



BLACKSBURG NEWS

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Chapter # 2613

March 2006

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

Correspondence: P. O. Box 10082, Blacksburg, VA 24060

Newsletter Editors: Ben and Carol Crawford; ben.crawford@vt.edu

Membership Meeting – TUESDAY, March 21, 2006 -- Blacksburg Senior Center

Making Your Home Safe and Comfortable As You Age

Tim Lawrence, Blue Ridge Home Improvement

11:30 a.m. -- Bag lunch and fellowship

Program from 12 noon to 1:00 p.m.

Tim Lawrence is a Certified Aging-in-Place Specialist, acknowledging his expertise in providing for the changes people's homes require ensuring their comfort and safety as they age.

Have you paid your 2006 Blacksburg Chapter dues???

Please renew your membership if your mailing label shows 2005.

A membership form is printed on the last page of this newsletter.

\$10.00 Individual or \$15.00 for joint couple

If your label shows 2006, you are paid for this year

CARL'S COMMENTS

Carl McDaniels, President

Showing we really care!!! Over the past few days we have experienced a number of shocks about the death of a past president-Esther Martin, a number of members recovering from surgeries, falls, and related difficult medical conditions. Probably the most jarring has been the fire that destroyed the house and worldly possessions of Past President Ken Martin and current 1st Vice President Joyce Martin. These two long contributing members have time and again shown each was willing to do just about anything for our Chapter and its members.

As you may know by now their house out of town on the Catawba Road was burned to the ground in late February. All of their personal possessions, a lifetime of photos, furniture, and just about everything they owned went up in flames. They have given so much over the years, now it is our time to give something back to them. AARP Blacksburg is forming a

work party at 10 a.m. -- Noon on Saturday March 25, 2006 at the fire site to do some yard reclamation and restoration. You only need to bring a rake, gloves, old clothes and a willing spirit.

Call Caring Committee Chair Kathy Jeffers at 951-3946 to let her know you are coming and get directions, if you need them--that way we can plan on how much coffee and donuts we need to have on hand.

Let's show a strong AARP Blacksburg caring spirit on Saturday March 25 by helping to clean up some of the remaining yard area for seeding and better use. Show Ken and Joyce we really care--See you there

FUTURE PROGRAMS

Harriett Cooper

Blacksburg Comprehensive Plan
"SPECIAL" Meeting in the Multi-Purpose Room, Blacksburg Community Center



Tuesday, **April 4, 2006**. 11:30 – Noon, Brown Bag Lunch, with coffee provided. The Special Program will be from Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Karen Drake of the Town of Blacksburg Planning Staff will focus on issues related to AARP'ers -- housing, transportation, zoning neighborhood enhancement; and other related matters. Meeting is open to all AARP'ers and the General Public. Karen will tell us about the task force now updating and revising the Blacksburg Comprehensive Plan. Your participation is invited and welcomed and will make a valuable contribution to the process of revising the plan.

April -- Two programs: In addition to the regular 3rd Tuesday meeting on **April 18**, (hopefully with our General Assembly representatives) in the Blacksburg Community Center, our chapter is assisting AARP VA with a second program -- **April 20**, 8:30 – 1:00 p.m., lunch provide -- at Custom Catering. This second program will be four hours long and focus on **Smart Choices: Help With Your Healthcare Decisions**. Lunch will be provided at no charge. Up-to-date information and help will be provided on health care related issues, including Medicare benefits, Medicare rights, and use of the internet to find health care resources. More information: www.aarp.org/va
Mark your calendar: March 21, April 18 and April 20.

PLEASE SUPPORT FELLOW MEMBERS BY "CARING"

Kathy Jeffers

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 type of card needed and frequency the card needs to be sent.

You may also fill out the Caring Sheet at the monthly meeting. AARP Chapter #2613 cares, and we want our members to be remembered.

Our Chapter Past President (1988) and current member, 86-year-old Esther Martin, died. A funeral service was held on Monday, March 6

at the McCoy Funeral Home with Rev Reggie Tuck officiating.

