

January 2023



Hello!

Happy New Year!

Our Roanoke County Planning team wishes health and happiness to you and yours in the new year ahead. We are looking forward to revealing the draft Roanoke County 200 Plan and many other exciting projects in 2023!

## Planning & Zoning Update

### December 6th

The Planning Commission held a work session and an evening session on the following:

Action Item:

1. The petition of **Barnett Properties, LLC**, to rezone approximately 9.38 acres from R-3C, Medium Density Multi-Family Residential District with conditions; R-1, Low Density Residential District; I-1C, Low Intensity Industrial District with conditions; C2-C, High Intensity Commercial District with conditions; and C-1, Low Intensity Commercial District; to C-2, High Intensity Commercial District, for retail sales located in the 4400 block of Brambleton Avenue including 4449 and 4457 Brambleton Avenue, and the 4500 and 4600 blocks of Old Cave Spring Road, Windsor Hills Magisterial District. The Commission voted to recommend approval of the rezoning request.

Public Hearing:

1. Proposed amendments to the Roanoke County Zoning Ordinance. The proposed amendments would: amend the definition of halfway house in Article II (Definitions and

Use Types); change halfway house from a special use to a permitted use in the AV (Agricultural/Village Center) and C-2 (High Intensity Commercial) Districts, add halfway house as a permitted use in the C-1 (Low Intensity Commercial), I-1 (Low Intensity Industrial) and I-2 (High Intensity Industrial) Districts, and add halfway house as a special use in the R-1 (Low Density Residential), R-2 (Medium Density Residential), R-3 (Medium Density Multi-Family Residential), and R-4 (High Density Multi-Family Residential) Districts in Article III (District Regulations); and add use and design standards for halfway house in Article IV (Use and Design Standards). The Commission voted to recommend approval of the proposed amendments.

## December 13th

The Board of Supervisors approved the first reading of an ordinance for the Zoning Ordinance Amendments (listed above). The Board of Supervisors held a public hearing on the Barnett Properties, LLC application. The Board voted to approve the rezoning request.

## December 20th

The Planning Commission held a public hearing on the following:

1. The petition of Panda Storage Rentals and Sales to obtain a special use permit for equipment sales and rental (storage containers) and to obtain a special use permit for mini-warehouse on approximately 4.82 acres on land zone C-2, High Intensity Commercial District, located in the 5300 block of West Main Street and the 5400 block of Pleasant Run Drive, Catawba District. The Commission voted to recommend approval of both the special use permit requests.

## January 3rd

The Planning Commission will hold a work session at 4:00 p.m. and a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on the following:

1. The petition of Greg and Amanda Speiran to obtain a special use permit to operate a short-term rental on approximately 0.1608 acre on land zoned R-1, Low Density Residential, located at 3113 Fleetwood Avenue, Windsor Hills Magisterial District.

## January 10th

The Board of Supervisors will hold a second reading and public hearing on the Zoning Ordinance Amendments (listed above) at 3:00 p.m. The Board will hold a public hearing on the Panda Storage Rentals and Sales application at 3:00 p.m.

## January 16th

Roanoke County Offices will be closed on Monday, January 16, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

## January 17th

The Planning Commission will hold a work session at 6:00 p.m.

## January 24th

The Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on the Greg and Amanda Speiran application.

## News

### CORTTRAN Updates

County of Roanoke Transportation (CORTTRAN) provided over 10,000 trips to Roanoke County residents in fiscal year 2022.

The service provides transportation to Roanoke County residents that are age 65 or better or who have a disability. Riders may travel to destinations within Roanoke County, Roanoke City, Salem or the Town of Vinton.



Recently, a new vehicle wrap was added to the Ford Transit van (pictured above) that provides transportation Monday through Friday from 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

CORTTRAN is supported by state and federal funding from the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), along with Roanoke County budget funds. The funding has made it possible to continue to provide this valuable service to citizens so they may stay active within the community and have a sense of independence. CORTTRAN provides citizens transportation to get to medical appointments, the grocery store or their job.

To learn more about the program, download an application and see a brief video about the service, visit [www.roanokecountyva.gov/CORTTRAN](http://www.roanokecountyva.gov/CORTTRAN).

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### Megan Cronise Recognized by Board of Supervisors

At the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors meeting on December 13, the Board approved a resolution recognizing Megan Cronise, Assistant Director of Planning, for her exemplary service to Roanoke County.

See more information beginning on [page 7 of the Agenda with Reports.](#)

Congratulations, Megan!

Pictured: Megan with Richard Caywood, County Administrator (left), and Paul Mahoney, Board of Supervisors 2022 Chairman (right).



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### 2022 State of the County

Business and political leaders from across the region attended the 2022 State of the County Address by Roanoke County Board of Supervisors Chairman Paul Mahoney. The 2022 event was hosted at Green Ridge Recreation Center, with opening remarks by the Roanoke Regional Chamber's Past Chair Larry Jackson, with an update on the 2022 State of Roanoke County Public

Schools provided by Roanoke County  
School Board Chairman David Linden.

See the [\*\*State of the County website\*\*](#) for  
video, remarks, and event photos!



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### This Is Roanoke County!

See what sets Roanoke County apart  
from other localities in this [\*\*video snapshot\*\*](#) of our community. Produced by  
the creative team at Roanoke Valley  
Television (RVTV-3).

Live, Work, and Play in Roanoke County!



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**Follow Roanoke County on our new Instagram page!**  
**@officialroanokecounty**

# CHECK OUT ROANOKE COUNTY'S NEWEST HUB FOR MEDIA!

VISIT: <https://www.roanokecountyva.gov/rocollection>



## RoamRoCo

Roam around Roanoke County with Kaelyn and learn more about our community, your local government, and the many destinations you'll only find in Roanoke County, Virginia. See our [entire playlist](#) or choose a video segment below to get started.

 [SUBSCRIBE](#)



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Join Kaelyn Spicker as she tours Cave Spring Fire Station #3. [Read on...](#)



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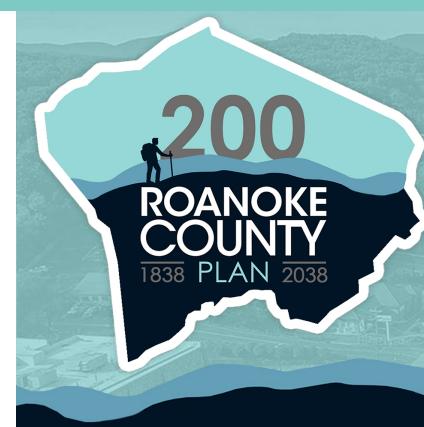


[Visit the new RoCo Collection website!](#)

## Events & Activities

### Draft 200 Plan Coming Soon!

The draft Roanoke County 200 Plan is coming in 2023! Planning staff have been writing the draft Roanoke County 200 Plan over the last couple months. Stay tuned for our February 2023 Community Developments Newsletter as we'll be announcing our final round of community meetings to reveal the draft Roanoke County 200 Plan. Stay up to date and learn about the development of the 200 Plan on our [website](#).



### Learn a New Language in 2023!

Is your New Year's resolution to learn a new language? From Mandarin to Spanish to Latin, our friends at

Roanoke County Public Library have multiple platforms and resources for you to learn new languages. Browse the databases on their [website](#) and find the one that fits your needs.



## Recreate in the New Year!

Give the gift of Recreation in the New Year! Customers can use [Recreation Gift Cards](#) for Programs, Green Ridge Daily Admission Passes, Personal Training, Day Camps & Summer Camps, Explore Park Visitor Center, and more! Gift cards are available for purchase in-person at Green Ridge Recreation Center, Brambleton Recreation Center, Explore Park, and the Roanoke County Public Service Center.



## Join GWRABA in 2023!

### Your invitation to join The Greater Williamson Road Business Association (GWRABA)

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

The Greater Williamson Road continues to experience incredible progress and vitality – but not without the support of great members. A strong Greater Williamson Road is essential to regional success and GWRABA members help continue providing quality events and services.

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

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

Learn more about GWRABA at: [williamsonroad.org](http://williamsonroad.org)

#YesRoanoke #HollinsCenter



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Sincerely,  
*Alexander Jones*  
Principal Planner

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[Visit our Website](#)

February 2023

# ROANOKE COUNTY **200** PLAN



## The Roanoke County 200 Plan

is an update to our Comprehensive Plan that expresses an overarching community vision as well as unique goals for 11 community planning areas within the County and the Town of Vinton.

## Your Community. Your Voice.

- + The Draft Plan was developed from the input that we received at the 2021 and 2022 public meetings/online surveys.
- + Join us at your community's Draft Plan Reveal Meeting to review and provide comments on the 200 Plan that will shape your community over the next 15 years.



Hello!

## Join us for your community's Draft 200 Plan Reveal Meeting!

Meetings are open house format from 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM

*Presentation by staff begins at 5:00 PM*

Catawba, Glenvar & Masons Cove Community Planning Areas:

Glenvar Middle School Forum - Monday, February 27

Peters Creek Community Planning Area:

Green Ridge Recreation Center - Wednesday, March 1

Bonsack/Vinton & Mount Pleasant Community Planning Areas:

Vinton War Memorial - Monday, March 6

Windsor Hills Community Planning Area:

Hidden Valley High School Auditorium -Wednesday, March 8

Back Creek & Bent Mountain Community Planning Areas:

Bent Mountain Center -Monday, March 13

Cave Spring & Clearbrook Community Planning Areas:

South County Library Auditorium -Wednesday, March 15

## Planning Commission Public Hearings on the Draft 200 Plan

Both Public Hearing Meetings begin at 5:00 PM

*Citizen comments are welcome!*

### Public Hearing Option 1:

Green Ridge Recreation Center -Thursday, March 23

### Public Hearing Option 2:

Roanoke County Administration Center -Monday, April 3

In the event of winter weather, please visit our website below or call  
us to confirm meeting

Learn more: [www.RoanokeCountyVA.gov/200Plan](http://www.RoanokeCountyVA.gov/200Plan)

(540) 772-2065 | [planning@roanokecountyva.gov](mailto:planning@roanokecountyva.gov)





## Planning & Zoning Updates

### January 3rd

The Planning Commission elected Troy Henderson as Chairman and Rick James as Vice-Chairman, reviewed changes to its bylaws, discussed possible amendments to the Zoning Ordinance regarding cell towers, and held a public hearing on the following:

- The petition of [Greg and Amanda Speiran](#) to obtain a special use permit to operate a short-term rental on approximately 0.1608 acre on land zoned R-1, Low Density Residential, located at 3113 Fleetwood Avenue, Windsor Hills Magisterial District. The Planning Commission recommended approval with one condition.

### January 10th

The Board of Supervisors held a second reading and public hearing to the Zoning Ordinance regarding halfway houses. The Board held a public hearing on the [Panda Storage Rentals and Sales](#) to obtain a special use permit for equipment sales and rentals and a special use permit for mini-warehouse on approximately 4.82 acres on land zoned C-2, High Intensity Commercial, located in the 5300 block of West Main Street and the 5400 block of Pleasant Run Drive, Catawba Magisterial District. The Board of Supervisors approved the special use permits with conditions.

### January 17th

The Planning Commission held a work session on its annual work plan, reviewed changes to its bylaws, and discussed the Roanoke County 200 Plan.

## January 24th

The Board of Supervisors held a public hearing on the [Greg and Amanda Speiran](#) application. The Board of Supervisors approved the special use permit with one condition.

## February 7th

The Planning Commission will hold public hearings on the following:

- The petition of [Cellco Partnership DBA Verizon Wireless](#) to amend a proffer condition and to obtain a special use permit for a broadcasting tower approximately 124 feet in height on approximately 4.81 acres of land zoned C-2C, High Intensity Commercial District with conditions located at 2918 Peters Creek Road, Catawba Magisterial District.
- The petition of [Engineering Concepts, Inc.](#) to obtain a special use permit for a water tank (major utility service) approximately 42 feet in height located on approximately 1.82 acres of land zoned AG-3, Agricultural/Rural Preserve District, located in the 2600 block of Summit Ridge Road, Hollins Magisterial District.

## February 21st

The Planning Commission will hold a work session at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the Roanoke County 200 Plan and amendments to the Roanoke County Zoning Ordinance.

## February 27th

The Planning Staff will hold an open house at Glenvar Middle School from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. to reveal the drafts of the 200 Plan Summary Documents for the [Glenvar](#), [Catawba](#), and [Masons Cove](#) areas.

## February 28th

The Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on the [Cellco Partnership DBA Verizon Wireless](#) and [Engineering Concepts, Inc.](#) applications.

## News



## McAfee Knob Trailhead Shuttle is returning in 2023!

The McAfee Knob Trailhead Shuttle returns on March 3, 2023 and will run through November 26, 2023. Shuttle service will be available on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and on Mondays that fall on a holiday. The shuttle will run 12 hours a day with adjustments for daylight hours. On March 3, 4, 5, 10, 11 the service will be available from 7:00 A.M. to 6:30 P.M. Starting March 12 and continuing through September 2023 the shuttle will be available from 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. Service may be modified or canceled due to inclement weather.

The route will remain the same and depart from the Interstate 81, Exit 140 Park and Ride in Salem and journey to the McAfee Knob Trailhead parking lot to drop riders off safely at the shuttle stop. Riders can expect to pay the same fare of \$5 plus processing fees and reservations are being accepted now at, [www.McAfeeShuttle.com](http://www.McAfeeShuttle.com). Save time and enjoy a safe and convenient ride on the shuttle.

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### The Roanoker Magazine's "40 Under 40" Alexander Jones

Alexander Jones, Principal Planner, was one of four Roanoke County employees recognized in The Roanoker Magazine among the "40 Under 40" young professionals in the Roanoke Valley.



[Click here to read the Roanoker Magazine's article about Alex.](#)



Roanoke County staff members Alexander Jones (Planning), Jessica Beemer (Finance), Chad Beheler (Sheriff's Office), and Jacquelyn Persiani (Sheriff's Office) were the four Roanoke County employees selected as The Roanoker Magazine's "40 Under 40" Class of 2023. See the full list at: <https://theroanoker.com/topics/40-40/>



Help Youth Arrive Alive this Spring and Summer!

Registration for the free 2023 Arrive Alive Campaign opens on February 7. Any student, school (middle or high), club, class or youth group can get involved to help promote safety during the high-risk

spring and summer months. This initiative is sponsored by Youth of Virginia Speak Out About Traffic Safety (YOVASO) in partnership with Virginia State Police, Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, and State Farm. The campaign runs March 6 through May 31 and encourages teens to take the lead in promoting safe driving and passenger safety at the school and community level. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three participating middle and high school groups. Any student, school (club or class), or youth group, can participate. The campaign, all materials, and incentive items are free. Visit [www.yovaso.org/arrive-alive](http://www.yovaso.org/arrive-alive) or contact Casey Taylor at casey.taylor@vsp.virginia.gov or 540-739-4392 for more information or to register.

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## New Galen College of Nursing Campus at Metis Plaza in Oak Grove Center!



HCA Virginia Health System and its affiliate, Galen College of Nursing, have announced a second Virginia Galen campus will open in Roanoke in 2023. Galen College will be located in the [Oak Grove Center](#) area.

[Click here for the full article in the Roanoker Magazine.](#)

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Follow Roanoke County on our new Instagram page!

**@officialroanokecounty**

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[Visit the new RoCo Collection website!](#)

## Events & Activities

### RoCo Public Library Rentable Offices!

Do you work from home, but sometimes need a private office? Conducting interviews or meeting with a small group? Check out our rentable business office in the Commons of South County Library. [Click here for more information.](#)



### Intro to Illustration at Brambleton Center!

From fables and poems to textbooks and

assembly instructions, this broad tool for expression is so tied to daily life that it is almost invisible. Sketch, paint, and shade your way through words under the guidance of artist and instructor Lauren Walke.

