

January 2020

Happy New Year from Planning & Zoning!



Hello!

We hope you enjoyed a restful and festive holiday season with your family and friends! If you haven't yet, please remember to [follow us on Facebook](#) for more regular updates about planning and projects in Roanoke County.

Planning & Zoning Update

**Nov
19th**

The Board of Supervisors held public hearings and approved:

- The petition of Fellowship Community Church to rezone property to remove the proffered conditions and to obtain a special use permit for a religious assembly on approximately 3.50 acres zoned C-2C, High Intensity Commercial, District with conditions, located near the 6500 block of Merriman Road, Cave Spring Magisterial District.
- The petition of David and Stace Todd to obtain a special use permit in a R-1, Low Density Residential, District to comply with the use and design standards associated with an accessory apartment in an accessory building on approximately 0.346 acre, located at 1047 Barrens Village Court, Hollins Magisterial District.

Pending more information, the Board of Supervisors delayed a decision on a petition by the Roanoke Valley Resource Authority for a special use permit for a sanitary landfill on approximately 8.05 acres and to amend the special use permit for an existing sanitary landfill located on the northwest side of Fort Lewis Mountain between Smith Gap, and Bradshaw Road.

Dec 2nd

The Planning Commission held a public hearing and recommended that the Board of Supervisors approve (with seven conditions) the petition of Bane International Company, LLC to obtain a Special Use Permit in an AG-3, Agricultural/Rural Preserve, District to operate a campground on approximately 48.06 acres, located at 2745 Loch Haven Lake Drive, Catawba Magisterial District. The petition was postponed at the request of the petitioner.

Jan 7th

The Planning Commission meeting has been canceled.

Jan 14th

The Board of Supervisors will hold work sessions to discuss:

- Planning for Economic Development
- Floodplain Ordinance
- Stream Buffer Ordinance

Jan 15th

The Board of Zoning Appeals will hold its annual business meeting.

Jan 21st

The Planning Commission will hold a work session to discuss the Hollins Center Plan, to discuss Zoning Ordinance amendments, and to elect officers.

News



Rural Bikeway Plan Community Meetings

Do you like to ride the back roads? Drop by one of three open houses in January to let us know where you bike and what improvements you'd like to see. This information will help us update the Rural Bikeway Plan.

[Learn More](#)



RIDE Solutions Encourages Shoppers to "Drive Small"

RIDE Solutions encourages shoppers to consider the economic impact of their transportation decisions with the Drive Small awareness campaign.

[Learn More](#)

Vinton: Positioned for Redevelopment

Take a look at what's happening 'In Vinton'! Roanoke Valley Television and the Town of Vinton, Virginia put together a short video about what's new and great, as well as upcoming projects coming to town.

[Watch the Video](#)



Green Ridge Recreation Center Celebrates 10 Years!

Green Ridge Recreation Center is kicking off the new year with ten days of discounts and special activities from January 2 through 11. [Learn more!](#)



[Event Details](#)



[Event Details](#)

New Resource: 6 Steps to Start a Business

Is your New Year's Resolution to start a business in 2020?

The Economic Development Department has created a new, simple guide that will walk you through the process and connect you with local resources. From developing a business plan to scheduling your ribbon cutting, here's

what you need to start a business in
Roanoke County:

Read the Guide



*Visit the Economic Development
website for more information.*

Sincerely,
Bailey Howard-DuBois
Principal Planner

February 2020

Census 2020 Kickoff Meeting



Hello!

Your response matters!

The Roanoke Area Census Office held a grand opening for their operations office on January 17, 2020. The event included a joint meeting of the Roanoke County and City of Roanoke Census Complete Count Committees. Board of Supervisors Vice Chair Phil North spoke on behalf of Roanoke County.

United States®
Census
2020

[Read More](#)

Planning & Zoning Update

**Jan
14th**

The Board of Supervisors held an organizational meeting to elect David Radford as Chair and Phil North as Vice Chair for 2020. The Board held work sessions on floodplain regulations, the stream buffer

ordinance, and planning for economic development.

**Jan
15th**

The Board of Zoning Appeals held its annual business meeting. Richard Jones was elected as Chair and Eric Thomas as Vice Chair for 2020. Rebecca James was appointed Alternate Secretary for 2020 due to Secretary John Murphy's pending retirement on March 1, 2020.

**Jan
21st**

The Planning Commission held a work session to discuss the following topics:

- Hollins Center Plan
- Zoning Ordinance amendments
- The 2020 meeting schedule
- Election of officers

Rick James will serve as Chair and Wayne Bower will serve as Vice Chair for 2020. Kelly McMurray was introduced as the new Planning Commissioner for the Cave Spring District.

**Feb
4th**

The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the petition of Michele Meinhart to rezone property to remove the proffered conditions on 1.24 acres zoned C-1C, Low Intensity Commercial District, with conditions, located at 5681 Starkey Road, Cave Spring Magisterial District.

**Feb
18th**

The Planning Commission will hold a work session to discuss the draft Hollins Center Plan and proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments.

**March
3rd**

The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on amendments to the Zoning Ordinance regarding floodplain regulations.

Wishing John Murphy a Fond Farewell



The Planning Department thanks John Murphy for 34 years of service to Roanoke County, and wishes him the best as he transitions into retirement mode!

John came to Planning and Zoning in March 1995, and has served as Zoning Administrator for the last 15 years. His favorite aspect of working for the County is the people. He has enjoyed his colleagues as well as the social interaction with citizens while helping them resolve issues. John's colleagues refer to him as "calm, cool and collected." John has set an example of quiet, respectful professionalism and integrity in service to the public. As one of his colleagues stated perfectly, "John is an informational wizard. We are going to miss our friend."

John looks forward to spending more time outdoors.

He plans to explore the coast while deep sea fishing and surf fishing with his wife Elaine. Here's to many days of fun in the sun!



Mack Trucks Coming to Roanoke County

On January 30, 2020 Governor Ralph Northam joined officials of Mack Trucks Company and Roanoke County to announce Mack's Roanoke Valley Operations (RVO). The new \$13 million facility will employ 250 people, and will be located in western Roanoke County.

[Learn More](#)



Interstate 81 Construction to Begin in 2020

The long anticipated construction of additional lanes on Interstate 81 between Exits 141 (Route 419) and 143 (I-581) in Roanoke County is scheduled to begin this spring.

[Learn More](#)

Events

Click the photos for more information



Tons of Fun is Back!
Tanglewood Mall on February 8, 2020,
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



Get Ready to Ride!
(Multiple dates) Use the off-season to
learn how to maintain and repair
your bike in a small class setting.



Zoning Tip: Building a Fence



If you are planning to build a fence keep in mind that Roanoke County does not require a building permit, but there are height and location restrictions. Be sure to check before you begin to build: 540-772-2065.

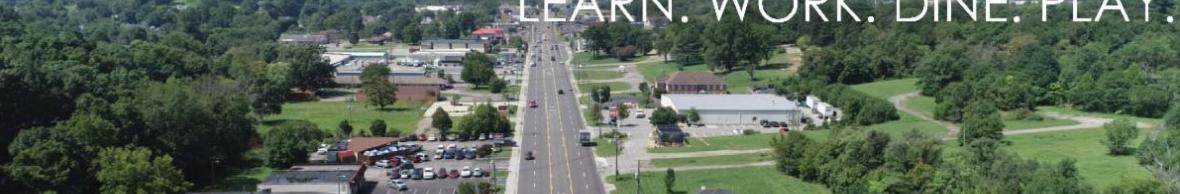
Zoning Code

Sincerely,
Cecile Newcomb
Planner II

March 2020

Reimagine Hollins

LEARN. WORK. DINE. PLAY.



HOLLINS CENTER PLAN PUBLIC HEARING

Roanoke County Planning Commission

Tuesday, March 17 | 7:00 p.m.

Roanoke County Administration Center



Hello!

Save The Date!

The Planning Commission will discuss and hear comments from the public on the draft Hollins Center Plan on March 17. CORTRAN + STAR service will be available.

Coming soon! The draft plan will be available on our website for public comment from this Friday until March 27. The draft plan presents implementation strategies for the next ten years, as well as comprehensive recommendations for the next twenty.

[Learn More](#)

Planning & Zoning Update

Feb

The Planning Commission recommended approval of the petition of

4th

Michele Meinhart to rezone 1.24 acres located at 5681 Starkey Road to remove the proffered conditions. The Board of Supervisors approved the petition on Feb. 25.

**Feb
11th**

The Board of Supervisors accepted and appropriated \$50,000 from the Community Foundation for the implementation of the Regional Wayfinding Plan.

**Feb
18th**

The Planning Commission held a work session to discuss the draft Hollins Center Plan and proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments to reflect the new names of the Department of Planning and the Department of Development Services.

**March
3rd**

The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on amendments to the Zoning Ordinance regarding floodplain regulations.

**March
9th**

An informational community meeting will be held for the special use permit petition of the Roanoke Valley Resource Authority regarding the Smith Gap Landfill. The meeting will be held at Masons Cove Elementary School at 6:00 p.m. Inclement weather date: March 12.

**March
17th**

The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the draft Hollins Center Plan.