A THANK YOU NOTE

"Joyce and I appreciate so very much your expression of love for us, by visiting us, calling us on the telephone, bringing flowers, sending e-mail messages, providing clothing and household items, offering to help with the clean up process, and/or providing wonderful and delicious meals for us to enjoy.

We are truly blessed by God who has made it possible for us to have concerned and loving friends. Everyone at some time in their life needs such support. We needed it on February 21 and the days following the fire. You have been available and lovingly supported us. Thank you."

Ken and Joyce Martin

INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY

Jim Gaines

Our Chapter hopes to start a number of partnerships with other community service organizations during 2006. One is with the Interfaith Food Pantry. If one or two or more AARP members (maybe you) are interested in helping distribute food one day per month, please call me at 552-6851 and I will work out the details and get back to you with the PLAN. Remember, foodliness is next to Godliness, or something like that.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Mike Sporakowski

One aspect of our local chapter's activities involves a focus on community service activities and partnerships. In an ongoing discussion with President McDaniels, the Board and myself we have discussed the possibilities of community partnerships with a variety of organizations and community service projects. Examples of **Community Partnerships** which would offer opportunities for AARP volunteers to work in community service roles might be collaborations with: The Montgomery County Christmas Store; The Interfaith Food Pantry; The Free Clinic of the

New River Valley; RSVP of Montgomery County and Radford; New River Valley Habitat for Humanity; and, The New River Valley Women's Resource Center.

Community Service Projects might be/will be: the Health and Wellness Fair in September; a ramp improvement project as part of AARP's national work day May 11; a monthly clean-up project after the board meets on the first Tuesday of the month for the Blacksburg Community Center; increased caring for members; help with Medicare Part D Rx's; and Medical and Meals Transportation.

These are evolving ideas; so if you are interested in pursuing them, please let Carl (cmcd@vt.edu) or Mike (eagle1@vt.edu) (552-7504) know. You could help by serving on the community service committee, being a liaison with one of the partner agencies, or volunteering to work with one of the agencies.

We are also working with two Virginia Tech service-learning students who are enrolled in one of the VT "aging" courses in the Department of Human Development to look at the partnership and projects ideas, as well as ways of expanding our membership.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Angela Little, Director

RSVP of Montgomery County and Radford
210 S. Pepper Street, Suite D, Christiansburg, VA 24073
540-382-5775

RSVP of Montgomery County and Radford offers a wide variety of opportunities for persons, age 55 or older, to participate more fully in the life of their community through significant volunteer service. If you are seeking ways to serve, the following organizations are currently in need of help.

NRV CARES is sponsoring a "Can Do Kids Fair" on Friday, March 30 at the Event Center in Christiansburg and a seminar for professionals who work with children. Volunteers are needed to assist with serving lunch and dinner. Call RSVP to obtain more information on these events.

Bakers are needed to provide homemade pies, cakes, breakfast items, cookies, candy,

etc. for a **bake sale** to be held at the Government Center on Friday, March 31 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The proceeds will go to the county's team for the **American Cancer Society's Relay for Life**. If you can support this activity, call the RSVP office at 382-5775.

The Montgomery County Health Department is in need of translators for Spanish speaking clients. If you or anyone you know can help, call Spat at 382-5775.

The Montgomery County Museum is looking for volunteers to become docents. They need individuals to give one or two mornings or afternoons a month. Call Ramsey McNeil at 639-5500 to find out how you can help the museum.

Med-Ride is seeking more volunteers to drive individuals to and from their medical appointments. We have several dedicated Med-Ride volunteers, but the transportation need is increasing in Montgomery County. Volunteers are reimbursed 35¢ per mile. Call Peggy Akers at 1-888-633-7433.

The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services **Gypsy Moth "Slow the Spread" Program** located in Christiansburg is seeking volunteers to help with filing, copying, and answering phones and other clerical duties. For more information, call RSVP.

Smithfield Plantation needs volunteers to be tour guides, gardeners or help in the office. This volunteer opportunity can help preserve the history of Southwest Virginia. Call Christie at 231-3947 for information.