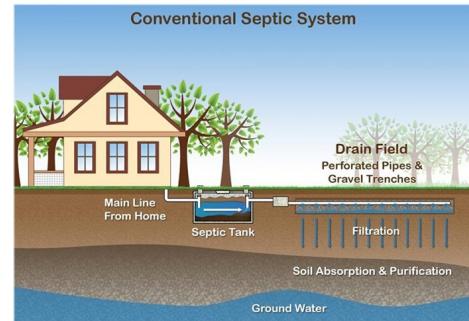
[Click here for more details.](#)



## Development News

### Septic Pump-Out Program

Roanoke County has partnered with the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission to provide a no-cost septic tank pump-out program for Roanoke County residents.



Septic systems that have not been maintained are a possible source of nutrient and bacteria pollution that may lead to stream impairments throughout Roanoke County. Septic systems that fall into disrepair can back up into homes or overflow into yards, creating costly issues for homeowners.

Households with an annual household income at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Line are eligible to apply for this program (see chart below for eligibility guidelines). This grant-funded program aims to reduce the environmental impact and property damage caused by failed septic systems. Program participants will also have the opportunity to attend a septic system workshop to learn how septic systems function and how to maintain their system in the future.

To learn more and see if you qualify, please [click here](#).

# ROANOKE COUNTY SEPTIC PUMPOUT PROGRAM OVERVIEW

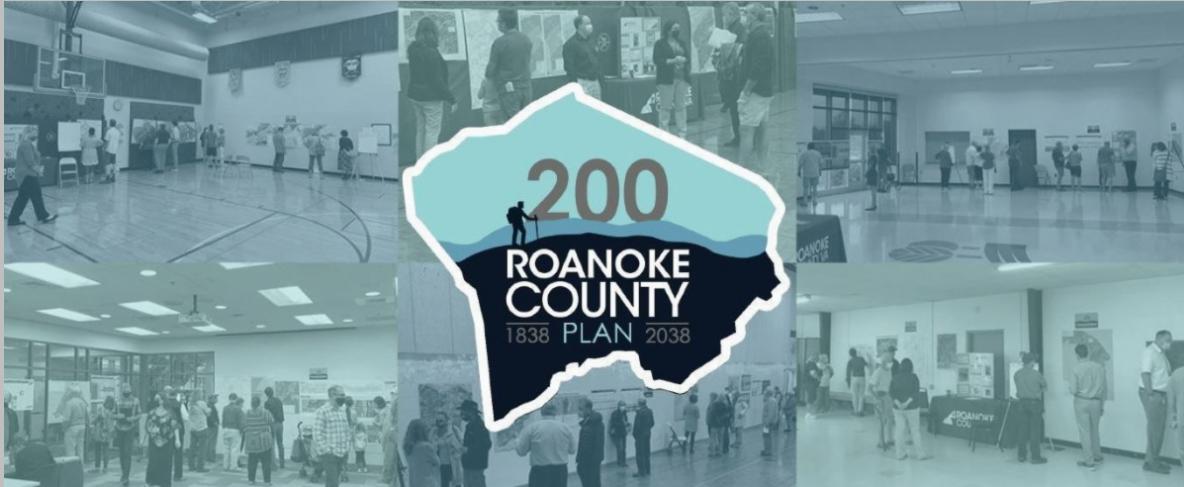


**RVTY**

Sincerely,  
Jake Harding,  
Planner II

[Visit our Website](#)

March 2023



Hello!

### Join us for your community's Draft 200 Plan Reveal Meeting!

Meetings are open house format from 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM

*Presentation by staff begins at 5:00 PM*

Bonsack/Vinton & Mount Pleasant Community Planning Areas:

Vinton War Memorial - **Monday, March 6**

Windsor Hills Community Planning Area:

Hidden Valley High School Auditorium - **Wednesday, March 8**

Back Creek & Bent Mountain Community Planning Areas:

Bent Mountain Center - **Monday, March 13**

Cave Spring & Clearbrook Community Planning Areas:

South County Library Auditorium - **Wednesday, March 15**

### Planning Commission Public Hearings on the Draft 200 Plan

Both Public Hearing Meetings begin at 5:00 PM

*Citizen comments are welcome!*

Public Hearing Option 1:

Green Ridge Recreation Center - **Thursday, March 23**

Public Hearing Option 2:

Roanoke County Administration Center - **Monday, April 3**

## Previous Meetings

Catawba, Glenvar & Masons Cove Community Planning Areas:

Monday, February 27 - 37 Attendees

Peters Creek Community Planning Area:

Wednesday, March 1 - 29 Attendees

In the event of winter weather, please visit our website below or call us to confirm meeting

Learn more: [www.RoanokeCountyVA.gov/200Plan](http://www.RoanokeCountyVA.gov/200Plan)

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## Planning & Zoning Updates

### February 7th

The Planning Commission held public hearings on the following:

- The petition of Cellco Partnership DBA Verizon Wireless to amend a proffer condition and to obtain a special use permit for a broadcasting tower approximately 124 feet in height on approximately 4.81 acres of land zoned C-2C, High Intensity Commercial District with conditions located at 2918 Peters Creek Road, Catawba Magisterial District. The Planning Commission recommended approval of this application.
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### February 21st

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### February 27th

The Planning Staff held an open house at Glenvar Middle School from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. to reveal the drafts of the Roanoke County 200 Plan Summary Documents for the Glenvar, Catawba, and Masons Cove areas.

## February 28th

The Board of Supervisors held a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on the [Cellco Partnership DBA Verizon Wireless](#) and [Engineering Concepts, Inc.](#) applications. The Board of Supervisors approved both of these applications.

## March 1st

The Planning Staff held an open house at the Green Ridge Center from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. to reveal the drafts of the Roanoke County 200 Plan Summary Document for the [Peters Creek](#) area.

## March 6th

The Planning Staff will hold an open house at the Vinton War Memorial from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. to reveal the drafts of the 200 Plan Summary Documents for the [Bonsack/Vinton](#) and [Mt. Pleasant](#) areas.

## March 7th

The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the following:

- A proposed amendment to the Roanoke County Comprehensive Plan. The proposed amendment would incorporate the [U.S. Route 460 Land Use and Connectivity Study](#) into the Roanoke County Comprehensive Plan.

## March 8th

The Planning Staff will hold an open house at Hidden Valley High School from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. to reveal the drafts of the Roanoke County 200 Plan Summary Document for the [Windsor Hills](#) area.

## March 13th

The Planning Staff will hold an open house at the Bent Mountain Center from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. to reveal the drafts of the Roanoke County 200 Plan Summary Documents for the [Back Creek & Bent Mountain](#) areas.

## March 15th

The Planning Staff will hold an open house at the South County Library from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. to reveal the drafts of the Roanoke County 200 Plan Summary Documents for the [Cave Spring & Clearbrook](#) areas.

## March 23rd

The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at the [Green Ridge Recreation Center](#) on the Draft of the Roanoke County 200 Plan.

## March 28th

The Board of Supervisors will held a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on the proposed amendment to incorporate the [U.S. Route 460 Land Use and Connectivity Study](#) into the Roanoke County Comprehensive

Plan.

## April 3rd

The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at the Roanoke County Administration Building on the Draft of the Roanoke County 200 Plan.

## News



### Route 460 (Challenger Avenue) Land Use and Connectivity Study PUBLIC HEARINGS

**Study Update:** The draft Route 460 Land Use and Connectivity Study is now available for your review and comment on the [project webpage](#). The draft Study relies heavily on 2022 public engagement efforts and includes:

- Recommended concepts to improve travel around the Bonsack area without using Route 460/Challenger Avenue;
- Proposed Future Land Use changes along Route 460/Challenger Avenue; and
- Potential safety improvements for two existing railroad crossings.

**Next Steps:** The Roanoke County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing and will make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors will then hold a public hearing and consider adopting the Route 460 Land Use and Connectivity Study as a component of the Roanoke County Comprehensive Plan. You may attend and speak at the public hearings:

Roanoke County  
Planning Commission  
Public Hearing

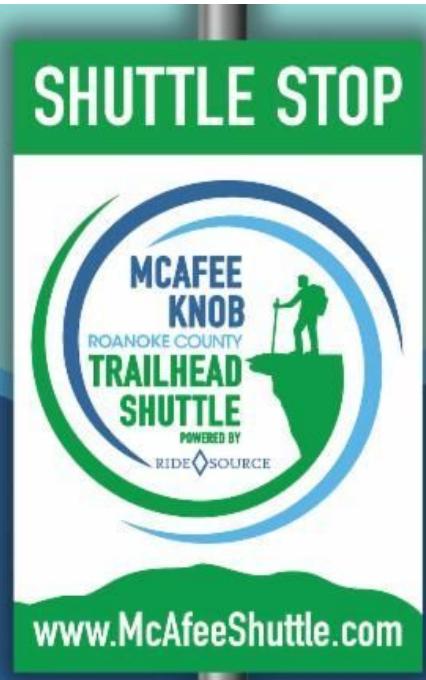
Roanoke County  
Board of Supervisors  
Public Hearing

March 7, 2023 at 7:00  
p.m.

March 28, 2023 at 7:00  
p.m.

*Both public hearings will be held at the Roanoke County Administration Center,  
First Floor Board Meeting Room, 5204 Bernard Drive, Roanoke, VA 24018*

**Route 460 Study Webpage**



## McAfee Knob Trailhead Shuttle is returning in March!

Riders on the McAfee Knob Trailhead Shuttle will notice a new addition this season at the McAfee Knob Trailhead shuttle stop near the parking lot – a newly constructed bench for riders to use while waiting for the shuttle to arrive.

Roger Holnback and Liz Belcher with Pathfinders for Greenways, coordinated, constructed and installed the bench as a project after feedback from shuttle riders last fall indicated they would like a place to rest while waiting for the shuttle. Roanoke County is appreciative of this generous gift of time and materials to make the visitor experience

to our area a pleasant one. To learn more about how you can get involved with Pathfinders for Greenways, visit [www.greenways.org](http://www.greenways.org).

The shuttle will start service again on March 3 and run through November 26 this year. Shuttle service will be available on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and on Mondays that fall on a holiday. The shuttle will start service each service day at 7:00 A.M. Shuttle service hours will vary due to adjustments for daylight hours.

- March service till 6:30 P.M.
- April through September service till 7:00 P.M.
- October service till 6:30 P.M.
- November service till 5:00 P.M.

Service may be modified or canceled due to inclement weather. For a listing of up-to-date service hours visit [www.McAfeeShuttle.com](http://www.McAfeeShuttle.com).

The route will remain the same and depart from the Interstate 81, Exit 140 Park and Ride in Salem and journey to the McAfee Knob Trailhead parking lot to drop riders off safely at the shuttle stop. Riders can expect to pay the same fare of \$5 plus processing fees and reservations are being accepted now at, [www.McAfeeShuttle.com](http://www.McAfeeShuttle.com). Save time and enjoy a safe and convenient ride on the shuttle.



## Starkey Road/Buck Mountain Road Roundabout

Construction will be starting in early March on the Starkey Road/Buck Mountain Road Roundabout planned to replace the current "T"

intersection at Starkey Road and Buck Mountain Road. Sidewalks and crosswalks will connect the roundabout to adjacent properties and to the Branderwood subdivision. The roundabout will improve traffic flow and safety at this busy intersection. Construction is anticipated to be complete in Spring 2024.

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## YOVASO Registration

Registration opens March 27 for Youth of Virginia Speak Out About Traffic Safety's Summer Leadership Retreat, *Driving Thru the Decades Towards a Safer Future!* It's taking place July 13-16, 2023, at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA. Rising ninth graders to graduating seniors in Roanoke County are encouraged to attend and join other teens from across the state to build leadership skills, learn how to be safer drivers and passengers, and train as advocates for driver and passenger safety. Motivational speaker, [Brandon Lee White](#), will kick off day one; with leadership sessions, interactive safe driving programs, fun socials, and more to follow! The price is only \$15 per-person and includes: overnight accommodations, meals, sessions, and a retreat-themed t-shirt, water bottle, lanyard, and backpack. Registration closes June 25 so be sure to sign up by then at [www.yovaso.org/summer-retreat](http://www.yovaso.org/summer-retreat)! If you have questions or would like more details, email YOVASO's Retreat Director, Molly Jackson at [molly.jackson@vsp.virginia.gov](mailto:molly.jackson@vsp.virginia.gov).

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Follow Roanoke County on our new Instagram page!  
**@officialroanokecounty**

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Fire Station Tour at Cave Spring Station #3  
Join Kaelyn Spicker as she tours Cave Spring Fire Station #3. [Read on...](#)



Hello From the Top of McAfee Knob  
Join Kaelyn and Keara as they hike to the most photographed spot on the Appalachian Trail! [Read on...](#)



Conquering Treetop Quest  
Treetop Quest is fun for the entire family - unless you're afraid of heights! Join Kaelyn and Keara on the aerial course at Explore Park, and see that Treetop Quest is truly fun for all ages. [Read on...](#)



First Time Camping at Explore Park  
Come along as Kaelyn learns about camping at Explore Park, how to properly set up a tent, and create a campfire to roast delicious smores! [Read on...](#)



**FOLLOW US ON  
INSTAGRAM**  
[@officialroanokecounty](#)



[Visit the new RoCo Collection website!](#)

## Events & Activities

### RoCo Public Library Rentable Offices!

Do you work from home, but sometimes need a private office? Conducting interviews or meeting with a small group? Check out our rentable business office in the Commons of South County Library. [Click here for more information.](#)



Dance Classes at Green Ridge from March to May from 7-8PM!

Come learn the Lindy Hop Hop and the West Coast Swing at the Green Ridge Recreation Center!

[Click here for more details.](#)



## Development News

### Free Septic Pump-Out Program

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

#### **Who is Qualified?**

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

Septic systems that have not been maintained are a possible source of nutrient and bacteria pollution that may lead to stream impairments throughout Roanoke County. Septic systems that fall into disrepair can back up into homes or overflow into yards, creating costly issues for homeowners.

#### **How to Apply?**

Attend an educational workshop. You can apply for a pump-out there!

#### **Still have Questions?**

Call the County at 540-772-2036 or [click here.](#)

# ROANOKE COUNTY SEPTIC PUMPOUT PROGRAM OVERVIEW



**RVTY**

Sincerely,  
Jake Harding,  
Planner II

[Visit our Website](#)

April 2023



Hello!

## Roanoke County 200 Plan Reveal

Roanoke County staff hosted six community meetings and presented to the Roanoke Regional Chamber Board of Directors and Back Creek Civic League on the Draft Roanoke County 200 Plan documents. The Planning Commission held the first public hearing meeting on the Draft of the Roanoke County 200 Plan on March 23 at Green Ridge Recreation Center.

The Planning Commission will host its second public hearing meeting on the Draft of the Roanoke County 200 Plan at the Roanoke County Administration Center at 5:00 PM. There will be a presentation by staff on the Draft Roanoke County 200 Plan Countywide Document at the meeting.

To view all 12 draft Roanoke County 200 Plan documents, [click here](#).

If you would like to [virtually comment](#) on the draft documents, the

online comment period is open through Sunday, April 16.

Learn more: [www.RoanokeCountyVA.gov/200Plan](http://www.RoanokeCountyVA.gov/200Plan)

(540) 772-2065 | [planning@roanokecountyva.gov](mailto:planning@roanokecountyva.gov)



## Planning & Zoning Updates



### March 1<sup>st</sup>

Planning staff held a community meeting at Green Ridge Recreation Center to reveal the Roanoke County 200 Plan draft documents for the [Peters Creek](#) planning area. There were 29 attendees.

