



BLACKSBURG NEWS

Volume 23, Issue 6

Chapter #2613

June 2006

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

Correspondences: P. O. Box 10082, Blacksburg, VA 24062

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

Membership Meeting –Tuesday, June 20, 2006

30th Anniversary Celebration

Noon to 3 p.m. Nellie's Cave Park

Annual Picnic, White Elephant Auction and Vintage Car Show

Our annual picnic brings us together for our 30th Anniversary Celebration at Nellie's Cave Park. We begin at noon, Tuesday, June 20th with a delicious lunch prepared by YOU and served by our Hospitality Committee. The chapter supplies paper plates, cups, napkins, drinks and a Birthday Cake. **You supply the food!** There always is a tasty offering of sandwich fillings, a variety of salads, snacks, and desserts. Bring your favorite potluck dish to share with others. Thanks again to *Don Elson* for arranging for the vintage car show ... weather permitting. A special feature of this 30th Anniversary meeting will be the unveiling and viewing of a new book entitled: *The Thirty Year History of AARP Chapter #2613, Blacksburg, Virginia* (see page 2) to be mailed all 2006 members.

For our auction, bring that old lamp you have in the attic or that lovely vase you no longer have room for, or that embroidered tablecloth that doesn't fit any of your tables. Remember, what you no longer need will turn out to be just what someone else really wants! Professional auctioneer, *Wayne Garst* (951-3030), will again conduct the fun-filled auction. And remember, your AARP Chapter uses all auction proceeds to help others in our community. So, members are encouraged to bring an item for the auction, bring food to share and BRING A FRIEND. See you June 20! Rain or Shine!

IMPORTANT: For dues paying members who have not paid 2006 dues, this is your last newsletter. If the second line of your mailing label says 2006, you are paid and OK.

AARP BLACKSBURG ON THE AIR

Radio Station WPIN at 810 AM

Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Starting Saturday June 10 through July 15, 2006 AARP Blacksburg will be on the air from 10:00-11:00 a.m. each week. Local station WPIN, 810AM will broadcast the programs that will cover a variety of topics about who we are and what we do, our history, activities, community service, Driver Education, Tax Aide, Legislation, Health and Wellness Fair. Please listen in and take part by calling in 961-1430 with a comment or question. Each program will feature music selected by the members taking part in that morning's show.

Please listen Saturday morning at 10 a.m. and give us some feedback on whether other programs of interest might be worth continuing in the future.

CARL'S COMMENTS

Carl McDaniels, President

CELEBRATE!!!!

When: Noon -- 3PM, Tuesday, June 20, 2006

Where: Nellie's Cave Park Picnic Shelter,
Blacksburg

What: 30th Anniversary Birthday Celebration
Potluck Picnic

Bring a potluck dish to serve 4-6 people; beverages and all utensils will be provided.

Bring an item or two for our White Elephant Auction (don't forget to bring some money for purchases as well).

Special Feature: New River Valley Model A Club will have cars on display. Come early for a look at these beautiful cars from all over the NRV.

Our Chapter #2613 received it's Charter June 29, 1976 from the American Association for Retired Persons (Now AARP). The first President was *Denver Bragg* and he has been invited to attend our celebration, as well as all past presidents. Every member of the Chapter is cordially invited to attend this important event. Enjoy a slice of Birthday cake and take part in this great fellowship time for AARP Blacksburg. See you there.

CHAPTER HISTORY BOOK

Hot off the press is a new book entitled *The Thirty Year History of AARP Chapter #2613 Blacksburg, Virginia*. This book will be mailed free to all chapter members who have paid their 2006 dues. (Hint to those not paid: Look at your mailing label. If it does not say 2006, then you are NOT paid for this year and will NOT be mailed the book.)

President Carl says in the book's (90 computer pages) Preface; "...thanks to all those who helped in pulling this important Chapter History together. First, thanks to *Denver Bragg* our Charter President and all those hardy members who worked so diligently to get our AARP Chapter started in 1975-76. They had some 70 members in that first year, with annual

dues of \$1.00. Special thanks to all the Presidents, Boards and Committee Members who have kept the Chapter strong and growing the past 30 years. It is clear we have a history of interesting and timely programs, a long standing effort to support community service, ample opportunities for fellowship among folks of similar ages, and a steady membership growth to over 330 members in 2006.

Second, thanks to all the current members who have worked so long and hard to pull this history together. Special thanks to *Jim Gaines* (photo below), History Committee Chair,



researcher, and writer of this history for an extraordinary job well done. This history is the result of more than a year of culling through 30 years of dusty files, minutes, letters, newsletters, and scrapbooks.

