



# BLACKSBURG NEWS

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Chapter # 2613

April 2006

Web <http://civic.bev.net/aarp/>

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## Membership Meeting –TUESDAY, April 18, 2006

### Trucks on Trains: A Possible Solution to I-81's Capacity Woes

Blacksburg Senior Center  
11:30 a.m. - Bag lunch and fellowship  
Program from 12 noon to 1:00 p.m.

A major issue in Virginia today concerns "how we get from here to there." Our State legislature was called into a special session to deal with Virginia's transportation problems. How to increase safety on overcrowded I-81, provide more options for freight and passenger travel, repair our deteriorating roads, and how to pay for these will be the subjects of our legislators' deliberations. AARP members can get a sample of the difficulties they face, and hear about some possible solutions at our next program, **Trucks on Trains: A Possible Solution to I-81's Capacity Woes**. Be sure to attend this program on Tuesday, April 18th, noon, at the Blacksburg Senior Center. *David Foster*, Executive Director of Rail Solutions is the featured speaker. Come early, bring your lunch and chat with friends before the meeting begins. By *Harriett Cooper*, Program Chair.

## Public and Special Membership Meeting

Thursday April 20, 2006, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Custom Catering  
902 Patrick Henry Drive, Blacksburg

### SMART CHOICES: Help with Your Healthcare Choices

- Everything you need to know about your Medicare rights
- How to use Medicare Compare to select a hospital, nursing home or home healthcare service
- Using the internet to find local healthcare information
- Is the new Medicare Prescription Drug benefit right for me?

**Registration important:** Please call toll free 1-877-926-8300 to guarantee a seat and receive a complimentary lunch. This special public and membership meeting is sponsored by AARP Virginia, Senior Navigator, Virginia Health Quality Center and Blacksburg AARP Chapter

## CARL'S COMMENTS

*Carl McDaniels, President*

First, congratulations to *Ben Crawford* as the recipient of the 2005 Jim and Lenna Moore Community Service and Citizenship Award. Our AARP Chapter #2613 nominated Ben for this award and we are delighted he was selected to receive this important recognition of his long time volunteer effort to serve others in the New River Valley and beyond. He exemplifies the true volunteer ethic for our community.

Second, some members have asked what do we do with the proceeds from "50-50" drawing at our monthly meetings? Well, the answer is we use that to support worthy community groups such as the upcoming NRV Senior Olympic Games, The Montgomery County Christmas Store, The Free Clinic, The Blacksburg Food Pantry and many other outreach nonprofit efforts to help other people in our area. This continues a 30-year tradition of Chapter support for area agencies reaching out to the poor and needy around us. The cost of printing and mailing our monthly newsletter represents our major expense for the year. We are a low expense, high community support Chapter.

Third, the postponed date for helping clean up after the fire at the Joyce and Ken Martin farm will be Saturday, April 15, from 10 AM to Noon. Wear old clothes to continue to clean up the area. Please call Caring Committee Chair *Kathy Jeffers* at 951-3446 to let her know you are planning to help that Saturday and get directions to their place out the Catawba Road.

Finally, we have a busy month of local AARP activities. Please help out at the Martins on April 15, attend our Noon April 18 monthly meeting, and be sure to take advantage of our AARP Virginia program on SMART CHOICES: Help with Your Healthcare Choices on Thursday April 20 at Custom Catering in Blacksburg from 8:30 AM to 1 PM -- lunch included. Call 1-877-926-8300 to register as space is limited. See you at these events.



*Dale Oliver (left) presents plaque to Ben Crawford*

## VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION CELEBRATION by *June Schmidt, Chair*

An enthusiastic group of 60 persons participated in the Volunteer Recognition Celebration held April 1 at the Blacksburg Community Center. The Celebration was sponsored by our Blacksburg AARP Chapter, the RSVP Programs of the New River Valley, the YMCA at Virginia Tech, and the American Red Cross. The purpose of the event was to recognize outstanding volunteers from throughout the New River Valley.

Eighteen nominations were received from various New River Valley organizations in recognition of outstanding volunteers. Ben Crawford, nominated by our Blacksburg AARP Chapter, received the Jim and Lenna Moore Community Service and Citizenship Award for exemplary volunteer efforts.