### March 6<sup>th</sup>

Planning staff held a community meeting at the Vinton War Memorial to reveal the Roanoke County 200 Plan draft documents for the [Bonsack/Vinton](#) and [Mt. Pleasant](#) planning areas. There were 59 attendees.

## March 7<sup>th</sup>

The Planning Commission held a public hearing on the following:

- A proposed amendment to the Roanoke County Comprehensive Plan. The proposed amendment would incorporate the [U.S. Route 460 Land Use and Connectivity Study](#) into the Roanoke County Comprehensive Plan. The Planning Commission recommended approval.

## March 8<sup>th</sup>

Planning staff held a community meeting at Hidden Valley High School to reveal the Roanoke County 200 Plan draft documents for the [Windsor Hills](#) planning area. There were 27 attendees.

## March 13<sup>th</sup>

Planning staff held a community meeting at Bent Mountain Center to reveal the Roanoke County 200 Plan draft documents for the [Back Creek](#) and [Bent Mountain](#) planning areas. There were 91 attendees.

## March 15<sup>th</sup>

Planning staff held a community meeting at South County Library to reveal the Roanoke County 200 Plan draft documents for the [Cave Spring](#) and [Clearbrook](#) planning areas. There were 44 attendees.

## March 23rd

The Planning Commission held the first public hearing meeting on the Draft of the Roanoke County 200 Plan at Green Ridge Recreation Center.

## March 28<sup>th</sup>

The Board of Supervisors held a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. and approved a resolution to incorporate the [U.S. Route 460 Land Use and Connectivity Study](#) into the Roanoke County Comprehensive Plan.

## April 3<sup>rd</sup>

The Planning Commission will host its second public hearing meeting on the Draft of the Roanoke County 200 Plan at the Roanoke County Administration Center at 5:00 PM. There will be a presentation by staff on the Draft Roanoke County 200 Plan Countywide Document at the meeting.

## April 4<sup>th</sup>

The Planning Commission public hearing has been canceled.

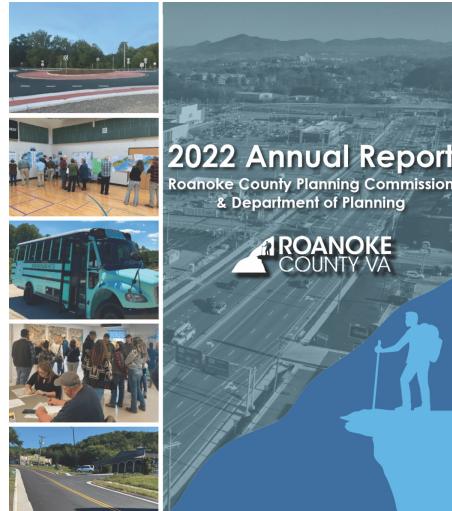
## April 18<sup>th</sup>

The Planning Commission will hold a work session on zoning ordinance amendments and the Draft Roanoke County 200 Plan.

## 2022 Annual Report

The Roanoke County Planning Commission & Department of Planning 2022 Annual Report is available online [here](#).

Learn more about our department and how we help shape our community [here](#).

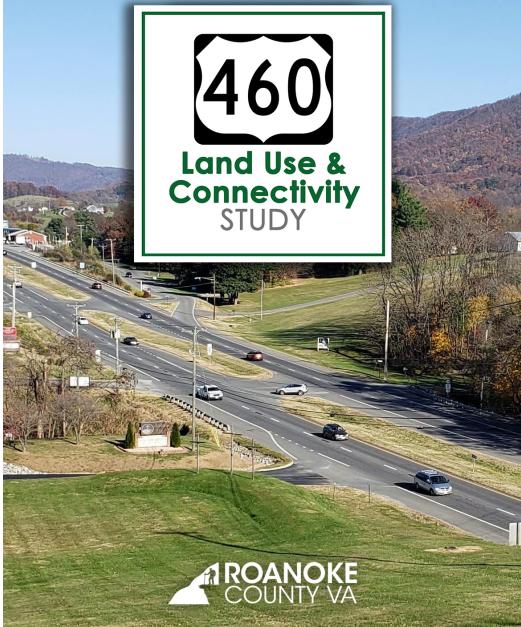


[www.roanokecountyya.gov/pz](http://www.roanokecountyya.gov/pz) | [www.facebook.com/ReCoPlanning](https://www.facebook.com/ReCoPlanning)



## Roanoke County Arbor Day Celebration 2023 & Oak Grove Park Ribbon Cutting

Thursday, April 27 is the annual Roanoke County Arbor Day Celebration! Roanoke County Parks, Recreation & Tourism After School for Kids (ASK) program participants at Oak Grove Elementary School will participate in a tree planting to celebrate Arbor Day. This event will help the County earn its Tree City USA designation. The April 27th celebration will be at 3:00 PM at Oak Grove Park in conjunction with the ribbon cutting for the newly renovated Oak Grove Park. [Click here](#) to learn more about the Reimagined Oak Grove Park improvements.



The Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors both held public hearings on the U.S. Route 460 Land Use and Connectivity Study in March. Approximately 20 people attended the March 7 [Planning Commission Public Hearing](#). Six citizens spoke during the public hearing. The [Transportation Improvements exhibit](#) was modified as a result of the public feedback in order to better explain what the line

segments on the map are intended to show. An online comment form was available for about one month and closed on March 17. Ten comments were received through the comment form, by email and by phone. The Board of Supervisors held a public hearing on March 28. One citizen spoke during the public hearing. The Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution incorporating the U.S. Route 460 Land Use and Connectivity Study into the Roanoke County Comprehensive Plan. The [project webpage](#) contains all information created and presented as part of the 19-month-long study process. Please contact [Megan Cronise](#), Assistant Director of Planning, with any questions at (540) 772-2106.



**Celebrate National Trails Day at McAfee Knob!**

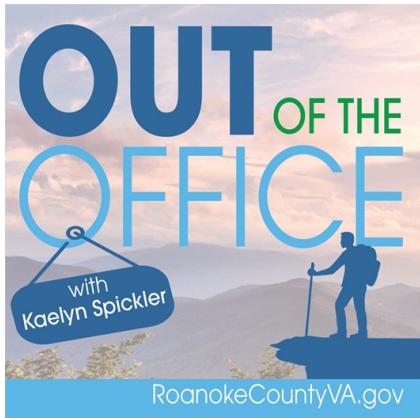
What better way to participate in Celebrate Trails Day on April 22<sup>nd</sup>

than to hop on the McAfee Knob Trailhead Shuttle and spend some time on the Appalachian Trail?

Hosted on the fourth Saturday in April, Celebrate Trails Day is an annual Spring celebration of America's trails. Started by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy in 2013, the celebration encourages people across the country to get outside and enjoy the nation's trails and trails systems.

With more daylight hours available, starting in April and through the month of September the shuttle service will run 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Service will also be provided on Memorial Day Monday, May 29 and Labor Day Monday, September 4. The shuttle route will depart from the Interstate 81, Exit 140 Park and Ride in Salem and journey to the McAfee Knob Trailhead parking lot to drop riders off safely at the shuttle stop. Reservations are \$5 plus processing fees. Make your reservation today at:

[www.McAfeeShuttle.com](http://www.McAfeeShuttle.com).



## Out of the Office Podcast

[Check out our new podcast](#), "Out of the Office!" Join your host, Kaelyn Spickler, and other community members like you, planning their next out of the office local adventure or learning more about the Roanoke Valley.

## Events & Activities

### Easter Eggsploration at Explore Park!

Just a good old fashioned Easter egg hunt! The eggs have all been hidden along with a special "golden egg" that contains a ticket for a "special prize".

[Click here for more information.](#)



### 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Blue Ridge Kite Festival

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Blue Ridge Kite Festival is back at Roanoke County's Green Hill Park on Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup>!

[Click here for more details.](#)



### Camp Roanoke Open House

Camp Roanoke is opening its gates this spring to camp families new and old on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

[Click here for more details.](#)



## Development News

### Calling all Volunteers for Storm Drain Stenciling!

A great way to serve your community is by making fellow

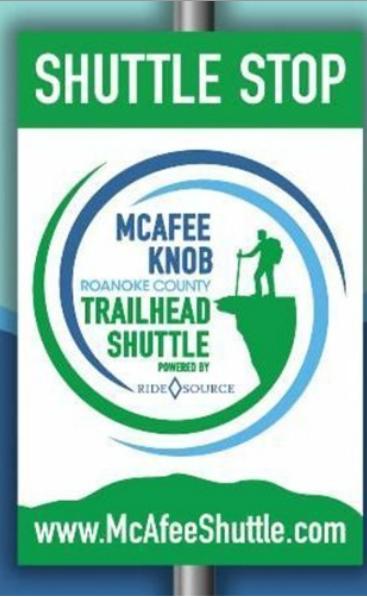
citizens aware of stormwater runoff pollution by stenciling storm drain inlets. Many people mistakenly believe that stormwater runoff is treated before emptying into nearby waterways. These painted messages on the storm drain inlets remind residents of the link between streets and a waterway's health. It's a community effort with lasting effects. For more information or to sign up, please visit the [website](#).



Sincerely,  
Jake Harding,  
Planner II

[Visit our Website](#)

May 2023



## Hello!

With more daylight hours available through the month of September the shuttle service will run 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Service will also be provided on Memorial Day Monday, May 29 and Labor Day Monday, September 4. The shuttle route will depart from the Interstate 81, Exit 140 Park and Ride in Salem and journey to the McAfee Knob Trailhead parking lot to drop riders off safely at the shuttle stop. Reservations are \$5 plus processing fees. Make your reservation today at: [www.McAfeeShuttle.com](http://www.McAfeeShuttle.com).



## Planning & Zoning Updates



### April 3<sup>rd</sup>

The Planning Commission hosted its second public hearing meeting on the Draft of the Roanoke County 200 Plan. There was a presentation by staff on the Draft Roanoke County 200 Plan Countywide Document at the meeting.

### April 18<sup>th</sup>

The Planning Commission held a work session on zoning ordinance amendments and the Draft Roanoke County 200 Plan.

### May 2<sup>nd</sup>

The Planning Commission will hold a work session and public hearings. The work session will be on the Draft Roanoke County 200 Plan. The public hearings will begin at 7:00pm on the following:

1. The petition of Terio and Lisa Comerose to remove the existing proffered conditions on approximately 14.713 acres of land

- zoned AVCS, Agricultural/Village Center District with Conditions and Special Use Permit, and AR, Agricultural/Residential District, located at 9651 Bent Mountain Road, 9744 Tinsley Lane, and 9786 Tinsley Lane, Windsor Hills Magisterial District
2. The petition of Boing US Holdco, Inc., to obtain a special use permit to operate a car wash on approximately 1.97 acres of land zoned C-2, High Intensity Commercial District, and CVOD, Clearbrook Village Overlay District, located at 3434 Buck Mountain Road and 5147 Franklin Road, Cave Spring Magisterial District.
  3. The petition of Martie Murphy to obtain a special use permit to operate a car wash on approximately 5.995 acres of land zoned C-2, High Intensity Commercial District, and C-2C, High Intensity Commercial District with conditions, located at 3939 Valley Gateway Boulevard, Vinton Magisterial District.
  4. The petition of Hugo Jimenez to rezone approximately 1.24 acres of land from C-1, Low Intensity Commercial District to I-1, Low Intensity Industrial District, and to obtain a special use permit to operate a construction yard located at 5681 Starkey Road, Cave Spring Magisterial District.

## **May 16<sup>th</sup>**

The Planning Commission will hold a work session on the Draft Roanoke County 200 Plan.

## **May 17<sup>th</sup>**

The Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a public hearing at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, May 17, in the Board Meeting Room on the petition for a variance requested by David Kahn of Section 30-41-3, of the Roanoke County Zoning Ordinance to reduce the side yard setback from 10 feet to 3 feet to install a ground mounted solar system, located at 6191 Ran Lynn Drive.

## **May 23<sup>rd</sup>**

The Board of Supervisors will hold public hearings at 7:00pm on the following:

1. The petition of Terio and Lisa Comerose.
2. The petition of Boing US Holdco, Inc.
3. The petition of Martie Murphy.
4. The petition of Hugo Jimenez.

## **News**



## Roanoke County Arbor Day Celebration 2023 & Oak Grove Park Ribbon Cutting

Roanoke County celebrated the new Oak Grove Park improvements with a ribbon cutting and Arbor Day celebration on April 27! Oak Grove Park's improvements include a new playground, pickleball court, restrooms, picnic shelter, expanded parking, asphalt trail enhancements and a new environmental education trail. Oak Grove Elementary School's After School for Kids students, Virginia Department of Forestry and Smokey the Bear helped observe the 151st anniversary of National Arbor Day. Roanoke County was selected as a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation for a 25th consecutive year. Four new shade trees were planted at Oak Grove Park with the grant funding. The Oak Grove Park improvements and shade trees further implement our [Oak Grove Center Plan](#).



## VRPA Partner of the Year: Megan Cronise

Megan Cronise, Assistant Director of Planning was recently recognized by the Virginia Regional Partnership as Agency Partner of the Year for her outstanding contribution to the Appalachian National Scenic Trail in coordination for her work in implementing the McAfee Knob Trailhead Shuttle.

Megan was nominated by former President of the Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club (RATC), William Neilan who stated, "No matter how many problems arose, Megan calmly worked through them finding solutions or compromise as needed. Megan had to work with representatives of multiple entities and managed to keep them focused and productive."

This is an unprecedented recognition as the award is usually for volunteers or state level partners, this is the first time a Roanoke County employee has been awarded this recognition.

## 419 Town Center Area Updates

[The new Chilis Bar & Grill opened](#) at Tanglewood



on Monday, April 17 Popeyes and Skechers are currently under construction at Tanglewood. Richmond-based company [Hackney Real Estate Partners](#) [bought the Tanglewood Mall](#) property. Also, [OTH Chop House and Oyster Bar is coming soon](#) to the 419 Town Center corridor in the former Carlos Brazilian International Cuisine building. Learn more about recent announcements and developments in the 419 Town Center area on [our website](#).

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## New RCPS CTE Center Moving Forward

At the top of its April 25 agenda, the Board of Supervisors held a signing ceremony to commemorate the agreement with Roanoke County Public Schools that provides record-setting funding of \$130 million for school capital projects, which will include building a new Career and Technical Education Center and the renovation of two elementary schools. [Learn more on our website](#).

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## Out of the Office Podcast

[Check out our new podcast,](#) "Out of the Office!" Join your host, Kaelyn Spickler, and other community members like you, planning their next out of the office local adventure or learning more about the Roanoke Valley.

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# HAPPY BIKE MONTH!



## Events & Activities

### Splash Valley Water Park 2023 Season Passes On Sale Now

Splash Valley Season Passes are now on sale for the 2023 season! Purchase your season pass [online](#) at or call 540-777-6300.

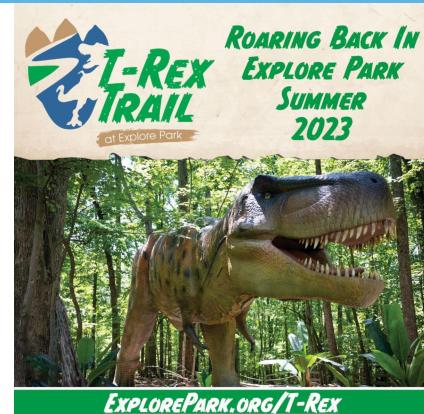
[Click here for more information.](#)



### T-Rex Trail Returns to Explore Park Memorial Day Weekend

Travel back-in-time again this summer at T-Rex Trail at Explore Park! Tickets are on sale now for the roaring adventure, which will operate Tuesday through Sunday starting Saturday, May 27th!

[Click here for more details.](#)



The Tavern Stage Summer Music Series will take place the second Friday of each month from May to September at Explore Park's new Tavern Stage.

