



B'burg Resident Ben Crawford Receives Top AARP Award

Richmond, VA December 10, 2007— For his outstanding volunteer accomplishments with AARP Virginia and around his community, R.B. “Ben” Crawford has received the 2007 AARP Andrus Award for Community Service, the top AARP volunteer award in Virginia. The award was presented by AARP National Director Nelda Barnett at the annual AARP All Volunteer Assembly in Charlottesville. More than 1 million Virginians are AARP members.

AARP’s Blacksburg chapter was also recognized for its outstanding newsletter.

Crawford has served on more than 100 boards, councils, or commissions, including an appointment by President Lyndon B. Johnson to the Small Business Administration Advisory Committee for West Virginia and Governor Arch Moore of West Virginia. He has been recognized at local, regional, state, and national

See Ben Crawford, page 3



Ben Crawford (second from right) is congratulated by AARP Virginia State Director Bill Kallio (left) for receiving the 2007 Virginia Andrus Award for Community Service. The award was presented by AARP National Director Nelda Barnett (right). Ben’s wife, Carol (second from right) also attended the ceremony.

Tina King of Agency on Aging to Start off New Year Programs

Tuesday January 15, 11:30 a.m.

Ms. Tina King, Executive Director of the New River Valley Agency on Aging, will speak on "Building Bridges to groups in the New River Valley-2008." She will have handouts on the work of the NRV Agency on Aging which is head quartered in Pulaski, Va. The NRV AoA includes the counties of Montgomery, Floyd, Giles, and Pulaski, and the City of Radford. Chapter members and guests gather at 11:30 a.m. for a brown bag lunch (coffee provided by the Chapter) with the program starting about 12 noon in the Blacksburg Community Center on Patrick Henry Drive.

There will be a brief 5-minute "Table Top Talk" and display by the RSVP of Montgomery County & Radford, led by Angela Little.

Jo Ann’s Want Ads

Notes from the AARP President, January 2008

In thinking about what to call this column, in my first two weeks as President of AARP, I came up with this title, “The Want Ads.” I have spent some time these weeks saying, “I want you to help me with this.” Or “I want you to head up that committee, or do this job for me.” It has been two weeks of wants, and so many of you have given me much help and I want to thank you. So now this will be Jo Ann’s Want Ad Section of our Newsletter this year because I want all your help.

With all of your help I want to make this another good year for the Blacksburg Chapter of AARP. I want to present a year-long calendar that you can cut out and put in your wallet so you won’t miss a thing! Your board and I have put this calendar together for the January Newsletter.

There are some committee appointments not yet filled,

See Jo Ann’s Want Ads, page 2

2008 Blacksburg AARP Chapter Board

Officers

President: Jo Ann Underwood joa@warmhearthva.org
1st Vice President: Angela Little anglittle@naxs.net
2nd Vice President: Nancy Eiss nsjeiss@verizon.net
Secretary: *Virgil Cook* vcook@vt.edu
Treasurer: *Brian Allen* mballen@prodigy.net

Board of Directors

Class of 2008:

Curt Finch crfinch@vt.edu
Margaret Kates connie@vt.edu

Class of 2009:

Dan Fleming dbflem@vt.edu
Nancy Eiss neiss@vt.edu
Jo Ann Underwood joa@vt.edu

Class of 2010:

Harriett Cooper chayabrona@verizon.net
Ken Dawson kedawson@verizon.net
Joe Fontenot cajunjoe@vt.edu

Committee Chairs and Appointees:

AARP of Virginia Liaison: Ben Crawford ben.crawford@vt.edu

Associate Treasurer: June Schmidt schmidtj@vt.edu

Caring: Harriett Cooper chayabrona@verizon.net

Chapter Awards: Joe Fontenot cajunjoe@vt.edu

Community Service:

AARP Driver Safety Course: Curt Finch crfinch@vt.edu

AARP Tax Aide: Frank Lau franklau1@verizon.net

Chaplain: Ken Dawson kedawson@verizon.net

Financial Planning: Dale Oliver jdoliver@vt.edu

Health Care: Harriet Damant hdamant@verizon.net

Jo Ann Underwood joa@vt.edu

History: Doris Abraham dsta118e@verizon.net

Hospitality: Barbara Blanton

Legislative: Dan Fleming dbflem@vt.edu

Membership: Jim Gaines gaines@vt.edu

Angela Little anglittle@naxs.net

Newsletter Editor: Mary Holliman mchollim@vt.edu

Nominating: Class of 2008

Program: Carl McDaniels cmcd@vt.edu

Public Relations: Norman and Nancy Eiss nsjeiss@verizon.net

Telephone:

Harriett Cooper chayabrona@verizon.net

Margaret Kates connie@vt.edu

Rhoda Lau mommakit4@msn.com

Virginia Tech Retirees Association Liaison:

Margaret Kates connie@vt.edu

Ways And Means:

Webmaster: Connie Anderson connie@vt.edu

Chapter meetings are the *third* Tuesday of each month at the Blacksburg Community Center, Patrick Henry Drive, at 11:30 a.m. Bring a bag lunch; the club provides napkins, coffee, and tea; the program starts at noon.

