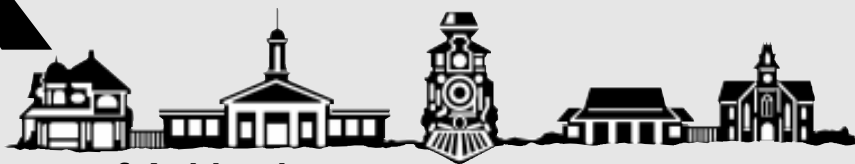


On Track



A Quarterly Newsletter for the Residents and Businesses of Ashland

Summer 2008

Town Council election

With three impending vacancies on Town Council effective June 30, the May 6 election nicely took care of that as there were only three names on the ballot. All three were elected. There were write-in votes cast for several individuals as well.

Incumbent Dr. George Spagna was elected to his second term with 258 votes; Terri Winston-Abri won election with 291 votes and Edward (Ned) Henson won with 279 votes. Both Abri and Henson are newcomers to the political scene; however, both have served on other Town committees -- Abri on Parks and Recreation Committee and Henson on the Planning Commission.

Dr. Spagna was originally elected to Council in 2004. Spagna has resided in Ashland since 1986 when he accepted a position as professor of physics at Randolph-Macon College. A native of Portland, OR, Spagna received his bachelor's, master's, and doctorate at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY. "I am honored and humbled at the opportunity to serve four more years on Ashland's Town Council. We have important work to do in the coming months and years, but we also have an active, informed, and caring citizenry to help us."

Currently, Ms. Winston-Abri is a member of the Parks and Recreation Committee, and is very active in her community and plans to continue her community service with the Ashland Police and its Neighborhood Watch program and the Community Walking Teams.

With her election to Town Council, Ms. Abri will be the first black woman to serve on the Ashland Town Council. She states that one of her goals is to help "build relations between the black and white communities within the Town."

Ms. Abri is a native of Ashland, graduated from Patrick Henry High School and attended Virginia Union University. Ms. Abri resides with her family on Berkley Street.

please see Council, page 2

Project Grapevine

From the beginning it was dubbed 'Project Grapevine,' and wrapped in secrecy. Project Grapevine has now become public knowledge, and we know it as Mother Parker's Tea and Coffee. Established in 1912 and headquartered in (Toronto) Mississauga, Ontario, Canada, Mother Parkers Tea & Coffee has grown into a leading expert in traditional and specialty coffee, tea and complementary beverage solutions for the retail and food service industries.

In April, Governor Timothy M. Kaine announced that Mother Parkers Tea & Coffee Inc. will invest \$40.1 million to open a roasting facility in the Town of Ashland.

According to Dennis Paynter of Mother Parkers Tea & Coffee, their decision to come to Ashland was based on the ambiance and quaintness of the Town itself. "The clean image compliments our plan and the maturity of services available to our employees and clients was key in our decision".

The business will be located in the Ashland Business Park on Hill Carter Parkway, just south of Wal-Mart.

Ashland Police Department achieves accreditation



Sylvester Daughtry, Chief Executive for the Commission for Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies, presents the accreditation certificate to Mayor Faye Prichard as Town Council and Ashland police officers look on. Standing with Mayor Prichard is Vice Mayor, William (Billy) Martin, who initially began the accreditation process.

Photo courtesy of Ashland Police Department

Birthday update from the Center of the Universe!

As we celebrate Ashland's birthday this year, we are continually reminded that we live in a wonderfully spirited community. A town that prides itself on being the Center of the Universe is a town that encourages the WORLD to join them in celebrating their sesquicentennial.

We've witnessed so many extraordinary events this year already. We've seen the "Ashland Community Chorus," led by Shiloh Baptist's own Lenora Davis, give two amazing performances at the Black History in Story & Song right here in Ashland. We are blessed that they will perform again for us at the Strawberry Faire, the 4th of July Celebration at the Hanover Arts and Activities Center and the Grand Birthday Celebration on October 18.

We've seen Ashland's own Police Department become fully accredited. In fact, Ashland's Police Department is the SMALLEST law enforcement agency in Virginia to become fully accredited. This is an amazing feat!

Only in Ashland will you see a group of citizens who have lived here for 50 years or more come together for a group photo at the R-MC football field. With the aid of a

please see Birthday, page 2



Internationally accredited

The Ashland Police Department has become the 25th law enforcement agency in the Commonwealth to become internationally accredited.

At the April 15 Town Council meeting, the department was presented with its official accreditation certificate by Sylvester Daughtry, Jr., Executive Director of Commission on Law Enforcement Agencies.

Chief Tom Clark gave credit for the successful journey to become accredited to the men and women of the department saying, "We have dedicated people who demonstrate their pride daily, and without each one of their individual contributions to this process, we would not have been successful. We are also very grateful to a community and town council who support our efforts."