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Jim Wightman

Our current chapter membership stands at 340 including 19 New Members, 4 Lifetime Members, 6 Life Members (90 years or older), 6 Complimentary Members, and 2 Honorary Members. Our membership dues are based on a calendar year. 65% or 195 of our members have now paid their 2006 dues. Check the mail 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. We now have permission to set up

an AARP new member recruitment display table on senior citizen's day on Tuesdays at the three Kroger stores in the Blacksburg-Christiansburg area. Please note that every chapter member is an *ex officio* member on the recruiting committee. And, there is a **reward for recruiting new members - \$1 off next year's dues for each new member you recruit**. Four members have already taken advantage of our introductory offer of lifetime chapter membership for \$100 per person. Please contact me if you have questions about chapter membership.

A member recruitment portable **display board** has been made. 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.

Please note we now offer **lifetime membership** in our local chapter for \$100 per person. I look forward to working with each chapter member.

AARP CONSUMER E-BRIEFS

Sign up on line for this 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.

AARP TAX PREPARATION

Frank Lau

AARP Tax-Aide continues along in Blacksburg! Even though Christiansburg does far more than Blacksburg, we have in the order of 90+% returning clients. That means we do a quality job. We have now reached the halfway mark of the 2005 tax season with 55 returns and counseling sessions completed. We are very slightly ahead of last year. Talk our service up! Why should anyone struggle with tax preparation when we have the power software, the skills, and the desire to make satisfied customers, at a price beyond compare -- \$0.00? And with free E-File! A simple return can cost \$90+ with a paid preparer. I just did two returns today, each of which were 2 hours plus in preparation, twice

the normal. Talk up this valuable service provided by AARP and IRS. Don't forget the gracious provision of space at the Senior Center! Grace S., Jim H., and Frank L. are waiting for you.

AARP DRIVER SAFETY

Our two programs are filling up fast: **March 29 and 31**, (Wednesday and Friday) from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Blacksburg Community Center, **OR April 19 and 21**, (Wednesday and Friday) from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Warm Hearth.

REGISTER by calling **Jim Gaines** at **552-6851** to sign up for an AARP Driver Safety Class. First come, first serve to a maximum of 20 in each class. Sessions begin promptly at 1 p.m. and are held four hours each day. Students **must** attend both sessions to graduate and obtain a certificate. The certificate is evidence for your insurance discount. Cost is \$10 per person payable to AARP. You must be 50 years of age or older--only those over 55 can receive the insurance discount.

VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT—3/10/06

Dan Fleming

As of March 10th, the House and Senate were gridlocked in a budget standoff over transportation finance plans. Conservative Republicans in the House strongly oppose new taxes and want to take almost half of the state's one-time surplus as well as borrow money through bonds to finance transportation needs. The Senate guided by moderate Republicans wants new taxes on motor vehicles, gasoline and property sales to provide an on-going revenue stream to finance transportation needs rather than the one-time approach advocated by the House.

AARP Virginia agrees with the Senate in supporting a long-term dedicated funding source for transportation, not funding at the expense of core services such as long term care needs for seniors, education, and social services. Delegate Nutter supports the House version and Delegate Shuler and Senator Edwards support the Senate version.

The fate of the repeal of the estate tax also is up in the air as the Senate wants to tax estates valued over \$10 million while the House wants total repeal. Virginia AARP opposes the repeal. Delegates Nutter and Shuler voted for total repeal while Senator Edwards the Senate version. The issue is still before a conference committee.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION CELEBRATION

June Schmidt

April 1, 2006 10:00 -11:30 a.m.

Blacksburg Community Center

The Volunteer Recognition Celebration will be April 1, 2006 at the Blacksburg Community Center from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. Our Chapter, the YMCA at Virginia Tech, the RSVP Programs of the New River Valley, and the American Red Cross sponsor this special event. Mark you calendar now and plan to attend. The purpose of the event is to recognize outstanding volunteers from throughout the New River Valley.

Barbara DeHart, Don Elson, Angela Little, Joyce Martin, Dale Oliver, Kim Snider, Margaret Sawyer-Cash, and June Schmidt serve on the committee planning the Celebration. They need help on April 9 to welcome guests; serve as hosts; assist with the refreshments; and room set up and clean up.