[Click here for more details.](#)

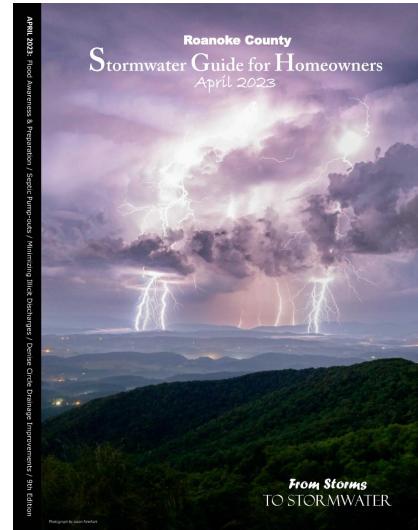


## Development News

### Annual Stormwater Guide for Homeowners

Roanoke County's Department of Development Services is pleased to present its [annual Stormwater Guide for Homeowners](#). This publication is mailed to all homeowners in the County as a means to increase public knowledge regarding:

- (1) ways to reduce stormwater pollution, placing priority on reducing impacts to impaired waters and other local water pollution concerns; and
- (2) hazards associated with illegal discharges and improper disposal of waste, including pertinent legal implications.



The newsletter, while primarily aimed at County homeowners, may address regional issues that affect the entire Roanoke River watershed. Topics may include: litter prevention, stormwater pollution prevention, flood prevention and awareness, stormwater quality education, residential best management practices, and updates on local impaired waterways. It may include subjects that are specific to Roanoke County's Stormwater Management Program, such as specific drainage improvements.

Sincerely,  
Jake Harding,  
Planner II

[Visit our Website](#)



June 2023

## McAfee Knob Trailhead Shuttle



Hello!

### Roanoke County Earns National Achievement Award for McAfee Knob Trailhead Shuttle!

The McAfee Knob Trailhead Shuttle has been recognized with an Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo). The awards honor innovative, effective county government programs that strengthen services for residents.



In the Fall of 2022, the shuttle provided service for 37 days transporting 488 passengers for 716 trips from the Exit 140 Park and Ride to the McAfee Knob Trailhead parking lot. The service saw day hikers, thru hikers from locals to travelers from far away every weekend the service was in operation. Having the shuttle in service relieved parking congestion in the trailhead parking lot and made the end users experience a more enjoyable one.

Each year, NACo's Achievement Awards are given in 18 categories that reflect the vast, comprehensive services counties provide. The

categories include transportation, criminal justice and public safety, county administration, information technology, health, civic engagement and more. Launched in 1970, the program is designed to recognize innovation in county government. Each nominated program is judged on its own merits and not against other applications.

“The Achievement Awards demonstrate excellence in county government and the commitment to serve our residents every day,” said NACo President Denise Winfrey. “This year’s winners represent some of the most innovative and collaborative efforts we have seen in over 50 years of presenting these awards.”

The shuttle is currently in service through November 26 of this year on Friday, Saturday and Sunday and holidays that fall on a Monday from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM. To make a reservation and find out more information about the McAfee Knob Trailhead Shuttle, visit: [www.McAfeeShuttle.com](http://www.McAfeeShuttle.com)

More information about NACo’s Achievement Awards can be found at: [www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org)

## Planning & Zoning Updates



**May 2<sup>nd</sup>**

The Planning Commission held a work session and public hearings. The work session was on the Draft Roanoke County 200 Plan. The public hearings were on the following:

1. The petition of [Terio and Lisa Comerose](#) to remove the existing proffered conditions on approximately 14.713 acres of land zoned AVCS, Agricultural/Village Center District with Conditions and Special Use Permit, and AR, Agricultural/Residential District,

located at 9651 Bent Mountain Road, 9744 Tinsley Lane, and 9786 Tinsley Lane, Windsor Hills Magisterial District. The Planning Commission recommend approval of this petition.

2. The petition of [Boing US Holdco, Inc.](#) to obtain a special use permit to operate a car wash on approximately 1.97 acres of land zoned C-2, High Intensity Commercial District, and CVOD, Clearbrook Village Overlay District, located at 3434 Buck Mountain Road and 5147 Franklin Road, Cave Spring Magisterial District. The Planning Commission recommend approval of this petition.
3. The petition of [Martie Murphy](#) to obtain a special use permit to operate a car wash on approximately 5.995 acres of land zoned C-2, High Intensity Commercial District, and C-2C, High Intensity Commercial District with conditions, located at 3939 Valley Gateway Boulevard, Vinton Magisterial District. The Planning Commission recommend approval of this petition.
4. The petition of [Hugo Jimenez](#) to rezone approximately 1.24 acres of land from C-1, Low Intensity Commercial District to I-1, Low Intensity Industrial District, and to obtain a special use permit to operate a construction yard located at 5681 Starkey Road, Cave Spring Magisterial District. The Planning Commission recommend approval of this petition.

## May 16<sup>th</sup>

The Planning Commission held a work session on the Draft Roanoke County 200 Plan.

## May 17<sup>th</sup>

The Board of Zoning Appeals held a public hearing on Wednesday, May 17, in the Board Meeting Room on the petition for a variance requested by [David Kahn](#) of Section 30-41-3, of the Roanoke County Zoning Ordinance to reduce the side yard setback from 10 feet to 3 feet to install a ground mounted solar system, located at 6191 Ran Lynn Drive.

## May 23<sup>rd</sup>

The Board of Supervisors held public hearings on the following:

1. The petition of [Terio and Lisa Comerose](#). The Board of Supervisors approved this petition.
2. The petition of [Boing US Holdco, Inc.](#). The Board of Supervisors approved this petition.
3. The petition of [Martie Murphy](#). The Board of Supervisors denied this petition.
4. The petition of [Hugo Jimenez](#). The Board of Supervisors approved this petition.

## June 6th

The Planning Commission will hold a work session and public hearings. The work session will be on the Draft Roanoke County 200 Plan. The public hearings will be on the following:

1. The petition of [Larry and Rhonda Conner](#) to obtain a special use permit to operate a short-term rental on approximately 1.32 acres of land zoned R-1, Low Density Residential District, located

- at 5859 Bent Mountain Road, Windsor Hills Magisterial District.
2. The petition of [Parker Design Group, Inc.](#) to obtain a special use permit for religious assembly on approximately 2.91 acres of land zoned C-2, High Intensity Commercial District, located on Oakland Boulevard between 233 Hershberger Road and 4843 Oakland Boulevard, Hollins Magisterial District.
  3. [Proposed amendments](#) to the Roanoke County Zoning Ordinance. The proposed amendments would: add a definition for data center, and amend the definitions of multiple dog permit, commercial kennel, and industry, type I in Article II (Definitions and Use Types); add single family dwelling, attached (cluster subdivision option) and single family dwelling, detached (cluster subdivision ordinance) as permitted uses in the AR (Agricultural/Residential) District in Article III (District Regulations); and amend the use and design standards for home occupations, type I and type II, and for single family dwelling, attached and detached (cluster subdivision option), and amend the accessory uses for industrial use types in Article IV (Use and Design Standards).

### **June 21<sup>st</sup>**

The Roanoke County Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a public hearing at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, June 21, 2023, in the Board Meeting Room of the Roanoke County Administration Center, 5204 Bernard Drive, Roanoke, VA on the petition for a variance requested by [Brian Pomerville](#) of Section 30-32-3(B) of the Roanoke County Zoning Ordinance to build a primary structure (house) behind the existing accessory structure (barn), located at 7889 Bradshaw Road Salem, VA 24153. The property is zoned AG3 Agricultural/Rural Preserve District and is located in the Catawba Magisterial District.

### **June 27<sup>th</sup>**

The Board of Supervisors will hold public hearings at 7:00pm on the following:

1. The petition of [Larry and Rhonda Conner](#) to obtain a special use permit to operate a short-term rental on approximately 1.32 acres of land zoned R-1, Low Density Residential District, located at 5859 Bent Mountain Road, Windsor Hills Magisterial District.
2. The petition of [Parker Design Group, Inc.](#) to obtain a special use permit for religious assembly on approximately 2.91 acres of land zoned C-2, High Intensity Commercial District, located on Oakland Boulevard between 233 Hershberger Road and 4843 Oakland Boulevard, Hollins Magisterial District.
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attached and detached (cluster subdivision option), and amend the accessory uses for industrial use types in Article IV (Use and Design Standards).

## News

### Help RVARC plan for travel in the region by taking the Regional Travel Survey

The Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission (RVARC) wants to learn how you get around the region. Your feedback will help identify gaps and opportunities for travel in the region and inform how RVARC plan for travel needs and priorities. By sharing your thoughts and opinions, you will make your voice heard and help improve transportation options for you and others in the area.

[Take the 10-minute survey by June 30](#) for a chance to win a \$100 dollars gift card. The survey is available in English and Spanish.



### Out of the Office Podcast

[Check out our new podcast](#), "Out of the Office!" Join your host, Kaelyn Spickler, and other community members like you, planning their next out of the office local



adventure or learning more about the Roanoke Valley.

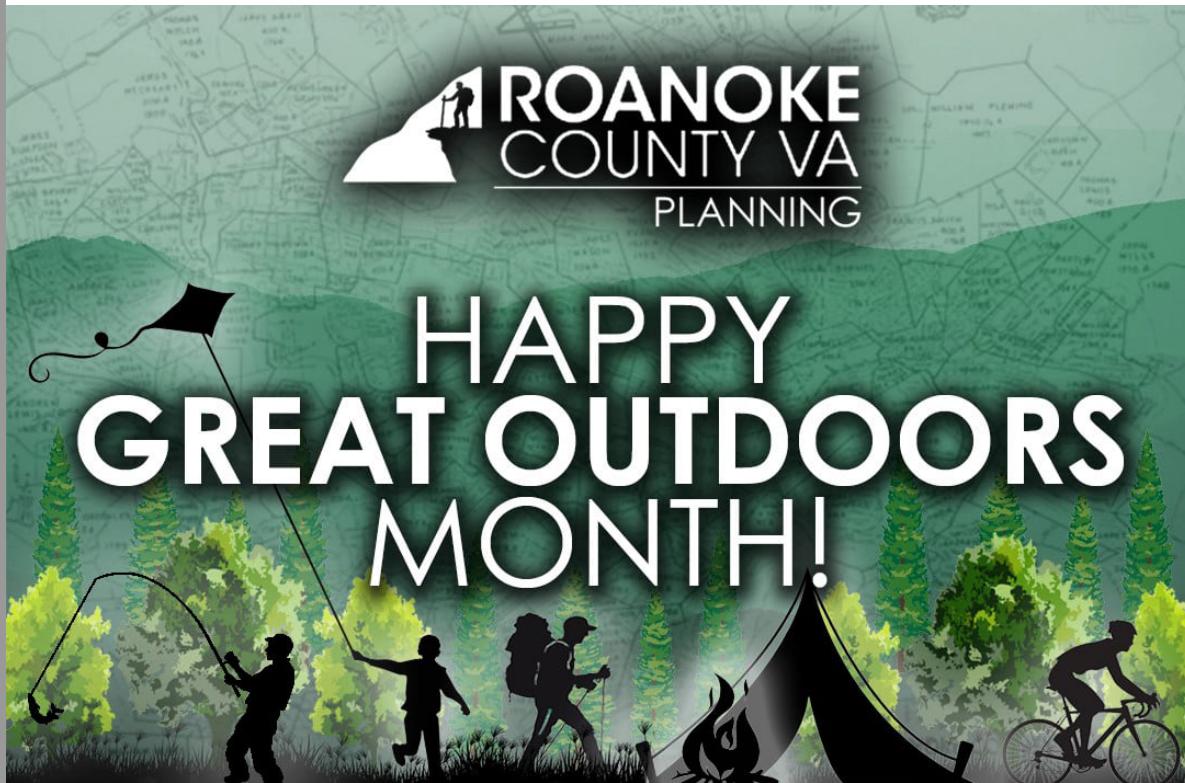


The Catawba Valley Farmers Market is open each Thursday from 3:30 to 7:00 PM from mid-May to mid-October, rain or shine. It is located at the Catawba Community Center, 4965 Catawba Creek Road, Catawba, VA 24070, off Route 311.

The Appalachian Trail is nearby. Check out the great selection of fresh, locally-grown vegetables, honey, fruits, plants, pork & beef, eggs, jams, pickles, breads, and pastries. Local residents also offer a varied selection of handicrafts including baskets, wood crafts, pottery, local cookbooks, barnwood-framed photography, candles, milk-based bath & beauty products, & notecards. The market hopes you will stop by to see them on Thursdays to enjoy a true country atmosphere. The Catawba Valley Farmers Market is known as the friendliest market in the area!

See the website for frequent updates on available products, music and other special events: [catawbafarmersmarket.com](http://catawbafarmersmarket.com).

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June is Great Outdoors Month! Get outdoors and celebrate this month in Roanoke County and Virginia's Blue Ridge!

Learn more about everything Roanoke County Parks, Recreation and Tourism has to offer at: [roanokecountyparks.com](http://roanokecountyparks.com)

[Learn more](#) about all of the outdoor adventures in Virginia's Blue Ridge.

#RecreateResponsibly #FindYourPark

---

## Back Creek Car Show

The Back Creek Civic League is sponsoring a free car show open to the public. For more information, contact Ronnie Love as noted in the flyer below:

# Back Creek Car Show



Sponsored by  
Back Creek  
Civic League, Inc.



Live  
Music!

**Saturday, June 17, 9am to 2pm**

Back Creek Fire Station #11 7125 Bent Mountain Road

This is a free event, open to the public.

Everyone is welcome

All makes and models of cars welcome

Registration fee: \$20

Registration and parking

8 am to 9:30 am



**Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Dessert, and Drinks**

50-50 raffle tickets

**For more information, contact: Ronnie Love 540-589-9292**

Events & Activities

## Food Truck Thursdays at Green Hill Park

Roanoke County Parks, Recreation and Tourism is hosting Food Truck Thursdays on the first Thursday of each month from June to August at Green Hill Park!

[Click here for more details.](#)



## Laptops Available For In-Library Use

Did you know that we have laptops available for you to checkout while you're visiting your favorite RCPL location? While you are at the library be sure to swing by the front desk with your library card to check out a laptop.

[Click here for more details.](#)

## LAPTOPS

AVAILABLE FOR IN-LIBRARY USE



## New Tavern Stage Summer Music Series Announced at Explore Park

The Tavern Stage Summer Music Series will take place the second Friday of each month from May to September at Explore Park's new Tavern Stage.

[Click here for more details.](#)



## Development News

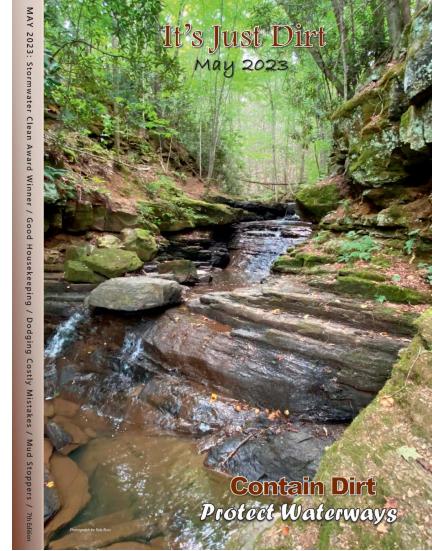
### It's Just Dirt

Roanoke County's Department of Development Services is pleased to present its [annual Contractor Newsletter](#):

[It's Just Dirt](#). This publication is mailed to all land-disturbing contractors, land developers, and consulting firms in the region, including the Roanoke Regional Home Builders Association.

The primary purpose of this newsletter is to educate contractors about ways to reduce sediment pollution from their active land-disturbing projects.