Town Manager Charles Hartgrove, who also attended the review meeting, echoed the sentiment expressed by the review committee saying, "Our entire community is proud of the accomplishments of this agency."

please see CALEA, page 2

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Town Manager

Fellow Ashlanders,

It is an exciting time in Ashland with many special events planned for this summer and the completion of several projects forthcoming. Ashland Street Parties, Inc. has two more exciting concerts left this summer, including The Best BBQ in the Center of the Universe Contest and musical groups, Premiere and Ron Moody and the Centaurs. The Bluemont Concert Series will have several great



performers scheduled as well. The 4th of July and the Bluemont Concert Series are right around the corner and that means it is time for a parade, five Sunday nights of live music on the lawn, and fun for the entire family on Railroad Avenue at the Hanover Arts and Activities Center. If you can't stand the heat and humidity, go to Carter Park and cool off in the Town Pool where we have made several improvements since last year.

The construction that will improve stormwater drainage, sidewalks, and the street surface on Henry Clay Road has been underway for several weeks. While there will continue to be an inconvenience to the residents of that area and the motoring public, the finished product will improve the neighborhood. There are several plans and proposals in front of the Planning Commission and Town Council, so be sure to check the agendas on the Town Website or at Town Hall to learn what is going on, and join us at the next meeting. We encourage the entire community to take part in the Comprehensive Plan Update that we recently kicked-off. There will be many opportunities for citizens and the business community to help decide how Ashland continues to change and evolve during the next several years. As always, new businesses are opening in town as well, and we always encourage folks to Shop Ashland First!

Have a great summer and thanks for making Ashland a great place to live, work, and play.

Charles W. Hartgrove

CALEA, continued from page 1

The process of law enforcement accreditation is continuous. The department will be up for review in 2010 to ensure that it is in compliance with all applicable standards. Currently, just fewer than 600 agencies have earned this status within the United States, Canada, and Mexico. The Ashland Police Department now ranks within the top one and a half percent of all law enforcement agencies.

Carter Park Pool

The pool opened for weekends on Memorial Day and will be open daily when school closes. For swim lessons, contact the pool office on weekends at 798-2520. For swim team questions, please call Veronica Wiles at 550-1576 (H) or 512-3944 (C). The website is ashlandswimteam.com

Pool passes are available in the Treasurer's office at Town Hall at 101 Thompson Street. Please call 798-8650 for pool pass info.

Birthday, continued from page 1

few golf carts and a bullhorn, this moment was snapped for our posterity. Look for this photo in the Ashland Yearbook. Thanks to Susan Tucker and Duane Berger for pulling off that one!

Then there was the High Tea in Hanover. If you were lucky enough to get a ticket, you were treated to a beautiful event complete with spring hats, flowers, a fashion show and, of course, tea and scones. Only in Ashland will a group of volunteers dream up something like this and pull it off with class and pizzazz.

And let's not forget the Ashland 150 Clunker Cruise. Hopper bikes, souped up chopper bikes, adults acting like kids. Even the Clintons took time away from Hillary's campaign to show off their clunker. Only in Ashland.

PLANT 150 Update

PLANT 150 is spearheading the effort to plant 150 trees in Ashland to honor the sesquicentennial. Thanks to the generosity of Colesville Nursery, the following trees are available: Red Bud, Northern Red Oak, Red Maple, American Holly and River Birch. Trees are 3'-4' potted saplings and may be ordered for \$15 each. Tree orders are due by September 1st. You may download tree order forms from the birthday website: www.Ashland150.com. Please make checks payable to: "Ashland Foundation" and mail to Ashland PLANT150, PO Box 1600, Ashland, VA 23005. Trees will be delivered to Ashland Town Hall (Duncan Street, Ashland) for pick up between 8:00-11:00am on October 11, 2008 – the perfect time for planting!

PLANT 150 is also sponsoring the **GREAT TREES OF ASHLAND** to honor the trees that make the Center of the Universe such a special place. Do you have a favorite tree? What does the tree mean to you? Do you have a funny story? Do you have an extraordinary story? Share your fondest memory involving a tree and share your favorite pictures! PLANT150 will compile the stories and display them in the Exhibition Hall at the Grand Celebration on October 18, 2008.

You may mail your submissions to PLANT150 - Great Trees of Ashland PO Box 1600 Ashland, VA 23005. Or, you may submit your story on the *Tree Hugger's Spot* on the birthday website: www.Ashland150.com.

What's Going on with the Town Clock?

The Train Clock Committee is currently collecting donations from individuals and families for the Train Clock—our "birthday present." Contributions to the train clock may be made to "Ashland Foundation," a 501c3 organization. If you would like to make a contribution, please contact Jim Cox at 798-6948 or coxcox42@comcast.net.

The Commemorative Anniversary Posters are in!

Two wonderfully distinctive Town Anniversary posters are available, thanks to Ashland's own Christiane Riederer. There are two sizes (11"x17" and 18"x24"). The smaller versions of both posters are free. The larger versions cost \$15/poster. Posters are available at Town Hall and Train Town Toy & Hobby. In addition, you may pick up posters at the Street Parties and the 4th of July Parade. Checks may be made payable to "Ashland Foundation." Call Town Hall at 798-9219, Jim Donlon at 798-0330 or Lorie Foley at 798-0704 for more information.