The planning committee has sent notices about the event to organizations throughout the New River Valley requesting them to nominate outstanding volunteers. A highlight of the event is the awarding of the *Jim and Lenna Moore Citizenship and Community Service Award*. Both Jim and Lenna were exemplary in their service to the community and to our AARP Chapter.

The Celebration will feature awards recognitions, light refreshments, and entertainment provided by the Riverboat Ramblers. There is no cost for the event. Besides the five organizations sponsoring the event mentioned above, others contributing to

it include the Blacksburg Community Center and Carilion Hospital.

The planning committee looks forward to your joining us on April 1 to honor outstanding volunteers of the New River Valley. Call Angela 372-5775 or Dale 552-1951 to let either know of your interest in helping with the Celebration.

SUPPORT YOUR BLACKSBURG AARP CHAPTER

Margaret Kates

At the March and April meetings of our AARP chapter, there will be an opportunity to purchase the following book for your library or as a gift, *A History Of The Jamestowne 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.

2006 SPRING CITIZEN'S INSTITUTE

Connie Anderson

Both Frank Lau and I were in the first Blacksburg Citizen's Academy group, and we can both highly recommend this opportunity to explore all areas of our local government... from the Police Station and their 911 facility and their Jail area, to the Blacksburg Transit operation, Parks and Recreation town parks (you never knew we had) to the Public Works Department and all the many public service department options available to our citizens of Blacksburg.

The Town of Blacksburg is accepting registrations for the 2006 Spring Citizen's Institute, previously named Blacksburg Citizen's Academy. Sign up today for this free eight week course. Learn more about the inner workings of your award winning town government and why we should all "Step Into Blacksburg."

Each Monday evening session will be held at a different location from 6:00 -- 8:00 p.m. (Some course hours will extend until 9:00 p.m.) Tour the beautiful surroundings of Blacksburg's many parks, have dinner with Fire and Rescue

and take a ride on a fire truck, learn how your police department operates, visit Blacksburg Transit, and find out how you can be more involved in your community.

The class will be held April 3 - May 22. Participants must be 18 years of age or older, and be Town residents or work in the Town of Blacksburg. Media representatives are also invited to participate. All registrations must be received by 5:00 p.m. on March 24.

For more information about the Blacksburg Citizens Institute or to register call the Community Relations Office at 540-961-1199 or email hbrowning@blacksburg.gov.

NEW RIVER VALLEY SENIOR OLYMPIC GAMES -- May 1-8, 2006.

Again this year your Blacksburg AARP will help to sponsor the local games. All members are urged to participate and support the games. More details in the April Newsletter. Contact the Blacksburg Parks and Recreation Department for details at 615 Patrick Henry Drive, Blacksburg, VA

RED CROSS BLOOD BANK NEW ADDRESS

The New River Valley American Red Cross Blood Bank has moved to: Kent Square, Suite 200, 250 South Main Street, Blacksburg, VA Call 1-800-Give Life for an appointment to give blood--all types needed.

Blacksburg AARP Chapter #2613 Board of Directors Monthly Meeting Blacksburg Community Center Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Members Present:

Nancy Eiss	Mike Sporakowski	Norman Eiss	Tom Jeffers
Connie Anderson	Margaret Kates	Mary Ellen Moore	Jim Moore
Jo Ann Underwood	Doris Abraham	Dale Oliver	Curt Finch
Donald Elson	Harriet Damant	Jim Gaines	Joyce Martin
Dan Fleming	June Schmidt	Glen Mitchell	Frank Lau
Carl McDaniels	Darrel Clowes	Angela Little	