Meet Our New Planning Commissioner

Kelly McMurray took his seat on the Roanoke County Planning Commission representing the Cave Spring District in January, 2020. He looks forward to serving the residents of Roanoke County in this new role.

"We live in the most beautiful corner on planet Earth." - Kelly McMurray

[Learn More](#)



News

Help Make Dreams Come True! Volunteer for the IRONMAN

Be an important part of the team welcoming athletes to the Roanoke Valley. There are many exciting volunteer positions available June 3 - 7, 2020.

[Learn More](#)



March 12, 2020 is Census Day



Beginning March 12, for the first time, you can respond to U.S. Census 2020 online! Roanoke County Libraries are hosting many events for adults and children to learn more or get help taking the Census.

[Learn how to take the Census](#)



Read Mountain Preserve to be Expanded

On Feb. 11, 2020 the Board of Supervisors accepted grant monies to allow the purchase of 304 acres, doubling public recreational land on Read Mountain. The grant includes \$620,054 from the Virginia Outdoors Foundation and \$30,000 from the Read Mountain Alliance.

[Learn More](#)

Events

Click the photos for more information



Full Moon Hike at Explore Park



School's Out Camps

Organized by Roanoke County Parks,
Recreation and Tourism.
March 9, 6 - 9 p.m.



Attention High School Students:
Registered Apprenticeship Program is
available for High School juniors and
seniors.

March 3 and March 13 at Green Ridge
Recreation Center from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00
p.m.



Planning for this Summer?
Check out the expanded activities at
Camp Roanoke. Registration is open now
until a week before each camp begins.

Zoning and Waste Disposal Tips



Are you planning improvements to
your property? Before you begin new
construction or delivery of a
prefabricated structure be sure to
check with Roanoke County. A
building and/or zoning permit may be
required.
Call 540-772-2065, option 1.

Zoning Code

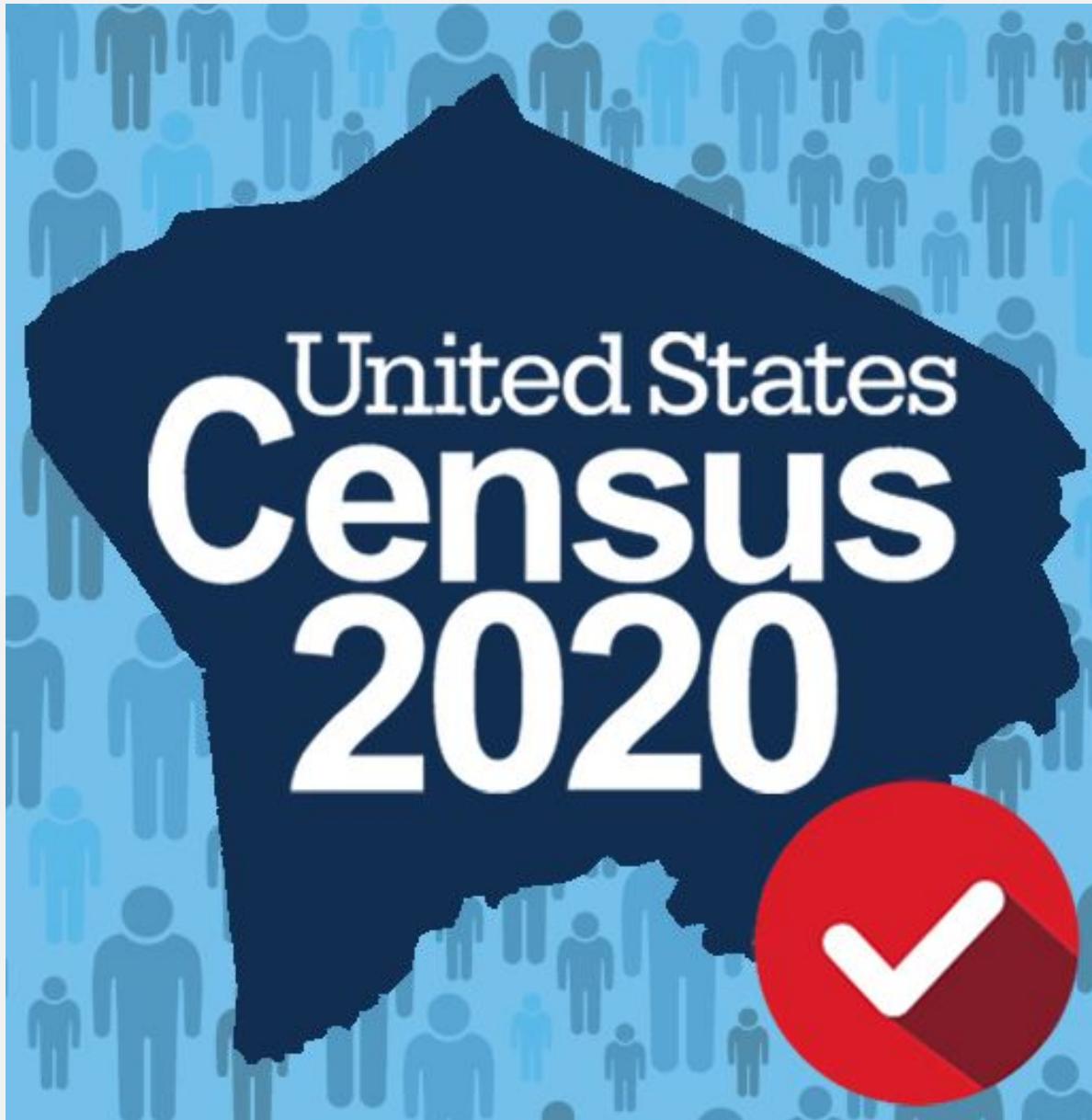
Spring cleaning? Let us help!
Roanoke County has a guide for residents
concerning proper hazardous waste disposal
and recycling options.

Learn More



Sincerely,
Cecile Newcomb
Planner II

April 2020



Hello!

Census 2020 is Happening Now!

As our federal government responds to Coronavirus COVID-19 it is clear how important an accurate Census is to the American people! Decisions about new federal funding that will be used to address this public health crisis are based on U.S. Census data. Nearly all U.S. households will have received an option to complete the Census 2020 form online before April 1. Please complete the form and urge your friends, family and neighbors to do the same!

Planning & Zoning Update

March 9th

An informational community meeting was held at Masons Cove Elementary School for the special use permit petition of the Roanoke Valley Resource Authority regarding the Smith Gap Landfill.

March 17th

This meeting was cancelled due to Coronavirus COVID-19 procedures. The Hollins Center Plan Public Hearing will be held at a later date.

March 24th

The Board of Supervisors adopted an ordinance (5-0) approving Roanoke Valley Resource Authority's request to obtain a special use permit for a sanitary landfill on 8.05 acres of rail right-of-way and to amend the special use permit conditions on the existing Smith Gap Landfill. The Board approved the ordinance with 17 conditions.

April 7th

Due to the ongoing Coronavirus Covid-19 pandemic the planning commission public hearing has been canceled.

April 21st

Due to the ongoing Coronavirus Covid-19 pandemic the planning commission work session has been canceled.

May 5th

The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing for Western Virginia Regional Industrial Facility Authority's petition to rezone 2.02 acres from R-1, Low Density Residential District to PTD, Planned Technology Development District for the development of the Wood Haven Technology Park, and to amend a portion (43.72 acres) of the Wood Haven Technology Park Master Plan, located in the 7800 and 7900 blocks of Wood Haven Road, including 7875 Wood Haven Road, Catawba Magisterial District.

The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing for the Hollins Center Plan.

Hollins Center Plan

Click on the photo to see a video PSA for Hollins Center

The Hollins Center Plan Public Hearing was postponed due to concerns about the Coronavirus COVID-19.

However, we still need your input! You can still read and comment on the Plan online. Comments will be collected until Friday, April 10, 2020.

[Learn More](#)

Reimagine Hollins

LEARN. WORK. DINE. PLAY.



HOLLINS CENTER PLAN PUBLIC HEARING

Roanoke County Planning Commission

Tuesday, March 17 | 7:00 p.m.

Roanoke County Administration Center



PUBLIC NOTICE MODIFIED COUNTY SERVICES

Modified County Services

Instead of putting yourself at risk by visiting our building at this time, please refer to the department contact information on our website. We will make every attempt to provide services over the phone or via email. We appreciate your patience.

[Learn More](#)

What Coronavirus Means for Outdoor Recreation

Here is what you need to remember if you are engaging in outdoor activities. American Trails brings you the latest news, updates and announcements on cancellations, closures and alternative experiences.

[Learn More](#)

VIRGINIA STATE PARKS



Economic Development Launches COVID-19 Resources Portal for Businesses

Roanoke County's Economic Development Department has launched a new web portal devoted to the needs of small businesses in the region.

[Learn More](#)

Catawba Valley Farmers Market

The Catawba Valley Farmers Market is looking for additional vendors for the 2020 season, which is scheduled to open on May 7, 2020. The Market is held each Thursday from 3:00pm to 6:30pm, mid-May to mid-October, at the Catawba Community Center.

[Learn More](#)



New Job Skills Training Grant Received by Virginia Western Community College

The grant supports the expansion of the registered apprenticeship program! New opportunities for students to gain a quality education plus on-the-job training will provide strong career pathways for participants.

