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River Park Properties envisions development of McGimsey property in Vinton



Drone photographs of the McGimsey property adjacent to River Park Shopping Center in Vinton

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SETH WILKINSON

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

Behind River Park Shopping Center in Vinton lies the largest piece of undeveloped land in the town, the McGimsey property— approximately 10.6 acres of heavily wooded area with a stream that flows toward downtown. At the Vinton Town Council meeting on June 16, Mayor Brad Grose, Vice Mayor Laurie Mullins, and Council members Sabrina McCarty, Keith Liles, and Mike Stovall adopted a resolution to accept a proposal from River Park Properties, LLC, for the McGimsey Property development project and authorized town staff to proceed with due diligence activities and public design charettes (think community meeting) to plan the residential community, and to draft any necessary agreements for Council’s future consideration. The town entered into an Option to Purchase Agreement with McGimsey Family Properties, LLC, in August 2025 to facilitate a multi-family housing development on the three parcels at 905 and 0 Washington Avenue.

The agreement allowed for the town to complete due diligence activities to assess the feasibility of the property for up to three years. The three-year agreement included a Right of First Refusal to purchase the property and assign the agreement to a developer and protect the town’s investment in the engineering analysis on the property. Seven reports have been completed to date, including a Phase I and II Environmental Assessment, a cultural resource and threatened and endangered species review, a wetlands/stream evaluation and delineation, and a geophysical evaluation and boundary survey, with the goal of redeveloping the property into a high-density or mixed-density residential housing development. In March 2026, a Request for Proposals was issued to solicit proposals from developers for a multi-family housing project on the property. Staff received one response— from River Park Properties, LLC. That proposal includes the creation of a high-density residential development with a mix of housing alternatives including cottages, attached and detached single-family structures, and multi-family housing developed to serve a broad

cross section of people with varying price points. After a presentation from Seth Wilkinson on behalf of River Park Properties, the town’s RFP Review Subcommittee recommended acceptance of the proposal, which was then approved by Town Council on June 16. Special Project Assistant to the Town Manager Jill Loope made the presentation to Town Council from River Park Properties, and principal owners Dale Wilkinson and David Spigle. They have decades of experience in developing successful commercial and residential projects across the Roanoke Valley and have found success in creating useful commercial spaces for local small businesses while attracting national anchor tenants. River Park Properties owns the River Park Shopping Center adjacent to the McGimsey property. They also recently acquired the adjacent Hargis parcel at 0 East Cleveland Avenue. The development team has experience specifically in Vinton with the adaptive reuse of Roland E. Cook

See **River Park**, page 7



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Roanoke County Schools Superintendent Dr. Ken Nicely with former Superintendents Deanna Gordon (left) and Dr. Lorraine Lange

Vinton celebrates Dr. Ken Nicely’s distinguished career upon his retirement

Family, friends, staff, and associates of Roanoke County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Ken Nicely (two of them former superintendents) gathered in Vinton on June 22 to help him celebrate his retirement at the end of the month. He won’t actually be retiring; he is just moving to neighboring Botetourt County as their Human Resources Director— and it is fortunate to have him. Nicely has served as superintendent of RCPS for nine years, for 35 years as an educator— 33 of those were in Roanoke County. “I am grateful for the opportunities I have had with Roanoke County Public Schools and could not be prouder of the incredible team we have developed,” said Dr. Nicely in announcing his retirement last fall. “Together we have accomplished much, but it is the joy of working with students and seeing the difference our staff makes for children every day that I treasure most.” Nicely first joined Roanoke County Public Schools in 1993 as a Spanish teacher at Cave Spring High School and earned the 2001 Virginia Foreign Language Excellence in Teaching Award. In 2002, he was named an assistant principal at Hidden Valley Middle School and then became principal at HVMS in 2006, leading

the school to become the first Virginia middle school west of Richmond to be recognized by the national Schools to Watch program. Prior to returning to the Roanoke Valley in 1993, Nicely and his wife, Teresa, lived and worked in Central America in Managua, Nicaragua, serving as the founding teachers and director of an international school that still thrives today. He was promoted to district leadership in 2012 as the Director of Secondary Instruction & Technology. He became the Director of Administration in 2016 and then Assistant Superintendent of Administration. In early August 2018, the Roanoke County School Board named Nicely as the 16th superintendent for Roanoke County Public Schools dating back to 1870. Beginning with his time as the Director of Secondary Instruction, he led the development of the C-Change Framework which now serves as the comprehensive vision for Roanoke County Public Schools. At the heart of the C-Change Framework is “deeper learning,” simply defined as learning that is engaging and purposeful, and articulates the division’s commitment to

See **Nicely**, page 4

Town of Vinton invites community to annual Fourth of July Celebration

The Town of Vinton invites residents and visitors to celebrate Independence Day at its annual Fourth of July Celebration on Saturday, July 4, at the Vinton War Memorial grounds. This year’s event is especially meaningful as communities across the nation commemorate the 250th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. As part of this historic milestone, the Town of Vinton extends its appreciation to Roanoke County for its support of this special event through the Virginia 250 initiative. The contribution helps enhance this year’s Independence Day festivities as communities across the nation celebrate America’s 250th birthday. While the Vinton War Memorial is currently undergoing renovation, the annual Fourth of July Celebration will continue as planned on the War Memorial grounds. The town is proud



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF TOWN OF VINTON

to carry on this cherished community tradition while investing in the future of one of Vinton’s most treasured gathering spaces. This free, family-friendly event will feature live entertainment, delicious food, children’s activities, and a spectacular fireworks display. Festivities begin at 6 p.m., followed by a patriotic program at 6:30 p.m. Music throughout the evening will be provided by DJ FLEX, with fireworks lighting up the sky beginning at 9:30 p.m. Returning this year is the crowd-favorite foam pit, providing summertime fun for children and families. Attendees can also enjoy a variety of local food vendors, including:

- Copper Dog
- Deb’s Lemonade
- Get Glazed
- La Shunca
- Munsey’s Smoke Shack
- The Local Lemon
- The Tot Box
- Tinker Mountain Kettle

See **Fourth**, page 3

Second Mingle at the Market concert coming up June 27

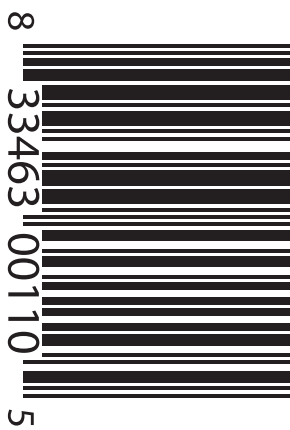
The Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce is hoping to top the attendance at the first Mingle at the Market on June 13, which by all estimates, was the biggest crowd ever. This week’s Mingle will showcase the southern country rock Eric Wayne Band with opener and local artist Annalyse Marie, a familiar face and voice in Vinton, especially at Pollard 107 South and Pok-e-Joe’s. The music begins at 7 p.m. Food trucks will include Hot Bunz Hot Dogs, Get Glazed Donuts, and the Local Lemon. Admission is \$7; children under 12 are admitted free. The Mingle concert series is sponsored by the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce and many area businesses, with concerts twice each month, June through September. Chamber CEO/President Angie Chewning says the total number of Mingle concerts has now reached 121. The Mingles are held at the Vinton Farmers’ Market

See **Mingle**, page 3



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF VACC

Mingle at the Market returns to the Vinton Farmers Market this week featuring the Eric Wayne Band and opening act Annalyse Marie. The Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce hopes to build on the record-setting turnout from the season’s first Mingle event on June 13 as the popular summer concert series continues in downtown Vinton.



