil test interpretation and nutrient management from an organic viewpoint, as well as crop rotation, cover cropping, and weed management. Schonbeck edits The Virginia Biological Farmer, the quarterly 12-page newsletter of the Virginia Association for Biological Farming (VABF), and helps maintain a homestead garden for a small community of 15 people. He also does volunteer work in policy education and advocacy for family farms and sustainable agriculture, and serves as policy liaison between VABF and the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition.

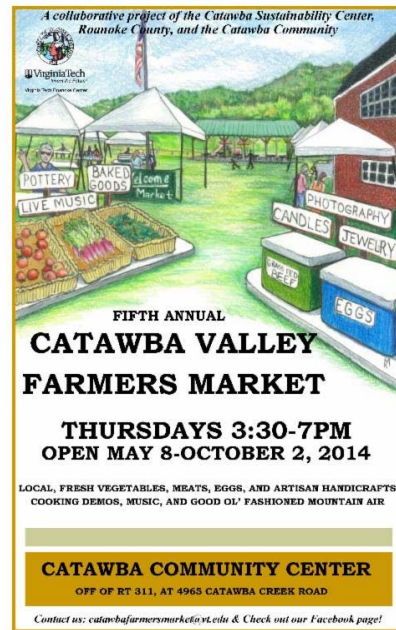
Registration Fee (includes materials and instruction): \$100

For more information and to register, visit the [Sustainable Gardening Training Series Webpage](#).

May 8th - Catawba Valley Farmers Market Reopens!

The Catawba Valley
Farmers Market reopens
on **Thursday, May 8th,**
at 3:30 p.m.!

Visit the Farmers Market
every Thursday until
October for local, fresh
vegetables, meats, eggs
and artisan handicrafts,
cooking demos, music
and mountain air!



[Click for larger PDF](#)

May 10th - Explore Park Open House



[Click for larger PDF](#)

[Roanoke County Parks, Recreation and Tourism](#) is thrilled to announce the grand re-opening of [Explore Park](#), Milepost 115 on the [Blue Ridge Parkway](#). An Open House will take place on **Saturday May 10, 2014 from 10AM-5PM**. Come and explore, enjoy and be reacquainted with the natural beauty this unique park has to offer.

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[Into the Wild 5K Run](#) and 1 mile Fun Run to save the animals and benefit [Mill Mountain Zoo](#) will be held from 10 AM - 12 noon at Explore Park. (Please note that there will be a fee to participate in this run). Caching in on Scenery, the annual county Treasure Hunt and geocaching event will be held from 10AM-3PM for those who really would love to "explore" at Explore Park.

All Open House activities (except for the run) are FREE, courtesy of Roanoke County's Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism.

May 10th - Gallop 4 the Greenways



1 Mile Walk, 5k Race + FREE Fleet Feet Kids' Fun Run at River's Edge Sports Complex in Roanoke

DATE: Saturday, May 10th, 2014

TIME: 5:00 p.m.

PLACE: River's Edge Sports Complex

Come Out & Gallop For A Great Cause

[Gallop 4 the Greenways](#) is an annual fundraising event to support our growing network of pedestrian and bicycle trails. The annual Gallop 4 the Greenways will be held on Wiley Drive near [River's Edge Sports Complex](#). The 5k race and walk will take place on the beautiful Roanoke River Greenway. After the race, be sure to stick around for the post-race festivities including live music, food and a fine selection of beverages proper for adults and children. Mark your calendars today and join us in supporting one of the most important quality of life assets in the Roanoke area.

Stay After for our Roanoke River Beach Party!

When the race is over, the real fun gets underway. This year the post-race party will be in the new festival lot across the foot bridge from the starting line. Celebrate our Greenways with live music, great food and adult and kid-friendly beverages after the race.

This year, we'll feature the [SuperHold](#) on stage, and they'll accommodate our beach-themed after party that will include a mechanical surf board, beach-like volleyball and adult beverages from [Parkway Brewery](#).

Admission to the post-race party is absolutely free to the public, so invite the entire family to stay after and celebrate the Greenways and your completion of the Gallop 4 the Greenways race.

[Register](#) to race or to **volunteer** today!

May 17th - Rally for Road Safety

DATE: Saturday, May 17th, 2014

TIME: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

PLACE: Tanglewood Mall parking lot, beside Firestone

Roanoke County's [Rally for Road Safety](#) will be held beside Firestone in the Tanglewood Mall parking lot.

Kids and adults of all ages will learn how to Share the Road! Join us for this free and fun community event to educate the public on road safety laws and protect users of the road!

View more information at www.roanokecountyparks.com.



Click for larger PDF

Fire Up Your Feet and National Bike to School Day



Below is information from VDOT on two Safe Routes to School activities coming up:

Fire Up Your Feet - Spring Activity Challenge

[Fire Up Your Feet](#) is a program organized by the Safe Routes to School National Partnership, Kaiser Permanente, and the National PTA that offers free resources, an activity tracking tool, and school fundraising all aimed to increase physical activity before, during, and after school.

This is the first year that all schools in Virginia can participate in [Fire Up Your Feet's Spring Activity Challenge](#) and can compete for a portion of \$5,000 during the month of May. Schools can win by keeping track of the percentage of students that keep active in the month. Visit Fire Up Your Feet's [resource page](#) to learn more about the Challenge and to download a [free toolkit](#) to help register your school for the event and keep track of participation.

The Spring Activity Challenge is perfectly paired with National Bike to School Month. Take advantage of this

opportunity to win Challenge Awards for your school! If you have further questions about Fire Up Your Feet or the Spring Activity Challenge, feel free to contact [Beth Richards](#) or [Christine Green](#).

National Bike to School Day

[National Bike to School Day](#) is May 7 and 65 schools in Virginia have already registered and will join thousands of students, parents, and communities across the country. Bike to School Day is a great opportunity for your school to emphasize the importance of bicycling as a fun, healthy, and safe way to get to and from school and elsewhere.

Visit the [Virginia Safe Routes to School website](#) to download resources to help your school prepare for Bike to School Day, as well as tip-sheets and guides to help organize Bike to School Day activities. Can't hold an event on May 7? All of May is National Bike to School Month and any day during the month can be set aside for your Bike to School event. You can [register your school's Bike to School Day event online](#).

May is National Asthma Month

May is National Asthma Month, and though you may hear a lot about air quality in the Roanoke Valley over the course of the month you may not know that the air quality in your home can be just as important as the air quality



outside. A lot of factors can contribute to your indoor air quality, but fortunately there are some things you can do that will both freshen the air inside your home as well as reduce your energy bill.

One of the most important things you can do is regularly check and clean the filters protecting the intake of your air conditioner. A dirty filter can cause your system to work harder, using up more electricity than it needs to move and cool the air in your home, but it also means that dust and allergens that would have otherwise been caught by the filter are left floating in your home. Allergy attacks can be triggers for asthma attacks, so taking this simple step can help reduce instances of both.

When undertaking DIY energy efficiency projects it can be tempting to seal your home up tight, but beware: houses are meant to breathe a little, to let dirty air inside escape and bring fresh air in. This is especially important if you have natural gas appliances or other combustion equipment. Tightening up your home too much can trap dust and allergens inside, triggering asthma attacks and a wide array of other breathing problems.

Make sure there is sufficient venting around combustion equipment, and consider working with a professional auditor. Both you, and your home, can breathe easier this Asthma Month, and the money you'll save on your electric bill won't hurt either.

Over time, dirt and other deposits can build in your ductwork - including molds and mildews that are known to exacerbate asthma. Regular maintenance and cleaning of your HVAC system will not only mean your equipment is running at its most efficient, clean ductwork will keep the air moving through it cleaner, further reducing the strain on your system. In older homes where your equipment might be stored in a damp basement, regular maintenance and cleaning of your ducts can be doubly important to avoid the growth of mold.

How Tall is Your Grass?

Grass is growing very well right now with all of the rain that's been falling!

Remember that any plant, grass or other vegetation covering a substantial portion of a parcel zoned for residential, business, commercial or industrial use must be kept shorter than 12 inches tall.



If you notice grass taller than 12 inches you may file a [complaint online](#) or call (540) 772-2068.

Have another great month!

