

Serving the greater New River Valley, Virginia

June 16 Chapter Meeting

We're having a picnic!

The next chapter meeting will be at Nellie's Cave Park on June 16 at 11:30 am. Please bring a dish to share for the lunch and a white elephant for the auction fund raiser. Drinks, plates, and tableware will be provided by the chapter.

Our auctioneer will be Curtis Eastridge from the Rec Center. Come prepared to bid because someone's donated white elephant may be just what you can use. Senator John Edwards will be our guest if his court schedule permits. Several members from the Model A Club will display their antique cars (weather permitting).

This event is good food and good fun.

Karen Roberto Named University Distinguished Professor

Congratulations to AARP Blacksburg Chapter member Karen Roberto for being named a University Distinguished Professor. This rank, given to no more than 1% of the faculty, recognizes scholarship that has attracted national and international recognition.

Karen, described as a "pioneering social gerontologist," studies rural older women, family relationships and caregiving, elder abuse, and coping with chronic conditions such as osteoporosis, pain, falls, and cancer.



Karen Roberto

President's Message

Mid-year reflections Terry Wildman

Wednesday, June 3, 6:30 am. Left the Monteleone early to beat the heat, enjoy the relative quiet on the streets, and, importantly, find a coffee shop. Right on Toulouse, left on Chartres, another right on St. Ann. Got to love these streets, which after many visits seem like old friends—Dauphine, Iberville, Bienville, Royal, and the like. Lots of treasures to be found down these streets, if you like art, food, drink, funky clothing, masks, voodoo artifacts, and interesting people, once you separate out the tourists of course. And music! Jazz, blues, Cajun. At night all three can be heard on a single street, and in certain venues the best of the best can be found.

Arriving in the vicinity of Jackson Square without passing a coffee and pastry shop I'm left with the option of Café du Monde if I want coffee and something sugary right now, which I do of course. Good coffee, but with mostly tourists here the people watching is not that great. So, I turn to composing my monthly message for the Chapter's June newsletter, which is due, well, right now. Some reflection on the year thus far seems like a good idea, particularly since we're about to enter the summer break, after which there are only four months left in 2015.

The highlight for me, here at AARP Blacksburg, is all about working with a lot of good people. What do I like about this? Well, I'm kind of partial to working

please turn to p. 3

Upcoming Events

Sept 8: Living Well@50+ conf.
Sept 13: Food Drive
No programs in July and August.

Volunteers needed Food Drive

The AARP statewide annual Food Drive will be celebrated this year on Sunday, September 13, from 11 am to 4 pm at the Main Street Kroger store in Blacksburg. Our chapter Community Service Committee is looking for volunteers to collect food on that date in 2- or 3-hour times slots. Please find it in your heart to volunteer and help us make this the biggest collection day! Contact Sally Anna Stapleton (sanna418@gmail.com) to volunteer.

Caring Committee Seeks Information

Violet Drake, chair of the Caring Committee, seeks information about members who need to receive a sympathy, congratulations, or get well card. Contact Violet at 540-552-2807, or at vsdrake28@gmail.com.



Blacksburg Chapter #2613

Chapter meetings are the third Tuesday of each month at the Blacksburg Community Center, Patrick Henry Drive at 11:30 am. There are no meetings in July or August. Board meetings are the first Tuesday of each month at the Blacksburg Community Center at 10:00 am.

Lifelong Learning Institute to Begin Fall 2015

Plans for the Lifelong Learning Institute at Virginia Tech, to begin in the fall of 2015, are almost complete. Registration for courses will open August 17. If you have not already added your name to the online database and are interested in participating, please go to www.cpe.vt.edu/lifelonglearning/ to sign up. Or phone Jessica Brow at 540-231-4140. People in the database will receive a course catalog in August and announcements of special events.

The Lifelong Learning Institute at Virginia Tech is a member-driven, volunteer organization that draws on the wealth of academic and community resources in the New River Valley to provide intellectual, cultural, and social experiences for curious adults 50 and older.



Fall Courses

The fall courses will begin the week of October 5 and conclude before Thanksgiving. Courses will meet one day per week, 1 ½ hours per session, generally for six weeks. Courses will meet at various locations. The course catalog will include the details.

The program committee is still reviewing course proposals, but they have approved these courses so far (instructors in parentheses):

The Rise and Fall of Arab Nationalism (William Ochsenwald)

Memoir Writing: Turning Your Experience into Art (Richard Gilbert)

Tracing Your Family Genealogy (Linda Phillips)

The Civil Rights Struggle in Virginia (Peter Wallenstein)

The Role of Inspiration in the Creative Process (NRV artists – Janet Niewald, Joni Pienkowski, Kent Holliday, Donna Dunay, and Nikki Giovanni)

Understanding Science in the News: Technological Innovations (leading researchers in robotics, drones, nanotechnology, and more)

Reflections on the Union, Confederacy, and the Civil War (Jack Davis)

In addition, VT CLASS will continue to provide a sampler of presentations and topics at Warm Hearth.

