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Quick Facts

About Botetourt County

- Population (2016): 33,231
- Homeownership rate: 87.6%
- Average travel time to work: 27 minutes
- Unemployment rate: 3.7%, compared to the U.S. rate of 4.7%
- Industries include: Mining, Advanced Manufacturing, Transportation, Agriculture and Health Care
- Moody's estimates cost of doing business: 15% lower than national average.
- Students who graduate on time: 95.3%
- County residents 25 and older with high school or higher degrees: 91.1%
- Fincastle, the County seat: Incorporated in 1772 and attracts genealogists from all over the world
- Dream destination for outdoor recreation: 70,000 acres of the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests; James River with boating access; miles of off-road opportunities for all-terrain vehicles; Appalachian Trail access; 35 miles of Blue Ridge Parkway
- Botetourt Sports Complex: Championship softball, youth baseball fields; soccer fields; cross-country course; 18-hole disc golf course; Wi-Fi

Sources: U.S. Census, Botetourt County, Virginia Economic Development Partnership

Welcome

To Botetourt County

The Botetourt County Chamber of Commerce and its members welcome you to the 19th edition of our chamber publication, *Botetourt Living 2017*.

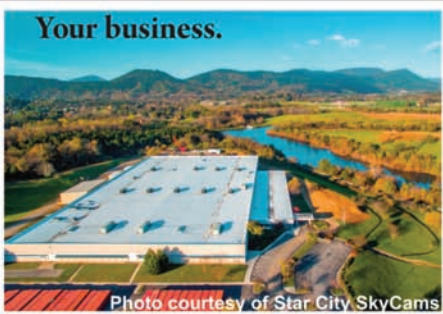
The magazine serves as a guide for visitors and for citizens — those who recently moved here or have lived here for a lifetime. It's particularly geared to the business community and each of us who has a vested interest in the continuing mission to develop this great place to live, work, and play.

Botetourt County is an ideal environment for business and family. Major markets and resource bases are located within a few hours of here and the labor pool is strongly supported with educational and training venues. As an area for arts and culture, it would be hard to beat our wide range of amenities with attractive shopping and entertainment opportunities. Outdoor recreation in Botetourt County, including many square miles of Jefferson National Forest and rivers, is second to none in every season.

Botetourt County, a repository for many forms of historical information, was founded in 1770. Lord Botetourt, for whom the County is named, served as Governor of Virginia. The County is now part of the Roanoke Metropolitan Area, though in early times its lands extended as far west as Illinois and Wisconsin. The County shares the Southern Shenandoah Valley with its neighbor jurisdictions of Roanoke County, the cities of Roanoke and Salem, and the Town of Vinton.

Welcome to our beautiful County and all that it offers. We invite you to visit or call the Chamber for more information.

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Small Business Big Pleaser

By Anne Sampson

In an off-interstate mix of fast food and convenience store cuisine, Angelle's Diner stands out as something different.

Angelle's is located near the busy Troutville junction of I-81, U.S. Routes 11 and 220. The brainchild of Glenn Angelle and his partner Jeanne Crespo, the restaurant is an upscale diner that offers comfort food quickly prepared and table service, with the added draw of wine and beer.

"We're the Best New Thing," says Glenn, a genial man with a wide, white smile. He's referring to the restaurant's selection

in that category in the Roanoke Times newspaper special section.

This "new thing" nearly wound up as an Omelet Shoppe. Glenn, president and CEO of Blue Ridge Best Foods, owns four of them – Salem, Dublin, and Beckley and Parkersburg, West Virginia. When the Waffle House near I-81 Exit 150 closed, Glenn bought the building with the intention of opening another Omelet Shoppe, despite ongoing construction at the exit and the lack of highway frontage. As he and Jeanne discussed it, plans for an Omelet Shoppe developed into something different.

"We gutted the Waffle House. Everything is new," says Glenn. "We want to put the pride back in food service, to keep a higher standard."

That standard includes a menu that takes diner food a step or two up. Beside egg-and-hash-brown breakfasts and burger plates, are eggs benedict with house-made Hollandaise; smoked brisket; Angus beef and meal-sized salads.

"We're offering Virginia products like oysters, local produce, Carvemaster ham [a Smithfield brand], and made-from-

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scratch meatloaf. Stephanie Craig at Willow Pond Farm [in Catawba] is our baker," Glenn explains.

There's also a nod to Glenn's step-father, who gave him his start in the business in southern Louisiana, with dishes like shrimp and sausage gumbo and sides like rice and beans, and spicy mac and cheese. Fleur-de-lis, a symbol of French culture, shows up here and there in the décor. Stone, tile, dark wood and muted colors support the upscale feel, as does the patio with lights, heaters and fire pits. Glenn and Jeanne have already heard requests to add live music.

Head chef Zac Shupe, who comes from a culinary family, develops recipes and runs the grill staff, while Jeanne manages the front of house. Jeanne and Glenn each have more than 30 years in food service.