Mount Pleasant Lions have chock-full meeting

The June meeting of the Mount Pleasant Lions Club was crowded with several important agenda items. After the meeting was called to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by new member Richard Darr, the remnants of the Mount Pleasant Lions String and Wind Ensemble, while not having a request, decided to play anyway. The selection was the Lions of Virginia unofficial anthem, “Just A Bowl of Butterbeans.” Four verses were performed by Lion Pat Musselwhite on guitar, Lion Warren Burger, playing the hammered dulcimer, and Lion Mike Ferguson, leading the vocalization. The invocation was heard and the tasty meal, including a butterbean salad, was consumed.

Then the key matters began. Lions Zone Chairman Joel Lytton, a member of the Vinton Breakfast Lions Club, inducted two new members, Skip Bennington and Kathy Bennington. Skip is from the historic family that gave the name to the road that parallels the Roanoke River from the water treatment plant to the traffic circle at Route 116, and it turns out that Kathy was a student of George Solonovich, the famous Russian immigré artist who settled in Roanoke and who painted a Lion in Repose. Prints of that painting were sold back in the ’70s to help pay for the Lions’ building at Elm and 5th Streets in Roanoke, which houses the Lions of Virginia state headquarters and the Eyeglass Recycling Center. With these two new members, the club has added

five Lions to its roll since January.

A less than positive note was the resignation of respected, long-time member and tail twister Kenny Price, due to health issues. Before transferring to Mount Pleasant, Kenny had been the mainstay of the Stewartsville-Chamblissburg Lions Club. He will be missed.

Zone Chair Lytton then moved on to the next agenda item, the installation of the slate of officers for the upcoming year which runs from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027. The new leaders for the Mount Pleasant Club for next year are: Steve Pasternak, President; Lynn Cochran, Vice President; Janet West, Secretary; Pat Musselwhite, Treasurer; Lea Whitbeck, Corresponding Secretary.; and Brenda Musselwhite, Lion Tamer. Current President Anne Ferguson then presented the incoming president with the club’s gavel and placed the Lion insignia around his neck.

President Ferguson then thanked the club for its support throughout her term, which she noted had been six years. She said the occasion was bittersweet, but she was more than ready to lay her burden down, knowing that enthusiastic, capable people were stepping up. Lion Pasternak then presented Anne with a beautifully decorated carrot cake that read, “Thank You Anne.”

The meeting ended with a note of the July meeting and a planned National



Anne Ferguson hands the gavel to Steve Pasternak as Lion Joel Lytton installs the new slate of officers.



Lion Joel Lytton (left) completes Mount Pleasant Lions Club installation of officers.

Night Out in August, and a standing ovation for the outgoing president. The Lions went off into the night happy, well-fed and ready to perform the Lions’ motto “We Serve.”

- Submitted by Lion Mike Ferguson



By Vinton Public Library Assistant Molly Meador

It’s hot out there! Cool off at the Vinton Library as our Summer Reading Program continues through the end of July. Don’t forget to sign up and log your reading to claim a completion prize and get entries to win our awesome branch prizes as well. As always, we’ve got tons of great summer programming going on all month long.

For adults, you can learn a lot about people and cultures throughout history by the kinds of tools they use. Our “Stone Tools of Southwest Virginia” program on Monday, July 13 from 6-7 p.m. will teach you more about southwest Virginia history through an examination of the stone tools found by archaeologists in the area.

We’ve all had our phases of interest—or dare I say... obsession—with Ancient Egypt. Now’s your time to learn more from a professional. Explore Giza with Roanoke College Professor Leslie Warden and learn about “Digging Up the Ancient Egyptian Pyramid Builders” on Saturday, July 25 from 3-4 p.m. Discuss what archaeologists have found at the site and reconstruct the life and times of the great pharaohs of the Old Kingdom.

On Monday, July 27 from 1-3 p.m., swing by for more dino-themed movie fun with the 2009 survivalist comedy film “Land of the Lost.”

Be sure to celebrate the end of our Summer Reading Program with a free sweet treat on Tuesday, July 28 from 2-4 p.m. with our annual visit from Kona Ice (available while supplies last).

Join us for an educational presentation featuring three real, live “Wildlife Ambassadors” from the Southwest Virginia Wildlife Center of Roanoke on Thursday, July 30 from 2-3 p.m. Learn about wildlife rehabilitation, discover native species found in our region, and hear the inspiring stories behind animals who now serve as ambassadors for conservation.

The All Abilities Club* will meet on Friday, July 10 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. This month we’ll be watching “Walking with Dinosaurs!” Alternate activities are also provided based on needs. (For group registrations of three or more, call 540-857-5043.)

Our next “Creations and Temptations” is on Saturday, July 18 from 3-4 p.m. This month let your imagination run free; we’ll supply a variety of craft supplies for you to create whatever your heart desires.

This month the Vinton Book Club* will have a fun “Read and Recommend” discussion on Thursday, July 2 from 3-4 p.m. The As the Page Turns Book Club* will discuss “The Secret of Secrets” by Dan Brown on Wednesday, July 8 from 2-3 p.m.

Be sure to check out our ongoing adult programs:

- Open Bridge meets every Tuesday from 1-4 p.m.
- DMV Connect will be here Wednesday, July 8 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (closed from 12:30-1:30 p.m. for lunch)
- The Roanoke Valley Dulcimers meet Saturday, July 18 from 10:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- The Vinton Writers Group* meets on Thursday, July 23 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Join us for Ceramic Painting for Teens* on Monday, July 20 from 5-7 p.m. to paint your own bisque plate and learn all about “bisque” pottery, what glazes are made of, and the chemistry involved during the firing process. Pottery and glazes are provided and will be fired by Glazed Bisque-It. You will be notified when your art is ready to pick up.