The Grand Birthday Celebration – SAVE THE DATE!

The Grand Birthday Celebration is planned for Saturday, **October 18, 2008**. Plan to bring the entire family for an old-fashioned birthday party complete with an official ceremony, marching bands, children's sculpture and chorus, time capsules, 150 birthday cakes, a music stage, children's activities, an exhibition tent and more! Key folks from the Town, Randolph-Macon, the Ashland Police Department, Hanover Parks & Rec, and a huge committee of citizens are working together to make this a memorable – and FREE – event for everyone! If you would like to help with the birthday party, please contact Sue Watson at 798-5686 or watson240@aol.com or Lorie Foley at 798-0704 or lorie@townhound.com.

The Ashland 150 Website

Everything you need to know about Ashland's Sesquicentennial is on the Town's Birthday website: www.Ashland150.com. If you would like to participate in a large or small way, please let the committee know! If you would like to volunteer to be on a committee, please contact Charles Hartgrove, Town Manager at 798-9219, or Rob Stiles, Team 150 President, at 798-6611.

by Lorie Foley
150th Steering Committee

Council, continued from page 1

Mr. Henson is a Virginia Certified Planning Commissioner and serves on the Ashland Planning Commission, having been appointed to the Commission in 2006. In this role he has gained valuable experience with the workings of town government and insights into the forces affecting the Town. Taking his work and government experiences into consideration, Mr. Henson appreciates the need to develop a consensus and discuss issues with people of varying perspectives and viewpoints.

The Henson family moved to Ashland in 2000 and resides on College Ave. A native of Wise, VA, also a small college town, Ned has an appreciation for what makes small towns special, as well as the challenges they face as they try to balance growth with preserving their uniqueness.



Spagna



Winston-Abri



Henson

A graduate of Virginia Tech with an MBA in Technology Management from the

University of Phoenix, Mr. Henson works as a Project Manager for Dominion Resources, Inc.

The three Council members will take their oath at the July 1, 2008 meeting of Town Council at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Town Hall. The oath will be administered by the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Frank Hargrove, Jr. The July 1 meeting will also be an organizational meeting.

Ashland/Hanover Visitor Center

The Visitor Center has been very busy during the months of April and May. I attended the Visitor Center yearly conference that was held in Fredericksburg this year. The guest speakers gave wonderful talks that contained new trends and ideas in tourism and helpful information for visitor centers everywhere.



On April 7, the volunteers from the Ashland Visitor Center had a short refresher meeting for news and updates, after which we headed out on our spring field trip. The trip included Rural Plains, where Patrick Henry and Sara Shelton were married. It is now owned by the National Park Service. We were fortunate to have a guided tour of the property given by Park Ranger Historian, Bob Krick. After a delicious boxed lunch at Slash Church, we were given a lecture and tour by Diane Jones, the church historian. We were very impressed with all the additional history of the church. Our volunteers enjoy a spring and fall fieldtrip every year.

The Civil War Trails (CWT) meeting was held April 16 in Chancellorsville on a farm near the Battlefield. Staff employee, Teva Rittenhouse and I attended. Representatives from other CWT locations were there to hear the latest news on plans for the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War.

On May 19 the Old Dominion Historical Railroad Association held its annual meeting here at the Visitor Center. A group of sixty people came with their lawn chairs and cameras and enjoyed a picnic supper outside catered by Smokey Pig. A good time was had by all as they watched the trains roll through Ashland.

National Train Day was observed on May 10 here in Ashland at the station with a group photo of several Town officials, staff and volunteers of the Visitor Center along with an Amtrak volunteer boarding helper.

Ashland's Guided Walking Tours started the first Saturday in May and continue through the month. Please join one of our guides for an informative tour of the town at 11:00 AM. each Saturday. Or come in October during the cooler weather when the tours are offered again.

Please come to the Visitor Center for a 2008 Events Calendar, or give us a call with any questions at 752-6766.

by Donna Baxter
Ashland/Hanover Visitor Center Manager



Channel 17 Music

Artist – The Atkinsons

Music on Ashland's local government access channel, Channel 17, is provided by several fine local groups and musicians, and this edition of *On Track* is pleased to spotlight yet another of these fine artists.

The Atkinsons, who describe their music as "rock songs with a twang," came together in 2003 as the result of an open mic night collaboration at a local pub.

Dickie Wood (lead vocals, lead guitar) and Jeff Williams (mandolin, guitar), began making music together at Matt's Village Pub during the open mic night that was held there on Thursdays. It was during this time that they combined Dickie's unique songwriting and rock n' roll background with Jeff's alt-country mandolin twang and created their signature sound. When asked to open up for a band at Poe's Pub, the two musicians decided that they needed a name for themselves. After an unsuccessful brainstorming session to come up with a name one night, they turned to a fellow open mic musician and asked him what his last name was. "Atkinson" came the reply from Dr. Gary Atkinson, and they decided that it sounded pretty good! Later on, when members Ricky Breland (bass), Kris Krull (drums, vocals), Mike Ferry (fiddle), and Jamie Wood (vocals, percussion) were added to create a full band, the name stuck, and The Atkinsons were complete.