Thanks also to *Carol Crawford*, our Newsletter Co-Editor, for preparing the manuscript for this Chapter History and bringing life to the printed page. Our Chapter Webmaster, *Connie Anderson* has served as editor of the final manuscript, by adding pictures and graphics to liven up the text.

Third, thanks to the administration and staff of the Blacksburg Community Center, 725 Patrick Henry Drive, Blacksburg. This has been our Board and Chapter Meeting place for nearly 20 years. They have always extended a warm welcome to all activities and provided a rich and inviting environment for us to thrive and grow.

Finally, thanks to the Administration and Staff at **Warm Hearth Village** for taking on the sponsorship of printing our Chapter History. In many ways our AARP Chapter and **Warm Hearth Village** have grown up and matured together over the past 30 years. Many members have lived at **Warm Hearth Village**

and it has been an occasional meeting place over the years. We are especially grateful for their support in taking on the responsibility of publishing our Chapter History.

It is hoped that this *Thirty Year History* will help current and future members to better understand our past in order to guide us to an even better future for Blacksburg AARP Chapter #2613.”

FUTURE PROGRAMS: Mark your calendar-

July 26 (Wed) and 28 (Fri), 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
AARP Driver Safety Program at Montgomery Regional Hospital Birthing Center Classroom. Call *Betty Jahn* to register (953-5291). Cost is \$10 and number is limited.

September 19, Tuesday: Fall kicks off--in more ways than one--with the 2006 **Health and Wellness Fair** at the Blacksburg Community Center, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

October 17--this program will be something different. We'll be showing a wonderful movie, "Strangers in Good Company," which is about a group of older women and how they cope when their tour bus breaks down. Be prepared to stay for a longer time than our usual meeting time since the movie is about 1-½ hours long.

November 21-- *Jack Leahy*, Manager of the Blacksburg Community Center will talk about the various programs offered at the Center. We may have cameo appearances from Joy Herbert and others.

November 4—Save this date.

Margaret Kates, Ways and Means *Chair* reports that our AARP Chapter will hold an "all day" **Barnes & Noble** Voucher Book Fair on November 4, 2006. Proceeds will be used for several Chapter community service programs (Christmas Store and Literacy). This Book Fair Partnership with **Barnes & Noble** located in Christiansburg, will accept a voucher with each purchase payment throughout the day at checkout. A percentage (10%) of all sales on

November 4 (with voucher) will be added together and a check will be sent to our Blacksburg AARP Chapter.

These vouchers will be readily available to anyone who wishes to purchase books, videos, CDs, and other store items. Consider making a list for holiday and birthday gifts, children's books to be donated to The Christmas Store, books for your personal library, etc., and then shop on November 4 to support our chapter fundraising project.

We plan to publish these special Book Fair vouchers in the September and October AARP newsletters, and to have them be available at the Health and Wellness Fair in September. The Book Fair voucher will also be posted on the Chapter website before September, and may be printed directly from the web page. All supporters of this AARP-sponsored Book Fair may use the vouchers.

Spread the Word and Save the Date!

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Dan Fleming

A recent editorial in the New York Times offered "A Report Card" on the new Medicare prescription drug benefit. It gave the administration credit for resolving most of the bureaucratic and computer problems that plagued numerous applicants at the beginning of the signup process. A recent Times/CBS poll found that 42% of those already enrolled said they were spending less on prescription drugs, 29% were spending more, and 30% were spending the same amount.

The article also found that average monthly premiums were much lower than originally forecast and the total cost to the government for this year is expected to be considerably lower than anticipated.

Enrollment was reasonably successful since 90% of Medicare beneficiaries now have some form of prescription drug coverage. But most of these people already had coverage through different programs and Medicare has ended up subsidizing some of it. Of those without drug coverage prior to the new program, at least 4.5 million still remain

uninsured. This means that 30% to 40% of this target group was missed.

Perhaps the most disturbing feature of the new program is that 3 million of those missed were poor enough to qualify to have the vast majority of their drug bills covered. Another concern is that it appears that patients that have their drug bills that are capped, use fewer drugs than those whose benefits are not capped. As a result, more people will end up in the hospital or emergency room more often.

This concern was reinforced in an article in the last AARP Bulletin, "In and Out of the Doughnut Hole." It refers to the fact that many people without supplemental policies will have to pay 100% of their drug costs when they hit the \$2,250 limit and continue to do so until they have paid \$3,600 out of pocket. Many people are unaware that the first \$2,250 includes not only their co-pays, but the amount that their drug plan pays for them as well. Estimates of how many people will fall into the doughnut hole gap, range from 24% to 38% for all enrollees. This reinforces the point raised above that many patients may quit buying necessary drugs when they hit the doughnut hole, ending up in the emergency room.