Membership Details

The membership fee for this first year of the LLI will be \$20 for each term (fall, spring).

An additional fee for each course will generally be \$25.

Free events will be scheduled for members each term.

Invitation to Volunteer

If you are interested in offering a course in the spring term or later, please contact Pat Hyer (hyerp@vt.edu) or Judith Jones (judith@vt.edu) to discuss possibilities. Volunteers may also assist in classes or with office support. If you are interested in these possibilities, please contact Jessica Brow (jbrow@vt.edu).

Living Well @50+ Conference Registration Opens

Registration for the September 8 “LivingWell@50+” conference is now open at this website: www.cpe.vt.edu/livingwell/. Participants may register online or use the paper registration option on the “Registration” tab at the website. Call 231-9489 for assistance.

The conference, from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm, includes an Opportunity Fair with information on organizations and activities in the New River Valley, two general sessions (“Mindfulness” and “Curiosity”), and two workshop sessions. Participants may choose from seven options at each workshop session, including a preview of fall LLI courses during each session. Details of these sessions are available at the website.

The conference fee of \$30 includes lunch, breaks with light food service, and conference materials.

Eight sponsors, led by the Blacksburg AARP chapter, have come together to host LivingWell@50+, a wonderful collaboration of organizations and agencies in the New River Valley serving adults 50+.

- AARP Blacksburg
- AARP Virginia
- Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine
- New River Valley Agency on Aging
- Lifelong Learning Institute at Virginia Tech
- Warm Hearth Village Retirement Community
- Center for Gerontology, Virginia Tech
- Virginia Tech Retirees Association

President's Message (continued)

with friendly folks, and for our chapter I'm certainly willing to check that box. If you're out there thinking about recruiting a friend, neighbor, colleague or family member to join our group, put that notion at the top of your list. Looking at our monthly meetings for example, the atmosphere, if I had to describe it, is kind of a quiet, easy going affair where folks seem to like seeing each other, enjoying a bit of time together, perhaps learn something, and leave in most cases with no homework. What's not to like about that, and it takes about the right amount of time.

Even more impressive is how folks work with each other when there are things that need to be done. We have a fairly large group of folks, twenty or so, counting officers, board members, committee chairs, and several in liaison roles, who basically keep the chapter functioning. A couple of years ago when I reluctantly agreed to get in line for my current role as president of the chapter, a well-known slick talking officer of the chapter (not to be mentioned here) nudged me along this slippery slope with the assertion that the president's role is the easiest of all since the committee chairs do all the work. Despite this being a clever selling point, it is just about all truth.

Keeping the chapter going in a responsible way does involve a number of tasks and moving parts, and the details on this can be found at the chapter website. What can't be seen so easily for those not present at our monthly board meeting is the manner in which folks both perform their individual roles *and* fit into and care about the chapter's total functioning. I said earlier that I like *friendly* folks, and now lets also check off the box that says *cooperative*; I, like most of us, like that too. One more necessary ingredient, and you have a nicely workable organization that achieves a lot and clearly has during its history. That other ingredient is *competence*. When you look at our chapter, it is composed of a lot of folks who simply know how to get things done and have long histories of doing just that across many different kinds of pursuits. Our recent recruiting in some key roles is evidence that we can keep this going in the future.

Finally, by now most everyone in the chapter knows of our conference, *Living Well@50+*, that is scheduled for Tuesday, September 8. More information can be found in this newsletter, the chapter's website, and increasingly from a number of other sources as we move toward September 8. Again, what will not be apparent to all is the underlying story of the conference—how it was

conceived, the planning group that was formed including a number of partners beyond the chapter itself, and the way this group worked together under the leadership of Don Creamer and Pat Hyer. I don't have space to tell that story here, but certainly all the characteristics of people working together, friendly, cooperative, and competent have to come into play for things to work the way they have. Thinking about this more as I'm writing leads me to one more ingredient that now also seems necessary for an organization like ours to work well and stay healthy, and that is *dedication*. We simply have a lot of dedicated folks involved in AARP Blacksburg. Not that everyone has to be totally dedicated all the time, but enough do a lot of the time to keep us moving forward.



So, pass the word. This is a pretty good organization to be involved with. I'm certainly pleased that someone asked me to get involved a few years ago.

And now, with summer upon us maybe I'll see you out there on the road somewhere. Please keep an eye out for us bikers!