Angelle's created a buzz before it opened in 2016 by inviting employees from nearby hotels for complimentary meals. The restaurant practiced and Angelle's developed a pool of referral sources. They serve a lot of hotel traffic, as well as loyal local patrons, who are often greeted by name.

Glenn found Botetourt County easy to work with. "Very business-friendly," is how he describes county officials. "The community has embraced us," he says. "We're part of the texture, the fabric of the community."

Glenn dons an apron to work behind the counter, while Jeanne checks tables. When the breakfast rush dies down, the grill cook hits the dining room with a coffee pot, offering refills.



Jeanne Crespo and Glenn Angelle

"At my core, diner is what I know and who I am," Glenn says. "I want to stay true to my roots and a cut above."

Things are going so well in Troutville, they have plans to convert the Salem Omelet Shoppe at Exit 137/Wildwood Road to an Angelle's Diner.

Glenn grins.

"This is going to be one of the hottest exits in Virginia!"

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Photos courtesy of Roanoke Cement

The Big Haul

By Anne Sampson

The only active cement plant in the Commonwealth of Virginia, Roanoke Cement is the local face of a global business.

Located on Catawba Road in Troutville, Roanoke Cement Company (RCC) is part of Titan America, which represents the American holdings of the Titan Cement Group, based in Athens, Greece. What began in 1902 with a quarry in Elefsina, Greece, owned by the Canellopoulos family, now operates on three continents and employs 6,000 people worldwide. Titan America employs more than 2,000 and approximately 130 people are employed locally.

"Concrete is one of the most consumed substances in the world, next to water," says Don Ingerson, vice president of sales for

Roanoke Cement and Mid-Atlantic Aggregates. "One cubic yard of concrete is consumed per person, per year," he explains. "A truck holds 10 cubic yards."

Addressing the common confusion of cement with concrete, he compares concrete to bread, and cement to the flour that is the main ingredient. Without cement, there is no concrete. And without concrete, roads, bridges, multistory buildings, homes and other infrastructure are built of less-durable, more-expensive materials.

"Concrete has one of the most diverse applications of any building material", says Ingerson. "Cities and municipalities are huge consumers."

Roanoke Cement Company has been operating in Botetourt County for more than 50 years (Titan completed acquisition in 2000) and its location is no accident.

"RCC takes advantage of the unique geology of the I-81 corridor," Ingerson explains. "Cement is made, in large part, of limestone [calcium carbonate], heated to extremely high temperatures. Limestone is found in this area in abundance, the legacy of an ancient sea filled with corals, mollusks and other calcium-bearing creatures."

Convenient transportation is also crucial. RCC is one of Norfolk Southern's largest

local customers, with most of the product traveling by rail to terminals in Northern Virginia, Richmond, Raleigh and Wilmington.

A source of pride for Titan America is earning the EPA's Energy Star certification every year since 2006. According to Titan's website, www.titanamerica.com, the Energy Star program "establishes the benchmarks for superior energy performance" and assists industries in identifying and initiating corporate energy programs. Titan pursues an energy and environmental policy that boils down to "do less harm, do more good." This ideology informs RCC's place in the Botetourt community, where "we never take goodwill for granted," says Ingerson.

"Because of our location in Troutville, we partner with Trout Unlimited, providing environmental education programs for local schools and maintaining a trout pond on RCC's landscaped campus using recycled water," explained Ingerson.

"The community is invited on campus for plant tours and we host employee families for a day of trout fishing and other activities. Titan also participates in Relay for Life, Habitat for Humanity and local-highway and Catawba Creek clean-ups."