Sincerely,

Megan Cronise, AICP

Principal Planner

Community Developments

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[Roanoke River Blueway Under Development](#)

[Roanoke County Parks Capital Improvement Incentive Fund Matching Grant Program](#)

[Commercial Vehicle Parking](#)

[Watch for Air Quality Action Days this Summer](#)

Quick Links

[Planning Commission](#)

June 3 *Canceled*

June 17 @ 6:00 p.m.

July 1 @ 7:00 p.m.*

July 15 @ 6:00 p.m.

[Board of Supervisors](#)

June 10 @ 3:00 p.m.

June 24 @ 3:00 p.m.*

July 8 @ 3:00 p.m.

July 22 @ 3:00 p.m.*

*Indicates a meeting with public hearings beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Social Media

Like us on Facebook 

Like *Roanoke County Planning Services* on Facebook for current updates on community meetings, development projects, traffic notices and more!

Join Our Mailing List



Read about new development projects, blueways, ways to improve our parks and more in this month's *Community Developments*!

Planning Commission Update

May 6th

One public hearing was held:

1. The petition of [Airport Road Holdings II, LLC](#) to amend the proffered conditions including the Masterplan in a R-4C, High Density Multi-Family Residential Development District with conditions for the Suncrest Community, a residential development with a maximum of 115 dwelling units, located on approximately 6.656 acres near 6044 Peters Creek Road, Hollins Magisterial District. *The Planning Commission recommended approval and the Board of Supervisors approved this petition at its May 27th meeting.*

The Commission also forwarded the [Corporate Property Services, Inc.](#) petition from the April 1st meeting to the Board of Supervisors with a favorable recommendation. Additional information on this application is available on the [Planning Commission webpage](#). *The Board of Supervisors held a public hearing on May 27th and postponed action on the request until its June 24th meeting.*

May 20th

The Commission was briefed on the results of Hollins University student focus groups held in April and the status of several transportation projects.

June 3rd

This meeting has been canceled.

June 17th

The agenda for this meeting has not been set.

July 1st

No applications have been submitted for this meeting date.

Roanoke River Blueway Under Development

The [Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission](#) is

working with a stakeholder committee composed of local governments, non-profits, paddlers, fishermen, local outfitters and watershed groups to develop the [Roanoke River Blueway](#), a 45-mile water trail on the upper Roanoke River. A blueway (also known as a water trail, paddle trail, or float trail) is a navigable waterway with sufficient capacity (flow, depth, and width) for successful progress of canoes, kayaks and other non-motorized vessels, with sufficient access and amenities to facilitate other recreational uses of the waterway. The Roanoke River Blueway flows through or borders the Cities of [Roanoke](#) and [Salem](#), the Counties of [Montgomery](#), [Roanoke](#), [Bedford](#), and [Franklin](#), and the [Town of Vinton](#), providing river access for canoeing, kayaking, fishing, tubing, wading, wildlife viewing, and other recreational opportunities. The Blueway also connects to numerous local parks; [Roanoke River Greenway](#), [Tinker Creek Greenway](#) and [Mill Mountain Greenway](#); [Blue Ridge Parkway](#); [Explore Park](#); [Smith Mountain Lake](#); and businesses proximate to the river.

The overall goal of the Roanoke River Blueway project is to facilitate and encourage recreational use of the Upper Roanoke River and tributaries by residents and visitors. Additionally, the project seeks to encourage watershed awareness and sustainable stewardship of the region's water resources. To date, the Roanoke River Blueway stakeholder group has developed a [Roanoke River Blueway website](#), interactive and printable maps, brochure, and other information to facilitate the safe and enjoyable use of the blueway including river access descriptions, hazards and portages, recommended minimum and maximum streamflow levels, contact information, and links to useful websites.

Moving forward, the [Regional Commission](#), local governments, and the Roanoke River Blueway stakeholder group will work to improve and promote the Roanoke River Blueway; seek grant funding and other financial support; work with local outfitters, businesses, and other entities to promote the blueway and increase river related recreation and tourism; and increase watershed awareness.

Roanoke River Blueway information is available at www.rvarc.org/blueway.

Contact [Shane Sawyer](#) with the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission at 540.343.4417 for additional information.

Roanoke County Parks Capital Improvement Incentive Fund Matching Grant Program

Have you ever wanted to build a trail, add lights to a playing field, or simply make improvements to a county park? While [Roanoke County](#) is committed to continually improving our recreation areas, there's just not enough time or money



to do it all immediately. But with your help, projects can get off the ground right now.

Project Ideas

Here are a few projects that have been done in recent years:

- Bridge construction
- Concession stands
- Fencing
- Paving
- Field improvements
- Landscaping
- Restroom construction
- Sports and security lighting
- Trail building

Grants for Fiscal Year 2014 - 2015

This year via the [Capital Improvement Incentive Fund \(CIIF\)](#), Roanoke County is making \$25,000 in matching funds available to park improvement projects that help further the mission of the department. Approved grants may receive up to 50% of the cost of a project up to \$5,000. Grant applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 27, 2014, in order to be considered for matching funds.

Applications

To apply, please submit a completed copy of the CIIF Grant Application 2014-2015 with all required attachments to [Arlain Martin](#). This year we will only accept submissions via email.

Contact Us

For more information please contact [Arlain Martin](#) at (540) 387-6078.

Commercial Vehicle Parking

Parking a commercial vehicle in a residential zoning district (R-1, R-2, R-3 and R-4) is prohibited. Such a vehicle is a truck or commercial vehicle with, or designed to have, more than two (2) rear wheels, except for pickup body type trucks or vehicles essential for an agricultural use associated with the premises. Commercial vehicles must be parked and stored elsewhere.



Refer to [Roanoke County Zoning Ordinance](#), Article V, Section 30-91-2.2 for further details or contact [Bill Richardson](#), the Code Enforcement Officer, at (540)772-2065 extension 222 if you have any questions.

Watch for Air Quality Action Days this Summer

We're full into ozone season here in the Roanoke Valley - that time of year where the heat of summer can combine with other pollutants to cause ground-level ozone pollution, otherwise known as smog. Roanoke's topography means that pollutants

that might otherwise have been swept out of the valley can be contained here, leading to air quality challenges that can cause or exacerbate health problems for our citizens. Fortunately, the region has been steadily improving in air quality over the last ten years, meaning air quality action day alerts are few and far between.

If you're not familiar with air quality action day alerts, here's how they work: The [Virginia Department of Environmental Quality](#) monitors air quality at several points within the valley. Using this data and combining it with weather forecasts, DEQ will send out alerts for days where air quality is expected to be particularly poor. In Roanoke, this generally means a "Code Yellow" or "Code Orange" air quality day, where ozone pollution is expected to be low, but still high enough to affect certain sensitive groups such as children, the elderly, or people with preexisting lung problems such as asthma. Air quality action day alerts for Code Orange and higher are generally read on the radio or television during weather reports, but you can also sign up to receive them directly by visiting [RIDE Solutions](#).

Fortunately, there are some actions you can take to improve regional air quality. Reducing vehicle trips and, thus, vehicle emissions is one way to do this, so consider carpooling or biking to work during the week, if possible. Biking or walking to the store or to visit neighbors rather than driving is another way to reduce trips, as is trip chaining - planning your errands so as to take the smallest number of trips possible.

When air quality action days are forecast, there are some things you can do to help make sure we can avoid them. If you get gas, try to do so during the cooler parts of the day, since fumes from the gas pump are a



significant and volatile precursor to ozone when mixed with a hot summer afternoon. Also, don't mow your lawn or use other small gas-powered machines, and the pollution control on these engines are very lax - in fact, many lawnmowers and other small engines pollute more than your average vehicle. Use an air quality action day as a reason to take a day off from yard work.

Sign up for air quality action day alerts from [RIDE Solutions](#) for more ways you can help reduce air pollution in the Roanoke Valley.

Enjoy the lovely weather and have a great month!

Sincerely,

Megan Cronise, AICP
Principal Planner



Community Developments

Quick Links

[Planning Commission](#)

July 15 @ 6 p.m.

August 5 @ 4 p.m.*

August 19 @ 6 p.m.

[Board of Supervisors](#)

July 22 @ 3 p.m.*

August 12 @ 3 p.m.

August 26 @ 3 p.m.*

*Indicates a meeting with public hearings beginning at 7 p.m.