Board meetings are the *first* Tuesday of each month (except that the January meeting will be on the 8th) at the Blacksburg Community Center, Patrick Henry Drive, at 9:30 a.m.

AARP Blacksburg Chapter #2613
P.O. Box 10082, Blacksburg, VA 24062
Web: <http://civic.bev.net/aarp/>

Jo Ann's Want Ads, from page 1

but we will present the officers we have in place as of this printing. If there is anything you would like to help with, do contact me at 951-1541. I want to hear from you. We need a Ways and Means Chairperson.

So many of you have done so much and it is appreciated. All kinds of honors have come to us because of our working members. See Connie's pictures and an article about the Andrus award.

Connie deserves a great thank you from us all for her work on the web. She has had 5,000 hits on her/our website. See her pictures and an article about the Andrus Award presented to our Ben Crawford!

All of our AARP family want to thank retiring members of the Board and committees: Jim Gaines, Past President; Jim Wightman, Membership Chair, for his energetic Membership job; Don Elson for his years of work on the Awards Committee; Lula Roberts and Kathy Jeffers, Caring Committee, for caring; Carrie Coil and Mary Ellen Moore, Hospitality Committee, the great greeters for ten Years!!; and Mike Sporakowski for Community Service.

And I want to wish you all a productive New Year.

— Jo Ann Underwood

Challenges Face the 2008 General Assembly

Legislators at the 2008 session face difficult decisions due to an anticipated shortfall of several hundred million dollars for the rest of this fiscal year and another projected for 2008-2010. Also, two high-priority items that will require new funding are mental health reforms and pre-K programs for at-risk 4-year-olds.

Another hot issue backed by the Governor is closing the "loophole" that allows unlicensed dealers at gun shows to sell guns without a background check of those with a criminal record or with a dangerous mental ill-

see General Assembly, page 6

Ben Crawford Receives Andrus Award, from page 1

levels for his excellence in volunteer service.

The Andrus Award for Community Service is the top award given to one AARP member in each state who has demonstrated outstanding community service. It is named in honor of Ethel Percy Andrus, founder of AARP.

In 2002, Crawford's ability to inspire others to volunteer was recognized "in gratitude for one whose service has inspired and motivated so many to work for the good of community" by The Community Foundation of the New River Valley. He has been recognized for his Service to Youth from the National 4-H, Service to Appalachia from the Appalachian Regional Commission, and Patriotic Service from the U.S. Treasury Department. He was also named Concord College Alumnus of the Year and Gold Alumnus of the Year.

The Boy Scouts of America have awarded Crawford with the Silver Beaver Award. This award is the council-level distinguished service award given to those who implement the Scouting program and perform community service through hard work, self sacrifice, dedication, and many years of service. It is given to those who do not actively seek it.

Crawford has served as one of AARP Blacksburg's chapter presidents. As president he held a public meeting at which all three area members for the Virginia General Assembly spoke and reacted to a question and answer session. This event was reported widely in the press. He has also served as program chair for the past three years and initiated numerous AARP Driver Safety Programs sponsored by his chapter. In 2006, he and his wife served as co-editors of the chapter newsletter.



At the Fall 2007 banquet: standing: Carl McDaniels; Bill Kallio, Virginia AARP State Director; and Ben Crawford Seated: Jim Gaines, Blacksburg AARP President

Currently, Crawford is the State Coordinator of Communications and Training for AARP Virginia. He helped state and national AARP staffs develop a training program aimed at improving and enhancing AARP local chapters in Virginia. He also assigns AARP-approved training specialists to provide these programs to AARP chapters throughout Virginia, coordinates their training assignments, and offers the training specialists assistance, advice, and suggestions as it relates to their volunteer work for AARP.