Robert Bennett (Ben) Crawford has a truly remarkable volunteer record. For our AARP Chapter, he served as President in 2002 and as Program Chair for 3 years. Currently he is Co-Editor of the Chapter Newsletter, and he is the main organizer of our frequent AARP Driver Safety Classes, held 4-6 times per year as a service to all AARP members in the NRV. He has been active in organizing forums on a variety of topics in cooperation with AARP Virginia. In short, if there is an important job

to do in the chapter, Ben is the one to call on. He was the 2005 recipient of our Chapter's Community Spirit Award. Further, Ben has become a major contributor to AARP Virginia work, serving as Virginia State Coordinator for Training and Communications.

Besides his involvement with AARP, Ben has been a Boy Scouts of America volunteer for 50 years, a volunteer with the Community Foundation of the NRV since its formation 10 years ago, a volunteer with the YMCA at Virginia Tech, and a longtime volunteer with the Ruritans at both the local and national level. Other current volunteer efforts include service to the Town of Blacksburg, St. Michael Lutheran Church, Concord University, The Blue Ridge Association for Volunteer Administration, Montgomery County 4-H, and the Chamber of Commerce.

CONGRATULATIONS Ben on an outstanding volunteer record!

The Celebration featured entertainment by the Riverboat Ramblers, the awards recognitions, and light refreshments. Besides the four organizations sponsoring the event mentioned above, the Blacksburg Senior Center provided the facility and Carilion Hospitals of the New River Valley provided monetary support.

*Don Elson, Angela Little, Joyce Martin, Dale Oliver, and June Schmidt* from our Chapter participated in planning for the event. Others serving on the planning committee were *Kim Snider* from the YMCA and *Barbara DeHart* from the Red Cross. Also helping from our chapter were *Cerrie Coil* and *Mary Ellen Moore* from our Hospitality Committee who handled registration and *Barbara Blanton, Violet Drake, and Margaret Kates* who assisted with serving the refreshments.

Thanks to all who helped make the Celebration a success.

**PLEASE SUPPORT FELLOW MEMBERS  
BY "CARING" Kathy Jeffers, Chair**

The Caring Committee would like to remind members that get well, sympathy and thinking of you cards are available to be sent to our chapter members.

Contact **Kathy Jeffers** at **951-3946**, or **kats7772000@yahoo.com** with the type of card needed and frequency the card needs to be sent. AARP Chapter #2613 cares, and we want our members to be remembered.

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND FUTURE PROGRAMS

**Saturday April 22:** Forum for Town Council candidates, 4:00-7:00 PM, Blacksburg Middle School. *Joyce Martin* and *Dan Fleming* will have our recruiting poster AARP display at the forum. Several of the candidates are members of our AARP Chapter. The "Candidates Forum" is organized by the new Blacksburg Community Coalition. A variety of local civic organizations like AARP Blacksburg will have an area set aside in the School Gym for informal discussion, in our case, about "senior issues" or other matters. These will be set up as "conversation areas" around the Gym and should be a wonderful opportunity to meet and greet each of the two candidates for Mayor and six candidates for three Town Council seats, as each one moves around for time with each group. Legislative Committee Co-Chair *Dan Fleming* will be coordinating the new event for our Chapter. There will be a film from 4-5 PM and the conversations with the candidates from 5-7 PM. Please come up and join in this unique event to get to know those running for election next month. Be sure to vote Tuesday, May 2!!!!

**May 1 – 8:** Register **now** and participate in the NRV Senior Olympic-Games (registration deadline April 24). Blacksburg AARP Chapter is a co-sponsor of this very important activity for the health of citizens 50 and over. There are a wide variety of active events, such as, walk/run, golf, badminton, swimming, or more sedentary events such as bridge, croquet, or

billiards. Pick up registration forms at Blacksburg Community Center, Christiansburg Parks and Recreation, or Montgomery County Parks and Recreation.

**May 2:** Clean-up project at the Blacksburg Senior Center following AARP Board meeting.

**May 11:** AARP National Day of Service. Watch the AARP Website for details.

**May 16:** We hope Delegates **Jim Shuler** and **Dave Nutter** will be with us and report on the 2006 General Assembly activities as well as continue the discussion - from April - on transportation.

**June 20:** Picnic, auction, antique car show, and to celebrate our 30th Anniversary. Then we adjourn for the summer to meet **September 19** with our Health and Wellness Fair.