Social Media

[Like us on Facebook](#) 

Like *Roanoke County Planning Services* on Facebook for current updates on community meetings, development projects, traffic notices and more!

This month's newsletter includes information about a Greenway photo contest, new stormwater regulations, a local environmental award winner, how to work from home, tips to save gas and more!

Planning Commission Update

June 3rd

This meeting was canceled as no applications were submitted for this date.

June 17th

This meeting was also canceled.

July 1st

This meeting was canceled as no applications were submitted for this date.

July 15th

The Planning Commission will review Planning Commission records online, will discuss Route 221 waterline extension analysis and will discuss electronic packets.

August 5th

The Planning Commission will tour properties keeping residential chickens.

New Stormwater Management Regulations In Effect

Virginia's Stormwater Management Program (VSMP) Regulations became effective on July 1, 2014. New land disturbance projects submitted to the County for review after this date must meet the VSMP's more stringent design and calculation requirements, to include Part II A and Part II B. This includes providing a

Virginia's Municipal Separate
Storm Sewer System (MS4)
Permit Requirements



A Guide for Roanoke
County Businesses

Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), runoff reduction water quality criteria and channel and flood protection water quantity standards. Allowable Best Management Practices (BMPs) to meet stormwater quantity and quality requirements are shown on Virginia's [Stormwater BMP Clearinghouse website](#). In

Click for full brochure

addition, the regulations require the County to assure that eligible projects have obtained coverage under the Construction General Permit, a task previously handled by the [Virginia Department of Environmental Quality \(DEQ\)](#).

In addition to the new state regulations, DEQ recently reissued the County's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit, effective July 1, 2013. The MS4 Permit requires Roanoke County to operate its existing stormwater-related programs, along with some new ones, which include the aforementioned VSMP program, the existing Floodplain Management Program, the existing Erosion and Sediment Control program, and the new Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) program. To meet the new requirements, it is expected that businesses, in particular, may have to change some work practices, as follows:

- Car washing and dumpster rinsing may need to be modified to ensure TMDL pollutants (i.e., bacteria, sediment) are not being washed into the street or into the County's MS4.
- No wastewater from a business may be discharged to a storm drain.
- Employees may need training on Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping. Topics may include: (1) Spill prevention and response; (2) Proper disposal of wastes; (3) No wastewater discharge to the MS4; (4) Best Management

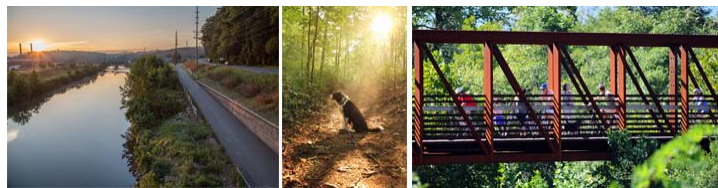
Practices, such as filtering discharges from construction and maintenance activities.

For more information about these new requirements, call [Community Development](tel:540.772.2080) at 540.772.2080.

Congratulations to Brian Batteiger, Virginia's 2014 Cox Conserves Hero!

Brian Batteiger, a dedicated volunteer with [Pathfinders for Greenways](#), has been named Virginia's 2014 [Cox Conserves Hero](#). The program recognizes local environmental volunteers and makes donations to local nonprofits on their behalf. Pathfinders for Greenways will receive \$10,000. Thanks to all who voted for Brian!

Greenway Photo Contest



A picture may be worth a thousand words, but your picture of the [Roanoke Valley Greenways](#) could be worth \$100. Literally.

The [2nd Annual Roanoke Valley Greenways Photo Contest](#) is underway, and your photo could earn you some cash. Submit a photo taken from or on the greenway system through September 15 and you will be eligible to win cash prizes.

Photos will be placed in two categories: Greenway use/activities and wildlife/nature/scenery/landscape. Participants can submit a total of four photos in one or both categories with prizes ranging from \$25 for third place to \$100 for first place.

The photos will be judged by a panel on originality, composition, overall impact, artistic merit, and technical excellence.

Think you have the eye to take the title?

[Learn more](#) about how to enter the contest and see the complete rules.

Would you like to Work from Home?

How would you like
to work from home?
Roanoke County

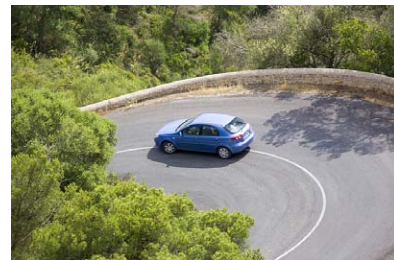
has recently amended some of the [Home Occupation Standards](#) for home-based businesses.



To inquire if your new business may be based from your home please call Planning & Zoning at (540) 772-2068.

Want to Avoid Pain at the Pump this Summer?

As people pile into their cars for vacation, ready to take advantage of sunshine and summer breaks, gas prices across the country begin to skyrocket.



Although it's always difficult to predict where gas prices will head, the increased demand from summer driving typically causes gas prices to climb - money that goes straight out of your pocket and into the gas pump.


If you want to cut your fuel expenses, some basic maintenance will go a long way to keeping your gas mileage high. In particular, periodically check to make sure your tires are inflated to the proper pressure. To determine the proper pressure, don't look at the rating of the tire itself - rather, look for a sticker on the frame of your driver's side door. The sticker should tell you the recommended pressure for your vehicle rather than your tire - a more accurate number that will assure your tires aren't dangerously over- or under-inflated. Also make sure your car receives regular tune-ups. For example, a dirty air filter can force your engine to work harder and less efficiently, particularly in older vehicles, which can reduce your gas mileage.

If your car is in tip-top shape, you still have options for reducing your fuel costs. For many people, carpooling to work as little as one day a week can mean big savings. Think about it - reducing the amount you commute by one work day a week cuts your commute-related fuel expenses by 20%. Finding a carpool partner in the Roanoke Valley is easy - even if your employer doesn't have a formal carpooling program, you can find folks who want to share rides through

[RIDE Solutions](#), the regional commuter services program. RIDE Solutions can find a carpool partner for you, whether that person is a coworkers at your worksite, or someone who works nearby. They use your route and schedule to find the best matches for you and give you a match list with your potential partners' contact info. They can even match you at regional park and rides, including neighborhood stops like churches and shopping centers that have set aside spaces for commuters.

If you're worried about getting stuck, don't be. Their Guaranteed Ride Home program means you'll always have a ride home, free of charge, no matter how you got to work.

Best of all, RIDE Solutions doesn't charge a dime. So if you want to avoid pain at the pump this summer, a little preventative maintenance on your car, and sharing a ride with a coworker, can go a long way to helping you save enough money to fund your own summer getaway.



Enjoy your summer!

Sincerely,

Megan Cronise, AICP
Principal Planner

Community Developments

Your input is needed! Two surveys are included in this month's newsletter as well as a prestigious award, a redevelopment opportunity, sign information and much more!

Planning Commission

August 5 @ 4 p.m.*

August 19 @ 6 p.m.

Sept. 2 @ 4 p.m.*

Sept. 16 @ 6 p.m.

Board of Supervisors

August 12 @ 3 p.m.

August 26 @ 3 p.m.*

Sept. 9 @ 3 p.m.

Sept. 23 @ 3 p.m.*

*Indicates a meeting with public hearings beginning at 7 p.m.

Like us on Facebook 

Like *Roanoke County Planning Services* on Facebook for current updates on community meetings, development projects, traffic notices and more!

Planning Commission Update

July 1st

This meeting was canceled as no applications were submitted for this date.

July 15th

The Planning Commission elected Gene Marrano Vice Chairman and reviewed a new feature adding [Planning Commission records online](#), accessible from the Roanoke County webpage. Files currently date back to 2009 and more will be added. The proposed Route 221 waterline extension was also discussed, as was the exclusive use of electronic packets.

August 5th

The Planning Commission will tour properties keeping residential chickens.

August 19th

The recently-completed Commercial Matching Grant project at Richfield Retirement Community will be reviewed. Chapters one and two of the 2005 Comprehensive Plan will also be reviewed and discussed.