[Learn More](#)

Zoning and Stormwater Tips



Grass growing and mowing season is quickly approaching!

If grass is 12 inches or higher across a substantial portion of the property it is a zoning violation.

[Zoning Code](#)

Check out this stormwater infographic for tips to help you save money, maintain your property and conserve water, while also improving the health of your home and the quality of our rivers and streams!

[Learn More](#)



Sincerely,
Cecile Newcomb
Planner II

May 2020



PUBLIC HEARING

Tuesday, May 5 | 7:00 p.m.

View on Roanoke Valley Television (RVTV3)
or www.RoanokeCountyVA.gov

Hello!

Hollins Center Plan Public Hearing - View on RVTV3 or Online!

The Roanoke County Planning Commission will hold their meeting on May 5, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting will be aired online and public comments may be submitted by email or by phone. Staff will relay comments to the Planning Commission during the public hearing.

[Learn More](#)

Planning & Zoning Update

**April
21st**

Due to the ongoing pandemic the Planning Commission work session was canceled.

**April
28th**

The Board of Supervisors appointed Rebecca James as Roanoke County Zoning Administrator.

**May
5th**

The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing for Western Virginia Regional Industrial Facility Authority's [petition](#) to rezone 2.02 acres from R-1, Low Density Residential District to PTD, Planned

Technology Development District for the development of the Wood Haven Technology Park, and to amend a portion (43.72 acres) of the Wood Haven Technology Park Master Plan, located in the 7800 and 7900 blocks of Wood Haven Road, including 7875 Wood Haven Road, Catawba Magisterial District.

The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on a proposed amendment to the Roanoke County Comprehensive Plan. The proposed amendment would incorporate the Hollins Center Plan into the Roanoke County Comprehensive Plan. The Hollins Center Plan study area is approximately 465 acres in size located near Hollins University covering Plantation Road from Williamson Road to Interstate 81 and Williamson Road from Hollins University to Peters Creek Road. The proposed Plan includes recommendations on the future development of this area.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, the meeting will be aired online and public comments may be submitted by email or by phone. Staff will relay comments to the Planning Commission during the public hearing.

Do You Miss Going to the Library?

Although the libraries are closed during the pandemic, there are many fun and interesting activities and materials available online, 24/7. These include:

- A bookclub on the [facebook](#) page
- [Downloading](#) ebooks or audiobooks
- [Virtual library](#)
- Book [recommendations](#)
- At-home [activities](#) for children...and more!



[Learn More](#)

News



Economic Development Launches 3 New Business Assistance Platforms

These platforms support businesses that are providing direct support to those affected by the pandemic: B2B Platform, We're Hiring Platform, and Supporting Small Businesses Platform.

[Learn More](#)

Modified County Services

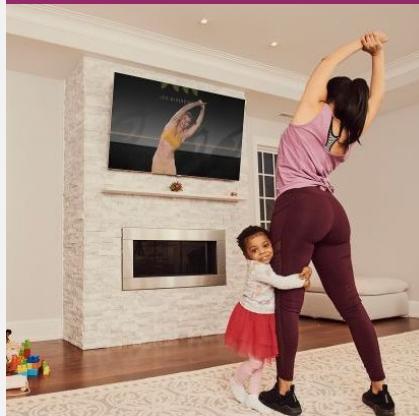
Roanoke County's services continue to be modified due to the pandemic. Please check here before coming to our offices or facilities in person.

[Learn More](#)

We continue to serve.

Have questions about Roanoke County's services?

See our website for a full list of modified services and contact information for departments at www.roanokecountyva.gov



Stay fit with ROCO Parks and Recreation!

Roanoke County's Parks and Recreation activities and facilities are modified due to the pandemic. Check here for online fitness resources including free videos to stay fit at home!

[Learn More](#)

Interstate 81 Under Construction

The Interstate 81 widening at Exit 141 - 143 is under construction. Check here for schedule and traffic alerts.

[Learn More](#)



Courtesy of MGN/Tony



The Ironman is still coming...next year!

IRONMAN announced that the inaugural Carilion Clinic IRONMAN 70.3 Virginia's Blue Ridge triathlon will be rescheduled for Sunday, June 6, 2021. The event was originally scheduled for this summer, June 7, 2020, but was postponed because of the pandemic.

[Learn More](#)

Community Focus



Give Blood - Save Lives

Are you looking for a way you can help during the pandemic? The Red Cross is in need of blood, platelets and plasma from healthy individuals.

[Learn More](#)



Virginia's (Virtual) Blue Ridge

From takeout food maps to online concerts, VBR provides ways you can experience and support our region during the pandemic.

[Learn More](#)

Roanoke County Cares

Click on the picture for more information.



Share some good news today and show that Roanoke County cares! As we are all spending more time at home (and away from everyone else), it's more important than ever to share some of the good things that are happening in our community every day. Add the hashtag #RoCoCares to your Facebook posts, tweets, and Instagram posts. We'll select some of the best content and repost to Roanoke County's social media networks.

Zoning and Stormwater Tips

Updated TMDL Plans

Roanoke County has updated its Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Action Plans for its new Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit issued by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

[Learn More](#)



Sincerely,
Cecile Newcomb
Planner II



June 2020



Hello!

Explore Park is Open For Safe Summer Fun!

Get out your bathing suit and camping gear! Tubing, camping and Treetop Quest are now happening at Explore Park, with more activities to come as soon as possible. Under Virginia Governor Ralph Northam's most recent Executive Order (61-2020), Phase 1 lifting of Coronavirus restrictions, activities are being opened as appropriate.

Please check here for up-to-date information:

[Learn More](#)

Planning & Zoning Update

May
5th

The Planning Commission held two public hearings on May 5.

The Commission recommended approval of Western Virginia Regional Industrial Facility Authority's [petition](#) to rezone 2.02 acres from R-1, Low Density Residential District to PTD, Planned Technology Development District for the development of the Wood Haven Technology Park, and to amend a portion (43.72 acres) of the Wood Haven Technology Park Master Plan, located in the 7800 and 7900 blocks of Wood Haven Road, including 7875 Wood Haven Road, Catawba Magisterial District.

The Planning Commission recommended incorporating the [Hollins Center Plan](#) into the Roanoke County Comprehensive Plan.

**May
19th**

The Planning Commission Work Session was canceled.

**May
26th**

The Board of Supervisors held a public hearing on the Western Virginia Regional Industrial Facility Authority's request to rezone 2.02 acres from R-1 to PTD and to amend a portion (43.72 acres) of the Wood Haven Road Technology Park Master Plan located in the 7800 and 7900 blocks of Wood Haven Road, Catawba Magisterial District. The Board approved the request (5-0).

**June
2nd**

The Planning Commission public hearing has been canceled.

Introducing Our New Zoning Administrator

Congratulations to Rebecca James on her new position as Zoning Administrator! Becky was appointed by the Board of Supervisors on April 28, 2020.

Becky began working in Roanoke County's Circuit Court in January 2005, and moved to Planning and Zoning in May 2005 as a Code Enforcement Officer. In 2014 she was promoted to Planner II. Becky holds a BS in Public Administration from George Mason University, and is certified as a CZA - Certified Zoning Administrator and a CTM - Certified Transportation Manager.



Becky enjoys guiding projects through the process of rezoning, site plan review, building permit review and on to final construction. In her free time Becky likes to travel and spend time with her family. She also loves the beach and tacos!

News

Transportation Improvements Underway

A major component of the Plantation Road Bicycle, Pedestrian and Streetscape Improvement Project, a traffic signal will be installed at the intersection of Plantation Road and Lila Drive. Pedestrian signals and crosswalks will connect to the Plantation Road path.

[Learn More](#)



Restaurants Opening for Outside Dining

Check out this list of restaurants that are now open for outdoor seating. If you are more comfortable with

takeout or delivery refer to the VBR Takeout Maps.

[Learn More](#)



Modified County Services

Roanoke County's services continue to be modified due to the pandemic. Please check here before coming to our offices or facilities in person.

[Learn More](#)

We continue to serve.

Have questions about Roanoke County's services?

See our website for a full list of modified services and contact information for departments at www.roanokecountyva.gov



Emergency & Natural Disaster Planning Are You Prepared?

The Department of Homeland Security provides guidance on how to make a plan for your family in case of emergency, flood, hurricane and other disasters.

[Learn More](#)

#RoCoCares



Planning staff participated in the [#RoCoCares](#) initiative to help spread cheer in the valley while working from home. We held a window decorating contest inspired by a social media movement encouraging people to decorate their windows or glass doors to support the community. Please share your decorations or outreach to the community with our staff and let us know if you would like us to post it on Facebook.

Summertime Zoning Tips



Here are a few seasonal reminders from our zoning code enforcement team:

- Grass must be kept below 12 inches unless it is for an agricultural use in an agriculturally zoned area.
- All buildings must have a zoning permit before they are built or delivered no matter what size they are.
- [Residential Chicken Keeping](#) requires a permit before the chickens can be brought to the house.
- If you are having trouble with zoning compliance due to COVID-19 please call our office to talk about it! (540) 772-2065

Sincerely,
Cecile Newcomb
Planner II



July 2020

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PUBLIC HEARING | JULY 28 | 7 PM



View on Roanoke Valley Television (RVTV3) or www.RoanokeCountyVA.gov

Hello!