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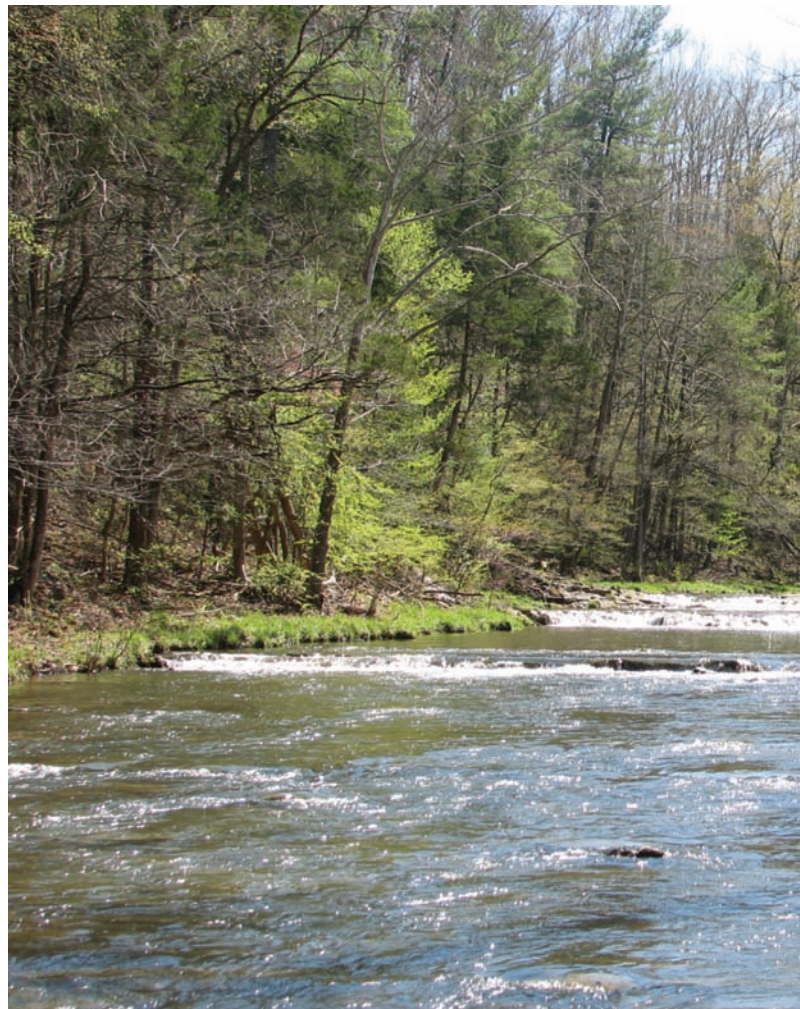
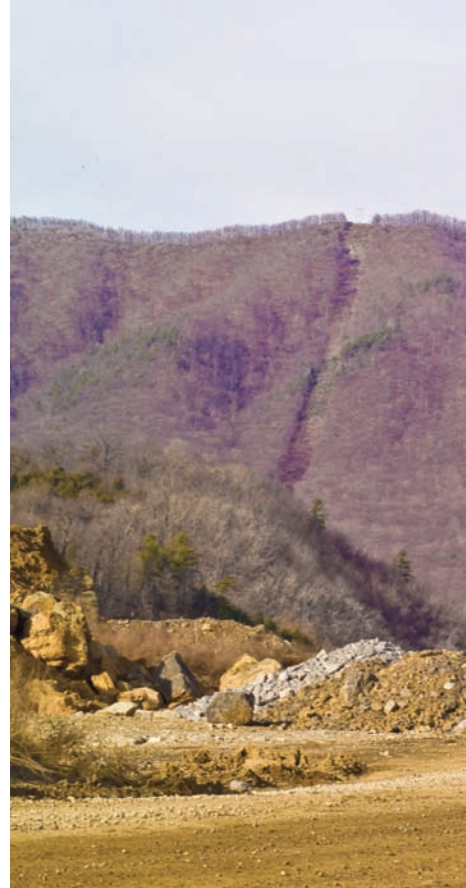
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"This is heavy industry and we have to consider our environmental impact," says Ingerson. "The Appalachian Trail runs through our backyard."

Sustainability initiatives include recycling waste material such as fly ash, and shutting off the lights on the 400-foot pre-heater tower, now only lit by two lights which alert aircraft. Previously, almost 100 lights were visible from the Blue Ridge Parkway more than 10 miles away.

Longevity is another key to Titan's community presence.

"We're a good, long-term employer," says Ingerson. "We have up to four generations working here, people who have been here for 20 and 30 years." The company partners with institutions like Virginia Tech's mining program, providing internships for student mining engineers.

"We have a triple bottom line," says Ingerson, "managing our business for people, the planet and profit."



Big News for Brews

Special Q&A

The announcement of Ballast Point locating its U.S. East Coast brewing operations in Botetourt County is big news. Hilary Cocalis, vice president of marketing provides insight to Botetourt Living.

We are getting announcements constantly about Ballast Point and its new brewing plant in Botetourt County. What are the top activities on your calendar regarding this development for 2017?

Brewing, serving great food, fun events and more brewing. We're really excited to jump in and make great beer for the community. We've been doing more events at our Southern California breweries, including beer and dinner pairings, Sunday brunch, and trivia nights, so we'd like to continue those in Botetourt and get involved with community-wide events as well. It's a great way to meet our new neighbors and fellow beer lovers.

What product will you start out brewing here; and what can we expect?

We will brew year-round releases and limited releases depending on the season, brewing schedule and production needs. We'll have the capacity to brew specialty beers, and maybe even new recipes that originate in Virginia. Our brewers are always exploring new techniques and innovative styles and our tasting room will feature R&D brews and limited releases from our San Diego breweries as well.

Ballast Point has been holding job fairs; how many employees do you expect to hire?

We've committed to create 178 new full-time jobs by the end of 2019. These jobs include brewery operations/management, retail staff and more.

According to the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, the new facility will spur creation of more than 540 secondary jobs. Based on our Job Fair turnout, we'll have no shortage of talented and enthusiastic employees.

Welcome to Botetourt County! What do you look forward to most when setting up your business here?

We're really excited to get involved with the local community. Everyone has been very welcoming and receptive to our new brewery and taproom, so we're looking forward to new friendships and good conversations over Ballast Point beers. We can't wait to meet everyone!