#### **MEMBERSHIPS NOTES:** *Jim Wightman*

Our current chapter membership stands at 347. We are fast approaching our goal of 350 but we have now raised the bar to 375. As exciting as this news is, the fact is that 102 members have not renewed their membership for 2006. The final deadline for renewal is June 1st. Please **renew today to insure that you continue to receive this informative Newsletter.** Check your address label on this newsletter. **If “2005” appears on the label, you have NOT paid for the current year.** A convenient and detachable **dues payment form** is a part of this Newsletter.

Our new membership recruiting poster display will be in Krogers – Gables on Tuesday (11th) and in Krogers – Christiansburg on Tuesday (18th). Remember Tuesdays are senior discount days at area Kroger stores. I thank *Mike Sporakowski* for arranging for *Amy Mayers* and *Patrick McGonigle*, both students at Virginia Tech, to offer voluntary service to our chapter. They will be a part of the membership recruitment program at Krogers. Come by and meet them. New member recruitment will continue at the Smart Choices program on April 20th at Custom Catering. The **member recruitment portable display board** is available for use. If you are attending

an event in the area where a number of seniors are expected to come, please consider taking the board and recruit a few new members. You, as a chapter member, are an *ex officio* member of the recruiting committee. Consider inviting a non-AARP friend as your guest to attend our next luncheon meeting on April 18th. And, there is a **reward for recruiting new members - \$1 off next year’s dues for each new member you recruit.** If you have questions about chapter membership, please contact *Jim* at [jpdad@bev.net](mailto:jpdad@bev.net) or 552-2007.

#### **SUPPORT YOUR BLACKSBURG AARP CHAPTER:** *Margaret Kates*

At the April meeting of our Chapter, there will be an opportunity to purchase the following book for your library or as a gift, *A History of the Jamestown Period: 1607-1700 (400th Anniversary Edition)*. This special edition book will be available for \$25.00, of which \$5.00 of each book’s purchase price will go towards supporting our Blacksburg AARP Chapter #2613.

#### **AARP CONSUMER E-BRIEFS**

Sign up on line for this national monthly electronic newsletter. Get breaking consumer news along with tips to protect yourself from frauds and scams—all with links to helpful websites, product recalls and ways to get “free” stuff. Go to [www.aarp.org/emailnews](http://www.aarp.org/emailnews)

#### **AARP TAX PREPARATION:** *Frank Lau,* Blacksburg Coordinator

By the time you read this, Tax-Aide will have concluded another season. Surprisingly, the 103 clients helped had on average more complexity than in previous years. We also handled 4 Amended Returns and North Carolina, Colorado, New Jersey, and New York, besides Virginia. For those who have done their own in the past, we handled the labyrinth Schedule D

(Stocks), Earned Income Credit, Schedule R (Elderly & Disabled Credit), and some VERY

charitable cash and non-cash deductions. We are a very vibrant group of Seniors! Hats off to my fellow tax preparers, *Jim Hardell*, and *Grace Stinchcome*. They deserve your applause!

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:** *Dan Fleming*, Legislative Co-Chair

### **AARP Advocacy Report – The National Scene**

**Prescription Drug Amendment** – During the week of March 13th, the U. S. Senate debated and voted on the Budget Resolution for fiscal year 2007. AARP was instrumental in the passage of an amendment to the budget resolution by Senators Snowe (R-ME) and Wyden (D-OR). The passage of this amendment is an important step in reducing the skyrocketing costs of prescription drugs because it paves the way for the Snowe-Wyden MEND bill that authorizes the federal government to negotiate prices for Medicare drug plans. This amendment passed 54-44-2. Both Senator Allen and Senator Warner voted against the bill.

**Social Security Private Accounts** – AARP was also influential in defeating Senator DeMint's (R-SC) amendment that would have allowed the use of Social Security surpluses to create private accounts. While AARP believes that long-term solvency for Social Security must be addressed, private accounts are not the answer. This amendment failed 46-53-1.

**The Local Scene** – Our Chapter sponsored a public **Community Conversation** which concerns major updates to the Blacksburg Comprehensive Plan. Some 15 interested citizens attended and offered numerous suggestions. *Karen Drake* and *Meghan Dorsett* presented maps for the Town and County respectively and co-chaired the meeting. The suggestions made at the meeting will be summarized and made available on the Town website [www.blacksburg.gov](http://www.blacksburg.gov).