We are very excited to announce that on July 28, the Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing to review the Hollins Center Plan and the public comments made this spring! Since 2018, over 800 people have participated in the Plan's development and helped create the vision of a beautiful, dynamic and inclusive community center in Hollins. The Planning Commission recommended that the Board adopt the Hollins Center Plan at their public hearing on May 5. Because of the present state of emergency members of the public are encouraged to view and participate in the meeting through electronic means rather than attending in person. Please visit the webpage for full details about how to safely attend the meeting and review the draft plan.

Planning & Zoning Update

July
7th

The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at 7 p.m. for a special use permit application by Wild Partners in a C-2S, High Intensity Commercial District with special use permit to operate a car wash facility on approximately 1.152 acres, located at 4065 Electric Road.

For information about attending or watching meetings click here. Prior to and during meetings, citizens may email comments to planning@roanokecountyva.gov or by calling 540-776-7278. When submitting comments, please include your name and address. Comments will be read aloud during meetings, subject to reasonable time limitations.

July
14th

The Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on the VDOT Secondary Six Year Plan for Fiscal Years 2021-2026 and the estimated allocation of funds and construction priority list for Fiscal

For information about attending meetings [click here](#). Citizens may share comments by email to djacks@roanokecountya.gov or by phone (540-776-7278). When submitting comments, please include your name and address. Comments submitted by email and by phone will be read aloud during meetings, subject to reasonable time limitations.

**July
28th**

The Board of Supervisors will hold a [public hearing](#) on a proposed amendment to the Roanoke County Comprehensive Plan. The proposed amendment would incorporate the [Hollins Center Plan](#) into the Roanoke County Comprehensive Plan. The Hollins Center Plan study area is approximately 465 acres in size located near Hollins University covering Plantation Road from Williamson Road to Interstate 81 and Williamson Road from Hollins University to Peters Creek Road. The proposed Plan includes recommendations on the future development of this area.

The Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing for a special use [permit application](#) by Wild Partners in a C-2S, High Intensity Commercial, District with special use permit to operate a car wash facility on approximately 1.152 acres, located at 4065 Electric Road, Cave Spring Magisterial District.

The Board of Supervisors will consider a resolution of support for several SMART SCALE funding applications for future transportation projects.

For information about attending or watching Board of Supervisors meetings [click here](#). Citizens may share comments by email to djacks@roanokecountya.gov or by phone (540-776-7278). When submitting comments, please include your name and address. Comments submitted by email and by phone will be read aloud during meetings, subject to reasonable time limitations.

Planning Program Wins National Award!



Roanoke County won the [2020 National Association of Counties Innovation in Planning Achievement Award](#)! The award recognizes our Public Schools Planning Workshops which were a component of the Oak Grove Plan community engagement strategy. The workshops were a collaboration with the City of Roanoke's Planning Department and Roanoke County Public Schools. There were 522 applications in 18 categories from 30 states. 9 awards were given for Innovation in Planning. In 2019 the same program was awarded a [VACo Achievement Award](#). Click on the photos above for more information.

Route 419 Improvements to Begin This Summer



The Virginia Department of Transportation has awarded a \$4.5 million contract to Kanawha Stone Company for a [road project](#) to improve the 0.6-mile section of Route 419 (Electric Road) between Route 867 (Ogden Road) and Route 220 at Tanglewood Mall in Roanoke County. Work is expected to be underway in summer 2020 and be completed in fall 2021. During construction, drivers can expect shoulder closures and nighttime lane closures on Route 419. The Commonwealth Transportation Board included funding for this project in VDOT's budget in 2016 as result of Roanoke County submitting a SMART SCALE application.

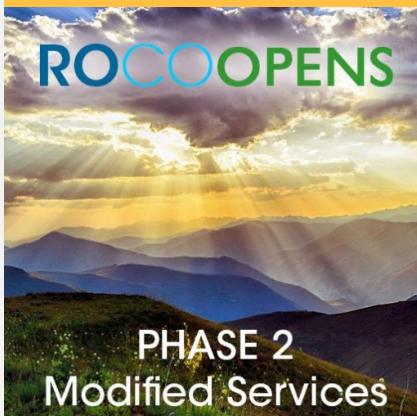
[Keep up with the project's traffic alerts, schedule and more here.](#)

Route 419 and Colonial Avenue Intersection

This summer turning left from Route 419 onto Colonial Ave. will be made safer. Turn lanes and medians will be modified for improved driver sight distance and storm drain function. For more information, contact Brian Blevins at brian.blevins@vdot.virginia.gov or 387-5502. [Click here](#) for information on Roanoke County transportation projects.



News



Roanoke County Facilities Are Reopening With Phased Approach

Roanoke County's departments are offering more services and public access to several public buildings by appointment. Staff is available and we encourage the public to reach out via phone and email.

[Learn More](#)

Catawba Valley Farmers Market is Open Again!

Stop by on Thursdays from 3:00-6:30 p.m. For last-minute weather cancellations call (540)765-8750 or [check the facebook page](#). For COVID-19 operating information check the website:

[Learn More](#)



Stormwater Clean Award

First Team Volkswagen and Holt, Inc. have earned Roanoke County's Stormwater Clean Award for their expansion project. Roanoke County recognizes contractors who conduct exemplary land-disturbing practices to protect our natural water resources.

[Learn More](#)

Opportunity for Local Businesses to Support Carpooling

Ride Solutions is encouraging local businesses to become a partner in its popular app-based ride matching rewards program. Becoming a rewards partner is free – just contact Jeremy Holmes at (540)342-9393 or jholmes@rvarc.org.

[Learn More](#)



Let's Talk Trash



Do you live in bear territory? [Roanoke County](#) and the [Department of Game and Inland Fisheries](#) provide guidance to avoid conflicts with bears, deter them from your property, learn their behaviors and more. Click on the photo for instructions to bear proof your trash can.

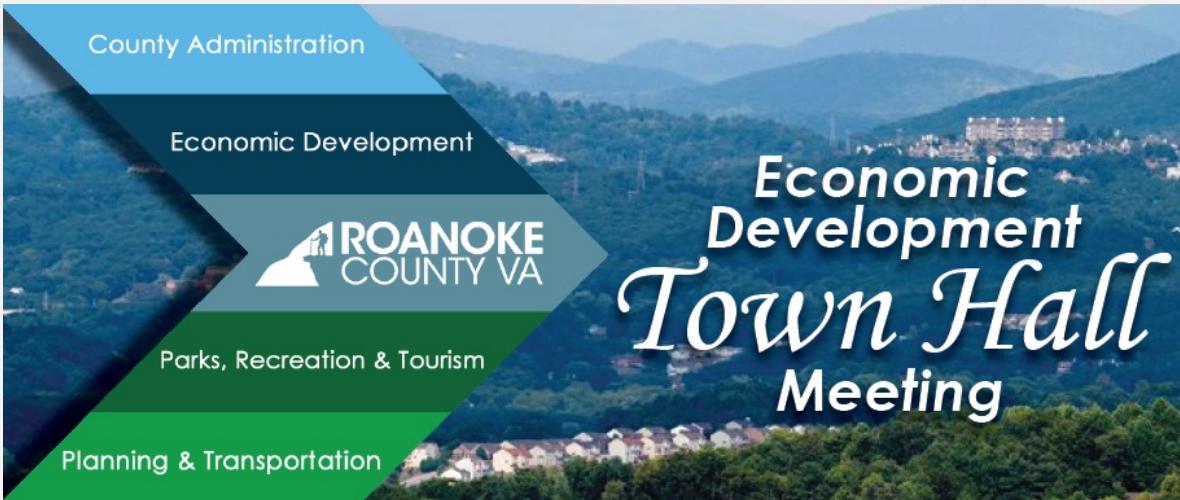
For information about bulk trash: [Click here](#).

For information about trash can collection and placement: [Click here](#).

Sincerely,
Cecile Newcomb
Planner II



August 2020



Interactive Online Forum Hosted by Roanoke County

Hello!

Did you hear that Roanoke County hosted an economic development virtual town hall meeting on July 22, 2020? The meeting was attended virtually by 54 people and included updates about Roanoke County programs and projects that strengthen our local economy. Speakers included David Radford, Chair of the Board of Supervisors; Dan O'Donnell, County Administrator; Jill Loope, Economic Development Director; Doug Blount, Director of Parks, Recreation and Tourism; and Philip Thompson, Director of Planning. If you missed it, you can still [view the meeting online](#).



Final Push for Census 2020

Did you know that everyone living in the United States and its 5 territories is required to respond to the Census? Roanoke County is doing a great job with a 77% response rate so far. However, that means 23% of our residents still need to be counted in order for the County to receive critical federal funding over the next 10 years. Census takers (who ALWAYS WEAR A BADGE) will begin going door-to-door soon to count those who have not responded. Census 2020 provides information about what happens at the door. If you, or someone you know, has not been counted yet please encourage them to fill out the questionnaire online or open the door to get help from a Census taker. The Census 2020 timeline has been adjusted due to COVID-19, with all counting finished by Halloween, Oct. 31, 2020, and final Census data available on April 30, 2021.