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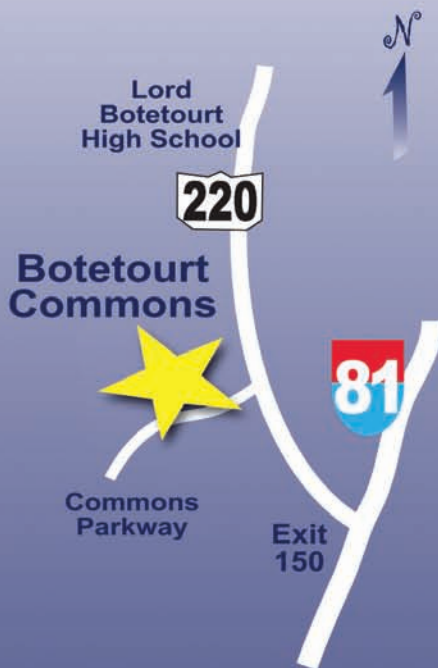


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A Big Life

In Family and Business

By Tom Field

Family is important.

You hear that a lot when talking and meeting folks in Botetourt County. More often than not, the sentiment spills over into the conversation about work and one's occupation as well. You get the sense that vocation is family, too – to the point that sometimes you forget whether someone is talking about home life or work life. Maybe that's because you meet a lot of people who work in the same community where they live, from farmers and independent contractors to business owner-operators working for themselves, and employees and professional services, such as the bankers and lawyers who plant their personal and occupational lives right here in the county.

An example? Wayne and Kristi Porter.

Kristi is from Buchanan; she grew up on the family's dairy farm. Wayne is from Wythe County; he found his way to Botetourt by his vocational pursuit after college.

Today, these parents of two girls run Botetourt Veterinary Hospital, a full-service practice and boarding facility. This popular





veterinary business has saluted drivers zipping and winding down U.S. Route 220 (Roanoke Road) right smack in between Fincastle and Daleville for more than 50 years. Increasingly, more people are slowing down to pull into the parking lot as the emphasis on pet care reaches its highest level yet.

"Pets are viewed as family members now," says Dr. Wayne Porter, as he describes how the business has changed over the years.

"Number one, the human-animal bond; number two, preventive care; and number three, individualized pet care." That's the emphasis on his veterinary practice today; and it's a change from how the industry used to operate, he says.

In "the old days," many people considered the veterinarian the person you rushed off to when an animal was suffering, yet you couldn't handle it yourself. Today, the veterinary practice has evolved to serve a more intricate and continual part of the community. Wayne and Kristi say more and more people not only understand the benefits of regular care for their pets; also they want preventive measures and an appropriate level of attention to keep their "family members" as healthy as possible.

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This change in sensitivity isn't limited to the influx of personal pets from urban sprawl or an expanding, more affluent demographic adopting more animal companions (whether owners live in houses with large yards or town center condominiums), though that is happening.

Livestock farmers have always relied on veterinarians for the protection of their business operations; but today, even people from our most rural spaces are bringing in their pets far more frequently than in the past.

Kristi, who not only met Wayne at Botetourt Veterinary Hospital, she married him and now serves as business manager. She agrees that pet care *is* family care.

"Pets are viewed as family members," Kristi says. By extension, Botetourt Veterinary Hospital presents a family atmosphere.

"We have the most loyal clients," Kristi says clients know the staff by name and will celebrate personal milestones with them, like the birth of a baby.

Dr. Porter follows a legacy of veterinarians who have worked in this community and in this same facility since the 1950s including his mentor. He joined the practice in 2005 and says he feels fortunate he was able to buy it in 2014 because Botetourt County was where he wanted to be.

"I wanted to be near my family and where I grew up," Dr. Porter says. He's always had a passion for animals, volunteering for a local vet when he was 15 years old. To be able to match his calling to ultimately owning a business right here in Botetourt County was a dream come true. Add to that, attending veterinary school at Virginia Tech, meeting his wife, and starting and having a family, was, well, like the perfect culmination of an individual's most important life milestones.