1. President McDaniels **called the meeting to order** at 9:30 a.m. He reported that Esther Martin, a past Chapter President, had passed away and that Joyce and Ken Martin had experienced a house fire in February. Joyce Martin told the group about their loss and submitted a thank-you letter to the President to read to the Board and to place in the newsletter.
2. Nancy Eiss requested to add Publicity to the **agenda** and it was approved.
3. The February, 2006 **minutes** were approved unanimously on a motion by Doris Abraham and a second by Glen Mitchell.
4. President McDaniels distributed the February **financial report** prepared by Treasurer Brian Allen. The ending balance for February was \$2,989.28. The report was accepted for the record. Joyce Martin will get checks from the Treasurer for the Volunteer Celebration in the amount of \$100 for the Riverboat Ramblers and \$25 for the YMCA.
5. Dale Oliver, Chair of the Financial Planning Committee, reported that the **budget** had been approved at the last Board meeting.
6. President McDaniels reported that he had received a letter from Al Crawford stating that he is unable to chair the **Ways and Means Committee**. Margaret Kates agreed to accept the position as chair of the committee. Jim Moore suggested that a letter be sent to every AARP chapter in the state to obtain ideas on fundraising. McDaniels asked for a volunteer who would like to do the 50/50

drawing at each meeting. Mike Sporakowski, **Community Service** chairman, reported that he had made several calls and met with two service learning students from VT. These students will meet on March 17 to discuss ways that they can possibly help with the Membership Committee. Alva Miller will be the contact for the Free Clinic and The Christmas Store; Jim Gaines - The Interfaith Food Pantry; Kathy Jeffers - Habitat for Humanity; Jim Moore - Ramp Improvement, and Al Crawford – park clean-up. Jim Gaines stated that 1 to 3 people are needed at the Interfaith Food Pantry to receive clients and give out food boxes. The Blacksburg Community Center clean-up can possibly start as early as April after the Board meeting. RSVP newsletters were distributed by Angela Little to share other volunteer opportunities in the community.

7. No report was given on the **Membership Committee**. Connie Anderson stated that a new name badge holder is needed and coordination of new members needs to be maintained in preparing name badges and newsletter labels.

8. Tim Lawrence of Blue Ridge Home Improvement, Inc. will be presenting a **program** on “Making your Home Safe and Comfortable as You Age” at the March 21 meeting. McDaniels asked Dale Oliver to work with Karen Drake, a Town of Blacksburg planner, to arrange for a special open meeting to be held on Tuesday, April 4 at 11:30. The topic of discussion will be the Blacksburg Comprehensive Plan.

9. Don Elson will be the guest editor for the next **newsletter**. He asked that all articles be in by Friday evening, March 10. Frank Lau asked if information about the BEV Seniors could be placed in the newsletter about their next seminar. It can be included.

10. **AARP Virginia Events** are: April 20 - “Smart Choices” Workshops – Blacksburg, Custom Catering and May 11 – Day of Service.

11. Jim Gaines reported that the March “**Driver Safety**” class is full and he has 17 names for the next class. Frank Lau reported that the **AARP Tax Aides** in Montgomery County have been pretty busy with 178 clients served in Christiansburg and 55 in Blacksburg to date.

12. Copies of an article on AARP printed in “Smart Money” were distributed and Glen Mitchell, **Legislative** co-chair, gave a brief synopsis of the article. Dan Fleming, **Legislative** co-chair, stated that the General Assembly is almost in a total gridlock on the transportation issue. No one seems to know what is going to happen. AARP does not want to raid the General Fund and it has been battling for the Medicaid Reform Bill not to go through, stressing a long-term plan is needed. Jim Gaines, **History** chairmen, stated that the *Chapter History* has been corrected and is ready to go to the printer with hopes of having it completed by June for distribution.

13. June Schmidt reported on the **Volunteer Recognition Celebration** that is scheduled for Saturday, April 1 at the Blacksburg Community Center. Mary Ellen Moore, the **Hospitality Committee** co-chair, reported that they will assist on the day of the event.

14. Jim Moore motioned to recommend Dan Fleming be the nominee from the Chapter for a certificate awarded by the National AARP in recognition of community involvement. Glen Mitchell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

15. Nancy Eiss, **Publicity** co-chair, has submitted announcements of AARP meetings to 10 organizations, TV stations, etc. She asked for someone to help with April’s publicity, as she will be out of town. Connie Anderson volunteered to make the contacts for April.

The meeting adjourned at 11:03 a.m.

Angela Little, Secretary

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 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.