CARING COMMITTEE

The Blacksburg AARP takes a summer break, but the Caring Committee is always available. Please contact **Kathy Jeffers** at **951-3946** if one of our members needs to be remembered with a card. If you leave a message, please indicate the member's name, type of card to be sent, and frequency it needs to be sent. Please let those in need know that we care.

As many of you may know, our Treasurer, *Brian Allen*, lost his 11-year-old daughter, *Donna*. She passed away at home May 11, after a fifteen-month battle with cancer. *Donna* put up a tremendous fight, going through several surgeries, radiation and chemotherapy.

Brian and *Margaret* have set up a memorial scholarship fund in *Donna's* name at her school, so that she will be remembered

there for many years to come. She loved her school, and they loved her.

If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to this fund, to honor the *Allens*, please make your check payable to Roanoke Catholic School, and send it to: Roanoke Catholic School, 621 N. Jefferson Street, Roanoke, VA 24016; earmark it for the '**Donna Allen Memorial Scholarship Fund**'.

VOUNTEERS WANTED

The Montgomery Museum and Lewis Miller Regional Art Center, 300 Pepper Street, Christiansburg, needs volunteers. A wide variety of opportunities are open. If interested, please call the Museum at 382-5644 for details.

AARP NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE

AARP Blacksburg partnered with some 50 area volunteers Saturday, May 20, 2006 to complete the outside work on the "Bowyer Family Project." The volunteers ranged in age from middle and high schoolers, to those in their 70's in this inter-generational effort.

On February 18, 2005 the Bowyer family suffered a devastating loss. Their house burned and *Paul Bowyer* was fatally burned while trying to rescue his granddaughter *Katie* from the fire. They both were taken to Charlottesville, Va. to the UVA Medical Center where *Paul* succumbed to his injuries a few days later. *Katie* was later taken to Shriners Children's Hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio, where she spent the next 3-½ months being treated for her injuries. She has since returned to the Blacksburg area and has returned to school in Blacksburg Middle School. *Mrs. Bowyer* and her son and grandson have been living with a neighboring son since the fire.

Paul Bowyer was a Building Trades teacher in the Montgomery County area for many years. He was very instrumental in teaching building trades to many who are practicing trades in our local area at this time. He also was involved with coaching at Blacksburg High School for a number of years. He served as coach and mentor to many young

men at a time in their life when they needed a positive role model. It is because of this that a considerable number of local members of the building industry pitched in and donated their time, talent and materials to rebuild the home for the Bowyer family.

Since then a host of former students and friends have helped to demolish the burned out house and build a completely new one at the same site. The primary project coordinators were *Tim Lawrence* and *Susan Davidson* of **Blue Ridge Home Improvement, Inc.**, along with major assistance by **Valley Landscaping** staff, and area skilled craft people. Blacksburg AARP Chapter was pleased to be part of this cooperative effort.

Ten Chapter members and family took part in the work activities including: *Tom Meacham, Carol Meacham, Dillon Meacham (grandson), Al Crawford, Norman Eiss, Bob Brown, Mike Sporkowski, Jo Ann Underwood, Todd Solberg, and Carl McDaniels*. Photos by *Ben and Carol Crawford*

**AARP NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE
Ten chapter members participated**



**Skilled craftsman and member Bob Brown
in center working with others**



**Jo Ann Underwood,
Chair of Health and Wellness Fair
in front of completely rebuilt home**



Carl McDaniels



**Ben Crawford, Carl McDaniels
Larry Lawrence**

You are encouraged to take part in the BLOOD DRIVE Friday, June 16, 9 a.m--1 p.m. at the Community Center in the Activity Room, 724 Patrick Henry Drive, Blacksburg. There is an URGENT need for blood types A, B and O. For an appointment, call 1 800 GIVE-LIFE or to visit www.GIVELIFE.org . Each week's donors will be entered in that week's \$100 gasoline raffle. Donors are eligible to donate every 56 days. Positive ID is required.

THE LIGHTER SIDE

One of our Board members decided to prepare her will and told her preacher she had two final requests. First, she wanted to be buried at Wal-Mart. "Wal-Mart?" the preacher exclaimed. "Why Wal-Mart?" "Then I'll be sure my daughters visit me twice a week."

My memory's not as sharp as it used to be. Also, my memory's not as sharp as it used to be.

Remember, you don't stop laughing because you grow old. You grow old because you stop laughing.