Think like a paleontologist at our

See Books, page 4

VINTON HISTORY: IJA Futoeki



The IJA Futoeki gas mask lens cleaner from World War II is on display at the Vinton History Museum

After the Second World War, American soldiers brought back many different artifacts from their time overseas. One such object is on display at the Vinton History Museum— this small capsule, which actually contains a chemical solution for cleaning the lenses of gas masks. At 4.5 inches long and 1.2 inches wide, it was carried in the gas mask bag, often with the type 95 and 99 gas masks. These were produced in 1936 and 1939, respectively, and the type 99 was introduced later to accommodate stronger structural integrity, as well as ease of production.

Called the IJA Futoeki (Latinized), it originally debuted in Manchuria, where its anti-freeze capabilities were highly necessary in the frigid conditions of Northern China. This was not only essential for visibility, but prevented exhaust valves from locking up, saving the lives of Japanese soldiers and probably ending others. It is made of a very early plastic called Bakelite, and the chemical solution used within was made either from Glycerin/ Ethylene Glycol (to

lower the freezing point of moisture) or soap-like surfactants (to break down the surface tension of the water, preventing the moisture from pooling into lens fog).

While it was heavily used in China, it was actually a common find for GLs, as the frantic Japanese logistics network rushed any and all available equipment to the front towards the end of the war. It can be found alongside the Type 99 Arisaka Rifle at the Vinton Museum, 210 East Jackson Avenue.

- Museum Volunteer Levi Whitcomb

SENIOR SCENE

July will be busy with the sparkle and pop of ongoing senior classes and activities at the Charles Hill Community/ Senior Center.

Music Jam meets from 2-5:30 p.m. every Monday. If you play an instrument or want to sing along or just like to listen to live music, this informal get-together is just what you are looking for.

Defensive Cane and Tai Chi meets from 5:30-6:30 p.m. every Monday from spring through the fall. Steve Garay is presently teaching the 24 Tai Chi Form, one of the most popular forms in the world. He also reviews all previously taught forms including Cane Defense principles and routine.

The Senior Center has Line Dancing Classes on Tuesdays for Beginners from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; Advanced Beginners Class, 10 a.m.-11a.m.; and Advanced Line Dancing, 5:30-7 p.m.

Hand and Foot Canasta meets on Tuesdays, 1-5 p.m., and Thursdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Senior Tai Chi meets every Thursday from 9-9:45 a.m. In this ongoing class you will learn the gentlest form of Tai Chi that is structured for improving balance and appropriate for arthritis. For those who have difficulty standing, we offer a seated version of the routine.

The next meeting of the Downsizers Club is Wednesday, July 1, from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. This is a helpful meeting designed to help you gently and confidently declutter your home, one step at a time.

The next Happy Hearts Dance is Saturday, July 11, 7-10 p.m. Ronnie Roberts will be playing and concessions are available. Admission is \$10 per person at the door.

All Vinton senior programs mentioned take place at the Charles R. Hill Community Center Senior Center at 820 E. Washington Avenue and are at no charge unless a fee is stated in the description.

If you have questions regarding senior programs, contact Amanda through e-mail at apayne@vintonva.gov or call 540-983-0645; or follow the Vinton Charles R. Hill Community Center on Facebook for the most updated news on new programs, program cancelations, and special events.

- Submitted by Judy Gruber



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF TOWN OF VINTON



BUCHANAN COMMUNITY CARNIVAL

June 25th - July 4th • 6:00pm-10:30pm
Closed Sunday - June 28th

Rides provided by Cole Amusements
Day of Event Sales and Wristbands:
June 25th - 27th: \$30 per person
June 29th - 30th: \$20 per person
July 1st - 4th: \$30 per person
On site sales will end one hour before the session concludes

FOOD & GAMES
Enjoy Petros, Carnival Burgers, Hot Dogs & Our World Famous Fries

ENTERTAINMENT
Thurs., June 25 - Thunder Ridge
Fri., June 26 - Blue Connection
Sat., June 27 - Wild Honey
Mon., June 29 - Fab Four

Tues., June 30 - Midnite Blue
Wed., July 1 - American Honey
Thurs., July 2 - The Frequency
Fri. & Sat., July 3&4 - Cimmaron

Information at www.townofbuchanan.com or Town of Buchanan Facebook Page



Friday, July 3rd & Saturday, July 4th
Fireworks 10pm



Remembering Vinton

Fifty Years Ago in 1976 –
Another construction boom

with the Vinton Historical Societv

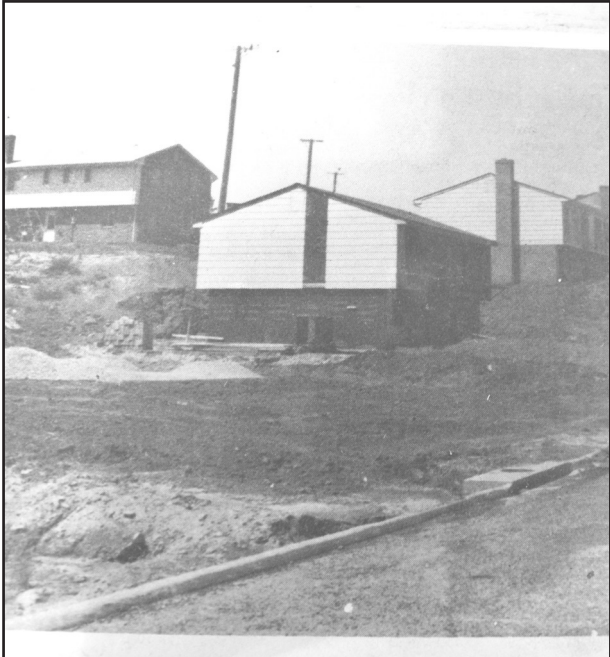


New Vinton Fire Station under construction in 1976

The number of construction/economic development projects underway in the Town of Vinton is the talk of the town. Fifty years ago, 1976, was another boom year for expansion in the town.

According to an article in The Vinton Messenger that year, while construction was lagging in other parts of the valley and even the nation, it was “moving apace” in the greater Vinton area.

Work was progressing on the new Vinton Fire House



Montgomery Village subdivision under construction

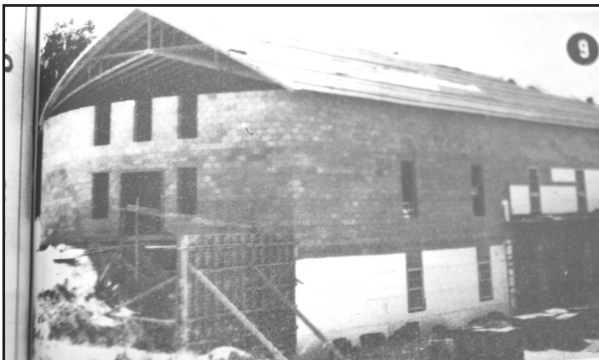
on Walnut Avenue behind the Municipal Building– a cooperative project involving the Town of Vinton and Roanoke County.

A big bowling alley was being built behind Lake Drive Plaza shopping center with a price tag of \$1 million. Clearview Drive was being widened to accommodate the facility.