Facts about Seniors (from AARP Fact Sheets)

Total number of AARP members in Virginia	1,037,897
Social Security beneficiaries in Virginia	1,384,419
SS recipients who rely on SS for 90% or more of their income	20.6%
SS recipients who rely on SS for 50% or more of their income	42.3%

Nationally, for Americans 65 and older, 1 in 6 lives in poverty, and half of those 65 and older had annual individual income of less than \$18,500.

Summer Reading Suggestions from the Public Libraries by Elizabeth Sensabaugh, Pamela Hale

Blacksburg: New Large-Type Fiction

New Large-type Fiction is received monthly, and below are a few titles new to the collection that might interest you. Lewis B. Patten brings you a western about a reluctant gunfighter and a former buffalo hunter in *Lawless Town*. If mysteries are more your speed, try Sheila Webster Boneham's newest release *Catwalk*, an *Animals in Focus Mystery*. For a new fantasy, try Sebastien De Castell's newest book *Traitor's Blade* in which a disgraced swordsman fights for his own personal redemption. Linda Lael Miller brings you a taste of romance with *The Marriage Charm*.

Christiansburg

An interesting new nonfiction title, *One Nation, Under Gods: A New American History* by Peter Manseau, is described as "engagingly written, with a historian's eye for detail and a novelists' sense of character and timing. Christopher Columbus, in this telling, is not nearly so interesting as contemporaneous Moorish and Jewish conquistadores who were already accustomed to cultural pluralism; Mormon founder Joseph Smith was influenced not so much by revivalist Protestantism of western New York as by the legacy of the Iroquois spiritual leader Handsome Lake; and the Salem witch trials are evidence of Puritans' inability to stamp out persistent folk beliefs and practices from the Old World."

Want to buy a good book?

The Christiansburg Library has recently provided more space for the Friends of the Library book sale. The next time you're in to check out a book or DVD, check out the book sale for great buys in all kinds of books, from classics and popular novels to history, biography, do it yourself, and more.

Garden Tour July 11, 9 am – 5 pm

The Annual New River Valley Garden Tour showcases innovative, specialty and simply beautiful private gardens in the New River Valley each July. The event is sponsored by the Friends of the Library with the cooperation of the New River Valley Master Gardeners' Association. Tickets are available in advance from any of the branch libraries (Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Meadowbrook, Floyd, Radford, Salem, Roanoke) for \$12 or at any of the gardens on the day of the tour for \$15.

This year's tour will feature seven gardens in Riner and Christiansburg. mfrlfriends.org/gardentour.html

Summer HD Broadcasts, Free Films...

Exhibitions on Screen, Regal Cinema, Christiansburg

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| 6/23 | Girl with a Pearl Earring | 7:00 pm, \$15 |
| | The Mauritshuis Museum in The Hague | |
| 7/14 | The Impressionists | 7:00 pm, \$15 |
| | From Paris, London, and Philadelphia | |

For more information, see www.fathomevents.com.

Classic Movies, The Lyric Theatre, Blacksburg

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| 6/13, 6/17 | To Kill a Mockingbird | 3:00 pm, free |
| 7/11, 7/15 | Funny Girl | 3:00 pm, free |
| 8/15, 8/19 | Duck Soup | 3:00 pm, free |

Film Schedule, The Lyric Theatre, Blacksburg

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| 6/5–11 | The Age of Adaline |
| 6/12–18 | Far from the Madding Crowd |
| 6/19–25 | Ex Machina |
| 6/26–7/2 | Clouds of Sils Maria |

July films include *I'll See You In My Dreams* and *Mad Max: Fury Road*.

Concerts, Festivals, Art Exhibits

Brochure of summer arts activities in Blacksburg

issuu.com/artscenteratvt/docs/0617_cfa_2015_summer_arts_virginia

Virginia Tech School of Performing Arts

www.performingarts.vt.edu/
Armory Art Gallery, Perspective Gallery
"Fancy Nancy: The Musical," June 20–21

Moss Arts Center, Virginia Tech www.artscenter.vt.edu

exhibitions, artist talks, readings
The Kruger Brothers, June 12
Virginia Cheese Festival, June 13, 11–4
The Crooked Road, June 19
Grand Voices from Opera and Broadway, June 20
Chamber Series, June 21–25, 28
Puccini, *Madama Butterfly*, June 27, 7:30 pm

Town of Blacksburg / Downtown Blacksburg

Friday concerts, Henderson Lawn, 6 pm
Market Square Jams, Wednesdays June 10–August 26,
8–10 pm, Farmer's Market
Summer Solstice Festival, June 20, 1–11 pm
Independence Day Celebration, July 4
Art at the Market, July 18, 9–2, Farmer's Market
Steppin' Out street festival, August 7, 8