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>	anglittle@naxs.net
TREASURER:	<i>Brian Allen</i>	mballen@prodigy.net
ASSOCIATE TREASURER:	<i>June Schmidt</i>	schmidtj@vt.edu

Committee Chairs and more on Website: <http://civic.bev.net/aarp/>

Blacksburg AARP Chapter #2613

Board of Directors Monthly Meeting
Blacksburg Community Center
Tuesday, June 6, 2006

Members Present:

R. B. "Ben" Crawford	Dale Oliver	Tom Jeffers	Harriet Damant
Connie Anderson	Margaret Kates	Brian Allen	Norm Weiss
Jo Ann Underwood	Doris Abraham	Curt Finch	Harriett Cooper
Donald Elson	Jim Gaines	Joyce Martin	Dan Fleming
Carl McDaniels	Angela Little	Deborah Gates-Mauricio	

1. President McDaniels **called the meeting to order** at 9:30 a.m.
2. Angela Little requested to add chapter liability insurance to the **agenda**.
3. The May 2006 **minutes** were approved by acclamation as printed in the May newsletter.
4. **Treasurer**, Brian Allen, reported a current balance of \$3,396.50. \$50 was deposited from the sale of the Jamestowne books and two were given to speakers.

5. The AARP National Day of Service was held locally on May 20. Ten volunteers assisted the “Bowyer family project” by helping plant trees, shrubs, gardens, and general landscaping. A thank you letter has been received from Tim Lawrence of Blue Ridge Home Improvement. McDaniels thanked all who participated in the event.

6. McDaniels reported for the **Public Relations Committee** in the Eiss’ absence. Norm Eiss has been working with the station manager of 810 AM to begin the **AARP Radio Hour** on Saturday, June 10 from 10-11 a.m. Carl McDaniels and Jim Gaines will host the first and second shows. Topics were assigned to members for the following four weeks. Members are encouraged to call-in questions during the show.

7. Joyce Martin reported on the **Membership Committee** in Jim Wightman’s absence. 286 members have paid to date. It was decided that reminder phone calls would be made.

8. McDaniels announced the **picnic** will be held on June 20 and the **30th anniversary** of the chapter will be celebrated. It was decided he would purchase a cake for 60 people and will contact past presidents to extend a special invitation. Everyone is encouraged to bring treasures for the auction. Wayne Garst will be the auctioneer for the White Elephant Sale. Harriett Cooper reported on Fall program ideas. It was suggested a commercial shredder be available at one of the meetings. The Health and Wellness Fair is scheduled for September 19. Jo Ann Underwood reported she has sent 60 postcards to agencies informing them of the date. She is looking for musicians to perform during the fair. Brian and Dale agreed to help secure door prizes. It was suggested a commercial shredder be available at a Fall meeting.

9. Ben Crawford stated that the deadline for all **newsletter** articles is Friday, June 9.

10. AARP Virginia Events: Saturday, May 20, was the Day of Service at the Bowyer Family’s home. June 29 will be the AARP Regional meeting at Custom Catering.

11. Ben Crawford announced **Driver’s Education** classes are scheduled for June 19 and 21 at the Christiansburg Senior Center and on July 26 and 28 at Montgomery Regional Hospital. He stated that our chapter is helping to promote and sponsor these sessions.

12. Dan Fleming, **Legislative Co-chair**, shared information from the New York Times on the Medicare Part D participants with 42% reporting that they are spending less. There is a prediction that one-third of all participants will hit the “doughnut hole.” Jim Gaines stated that everything is in good order on the publication of the chapter history. He thanked Connie Anderson for editing the history and Carol Crawford for typing it.

Connie suggested forming a committee to clean the file cabinets and send any documents the chapter wants to keep to the Blacksburg Museum, who can archive and store the documents. Ben made a motion to give one copy of the chapter history to each paid and honorary household in 2006 and one to each future speaker as a token of appreciation. Dan Fleming seconded the motion and it was passed. It was decided that the chapter history would be mailed, with the chapter paying for the postage. Connie and Jim Gaines will prepare the envelopes to be mailed.

13. Margaret Kates of the **Ways and Means Committee** reported we will partner with Barnes and Noble on Saturday, November 4 to raise money to buy books for the Christmas Store and Literacy Programs. 10% of sales on that date will go to our chapter. Don Elson informed the Board that **award nominees** are due in Richmond on Sept. 15.

14. Angela presented information on **AARP Chapter Liability Insurance** that was sent from the national office. Discussion followed and Harriett Cooper made a motion to purchase general liability insurance for the chapter. Kurt Finch seconded, and the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 p.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 who may be interested in membership.