Another huge project behind Lake Drive was the nursing home complex with construction slated to



A photo of a grading site in 1976 for construction of Berkshire Nursing Home



Lake Drive Church of Christ (on what is now Dogwood Blvd.) was built in 1976.

begin in late 1976. Members of the Marine Corps Reserves removed topsoil from the nursing home site for use at the Guy H. Gearhart Memorial Park location.

New residential construction was underway in Montgomery Village, just down Hardy Road. And construction was proceeding on the large Lake Drive Church of Christ located on the Route 24 Bypass (now Dogwood Blvd.).

–Vinton Messenger staff report

Mingle

from page 1

in downtown Vinton. In addition to great music and food, there is a Kids Zone powered by Dave’s Moonwalk and sponsored by the Vinton Moose, and beverages by Blue Ridge Beverage.

The Chamber thanks the William Byrd football team for volunteering to set up the venue and take it back down after the concert ends. Volunteers from Defy Gravity work the gate and do drink ticket

sales. Any individuals or organizations interested in volunteering at the Mingle events may contact the Chamber office at 540-343-1364 or email info@vintonchamber.com. Sponsorship opportunities are still available.

Sponsors for the first Mingle included Stage Sponsors HomeTrust Bank and Pok-e-Joe’s, the Shepherd Realty Group, Blue Ridge Beverage, PFG, the

Salem RidgeYaks, Rosie’s Gaming Emporium, McDonald’s, Davis H. Elliottt, Oakey’s, Pollard 107 South, Crooked Shoreline, Upward Financial Planning, the Vinton Moose Lodge #1121, ServPro, the Virginia Credit Union, the Town of Vinton, Roanoke County, Star Valley Container, LLC, McCarthy Tire Service, Renewal by Andersen, LAMAR, Dirk Padgett

Law, PLLC, Coastal Insurance Planning, the Ashley Wickstrom Lending Team, Lee Enterprises, Roanoke County Schools, Sun Solutions, EEC, MOI, My Mechanic, Vinton Roofing, One Stop Auto, and The Vinton Messenger.

Great local bands

continue throughout the 2026 season with The Kings, Gasoline Alley, Five Dollar Shake, Supafly Five, Big Daddy Raye, and Solacoustix. Openers include Chris Keaton and the Millennials, Abbey & Andy NeiKirk, and Justin and Lindsey Prillaman.

Parking is abundant downtown at the Walnut Avenue lot, at Vinton Baptist, on downtown streets, and in the Municipal Building lot. Patrons enter the venue on Walnut Avenue.

–Vinton Messenger staff report

Fourth

from page 1

Corn

- Tinker Mountain Shaved Ice

Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets for seating on the War Memorial lawn. For the safety and enjoyment of all attendees, leave pets, alcohol, fireworks, firecrackers, and similar items at home.

Several roads throughout the town will be closed at various times on July 4 to accommodate both the Boys & Girls Club of Southwest Virginia’s Four on the 4th

Run (early morning) and the Fourth of July Celebration. Motorists should plan for additional travel time when traveling through Vinton. For the safety of event attendees and to support event operations, Vinton War Memorial Park will close at 6 p.m. on July 4 and reopen at 7 a.m. on July 5.

For event details and a complete list of road closures, visit www.vintonva.gov/july4th.



SALEM RIDGEYAKS VS MYRTLE BEACH PELICANS

JUNE 25th 6:35 PM
Bark in the Park

JUNE 26th 6:35 PM
Hellbenders Night:
Celebrating Southwest Virginia Wildlife

JUNE 27th 6:35 PM
ZOOperstars!

JUNE 28th 4:05 PM

BAPTIST (SOUTHERN)
MINERAL SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH & CHRISTIAN SCHOOL - 1030 Bible Lane, Vinton, Va. 24179. Church Phone 890-4465. Rev. Jason Gault. Sunday Services: Traditional Service, 8:45 AM, Sunday School, 10:00 AM, Contemporary Service, 11:00 AM, Evening Worship 6:00 PM, Wednesday Services: AWANA 6:30 PM, Bible Study 7:00 PM

ECKANKAR
Eckankar, The Path of Spiritual Freedom, is a simple teaching that focuses on the Light and Sound of God to help people find more love in their life. We offer a Spiritual Event on the 2nd. Sunday of each month. The program may be a Light and Sound Service, a Spiritual video and discussion, or other topics and techniques to help Raise Your Spiritual IQ. The Roanoke ECK Center is located at 1420 3rd. St. SW, Roanoke, VA 24016. For more information visit www.eck-va.org or call 540- 353-5365. People of all faiths are welcome.

FOURSQUARE
EVANGEL CHURCH - 2360 Hardy Road, Vinton (corner of Hardy Road and Feather Road), 540-982-3694, www.evangel4sq.com, Pastor Tim Wright. Contemporary Worship Service Sunday, 10AM. Bible Study Wednesday 11AM-12PM. “Building People to Change Our World”

NAZARENE
FIRST CHURCH OF NAZARENE, 728 Highland Ave., SE, Roanoke, Virginia. 342-4003. Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m., Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Wednesday Night Bible Study 7 p.m.

PRESBYTERIAN
CAMPBELL MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 1130 Hardy Rd, Vinton, VA, 540-343-1842; cmpe2verizon.net Sunday school 9:45am, Worship 11:00am; Communion 1st Su.ndays; 2nd Sunday Session; Monday Noon Bible Study; Tuesdays & Thursdays Stretch Class 9:00am; 1st Tuesdays Deacons; Wednesday Choir 7:00pm; Monday Girl Scouts 7:00pm; 3rd Saturday Men’s Breakfast 8:00am. Rev. Jonathan Moelker, pastor

UNITED METHODIST
THREE OAKS FELLOWSHIP UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - 1026 Gravel Hill Road, Vinton, Va. 540-512-8070. Pastor: Rev. Dr. Rob Colwell. Sunday School - 9:45 a.m., Worship 11 a.m.

VINTON

WORSHIP DIRECTORY

Avoid the Mistakes

Read Judges 7:1 through 8:35

Does the following scenario point to any common details in people’s lives?

Do people often pray hard and study Scripture in order to seek God’s provision when struggling financially? Do these same people attend church weekly and ask other believers to pray for their needs. As their accounts increase to a comfortable amount, do they begin getting an early start on their workdays to put in more hours at the office. Do they cut back on prayer and Bible study.

Gideon made the gold into an ephod, which he placed in Ophrah, his town. All Israel prostituted themselves by worshipping it there, and it became a snare to Gideon and his family (Judges 8:27).

Gideon, as a young and inexperienced warrior, was called by God to engage a vast invading army. Gideon’s life had been tough, and his circumstances forced him to draw close to God. But, with the enemy’s defeat and the rich spoils of the battle, Gideon misused his blessing.