**EDITORS NOTE:** Special thanks to *Don Elson* for preparing the March newsletter while we had fun in the sun with family! *Don* edited the Blacksburg Chapter newsletter for some five (5) years retiring from the job in 2004. In 2003 Blacksburg AARP (and *Don*) was deservedly recognized as the best chapter newsletter in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Also, kudos to *Don* for the photo on page 2, to *Bob Abraham* for the photo below, and to *Connie Anderson* for her editing help.

Note below the photo of *Angela Little*, Chapter Secretary, beside the poster display board.



**AARP DRIVER SAFETY COURSE:** The first class had 19 successful graduates and the second course is full and in progress. *Jim Gaines* reports many had to be turned away. A third course has been tentatively arranged for August 23 and 25 (Wednesday and Friday) at the Community Center. Instructor *Bill Wagoner* reports that in August he will present a new course with major revisions.

**AARP**  
**THE POWER TO MAKE IT BETTER**  
**To Serve, Not To Be Served**

**Blacksburg AARP Chapter #2613**  
Board of Directors Monthly Meeting  
Blacksburg Community Center  
Tuesday, April 4, 2006

**Members Present:**

R. B. "Ben" Crawford	Jim Wightman	Frank Lau	Tom Jeffers
Connie Anderson	Margaret Kates	Mary Ellen Moore	Jim Moore
Jo Ann Underwood	Doris Abraham	Curt Finch	Joyce Martin
Donald Elson	Harriett Cooper	Jim Gaines	Cerrie Coil
Dan Fleming	June Schmidt	Carl McDaniels	Angela Little

New Member Present: Deborah Gates-Mauricio

1. President McDaniels **called the meeting to order** at 9:30 a.m. McDaniels announced that this year's Jim and Lenna Moore Award went to the AARP Chapter's nominee, Ben Crawford. Jim Moore recommended that this should be sent to the state. The Chapter Awards Committee will submit it. Joyce Martin gave a Fire update. They will be having a workday on the property on Saturday, April 15 at 9:30 a.m. and will need volunteers to help with raking, seeding, etc.
2. McDaniels asked to add an item to the **agenda** under the Treasurer's Report. Jim Moore asked to add the Ways and Means Committee and a Day of Service program idea.
3. The Board unanimously approved the March, 2006 **minutes** on a motion by Doris Abraham and a second by Joyce Martin.
4. In the absence of **Treasurer**, Brian Allen (very serious illness in his family), Joyce Martin reported there is over \$3,000 in the treasury. She will contact Brian to get the report for the newsletter. (*NOTE: Per Allen, 3-31-06 bank balance \$3,532.31*). The Board members came to a consensus to purchase 100 new nametag holders and Cerrie Coil of the Hospitality Committee agreed to order them. It was suggested that June Schmidt, Associate Treasurer, be available to assist Brian with the Treasurer's duties if he needs help.
5. McDaniels stated that \$100 will be given to support the **NRV Senior Olympic Games**.
6. McDaniels reported that Elva Miller has informed him that the **Christmas Store** and the **NRV Free Clinic** boards are on record to partner with AARP. Harriett Cooper stated that **CASA** has also expressed an interest in establishing a partnership with AARP. Jim Moore suggested that volunteers help rebuild the home of Paul Bowyer's family that was lost in a fire, as our day of service project on May 11. McDaniels will contact Tim Lawrence, contractor, to follow-up on this suggestion. This is the first choice for a project and the second choice will be building ramps. The Blacksburg Recreation Center clean-up project will begin on May 2 after the Board meeting. Doris Abraham asked that an article be placed in the newsletter explaining where the 50/50 money goes. Jim Gaines stated that historically, the money has gone to the Ways and Means Committee for worthy projects.
7. Jim Wightman reported that **membership** currently stands at 347. He presented a recruiting schedule for April at the Krogers in Christiansburg and Blacksburg. He met with two VT students who will prepare a letter to be mailed to VT retirees inviting them to consider joining the local AARP Chapter. They also suggested adding photos to the poster, inviting a friend to a monthly meeting and accessing potential members through other organizations. Joyce Martin volunteered to help with the Membership Committee while Jim is out of town.
8. Harriett Cooper, reminded members of today's meeting with the **Blacksburg Comprehensive Planner** and reported that David Foster, Executive Director of **Rail Solutions**, will be the guest speaker at the May 16 meeting. June 20 is the **picnic** and the **30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration**. The Chapter history will be available at the picnic. Don Elson stated that the Model A Club would attend. Cerrie Coil announced that she has a contract with Parks and Recreation for the picnic shelter. Dan

Fleming suggested that Julia Beamis, who was Southwest Virginia's representative to the White House Conference on Aging, be invited to speak at one of our monthly meetings.