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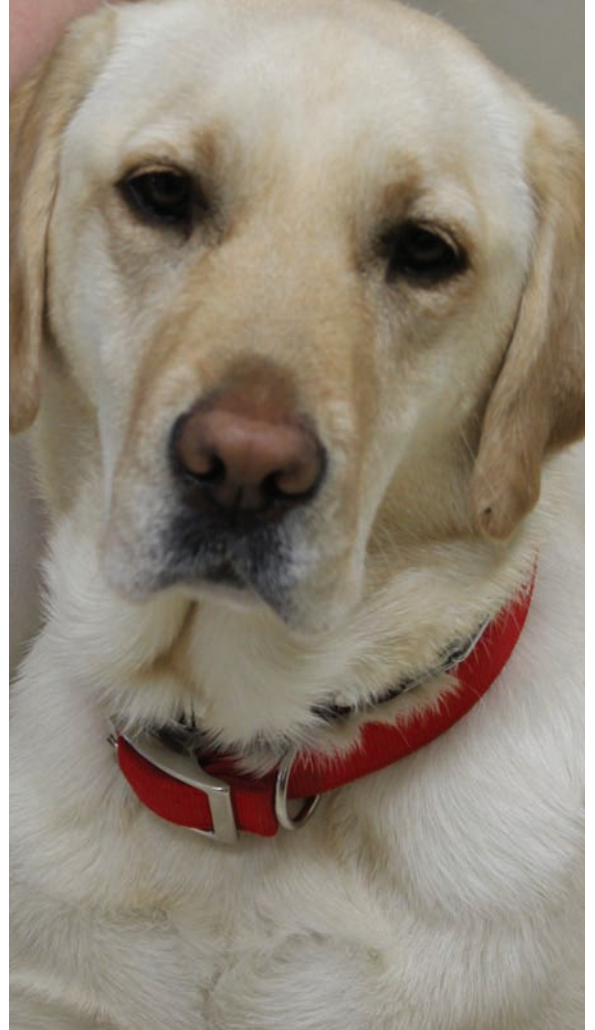
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"I love Southwest Virginia," Dr. Porter states.

Botetourt Veterinary Hospital principally serves cats and dogs. With 18 staff members and some employees with 10 and 20 years of service, more employees at new and expanding businesses (much of it within a virtual stone's throw to their building) Wayne and Kristi see increasing activity as a reasonable expectation.

In other words, the family is growing.





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Small Steps for Big

Special Q&A

The Rocky Forge team at Apex Clean Energy answers three questions about the wind energy project in Botetourt County.

What is the latest news on the Rocky Forge Wind project?

Earlier this year, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) approved Rocky Forge Wind's "Permit by Rule"

(PBR) application. This was the first PBR approval for a wind energy project in the Commonwealth of Virginia and follows on the unanimously approved local permits received last year. We hope to start construction as soon as the end of 2017.



Support

What has been the community's reaction to this project?

We are so thankful for the support we've received locally and regionally. The project received endorsements from a wide variety of organizations,

including the Roanoke Chapter of the Sierra Club, the Virginia Deer Hunters Association and the Virginia Conservation Legacy Fund, among others and many individuals have weighed in throughout the development process. We would not be in this position without such a strong welcome from Botetourt County.

Since Botetourt Living magazine serves the whole year, how can we keep up with the most current developments?

Our website is the best way to keep in touch and we encourage anyone interested in Rocky Forge to visit www.rockyforgewind.com. You can learn about the project, check out our blog, and sign up for updates, as well as find our phone number and email on the site.



Photo courtesy of Apex Clean Energy

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Big Views

Small Details

Scenes around Botetourt County



All photos in special pictorial section by Tom Field except where noted

Chamber

Notes

Highlights

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The Botetourt Chamber continually works to be the business advocate and supporter you need. Each year we tweak our activities and opportunities to meet the needs of new, growing and maturing businesses. Our first membership survey helps us further customize chamber support for business. We listen to the needs of the county’s existing and nascent businesses while supporting the economic development as a whole.

The chamber spoke definitively this year in support of bringing Virginia’s first renewable power source to Botetourt County with Apex Clean Energy’s Rocky Forge project and the Scenic River Designation for the full length of the James River in the County.

The chamber continued its efforts in support of developing the Gateway Crossing area –



Angie Anderson



Cindy Bailey



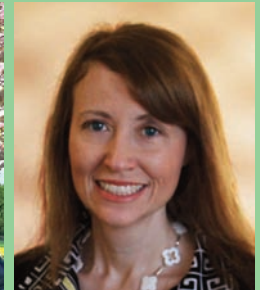
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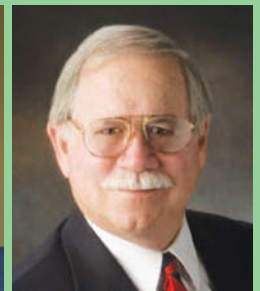
Shay Stevens



Doloris Vest



Trevor Winter-Pierce

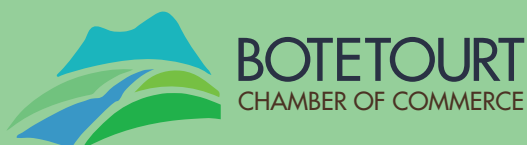


Pete Wood – retiring

and garnering more revenue support from outside the county. Chamber staff represent county business interest with the Blue Ridge Economic Coalition and the Virginia West Coalition, among others to ensure recognition and voice in the vital discussions.

Every successful business understands the importance of great marketing and other business skills. This year members learned about new regulations, disaster recovery and using vital promotional tools provided by the chamber including social media.

The chamber interests and impact are larger than this space so visit our website (www.botetourtchamber.com) regularly and read the Business Round Up on page 48 to see how we're moving business forward in Botetourt County.



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The Botetourt County Chamber of Commerce is one of the most important investments a business can make. Members are located in Botetourt or serve the county. We're the pro-business voice to government and the public. Keep on top of important, ever-changing issues and trends in the local marketplace with your Chamber.