September 2nd

Two applications have been submitted for this meeting:

1. The petition of [Ibnsina Karkenny](#) to obtain a special use permit to expand the square footage of an existing convenience store by 10 percent or greater in a AV, Agricultural/Village Center, District, on approximately 1.15 acres, located at 2938 Jae Valley Road, Vinton Magisterial District.
2. The petition of [Tracy Bryant](#) to amend special use permit conditions to operate a garden center in a AVS, Agricultural/Village Center, District with a special use permit on a 0.763-acre portion of an approximately 1.94-acre parcel, located at 7796 Bent Mountain Road, Windsor Hills Magisterial District. The amended conditions would allow for the addition of a propane filling station to the existing garden center.

Roanoke County Receives Special Achievement Award for Exceptional Application of Geospatial Technology

Redlands, California - July 17, 2014 - Roanoke County, Virginia received a Special Achievement in GIS (SAG) Award at the [Esri International User Conference](#) (Esri UC) in San Diego, California held July 16, 2014. This award acknowledges vision, leadership, hard work, and innovative use of Esri's geographic information system (GIS) technology.

Roanoke County uses Esri ArcGIS technology to leverage the Esri ArcGIS Platform, [Pictometry](#), Google StreetView and MS SQL Server 2008 R2 to create single-focused GIS applications for casual and citizen users. The [Maps and Apps Gallery](#) allows users to Get In, Get Information and Get Out. Each App has familiar functions and features which increases customer adoption and satisfaction. Organizations from around the world honored at the Esri UC span industries including agriculture, cartography, climate change, defense and intelligence, economic development, education, government, health and human services, telecommunications, and utilities.

"The SAG Awards identify the organizations and people that are using the power of geography to improve our world and drive change," says Esri president Jack Dangermond. "At Esri, we are always deeply inspired by the passion and innovation of our users. They deserve recognition for both solving their communities' greatest challenges and for their invaluable contributions to the continued evolution of geographic science."

For more information about the 2014 Special Achievement in GIS Award winners, including project information and photos, please visit esri.com/sag.

To learn more about Roanoke County's fantastic mapping applications, visit the [Maps and Apps Gallery](#) or contact [David Wray](#), GIS Manager, at (540)777-8564.




Former 419 Library Building Request for Proposals

Roanoke County is accepting proposals for the purchase or lease of the former 419 Library Building built in 1972, located at 3131 Electric Road in Roanoke, Virginia, 24018.

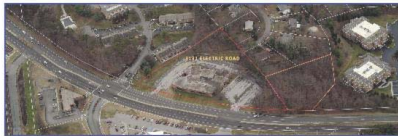
Formerly used as a public library (1972-2011), due to its premier location the building offers a unique opportunity to be re-

purposed as a commercial or office use. Click on the flyer for additional information.

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
FOR SALE OR LEASE
Former 419 Library Building**
20,690 sq. ft. Development Opportunity on 2.52 acres
3131 Electric Road, Roanoke, Va. 24018



Roanoke County is accepting proposals for the purchase or lease of the former 419 Library Building built in 1972, located at 3131 Electric Road in Roanoke, Virginia 24018. Formerly used as a public library (1972-2011), due to its premier location the building offers a unique opportunity to be repurposed as a commercial or office use.



Property summary:

- Located on Electric Road (SR 419) in South Roanoke County, with an average annual daily traffic count of 22,800.
- Located in a fully developed mixed use suburban area with very good demographics.
- The property is zoned C-1 (Office District).
- The building consists of 20,690 sq.ft. of area on a 2.52 acre parcel, with 80+ parking spaces.
- An adjacent 0.93 acre parcel is also available.

Click for larger PDF

Virginia Department of Historic Resources Survey

The [Virginia Department of Historic Resources](#) is requesting your participation in Virginia's Historic Preservation Plan Survey. Topics include:

- What are the major issues facing the preservation community and use of historic resources over the next decade?
- What values and vision should shape our collective formal preservation plans and goals?
- How should Virginia's preservation community (including this agency and a wide range of public and private partners) address these issues as we preserve and care for Virginia's historic resources during the next decade?

Share your thoughts by completing the [survey](#) and view more information about the DHR [Comprehensive Plan](#).

Virginia Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan (VTrans2040) Survey

How do you get around Virginia? Take the 10-minute [VTrans2040 Survey](#) to help craft the [Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan](#).



Prohibited Signs

Roanoke County is concerned about the safety of our citizens and it is our goal to reduce the "signage clutter" in the County.

Did you know:

1. Illegal signs pose hazards to motorists and pedestrians.
2. Most illegal signs are distracting to drivers and create blind spots.
3. Illegal signs destroys or impairs the visual quality of the Roanoke Valley.
4. They mislead, confuse or obstruct potential customers seeking to locate the business.

Some examples of prohibited signs include:

- Vehicle sign parked adjacent to a public road
- Sail fin Sign
- Stick-in-Ground or Step Stake sign in public right-of-way
- Portable Sign



More signs don't necessarily mean more business. Please contact Community Development at 540-772-2065 for assistance with obtaining [sign permits](#) and refer to [Roanoke County Zoning Ordinance Section 30-93-4](#) for more information.

Save-A-Ton Connects You to Renewable Energy Options

At the height of summer, the Roanoke Valley's heat and humidity can make it difficult to keep your energy costs under control. Air conditioning

systems are one of your home's most significant energy consumers, and old or poorly maintained systems can result in hundreds of dollars lost to wasted electricity. But what if you've taken all the steps to make your home as efficient as possible? Maybe you've already weather-stripped doors and windows to make sure cooled air isn't leaking outside. You've sealed your ductwork appropriately so conditioned air isn't seeping into your walls and unconditioned spaces like basements and attics. Perhaps you've even had your air conditioner serviced and your ducts cleaned - making sure that your system is running in tip top shape AND the air moving through your home is clean and healthy.

Why not take the next step and put that hot summer sun to work? Solar energy is a great next step if you've already maximized the efficiency of your home, and prices on solar panels and installation are dropping all the time. Often, there are financing options available to homeowners wishing to install panels at their home, and a recent effort in the valley called [Solarize Roanoke](#) may be able to provide additional financial and consultation assistance depending on where you live. Regardless of your interest in renewable energy, Save-a-Ton can connect you to local installation and service businesses that can help you learn what your options are and how much energy you can expect to generate. Solar energy isn't for everyone, and not every home is in a great space to generate energy from the sun, but our local partners understand the area and know the challenges of solar and other renewable energy resources. There are even local groups like the [Renewable Energy and Electric Vehicle Association](#) that can help get your renewable energy project started with volunteer support from your community and neighbors.

Visit www.saveaton.org/renewables for more information.

Have another great month!

Sincerely,

Megan Cronise, AICP

Principal Planner

Community Developments and Plantation Road Project Update



Upcoming Meetings

[Planning Commission](#)

Sept. 16 @ 6 p.m.

Oct. 7 @ 4 p.m.*

Oct. 21 @ 6 p.m.

[Board of Supervisors](#)

Sept. 9 @ 3 p.m.

Sept. 23 @ 3 p.m.*

Oct. 14 @ 3 p.m.

Oct. 28 @ 3 p.m.*

* Indicates a meeting
with public hearings
beginning at 7 p.m.

Like us on Facebook 

Like *Roanoke County Planning Services* on Facebook for current updates on community meetings, development projects, traffic notices and more!

Enjoy this special edition of Community Developments coupled with an update on the Plantation Road Bicycle, Pedestrian and Streetscape Improvement Project!

Plantation Road Project Update

June 24th Board of Supervisors Work Session

County Staff updated the Board of Supervisors on the progress of the Plantation Road Project. Topics reviewed included the January 30th Citizen Information Meeting, changes to the proposed sidewalks and shared use paths, phasing, related future projects, potential funding sources for the future projects and alternative design scenarios. It was the consensus of the Board to continue with the original project scope and to continue to seek funding for related future projects.

Williamson Road and Plantation Road Intersection Pedestrian Signals Complete

Virginia Department of Transportation Revenue Sharing Program funds were awarded in Fiscal Year 2011 to construct pedestrian signals at the intersection of Williamson Road and Plantation Road. The signalization project began in May and was completed in August. The intersection now features four, push-button, count-down signals and crosswalks.



Williamson Road/Plantation Road Pedestrian Signals

Project Phasing

The project has been broken into construction phases with the first phase including a shared use path from Williamson Road to Walrond Drive (west side), sidewalks from Walrond Drive to Gander Way (west side), sidewalks from Williamson Road to Friendship Lane (east side) with curb, gutter, street trees and pedestrian lights alongside the sidewalks and shared use path. Phase One will be advertised for construction in October, 2015, with construction anticipated to begin in early 2016.

