



BLAND COUNTY

Volume 1, Issue 2

NEWSLETTER WINTER 2016

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Board of Supervisors

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Rocky Gap - District 4

Nick Asbury, Vice Chairman
Seddon - District 2

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Work begins on Rocky Gap Greenway

After years of planning and working to secure funding, the Rocky Gap Greenway Project gets underway.

County officials gathered Monday to kick off Phase I of the project, the construction of a sidewalk that stretches from Bland County High School to Highway 52. The sidewalk will feature street lights designed like Victorian-era lamp posts. Construction is projected to take a little more than six months.

"This is an exciting day for us," said Bland County Administrator, Eric Workman. During the ceremony he recalled visiting the Hawksbill Greenway in Luray, Virginia with Supervisor Nick Asbury and learning about greenway projects. Eventually, with assistance from Supervisor Karen Hodock, a community trip was made to Luray with Rocky Gap residents. Workman continued, "Upon our return, a community decision was made to move forward with the project and county employees begin working in partnership with the Rocky Gap Ruritan Club and residents of the community to develop and raise funding for the Rocky Gap Greenway."

The greenway project started thanks to seed money from the Wythe-Bland Foundation and, eventually, the county received grants to pay for the project.

"In total, nearly one million dollars has been raised in grant funding," Workman said, adding that the greenway will benefit the area's health and economy as residents and visitors enjoy the area.

Greenways are open space corridors that can be used for conservation, recreation, and/or alternative transportation. They often follow natural or existing land or water features such as stream valleys, rivers and utility corridors.

"It's a wonderful thing," said Sharon Puckett, who serves on the Rocky Gap Beautification Committee, as she held her grandson, River. "We will see people walk with their grandchildren, bike with their grandchildren, and just play and have fun in Rocky Gap."

She said she looks forward to decorating the street lamps for holidays.

"If we can get more people to enjoy Rocky Gap, they will realize how special it is and how much we all enjoy being here," Puckett said. "They will get a little piece of Rocky Gap as they walk and enjoy the peace and quiet and listen to the creek roll, all while getting exercise and walking the greenway."

The first segment of the project will be a sidewalk and street lighting along North Scenic Hwy from Woody's to the school. The next segment of the greenway project entails refurbishing the Phoenix Bridge crossing Wolf Creek and creating a 10-foot-wide walking/biking trail from the intersection of North Scenic Hwy and old Route 61 to the Veterans' Memorial.



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COMMUNITY INTEREST



2016 Real Estate and Personal Property taxes are due by Dec. 5, 2016

2016 dog tags expire Dec. 31, 2016

2017 dog tags are on sale now in the Treasurer's office.

For more information contact the Treasurer's office: 276-688-3741



Love's Groundbreaking Ceremony
December 7, 2016
11:30 am - 1:30 pm

Fire Wise Program

The RC&D Council is working on putting together some outreach for communities about the Fire Wise program. The program is in the planning stages and although it should be available to all citizens of bland; residents, supervisors, fire departments, etc.; details will be forthcoming.

For more information:
<http://dof.virginia.gov/fire/firewiseva/>

NACO LIVE HEALTHY PROGRAM

The National Association of Counties' (NACO) Live Healthy program offers residents discounts on prescriptions, dental treatments and health costs - including vision procedures, hearing aids and screenings, prepaid lab work, diabetes supplies plus a whole lot more.

Join the NACO program:

Download the Live Healthy program(s) registration form at www.naco.org/health

Complete the information then email it to membership@naco.org

The Angel Tree will be in the back of the Bland County Courthouse if you would like to give to a child in need this Christmas or you can contact the Bland County Social Service office at 276-688-4111 if you would like to donate.

Heating and Crisis Assistance Program

Contact: Darlene Conley at 276-688-4111

or by email:

darlene.conley@dss.virginia.gov



Contact: Sara King at 276-688-4111 or by email: sara.king@dss.virginia.gov



BLAND COUNTY LIBRARY



WINTER LIBRARY HOURS

MONDAY: 10:00 - 5:00
 TUESDAY: 10:00 - 7:00
 WEDNESDAY: 10:00 - 7:00
 THURSDAY: 10:00 - 7:00
 FRIDAY: 10:00 - 5:00
 SATURDAY: 10:00 - 2:00
 SUNDAY: CLOSED



LIBRARY EVENTS

Preschool story time is held every Thursday at 11:00. Everyone is welcome.

Art show featuring Annette Burton will be on display through December 26.

Join the library on Facebook for current events, new books and movies.

Contact the Bland County Library for more information: 276-688-3737

Christmas
 At the Bland Co. Public Library
Saturday
December 3rd
1:00-3:00

FREE photos with SANTA!

Plus...
 Live Music &
 Refreshments

And...
 Games &
 Door Prizes
 Reindeer Feed Station

Call the library for more information 688-3737



MOVIE MARATHON



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Bland County Social Services is teaming up with the Bland County Ministry Center to host a Very Merry Movie Marathon on Saturday, December 3, 2016. Join them at Bland County Elementary's Wagner Gym from 5-8 pm for a couple of Christmas cartoons, and one full-length feature, that you'll have the chance to vote on in the coming weeks! The event is free, but concessions will be sold to benefit our Christmas Cheer program.



You're invited to a

Very Merry

movie marathon



Please join us for an evening of
Christmas cheer and movies

Saturday, December 3
5:00pm-8:00pm
Bland Elementary Wagner Gym

Viewing is free
Concessions sold to allow Bland County
children to have a Very Merry Christmas
Children must be accompanied by adult

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EVENTS CALENDAR



DECEMBER 2016

December 6
Bland County Fair Association Meeting 7:00 pm

December 13
Economic Development Authority Meeting
6:30 pm

December 15
Children's Services Act Meeting 9:30 am

December 23-26
County Administration Offices Closed for Christmas

December 27
Service Authority Meeting 4:00 pm

December 27
Board of Supervisors Meeting 5:00 pm

December 30
County Administration Offices Closed

JANUARY 2017

January 2
County Administration Offices Closed for New Years

January 3
Service Authority Re-Organizational Meeting 4:00 pm
Board of Supervisors Re-Organizational 4:30 pm
Bland County Fair Association Meeting 7:00 pm

January 5
Wireless Authority Meeting 6:30 pm

January 9
Planning Commission Meeting 6:00 pm

January 10
Economic Development Authority Meeting 6:30 pm

January 13 & 16
County Administration Offices Closed for Lee-Jackson and
Martin Luther King, Jr Day

January 19
Children's Services Act Meeting 9:30 am

January 24
Service Authority Meeting 4:00 pm
Board of Supervisors Meeting 5:00 pm

FEBRUARY 2017

February 6
Planning Commission Meeting
6:00 pm

February 14
Economic Development Authority Meeting
6:30 pm

February 16
Children's Services Act Meeting
9:30 am

February 20
County Administration Offices
Closed for President's Day

February 28
Service Authority Meeting
4:00 pm

February 28
Board of Supervisors Meeting
5:00 pm



Meeting dates and times are subject to change . Calendar will be updated on our website:
www.blandcountyva.gov.

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