The Atkinsons play what has most closely been referred to as "rockin' Americana music." Their



influences range from Whiskeytown, Old '97s and Son Volt – to Old Crow Medicine Show, The Avett Brothers and Scott Miller – to Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers, The Rolling Stones and Green Day. In 2007, they released their first CD, "American Gothic." Their CD release show at Café Diem in Richmond packed the restaurant with a line out the door, and they are happy to say that their enthusiastic fan base that continues to grow. They have enjoyed sharing the stage with Scott Miller and the Commonwealth at the Shockoe Craft Beer

Festival and Grace Potter and the Nocturnals at Toad's Place.

One of the things they enjoy most as a band is looking out into the audience and seeing people in the crowd singing along to their original songs. Getting to meet and become friends with other local musicians is also something that they have enjoyed. When asked what the worst thing about being a band is, they respond with a smile, "Trying to figure out what to do with all the money we're

making!" Their advice to aspiring bands is to "Do it because you love it, because the odds of 'making it big' are against you!" With a busy gig calendar and an increasing catalog of original songs and fun covers, it is obvious that the pay The Atkinsons receive goes well beyond any monetary value.

If you want to find out where you can see The Atkinsons live, you can check out their complete list of upcoming gigs at www.theatkinsons.us, or on their MySpace website at www.myspace.com/theatkinsons. The Atkinsons are also available for private parties, fundraisers, festivals and corporate events, and you can find out more by emailing Jamie Wood at info@theatkinsons.us.

by Jenny Valent
Administrative Assistant/Public Works

R-MC celebrates Earth Day by giving back to the community

Randolph-Macon College students celebrated Earth Day on April 26th with their 3rd annual Macon-A-Difference Day. Professor Reber Dunkel, Ph.D. (Sociology), Chaplain Darrell Headrick and Assistant Director of Residence Life & Housing Christina Brown led the charge, working with the Town of Ashland, area schools and non-profits to identify community-service projects. In honor of Ashland's 150th anniversary, students, faculty and staff worked alongside community volunteers on a dozen projects in Ashland and Richmond.

R-MC President Robert Lindgren and his family participated in Macon-A-Difference Day by planting Ashland's first "Plant 150" tree. Plant 150 is an effort to plant 150 trees in Ashland in recognition of Ashland's Sesquicentennial. Mayor Faye Prichard, Ashland 150 Committee Chairman Rob Stiles and Ashland Town Councilman George Spagna joined R-MC students, President and Mrs. Lindgren and their children Greg, Jim and Andrea for the planting of a dogwood tree at the President's home. "R-MC is happy to support the Plant 150 project, especially on the day that Ashland recognizes as Arbor Day. We encourage others to support this worthwhile project. Trees planted this year will continue to add to the beauty and quality of life in Ashland for the next 150 years," said President Lindgren. For more information on Plant 150, visit www.ashland150.com/arborday.htm.

A new project for students involved volunteering at BARK, a local rescue and release shelter for dogs. Eight R-MC students cleared trails, installed trail posts, cleaned cages, carried water and hauled wood chips. Bill Stewart, BARK representative, said, "As a non-profit organization we really depend on volunteers' support. The students from R-MC provided a valuable service through both their labor—clearing trails and cleaning kennels—but just as important was their interaction with the animals. Walking the dogs and giving them some one-on-one play time is critical to their well-being." For more information about volunteering for BARK, visit their website at www.barkva.org

by Billie Raines
R-MC Community Relations Coordinator

Public Works Department

Keeping our water clean and protecting the environment

The Town of Ashland and Randolph-Macon College have been working together to improve water quality in Ashland's streams, and you can help! Read about what we have been doing and what you can do to help protect our environment.

Fish Habitat at DeJarnette Park

In 2006, the Town of Ashland rehabilitated the pond in De Jarnette Park. Since then, the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries has been stocking the pond with fish. In the fall semester of 2006, a Randolph-Macon College student, Morgan Hyatt, developed a plan for fish habitat in the pond. On "Macon a Difference Day", in accordance with Ms. Hyatt's plan, the Town provided a 30 cinder blocks to so that R-MC students could construct the fish habitat. Students rowed a johnboat out to two locations in the pond and dropped the blocks to fall as they may on the bottom. The holes in the blocks and the angles between them create spaces for smaller fish to hide and multiply.

As you are aware, in order to let the fish populations in the pond become established, no fishing is allowed until July 1, 2009. Hang in there. De Jarnette Park will again be a great fishery.

Henry Clay Road Improvement Project Update

Installation of sidewalks, curb and gutter, and storm drainage is continuing to take place on Henry Clay Road. Work in the 100 block is complete except for paving, and construction is currently underway in the 200 block. In addition to sidewalks, curb and gutter and storm drainage, Henry Clay Road will be being resurfaced. Once other improvements have been completed for the entire project, the road will be paved, completing the project. Our thanks go out to all residents on Henry Clay Road for their patience during this time.