Additional funding is needed to construct the remaining improvements. It is anticipated that Roanoke County will apply for Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funding for these improvements (see below for additional information.)

August 26th Wells Fargo Team Member Network Diversity Fair

Roanoke County Planning and Economic Development Staff attended the Wells Fargo Team Member Network Diversity Fair at the Plantation Road facility on August 26th to share information about the Plantation Road Project with Wells Fargo employees. The map and Lila Drive rendering on display generated a lot of comments and interest! Thank you to Wells Fargo for the opportunity to spread the word about the Plantation Road Project.



Melinda Cox, Existing Business Manager, Discussing the Plantation Project with a Wells Fargo Employee

September 26th Regional Surface Transportation Program Application Deadline

Roanoke County anticipates applying for Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funding for the following Plantation Road projects:

- Lila Drive traffic signal including pedestrian signals, crosswalks, entrance relocations and reconstruction of a portion of Lila Drive;
- Reconstruction of Friendship Lane with bicycle and pedestrian accommodations;
- Replacement of the Friendship Lane/Carvin's Creek bridge; and
- Remaining Plantation Road Project improvements to include sidewalks, curb and gutter, street trees and pedestrian lights to Days Inn and McDonald's; side street bicycle and pedestrian accommodations and pedestrian signals at the Friendship Lane/Gander Way/Plantation Road intersection.

The RSTP funding source requires no local match. Awards will be announced next Spring.

Roanoke County also intends to apply for MAP-21 Transportation Alternatives Program funds by November 1st. This program requires a 20 percent local match and awards will also be announced next Spring.

Fall Design Public Hearing

The Design Public Hearing for the project will be scheduled for late October or early November. This meeting will be similar to the Citizen Information Meeting held in January, 2014, and will include 60 percent plans for the project. More details will follow soon.

Questions

Please contact [Megan Cronise](#), Principal Planner, at (540) 772-2068 x 282 or [David Holladay](#), Planning Administrator, at (540) 772-2068 x 227 with any questions about the Plantation Road Project.

Planning Commission Update

August 5th

The Planning Commission toured properties keeping residential chickens.

August 19th

The Planning Commission reviewed the completed Richfield Retirement Community Commercial Matching Grant project and the first two chapters of the 2005 Comprehensive Plan.

August 26th, Board of Supervisors

The petition of [Corporate Property Services, Inc.](#) to obtain a special use permit for a restaurant, drive-in or fast food in a C-1, Low Intensity Commercial, District, on approximately 1.3825 acres located at 3814 Challenger Avenue, Hollins Magisterial District, was reconsidered and approved by the Board of Supervisors.

September 2nd

Two public hearings were held:

1. The petition of [Ibnsina Karkenny](#) to obtain a special use permit to expand the square footage of an existing convenience store by 10 percent or greater in a AV, Agricultural/Village Center, District, on approximately 1.15 acres, located at 2938 Jae Valley Road, Vinton Magisterial District. *The Planning Commission recommended approval of this application to the Board of Supervisors.*
2. The petition of [Tracy Bryant](#) to amend special use permit conditions to operate a garden center in a AVS, Agricultural/Village Center, District with a special use permit on a 0.763-acre portion of an approximately 1.94-acre parcel, located at 7796 Bent Mountain Road, Windsor Hills Magisterial District. The amended conditions would allow for the addition of a propane filling station to the existing garden center. *The Planning Commission recommended approval of this application to the Board of Supervisors.*

September 16th

A presentation will be given on Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) and Dark Sky in relation to site lighting. Residential Chicken Keeping will also be discussed.

October 7th

No applications have been submitted for this meeting date. Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) applications submitted to the Roanoke Valley Area Metropolitan Planning Organization for grant funding will be reviewed.

West Main Street Sidewalk Construction Underway in Glenvar



West Main Street Sidewalk at Richfield Retirement Community

Virginia Department of Transportation contractors are constructing sidewalks on a portion of West Main Street. As part of the [Route 11/460 Widening Project](#), the new sidewalk along the north side of the highway will connect to existing sidewalk in the [City of Salem](#), near [Fort Lewis Elementary School](#). The new sidewalk will continue past [Richfield Retirement Community](#), and end at Daugherty Road, in front of the new [Glenvar Library](#).

As originally designed, the 11/460 Widening Project did not include sidewalks. However, the project did include curb ramps at intersections, and right of way space behind the curb for sidewalks. Funds from the Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) supported the addition of the new sidewalk. Virginia Department of Transportation engineers designed the new sidewalk, and added the construction to the existing project.

Roanoke County plans to seek additional RSTP funds to continue the sidewalk construction. Additional sidewalk would extend along the north side, from Daugherty Road to Fort Lewis Church Road, and along the south side from Salem to Technology Drive. Pedestrian signals would be added to existing signalized intersections.

October 4th: Fall Waterways Cleanup

Please join the [Clean Valley Council](#) for the 14th Annual [Fall Waterways Cleanup](#) on **Saturday, October 4th, 2014, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**



Pick your favorite spot to clean and we will provide the supplies! Afterwards, enjoy a celebratory picnic at Wasena Park from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

This is a "Surf and Turf" event so you may choose to work in your neighborhood, park or special site if you can't clean up a stream or river. Thanks in advance for being part of the team that keeps our Valley, streams and rivers clean!

Individuals and groups welcome! [Register today](#) or call (540) 345-5523. [Email us](#) with questions.

October 6th - 12th: Williamson Road Restaurant Week

Restaurant Week October 6 - 12



Save the Dates for Williamson Road's second Restaurant Week!

Enjoy Restaurant Week specials at your favorite Williamson Road restaurants starting on Monday, October 6th, and ending on Sunday, October 12th, with a Wine and Art Festival at Hollins Plaza, 8201 Williamson Road. Contact the [Williamson Road Area Business Association](#) at (540) 362-3293 for more information.

What is a Zoning Permit and Do I Need One?

Are you aware that a Zoning Permit is required for the erection, construction, reconstruction, moving, adding to, or alteration of any structure, or the establishment of any land use (except patios and fences)?



Here are some helpful links to get you started:

[Plot Plan Template link](#)

[Residential Building Permit Application](#)

[Setback Compliance Certification](#)

All Zoning Permits issued shall be valid for six (6) months, unless the structure, use or activity for which the permit was issued has commenced.

Please call 540-772-2065 x 221 for additional information.

Get Started with Carpooling

Anyone who thinks back to their earliest science classes will recall the astounding fact that most matter is empty space, because the atoms that form everything in the universe are themselves mostly empty - comprised of a few particles in their nucleus, some electrons zipping in orbit around that nucleus, and that's pretty much it. Various forces hold atoms together and to each other, but between those nuclei and electron orbits is nothing but space.

Now, imagine a tractor-trailer accident on I-81 causing a 5-mile traffic jam. Flying over the scene in a helicopter, you'd see a solid ocean of idling cars and trucks, bumper to bumper from exit 143 in Roanoke all the way past Salem filling two travel lanes. In fact, you'd be looking at over 7,000 cars taking up 20% of the interstate between Roanoke and Christiansburg.



Interstate 81

And you'd mostly be looking at empty space.

In Roanoke, the vast majority of commuters drive alone. Each driver - the nucleus of the car, if you will - is only taking up 1/4 of total seat capacity at best, even less in the case of large SUVs or

minivans. If you look at that same traffic jam in terms of people rather than cars, a backup that might take hours to clear and fills a fifth of the interstate, actually involves so few people they could all fit in the Roanoke Civic Center with plenty of room to spare.

All those empty seats present an enormous opportunity to improve the capacity, efficiency, and lifespan of our roads, and can be realized without investing in any new technologies or transportation systems. In fact, the best, easiest solution is an old-fashioned one: carpooling.

Through [RIDE Solutions](#) regional carpool matching database, commuters have access to a free, simple way to find others who share their work hours and basic route. Commuters simply provide a few pieces of information about their commute through the website, and RIDE Solutions does the work of finding likely matches - including using regional park-and-rides and other meeting points to find potential carpool partners through a process called "corridor matching." Employees control how their data is shared with others, and there's no requirement to form a carpool with anyone on a given match list. Plus, their Guaranteed Ride Home program ensures that commuters are never stuck without a ride if something unexpected happens.