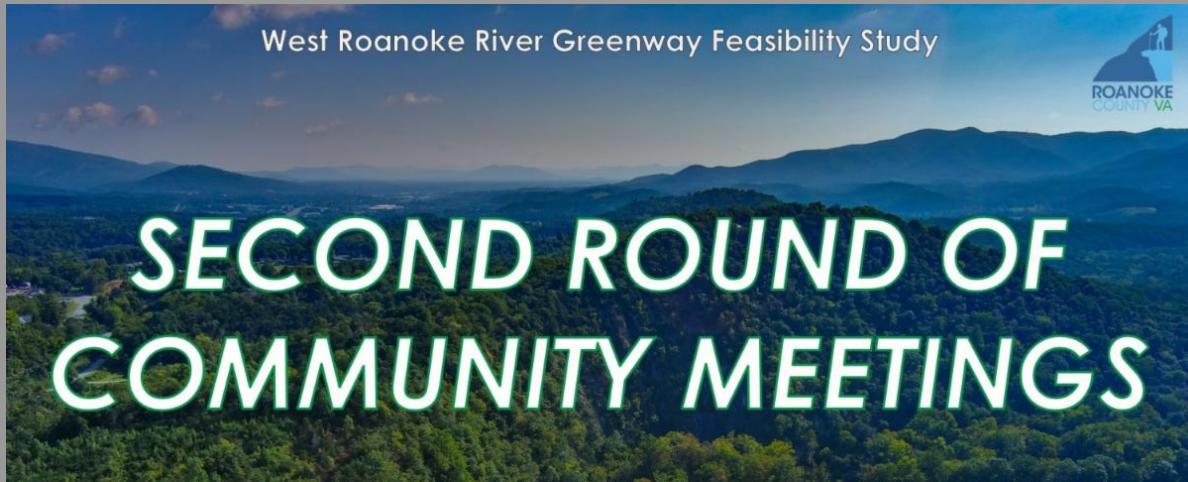
Topics vary in each issue, but may include: recognition of the latest **Stormwater Clean Award winner(s)**, proper installation and maintenance of erosion and sediment control measures, pollution prevention and good housekeeping on job-sites, and discussion of pertinent regulatory requirements.



Sincerely,  
Jake Harding,  
Planner II

[Visit our Website](#)

July 2023



Hello!

## West Roanoke River Greenway Feasibility Study Community Meetings

Next week, Roanoke County will hold a second round of community meetings for the [West Roanoke River Greenway Feasibility Study](#). At these community meetings, attendees can provide feedback on conceptual route alternatives. An informational video will be shown at each meeting highlighting the work that has been done since the first round of community meetings. These will be open-house style meetings, where attendees can come and go as they please. The content of the two meetings will be identical, there is no need to attend both.



Monday, July 10, 2023

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Spring Hollow Water Treatment Plant

6200 West Main Street

Thursday, July 13, 2023

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

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

Visit [www.RoanokeCountyVA.gov/WRRG](http://www.RoanokeCountyVA.gov/WRRG) to watch the informational video and complete an online survey by July 31st. Identical paper surveys have been mailed to residents and property owners in the study area, will be available at the community meetings and are available at the [Glenvar Library](#). Please complete only one survey per person by July 31st.

## Planning & Zoning Updates



### June 6th

The Planning Commission held a work session and public hearings. The work session was on the Draft Roanoke County 200 Plan. The public hearings were on the following:

1. The petition of [Larry and Rhonda Conner](#) to obtain a special use permit to operate a short-term rental on approximately 1.32 acres of land zoned R-1, Low Density Residential District, located at 5859 Bent Mountain Road, Windsor Hills Magisterial District. The Planning Commission approved the petition.
2. The petition of [Parker Design Group, Inc.](#) to obtain a special use permit for religious assembly on approximately 2.91 acres of land zoned C-2, High Intensity Commercial District, located on Oakland Boulevard between 233 Hershberger Road and 4843 Oakland Boulevard, Hollins Magisterial District. The Planning Commission approved the petition.
3. [Proposed amendments](#) to the Roanoke County Zoning

Ordinance. The proposed amendments would: add a definition for data center, and amend the definitions of multiple dog permit, commercial kennel, and industry, type I in Article II (Definitions and Use Types); add single family dwelling, attached (cluster subdivision option) and single family dwelling, detached (cluster subdivision ordinance) as permitted uses in the AR (Agricultural/Residential) District in Article III (District Regulations); and amend the use and design standards for home occupations, type I and type II, and for single family dwelling, attached and detached (cluster subdivision option), and amend the accessory uses for industrial use types in Article IV (Use and Design Standards). The Planning Commission recommended approval of the proposed amendments.

## June 21<sup>st</sup>

The Roanoke County Board of Zoning Appeals held a public hearing on Wednesday, June 21, 2023, in the Board Meeting Room of the Roanoke County Administration Center, 5204 Bernard Drive, Roanoke, VA on the petition for a variance requested by [Brian Pomerville](#) of Section 30-32-3(B) of the Roanoke County Zoning Ordinance to build a primary structure (house) behind the existing accessory structure (barn), located at 7889 Bradshaw Road Salem, VA 24153. The property is zoned AG3 Agricultural/Rural Preserve District and is located in the Catawba Magisterial District.

## June 27<sup>th</sup>

The Board of Supervisors held public hearings on the following:

1. The Board approved the petition of [Larry and Rhonda Conner](#).
2. The Board approved the petition of [Parker Design Group, Inc.](#).
3. The Board approved [proposed amendments](#) to the Roanoke County Zoning Ordinance.

## July 5th

The Planning Commission meeting scheduled for July 5th was cancelled.

## News

### Commonwealth Transportation Board Funding Awards

The Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) met in June and approved the FY 2024-2029 Six Year Improvement Program for VDOT and for the Department of Rail and Public Transportation. Four Roanoke County projects and programs were awarded funding:

- Route 419/Electric Road Safety Improvements from Stoneybrook

Drive to Grandin Road Extension: \$6.6 million for intersection improvements and sidewalks on the west side of Electric Road between Glen Heather Drive and Grandin Road Extension;

- Route 419 Pedestrian Crossing Improvements at Brambleton Avenue and Postal Drive: \$3.9 million for crosswalks and pedestrian signals at both intersections;
- FTA Section 5310 funding for the [CORTTRAN program](#): \$465,091 to operate a curb-to-curb ride share program for County residents who are at least 65 years old or who are disabled; and
- Demonstration Program for [McAfee Knob Trailhead Shuttle](#) Expansion: \$170,709 to expand service in 2024 into the City of Salem, to the Orange Market Park and Ride and possibly to the Dragon's Tooth trailhead.

In total, Roanoke County and the Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization, which submitted the Route 419 applications, were awarded about \$11.1 million in new transportation funding.



## Route 419 Pedestrian Crosswalks & Signals are Complete

VDOT crews and contractors have completed two sets of pedestrian crosswalks and signals on Route 419/Electric Road in the Oak Grove area at Carriage Lane/Grandin Road and at Keagy

Road near Metis Plaza and Keagy Village. The Carriage/ Grandin/ Electric intersection was funded through the Surface Transportation Block Grant program and the Keagy/Electric intersection was funded through the Highway Safety Improvement Program. These projects implement the Oak Grove Center Plan adopted by the Board of Supervisors and Roanoke City Council in 2021. Thank you to VDOT Salem Residency and VDOT Salem District staff for these fantastic new pedestrian accommodations!

Next steps include design and construction of a new SMART SCALE project along Route 419 between Stoneybrook Drive and Grandin Road Extension which will include intersection improvements and sidewalks from Glen Heather Drive to Grandin Road Extension. This new project will connect to and include the crosswalks and pedestrian signals at the Carriage/Grandin/Electric intersection.

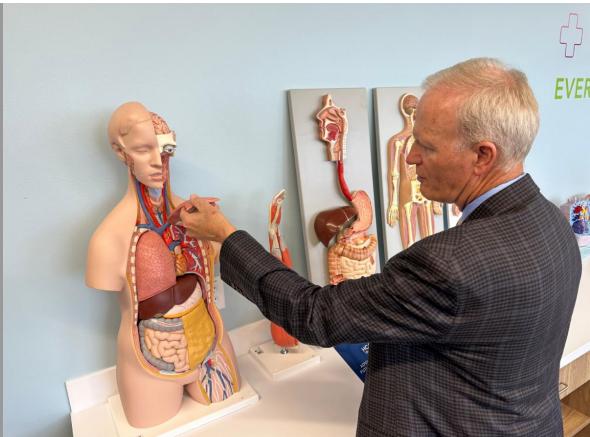


## Galen College of Nursing opens in Oak Grove!

There was a [ribbon-cutting](#) ceremony to recognize the opening of Galen College of Nursing at Metis Plaza in Oak Grove on Tuesday, June 27. Galen's newest campus will help

address the critical nursing shortage and help fill the pipeline of future nurses that will help raise the quality of care in the state. The college will expand access to quality nursing education in the area by offering a two-year Associate Degree in Nursing and for Licensed Practical Nurses wanting to pursue their RN, an LPN to ADN Bridge program.

Learn more about the Oak Grove Center Plan and other recent developments in the area [here](#).



# 419



## Skechers opens in Tanglewood!

SKECHERS is now open at Tanglewood Mall! Learn about the new store [here](#). Learn more about other recent announcements and developments in the 419 Town Center area [here](#).



### Zoning Tip

The Code of Roanoke County states that it is unlawful for weeds to grow more than twelve inches in height.

The Zoning Division of the Planning Department is responsible for responding to citizen concerns and enforcing land use requirements outlined in the Code of Roanoke County. Code Enforcement officers work with citizens and property owners to investigate and resolve violations of the County code and zoning ordinance. These rules and regulations are in effect in Roanoke County to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens and to promote convenient, harmonious, and attractive communities.



## Events & Activities

Are you planning a hike to McAfee Knob this weekend? Reserve your ride on the McAfee Knob Trailhead Shuttle for Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays at: [McAfeeShuttle.com](http://McAfeeShuttle.com).



Roanoke County Parks, Recreation and Tourism is hosting Food Truck Thursdays on the first Thursday of each month through the summer at Green Hill Park!

[Click here for more details.](#)



Summer Reading isn't just for kids! We have programs for teens and adults, too.

To complete the program, just read three books.

[Click here for more details.](#)



The Tavern Stage Summer Music Series will take place the second Friday of each month through September at Explore Park's new Tavern Stage.

[Click here for more details.](#)



## Development News

### Local Students Educate by Stenciling Storm Drains

On May 2, 2023, a group of environmental-minded Ecology students from William Byrd High School participated in a storm drain stenciling project to educate other students and passersby about the importance of protecting area waterways.



Spearheaded by Ecology teacher James "Rusty" Galbreath, the students stenciled a "Dump No Waste, Drains to Creek" message on the High School's storm drainage inlets, which are scattered about the property. Stenciled storm drains help raise citizen awareness and educate the public about stormwater runoff and nonpoint source pollution. Stencils tell people not to dump and why.

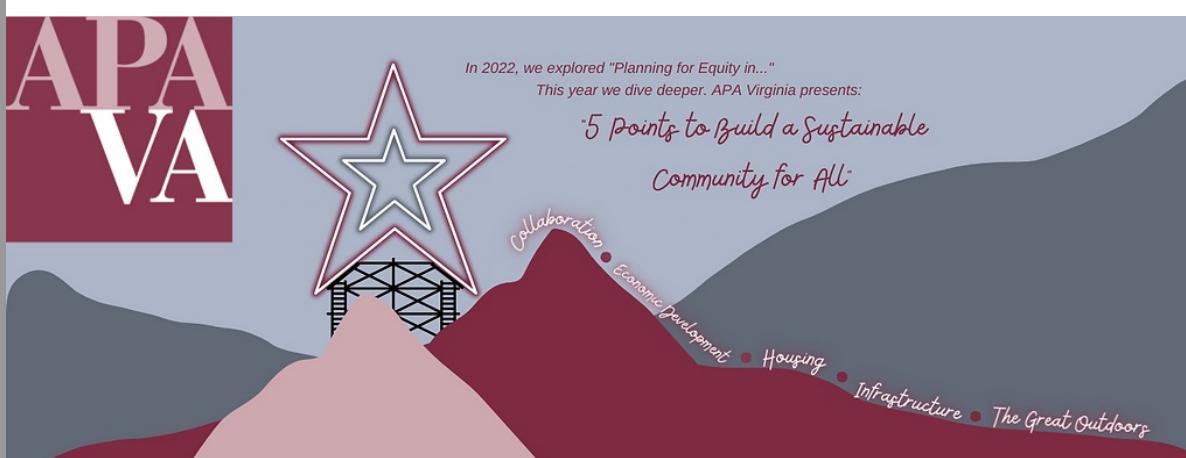
Roanoke County's Department of Development Services initiated the program and provides the necessary supplies. A stencil kit comes complete with a Mylar stencil, non-toxic paint, a whisk broom, work gloves, safety vests, trash bags, and a drainage map on which the stenciled storm drain inlets will be identified. The County collects this data for its Geographic Information System (GIS) and for annual reporting related to compliance under the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit.

The County is actively seeking volunteers to stencil additional area storm drain inlets. To learn more about the program or to sign up your stenciling team, please call the County's Stormwater Program Manager, Cindy Linkenhoker, at 540-772-2036 or send an email to: [clinkenhoker@roanokecountyparks.com](mailto:clinkenhoker@roanokecountyparks.com).

Sincerely,  
Jake Harding,  
Planner II

[Visit our Website](#)

August 2023



Hello!

## APA Virginia Chapter Annual Conference

The American Planning Association (APA) Virginia Chapter Annual Conference



was held at the Hotel Roanoke July 16-19. Assistant Director of Planning Megan Cronise and Principal Planner Alexander Jones served on the Local Conference Committee this year to assist planning the conference. Four Planning staff members attended the conference connecting and collaborating with nearly 400 Virginia planners and planning commissioners from across the Commonwealth. Megan Cronise was awarded the APA-VA President's Award for "Outstanding Support to the Chapter's Annual Conference".

Planning staff hosted three mobile tours for conference participants around Roanoke County:

1. Appalachian Trail Hike to Sawtooth Ridge, including the McAfee Knob Trailhead Shuttle

2. Exploring Roanoke County's Explore Park, including Treetop Quest and T-Rex Trail
3. Transportation Projects in the Roanoke Valley

Planning staff were also selected as conference speakers for the following sessions at The Hotel Roanoke, which highlighted many Roanoke County projects:

1. Route 419 Town Center Plan: Placemaking and the Art of Leveraging, with Roanoke County Economic Development
2. Oak Grove Center Plan Award-Winning Public Schools Engagement
3. Complete Streets - Safety Improvements through Lane Reductions, Signal Removals and Roundabouts with City of Roanoke Transportation
4. From the Mountains to the Sea, a Deep Dive into Conservation in Virginia, with the Coastal Virginia Conservancy, the Land Trust Alliance, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, and the Chesapeake Bay Program

## Public Meetings



### July 5th

The Planning Commission meeting scheduled for July 5th was cancelled.

### August 1st - Planning Commission

The Planning Commission is holding a work session and a public hearing. The public hearing will be on the following:

1. The petition of [LaTinya Lambert](#) to obtain a special use permit to operate a short-term rental on approximately 0.2857 acre of land zoned R-1, Low Density Residential District, located at 5064 Sunnyside Drive, Cave Spring Magisterial District.

## August 14th - National Park Service Virtual Open House Meeting

There will be a virtual public meeting at 6 p.m. to learn about the Draft Visitor Use Management Plan for the Virginia Triple Crown Segment of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. More detailed information about this meeting can be found below in the 'News & Updates' section of this email.

## August 15th - National Park Service In-Person Open House Meeting

There will be an in-person open house public meeting from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Salem Civic Center Community Room to learn about the Draft Visitor Use Management Plan for the Virginia Triple Crown Segment of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. More detailed information about this meeting can be found below in the 'News & Updates' section of this email.

