



# BLAND COUNTY

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### Board of Supervisors

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Rocky Gap - District 4

*Nick Asbury, Vice Chairman*  
Seddon - District 2

*Randy Johnson*  
Mechanicsburg - District 3

*Adam Kidd*  
Sharon - District 1

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## FIRST SEGMENT OF THE ROCKY GAP GREENWAY PROJECT READY TO GO OUT TO BID FOR CONSTRUCTION

**JULY 26, 2016**

(Rocky Gap, Virginia) The first segment of the Rocky Gap Greenway Project is ready to go out to bid for construction.

This segment of the project is approximately 2,500 feet of sidewalk along North Scenic Hwy. The project will start at the school and traverse towards Woody's store. This segment is being funded by grants from the Virginia Department of Transportation Safe Routes to Schools program and from the Wythe-Bland Foundation. According to Board Chairman Karen Hodock, "it is exciting to see construction about to start on the Greenway. This project relies on grant funding from various agencies and we are pleased to see so many agencies come together to make this project a reality."

The Rocky Gap Greenway project started in 2012 as a community revitalization and wellness effort. Thanks to the financial support of the Wythe-Bland Foundation, a planning study was completed in September 2013. As part of that study, residents traveled to Luray, Virginia to tour an existing greenway and held multiple planning workshops afterwards. Those workshops led to the development of various phases of the project and each phase or segment was developed based on the ability to acquire grant funding for development.

In 2013, a VDOT Safe Routes to Schools Planning team visited Rocky Gap and worked with residents to develop an application for the project. As a result Bland County was awarded \$249,431 of grant funding from VDOT and an additional \$47,000 from the Wythe-Bland Foundation for the project.

"As a community, we are enthusiastic to see the Greenway get under construction," states Sharon Puckett, with the Rocky Gap Ruritan Beautification Committee. "While this is only the first segment of the project, it is exciting to see the project move from concept, to planning, and now to construction."

The next segment of the project, which is to link the trail to the Veterans' Memorial via the Phoenix Bridge crossing Wolf Creek, is already in the planning process. The Department of Environmental Quality has provided for the engineering study of the bridge and the evaluation of any environmental or structural repairs that are needed. Recently the county was notified by VDOT that federal funding would be available for the project as part of the Transportation Alternatives Program for FY17. These funds will be earmarked for rehabilitation of the bridge, trail construction, and parking at the Veterans' Memorial. To date, only \$500 of Bland County funds have been spent on this project.

CHA Consulting out of Blacksburg is the consultant for the project. Once this segment goes through the bidding process and award of construction is completed, it is anticipated that construction will begin immediately with the project being completed this year.

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**HARRY AND LOIS SHUPE HONORED FOR THEIR LIFETIME OF  
COMMUNITY SERVICE**  
JULY 26, 2016

(Bland, Virginia) -Harry and Lois Shupe were recognized today for years of community service and dedication to the Bland County Public Library.

The Bland County Public Library is part of the Smyth-Bland Regional Library system. Harry and Lois Shupe have both been long standing members of the regional library board, the Friends of the Library organization, and were instrumental in the development and construction of the branch in Bland. At the request of the library board, the Board of Supervisors recognized the work of Shupes by dedicating the Bland branch the: Bland County Public Library: Harry and Lois Shupe Branch.

According to Board Chairman Karen Hodock, "Harry and Lois have been dedicated to enriching the community for decades. They have worked to make Bland County a better place for everyone. It is an honor to recognize Harry and Lois for their shared commitment to community service." The ceremony was widely attended by members of the Bland County community, family, Friends of the Library, and members of the Smyth-Bland Regional Library.

"As a member of the Smyth-Bland Library Board and a member of the Board of Supervisors, I have had the opportunity to observe first-hand the efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Shupe," stated Adam Kidd, member of the Board of Supervisors in Bland County. "Harry and Lois Shupe exemplify community. They work tirelessly, with an enthusiasm and commitment to improving the lives of others that is inspiring to witness."

As part of the program, Eric Workman, County Administrator, presented Mrs. Shupe a proclamation on behalf of the Board of Supervisors and a new sign was revealed on the front of the library. Refreshments were provided by the Ladies of the United Methodist Church. Harry Shupe was honored posthumously.

**Bland County  
Farmers Market**  
Saturdays  
9:00 am - 12:00 pm  
June - October



**Wolf Creek Indian Village**  
Monday - Saturday  
9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
April - December



**Bastian Little League Field Park  
Equipment. Funding provided by  
Wythe-Bland Foundation.**

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**BLAND COUNTY BEARS  
FOOTBALL STADIUM GETS A FRESH COAT  
AUGUST 14, 2016**

(Bastian, Virginia) – Bland County Bears Football Stadium will be a brighter place this fall due to community and business support this past Wednesday and Thursday. The bleachers at the stadium had improvements made to the structural supports as well as a new coat of paint.

Bland County Schools notified county administration on Tuesday of concerns regarding the condition of the bleachers at the football field. Working closely with the School Superintendent, a plan was devised to make improvements that would not only make the bleachers look better, but also be safer for visitors. "We are tremendously grateful to Pascor Atlantic and American Mine Research for donating lumber and paint for us to make the repairs," stated Randy Johnson, member of the Board of Supervisors. "Supports were placed underneath all of the seats as well as the boards that people walk on. The bleachers were then coated using decking restoration in Bland County blue and orange."