Though anyone can access the carpool matching system at ridesolutions.org, employers contribute significantly to the success of the program. Employees are more likely to take advantage of carpooling if supported by their bosses and HR departments, and businesses can implement simple incentives such as preferred parking spaces and parking buy out that can be a win-win for your employees and your organization.

The [RIDE Solutions Workplace](#) program can help your business implement a carpool program - and more - absolutely free of charge. For information on becoming a Workplace partner, visit ridesolutions.org/employers or contact Program Director [Jeremy Holmes](#) or 540-342-9393.

Have another great month!

Sincerely,

Megan Cronise, AICP
Principal Planner

Community Developments



We are keeping busy this fall with several projects and events. Read on to see what's new!

Upcoming Meetings

[Planning Commission](#)

Oct. 7 @ 4 p.m.*

Oct. 21 @ 6 p.m.

Nov. 3 @ 4 p.m.*

Nov. 17 @ 6 p.m.

[Board of Supervisors](#)

Oct. 14 @ 3 p.m.

Oct. 28 @ 3 p.m.*

Nov. 18 @ 3 p.m.*

*Indicates a meeting with public hearings beginning at 7 p.m.

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Planning Commission Update

September 2nd

Two public hearings were held:

1. The petition of [Ibnsina Karkenny](#) to obtain a special use permit to expand the square footage of an existing convenience store by 10 percent or greater in a AV, Agricultural/Village Center, District, on approximately 1.15 acres, located at 2938 Jae Valley Road, Vinton Magisterial District. *The Board of Supervisors approved the request at its September 23rd meeting.*

2. The petition of [Tracy Bryant](#) to amend special use permit conditions to operate a garden center in a AVS, Agricultural/Village Center, District with a special use permit on a 0.763-acre portion of an approximately 1.94-acre parcel, located at 7796 Bent Mountain Road, Windsor Hills Magisterial District. The amended conditions would allow for the addition of a propane filling station to the existing garden center. *The Board of Supervisors approved the request at its September 23rd meeting.*

September 16th

Presentations were given on Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) and Dark Sky in relation to site lighting. Residential Chicken Keeping was also discussed.

October 7th

No applications have been submitted for this meeting date. Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) applications submitted to the Roanoke Valley Area Metropolitan Planning Organization for grant funding will be reviewed. Chapter 3 of the [Roanoke County Community Plan](#) will also be discussed.

October 21st

The Planning Commission will review Chapters 3 and 4 of the [Roanoke County Community Plan](#) and will review a summary of the Route 221 Corridor Community Meeting about a proposed waterline extension.

November 3rd

Two land use applications have been submitted for this date:

1. [Bonsack Baptist Church Trustees](#) and Union First Market Bank to rezone approximately 4.64 acres to remove proffered conditions from property zoned C-1CS, Low Intensity Commercial, District with conditions and special use permit and C-1C, Low intensity Commercial, District with conditions to construct additional parking for religious assembly use

located near the 5000 block of Cloverdale Road, Hollins Magisterial District.

2. [IYS XXII, LC](#) to rezone approximately 8.46 acres from I-1S, Low Intensity Industrial, District with special use permit to C-2S, High Intensity Commercial, District with special use permit for the operation of a halfway house, located at 5673 Airport Road, Hollins Magisterial District.

October 4th: Fall Waterways Cleanup

Please join the [Clean Valley Council](#) for the 14th Annual [Fall Waterways Cleanup](#) on:

Saturday, October 4th, 2014, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Pick your favorite spot to clean and we will provide the supplies! Afterwards, enjoy a celebratory picnic at Wasena Park from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.



This is a "Surf and Turf" event so you may choose to work in your neighborhood, park or special site if you can't clean up a stream or river. Thanks in advance for being part of the team that keeps our Valley, streams and rivers clean!

Individuals and groups welcome! [Register today](#) or call (540) 345-5523. [Email us](#) with questions.

October 6th through 12th - Williamson Road Restaurant Week and Wine Festival



Check out [Restaurant Week specials](#) at your favorite Williamson Road restaurants! Restaurant Week starts on Monday, October 6th, and ends on Sunday, October 12th, with a [Wine Festival](#) from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Hollins Plaza, 8201 Williamson Road. Wine Festival tickets are on sale now.

Contact the [Williamson Road Area Business Association](#) at (540) 362-3293 for more information on this fantastic event!

October 16th: Exit 140 Park and Ride Expansion Public Hearing



The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) will hold a public hearing on the proposed expansion of the Park and Ride facility located off Interstate 81 at exit 140 (Salem) in Roanoke County.

The existing Park and Ride lot, which has approximately 112 parking spaces, would be expanded to provide approximately 236 vehicle spaces and nine for motorcycles. Other amenities included in the proposed project are additional lighting, bike racks, handicap parking, sidewalks and a bus shelter.

The hearing will be held on Thursday, Oct. 16, from 5 to 7 p.m. at [VDOT's Salem District Office](#) located at 731 Harrison Avenue in Salem.

This hearing is being held to provide an opportunity for citizens or organizations to give VDOT input on the proposed project. The hearing will be held in an open-house format with no formal presentation given. VDOT representatives will be present to discuss the proposed project and to answer questions.

Comments about the project may be submitted at the hearing or until October 26 by mailing them to Mr. John Bisnett, Project Manager, Virginia Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 3071, Salem, VA 24153.

Comments also can be emailed to saleminfo@vdot.virginia.gov. Please reference "I-81 Exit 140 Park & Ride Facility Expansion" in the subject heading.

Anyone requiring special assistance to attend and participate in this hearing may contact VDOT at 540-387-5353, 800-367-7623 or TTY/TDD 711.

Regional Surface Transportation Program Applications Submitted

Roanoke County submitted or participated in seven [Regional Surface Transportation Program](#) applications last week for the following projects:

- Interstate 81, Exit 140 Park & Ride Facility (additional funding needed)
- Plantation Road Improvements, Lila Drive Intersection
- West Main Street Pedestrian Improvements, Phases 2 and 3
- Plantation Road Improvements, Friendship/Carvin's Creek Bridge Replacement
- Plantation Road Improvements, Friendship Lane Reconstruction
- Plantation Road Improvements, Phase 2
- Tinker Creek Greenway Connectivity Study with the City of Roanoke and Botetourt County

All 16 applications submitted will be reviewed and evaluated by the [Roanoke Valley Area Metropolitan Planning Organization](#) and the Transportation Technical Committee. Awards will be announced in Spring, 2015.

It's that Time of Year: Leaf Cleanup

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



For more information or to check the schedule, please contact [Roanoke County Solid Waste](#) at (540) 387-6225.

Energy Awareness Month is an Opportunity to Reduce Transportation Energy

October is National Energy Awareness Month, an opportunity for Roanoke County citizens to learn more about their own energy use, the impacts of energy use locally and globally, and small steps they can make to change their habits and reduce their consumption. [RIDE Solutions](#), the region's commuter alternatives program, wants to take this opportunity to remind all drivers in central and southwest Virginia that taking advantage of transportation options is not only a way to save money, it's also an important way to reduce energy consumption and our impact on the environment.

"Gas prices are volatile, constantly changing with the season and market. The energy impacts of fuel consumption are not," says Program Director Jeremy Holmes. "According to the Energy Information Administration, burning a gallon of petroleum produces 80 pounds of hydrocarbons, 606 pounds of carbon monoxide, and 41 pounds of nitrous oxides - all of which contribute to air pollution levels that can do everything from trigger asthma attacks to obscure the view of our beautiful mountains."

The Roanoke Valley, which has been slowly improving from borderline non-attainment for air quality in 2001, credits about half of the pollution that contributes to poor air quality from transportation-related sources generated within the valley.

Advancements in hybrid-electric and electric vehicles, along with improvements in fuel efficiency, have greatly reduced the energy intensity of automobiles, but there's more to the energy picture than what fuels the car. Things like road and parking infrastructure, land use, and green space are all affected by transportation choice. We're even learning more about how water quality can be affected by stormwater runoff that carries oil, gas, and other pollutants from our roads and parking lots into our water supply.