The Town of Ashland's annual contractor, Talley and Armstrong is performing the majority of the work.

Clunker Cruise

On Saturday, May 10, an estimated 100 people showed up at Cobblestone Bikes for the Ashland 150 Clunker Cruise. Many of the cyclists sported old or/and unusual bikes, and the hour-long cruise cycled through residential areas, the campus of Randolph-Macon, and even stopped traffic (thanks to Ashland police escorts) to cross Route 1 and descend upon Dairy Queen for frosty treats. Fun was had by all ages, thanks to organizer Joel Street.

Brush pickup around town

The Town will pick up the following: shrubbery cuttings, weeds, branches 3" in diameter or less and leaves and grass clippings. Please bag leaves and grass clippings from May through October. Biodegradable paper bags are preferred, but plastic bags will be accepted. Place all brush to be picked up at the edge of property, but not in the ditch, gutter or street.

The following items will not be picked up: dirt, construction materials, lumber and branches larger than 3" in diameter.

For questions or additional information, call Jenny Valent at Town Hall, 798-9219.

Watch for the next Clunker Cruise and join in the fun!

Dog poop scooping awareness

When a dog's gotta go, a dog's gotta go! But, are you aware that leaving your dog's feces on the ground not only creates a mess for someone to potentially step in, but it can pollute our creeks and streams as well? Fecal matter contains harmful bacteria. When it washes down storm drains during rain events, it creates an unhealthy environment in our waterways.

'Macon' A Difference Day

On "Macon a Difference Day," Saturday, April 26, Brothers 4 Change installed several dog waste bag dispensers, which were purchased by the Town. Brothers 4 Change is a Randolph-Macon



student organization that promotes positive change and knowledge about diverse cultures. Brothers 4 Change is also engaged in many community outreach projects, such as this one, which will encourage a positive environmental change.

These dispensers will make it easy for you to "scoop the poop" when walking your four-legged friends. The bag dispensers are located at one of these parks or trails: -Carter Park -DeJarnette Park -Pufferbelly Park -Railside Park -Stony Run Trail

Grab one of the biodegradable bags before heading down the trail or into the park - picking up after your pooch couldn't be easier!

Mechumps Creek Restoration Project

Also as part of "Macon a Difference Day," Brothers 4 Change installed several stormwater inlet markers around Town. These markers remind us that what goes down these storm drains, goes into our waterways - creeks, streams, and, ultimately, the Chesapeake Bay. Dumping paint, oil, or any

other waste into storm drains is not only illegal, it directly pollutes our waterways. So remember: *only rain down the drain!*

The Town of Ashland has been growing for more than a century, particularly since the construction of Interstate 95 in the late 1960s. An unfortunate consequence of the growth is that Mechumps Creek has been adversely impacted due to the increase in impervious area (roads, parking lots, and roofs), which increased the amount of stormwater runoff. This increase has altered stream flows during storms and caused the banks to erode, and loss of aquatic and riparian habitat. Because Ashland sits at the headwaters of the Mechumps Creek, these impacts affect waterways all the way to Chesapeake Bay.

During an Environmental Studies class at Randolph-Macon College in spring 2007, Dr. Charles Gowan and his students conceived a plan for a project to improve the health of Mechumps Creek. The class presented the concept to the Ashland Town Council. Thus began the partnership between the R-MC and the Town to restore Mechumps Creek. Since that time, the Town and R-MC have been working on ways to bring the plan conceived by Dr. Gowan and his students to fruition. During the 2008 spring semester, adjunct professor Bud Watson and his Environmental Policy class, evaluated opportunities for grants to fund the project. During the first month of the class, Bud Watson, his class and Town staff developed a proposal for a Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grant, and submitted it to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The grant proposal was due on February 29, 2008, but we will not learn whether the grant was awarded for this project until late in June 2008. This grant, if received, will fund the preliminary design for the stream restoration.

For the remainder of the semester, students identified and evaluated eight other potential granting sources that may fund various phases of the project. As part of the class, students drafted proposals for these grants. R-MC and the Town will work together to finalize these grant proposals and submit them to various state, federal and private entities.

R-MC has contracted with Williamsburg Environmental Group to provide technical support for the project.

Compost bins

If you would like information on the Town's Compost Program that includes a free composting bin, call Jenny at 798-9219.

Mulch

Free mulch is available to Town residents. The mulch can be picked up at the Town Maintenance Shop on W. Vaughan Road during the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Upcoming Events

July 4th Parade

Hanover Arts & Activities Center
798-2728 for info

Bluemont Concert Series

Sundays, July 27, August 3, 10, 17 & 24
at 7pm

Hanover Arts & Activities Center
798-2728 for info

July 19

Midsummer's Night Plaza Street Party
Library/Plaza area, 6:30 - 10pm
798-8130

August 20

Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social
Hanover Arts and Activities Center
798-2728 for info

August 23

Patrick Henry Half Marathon
Poor Farm Park, 7am
360-2672

August 30

Summer's End Celebration
Faith, Hope & Victory, 10am - 4pm 798-1288

For information on places to visit or tours to take,
check with the Visitor Center at 752-6766.
Pick up the new 2008 Events Guide.