Planning & Zoning Update

**July
7th**

The Planning Commission held a public hearing on Wild Partners request for a special use permit to operate a car wash at 4065 Electric Road, Cave Spring Magisterial District. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the request.

**July
14th**

The Board of Supervisors held a public hearing on the VDOT Secondary Six Year Plan for Fiscal Years 2021-2026 and the estimated allocation of funds and construction priority list for Fiscal Year 2021. The Board of Supervisors voted to adopt the Plan as presented.

**July
28th**

The Board of Supervisors held a public hearing and passed a resolution amending the County's Comprehensive Plan by incorporating the Hollins Center Plan into the Roanoke County Comprehensive Plan.

The Board of Supervisors held a public hearing for a special use permit application by Wild Partners in a C-2S, High Intensity Commercial District with special use permit to operate a car wash

facility on 1.152 acres, located at 4065 Electric Road, Cave Spring Magisterial District. The Board denied the special use permit request.

The Board of Supervisors approved a resolution supporting SMART SCALE transportation project funding applications by Roanoke County, the Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization, the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission and the City of Roanoke. There are 7 projects located in Roanoke County.

August 4th

The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the petition of MCE Owner Occupied, LLC for a special use permit in a C-1, Low Intensity Commercial District to allow a multi-family use to account for more than 50 percent of the gross floor area on the site on approximately 1.116 acres, located at 3220 McVitty Road, Windsor Hills Magisterial District.

The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the petition of Om Shree Hospitality, LLC to rezone approximately 9.99 acres from AG-1, Low Density Agricultural District to C-2, High Intensity Commercial District for the construction of a hotel/motel/motor lodge, located near the 2700 block of Wildwood Road and the 1700 block of Skyview Road, Catawba Magisterial District.

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, all are encouraged to view and participate in meetings through electronic means. For information about attending or watching Planning Commission meetings [click here](#). Prior to and during meetings, citizens may email comments to planning@roanokecountyva.gov. When submitting comments, please include your name and address. Comments will be read aloud during meetings, subject to reasonable time limitations. Additionally, if you would like to call in your comments, please call (540) 776-7278 and provide your comments, which will be read during the meeting.

August 25th

The Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on the petition of MCE Owner Occupied, LLC for a special use permit in a C-1, Low Intensity Commercial District to allow a multi-family use to account for more than 50 percent of the gross floor area on the site on approximately 1.116 acres, located at 3220 McVitty Road, Windsor Hills Magisterial District.

The Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on the petition of Om Shree Hospitality, LLC to rezone approximately 9.99 acres from AG-1, Low Density Agricultural District to C-2, High Intensity Commercial District for the construction of a hotel/motel/motor lodge, located near the 2700 block of Wildwood Road and the 1700 block of Skyview Road, Catawba Magisterial District.

For information about attending or watching Board of Supervisors meetings [click here](#). Citizens may share comments by email to [Debbie Jacks](#) or by phone (540) 776-7278. When submitting comments, please include your name and address. Comments submitted by email and by phone will be read aloud during meetings, subject to reasonable time limitations.



Route 419 Project Beginning

Construction on a 0.5-mile section of Route 419 (Electric Road) in front of Tanglewood Mall is set to begin this month. Consult VDOT's website to learn about traffic impacts, construction phases and more.

[Visit the Website](#)

Hollins Center Plan Adopted!

The Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution incorporating the Hollins Center Plan into the Roanoke County Comprehensive Plan following a public hearing on July 28, 2020.

[Read the Plan](#)



Roanoke County is in Phase 3 of Reopening

Roanoke County's departments are offering more public services and access to public buildings. We strongly encourage an appointment prior to visiting our offices. Staff is always available to you via phone and email.

Vinton Needs Your Help!

The Town of Vinton is in the process of a complete revision of both the Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Ordinance. If you own a property or business, and/or live in the Town your feedback is crucial to how this project shapes the future of your community.

Blue Ridge Parkway Closure Update

Visitors can access Explore Park via the Blue Ridge Parkway if traveling from the North to Explore Park at Milepost 115. The Parkway remains closed south of Explore Park from Milepost 115 to Milepost 136 due to road damage caused by recent rains.

Events & Activities

Your Input is Needed: Roanoke Valley Local

Food Plan



Are you interested in our local food system? Please read and comment on the 2020 Local Food Plan Draft.

[Learn More](#)

Catawba Valley Farmers Market is Open Every Thursday

Stop by on Thursdays from 3:00-6:30 p.m. For last-minute weather cancellations call (540)765-8750 or [check the facebook page](#). For COVID-19 operating information check the website:

[Learn More](#)



New Riverside Platform Camping at Explore Park!

There is a new camping option this season at Explore Park. In addition to last year's options, up to 4 people can now sleep in an elevated, covered treetop platform with a grill, picnic table and river access.

[Learn More](#)

RIDE Solutions Assists Local Businesses in Becoming Bicycle Friendly

Are your employees interested in (or already) riding their bikes to work? To learn how support them by making it easier and safer [email](#) Jeremy Holmes or call (540) 342-9393.

[Learn More](#)



Treetop Trampoline Now Open For Adults!

How about a fun day of playing like a kid? Or playing with the kids? New this season, adults can enjoy the



1500 square foot net trampoline in the trees at Explore Park.

[Learn More](#)

Stormwater Tips



Do you own a dog?

Remember to scoop your dog's poop and dispose of it in the trash. Despite how cute they are, their excrement causes health problems in our water resources.

[Learn More](#)

Check out our latest Stormwater Guide For Homeowners

The June 2020 Guide For Homeowners provides practical information about wildlife, lawn care, bees, stormwater impact on waterways, and more.

[Read the Guide](#)



Sincerely,
Cecile Newcomb
Planner II



September 2020



**Shape Your Future.
Fill Out Your Census Form!**



Last Call!
www.2020census.gov



Hello!

Last call for Census 2020! Roanoke County is currently at a 78.2% response rate, please help us reach 100%. If you, or someone you know, has not been counted yet please encourage them to fill out the [questionnaire online](#) or open the door when a Census taker visits. The Census 2020 counting deadline has been rescheduled to September 30, 2020.

Planning & Zoning Update

**August
3rd**

The Planning Commission held a public hearing on the petition of MCE Owner Occupied, LLP to obtain a special use permit in a C-1, Low Intensity Commercial District to allow a multi-family use on approximately 1.116 acres, located at 3220 McVitty Road. The Planning Commission voted to recommend approval of the special use permit.

The Planning Commission held a public hearing on the petition of Om Shree Hospitality, LLC to rezone 9.99 acres from AG-1, Agricultural/Rural Low Density District to C-2, High Intensity Commercial District to construct a hotel located in the 2700 block of Wildwood Road and the 1700 block of Skyview Road. The Planning Commission voted to recommend approval of the rezoning request.

**August
25th**

The Board of Supervisors held a public hearing on the petition of MCE Owner Occupied, LLC. The Board approved the special use permit.

The Board of Supervisors held a public hearing on the petition of Om Shree Hospitality, LLC. The Board approved the rezoning request.

**Sept.
1st**

The Planning Commission will hold a work session at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the Oak Grove Center Plan and zoning ordinance amendments.

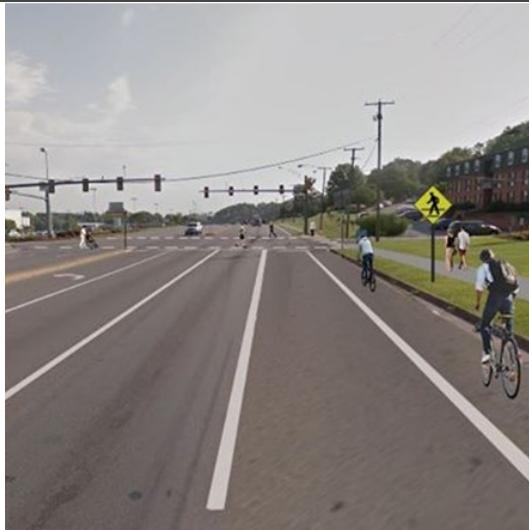
**Sept.
15th**

The Planning Commission will hold a work session at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the Oak Grove Center Plan and zoning ordinance amendments, and to get an update on transportation projects.

**Oct.
5th**

The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. for the petition of Engineering Concepts, Inc. to rezone property to remove the proffered conditions on approximately 2.66 acres zoned C-1C, Low Intensity Commercial District with conditions, and to obtain a special use permit for religious assembly in a R-1, Low Density Residential District, C-1C, Low Intensity Commercial District with conditions, and C-2 High Intensity Commercial District on approximately 10.68 acres, located at and near 2500 East Washington Avenue, Vinton Magisterial District.

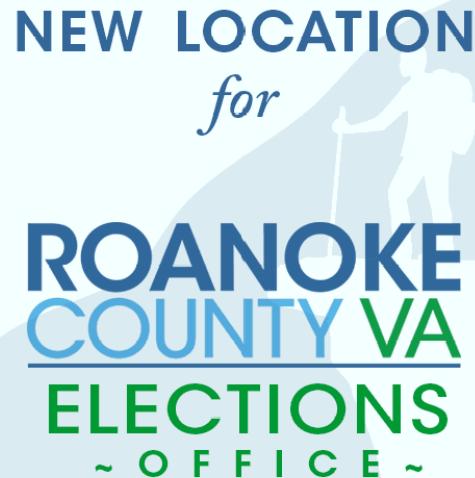
News



Route 419 Project Underway

Construction on a 0.5-mile section of Route 419 (Electric Road) in front of Tanglewood Mall has begun. Consult VDOT's website to learn about traffic impacts, construction phases and more.