Prayer Suggestion: When you enjoy a season of success, pray even harder that God will keep you in a deep relationship with himself.

Quicklook: Judges 8:22–27

If you would like to see your church services listed here in the Vinton Messenger contact Tucker Frye at

Cell: (540) 389-9355

tfrye@ourvalley.org

Books

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“Virginia Museum of Natural History Dino Dig”* (ages 3-7) on Thursday, July 23 from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Kids will enjoy a mock dig for “dinosaur bones,” touch fossils from different geological periods and learn how fossils are formed.

We'll also have STEM-related activities presented by local children's museum Kid's Square* (ages 2-6) on Friday, July 24 with sessions from 10:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:30-2:30 p.m. Please only register for one time slot.

Bring your kids to “Learn About Beekeeping” with Heritage Apiary*

(ages 6-11) on Monday, July 6 from 3-4 p.m. Vasilia McCrady will be here with her observation hive, which allows you to explore how bees work, socialize, eat together, and more.

Join us for an “Intro to Archaeology”* (ages 6-11) on Thursday, July 9 from 4-5 p.m. to learn the basics of archaeology, excavate your own artifacts, and document your findings like a true anthropologist!

Our summer story time session continues through Wednesday, July 22. Bring your little ones to Toddler

Storytime* (ages 18-36 months) either on Tuesdays from 11:30 a.m.-12 p.m. or on Wednesdays from 10:30-11 a.m. or come to Preschool Storytime* (ages 3-5) on Wednesdays from 11:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

Don't forget about our ongoing and recurring youth programs:

- Teen Volunteer Group will be on Thursday, July 2 from 3-4 p.m. and Tuesday, July 21 from 5- 6 p.m.
- Teen Writers Group* meets Tuesday, July 7 from 5:30-6:30 p.m.
- Caturday* is on Saturday, July

11 with 15-minute slots from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

The library will close at 5 p.m. on Thursday, July 2 and be closed Friday, July 3 and Saturday, July 4 in observation of Independence Day.

As always, be sure to register for and check out all the programs RCPL has to offer across the county online at www.rocolibrary.org.

*All programs denoted with an asterisk require prior registration to reserve a spot. Call or visit the library or check out the events on the website to register.

Nicely

from page 1

developing the knowledge and transfer skills students need for success.

This resulted in the two key cornerstones of the Opportunity Ready Graduate program: student-led

conferences and senior portfolio defenses. In 2025, more than 300 Roanoke County seniors earned the first-ever Opportunity Ready Graduate diploma seal and honor cord, and all elementary and middle school students participated in student-led conferences, showcasing their learning and skills.

During Dr. Nicely's tenure as superintendent, Roanoke County Public Schools has kept the safety and well being of students as a top priority. Licensed mental health LIFE counselors were added to the five high schools, and a program to set and teach common expectations for student behavior and respect was implemented.

A new alternative education program for middle and high school students (A-STEP) has provided students with a pathway to stay in school and earn a diploma.

School nurses were restored to full-time status, and school resource officers were added to every school, through a supportive partnership with both the police and sheriff's office.

Dr. Nicely has championed the teachers and staff of Roanoke County, acknowledging that they are key to the success of the school division. Competitive salaries and benefits have been a priority.

Among the most visible hallmarks of Dr. Nicely's superintendency has been a long list of capital projects to modernize school facilities, including the complete renovation of Cave Spring High School and William Byrd High School. His leadership of a comprehensive study of Roanoke County facilities laid the groundwork for the largest capital project in Roanoke County history, with the construction of a new state-of-the-art CTE school and the complete renovations of W.E. Cundiff and Glen Cove Elementary Schools.

In 2025, Dr. Nicely was named the Virginia Region VI Superintendent of the Year.

‘We can't begin to express our thanks and appreciation to Dr. Nicely for all his work and numerous accomplishments,’ said Shelley Clemons, chair of the

Roanoke County School Board. “Roanoke County Public Schools is among the top school divisions in the state and the nation. Much of that success is directly due to Dr. Nicely's vision and his leadership. He led the school division through some challenging times, especially during the pandemic, and through his



PHOTO BY CHUCK LIONBERGER

Family, friends, and colleagues celebrate with Dr. Ken Nicely (center, front) at Pok-E-Joe's in Vinton.

leadership, Roanoke County students continue to excel.”

As Human Resources Director for Botetourt County Schools, Nicely will oversee recruitment, hiring, employee support, licensure, and personnel services. His leadership will help ensure the division continues to attract, develop, and retain outstanding staff in support of student success.

Nicely grew up in Botetourt County where he graduated from Lord Botetourt High School in 1985.

Nicely is a familiar face in the Vinton area. He and his family live in Bonsack. His wife just retired from teaching at Bonsack Elementary. His three children are graduates of William Byrd High School. His sons, Samual and Benjamin, live in Roanoke. His daughter, Emily, graduated from UVA nursing school; she and her husband live in Durham, N.C., where she works at Duke Hospital. The Nicelys have one grandchild.

He is also an active member of Vinton Baptist Church, teaches an adult Sunday School class, and occasionally sings solos for services.

“I am retiring from RCPS but am not planning to retire outright,” Nicely says. “I will be looking for the next opportunity where I can put my experience to work to hopefully continue to make a difference. I am so very proud of our schools and staff and the positive culture we have built together for students.”

Dr. Jamie Soltis has been named as the next RCPS superintendent of schools. He began his teaching career in 1999 as a science teacher at William Byrd High School. He will be introduced to the Vinton community at a meeting at WBHS on July 27.

- RCPS and Vinton Messenger staff report

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10			
11					12					13	14	15	
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53			54					55					
56			57					58			59		
60						61	62				63		
				64							65		

CLUES ACROSS

1. Nocturnal S. American rodent

5. Requesting

11. Give temporarily

12. Excitedness

16. Armed Forces branch

17. Actor Harris

18. Middle Eastern capital

19. Air hostesses

24. Partner to “Pa”

25. Percussion instrument

26. Popular computers

27. Reduce light

28. Asian mountain range

29. Every one of two or more

30. Absence of difficulty

31. A public announcement of a proposed marriage

33. Whittles

34. Impact

38. Serviceman

39. A French river

40. Prehistoric people

43. Messenger

44. ribonucleic acid

45. Ancient Greek sophist

49. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)

50. Singer Hansard

51. A way to disentangle

53. Atomic #93

54. Manifesting approval

56. Indigo bush

58. Former AL MVP

Vaughn

59. Off-Broadway theater award

60. Fencers

63. Small Eurasian deer (pl.)

64. Relating to passerine birds

65. Arrange systematically

CLUES DOWN

1. Colorless fluid

2. Of a main artery

3. Photographer's tool

4. Blues Traveler hit “But ___”

5. Grew older

6. Not the leader

7. ___ Lang (country singer)