9. Ben Crawford stated that the deadline for all **newsletter** articles is Friday, April 7 and expressed appreciation to Don Elson for editing the March newsletter.

10. **AARP Virginia Events** are April 20 - "Smart Choices" Workshops – Blacksburg, Custom Catering with 66 registered to date; Thursday, May 11 – Day of Service.

11. Jim Gaines stated that both of the "**Driver Safety**" classes are full. It was suggested that we find someone who can be trained and certified to teach the classes as the need is there. Frank Lau reported that the **AARP Tax Aide** would be wrapping up next week. The number served is down this year with 102-105 people served.

12. Dan Fleming, **Legislative Co-chair**, reported that on a state level there is still a gridlock with a meeting set for April 19. The state tax repeal is still dead. Jim Gaines, **History Chair**, read the introduction and a one-year synopsis of the Chapter's 30-year history. Carol Crawford is typing the document and Connie Anderson volunteered to edit it before it goes to print. Warm Hearth will be paying to have it published. Dan Fleming suggested that Denver Bragg, the first Chapter President, be recognized at the picnic.

13. June Schmidt reported on the **Volunteer Recognition Celebration** that was held Saturday, April 1 at the Blacksburg Community Center. She thanked those who helped make it a successful event. There were eighteen nominees recognized.

14. McDaniels announced that the **Blacksburg Town Council Candidates Forum** is scheduled for Monday, April 10 from 7:00 –9:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. Also, the **Blacksburg Coalition** is sponsoring a forum for Town Council candidates on Saturday April 22 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at the Blacksburg Middle School. Joyce Martin and Dan Fleming volunteered to have an AARP display table at the event. The meeting was **adjourned** at 11:04 a.m.

*Angela Little, Secretary*

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The **Women's Resource Center** needs general household items (hair brushes, tampons, panty hose, children & adult underwear, hair spray, twin sheets, towels, pocket calculators, notebooks, back packs, & anti bacterial liquid soap). Bring a bag full of these items to our meeting Tuesday, April 18 at noon and we will take them to the Women's Resource Center of the NRV. Thanks for your help with this for those in need in our community. *President Carl McDaniels*

#### **2006 BLACKSBURG AARP CHAPTER OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT:	<i>Carl McDaniels</i>	cmcd@vt.edu
1st VICE PRESIDENT:	<i>Joyce Martin</i>	jomart23@vt.edu
2nd VICE PRESIDENT:	<i>Jim Gaines</i>	gaines@vt.edu
SECRETARY:	<i>Angela Little</i>	anglittl@naxs.net
TREASURER:	<i>Brian Allen</i>	mballen@prodigy.net
ASSOCIATE TREASURER:	<i>June Schmidt</i>	schmidtj@vt.edu

**THE LIGHTER SIDE OF LIFE:** The aliens landed in Washington, DC, where they were given a hero's welcome. They were honored at a banquet at the White House and treated to a tour of the capitol. After a day and a night of talking with the press and the politicians, the aliens returned to their home planet. "Bad news," said the returning alien leader to his boss. "We wasted all that time and we still don't know if there is intelligent life on Earth."

Carl McDaniels, President  
AARP Chapter #2613  
P. O. Box 10082  
Blacksburg, VA 24062

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## NEW MEMBER OR 2006 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL APPLICATION

Membership in the Blacksburg AARP Chapter requires membership in National AARP. Contact **Jim Wightman** at 552-2007 or [jpdad@bev.net](mailto:jpdad@bev.net) if you need a national AARP application.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City & Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership: \_\_\_\_\_ New member of Blacksburg AARP Chapter  
\_\_\_\_\_ Renewal of membership in Blacksburg AARP Chapter  
\_\_\_\_\_ Single membership dues **\$10 for 2006**  
\_\_\_\_\_ Joint couple dues **\$15.00 for 2006**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Life Time \$100 per person**

Recruited by (if appropriate) \_\_\_\_\_

Complete, attach check made out to Blacksburg AARP, and bring to the next Membership Meeting on the third Tuesday of each month at the Blacksburg Center, or board meeting; or mail to: **AARP Chapter #2613, POB 10082, Blacksburg, VA 24062.** If you are already a member of the Blacksburg Chapter, please pass this form onto a friend that may be interested in membership