## August 15th - Community Meeting for a new CTE Center

The Roanoke County School Board has filed [a land use application](#) with the County to allow the construction of a new Career Technical Education center at approximately 6251 Peters Creek Road. A Community Meeting on this application will be held on Tuesday, August 15, 2023, at Green Ridge Recreation Center, 7415 Wood Haven Road, Roanoke, VA 24019. The meeting will be an open-house style meeting from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm, you can come and go as you please during this time. This rezoning request is expected to go before the Planning Commission in September.

## August 22nd - Board of Supervisors

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

1. The petition of [LaTinya Lambert](#).

**News & Updates**

# Oak Grove Center Plan



# UPDATES

See how the recent Oak Grove Center Plan is already making an impact on this area of Roanoke County and the City of Roanoke with new pedestrian crosswalks, new park amenities, and new business growth. The Oak Grove Center Plan was adopted by the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors and Roanoke City Council in March 2021.

Learn about the implementation of our Oak Grove Center Plan [here](#).

Read the Oak Grove Center Plan [here](#).





## West Roanoke River Greenway Feasibility Study Community Meetings

38 people attended a West Roanoke River Greenway Feasibility Study community meeting on July 10th at the Western Virginia Water Authority's Spring Hollow Water Treatment Plant. 36 people attended the second meeting on July 13th at Fort Lewis Elementary School. The open house-style meetings included conceptual route alternatives as well as summaries of feedback received from the Fall 2022 community meetings and survey. An informational video highlighting the work that has been completed since the Fall 2022 community meetings was also shown twice at each meeting. A survey on the conceptual route alternatives closed July 31, 2023. For additional information, visit the [project webpage](#) or contact Isaac Henry at (540) 772-2140 or [ihenry@roanokecountyva.gov](mailto:ihenry@roanokecountyva.gov).



Appalachian National Scenic Trail seeks



# public input on Virginia's Triple Crown Visitor Use Management Plan in August 2023

The National Park Service (NPS) and its partners co-managing Appalachian National Scenic Trail's Virginia's Triple Crown segment near Roanoke, Va., encourage members of the public to comment on a draft Visitor Use Management Plan for Virginia's Triple Crown segment of the trail. Comments will be gathered August 1 - 31, 2023.

The Triple Crown includes three iconic areas along the Appalachian National Scenic Trail: Dragon's Tooth, McAfee Knob and Tinker Cliffs. Because of increased visitor use, this trail segment has seen increasing wear and damage to natural areas. It raises facility and safety concerns as well. The draft of the Visitor Use Management Plan proposes ways to reduce impacts to the trail and its users, protect cultural and natural resources, address facility and safety concerns and improve opportunities for visitors to use, experience and enjoy the trail in safety. This planning effort began in 2021, with the first public input taking place in March 2022.

“This proposed visitor use management plan is the product of a true partnership of many who care about Virginia’s Triple Crown,” said Acting Supt. John Cannella. “Passionate outdoor recreation, environmental stewards, and others in the community are already part of this planning effort, but now it’s your turn. We want to hear from everyone who has something to say.”

**Join the NPS and its partners at one of two public meetings to learn more about the plan:**

## Virtual Public Meeting

Monday, August 14, 2023, 6:00 p.m. EST

Teams Meeting Link: <https://bit.ly/3NHtdgI>

Meeting ID: 282018103550327, Passcode: BjgSji

Call In: 1-202-640-1187, Passcode: 741 430 500#

Closed captioning will be available; the virtual meeting will be recorded.

## In-Person Open House Meeting

Tuesday, August 15, 2023

Join anytime between 5:00 and 8:00 p.m. EST.

**Location:** Salem Civic Center Community Room

1001 Roanoke Blvd Salem, VA 24153

To request accessibility accommodations for either meeting, please contact Sarah Bodo at [sarah\\_bodo@nps.gov](mailto:sarah_bodo@nps.gov) or call 541-797-8760 by August 7.

Learn more about the study [here](#).

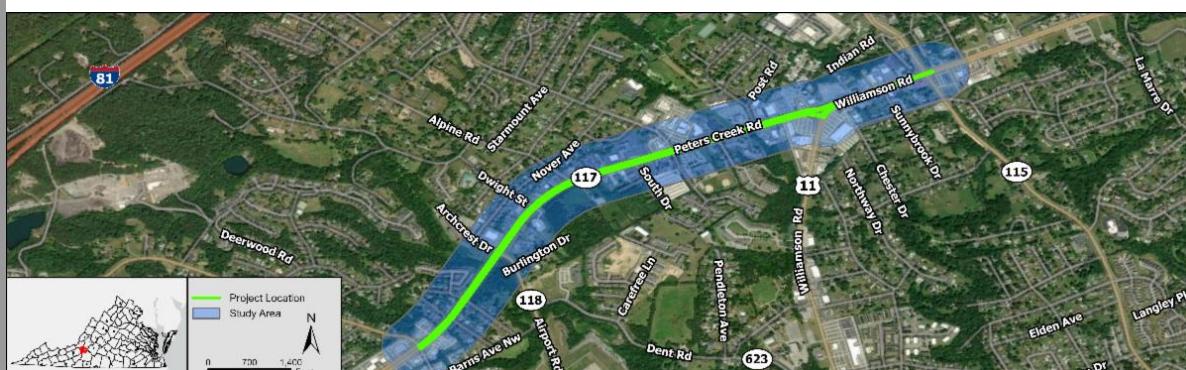
The 31-day comment period will extend from August 1 to August 31, 2023.



## Provide Feedback on a Peters Creek Road & Williamson Road Study

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is seeking feedback on a transportation study assessing potential roadway safety, reliability, and multi-modal improvements along Peters Creek Road (Route 117) and along Williamson Road (Route 11) between Wood Haven Road (Route 628) and Plantation Road (Route 115) in Roanoke County.

The study will evaluate traffic operations and safety conditions and consider a range of improvements that may be developed into applications for transportation funding.



VDOT invites residents and travelers to learn more and take an online survey through August 15. Community input received through this survey will help the study team identify existing issues along the study corridor and develop recommendations for potential improvements that will be evaluated and presented during the next phase of the

study, which will include another opportunity for public comment.

The survey, which has a translation tool for other languages, is available [here](#). Comments can also be sent to [Carol.Moneymaker@VDOT.Virginia.gov](mailto:Carol.Moneymaker@VDOT.Virginia.gov) or to Carol Moneymaker, Virginia Department of Transportation, 731 Harrison Avenue, Salem, VA 24153.

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## Popeyes is Now Open!

Popeyes is now open in the Tanglewood Shopping Center. This is the first Popeyes location in Roanoke County, and we're excited to add their business to the 419 Town Center area.

Click [here](#) to view the 419 Town Center webpage for more about that area.



## Bent Mountain Library - Ribbon Cutting July 2023

Last winter a pipe burst at Bent Mountain Library causing damage and leading to a six-month closure of the facility for repairs. This week Roanoke County unveiled new renovations to the space including an updated children's area, furnishings, carpeting and space optimization.



# Ribbon Cutting

BENT MOUNTAIN LIBRARY

JULY 10, 2023

12:45pm



## Zoning Tip

The Code of Roanoke County states that it is unlawful for weeds to grow more than twelve inches in height.

The Zoning Division of the Planning Department is responsible for responding to citizen concerns and enforcing land use requirements outlined in the Code of Roanoke County. Code Enforcement officers work with citizens and property owners to investigate and resolve violations of the County code and zoning ordinance. These rules and regulations are in effect in Roanoke County to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens and to promote convenient, harmonious, and attractive communities.



## Events & Activities

Are you planning a hike to McAfee Knob this weekend? Reserve your ride on the McAfee Knob Trailhead Shuttle for Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays at: [McAfeeShuttle.com](http://McAfeeShuttle.com).



Roanoke County Parks, Recreation and Tourism is hosting Food Truck Thursdays on the first Thursday of each month through the summer at Green Hill Park!

[Click here for more details.](#)



The Tavern Stage Summer Music Series will take place the second Friday of each month through September at Explore Park's new Tavern Stage.

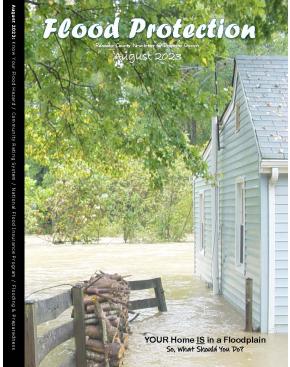
[Click here for more details.](#)



## Development News

### Flood Protection Newsletter

The annual Flood Protection Newsletter was just sent to residents who own or lease structures that are in or near areas subject to flooding. To view the newsletter online, click [here](#).



Sincerely,  
Jake Harding,  
Planner II

[Visit our Website](#)

September  
2023



The McAfee Knob Trailhead Shuttle will run every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday through November 26 beginning at 7:00 a.m.

Reserve your ride online!

**Take the Shuttle!**

**MCAFEE KNOB**  
ROANOKE COUNTY  
**TRAILHEAD**  
**SHUTTLE**  
POWERED BY  
RIDE SOURCE

[www.McAfeeShuttle.com](http://www.McAfeeShuttle.com)

The shuttle runs between the I-81 Exit 140 Park & Ride and the McAfee Knob Trailhead parking lot on Route 311 departing every 30 minutes. Final evening pickup times can be found online.

Hello!

Come check out the McAfee Knob Trailhead Shuttle and a CORTRAN van at the annual Touch-A-Truck event at Green Hill Park on September 23, 2023. The event will be held from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Green Hill Park at 2501 Green Hill Park Road, Salem, Virginia.

CORTRAN has been assisting individuals in Roanoke County since 1985 with their transportation needs. Eligibility for the program is to be a Roanoke County resident, age 65 or better and or have a disability. More information and an application for the program can be found [here](#).

The McAfee Knob Trailhead Shuttle is in the second year of service and is available to take you to the McAfee Knob Trailhead parking lot from the Exit 140 Park and Ride in Salem to start your hike to McAfee Knob. The shuttle is available until November 26, 2023 this year on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Book your shuttle reservation today

[here.](#)



# Touch-A-Truck

## September 23<sup>rd</sup>

10am to 3pm

Green Hill Park

FREE EVENT

An Event Of



Emergency Vehicles  
Dump Trucks  
Bucket Trucks  
Tractors  
Fireman's Foam  
Food Trucks  
& More!

[RoanokeCountyParks.com](http://RoanokeCountyParks.com) | 540-387-6078 ext. 0

## Public Meetings



### August 1st - Planning Commission

The Planning Commission held a work session and a public hearing. The public hearing was on the following:

1. The petition of [LaTinya Lambert](#) to obtain a special use permit to operate a short-term rental on approximately 0.2857 acre of land zoned R-1, Low Density Residential District, located at 5064 Sunnyside Drive, Cave Spring Magisterial District. The Planning Commission recommended approval of this application.

### August 22nd - Board of Supervisors

The Board of Supervisors postponed hearing the petition of [LaTinya Lambert](#) to September.

### September 5th - Planning Commission

The Planning Commission will hold a work session and a public hearing. The public hearing will be on the following:

1. The petition of [Roanoke County Public Schools](#) to rezone approximately 12.013 acres from R-3, Medium Density Multi-Family Residential District, to C-1, Low Intensity Commercial District, and to remove the proffered condition on approximately 5.0 acres of land zoned C-1C, Low Intensity Commercial District with conditions, located at the end of Burlington Drive, 6305 Peters Creek Road, and 1120 East Drive, Hollins Magisterial District.

## September 19th - I-81 Widening Public Hearing

VDOT is holding a public hearing at Lord Botetourt High School for a project under development to provide additional capacity and improve safety by widening seven miles of I-81 from two lanes to three lanes in both directions between Exit 143 in Roanoke County and Exit 150 in Botetourt County. More details about this meeting are provided below.

## September 26th - Board of Supervisors

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

1. The petition of [LaTinya Lambert](#).
2. The petition of [Roanoke County Public Schools](#).

## News & Updates

### Public Hearing on I-81 Widening between Exit 143 and Exit 150



The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is holding a Design Public Hearing on a project under development to provide additional capacity and improve safety by widening seven miles of Interstate 81 from two lanes to three lanes in both directions between Exit 143 in Roanoke County and Exit 150 in Botetourt County. The meeting will take place on **Tuesday, September 19, 2023, between 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.** at Lord Botetourt High School, 1435 Roanoke Road, Daleville, VA 24083. The hearing will be held in an open house format and VDOT representatives will be present to answer questions. Additional information can be found on the [project webpage](#).



## New Businesses Open in the 419 Town Center Area!

OTH Chophouse & Oyster Bar and Carilion Clinic Family and Community Medicine are both now open in the Tanglewood area at 4167 Electric Road and 4035 Electric Road. Learn about other recent announcements and developments in the 419 Town Center area [here](#).



## New Pickleball Courts at Walrond Park!

Six pickleball courts were recently constructed at Walrond Park. The park also includes accommodations for players such as a picnic shelter,



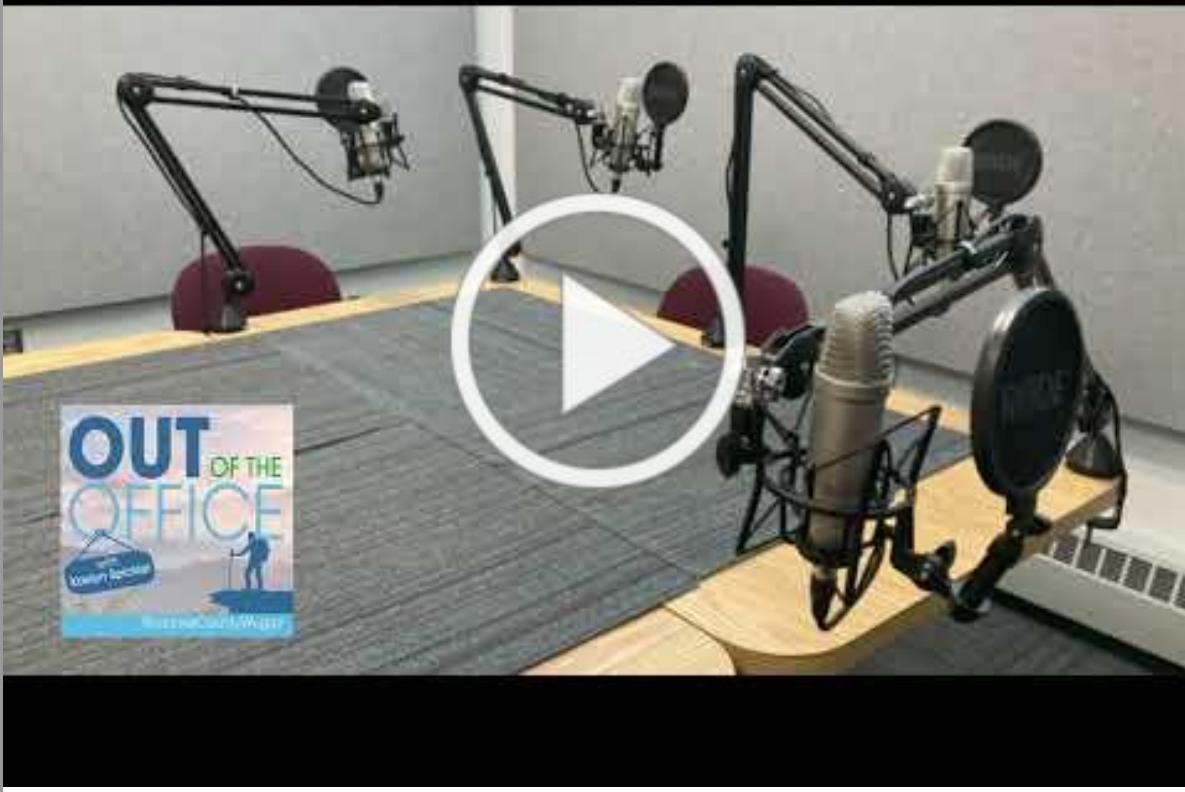
a walking trail, and restrooms. Roanoke County now has 15 total pickleball courts at Garst Mill Park, Oak Grove Park, Stonebridge Park and Walrond Park, with indoor options at Green Ridge Recreation Center!