Crawford is a veteran of the U.S. Army and served as a paratrooper. He received a degree from Concord University and another degree from Vir-

ginia Tech. After serving as a Boy Scout Executive and insurance underwriter, Crawford began teaching Economics and Money, Credit and Banking while employed at Concord College, where he was Director of the Center of Economic Action. He then became an assistant professor of management at West Virginia University, teaching marketing, supervision, and small business management while serving as their Director of Continuing Business Education.

In the 1970s Crawford served as the Director for the National 4-H Center in Washington, D.C. For 13 years he served as CEO of Ruritan National, a leading national civic-ser-

See Ben Crawford, page 5

Nelda Barnett,
National AARP
Board member,
presents a
beautiful clock
to Ben
Crawford as
part of the
Andrus Award.

2008 AARP Calendar
Cut and fold to put in wallet

- Jan. 8 Board Meets
- Jan. 15 General Meeting

- Feb. 5 Board Meets
- Feb. 19 General Meeting

- Mar. 4 Board Meets
- Mar. 18 General Meeting

- Apr. 1 Board Meets
- Apr. 15 General Meeting

- May 6 Board Meets
- May 20 General Meeting

- June 3 Board Meets
- June 17 Picnic Nellies Cave

- Sept. 2 Board Meets
- Sept. 16 General Meeting

- Oct. 7 Board Meets
- Oct. 21 General Meeting

- Nov. 4 Board Meets
- Nov. 18 General meeting

- Dec. 2 Christmas Luncheon



Blacksburg AARP, Chapter 2613
Informal Board and Committee Meeting

A meeting of board members and committee heads was held December 11, 2007, to acquaint me with the organization's structure and management. It was an opportunity for all of us to get together before the end of the year. Many topics were discussed at this informal meeting. Carl McDaniels discussed programs for the year and suggestions were offered. This will be reported on in this Newsletter. Legislative issues were reported on by Dan Fleming, and the importance of these issues for all of us discussed. See his report in this Newsletter. Connie brought us up to date on issues in the By-laws and Standing Rules of Order so that we can run smoothly.

Jim Gaines reported that he had completed all four required annual reports — one on the election forum we held before the November General Assembly elections, and another on officers. The board approved these forms and Jim mailed them to the state office. He also had a survey on aging, which he filled out and mailed. Committee vacancies were discussed and people suggested for the openings. Many more things were discussed, and it was very helpful to me. I am open to any suggestions you have in operating as your President. I thank you all for being patient as I learn.

— Jo Ann Underwood

AARP Establishes Memorial Fund for Gerontology

Last spring Bill Kallio, State Director of AARP, wrote to VT's Gerontology Center Director Karen Roberto: "AARP was profoundly affected by the loss of innocent lives. In addition to the deep ties the Blacksburg chapter has with the community, many of AARP's members, their children, and their grandchildren have a direct relationship with the Virginia Tech Community."

In the wake of the April 16th tragedy, the Virginia chapter of AARP donated \$32,000 to the Center for Gerontology in honor of the 32 students and faculty lost. Deeply moved by the character and resilience of the Virginia Tech community that became so apparent in the aftermath of that tragic event, AARP Virginia made the donation to inspire and increase the number of students entering the field of gerontology. With more than 35 million members, AARP is the leading nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization for people age 50 and over in the United States. AARP

is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for all individuals as they age.

Placed in an endowment account so that the memorial will continue in perpetuity, the Center is actively seeking contributions from community organizations and individuals to reach the \$50,000 minimum required for an endowment fund. Once the fund reaches the targeted amount, the Center will use the annual income distributions to provide support for student activities and programs that will enhance learning and interest in aging.

The Center's goal is to award the first AARP Virginia Tech Memorial Fund for Gerontology student scholarship in Spring 2008. Contributions are tax exempt and can be sent to the Center for Gerontology, Attn: AARP Fund, 237 Wallace Hall (0426), Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061. Make checks out to the Virginia Tech Foundation. For more information, contact the Center at 540-231-7657; gero@vt.edu

AARP Community Service Programs Aid Thousands of Virginians

Driver Safety

In 2006, more than 11,000 state residents attended Driver Safety Program classes, which help 50-plus drivers test and hone their driving abilities.

Driver Safety instructors receive initial training and then participate in semiannual workshops to maintain and enhance their teaching skills. If you are looking for a fun volunteer opportunity, and if you're a good communicator with a strong interest in promoting safe driving, consider becoming a Driver Safety instructor. For more information, call 1-888- 227-7669 or go to www.aarp.org/drive.