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Even A Small Ride Makes A Big Difference

By Jess Dahlgren

Two non-profit organizations that work with the rich equine heritage that embellishes Botetourt County's identity, provide the following description of their contributions.

We're about more than ribbons.

With more than 60 members, the Botetourt County Horseman's Association is promoting more than showing horses these days. BCHA is a not-for profit, all-breed, all-discipline equine association with a long history in Botetourt County. Hay growers, tack sellers, horse breeders, trainers and other professionals enjoy association benefits right alongside local equine enthusiasts, hobby farmers and horse owners.

BCHA has sponsored trail rides, a hunter pace, horse shows, and, new last year, a lunch-and-learn program giving both members and the general public opportunities to bring their horses out.

This year's lunch-and-learn will focus on the trail rider. Troubleshooting, first aid, etiquette on the trail and where to ride in Virginia will be covered at Green Hill Park Equestrian Center in Salem. Rockingham Coop in Daleville is a sponsor. This is a great kick off for BCHA's new trail program.

The trail committee has scheduled monthly rides for the spring and into the fall; members can join a call list for impromptu rides on sunny weekends.

All the tables were sold out again at the annual tack sale where members and the public buy and sell items. Members can post items for sale on the Botetourt County Horseman's Association



All photos courtesy of BCHA and New Freedom Farm members

Facebook page or share business information in the directory at www.BotetourtHorseClub.com/local-businesses.

BCHA schedules social events as well as horse events. Trips to the Fincastle Winery have been very popular as have the Christmas parties. Silent auctions and raffles of donated items from local supporters at the Christmas parties along with other events have helped BCHA raise more than \$2,000 in funds for local charities. In the past three years, BCHA has donated to the Roanoke Valley Horse Rescue, League for Animal Protection, New Freedom Farm, Barn Cat Buddies, Green Hill Park Equestrian Center Footing Fund and Little Fork Volunteer Large Animal Rescue Team.

BCHA meets most months on the first Tuesday at Bellacino's in Daleville. Education has been a big driver in the selection of monthly speakers. Veterinarians from Virginia Tech, Blue Ride Equine and others have spoken about tick borne diseases, holistic care, the importance of pre-purchase exams and other subjects important

to horse owners. Occasional farm meetings happen at member-owned property or locations like Harmony Farm Sanctuary in Fincastle which houses rescued livestock like pigs, cows and goats in addition to horses and donkeys.

BCHA supports the work of New Freedom Farm, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that assists veterans who suffer from PTSD/TBI, depression, anxiety, and substance abuse, using "healing humans through horses."

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Located off Lithia Road, this little farm is doing big things. Owners Lois and Mitchell Fritz moved to the area from New Jersey two years ago with a few dogs and a handful of horses, including two adopted mustangs. Lois, a U.S. Navy veteran and forensics nurse, understands the struggles many veterans face as well as those faced by unwanted horses in our country. She volunteers and runs the 14-acre farm and cares for 19 animals, including adopted barn cats, dogs, three mini horses, two ponies and two mini donkeys.

Two “cover girls”, Maybelline and L’Oréal, came to New Freedom Farm a little over a year ago from sale pens in Pennsylvania. Maybelline, 16, was one of a large group of Thoroughbreds that found themselves homeless. A Facebook comment made about Maybelline’s “new freedom” led to the farm’s name.

Under the care of New Freedom Farm volunteers and generous donors, Silver Justice (by L’Oréal) and Lady Liberty (by Maybelline), are now both healthy yearlings. Saved from slaughter in Louisiana, paint horse Martha and her colt George Washington arrived in poor health. Patriot and Lincoln, two tiny ponies rescued from a kill pen in Louisiana round out the group of rescued equine now helping ‘rescue’ veterans at New Freedom Farm. A few mini horses, miniature donkeys and a shy mule now work closely with the rescues to welcome veterans and their families.

Veterans Administration patients in Salem travel to New Freedom Farm to spend time with the animals. They help with barn chores, work with horses, enjoy lunch (all donated and at no charge) or simply lean on the fence finding solace in the wonderful sound of horses

munching on hay. There is no requirement of the veterans who visit; except to share their experience with others who may need assistance.

New Freedom Farm is determined to help reduce the number of suicides among veterans and to grow the program.

Studies have shown that interacting with an animal, such as a horse, can be very helpful and calming to those suffering from PTSD.

Visiting with the equines at New Freedom Farm helps with isolation, communication, trust and social skills. The wonderful animals and volunteers have already touched the lives of many and even saved at least one veteran who had already written a “good bye” letter.

As services provided are free of charge, New Freedom Farm relies on donations to cover the costs of feed, hay, veterinary bills and farrier fees, as well as fence repair, bedding and other farm supplies.