Interested in learning more about transportation energy this Energy Awareness Month? Visit the [RIDE Solutions website](#).

Have a great month!

Megan Cronise, AICP
Principal Planner

Community Developments



2014 is starting to wrap up with several meetings and events planned before the holidays. Read on for more details!

Upcoming Meetings

Planning Commission

Nov. 3 @ 4 p.m.*

Nov. 17 @ 6 p.m.

Dec. 1 @ 4 p.m.*

Dec. 15 @ 6 p.m.

Board of Supervisors

Nov. 18 @ 3 p.m.*

Dec. 9 @ 3 p.m.*

*Indicates a meeting with public hearings beginning at 7 p.m.

Like us on Facebook 

Like Roanoke County Planning Services on Facebook for current updates on community meetings, development projects, traffic notices and more!

Planning Commission Update

October 7th

No applications were submitted for this meeting date. Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) applications submitted to the Roanoke Valley Area Metropolitan Planning Organization for grant funding were reviewed. Chapter 3 of the [Roanoke County Community Plan](#) was also discussed.

October 21st

The Planning Commission reviewed Chapters 3 and 4 of the [Roanoke County Community Plan](#) and reviewed a summary of the Route 221 Corridor Community Meeting about a proposed waterline extension.

November 3rd

Two public hearings were scheduled:

1. [Bonsack Baptist Church Trustees](#) and Union First Market Bank to rezone approximately 4.64 acres to remove proffered conditions from property zoned C-1CS, Low Intensity Commercial, District with conditions and special use permit and C-1C, Low intensity Commercial, District with conditions to construct additional parking for religious assembly use located near the 5000 block of Cloverdale Road, Hollins Magisterial District. *The Planning Commission recommended approval of this request. The Board of Supervisors will consider the request at its November 18th meeting.*

2. [IYS XXII. LC](#) to rezone approximately 8.46 acres from I-1S, Low Intensity Industrial, District with special use permit to C-2S, High Intensity Commercial, District with special use permit for the operation of a halfway house, located at 5673 Airport Road, Hollins Magisterial District. *The Planning Commission recommended denial of this request. The Board of Supervisors will consider the request at its November 18th meeting.*

November 17th

The agenda for this meeting has not yet been set.

December 1st

No applications have been submitted for this meeting date.

November 20th: Plantation Road Bicycle, Pedestrian and Streetscape Improvement Project, Phase 1
Design Public Hearing



Learn more about the Plantation Road Bicycle, Pedestrian and Streetscape Improvement Project at the Design Public Hearing scheduled for:

Thursday, November 20th, 2014, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
[Country Inn and Suites](#), 7860 Plantation Road, Roanoke, VA

Find out about the proposed Phase One improvements to the Plantation Road Corridor from Williamson Road (Route 11) to Gander Way and Friendship Lane. The proposed project includes bicycle and pedestrian improvements with the addition of a 10' wide Shared Use Path, 5' wide sidewalks and pedestrian signals at the Friendship Lane/Gander Way intersection. Street trees, pedestrian lighting, curb and gutter will also be incorporated into the project.

Review the proposed project plans at the Public Hearing. Project plans may also be reviewed at the [Roanoke County Administration Center](#) located at 5204 Bernard Drive, Roanoke, VA 24018. Please call ahead at (540) 772-2080 to assure that project staff are available. Additional project information is available at www.roanokecountyva.gov/Plantation.

Give your written or oral comments at the meeting or submit them by December 1, 2014, to David Holladay, P.O. Box 29800, Roanoke, VA 24018. You may also email your comments to dholladay@roanokecountyva.gov. Please reference "Plantation Road Corridor Improvements" in the subject heading.

Roanoke County ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact [David Holladay](#) at (540) 772-2068 ext. 227.

Route 221 Open House Community Meeting Summary



Roanoke County Planning Staff in conjunction with the [Western Virginia Water Authority](#) held an Open House style Community Meeting on September 30, 2014 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Back Creek Elementary School Gymnasium.

This meeting was held to provide information to area citizens regarding the proposed [Route 221 Area Plan](#) amendment and the proposed Western Virginia Water Authority waterline extension. An [Informational Handout](#) was distributed to the attendees and numerous maps were displayed to provide additional information. Sixty-four citizens recorded their attendance at the open house and provided feedback to staff.

View additional information about the meeting including all meeting materials [online](#) and contact [Tammi Wood](#), Planner II, at (540) 772-2068 x 226 with any questions.

Brambleton Merchants Network to Help Each Other



Small and large businesses, home-grown businesses, business start-ups and entrepreneurs on Brambleton Avenue in southwest Roanoke County want to help each other. With Roanoke County's assistance, over fifty merchants met on October 14th to explore how they could work as a group to market, advertise and increase foot traffic in their stores. An invitation was also extended to their Roanoke City colleagues on Brambleton Avenue and local government representatives to join the marketing campaign. From the

restaurants to the bike shop to the hardware store to the animation/interactive services, Brambleton Avenue is the perfect venue for developing a customer referral system between neighboring businesses. In addition, it provides an opportunity for a business to share techniques that work well with another business owner across the street.

The general consensus of the meeting was to form a Merchants' Association to work together to raise Brambleton Avenue's profile in the region. The next meeting will be held on November 13th at the [Brambleton Center](#). Wendy Jones, Executive Director of the [Williamson Road Area Business Association](#) (WRABA) will be the guest speaker. Please contact [Megan Cronise](#), Principal Planner, at 772-2068 ext. 282 or [Melinda Cox](#), Existing Business Program Manager, at 772-2185 for more information.

What is an Inoperative Vehicle?

An inoperative motor vehicle, trailer or semitrailer is defined as: "any motor vehicle, trailer or semitrailer which is not in operating condition, or which for a period of sixty (60) days or longer has been partially or totally disassembled by the removal of tires and wheels, the engine or other essential parts required for operation of the vehicle or on which there are displayed neither valid license plates nor a valid inspection decal."



It is unlawful to keep on any property any inoperative motor vehicle, trailer or semitrailer, unless the vehicle is completely screened or shielded from public view or fully enclosed within a building or structure.

If you would like to report an inoperative vehicle, please complete the [Online Code Compliance Complaint Form](#) or you may call (540) 772-2065 to file the complaint.


Becoming a Bicycle Friendly Business

Twice a year, the [League of American Bicyclists](#) recognizes businesses across the United States who are leaders in supporting cycling in their communities. These businesses may have high participation in a bike to work program, they may support afternoon or evening group rides as a way for their employees to stay healthy, or they may simply support other programs and events in their region, such as a local bike club or advocacy group.



However they approach bicycle friendliness, what they all have in common is national recognition as a business that fully supports a growing trend across America: bicycling for fun and transportation.

Recognition as a [Bicycle Friendly Business](#) can bring many benefits. For businesses concerned with attraction and retention of talented employees,



being certified as Bicycle Friendly can be an important element in a recruitment program for young knowledge workers and other professionals. Businesses looking for ways to keep healthcare costs low might work towards a Bicycle Friendly Business certification as a way to build a successful employee wellness program and tap into valuable financial benefits that can cut premiums. In an area with an outdoors focus such as the Roanoke Valley, being certified as Bicycle Friendly can be a competitive advantage - whether you're competing for customers or employees.

The Bicycle Friendly Business program doesn't cost a dime, but it does require a commitment of time and people to look at and improve business operations. Fortunately, your local commuter services program, [RIDE Solutions](#), has the expertise to walk you through the application process, to build a program that supports your business goals, and even to provide resources and materials to kick-start your Bicycle Friendly Business effort. Already, RIDE Solutions has assisted Carilion Clinic, Virginia Tech, Norfolk Southern, and many others on their Bicycle Friendly programs - in fact, the [Regional Commission](#), of which RIDE Solutions is a program, was the first organization on the east coast to achieve the Bicycle Friendly Business designation.

Interested in learning becoming a Bicycle Friendly Business? Contact RIDE Solutions Program Director [Jeremy Holmes](#) at (540) 342-9393.

Have another great month!

Megan Cronise, AICP
Principal Planner

Happy Holidays

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Brambleton Avenue Businesses Meet for Form a Merchants' Association

Get the Latest News with our Notify Me Service

Safe Cycling in the Roanoke Valley

Remember to Renew your Temporary Sign

[Planning Commission](#)

December 15 @ 6:00 p.m.