Welcome to these new businesses in town

Yokozuna Sushi
Ashland/Hanover Shopping Center

TSC Home Improvements
105 MacMurdo Street

Sew That Studio
105 Hanover Avenue

Brenda's Place, Hair Salon
Henry Clay Shopping Center

Atlantic Capital Comp., LLC
10429 Success Street

Ashland Thrift
12085 Washington Highway
Richmond Traffic Control, Inc.
12227 Washington Highway

Coco's Mobile Detailing

653 S. Taylor Street
Chick's Hobbiz, Inc.

10401 Dow Gil Road
JNK Enterprises, Inc.

12152 Washington Highway

Doris M. Hassell Skin Care Distributor
116 S. Snead Street

Unique & Beautiful Beauty Supply
131 Hill Carter Parkway

Music Tacklebox
12079 Washington Highway

For the Wall Framing
606 England Street

The Plaza

The Plaza

The Plaza

Orders are being taken for additional commemorative bricks for the Plaza and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Please use the order form below.

Donor Card

Name _____

Address _____

Phone number _____

Donation to The Plaza fund \$ _____

Purchase of commemorative brick, \$60 each \$ _____
(Use additional forms for more than one order.)

Total for this form \$ _____

Bricks for The Plaza - Maximum three lines, **20 characters per line**, includes spaces, punctuation.
(Please print clearly)

Make checks payable to: **The Plaza Fund**
Return form to: **The Plaza Fund, PO Box 787, Ashland, VA 23005**

Signature _____

For more information, call (804) 798-6194
Donations are tax deductible.

[] My employer will match my gift. My matching gift form is enclosed

Thanks from the Relay for Life teams!

On April 26, two teams from the Town of Ashland employees participated in the Relay for Life fundraiser of the American Cancer Society at Patrick Henry High School.

Between the two teams, over \$3,680 was raised. Additional funds were raised at the Relay by the Police Department with their "Cream a Cop" pie throwing event.

To the many businesses and individuals who supported the teams, a huge thank you is being sent your way!

If you missed the Relay, you missed a fun time. Weather was excellent, and food on the grill was even better!

It is rumored that some pranks were played on the Police Department's team by the Town Hall team! Imagine that!!

Scenes from



the
Relay!

Public Meetings Schedule:

Town Council meets the **first** and **third** Tuesday of each month at 7pm in Town Hall Council Chambers.

Planning Commission meets the **second** Wednesday of each month at 7pm in Town Hall Council Chambers.

Other Committees (Recreation Committee, Economic Development Authority, Board of Zoning Appeals) meet as needed. Contact the Town Hall offices for times and dates.

Town of Ashland Contact Information: 101 Thompson Street - PO Box 1600 - Ashland, VA 23005 - (804) 798-9219

Town Website www.town.ashland.va.us

Town Council

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 fprichard@town.ashland.va.us
 Vice Mayor William C. Martin 798-5471
 wmartin@town.ashland.va.us
 Anthony E. Keitt 798-6227
 akeitt@town.ashland.va.us
 Melvin R. Hall, Jr. 798-7365
 mhall@town.ashland.va.us
 George F. Spagna 752-6513
 gspagna@town.ashland.va.us

Planning Commission

Patricia Temple, Chairperson 798-6642
 Jo Ann Hunter, Vice Chair 752-2766
 Quentina Kinney 798-5331
 Bob Brown 752-5987
 Ned Henson 798-9129

Board of Zoning Appeals

Robert L. Grimes, Chair 798-8679
 W. C. Lawing 798-5518
 Jo Ann Hunter 752-2766
 A. C. Bruce 798-7655
 Donnie Tolley 798-0592

Parks and Recreation Committee

Ann Martin 752-6477
 Terri Abri 798-1987
 George Keeney 798-3545
 Anthony Keitt, Council representative 798-6227
 Ronald Jackson 798-3904
 William H. Perrin (P.K.) 798-3456
 Keith Cartwright 305-3111

Ashland Economic Development Authority

R. Gaillard Owen, Chairman 798-7179
 Donald R. Stephens, Vice Chairman 798-0594
 Ricardo McCarthy 798-8207
 Tim Shelton 752-4579
 Wendy Farmer 752-6015
 Chris Judd 798-0210
 Marnie Davis 752-0090

Ashland Administrative Offices

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Other Helpful Numbers

Ashland Visitor Center 752-6766
 Trash Collection Hotline 425-0500
 Recycling 340-0900
 Hanover Water and Sewer 730-6024
 Non Emergency 730-6140
 Richard S. Gillis Public Library 798-4072

Planning and Community Development Department

Planning for the Next Fifty Years

A review of the Comprehensive Plan raised a very interesting question: *Is Ashland ready for what might develop in the next five to fifty years?*

The Town, along with all localities in the Commonwealth of Virginia, guides development through its Comprehensive Plan. State law requires that the Plan be updated every five years. The Planning Commission is assigned the task of reviewing the Plan and determining if it needs amending. The Town's Plan was last updated in 2003.