Tax-Aide

Earlier this year in Virginia, more than 42,000 low- and middle-income taxpayers received free help from AARP Tax-Aide volunteers. From February until mid-April every year, at sites across the state, trained and IRS-certified Tax-Aide volunteers provide assistance with filling out and filing federal tax returns. Volunteers of all ages are encouraged to join Tax-Aide. For more information, call 1-888 227-7669 or go to www.aarp.org/taxaide. AARP Tax-Aide is administered through the AARP Foundation in cooperation with the Internal Revenue Service.

Ben Crawford, from page 3

vice organization. After retiring from Ruritan, he rejoined Virginia Tech as a faculty member in their Institute for Leadership and Volunteer Development. Crawford retired from Virginia Tech in 1995 and is still involved in numerous civic activities in Blacksburg. — Tony Hylton

Volunteers Needed for Myriad Tasks

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of the New River Valley, a program of the non-profit organization NRV CARES, trains volunteers to become advocates for abused and neglected children involved in Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court proceedings. To learn about becoming a volunteer and their next training opportunity, please call Sherri Songer at 381-8312.

The Women's Resource Center has scheduled their Winter Class Intervention Volunteer trainings. The training involves forty hours between January 29 and February 21. For specific dates and times, please call Mary Forti at 639-1123 or RSVP. They are specifically recruiting older adults to become hotline volunteers to help handle domestic violence calls that come from the older adult population.

The Blacksburg Adult Clothing Bank needs volunteers to work on Wednesdays from 9-12. It is located on 141 Jackson Street. Contact Jill Columbus at 382-6186 or RSVP to volunteer.

The Friends of the Library will be conducting their annual membership drive the last week of the month. Volunteers are needed to work at an information table in each of the three branches of the library during the regular hours of operation. To volunteer, call Ame Anderson at 552-7237 or the RSVP office.

Literacy Volunteers of the NRV is collecting books for their annual Used Book Sale at the NRV Mall in February. If you would like to help sort books or work the sale, please call Donna Webster at 382-7262 or RSVP.

Med-Ride is in need of more volunteers in the Montgomery and Radford areas. This involves transporting individuals to non-emergency medical appointments in your personal vehicle. Mileage costs are reimbursed. Call Peggy Akers at 1-888-633-7433 or RSVP for more information.

Upward Bound at VA Tech needs tutors for high school students in the areas of algebra and geometry. Please call Alan Bagby at 231-3641 or RSVP.

Montgomery Regional Hospital needs a volunteer at the Information Desk on Thursdays 8:00 a.m. to noon. Someone is also needed for the Emergency Waiting Area on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and Mondays at 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., 2-6 p.m., and 6-10 p.m. If interested, call Molly Prater for more information at 953-5291.

— Mandy Harris
RSVP of Montgomery County & Radford, 540-382-5775

AARP Programs Planned for 2008:

Upcoming programs are: February 19, Elaine Carter, Executive Director of the Christiansburg Institute, on "CI--It's Past Present, & Future" March 18, A program on area transportation resources of seniors. April, 15, Dr. Karen Roberto, Professor & Director of the Virginia Tech Center for Gerontology. She will speak on the work of the Center and how they expect to use the AARP-funded scholarship. May 20, Legislative Report from area representatives to the Virginia General Assembly. June 17, Annual Pot Luck Picnic and White Elephant Sale — Carl McDaniels

Blacksburg AARP Receives Large Chapter “Newsletter of the Year” Award for 2006

At the annual state-wide AARP Virginia All Volunteer Assembly held in Charlottesville in November, Blacksburg Chapter 2613 won the award for the Large Chapter Newsletter of the Year 2006. The Co-Editors that year were Ben and Carol Crawford.

The award is presented each year to the best AARP Newsletter based on content, layout, design, and attractiveness. The Blacksburg Chapter Newsletter won the award in 2003 as well, under the Editorship of Don Elson.

The Chapter Newsletter of the Year Award recognizes chapters that enhance awareness of AARP’s mission and purpose in the community by providing timely information that covers the full spectrum of AARP local, state, and national issues.

Eleanor Boyd, Associate State Coordinator for Community Outreach, presents the AARP of Virginia Large Chapter Newsletter of the Year Award for 2006 to Ben and Carol Crawford.

Awards Galore to Blacksburg AARP Members

In addition to the Andrus Award, three awards were presented to Blacksburg AARP members recently.

The first was the 2006 Large Chapter Newsletter Award presented to Ben and Carol Crawford, co-editors, by Virginia AARP. This award is given for the most outstanding newsletter from large chapters in Virginia.