8. A driver's license is one

9. Nests of pheasants

10. Wildebeests

13. Equal to one quintillion bytes

14. Japanese three-stringed lute

15. Type of cat

20. It cools your home

21. The ancient Egyptian sun god

22. Pouches

23. German trigraph

27. Form of Persian

29. Measurement unit

30. Body part

31. Bridge building degree

32. Indicates position

33. Political action committee

34. Snack food

35. Front part of a quadruped

36. Locate

37. Pitching statistic

38. ___, myself and I

40. City in Utah

41. They play in the trenches

42. “Can’t Touch This” rapper ___ Hammer

44. Type of tree

45. Performers

46. Slang for mistake

47. More open

48. Most slick

50. Needles

51. University of Dayton

52. Atomic #11

54. Large fish of the mackerel family

55. Not any

57. ___ and behold

61. Popular sports highlight show (abbr.)

62. “The Great Lakes State”

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Legals - Botetourt County

**TRUSTEE'S SALE
OF PROPERTY**
**8415 Flag Lane,
Roanoke, VA 24019**
**Tax Map No. 106-
191, Parcel ID
30488**

In execution of a Deed of
Trust dated November 13,
2020, in the principal
amount of \$115,548.92,
recorded in the Clerk's
Office of the Circuit Court of
Botetourt County, Virginia,
of record as Instrument
Number 200005614, Woods
Rogers Vandeventer Black
PLC, Substitute Trustee, will
offer for sale at public
auction outside the front
entrance of the Public
Safety Building, Courthouse
of Botetourt County Circuit
Court, 205 North Roanoke
Street, Fincastle, VA 24090,
on July 2, 2026 at 12:00
noon , the property
described in said Deed of
Trust lying in Botetourt
County, Virginia, and more
particularly described as
follows:-

Beginning at the
intersection of the extreme
southern corner of Tax
Parcel No. 106-193, the
western corner of Tax
Parcel No. 106-194, and the
extreme northern corner of
the property herein
conveyed thence
proceeding S. 47 degs. 15'
00" E. 234.50 feet to a
point; thence S. 36 degs.
54' 23" W. 105.89 feet to a
point; thence N. 47 degs.
15' 00" W. 245.21 feet to a
point; thence N. 42 degs.
42' 42" E. 105.34 feet to the
place of BEGINNING and
containing 0.5801 acres, as
more fully shown on
"Resurvey for Anthony W.
Smith Showing Tax No.
106-191 located along Flag
Lane", dated November 3,
2019, a copy of which is
recorded in the Clerk's
Office of the Circuit Court of
Botetourt County, Virginia,
with the Deed at Instrument
No. 200003069, a copy of
which is incorporated herein
by reference hereto.

Legals - Botetourt County

TOGETHER WITH a fifteen
(15) foot non-exclusive,
appurtenant, right of way
over Flag Lane as more
fully shown on the aforesaid
plat of survey.

TERMS: Cash - Bidder's
deposit of ten percent (10%)
of the sales price by
cashier's or certified check
may be required. Balance of
purchase price shall be due
and payable not later than
ten (10) days after sale.

WOODS ROGERS
VANDEVENTER BLACK
PLC, Substitute Trustee

For Information Contact:
Woods Rogers Vandeventer
Black PLC, P.O. Box 14125,
Roanoke, VA 24038-4125,
Telephone: 540-983-7729

Legals - City of Salem

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia
VA Code§§ 1-211.1; 8.01-
316,-317,20-104
Case No. **CL26-1091**
VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT FOR THE
COUNTY OF ROANOKE
COUNTY OF ROANOKE,
VIRGINIA, Complainant,
vs.
CHARLIE L. PHELPS, a/k/a
CHARLES L. PHELPS, et al
Respondents.
TO: THE RESPONDENTS;
The object of this suit is to:
enforce the lien for taxes
assessed by the County of
Roanoke, Virginia against
certain real property
designated as Tax Map
Parcel No. 087.11-03-
25.00-0000.

An affidavit having been
made and filed that
diligence has been used
without effect to ascertain
the location of Charlie L.
Phelps, a/k/a Charles L.
Phelps and that there are or
may be persons with an
interest in the subject
property, including heirs,
devisees, and successors in
title of Charlie L. Phelps,
a/k/a Charles L. Phelps,
who may be deceased,
whose names and
addresses are unknown, it
is hereby ORDERED that
each of the parties appear
on or before the August 1,
2026, and do whatever is
necessary to protect their
interests in said land.
IT is further ORDERED,
pursuant to Va. Code
Ann.§8.01-321, that this
Order of Publication be
published once a week for
four successive weeks in
the *Salem Times Register*,
a newspaper of general
circulation in the County of
Roanoke, and that a copy
be posted at the front door
of the Courthouse in county
of Roanoke, Virginia.
Entered this 9th day of June,
2026.

Honorable James R.
Swanson, Judge

I ask for this:
Amy H. Geddes, Esquire
(VSB #38650)
OPN Law
3140 Chaparral Drive, Suite
200-C
Roanoke Va 24018
Phone: (540)725-8181
Fax: (540) 772-0126
E-mail:
ageddes@opnlaw.com
Counsel for Complainant



Legals - City of Salem

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia
VA Code§§ 1-211.1; 8.01-
316,-317,20-104
Case No. **CL26-1177**
VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT FOR THE
COUNTY OF ROANOKE,
VIRGINIA, Complainant,
v.
RUBY C. BONHAM, et al,
Respondents.
The object of this suit is to:
enforce the lien for taxes
assessed by the County of
Roanoke, Virginia against
certain real property
designated as
Tax Map Parcel No.064.01-
03-17.00-0000.

An affidavit having been
made and filed that
diligence has been used
without effect to ascertain
the location of Ruby C.
Bonham and that there are
or may be persons with an
interest in the subject
property, including heirs,
devisees, and successors in
title of Ruby C. Bonham,
who may be deceased,
whose names and
addresses are unknown, it
is hereby ORDERED that
each of the parties appear
on or before the August 14,
2026, and do whatever is
necessary to protect their
interests in said land.
It is further ORDERED,
pursuant to Va. Code
Ann.§8.01-321, that this
order of Publication be
published once a week for
FOUR successive weeks in
the *Salem Times Register*,
a newspaper of general
circulation in the County of
Roanoke, and that a copy
be posted at the front door
of the Courthouse in County
of Roanoke, Virginia.
Entered this 18th day of
June, 2026.