Pascor Atlantic and American Mine Research made contributions towards the cost of the materials and the labor was provided by the county and the New River Valley Regional Jail. "The school staff has been working hard all summer to get ready for students to return. I am pleased that this project came together quickly and we were able to bring it to completion prior to the first scrimmage," stated Adam Kidd, member of the Board of Supervisors. "It is amazing what can be accomplished as we work together as a community. Every effort counts. There were even volunteers that brought refreshments to the workers, such as Mrs. Hodock."

"I am very pleased in the work of the county staff. They worked very hard to pull this project off in a short amount of time," stated Nick Asbury, member of the Board of Supervisors. "The county would not have been able to finish the project in two days if it was not for Corrections Officer Gerald Dobbins of the New River Valley Regional Jail for bringing extra help," stated Karen Hodock, chairman of the Board of Supervisors. "We are looking forward to watching the Bears take the field this fall and hope people enjoy the new look of the stands."



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## Bland County Fair

Wednesday August 24, 2016- 6:00—Parade

Grand Marshall: Martha "Chi Chi" Pauley

**Wednesday August 24:** Free Admission with canned food item

Opening Ceremonies.....Pavilion.....6:30  
 Keenas McIntosh, Jr. & James Stiltner.....Pavilion.....7-8:00  
 Casey Lewis.....Pavilion.....8-9:00  
 Kids Games.....Center Ring.....7:00  
 Dept. Entries.....Exhibit/Food Building.....7-8:30

**Thursday August 25:** Free Admission with dog or cat food item

Dept. Entries.....Exhibit/Food Building.....8:30-11:00am  
 4H Talent Show.....Pavilion.....6-7:00  
 True Grass.....Pavilion.....7-8:30  
 Family Games.....Center Ring.....7:00

(Pie Eating Contest, Hay Bale Toss, Women's Skillet Throw)

**Friday August 26:**

Appalachian Hoedowners.....Pavilion.....6-7:00  
 Cabin Creek.....Pavilion.....7-8:30  
 Country Proud.....Pavilion.....8:45-10:00  
 ATV Rodeo.....Center Ring.....7:00

**Saturday August 27:**

Livestock Show.....Center Ring/Barn.....10:30  
 Pet Show.....Pavilion.....12-1:00  
 Turkey Call Contest.....Pavilion.....1-2:00  
 Valley Bluegrass.....Pavilion.....2-4:00  
 Slide Mountain Boys.....Pavilion.....4-5:30  
 Merchant Give Away.....Pavilion.....5:40-6:00  
 Southern Nights.....Pavilion.....6-8:00  
 Bullriding.....Center Ring.....7:30  
 Bingo Bash.....Pavilion.....8:30-10:30

NOTE: Carnival hours are flexible in consideration of attendance.

Canned food items will benefit the Bland Ministry.



Bland County Rodeo—Fair 2015

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# EVENTS CALENDAR

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## AUGUST 2016

August 1—Planning Commission Meeting—6:00 pm

August 2—Bland County Fair Association Meeting—7:00 pm

August 4—Wireless Authority Meeting—6:30 pm

August 6, 2016—Relay for Life—4:00 pm

August 18—Children's Services Act Meeting 9:30 am

August 23—Service Authority Meeting—4:15 pm

August 23—Board of Supervisors Meeting 5:00 pm

August 24 - 27—Bland County Fair

## SEPTEMBER 2016

September 5—Labor Day Holiday—Offices Closed

September 5—Planning Commission Meeting 6:00 pm

September 6—Bland County Fair Association Meeting—7:00 pm

September 9/10—Horse Show

September 13—Economic Development Authority Meeting—6:30 pm

September 15—Children's Services Act Meeting 9:30 am

September 17, 2016—Wolf Creek Indian Village & Museum 20th Year Celebration and Reunion 9:00 am

September 27—Service Authority Meeting—4:15 pm

September 27—Board of Supervisors Meeting 5:00 pm

## OCTOBER 2016

October 1—Lord's Acre Sale—8:00 am

October 3—Planning Commission Meeting—6:00 pm

October 4—Bland County Fair Association Meeting 7:00 pm

October 8—Tour De Bland—8:00 am

October 8 - 9—Festival of Leaves—8:00 am

October 10—Columbus Day Holiday—Offices closed

October 11—Economic Development Authority Meeting—6:30 pm

October 20—Children's Services Act Meeting—9:30 am

October 25—Service Authority Meeting—4:15 pm

October 25—Board of Supervisors Meeting—5:00 pm

## NOVEMBER 2016

November 1—Bland County Fair Association Meeting 7:00 pm

November 7—Planning Commission Meeting—6:00 pm

November 8—Economic Development Authority Meeting—6:30 pm

November 11—Veterans Day Holiday—Offices closed

November 17—Children's Services Act Meeting 9:30 am

November 22—Service Authority Meeting—4:15 pm

November 22—Board of Supervisors Meeting—5:00 pm

November 24 - 25—Thanksgiving Day Holiday Offices closed

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