During the Spring Fling on April 1, New Freedom Farm broke ground on a



pavilion and community center. A grant of \$5,000 from Freedom First Credit Union late last year will go towards these new projects. The farm holds fundraising events to meet operational needs, such as hay and fencing supplies. New Freedom Farm also sells T-shirts and hats.

The farm has multiple volunteers and is always looking for more. The farm is open to visitors most days.

New Freedom Farm holds regular open houses with local vendors and the wonderful "Human Healing" equine.

Learn more at www.newfreedomfarm.net or visit on Facebook.







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Small Town with a Big Heart

By Tom Field

Botetourt County is comprised of five political districts (Amsterdam, Blue Ridge, Buchanan, Fincastle, Valley), three towns (Buchanan, Fincastle - county seat, Troutville), and about a dozen designated communities (Arcadia, Blue Ridge, Buchanan, Cloverdale, Daleville, Eagle Rock, Glen Wilton, Hollins, Laymantown, Lithia, Nace, Oriskany, Springwood).

The entire county presents its own calendar-like scenes in every square mile. Though some pockets are more populated or busy than others, the view of Virginia's mountains and rivers and farmlands and woodlands greets all.

In this edition of Botetourt Living, we take a stroll down Main Street in the 185-year-old picturesque Town of Buchanan, and have a chat with its town manager.

"Towns have always fascinated me," begins Mary Zirkle, "and here [in Buchanan] we have so much potential. We're small enough where you can affect change and we get a lot of community input."

Mary Zirkle was appointed town manager in 2014; from day one, she quickly escalated to the role of advocate, if not cheerleader for all things Buchanan. You hear phrases like

"Team Buchanan" and "working the Main Street Principles" as Mary describes her job.

On our visit this particular morning, northbound Interstate 81 had construction-related warning signs posted that suggested a detour for motorcyclists between exits 162 and 167. Such an inconvenience is an opportunity as far as Mary is concerned, as that would direct traffic right through "her town," and indeed her eyes keep watch out the window even as her ears tune to hear the possible rumble of an approaching motorcycle.

"People are always saying this is such a neat town," says Mary. "I hear that one description more than any other."



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Mary Zirkle, AICP, CZA/ Buchanan's Town Manager

And being town manager is a pretty neat gig, too, according to Mary; although the manager's role goes "from pretty things like decorative banners down to the dirty matters, like the sewer system." It's all part of the job.

Mary especially enjoys sharing the news of community improvements and business developments that serve both residents and visitors to Buchanan. Her background provided a formidable roadmap to municipal administration, planning, and operations. After obtaining her undergraduate degree from the University of Mary Washington, she worked in planning and historic preservation at a Roanoke studio, got her masters in planning degree from Virginia Tech, married her husband, Richard, and served as chief of planning in Bedford County as well as in the planning department at Roanoke County prior to arriving at Buchanan.

"We want to be a Main Street destination," says Mary, regarding the 2.1 miles of U.S. Route 11 and the four blocks of downtown that cradle a town along a river on one of the most beautiful spots in Virginia.

There is little doubt Mary is concerned about the details even as she oversees the big picture. She sprinkles her remarks with everything from promoting specific businesses, such as the town's stores and shops, the Saturday flea market and outdoor recreational amenities, such as outfitters, campgrounds, the Trans-American bike route (76)



and the Appalachian Trail. The community boasts numerous cultural events from the county fair to various music, food and holiday festivals.

"Per capita, we have the most events of any community" in Botetourt, Mary exclaims, like a winning team's biggest fan.

She celebrates accomplishments like upgrading tables and the pavilion at the town park and securing the biggest billboard greeting traffic southbound on U.S. Route 11 just before the swinging bridge. Occasionally, you spot a little "Simply [heart] Buchanan" bumper sticker around town. Yes, Mary even cheers for that.

Everything counts.

"We know who we are and what we want," Mary says. "In some respects, we're an island," she explains, referring to the couple of miles the town sits away from both the north and south interstate exits. "But that can be a good thing and anyway, we don't mind working at it."

As a town with a historic and nostalgic look about it that could mark it as a place that time forgot, Mary insists the town council is more than ready to embrace progress even as it preserves the best characteristics of small-town life. She says the agenda includes growing the town's outdoor offerings and a commitment to hosting events that attract all kinds of people.

The small town with big ideas turns out to be a great place to work and make a difference, Mary says.

"Is that a motorcycle?" she asks optimistically, looking out the window of town hall.



Plenty to Do

Visit the Town Events page at **www.townofbuchanan.com** for up to date information on events and the current calendar

For events in Botetourt County at large, go to **www.visitbotetourt.com**

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Botetourt Business Roundup

Compiled by Doloris Vest

Commercial, Retail & Services

The landscape surrounding Exit 150 continued a major transformation this year as traffic patterns changed, Gateway Crossing opened and the large traffic circle took form. As the total restructuring of the area continues commercial changes move forward at and beyond the convergence of I-81, and U.S. Routes 11 and 220. Gateway Crossing will be a hub for retail and

hospitality businesses, including high-end hotels and, one day, a conference center.