[Visit the Website](#)



New Office Location

Roanoke County's Department of Elections has moved! The new location is 900 Chestnut Street, Vinton 24179. Telephone (540) 772-7500.

[Learn More](#)



Planning to Vote Early?

Absentee voter forms have been mailed to area residents from various organizations. These forms may be incorrectly addressed, or otherwise incorrect. Please check with Roanoke County Elections Office for valid voting information.

How to Carpool Safely During COVID-19



-  Stay at Home If You Are Feeling Sick
-  Wear a Cloth Face Covering
-  Limit Unnecessary Contact With Others
-  Clean and Disinfect High-Touch Surfaces
-  If Possible, Ride With the Windows Down

Visit ridesolutions.org/commuters to learn more about carpooling safely during COVID-19

Tips for safe carpooling during the COVID-19 pandemic are being offered by Ride Solutions.

Events & Activities



New Read Mountain Greenway Open

A new section of paved greenway recently opened on Blue Hills Drive in the Roanoke Centre for Industry and Technology, with future plans to connect to the Tinker Creek Greenway and Read Mountain Preserve.

[Learn More](#)

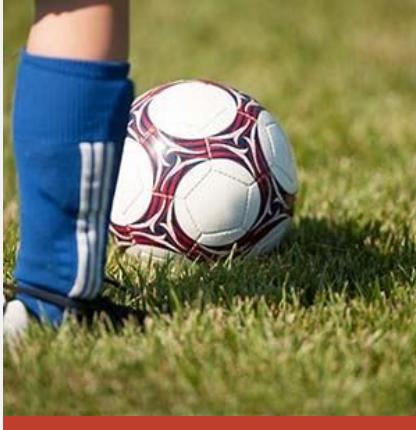
Apple Season at the Market

Stop by Catawba Farmer's Market on Thursdays from 3:00-6:30 p.m. to get your pick! For last-minute weather cancellations call (540)765-8750 or check the facebook page. For COVID-19 operating information check the website:

[Learn More](#)



New Parks & Rec Programs Being Offered



As recovery from COVID-19 advances new programs and opportunities are being made available by Roanoke County Parks, Recreation & Tourism.

[Learn More](#)

Opportunities to Get Outside Abound

Roanoke Outside Foundation provides COVID-19 updates for outdoor activities in the Roanoke region. Sign up for their newsletter for weekly updates.

[Learn More](#)



©Amy Hunter

Zoning & Development Tips



It's Just Dirt

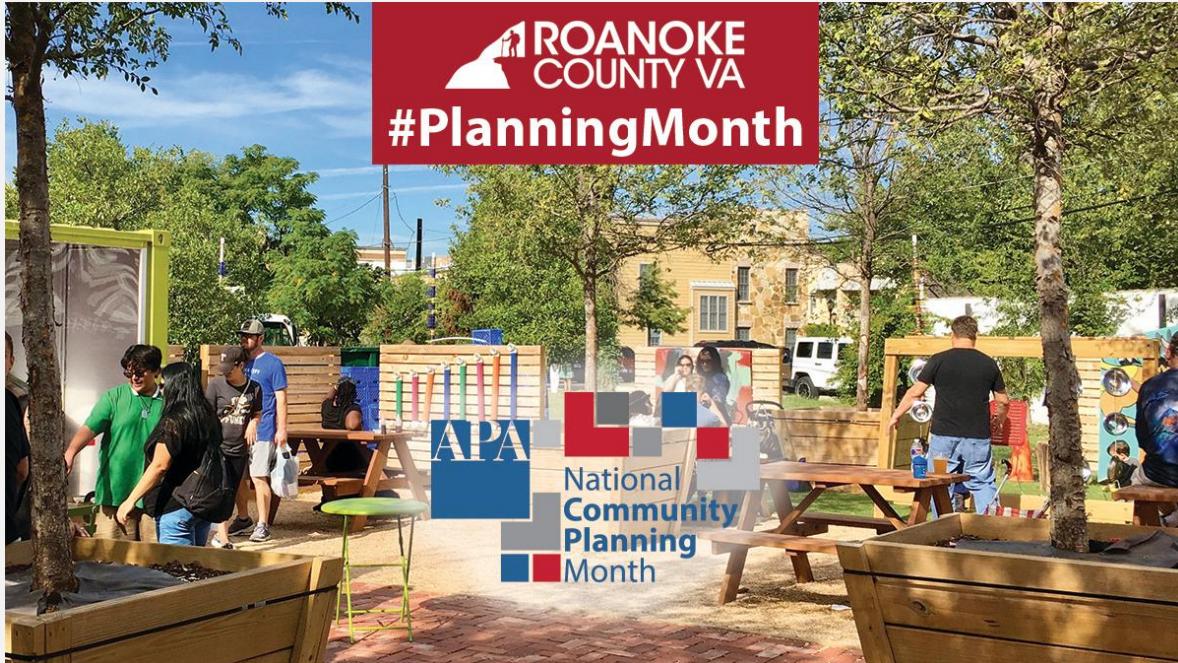
Did you know that Roanoke County Development Services publishes an annual newsletter for contractors providing valuable information about erosion, sediment control, stormwater and more?

[Read Newsletter](#)

Sincerely,
Cecile Newcomb
Planner II



October 2020



Hello!

Planners work to improve the well-being of all people living in our communities by taking a comprehensive perspective. This approach leads to safer, resilient, more equitable, and more prosperous communities. We celebrate the role that planning plays in creating great communities each October with National Community Planning Month. Planning is more important than ever as communities continue to navigate the disruptive changes brought about by the pandemic. From economic development and transportation planning to reinventing what our communities look like post-COVID-19, planners are leading the way forward for all in your community.

Our Planning Department is busy working on various planning initiatives. Stay tuned for [Oak Grove Center Plan](#) updates as the draft Plan moves through the adoption process. [Transportation planning](#) is ongoing, and [419 Town Center Plan](#) implementation is moving forward. Soon we will kick off a photo contest as we prepare to update our Comprehensive Plan. Stay tuned to the [Planning](#) and [County](#) Facebook pages for announcements.

Planning & Zoning Update

**Sept.
1st**

The Planning Commission held a work session to discuss the draft [Oak Grove Center Plan](#) and various zoning ordinance amendments.

**Sept.
8th**

The Board of Supervisors adopted an ordinance amending Article 1 (General Provisions), Article II (Definitions and Use Types) and Article III (District Regulations) of the Roanoke County Zoning Ordinance regarding floodplain regulations.

**Sept.
15th**

The Planning Commission held a work session to discuss the draft Oak Grove Center Plan implementation and recommendations, and received an update on transportation projects.

**Oct.
5th**

The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. for the petition of Engineering Concepts, Inc. to rezone property to remove the proffered conditions on approximately 2.66 acres zoned C-1C, Low Intensity Commercial District with conditions, and to obtain a special use permit for religious assembly in a R-1, Low Density Residential District, C-1C, Low Intensity Commercial District with conditions, and C-2 High Intensity Commercial District on approximately 10.68 acres, located at and near 2500 East Washington Avenue, Vinton Magisterial District.

**Oct.
19th**

The Planning Commission will hold a work session at 6:00 p.m. to discuss zoning ordinance amendments.

**Oct.
20th**

The Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. for the petition of Engineering Concepts, Inc. to rezone property located at and near 2500 East Washington Avenue, Vinton Magisterial District.

News



American Planning Association
Virginia Chapter

Creating Great Communities for All

OLD DOMINION INNOVATIVE AWARD

Winner

Planning Department Wins Award

Roanoke County's Planning Team received the **Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association's 2020 Old Dominion Innovative Approaches Award!** The award recognizes our Public Schools Planning Workshops which were a component of the Oak Grove Center Plan community engagement strategy. The workshops were a collaboration with the City of Roanoke's Planning, Building & Development Department and Roanoke County Public Schools. In 2019 the same program was awarded a VACo Award, and a NACo Award in 2020.

Submit Public Comments



Route 220 (Franklin Road)
Proposed Innovative Intersections

VDOT Seeking Public Input

Learn more about the Route 220 Corridor Intersection Improvements and submit comments online. The project will improve 7 signalized intersections along Route 220, from Roanoke to Henry County. Four of the intersections are in the Roanoke area. The survey and comments are due by **Oct. 2, 2020!**



NEW LOCATION for ROANOKE COUNTY VA ELECTIONS OFFICE ~

Voting Options

There are several options to vote in person, or drop off a ballot, before election day listed on our [voting options page](#). You can also vote at your voting precinct on election day.

New Office Location

Roanoke County's Department of Elections has moved. The [new location](#) is 900 Chestnut St, Vinton 24179. Telephone (540) 772-7500.