Town of Christiansburg

4th of July Celebration
Montgomery Museum Heritage Day, Aug 22, 10–3
Senior trips
va-christiansburg2.civicplus.com/index.aspx?nid=797

Chapter News and Activities

Advocacy Report *by Leslye Bloom*

On April 21, 2015, Federal Advocacy committee members Ben Crawford and Leslye Bloom visited the offices of Representative Morgan Griffith in Washington DC via his aide Adam Harbison to discuss:

- Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act through 2018—which funds programs like Meals on Wheels.
- Safe Streets Act—Seniors were 14% of the population but they accounted for nearly 20% of pedestrian fatalities in 2013.
- The Bipartisan Congressional Assisting Caregivers Today (ACT) Caucus—the new bipartisan caucus will be focused on bringing greater visibility to the value and need to support family caregivers, the challenges and opportunities individuals of all ages face as they seek to live independently, and the need for solutions.

The team conveyed AARP's thanks for help passing the "Doc Fix" to repeal and replace Medicare's flawed formula for reimbursing doctors with an improved payment plan. With President Obama's April 21 signature of the Medicare and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA), Medicare beneficiaries can finally feel more secure in knowing that they can keep seeing their physicians each year. See blog. aarp.org/2015/04/21/aarp-applauds-fix-for-medicare-payments-to-doctors/ for more information.



L-R: Stan Botts, Ben Crawford, Adam Harbison and Leslye Bloom

Chapter Officers 2015

President • Terry Wildman, wiley@vt.edu
Vice President • Don Creamer, dgc2@vt.edu
Secretary • Sally Anna Stapleton, sanna418@gmail.com
Treasurer • Pat Ballard, pb Ballard@vt.edu

Board of Directors

2015—Don Creamer, Terry Wildman, Nola Elliott
2016—Tom Alston, Tina King, Sally Anna Stapleton
2017—Pat Hyer, Jerry Niles, Shirley Peterson

Legislative Report *by Val Coluni and Alison Galway*

Local Tax Increases

On May 26 the Christiansburg Town Council unanimously approved increases to the town taxes:

Real estate: 13¢ to 16¢ per \$100 assessed value.*

Monthly water rate (as of June 1) increased \$19 to \$21 per first 4,000 gallons.

Sewer and water connection fees each increased \$2,500 to \$3,000.

On 4/28 the Blacksburg Town council voted 5–2 to increase the real estate tax to 25¢ per \$100 assessed value (an increase from 22¢).*

**Town real estate taxes are in addition to the Montgomery County tax rate of 89¢ per \$100 assessed value, which the Board of Supervisors did not increase this year.*

Virginia Assembly Senate Race for District 21

Virginia Senate District 21 includes Roanoke City (almost ½ of district voters), Montgomery County (⅓) and the rest in Roanoke and Giles Counties. A 3-way race (D-R-I) for the seat appears to be forming.

Donald Caldwell, Commonwealth's Attorney in Roanoke since 1979, has filed paperwork to run as an Independent in the November 2015 race. He plans to announce in early June if he will actually run. "I want to get away from the dogma of both parties and get back to serving the reasonable people on both sides..." He did not have a website at the time this report was written.

Nancy Dye is running as a Republican. Dye is a retired surgeon (in a Gastroenterological practice with her husband) interested in jobs, education, the economy ("I see crippling the coal industry as really hurting the middle class") and healthcare "...without interference from politicians." After retiring in the 1990's to raise her 3 children, she became active in civic efforts and on boards in the community. See more at www.nancydye.com.

John Edwards has been Senator (D) since 1995. "My focus continues on improving the quality of life for the future.... I have worked to help bring Amtrak to Roanoke and the New River Valley. My crowdfunding legislation, that was just signed in to law, will help create new 21st century jobs right here at home. I will continue to work for our students—whether it's expanding the Roanoke Higher Education Center, making college more affordable, or making sure educators have the resources to teach our children." See more at johnedwardsva.com/index.shtml.

Visit Your AARP Chapter Website at www.blacksburgaarp.org



Blacksburg Chapter #2613
Terry Wildman, President
P.O. Box 10082
Blacksburg, VA 24062

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 **Member Application for 2015**

Name: _____

Spouse/Partner: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Today's Date: _____

Annual (Calendar Year) Dues: **\$15.00** (includes spouse)

New Renewal 90+ years old (free)

*Please make your check payable to "Blacksburg AARP Chapter #2613"
and mail check and this form to:*

Tom Alston - P.O. Box 10082 • Blacksburg, VA 24062