January 6 @ 4:00 p.m.*

January 20 @ 6:00 p.m.

[Board of Supervisors](#)

December 9 @ 3:00 p.m.*

January 13 @ 3:00 p.m.

January 27 @ 3:00 p.m.*

*Indicates a meeting with public hearings beginning at 7:00 p.m.

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Enjoy the holidays and the last Community Developments issue of 2014!

Planning Commission Update

November 3rd

Two public hearings were scheduled:

1. [Bonsack Baptist Church Trustees](#) and Union First Market Bank to rezone approximately 4.64 acres to remove proffered conditions from property zoned C-1CS, Low Intensity Commercial, District with conditions and special use permit and C-1C, Low intensity Commercial, District with conditions to construct additional parking for religious assembly use located near the 5000 block of Cloverdale Road, Hollins Magisterial District. *The Planning Commission recommended approval and the Board of Supervisors approved the request at its November 18th Board of Supervisors meeting.*

2. [IYS XXII, LC](#) to rezone approximately 8.46 acres from I-1S, Low Intensity Industrial, District with special use permit to C-2S, High Intensity Commercial, District with special use permit for the operation of a halfway house, located at 5673 Airport Road, Hollins Magisterial District. *The Planning Commission recommended denial of this request. The petitioner [withdrew the application](#) prior to the Board of Supervisors meeting on November 18th.*

November 17th

The Planning Commission discussed possible zoning ordinance amendments and Chapter 5 of the Roanoke County Comprehensive Plan.

December 1st

This meeting was canceled.

December 15th

The agenda for this meeting has not been set.

January 6th

Two applications have been submitted for this meeting:

1. [Morgan Ventures, LLC](#) to obtain a Special Use Permit for a broadcasting tower (cell tower) approximately 195 feet in height in a C-2, High Intensity Commercial, District on approximately 1.00 acre, located at 4247 Bonsack Road, Vinton Magisterial

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District.

2. [Roger and Deborah Rardin](#) to rezone an approximately 8.00 acre portion of an approximately 19.44 acre parcel from I-2, High Intensity Industrial, District to R-1, Low Density Residential, District and to remove a proffered condition from the 11.44 acre portion of the property zoned R-1, Low Density Residential, District, located west of the Norfolk Southern Railroad near the 5000 block of Poor Mountain Road and north of Bydawyle Road, Catawba Magisterial District.

December 4th - Morgan Ventures Community Meeting

A community meeting will be held regarding the [Morgan Ventures, LLC, request](#) to obtain a Special Use Permit for a broadcasting tower (cell tower) approximately 195 feet in height in a C-2, High Intensity Commercial District on approximately 1 acre located at 4247 Bonsack Road, Vinton Magisterial District.

Thursday, December 4, 2014
6:30 p.m.
[Bonsack Elementary School](#) Cafeteria
5437 Crumpacker Drive
Roanoke, VA 24019

View the [Community Meeting letter](#) or contact [Tammi Wood](#) at (540) 772-2068 x 226 for additional information.

December 8th - Roanoke County Christmas Tree Lighting

This year's Christmas tree lighting will allow visitors to experience a touch of traditions from around the world. Christmas crafts, activities, food and stories from around the world will be available for guests to enjoy throughout the evening.

View the [Christmas Tree Lighting flyer](#) for additional information.



December 17th - Mountain Valley Pipeline Community Open House

Several Community Open House meetings have been scheduled by Mountain Valley Pipeline, LLC, regarding a proposed natural gas pipeline crossing into Roanoke County. The Roanoke Valley meeting is planned for:

Wednesday, December 17, 2014
5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

[Salem Civic Center](#)

1001 Roanoke Boulevard
Salem, VA 24153

View the November 14, 2014, Mountain Valley Pipeline, LLC, [letter](#) for other meeting dates and locations. [Additional information](#) regarding the potential pipeline has been compiled by Roanoke County.

Plantation Road Project Design Public Hearing Summary



A Design Public Hearing/Open House on the Plantation Road Project was held on November 20, 2014, at Country Inn and Suites, located at 7860 Plantation Road. About 50 people attended the meeting to review and comment on proposed plans for Phase One of the project which has been designed to include:

- Pedestrian and bicycle shared use path on the west side of Plantation Road from Williamson Road to Walrond Drive;
- Sidewalk on the west side of Plantation Road from Walrond Drive to Gander Way;
- Sidewalk on the east side of Plantation Road from Williamson Road to Friendship Lane;
- Street trees, pedestrian lighting, crosswalks and pedestrian signals; and
- Curb, gutter and storm drains.



All of the meeting materials have been posted [online](#). Advertisement for construction of this phase is scheduled for October 2015 and construction should start in early 2016. For

more information visit the [Plantation Road Project webpage](#).

Please contact [Megan Cronise](#) by phone at (540) 772-2068 ext. 282 with questions.

Brambleton Avenue Businesses Meet to Form a Merchants' Association



The Roanoke County Brambleton Center hosted the second meeting of Brambleton Avenue businesses interested in forming a merchants association' on November 13th. Over fifty business representatives were in attendance for a presentation by the [Williamson Road Area Business Association's](#) Executive Director Wendy Jones on how to form a merchants' association.

Later in the meeting, three volunteers (Tracey Brookins of The Transformed Foundation, Michael Shelton of New River Financial Group and Gloria Fox of Potentially Chic) stepped forward to begin work on the organizational By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation to be presented to the businesses at the December 11th meeting.

Gloria Fox has developed a Facebook group for merchants to chat with each other, to distribute information on topics such as Small Business Saturday opportunities, meeting dates through June 2015 and as a method for businesses to introduce themselves to each other.

Carmen Forman with The Roanoke Times also wrote an article about the [Brambleton Avenue merchants](#).

Get the Latest News with our Notify Me Service

Stay informed about the latest news, developments and programs by subscribing to

[Roanoke County's Notify Me](#) service. You can choose to receive notices from dozens of categories across the county, including news flash alerts from Roanoke County, Fire & Rescue, Libraries, Planning and Zoning, Police, Road Notices, and others.



You can also sign up for Calendar notices about public meetings

and important deadlines from Planning and Zoning, Holiday Closings, Library Events, and Tax Dates and Deadlines.

Signing Up is Easy!

Enter your email address and select the Notify Me categories you want to receive directly in your inbox. You can also add your cell phone telephone number to receive SMS text messages from Roanoke County. Our SMS service is free, but your cellular provider may charge for text messaging.

After subscribing, you'll need to check your inbox and click on the confirmation link to begin receiving notices. Come back to our site at any time to manage your subscriptions or unsubscribe from our service.

Contact [Gray Craig](#) at (540) 777-8579 with any questions.

Safe Cycling in the Roanoke Valley

Bicycle Safety Video
As more people choose to bicycle for recreation and transportation in the Roanoke Valley, it's important for everyone - driver and cyclist alike - to understand the rules and responsibilities of the road. The [Bicycle Safety in the Roanoke Valley video](#) provides some basic safety tips for all road users,



and well as highlights some points of Virginia law that may surprise you - such as when a cyclist may ride through a red light or move to the front of a line of traffic.

Interested in exploring your community by bicycle? Visit the RIDE Solutions [interactive bicycle map](#).

Bike Incident Reporting Tool

Help Improve Road Safety! Use our [Incident Reporting Tool](#) to share information about poor road conditions, dangerous vehicles, and other information that can help us make the roads safer for cyclists. The Incident Reporting Tool collects information from around the region that can be shared with local law enforcement and transportation planners to improve road safety for everyone.

Contact [Jeremy Holmes](#) with [RIDE Solutions](#) at (540) 342-9393 for additional information.

Remember to Renew your Temporary Sign

Does your business have a temporary sign? Remember that temporary sign permits must be renewed at the beginning of every year.



The cost is \$25.00 and the

Roanoke County [Sign Permit Application](#) can be found on the [Planning and Zoning webpage](#).

The completed Sign Permit may be emailed, mailed, faxed, or brought in to the Community Development office on the second floor of the [Roanoke County Administration Center](#) located at 5204 Bernard Drive. If you have any questions, please call (540) 772-2068.

Have another great month and a wonderful end to the year!

Sincerely,

Megan Cronise, AICP
Principal Planner

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