Events & Activities



Ongoing Transportation Projects

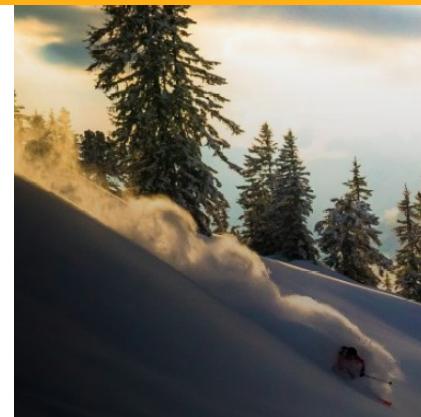
There are many transportation projects in various stages of planning and construction throughout the County. Our projects web page and story map provide information about each project.

[Learn More](#)

Banff Mountain Film Festival in Your Home

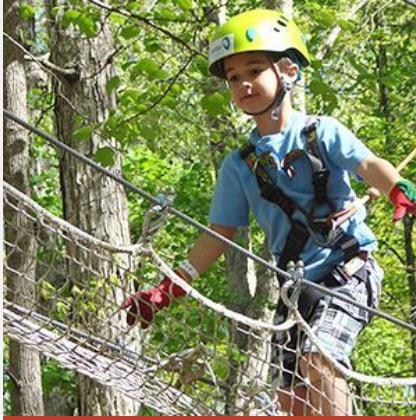
This year you can watch the Banff Mountain Film Festival from the comfort of your home, on your own schedule! Films are available for a month, and help support Project Outside here in the Roanoke Valley.

[Learn More](#)



Fall Recreation Activities

Check out our online [Recreation Magazine](#) for the Fall



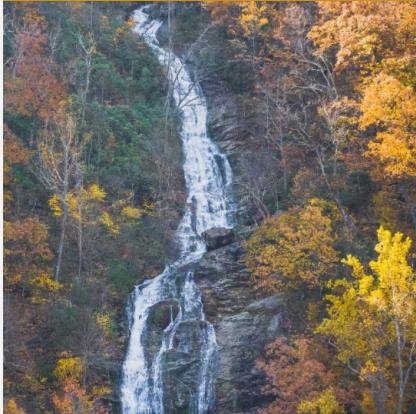
2020 Program Lineup, or explore the website for Adventure Day at Explore Park, Treetop Quest, Indoor Swimming, and more!

[Learn More](#)

Fall Bounty at Catawba Farmer's Market

Stop by Catawba Farmer's Market on Thursdays from 3:00-6:30 p.m. for veggies, meat, mums, pies, baked goods and more! For last-minute weather cancellations call (540)765-8750 or [check the facebook page](#). For COVID-19 operating information check the website:

[Learn More](#)



Vacation Safely in Virginia

From beaches to mountains, Virginia Is For Lovers provides fall "Wanderlove" road trip ideas to enjoy the beauty of Virginia safely during the pandemic.

[Learn More](#)

Stormwater Tips



Fall Foliage Facts

Unfortunately after the beautiful leaves fall every year they often contribute to drainage and flooding problems. Consult Roanoke County's fact sheet for leaf collection and at-home leaf management information.

[Learn More](#)

Sincerely,
Cecile Newcomb
Planner II



November 2020



Submit your photos!

Calling all Roanoke County citizens and visitors!

We're looking for scenic photos of Roanoke County to use in our future plans and social media.

Credit will be given each time your photo is used.

To submit, please choose one of the options below:

- 1.) Submit the photos on Facebook.com/RoCoPlanning posts
- 2.) Private message the photos to our Facebook account
- 3.) Email the photos to amjones@roanokecountyva.gov

Thank you!

Hello!

Do you enjoy taking scenic photos of the Roanoke Valley? Our Planning Department would like to highlight your photos (always credited to you) in our plans and social media posts.

Planning & Zoning Update

**Oct.
5th**

The Planning Commission held a public hearing on Engineering Concepts - Lighthouse Bible Church's request to rezone a 2.66 acre parcel to remove an existing proffer condition and to obtain a special use permit on three properties totaling 10+ acres zoned R-1, C-1C, and C-2 located at 2500 Washington Avenue, Vinton Magisterial District. The Commission voted to recommend approval of the petition.

**Oct.
19th**

The Planning Commission held a work session to discuss zoning ordinance amendments for special use permits, multi-family dwellings, home beauty/barber salon, short-term rentals and temporary construction yards.

**Oct.
20th**

The Board of Supervisors held a public hearing on Engineering Concepts/Lighthouse Bible Church's petition. The Board voted to approve the petition.

**Nov.
2nd**

The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. for Milestone Tower Limited Partnership's request to rezone 9.55 acres (Stonebridge Park) from R-1, Low Density Residential District to AR, Agricultural/Residential District, and to obtain a special use permit for a broadcasting tower (cell tower) approximately 137 feet in height located at 420 Swan Drive (Stonebridge Park), Vinton Magisterial District.

The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. for the petition of Appalachian Power Company and the Roanoke County Economic Development Authority to review a proposed substation and overhead transmission lines per Section 15.2-2232 of the Code of Virginia for consistency with the County's Comprehensive Plan, located within the Roanoke County Center for Research and Technology at 5495 Corporate Circle, Catawba Magisterial District.

**Nov.
16th**

The Planning Commission will hold a work session on zoning ordinance amendments to include home beauty/barber salon, short term rentals, temporary construction yards, and yard encroachments.

**Nov.
17th**

The Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. for Milestone Tower Limited Partnership's request.

**Nov.
30th**

The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. for the petition of Michael H. Fielder to rezone approximately 8.73 acres from AG-1, Agricultural/Rural Low Density District to I-1, Low Intensity Industrial District, located at 4053 Aerospace Road, Vinton Magisterial District.

News

McAfee Knob Parking

Are you wondering why cars have been towed from the McAfee Knob Appalachian Trailhead area? Roanoke County Police have issued a news release to answer questions and recommend solutions.



Transportation Survey Online

Planners need your input! Please share your preferences for the future of transportation in the Roanoke Valley by taking this survey.

November 3rd is Election Day!

To ensure all citizens are able to take part in the November 3 election, the Roanoke County Department of Elections is offering additional avenues for voting.



ROANOKE COUNTY VA ELECTIONS ~ OFFICE ~

Transportation Equity Chat

The Roanoke Valley Alleghany Regional Commission held a virtual chat hosted by Antwyne Calloway with local transportation planners to discuss equity in transportation planning. The video is still available [on Facebook](#).

New Office Location

Roanoke County's Department of Elections has moved. [Check the website](#) or call before you go. The new location is 900 Chestnut St, Vinton 24179. Telephone (540) 772-7500.



Hollins Ranked Top 10 Statewide

The Hollins area was recently [ranked by SmartAsset](#) as #9 in Virginia for homebuying affordability.

Events & Activities



Ongoing Transportation Projects

There are many transportation projects in various stages of planning and construction throughout the County. Our projects web page and story map provide information about each project, including the [Starkey/Buck Mountain roundabout proposal](#).

[View the Map](#)

Illuminights Tickets Now On Sale

Tickets are on sale now! Explore your holiday spirit with dazzling features, artisan crafts, treats and activities for everyone! Due to COVID-19 only advance tickets will be sold (no walk-ups). Calendar, admission and ticket

purchase instructions are available now.

[Complete Information](#)



Pool Parties At Green Ridge

Indoor pool parties are back at Green Ridge, with modifications due to COVID-19. Rentals can now be booked for dates beginning in October, with availability on Saturday or Sunday at 12pm and 2pm.

[Learn More](#)

Cyclocross is Back

Roanoke's GoCross CycloCross Race will be held Nov. 14-15 in Fallon Park. This year's event will be a smaller, grassroots version of the race in order to follow COVID-19 prevention procedures. [Sign up](#) for some fun cycling in the dirt at this USA Cycling sanctioned event.

[Learn More](#)



Drive Small & Support Local Businesses

This holiday season, support for local and small businesses is more important than ever. RIDE Solutions is bringing back its Drive Small campaign in conjunction with the nationwide [Shop Small movement](#).

[Learn More](#)

Zoning & Stormwater Tips

Leaves, Bulk & Brush Collection



Are you raking leaves, pruning shrubbery or cleaning out bulky items? Roanoke County collects bagged or boxed leaves as well as bulk materials. Read the guidelines before placing your items at the curb. Please do not rake loose leaves to the curb! Additionally, there are 6 places to drop off recycling in Roanoke County.



Flood Protection Newsletter

Roanoke County's annual flood protection newsletter was recently mailed to residents who own or lease structures that are in or near areas subject to flooding. The newsletter is also available online.

Sincerely,
Cecile Newcomb
Planner II



December 2020



Hello!

As we approach the holiday season with a new [executive order](#) and COVID-19 [guidelines for holiday safety](#) the Roanoke County Planning and Development Services Departments wish you all a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season and New Year!

Planning & Zoning Update

**Nov.
2nd**

The Planning Commission held a public hearing for [Milestone Tower Limited Partnership's request](#) to rezone 9.55 acres (Stonebridge Park) from R-1, Low Density Residential District to AR, Agricultural/Residential District, and to obtain a special use permit for a broadcasting tower (cell tower) approximately 137 feet in height located at 420 Swan Drive (Stonebridge Park), Vinton Magisterial District. The Commission recommended approval of the petition.