The Planning Commission examined the 2003 Plan and agreed that it was not a very precise document. A more precise Plan is legally defensible and tells developers the Town's desires up front. They determined that it needed more proactive policies that would guide the decisions made by staff and elected officials in regard to development, community facilities, parks and recreation, and the economy.

Staff was directed to hire a Demographic/Economic Consultant. The selected consultant will analyze the economic health of the Town by conducting a study focusing on the retail, residential, office, industrial,

cultural arts and entertainment, and hotel sectors and create specific economic policies that can be incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan.

The Commission also recognized the importance of community involvement. The kick-off meeting in January was a general information meeting that presented the ideas that staff and the Commission had for what the Plan should be. The public was asked to write down the issues and concerns that they wanted to see addressed.

The March meeting, at St. James The Less Episcopal Church, used a question and answer format. The participants were given a series of questions to answer about Ashland's economy, community identity and its natural and cultural resources. The focus was on how to maintain Ashland's small town charm, what types of businesses residents would like to see locate here, what cultural and educational resources are available and what was still needed, and how to protect the Town's natural resources.

Comments from these public meetings were used to create the Introduction Statement that will provide the framework for the Plan and attempt to summarize the values and desires for the community. The Introduction

Statement acknowledges that change will occur. It is the responsibility of the Town to ensure that it occurs at a manageable pace, that the transportation network is sufficient; that growth develops where it is reasonable and needed, and that we continue to encourage progress while maintaining our identity as a small town. The Comprehensive Plan is the Town's most effective tool for implementing these goals. A draft of this Statement can be found on the Town's website.

Staff has decided to use its time and resources more efficiently by hiring an umbrella consultant to oversee the remainder of the process. The consultant, Renaissance Planning Group, will coordinate with staff, the Commissioners, and the consultants from Urban Partners, conduct community meetings and produce recommended policies based on their analysis. Adoption of the Plan is expected in early 2009. You can follow the progress of the Plan, check the scheduled meeting dates, and share your concerns, questions, and comments by visiting the Town's website or by logging on at www.ashlandplanning.blogspot.com.

by Beth Yates
 Planning Technician



Recruits graduate

Kudos are in order for **Grant Bonistalli, Stuart McCullough, Wayne Donovan and Scott Nuessle**, who joined the Ashland Police Department in December as recruits and began the police academy in January

On Friday, May 23, these four recruits graduated from the Rappahannock Police Academy with flying colors, taking first, second and third place in academics.

The graduation ceremonies were Friday, May 23 at the Hanover County Board Room, and here are the standings and rank which include academic and overall scores of each of the four recruits in a class of 18:

Grant Bonistalli was 1st in academics and 3rd in overall scoring; **Stuart McCullough** was 2nd in academics and 2nd in overall scoring; **Wayne Donovan** was 3rd in academics and 8th overall in scoring and **Scott Nuessle** was 9th in academics and 6th overall scoring.

We look forward to their continued progress as they begin their eight weeks of field training with a seasoned Ashland police officer, learning the Town.

Twenty-fifth annual awards banquet

The Ashland Police Department held its 25th annual awards banquet on May 14, 2008 at the Hanover Arts and Activities Center.

Among the awards given were: Citizen of the Year - **Pete Taylor**; Support Services Officer of the Year - **Joe Perkins**; Business of the Year - **Wal-Mart**; Officer of the Year - **Scott Menzies**.

The guest speaker was Chief Tom Clark. Chief Clark recognized and thanked the personnel of the department

New chief

Effective July 1, 2008, Ashland will welcome a new police chief when Captain Douglas A. Goodman, Jr., takes the helm of the police department as Chief Tom Clark steps back into retirement on June 30.



Captain Goodman is no stranger to law enforcement, having begun his career with the Hanover County Sheriff's Office on July 1, 1993 after graduating from VA Tech. Goodman rose

through the ranks, reaching the rank of Lieutenant in 2002. Captain Goodman graduated with a Master's in Public Administration from VCU in December 2007.

Captain Goodman follows in his father's footsteps in law enforcement as his father retired from the Henrico Division of Police in 2001 after 31 years of service.

Captain Goodman served as the Accreditation Manager coordinating the Sheriff's Office's successful state re-accreditation visits in 2002 and 2005. In 2003, Goodman managed the Sheriff's Office bid to become nationally accredited. The Hanover County Sheriff's Office is the only full-service sheriff's office in the Commonwealth to earn this designation. Goodman received over 90 commendations during his tenure with the Sheriff's Office.

Captain Goodman lives in central Hanover with his wife, their 7-year old son and their 3-year old daughter.

Retiring -- again

Chief Tom Clark, a retired captain from the Henrico County Police Department with over 30 years experience in law enforcement, came aboard to serve as interim police chief of the Ashland Police Department in December 2006 until a permanent chief could be hired. Initially, he was to stay one year; however, he agreed to remain for an additional six months to assist in a smooth transition for the new chief.