Two local awards were presented at the Holiday Dinner in December. The first award was for excellent service to the Chapter by Jim Gaines. His tireless work in researching and follow-thru in the writing and publishing of the history of the Blacksburg Chapter and service as chapter president earned him without question the Chapter Service Award for 2007.

The second local award present at the Holiday Dinner was the Community Service Award for 2007. There is certainly no one in the Chapter that has done more for the Chapter, community, and the state than Ben Crawford. In introducing Ben, it was

stated that it is easier to tell what he had not done than to list all his many great works.

— Don Elson

Chapter Wins \$100 in AARP Virginia Drawing

In a drawing held in Richmond among the large chapters who collected at least 100 signatures for the AARP DIVIDED WE FAIL movement in the fall of 2007, Chapter 2613 - Blacksburg was drawn as one of the three lucky chapters to receive a check for \$100 to go to chapter activities in 2008.

— Carl McDaniels

General Assembly, from page 2

ness. Closing the “loophole” was also recommended by the state panel report on the Tech shootings.

Virginia AARP goals include creating a consumer-friendly long-term-care system, supporting investment in public transportation systems, and backing regulations on pay-day lenders that would limit interest to a 36 percent yearly cap on loans.

— Dan Fleming

Ben Crawford gives the Andrus Award acceptance speech, Fall 2007.

Age is a matter of attitude. I consider myself retreaded, not retired.

“We Need to Talk” Seminar Aids Older Drivers

Maintaining independence is important for many older drivers, but some may need to limit their driving after a certain point. Most older adults are safe drivers, but the risks of an accident, injury or even fatality increase with age, especially following a decline in physical ability or a change in a medical condition. Sometimes it's up to family members to broach this topic with a driver who may be at risk of hurting himself or others.

AARP Virginia is offering a 90-minute seminar, “We Need to Talk: Family Conversations With Older Drivers,” to share advice on how to approach family members about the need to modify or stop driving. The seminar emphasizes the value of driving to older people and how a perceived loss of independence can affect decisions.

It also addresses meeting older adults' transportation needs after their driving is curtailed.

Seminar instructor Deborah Bennett said she thinks most older

drivers make sensible decisions on limiting or ceasing their driving when necessary. “I see a lot of self-limitation out there,” said Bennett.

“And I believe that when family members and doctors are properly involved in the conversation, it helps reinforce decisions that have already begun to take shape.”

Bennett draws on her own personal experience as a daughter who has had driving-safety conversations with her parents. “It's very important for older people to be able to get out and remain a part of the community,” Bennett said.

“Talking about how family members, friends and others can help with transportation is a key part of the conversation.”

AARP Virginia will continue to support safe-driving practices.

For more information on hosting or attending an AARP “We Need to Talk” seminar, call Amber Nightingale at 703-931-0758 or write to anightingale@aarp.org.

Membership Notes, January 2008

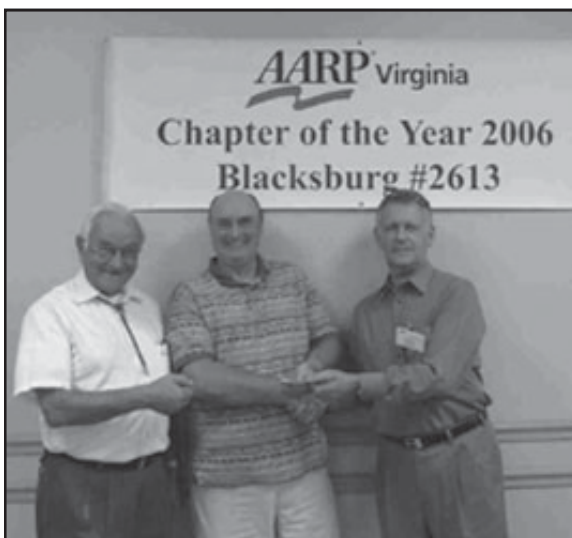
Our membership now stands at 357. Congratulations to those chapter members who recruited 9 new members since our November Newsletter.

Now is the time to renew your chapter membership for 2008. 73 members have already renewed for 2008. If you are one of the 221 members who have not yet paid your 2008 dues, ‘2007’ appears on the mail label for this Newsletter. Receipt of your 2008 renewal dues by January 31st is expected and will be appreciated.