The Planning Commission held a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. for the [petition of Appalachian Power Company](#) and the Roanoke County

Economic Development Authority to review a proposed substation and overhead transmission lines per Section 15.2-2232 of the Code of Virginia for consistency with the County's Comprehensive Plan, located within the Roanoke County Center for Research and Technology at 5495 Corporate Circle, Catawba Magisterial District. The Commission recommended approval of the petition.

**Nov.
16th**

The Planning Commission held a work session on zoning ordinance amendments to include home beauty/barber salon, short term rentals, temporary construction yards, and yard encroachments.

**Nov.
17th**

The Board of Supervisors held a public hearing for Milestone Tower Limited Partnership's request for a rezoning and special use permit. The Board denied the request.

The Board of Supervisors held a public hearing on AEP's and the EDA's petition to review a proposed substation and transmission lines. The Board accepted the Planning Commission's recommendation that the proposed project was consistent with the County's Comprehensive Plan.

**Nov.
30th**

The Planning Commission held a public hearing for the [petition of Michael H. Fielder](#) to rezone approximately 8.73 acres from AG-1, Agricultural/Rural Low Density District to I-1, Low Intensity Industrial District, located at 4053 Aerospace Road, Vinton Magisterial District. The Planning Commission voted to recommend approval of the rezoning request. The Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on this request at its December 15th meeting.

**Dec.
14th**

The Planning Commission will hold a work session on potential zoning ordinance amendments.

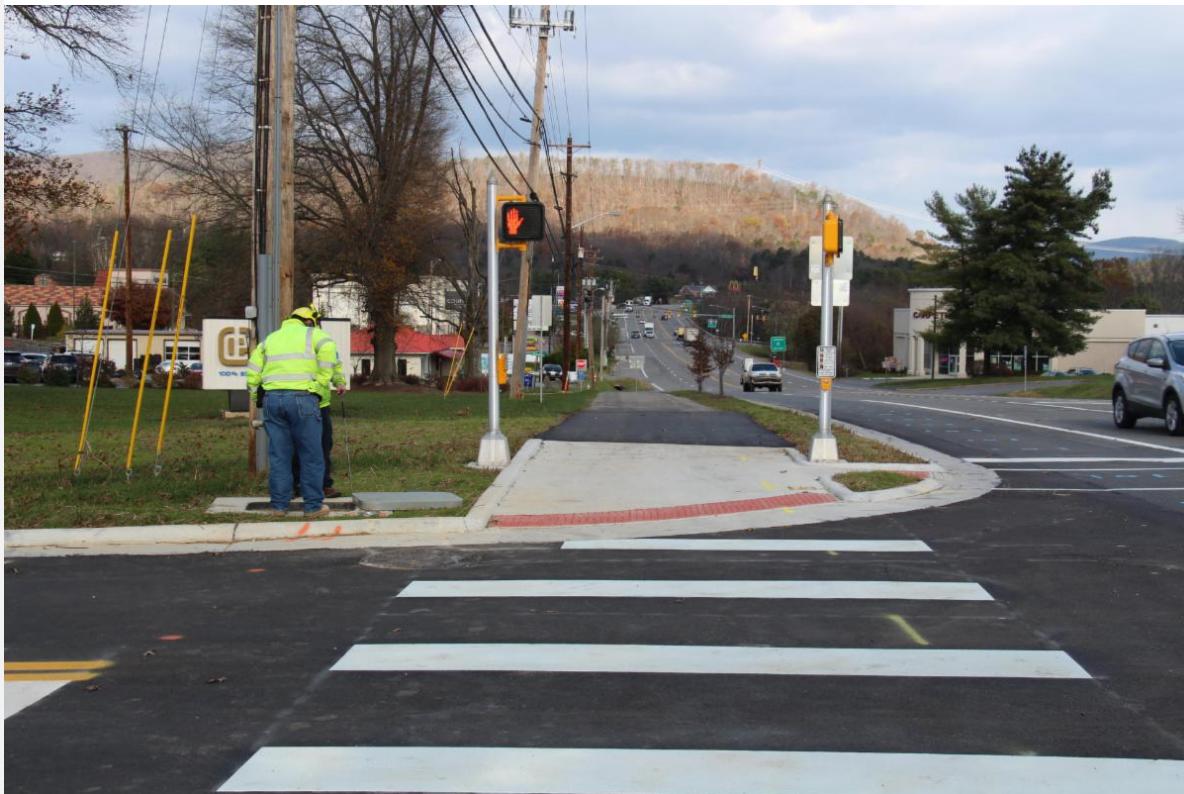
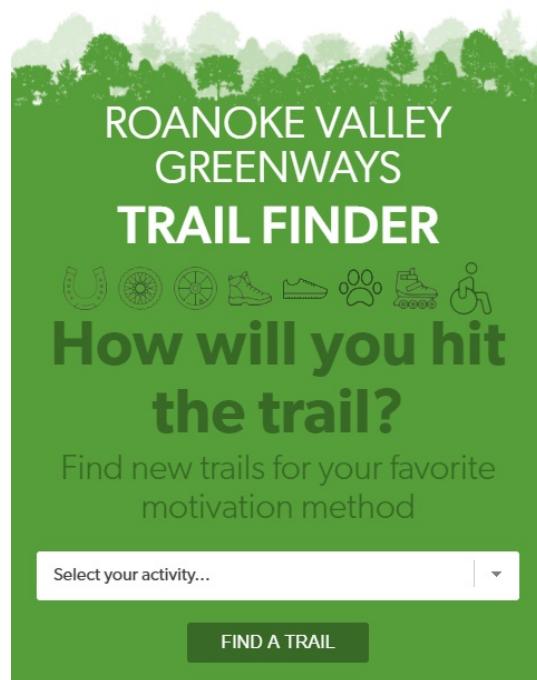
News



The 2020 State of the County address by Board of Supervisors Chairman David Radford premiered on Thursday, November 12, 2020. This year's address was recorded on video due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The address was hosted by the Roanoke Regional Chamber and is [available online](#). You can also download or read

New Greenways Website

Roanoke Valley Greenways has just launched a sleek new website with trail pages and interactive maps! In 2019, the AEP Foundation awarded \$30,000 to "power" the redesign effort in order to attract new users to regional greenways and help longtime users discover new routes and trailheads. The new site features important information about the greenway network like route characteristics, parking and amenities, as well as news about events, volunteer opportunities and closures. The website also allows users to search for trails by particular uses, like hiking, cycling, wheelchairs, dog walking or even bird watching, so every visitor can find the experience they want. [Check it out!](#)



Plantation Road & Lila Drive Intersection Improvements Complete

Lila Drive Intersection Safety Improvements were initiated in 2009 to enable employees at the three largest businesses on Plantation Road - ITT (now Elbit Systems of America), Wells Fargo and Double Envelope - to safely cross Plantation Road on foot. A 2014 analysis showed that a traffic signal could be installed at the intersection to reduce crashes and improve safety for turning vehicles. Roanoke County purchased the Lila Drive private road in 2015 and submitted an application for grant funding that year. \$1.27 million in SMART SCALE funds were awarded for the project in 2016. Construction that began in May, 2020 is now concluding.

The project includes:

-Traffic signal installation at the intersection of Lila Drive and Plantation Road;

- Pedestrian signals and crosswalks at the intersection;
- Double Envelope entrance realignment;
- Wells Fargo entrance consolidation on Lila Drive; and
- Sidewalk on the Wells Fargo side of Lila Drive.

The crosswalks connect to the Plantation Road shared use path, which runs between Williamson Road and Walrond Drive. Many thanks to the Virginia Department of Transportation for administering and completing this important County project.

The next phase of the Plantation Road project will begin in Spring 2021 with construction of a sidewalk between Walrond Drive and Gander Way, realignment of the Walrond Drive intersection and pedestrian signals at the Plantation Road/Gander Way traffic signal. More information: Plantation Road Project [webpage](#).

Contact [Megan Cronise](#), Transportation Planning Administrator, with questions.

Events & Activities

Illuminights Festivities

Indulge your holiday spirit with dazzling displays, artisan crafts, treats and activities for everyone! Due to COVID-19 only advance tickets will be sold (no walk-ups). Calendar, admission and ticket purchase instructions are available now.

[Complete Information](#)



Green Ridge Pool Partially Open

For a limited time \$5.00 passes are available for the indoor pool and slide. Certain aquatic areas are closed due to COVID-19. Check the website for up to date information.

[Learn More](#)

Have you tried the Brambleton Center?

If you prefer working out in a smaller facility, check out the socially distanced classes and activities offered at the Brambleton Center.

[Learn More](#)



Zoning & Stormwater Tips



Tossing the Tree?

When you need to toss your greenery after the holidays you can place it at the curb on Monday, Jan. 4, 2021. Roanoke County will collect them throughout the week. If you want to keep it longer, trees and greenery can be disposed of with your regular brush collection.

International Coastal Cleanup

Organize your own mini-clean up of Virginia's waterways. The 2020 Virginia Waterways Cleanup is coordinated by Clean VA Waterways of Longwood University and part of the Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup. If you prefer not to organize, any cleaning up you do here at home helps the entire network of waterways! All of our streams and rivers flow to a coast!



Sincerely,
Cecile Newcomb
Planner II