Under Chief Clark's leadership, the department has made many improvements in providing excellent service to the citizens, businesses and visitors of Ashland. Working to increase the number of officers and vehicles on the street, Chief Clark was able to ensure that the police department's primary goals were achieved. By actively working with the businesses and citizens, Chief Clark was able to develop, not only good relationships, but also a partnership to keep Ashland safe.

The culmination of Chief Clark's tenure was the police department's endorsement by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies to become a fully accredited law enforcement agency. The Ashland Police Department now ranks within the top one and one-half percent of all law enforcement agencies nationwide.

Not only has the police department benefited from his years of experience and vast wisdom, but the entire Town has as well. We wish him and his family the best of everything as he retires -- again.

New employee

The Ashland Police Department is pleased to welcome a new member to the Ashland Police Department.

Paul Stirnaman joined the department on April 10, 2008 as a Police Officer. He comes to the department after having served three years in the Norfolk Police Department. A veteran of the Navy, Officer Stirnaman is married and has one child.

Bike Patrol

The Ashland Police Department's Bike Team consists of four members: one supervisor and three patrol officers. Each officer assigned to the Bike Team has been through extensive bike training at the Rappahannock Regional Criminal Justice Academy.

The Bike Team is a great asset to the department as they are fully equipped to handle all calls for service as well as provide special patrol functions. The Bike Team adds a very personable approach to police work and allows for the officers to interact more with the community.

Train safety

As the school year draws to a close and our children will be out and about, the Ashland Police Department would like to make all parents aware of train and railroad track safety. Please take a moment to discuss these safety points with your children:

- Cross tracks **ONLY** at designated pedestrian or roadway crossings. Observe and obey all warning signs and signals.
- It can take a mile or more to stop a train.
- **DO NOT** cross the tracks immediately after a train passes. Your view of a second train might be blocked by the first. Wait after the first train passes until you can see clearly in both directions.
- **NEVER** walk down a train track; it is illegal and dangerous.
- Loud music and headphones can keep you from hearing a train.
- Trains always have the right-of-way.
- Don't walk too close to the railroad tracks. The trains overhang the track by three (3) feet in both directions.

The Ashland Police Department wishes you a fun and safe summer. If you want more information about train and railroad safety, please contact the Ashland Police Department or visit the Operation Lifesaver website at www.oli.org

Employee of the quarter January through March 30, 2008

The Ashland Police Department would like to announce that **Investigator Adam Aigner** has earned employee of the quarter for the following reasons: During



this period Investigator Aigner has been assigned and handled all of the major investigative cases that have come into the department. These cases have included several B & E's, felony assaults, and larcenies. In addition to his increased caseload,

Investigator Aigner has completed all of his assignments while serving for prolonged periods as the on-call Investigator.

Investigator Aigner has made many professional contacts with neighboring jurisdictions which have greatly assisted with these investigations. He has also conducted several interviews with these contacts which have resulted in the closing a number of recent cases.

Investigator Aigner continues to show tremendous dedication to the Ashland Police Department.

**Happy Birthday,
Ashland!**

Ashland Farmer's Market



The Ashland Farmer's Market opened for the 2008 season on Saturday, May 3. The market is open, rain or shine, on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Ashland Town Hall parking lot on Duncan Street in downtown Ashland. Participation is open to local growers within a 50-mile radius of Ashland. The Ashland Farmer's Market is a producers-only market. No reselling of purchased items is permitted. All vendors must participate in growing the produce they sell.

You can view a list of many of the vendors and items that will be sold at the market each Saturday on the Town's website at www.town.ashland.va.us. The website is updated each Wednesday before the market.



Town of Ashland

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On Track is published quarterly for residents and businesses by the Town of Ashland. If you have editorial comments or would like to be added to the mailing list, please contact the newsletter editor at (804) 798-9219 or e-mail lsmith@town.ashland.va.us

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Bits of helpful info ...

- Town Council agendas are posted on the Town's website.
- Approved Council minutes are available for viewing on the website
- Information regarding changes in meeting schedules, traffic detours, etc., is displayed on the Town's TV Cable Channel 17.

Carter Park Pool information on page 3

WE NEED YOUR HELP

On February 19, 1858 the Town of Ashland was incorporated. We invite you to participate in the commemoration of Ashland's one hundred fifty years. Please consider a tax deductible contribution toward Ashland's "birthday present" — a town clock which will be located adjacent to the Visitor Center/ Train Station in downtown Ashland. The clock will be erected this year prior to the birthday party and will be dedicated on Train Day on November 8, 2008. The clock will be a gift from the citizens and will be a permanent monument to remind Ashland residents and visitors of our proud heritage.

Please make your check payable to **ASHLAND FOUNDATION** and please write "Town Clock" in the memo section of your check.

PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM AND YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO:

**ASHLAND FOUNDATION
P.O. BOX 1600
ATTN: JOSH FARRAR
ASHLAND, VA 23005**

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