Honorable James R.
Swanson, Judge
I ask for this:
Amy H. Geddes, Esquire
VSB#38650
OPN Law
3140 Chaparral Drive,
Suite 200-C
Roanoke Virginia 24018
Phone: (540)725-8181
Fax: (540)772-0126
Email:
ageddes@opnlaw.com
Counsel for Complainant

Legals - Montgomery County

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,

By the Board of
Supervisors of the County
of Montgomery, Virginia that
the Board of Supervisors
hereby schedules a public
hearing for Monday, July
13, 2026 at 7:15 pm or as
soon thereafter, at the
Montgomery County
Government Center, 755
Roanoke Street,
Christiansburg, Virginia, in
order to receive citizen
comments on the Board of
Supervisors intent to adopt
a resolution amending the
FY 2026-2027 Budget by
more than one percent of
the total expenditures
shown in the currently
adopted budget by adding
carryover funding
appropriated in FY 26 for
county ARPA funds,
donations and grant funds,
encumbrances, earmarked
and one-time county
projects, county capital
funds balances and
encumbrances that were
not completed at year end,
and school capital balances
and encumbrances, not to
exceed \$79 million.
BY ORDER OF THE
BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS
Angela M. Hill
County Administrator

Legals - Montgomery County

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Christiansburg Town
Council will hold a Public
Hearing on Tuesday, July
14, 2026 at 7:00
p.m. in the Council
Chambers of the
Christiansburg Town Hall,
100 E. Main Street,
Christiansburg, Virginia
24073. The purpose of the
public hearing is to receive
public comments
concerning:
A street vacation request by
GAD Management Inc. for
the vacation of the existing
temporary cul-de-sac
located on the east side of
the property located at 425
Industrial Drive NE. The
adjoining property is
identified as Tax Parcel
500-(A)-5H (Parcel ID
032660).
The temporary cul-de-sac is
shown on a plat recorded in
the Clerk's Office of the
Circuit Court of Montgomery
County, Virginia, as
Instrument No.
2005008100.
Information on the
preceding ordinance, the
Town's Zoning Map, Zoning
Ordinance, and Future
Land Use Map may be
viewed in the Planning
Department, 100 E. Main
Street, Christiansburg,
VA 24073-3029 during
normal office hours of 8:00
a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday
through Friday.
Contact the Planning
Department by phone at
(540) 382-6120 ext. 1902 or
by email at
planning@christiansburg.org
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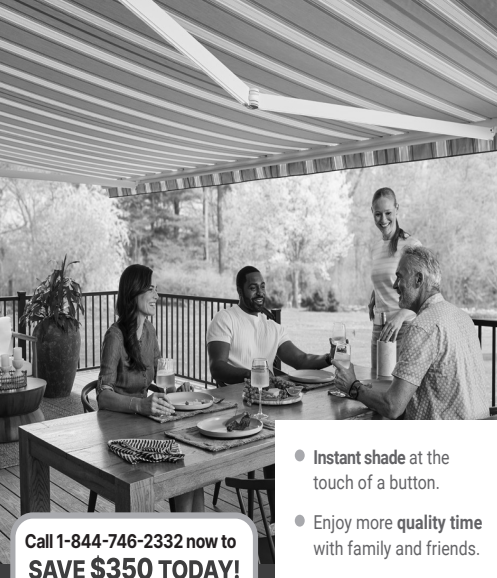
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Botetourt Complex was site of RAYBA baseball

The Botetourt Sports Complex was the site of 10U and 12U baseball tournaments last week for Roanoke Area Youth Baseball Association(RAYBA) teams. The tournaments included teams from Vinton, Salem, Glenvar,

North Roanoke, Franklin County and host Botetourt County. Glenvar won the 10U championship with wins over North Roanoke and two wins over the Botetourt team. “We faced some very strong teams

throughout the tournament, and every team competed hard from start to finish,” said Glenvar coach Raysean Priest. Franklin County won the 12U tournament. After taking the winners’

bracket Franklin lost to North Roanoke, forcing an “if game.” Franklin County then won that game to take the championship. There was also a 15U division and North Roanoke came out on top.



PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Action from last week’s RAYBA baseball tournaments at the Botetourt Sports Complex. Above left, Cason Grubb closes out a win for the Vinton 10U team, and above right Mason Bartley slides safely into second. Below left, Peyton Barton takes a cut for the 12U team, and below right Hayden Scott clutches a foul pop for an out.



RECIPES OF THE WEEK *By Debbie Adams*

Angel food cake has always been one of my favorites— it was always my birthday cake as a child. This version is easier than most angel food cakes because there is no tube or bundt pan to contend with. The batter goes in two 8x4-inch pans. You can eat it plain or use it for strawberry shortcake.

Ingredients
1-1/2 cups egg whites (about 10 large)
1 cup confectioners’ (powdered) sugar
1 cup all-purpose flour
1-1/2 teaspoons cream of tartar
1-1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
1/2 teaspoon almond extract
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 cup sugar
Directions

Separate egg whites and place them in a large bowl; let stand at room temperature for 30 minutes. Sift confectioners’ sugar and flour together twice; set aside.

Add the cream of tartar, extracts and salt to egg whites; beat on medium speed until soft peaks form. Gradually add granulated sugar, about 2 tablespoons at a time, beating on high until stiff glossy peaks form and sugar is dissolved. Gradually fold in flour mixture, about 1/2 cup at a time.

Gently spoon into two ungreased 8x4-in. loaf pans. Cut through the batter with a knife to remove air pockets. Bake on the lowest oven rack at 350° for 30-35 minutes or until lightly browned and entire top appears dry. Immediately invert pans onto cooling racks; cool completely, about 1 hour.

Angel Food Cake



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Run a knife around insides of loaf pans. Remove cakes to a serving plate. Serve with sweetened whipped cream and mixed fresh berries, if desired.

River Park from page 1

into 21 apartments, the rehabilitation of the former Vinton Motor Company into Vinyard Station, the ongoing rehabilitation of 121 and 123 W. Lee Avenue, including the addition of Stone Plaza, the ongoing rehabilitation of 7 Walnut Avenue, and the acquisition and transfer of the hotel site in downtown Vinton.

“They are experienced developers who we know and have worked with,” was the feeling of council members.

Many of these projects have included public/private partnerships with the Town of Vinton and Roanoke County. Their efforts have literally transformed the face of downtown Vinton and beyond.

Dale Wilkinson says that while the projects the team has undertaken in Vinton involving regeneration of property for restaurants and

schools have been of the utmost importance, the biggest need in Vinton currently is for housing, most especially getting housing in place for “people who want to live in Vinton or stay in Vinton.”

He says there are older homes which need to be rehabilitated; the town needs to explore financial assistance through grants and loans for those who want to renovate their homes; rezoning needs to be addressed to meet the needs of the population; and homes with smaller square footage need to be made available.

As for the McGimsey property and the feasibility of development, challenges include not only the woods and stream, but the topography decreases in elevation by more than 50 feet from north to south. Loope described the project as “many

layered with lots of moving parts.”

However, water is available from the WVWA; APCo is there for power; multiple data providers are available. The parcels sits near a signalized intersection on Washington Avenue, include multiple possible access points, and are within walking distance of downtown Vinton. It’s also just minutes from Explore Park and the Blue Ridge Parkway.