New dining opportunities were welcomed to several areas in the valley including Lentini's in Daleville and Swinging Bridge Café in Buchanan, part of Buchanan's ongoing efforts to strengthen its downtown area. Plans include more community activities and a focus on the outdoors.



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The siting of craft brewery Ballast Point's east coast production and distribution facility at the Greenfield Center brings the newest batch of jobs and business to the county. With production, a tasting room and restaurant set to open this summer, more employees and residents in the area open additional

opportunities in Southern Botetourt. This comes as the Virginia Community College System's Support Services center geared up with an expectation for more than 200 jobs in human resources, procurement and other back-end services for all 23 Virginia community colleges.

Construction is nearing completion at the \$75 million Eldor manufacturing facility in Greenfield.



All photos by Tom Field

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The Italian company's first American operation brings 350 jobs to the county by early 2018 and as many as 600 in the future.

Canatal Steel announced plans this year to add 38 employees during a \$1.2 million expansion. This was the fifth major announcement in nine months, demonstrating the strength of the county economy.

Greenfield Center also nears readiness for a tenant in the new shell

building which will be the largest available manufacturing space in the region.

Government

Bipartisan cooperation – seldom seen elsewhere – took a front seat in the County's economic development efforts. Republican Del. Terry Austin led a coalition of area representatives to the General Assembly to nail down a large education grant for the school system as well as garner Scenic Waterway designation for the full

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extent of the James River through Botetourt and Rockbridge counties, building further on the area's burgeoning outdoors and recreation attractions.

In the same vein of regional cooperation, Botetourt County has officially designated Visit Virginia's Blue Ridge (VVBR) as its tourism marketing organization. VVBR will play a more visible role in Botetourt, establishing an office in the county economic development department.

Education

Looking to a Strong Workforce >

The availability of high-end advanced manufacturing training from Virginia Western Community College and others in the area played heavily into recent major announcements in Botetourt County this year. That need for a highly trained – and trainable – workforce is at the foundation of economic development and Botetourt County Schools have long




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recognized this need and responded.

Botetourt Technical Education Center students – our future workforce – will begin training this fall in a state-of-the-art mechatronics technician program aimed at preparing employees for many of the area's new manufacturer jobs. The project is the result of a multifaceted effort bringing a more than \$300,000-plus state grant to the school system.

Happy Healthy Living

The YMCA is “more than a gym” according to plans for a Botetourt location including a two-story, 43,000-square-foot fitness center with an eight-lane lap pool, a warm-water recreation and therapy pool, modern exercise equipment, three workout studios, a basketball gymnasium, a lobby and space for community meetings.

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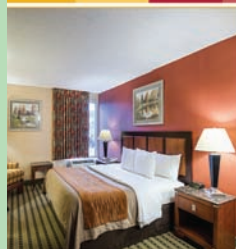
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The Addy Grace foundation will create a fully accessible playground for children with special needs and abilities next door to the Y.

Although the area already has a few handicap accessible playgrounds, there is a lack of fully inclusive playgrounds. Children with disabilities can use all parts of an inclusive playground.

The coming months will see new housing

focused on the needs of the growing workforce.

County officials and developers are working to refine zoning and other requirements to creating housing suited for a younger workforce while retaining the beauty and hometown feel we've come to enjoy. A proposal to build two four-story buildings with 95 apartment units at Daleville Town Center nears reality.





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Looking forward

One answer to future power needs will soon grace the ridges of Botetourt's North Mountain. Apex Clean Energy's 75-megawatt Rocky Forge project becomes Virginia's first wind power generation installation. Twenty-five of the slow-spinning turbines will ultimately lead to lower energy costs. The project, built on private land with private investment will help diversify Virginia's energy and injecting significant funds into the local economy. Turbines could be spinning by 2018.

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Treasurer	540-928-2030

Botetourt County Administration

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Deputy County Administrator	540-928-2006

Botetourt County Departments

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Family Traditions


In western Virginia there are few things held in higher esteem than family and family traditions. People in the area look for quality and value in their services.

The Woods Family that includes three generations of expertise. Have been providing the Roanoke Valley and Botetourt areas with the highest quality and value in heating and air conditioning services for decades.

Our Family involvement dates back more than 50 years and includes three generations. We feel that personal service, professionalism and expertise are part of those family traditions.

If you are looking for those family traditions and personalized service from Rick, Gary and the rest of the Woods Family just give us a call, we'll be happy to start a family tradition for you.

Rick & Gary Woods



WOODS FAMILY
Heating and Air Conditioning

540-992-3944

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At Carilion Clinic, we live our mission every day: to improve the health of the communities we serve. We focus on providing you and your family with excellent care that meets your needs and enables you to live a healthy lifestyle.

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The following services are available in Botetourt County:

- *Family Medicine*
- *VelocityCare (Urgent Care)*
- *Obstetrics and Gynecology*
- *Pediatric Care*
- *Allergy and Immunology*
- *Occupational Medicine*
- *Imaging and Mammography*



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