Learn about other recent announcements and developments in the Hollins Center planning area [here](#).



## Listen to the Latest Episode of the Out of the Office Podcast

Even with school back in session, there are plenty of opportunities for fun in the Region including the Beaver Dam Sunflower Festival and Vendor Show and the Regional Center for Animal Care and Protection's Adventure Dog Program. Listen to the episode [here](#).



## Zoning Tip

The Code of Roanoke County states that it is unlawful for weeds to grow more than twelve inches in height.

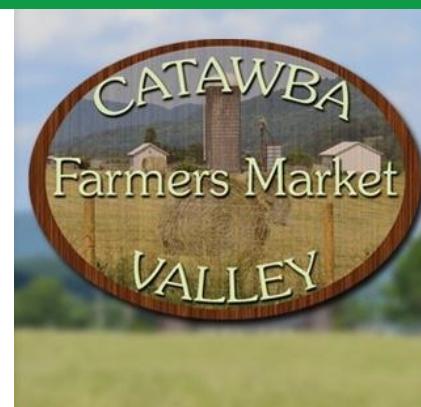
The Zoning Division of the Planning Department is responsible for responding to citizen concerns and enforcing land use requirements outlined in the Code of Roanoke County. Code Enforcement officers work with citizens and property owners to investigate and resolve violations of the County code and zoning ordinance. These rules and regulations are in effect in Roanoke County to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens and to promote convenient, harmonious, and attractive communities.



## Events & Activities

Support local, shop small, and check out the Catawba Valley Farmers Market every Thursday afternoon!

Explore the Catawba Valley Farmers Market on the latest Roam RoCo [here](#).



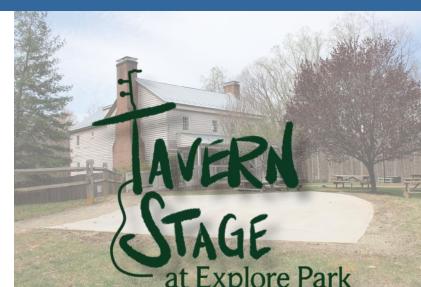
After a successful Food Truck Thursday series in Summer 2023 at Green Hill Park, we've added additional dates for Fall 2023! Roanoke County Parks, Recreation and Tourism is hosting Food Truck Thursdays on the first Thursday of each month in September and October at Walrond Park!

[Click here for more details.](#)



The Tavern Stage Summer Music Series will take place the second Friday of each month through September at Explore Park's new Tavern Stage.

[Click here for more details.](#)



[www.RoanokeCountyParks.com/TavernStage](#)

## Development News

### FREE Septic Pump-Out Program

Roanoke County has partnered with the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission to provide a no-cost septic tank pump-out

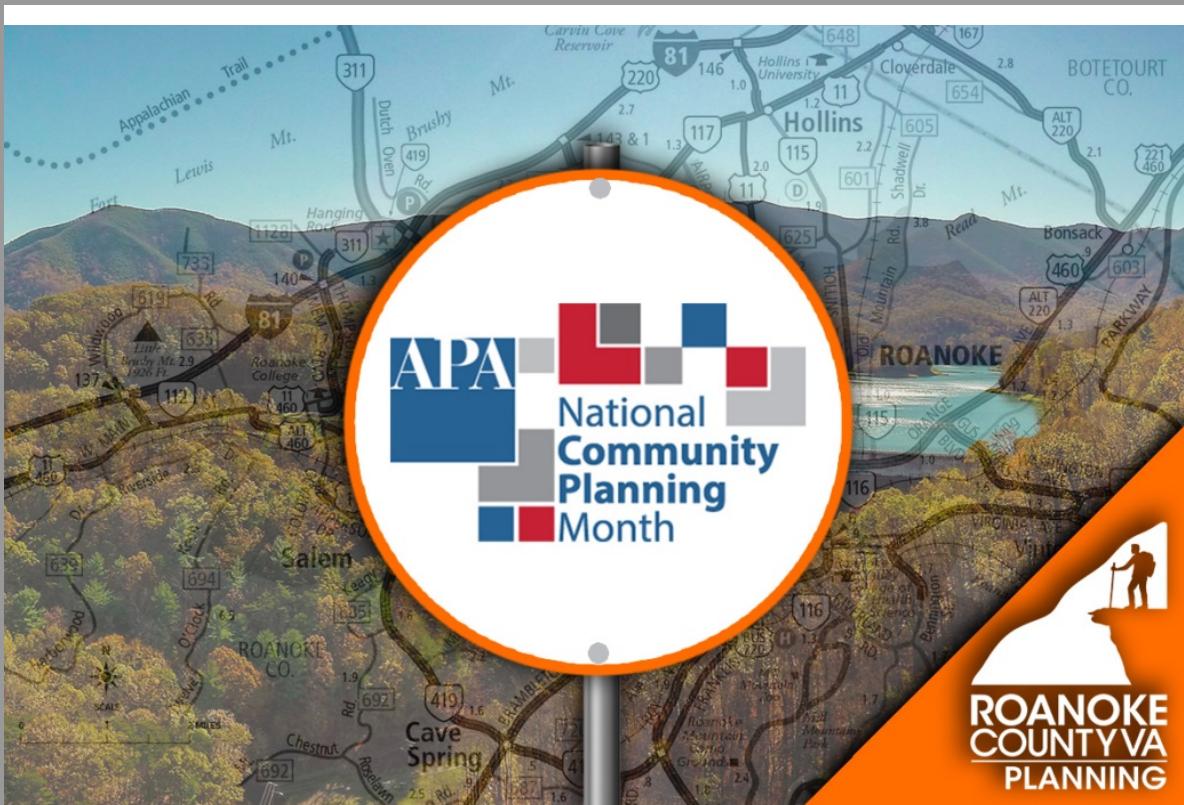
program for Roanoke County residents. To learn more and apply,  
[click here.](#)



Sincerely,  
Jake Harding,  
Planner II

[Visit our Website](#)

October 2023



Hello!

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

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

- Engaging with citizens about land use and planning initiatives
- Administering the Zoning Ordinance and land use codes
- Preparing planning studies for neighborhoods, community planning areas, transportation corridors, and other special study

areas

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

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

## Public Meetings



### September 5th - Planning Commission

The Planning Commission held a work session and a public hearing. The public hearing was on the following:

1. The petition of [Roanoke County Public Schools](#) to rezone approximately 12.013 acres from R-3, Medium Density Multi-Family Residential District, to C-1, Low Intensity Commercial District, and to remove the proffered condition on approximately 5.0 acres of land zoned C-1C, Low Intensity Commercial District with conditions, located at the end of Burlington Drive, 6305 Peters Creek Road, and 1120 East Drive, Hollins Magisterial District. The Planning Commission recommended the approved this petition.

### September 26th - Board of Supervisors

The Board of Supervisors held public hearings on the following:

1. The petition of [LaTinya Lambert](#). The Board approved this petition.
2. The petition of [Roanoke County Public Schools](#). The Board approved this petition.

### October 3rd - Planning Commission

The Planning Commission held a work session and a public hearing. The public hearing was on the following:

1. The petition of [Glenmary Drive Roanoke LLC](#) to amend a

portion, approximately 19.06 acres, of the master plan for the Center for Research and Technology to allow warehousing and distribution as a permitted use zoned PTD, Planned Technology District. The Planning Commission recommended the approved this petition.

2. The petition of [Terry W. Dooley Jr.](#) to obtain a special use permit to operate a short-term rental on approximately 0.2363 acre of land zoned R-1, Low Density Residential District. The Planning Commission recommended the approved this petition with several conditions.

## October 17th - Planning Commission

The Planning Commission will hold a work session on the Draft 200 Plan.

## October 19th - Starkey Road & Ogden Road Community Meeting

Roanoke County is hosting a community meeting to hear what kinds of transportation and streetscape improvements should be considered for Starkey Road between Route 419 and Ogden Road, and for Ogden Road from the railroad bridge to Route 419. More details about this meeting are provided below.

## October 24th - Board of Supervisors

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

1. The petition of [Glenmary Drive Roanoke LLC.](#)
2. The petition of [Terry W. Dooley Jr.](#)

## News & Updates



### Community Meeting for Starkey Road & Ogden Road Streetscape Improvements

Roanoke County is hosting a community meeting to hear what kinds of transportation and streetscape improvements should be considered for Starkey Road between Route 419 and Ogden Road, and for Ogden Road from the railroad bridge to Route 419:

**Date:** October 19, 2023

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

**Location:** Roanoke County Administration Center, Third Floor Training

Complete our [survey](#) by November 3rd about what kinds of transportation and streetscape improvements you would like to see along Starkey Road and Ogden Road. Paper copies will also be available at the meeting.

Meeting materials will also include updates on:

- 1) Implementation of the [419 Town Center Plan](#) and the [419 Town Center Design Guidelines](#); and
- 2) Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) projects funded for Route 419.

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

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## Take a moment to complete the Virginia Statewide Trails Plan Survey

The Virginia State Trails Office invites you to participate in the Statewide Trails Planning Process. Your feedback will help lay the groundwork and help guide the State Trails Office in planning for a network of multi-use trails in the Commonwealth. Please take 5 - 10 minutes to take the survey below and help the State Trails Office spread the word! The survey will run until October 20th. Take the survey [here](#).

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## Join YOVASO on the Road to Safe Teen Driving this Fall

Registration for the free 2023 Drive for Change: Buckle Up and Slow Down Campaign is now open! Any student, school (middle or high), club, class or youth group can get involved to help promote safety this fall. This initiative is sponsored by Youth of Virginia Speak Out About Traffic Safety (YOVASO) in partnership with Virginia State Police, Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, and State Farm. The campaign is happening now through November 30 and encourages teens to take the lead in promoting safe driving and passenger safety at the school and community level. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three participating middle and high school

groups. Any student, school (club or class), or youth group, can participate. The campaign, all materials, and incentive items are free. Visit the YOVASO website [here](#) or contact Casey Taylor at [casey.taylor@vsp.virginia.gov](mailto:casey.taylor@vsp.virginia.gov) or 540-739-4392 for more information or to register.

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## McAfee Shuttle - Peak Leaf Season Countdown

The countdown is on to peak leaf season in the Roanoke Valley. What better way to check out the green leaves turning to yellow, orange, and red than to hop on the McAfee Knob trailhead shuttle for a day hike on the Appalachian Trail.

Starting in October the seasonal shuttle service will operate on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 7:00 AM to 6:30 PM due to the availability of daylight hours.

Visitors this Fall will notice newly added No Parking signs on Old Catawba Road. The addition of these signs will provide guidance as to where to park safely and legally. It is crucial that emergency vehicles be able to access this road for potential emergencies to the citizens that live in the area. Don't want to worry about the hassle? Take the shuttle! Reserve your seat on the shuttle at [www.McAfeeShuttle.com](http://www.McAfeeShuttle.com) today!

On the trail or around Roanoke County, snap a picture and share at #FallinRoanokeCounty.



## Banner's Hallmark is Now Open!

Congratulations to Banner's Hallmark on the opening of their Brambleton Avenue location! The Roanoke region is thrilled to have you and thanks you for your investment in the community. Stop by to welcome the Hallmark team, find unique gifts for ANY occasion and get a jump on your keepsake ornament shopping!



## Vistar Eye Center Ribbon Cutting

Vistar Eye Center opened a new 26,000 square foot facility in Roanoke County, including state-of-the-art retinal research facilities located at 6125 Airport Rd, Roanoke, VA 24019. Take a look inside and find out why this regional health care leader chose to expand in our area. Learn about other recent announcements and developments in the Hollins Center planning area [here](#).



## Greater Williamson Road Area Business Association Presentation

On September 19, Phil North, Roanoke County Board of Supervisor - Hollins District, Megan Baker, Roanoke

County Director of Economic Development, and Megan Cronise, Roanoke County Assistant Director of Planning, presented at the Greater Williamson Road Area Business Association (GWRABA) monthly luncheon. The presentation highlighted implementation of our [Hollins Center Plan](#), including economic development and transportation project updates. GWRABA's basic purpose and role - as set forth 40+ years ago - is to represent the interests of local businesses, attract new businesses, and collaborate with both the City of Roanoke, Virginia and Roanoke County, Virginia to help those businesses grow, with a unified voice. GWRABA focuses on business support, community engagement, and area improvements.

Learn more about GWRABA [here](#).

Learn more about the Hollins Center Plan [here](#).

The Greater Williamson Road Area Business Association is also excited to announce the First Annual International Wine and Food Festival on October 21st-- a celebration of wine, food, music and fun that you don't want to miss!

Find out more information [here](#).



## Events & Activities

Support local, shop small, and check out the Catawba Valley Farmers Market every Thursday afternoon!

Explore the Catawba Valley Farmers Market on the latest Roam RoCo [here](#).



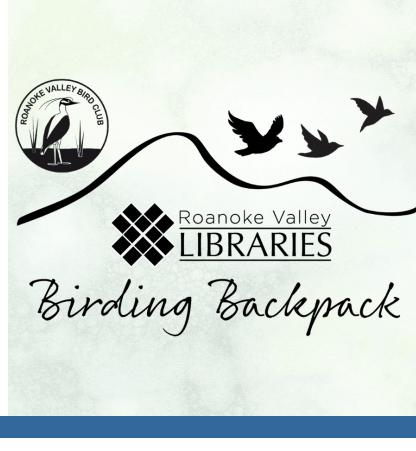
Food, Fun and Friends! Come for a fun night of crafts, play, and even a pizza party! Register in advance to hold your spot. Pizza party dinner is included in fee. Program is available only for grades Kindergarten through 5th grade.

[Click here for more details.](#)



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

[Click here for more details.](#)



## Development News

### Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Annual Report

The County's Department of Development Services completed and submitted the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Annual Report to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) on October 1, 2023. This report covers the fifth year of the permit term (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023) and summarizes the various activities that were conducted by the County across various departments throughout the year to meet the requirements of the MS4 Permit VAR040022, as issued by DEQ. The report is on the County's Stormwater web-page and may be accessed [here](#).

Sincerely,  
Jake Harding,  
Planner II

[Visit our Website](#)

November 2023



The McAfee Knob Trailhead Shuttle will run every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday through November 26 beginning at 7:00 a.m. Final pickup times and more information can be found online!



Take the Shuttle!  
MCAFEE KNOB  
ROANOKE COUNTY  
TRAILHEAD SHUTTLE  
POWERED BY  
RIDE SOURCE  
[www.McAfeeShuttle.com](http://www.McAfeeShuttle.com)



Reserve your ride online!  
The shuttle runs between the I-81 Exit 140 Park & Ride and the trailhead parking lot on Route 311.



Hello!

Last call for 2023! Take the McAfee Knob Trailhead Shuttle this month!

Peak autumn leaf season is here and the McAfee Knob Trailhead Shuttle is wrapping up its second year of service! The seasonal shuttle is available until Sunday, November 26, 2023 running from 7AM to 5PM. Learn more and reserve your ride [online](#) today.

The McAfee Knob Trailhead Shuttle will return for its third season in March 2024.



## Public Meetings



### October 24th - Board of Supervisors

The Board of Supervisors held public hearings on the following:

1. The petition of [Glenmary Drive Roanoke LLC](#). The Board voted (5-0) to approve the amendment to the CRT Master Plan.
2. The petition of [Terry W. Dooley Jr.](#) The Board voted (5-0) to deny the SUP request for a short-term rental.