The redevelopment plans fit into the recently completed Vinton 2050 Comprehensive Plan which designates the River Park Parcel as Mixed-use and the Hargis Parcel and larger McGimsey Property as high density residential, while the smaller McGimsey property is mixed-use. Future Transportation Network plans indicate the desire for roadway and a pedestrian greenway

connection through the McGimsey and River Park parcels towards Dogwood Blvd.

The Vinton 2026-2030 Strategic Plan urges the town to update the town’s Zoning Ordinance, invest in quality housing for all phases of life, and build walkable connections in and to downtown. The McGimsey project could address each one.

A Vinton housing study found a distinct lack of “missing middle” home types, like townhomes, smaller single family detached homes, condominiums, Accessory Dwelling Units, and smaller apartment buildings which the project could also address.

The River Park developers propose developing a Traditional Neighborhood Development on all the parcels, which make up about 16.2 acres in total. It would feature a mix of

missing middle housing types catered toward all phases of life.

The community will be encouraged to offer input through public design charettes, where neighbors, local officials, and other stakeholders will provide feedback to develop the Master Plan.

A public design charrette typically lasts between three and five days and brings in neighborhood design professionals to collect feedback from local stakeholders to ensure their concerns are addressed. The developers previously used such a process for the Harvest at Blue Ridge project in Botetourt County.

They say the McGimsey development would be best served by Mixed Use Development district zoning. They would aim to provide a natural transition between higher density users found along Washington Avenue and

River Park (apartments and townhomes) and lower density residential uses (single family detached homes) along East Cleveland Avenue. Density would range from 8 to 14 units per acre.

River Park Properties is proposing a partnership with the town to include a site study and design charrette period, a feasibility study, rezoning, and financing.

This development project looks to become one of the most exciting yet in Vinton.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS												
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SPORTS

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New Terrier volleyball coach has roots at Byrd

A William Byrd alumnus, Kris McCoy returns home to lead the William Byrd volleyball program with a passion for developing a culture of excellence that extends far beyond the volleyball court. McCoy has been named to succeed Jordan Persinger as head coach of the Terriers.

Kris brings a wealth of coaching experience to the position, having previously served as a varsity head coach and as a coach within nationally recognized club volleyball programs. Throughout his coaching career, he has been known for developing competitive teams, fostering growth and emphasizing accountability and teamwork.

The McCoy family's connection to William Byrd and the sport of volleyball makes this a true homecoming. While Kris and his wife are both William Byrd alumni; his wife, the former Amanda Stump, has deep ties to the program as a member of William Byrd's 2000 State Championship volleyball team. Amanda began her head coaching career at William Byrd, leading the Terrier program from 2007 to 2012, and has since established herself as one of the region's most respected coaches and leaders in the volleyball community. She is currently the head coach at Christiansburg High School.

"We're playing them in our first scrimmage," said Kris. "We won't play them during the season, but there's always that possibility we would play them in the post-season."

Together, Kris and Amanda help lead Performance Volleyball, one of the area's premier club volleyball organizations, where they have worked to provide opportunities for hundreds of athletes to develop their skills, compete at higher levels, and pursue their athletic and academic goals. Also, Kris's daughter is

a rising senior at William Byrd High School, creating a unique and meaningful connection between the McCoy family and the school community.

McCoy's return to the sidelines carries special significance. In August 2025 he was involved in a severe motor vehicle accident that resulted in life-altering injuries and a lengthy recovery. The experience strengthened his appreciation for faith, family, community, and the privilege of coaching. His return serves as a testament to resilience, perseverance, and purpose.

"I am incredibly humbled, honored and grateful for the opportunity to return to William Byrd and lead a program that means so much to me and my family," said McCoy. "As an alumnus, this school and community have played an important role in shaping who I am. I am excited to work alongside our student-athletes, families, coaches, administration, alumni and community to build a program that reflects the pride, tradition, and competitive spirit of William Byrd."

McCoy's vision for the program centers on establishing a sustainable foundation from middle school through varsity that develops skilled volleyball players while preparing student-athletes to become confident leaders in their school, on their teams, and within their community. Central to the program's immediate future will be the leadership of the returning players. McCoy intends to lean heavily on the returning Varsity players to anchor the team's culture and set the standard for the incoming classes. By empowering the veteran players to mentor their younger teammates, the program will ensure that the new "Terrier Way" will be passed down through consistent peer leadership and shared accountability.



KRIS MCCOY

As preparations begin for the upcoming season, McCoy looks forward to reconnecting with program alumni, engaging with youth and middle school players, and building a unified program that embraces the proud tradition of William Byrd Volleyball while pursuing new levels of success.

Byrd spring athletes on All-Region 3D, three soccer girls make 1st team

The All-Region 3D spring sports teams were recently announced and

William Byrd had representatives in soccer, baseball and softball, including

three girls named to the first team in soccer.



PHOTOS BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Left to right, Byrd's Bella Barrette, Kendall Ranson and Mia Martin were all named to the Region 3D first team in soccer.

Rozenboom is first Terrier boys' lax player to be named to all-state team

Recent William Byrd High graduate Justyn Rozenboom became the first Terrier boys' lacrosse player to be named to the All-State team when the Virginia High School League Class 4 team was announced last week. Rozenboom, who is headed to Roanoke College to play lacrosse next season, was named to the all-state second team midfield.

Salem High senior attackman Dallas Parker is the Class 4 Player of the Year, and Glass head coach Eddie Ranuska is the Class

4 Coach of the Year. Dallas, a 6'2", 205-pound attackman, set a single-season points record for the Spartan boys' lacrosse program with 113 points, tied for 9th in VHSL history, including 54 goals and 59 assists.

Ranuska has developed a boys' lacrosse powerhouse at E.C. Glass. Under his leadership, the Hilltoppers posted a 16-3 record and captured the program's second state championship this season with a 10-8 win over defending Class 4 boys champion Salem (Salem) in the finals.



Justyn Rozenboom is 2nd team All-Class 4.

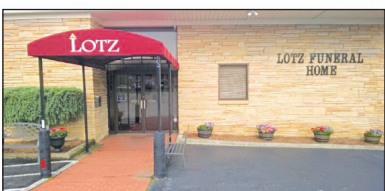
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Carter tees it up with country music star

Nathan Carter, a 2024 graduate of William Byrd High School and current student at James Madison University, had a recent brush with greatness. Carter(right in photo) was a terrific high school golfer for the Terriers and works at Blue Hills to make some money for college. Last Saturday when Nathan answered the phone music star Darius Rucker(second from right), who was scheduled to perform a concert in Roanoke that evening, was on the line to request a tee-time. Rucker needed a fourth player and Nathan gladly jumped into the foursome for an unforgettable day on the links.

SUBMITTED PHOTO