A RED single sheet insert is included in this Newsletter for easier renewal of your membership dues. Please do not delay; mail your renewal dues today. Due to the holiday recess, renewal dues paid in the latter half of December and the month of January will appear on your February Newsletter label. Are you tired of paying annual dues? Why not consider becoming a LifeTime member — a single \$100 payment and you'll never be bothered with annual dues again.

Membership badges are available at all our regular monthly meetings. Please wear your badge so newer members will feel more at home. Each badge has been numbered for easier re-filing, so leave your badge in the collection basket as you leave the meeting.

Did you know that there are 9,000 national AARP members in Montgomery County alone? Our chapter membership is 4% of the national membership in Montgomery County! Many national members do not know that there is a local chapter. Invite AARP national members to join you in our local chapter. Any questions about membership can be directed to Jim Wightman at 552.2007 or wightman@vt.edu. — Jim Wightman



Community Center Supervisor Jack Leahy (center) receives a \$600 “Community Partnership” check from Chapter Membership Chair, Jim Wightman (left) and Chapter Treasurer, Brian Allen (right).

AARP Chapter Presents Checks to Community Partner and to Local Charities

At the regular Chapter meeting on November 20, 2007, the Blacksburg AARP Chapter #2613 Board and membership presented a “community partnership” check to the Blacksburg Community Center and Senior Center for \$600. In addition, the Chapter contributed \$300 to the Food Pantry; \$300 to the Free Clinic Consortium; \$100 to the Montgomery County Christmas Store; and \$300 to the Literacy Volunteers.

Jo Ann Underwood, President
AARP Chapter #2613
P.O. Box 10082
Blacksburg, VA 24062

Nonprofit Organization U.S. Postage Paid Blacksburg, VA Permit No. 32
--

Driver Safety Courses Coming to Blacksburg Community Center

Make a New Year's resolution to take an AARP driver safety course at the Blacksburg Community Center, 725 Patrick Henry Drive. One course is offered during February 2008, and a second course will be held in March 2008. Enrollment is limited, so sign up early.

Sponsored by the Blacksburg Community Center and Blacksburg AARP Chapter #2613, this 8-hour classroom refresher course assists drivers age 50 and over in refining current driver skills and developing defensive driving techniques. The course does not include any formal examinations. Course graduates may be eligible to receive state-mandated multi-year discounts to their auto insurance premiums. The course enrollment fee is \$10.00, payable by cash or check to "AARP".

The February course will be held at the Center on Thursday and Friday, February 21 and February 22, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Enrollees must attend sessions on both days to receive completion certificates. To pre-register for this course, call Curt Finch at 552-8179.

The March course will be held at the Center on Thursday and Friday, March 13 and 14, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Enrollees must attend sessions on both days to receive completion certificates. To pre-register for this course call Cecil McBride at 552-4396.

Registration is required to participate in the course.

Driver Safety, Session 1

February 21 and 22, 1–5 p.m..

Contact Curt Finch at 552-8179 to register

Driver Safety, Session 2

March 13 and 14, 1–5 p.m.

Contact Cecil McBride at 552-4396 to register.

— Curt Finch crfinch@vt.edu

Frank Lau and AARP Offer Tax Preparation Aid Again This Year — At the YMCA on North Main

AARP Tax-Aide is coming alive! We shall open a new door this year at the YMCA Thrift Store, 1000 North Main Street, while closing reluctantly the one at our warm, cozy Recreation Center. Licensing, Virginia AARP, and IRS regulations have forced me to do it.

Now, for 2008, our crew will prepare tax returns on Mondays, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. If that is not enough, we can open a second day. As usual, our preparers will be IRS certified, and will electronically file for you, both Federal and State, without any cost to you. That typically is a saving of \$100 to \$300. So keep a lookout for our phone number posting to "Get it done." Pat Ray and myself will advise you as to what will be needed, and then set an approximate time for you to come.

— Francis Lau <franklau1@verizon.net>
Blacksburg Site Coordinator

January 30 is Virginia Rally Day

Once again AARP Virginia will host a "Rally Day" in Richmond to bring members from all over Virginia to speak to legislators about key AARP legislative issues for 2008. It is hoped that 2-carloads of members from Chapter 2613 will drive to Richmond for this annual event. For further information, contact President Jo Ann Underwood. More on this at the Jan. 15 Chapter meeting. — Carl McDaniels

AARP will host a fun and worthwhile Rally Day in Richmond providing transportation, breakfast and lunch for Blacksburg Chapter members who can attend. Members will visit key legislators who serve in leadership positions of the General Assembly. If you are interested, contact Carl McDaniels or Ben Crawford. — Ben Crawford