### November 1st - Planning Commission

Due to having no Land Use Applications, there will be no Public Hearing in November. Instead, The [Planning Commission](#) will hold a work session on the Draft [200 Plan](#).

## November 14th - Planning Commission

The [Planning Commission](#) will hold a work session on the Draft [200 Plan](#).

## News & Updates



### Carilion Clinic Tanglewood Center Expansion

Carilion Clinic celebrated the opening of a new Mental Health Clinic inside Tanglewood Mall. Take a look inside the brand new facility and find out how it will make an impact in our region. [Learn More](#).

### Tanglewood Kroger Re-Grand Opening

The Roanoke Regional Chamber was thrilled to announce the grand-reopening of Kroger at Tanglewood after an incredible \$1.9 million investment! [Learn More](#).

Learn about recent announcements and developments in the 419 Town Center area. [Learn More](#).



### Wells Fargo to Invest \$87 Million to Expand Customer Support Center in Roanoke County

Wells Fargo & Company will invest \$87 million to invest, modernize, and expand its customer support center in Roanoke County. The investment will allow room for the creation of approximately 1,100 new jobs and enhance the working experience for more than 1,650 current employees. This project will represent both the largest commercial office investment and single project employment announcement in Roanoke County's history, and Wells Fargo will become the largest employer in Roanoke County with this expansion.

### Starbucks is Coming Soon!

A new Starbucks is under construction at 7517 Friendship Lane in the Hollins Center.

Learn about recent announcements and developments in the Hollins Center area [here](#).



## Community Meeting for Carson Road Safety Improvements

Roanoke County is hosting a community meeting to hear what kinds of improvements should be considered for Carson Road between Route 460/Challenger Avenue and the City of Roanoke boundary where the roadway changes to Belle Avenue:

Date: November 9, 2023

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

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

Complete our survey on the project [webpage](#) by December 1st about what kinds of improvements you would like to see along Carson Road. Paper copies will also be available at the meeting.

Meeting materials will also include updates on Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) projects funded and in design for Route 460/Challenger Avenue.

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

**419**TOWN  
CENTER

## Starkey Road & Ogden Road Streetscape Improvements



## COMMUNITY MEETING RECAP

On Thursday, October 19th, Roanoke County hosted a community meeting to gather input from citizens on their desired streetscape improvements for Starkey Road (between Electric Road and Ogden Road) and Ogden Road (between Electric Road and the Norfolk Southern railroad bridge). The meeting was held at the Roanoke County Administration Center and was attended by 12 people.

The exhibits displayed at the community meeting are now available on the [study webpage](#). If you were not able to attend the community meeting and would like to provide feedback, please complete a [survey](#) by Friday, November 3rd.

County staff and consultants will review feedback from the community meeting and survey, and develop recommendations for streetscape improvements. These recommendations will be presented to the public at a second community meeting in Spring 2024.

If you have any questions, please contact [Megan Cronise](#), Assistant Director of Planning at (540) 772-2106.

[Take the Survey](#)



## Ivy Ridge Road Paving Complete

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) dedicates a small amount of funding annually through the Secondary Six-Year Plan (SSYP) to pave VDOT-maintained gravel roads in Roanoke County. Ivy Ridge Road on Bent Mountain was added to the SSYP in 2017 with funding dedicated across five fiscal years. The VDOT Salem Residency completed work this summer to surface treat almost one mile of Ivy Ridge Road, which has upgraded the roadway surface for 9 homes and will significantly reduce future maintenance needs. Thank you to the VDOT Salem Residency for continuing to improve Roanoke County roadways!

## Events & Activities

Get a jump start on your holiday shopping! Join Roanoke County Parks, Recreation & Tourism at their 30th Annual Craft Show held on Saturday, November 4 at the Brambleton Center. They will have lots of Crafts, goodies and gifts. Be sure to come out and support your local artists! Learn more [here](#).

30th Annual *Brambleton Center*  
**Annual Craft Show**  
Saturday, November 4, 2023  
8:00 AM - 2:00 PM


3738 Brambleton Ave. SW  
Roanoke, VA 24018



Brighten your nights and explore your holiday spirit through a dazzling world of over 650,000 lights at Illuminights Winter Walk of Lights. Travel down our half-mile wooded path while taking in the sights and sounds of the

season. Visitors will experience 50,000 new lights, new displays, trail enhancements and family activities. Learn more and purchase tickets [here](#).



Join our friends at the South County Library on November 21st to watch the 1987 Thanksgiving classic, "Planes, Trains, and Automobiles".

This never fails to make us thankful for our Transportation Planners.

[Click here for more details.](#)



## Development News

### How to Properly Manage Your Leaf Litter

Fall is a beautiful time of year in the Roanoke Valley! Bright colors, glorious views, crisp mountain air. But, once the annual leaf drop begins, the number of drainage and flooding complaints made to the County dramatically increases. WHY? Because folks often mismanage the leaves that end up on their property by improperly raking them or blowing them into the street, drainage swales, drainage ditches, curb and gutter systems, or nearby creeks. THE RESULT: clogged drainage structures and drainage-ways, and increased street flooding. To learn more about how to properly manage your leaf litter, please click [here](#).

Sincerely,  
Cecelia Thomas,

Planning Administrative Assistant

[Visit our Website](#)

December 2023

# Happy Holidays!



419 Town Center  
Appalachian Trail  
Bent Mountain  
Blue Ridge Parkway  
Bonsack  
Bradshaw  
Brambleton Avenue  
Camp Roanoke  
Carvins Cove  
Catawba

Cave Spring  
Clearbrook  
Downtown Vinton  
Explore Park  
Glenvar  
Green Ridge  
Hanging Rock  
Hidden Valley  
Hollins Center  
McAfee Knob

Mount Pleasant  
Northside  
Oak Grove Center  
Poages Mill  
Poor Mountain  
Read Mountain  
Roanoke River  
Starkey  
William Byrd  
Williamson Road

Hello!

## Happy Holidays!

Our Roanoke County Planning team wishes you peace, joy, and prosperity throughout the holiday season. It has been an exciting year for our department and we're looking forward to a productive New Year!

Please note that Roanoke County will be closed in observance of the holidays on December 22nd, December 25th, and January 1st.

## Public Meetings



## December 4th- Planning Commission

Due to having no Land Use Applications, there will be no Public Hearing in December. Instead, The [Planning Commission](#) will hold a work session on the Draft [200 Plan](#) and discuss possible zoning ordinance amendments.

## December 12th - Board of Supervisors

1. Pursuant to §33.2-909 Code of Virginia, the Roanoke County [Board of Supervisors](#) will hold a public hearing to consider abandonment of approximately 0.17 acre at the end of Route 1901, Robertson Lane, on December 12, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. at the Roanoke County Administration Center in the First Floor Board Meeting Room, located at 5204 Bernard Drive, Roanoke, VA 24018. The roadway proposed for abandonment is located 0.09 mile from Plantation Road, extends a distance of 0.03 mile or 136.63 feet, to the center of the cul-de-sac at 0.12 mile. This matter is being considered by the Board of Supervisors at the request of JSBONE, LLC, and RYT, LLC, to facilitate redevelopment of four parcels located at and near the intersection of Williamson Road (Route 11) and Plantation Road (Route 115). Contact Megan Cronise, Assistant Director of Planning, to obtain materials related to the proposed abandonment by phone at (540) 772-2106, by email at MCronise@RoanokeCountyVA.gov or by mail at 5204 Bernard Drive, P.O. Box 29800, Roanoke, Virginia 24018.

## December 13th - Board of Zoning Appeals

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

1. The petition for a variance requested by [James and Angela Wooten](#) of Section 30-41-3(B) of the Roanoke County Zoning Ordinance to install an accessory structure in front of the front building line of the principal structure, located at 1248 Terrace Drive, Salem, VA 24153. The property is zoned R-1 Low Density Residential District and is located in the Catawba Magisterial District. **(WITHDRAWN BY APPLICANT)**
2. The petition for a variance requested by [James and Patricia Sheppard](#) of Section 30-41-3(B) of the Roanoke County Zoning Ordinance to modify rear yard setback from 25 feet to 14 feet and 6 inches to construct an attached addition. The property is located at 1314 Aarons Run Circle, Salem, VA 24153. The property is zoned R-1C, Low Density Residential District with conditions, and is located in the Catawba Magisterial District.

# News & Updates



## McAfee Knob Trailhead Shuttle

The [McAfee Knob Trailhead Shuttle](#) wrapped up another successful shuttle season on November 26, 2023, with 1,533 reservations. The shuttle season saw visitors from Delaware, California, and Florida. Next year, expanded service will be provided during construction on Fridays through Sundays, along with holidays that fall on a Monday. The shuttle service returns March 1, 2024. Stay tuned for more information about the 2024 shuttle season in the coming months.



## CORTAN Free Rides for the Holidays

CORTAN riders will receive a special THANK YOU this holiday season by receiving two free rides courtesy of Via. Starting November 27, 2023

through February 27, 2024, eligible and enrolled CORTAN riders can book their trips using a special promo code. Trip bookings can be scheduled via phone, the CORTAN APP or the web portal. Click [here](#) to find out information about the CORTAN program.



# Carson Road Safety Improvements



## COMMUNITY MEETING RECAP

On Thursday, November 9th, Roanoke County hosted a community meeting to gather input from citizens on their desired streetscape improvements for Carson Road between Challenger Avenue and the City of Roanoke. The meeting was held at the Bonsack Elementary School and was attended by 37 people. The exhibits displayed at the community meeting are now available on the [study webpage](#).

County staff and consultants will review existing conditions, feedback from the community meeting and survey results to develop proposed safety improvement concepts. These concepts will be presented to the public for review and comment at a second community meeting to be held in early 2024.

If you have any questions, please contact Megan Cronise, Assistant Director of Planning at (540) 772-2106 or by [email](#).



### West Roanoke River Greenway, Phase 1

*Construction to begin in Mid-November*

*Anticipated completion date: March 2025*

In mid-November 2023, tree clearing will begin for Phase 1 of the West Roanoke River Greenway project. Construction is anticipated to be

completed in March 2025. This project will construct a 0.6-mile segment of the Roanoke River Greenway on the north side of West Riverside Drive between Kingsmill Drive in the City of Salem and Riverside Nursery in Roanoke County.

For more information, please visit the Roanoke County project webpage linked below, or contact Lindsay Webb, Parks Planning and Development Manager, at (540) 777-6328 or [lwebb@roanokecountyva.gov](mailto:lwebb@roanokecountyva.gov).

**Visit Roanoke County Project  
Webpage**



## Appalachian National Scenic Trail Pedestrian Bridge over Route 311

McAfee Knob Trailhead parking lot to  
close on November 30th

Anticipated completion date:  
Late 2024

The McAfee Knob Trailhead parking lot will close to facilitate construction of a new pedestrian bridge to carry the Appalachian National Scenic Trail (AT) over Route 311 (Catawba Valley Drive). To ensure a safe work zone, the parking lot will close on November 30th and will remain closed for the duration of construction, which is anticipated to conclude in late 2024. No parking will be allowed at the McAfee Knob trailhead, but hikers will still have access to the AT at this location as long as they stay in designated areas outside the active construction area. Parking will be available at the [Catawba Sustainability Center](#) and along some shoulders on Old Catawba Road, but drivers should pay close attention to signage, as parking is prohibited in many locations and towing is enforced.

On March 1, 2024, the expanded McAfee Knob Trailhead Shuttle will resume service. Reservations are encouraged but walk-up service is also available. To check the shuttle schedule or make reservations, visit [www.McAfeeShuttle.com](http://www.McAfeeShuttle.com).

For more information, please visit the VDOT project webpage linked below.

**Visit VDOT Project  
Webpage**

## Groundbreaking

Roanoke County Fire & Rescue Department celebrated the groundbreaking of a new fire and rescue station in the Bonsack area. The new facility is set to open in early 2025, and its location within the limits of the City of Roanoke is a shining example of regional cooperation.



## #ShopLocal and #ShopSmall this Holiday Season

Roanoke County Public Information and Roanoke County Economic Development have been featuring holiday gift ideas from local businesses. Watch a compiled version of all of the videos.



## Meet our New Planners

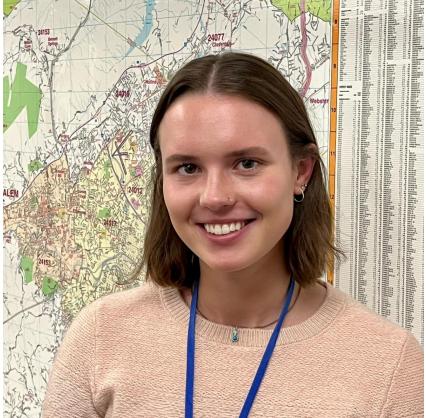


### Nathan Grim

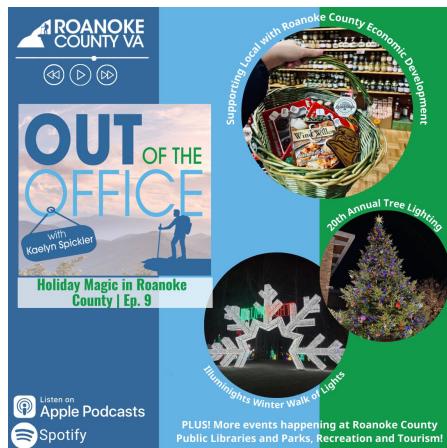
Nathan joined the Planning Department in August as a Transportation Planner, continuing his career in local government after holding a variety of positions with Roanoke County and the City of Portsmouth. After living in Hampton Roads for college and his early professional career, he is happy to be back in his hometown, where he enjoys living close to the County Administration Center so that he can commute to work by bike. Nathan lives with his wife Kari and 7-year-old daughter Charlotte.

### Skylar Camerlinck

Skylar is excited to be joining the



Planning Department as a Planner I (Code Enforcement). She has a degree in Environmental Policy and Planning from Virginia Tech. She is from Northern Virginia. Outside of work, Skylar enjoys hiking and listening to true crime podcasts. She is looking forward to getting to know Roanoke County and its citizens.



## Out of the Office Podcast

Episode 9 of Out of the Office is now available! This month we are getting excited for the holidays thanks to Roanoke County Economic Development's discussion on supporting local, and Roanoke County Public Library and Roanoke County Parks, Recreation

and Tourism providing details on this year's Tree Lighting Event. We also hear about other upcoming events including New York Times Bestselling Author Martin Clark coming to the Library and Explore Park's Illuminights Winter Walk of Lights season 2023 beginning. Listen now on Spotify and Apple Podcast!

## Events & Activities

### 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Tree Lighting at South County Library!

The 20th Annual Roanoke County Christmas Tree Lighting will take place at South County Library on Monday, December 4th from 6:30-8:30pm! Come and see Santa, enjoy refreshments, children's crafts, and more.



## Illumnights Winter Walk of Lights at Explore Park!

Illumnights tickets are on sale now! Brighten your nights and explore your holiday spirit through a dazzling world of over 650,000 lights at Illumnights Winter Walk of Lights! Roanoke County and Center in the Square are hosting the signature event over the span of 33 nights now through December 30 at Explore Park! Learn more and purchase tickets [here](#).



## Roanoke County's Gingerbread Cottage!

If you are looking for something festive to do this holiday season, come to the South County Library to have your photo taken in our Gingerbread Cottage as part of the Salem-Roanoke County Chamber of Commerce's Gingerbread Trail! Come and take your photos and tag us on socials! Find out more about the Gingerbread Trail on the Chamber's [website](#).



Sincerely,  
Cecelia Thomas,  
Planning Administrative Assistant

[Visit our Website](#)