

2012 – Year in Review

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A year of progress...

During 2012, the Town of Front Royal has made positive progress on a number of programs and projects that will benefit our citizens today and tomorrow.

The Town's elected officials include Mayor Timothy W. Darr, Vice Mayor N. Shae Parker, Councilman Hollis L. Tharpe, Councilman Thomas H. Sayre, Councilman Bret W. Hrbek, Councilman Daryl L. Funk, and Councilman Eugene R. Tewalt. The Town Council conducts a regular meeting on the second and fourth Monday of each month except for December at 7:00pm in the Warren County Government Center. Work Sessions



are scheduled on Mondays as necessary at the Town's Administration Building located at 102 East Main Street. Information about Town Council and agendas for their meeting can be found at www.frontroyalva.com.



2012 Quick Facts

Website Visits: **225,000**

Gallons of Water
Produced: **770,000,000**

New Electric Service
Connections: **22**

Zoning/Building Permits
Issued: **198**

Visitors to the Tourism
Center: **41,000**

Utility Payments made
online: **1,700**

Police Calls for Service:
16,600



Front Royal designation ceremony as an Appalachian Trail Community – April 21, 2012

The Appalachian Trail Community program is designed to recognize communities that promote and protect the Appalachian Trail. Communities along the Trail corridor are considered assets by hikers. The program serves to assist communities with sustainable economic development through tourism and outdoor recreation, while preserving and protecting the Trail. Participation in the program is aimed to recognize and thank communities for their service to the Trail and hikers and to help local community members see the Trail as a resource and asset.

New Town Department Heads



The Town of Front Royal welcomed three new Department Heads in 2012. Jimmy Hannigan was promoted to Director of Environmental Services on February 7, 2012. Tim Smith was hired as the Tourism Coordinator on May 21, 2012. Chief Norman Shiflett was hired as the Chief of Police on September 10, 2012.

Planning Department Accomplishments

Our Planning Commission and Planning Department Staff completed a number of Code Amendments, development reviews, and Code inspections in 2012. The Town approved the rezoning of the 98.25 acre HEPTAD, LLC. Property in the Happy Creek area from Suburban Residential to Planned Neighborhood District with proffers towards the construction of the Leach Run Parkway. In addition, the Town partnered with Warren County and the Economic Development Authority to secure funding through the VDOT Revenue Sharing Program for construction of the Leach Run Parkway from John Marshall Highway to Happy Creek Road; design work is anticipated to begin in 2013. The Town also approved the establishment of the Mixed-Use Campus Development Zoning District to facilitate a blend of commercial and industrial development at the former Avtex site. The Planning staff also completed an update to the Town's Hazard Mitigation Plan with the Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission

Safer Signalized Intersections

Our Department of Energy Services completed two important projects to improve safety at our signalized intersections. First, our crews installed battery systems at every traffic signal to ensure that the traffic signal will continue to operate in the event of a power failure. Maintaining traffic signal power during storm events will allow our crews to focus on storm damage. In addition, Energy Services work with our Department of Environmental Services to install pedestrian crossing equipment at John Marshall Highway & Commerce Avenue. Pedestrian signals will allow safe passage for pedestrians at one of our largest and highest volume intersections.

Upgraded Dispatch Equipment

Our Police Department completed a number of upgrades to improve our response time. Working with our Information Technology Department, the software used by our Dispatcher now has the ability to provide instant mapping and incident history for any emergency call. This information is able to be transmitted to the Police vehicles so that our Officers can have necessary information to respond to each call. Our Police Department has also completed necessary upgrades to the radio equipment transmitters and receivers to provide enhanced coverage. As always please contact 911 in the event of an emergency or (540) 635-2111 for non-



Community Improvements

Our Department of Environmental Services completed a number of projects to enhance livability of our community. The Town continued our Neighborhood Improvement Program through road, waterline upgrades, and fire protection enhancements in the Warren Park subdivision. This project included installation of curb and gutter, asphalt paving, installation of new waterlines, and installation of new fire hydrants.

Waterline and fire hydrant installation was also conducted off of Stuart Drive. The Town continued the Main Street Tree Replacement Program to gradually replace the failing Bradford Pear trees with trees better suited for an urban environment. The Town also worked with the Beautification of Front Royal Committee to continue replacing trees along Royal Avenue and Commerce Avenue. The Town also completed the Commerce Avenue Trail construction, a Department of Forestry grant project to construct the path from Prospect Street to South Street.

Our Police Department oversaw the Town's Deer Management Program coordinating efforts working with Suburban Whitetail Management of Northern Virginia

225th Anniversary of Incorporation

Congratulations and thanks to Jody West, the winner of the Logo Contest to develop the logo for the Town's Celebration of the 225th Anniversary of Incorporation. The Town is planning numerous displays and events to commemorate our Anniversary.



Plant Upgrades



Our Department of Environmental Services is working with consultants to evaluate upgrades to both the Water Treatment Plant and the Wastewater Treatment Plant to achieve compliance with new treatment requirements. The Wastewater Treatment Plant will need to upgrade its treatment capacity to handle the Town's needs for the next twenty-five years. In addition, the plant requires new treatment methodologies to achieve compliance with the Chesapeake Bay Act nutrient limits. The Wastewater Treatment Plant is also having to upgrade the septage receiving facility due to continued development in Warren County. Our Water Treatment Plant is now required to provide additional treatment to account for the agrarian

nature of the Shenandoah River and to account for chemical by-products that develop from the treatment process. The Town is working to develop designs plans for this work and also is developing financing options.

Utility & Tax Payments

The Town upgraded our website to allow online utility and bill payments. Customers will have to create their online account for each payment option. Customers will need a current credit card to make online payments. Online payments can be established by visiting our website. Payments can continue to be made through the mail, visiting our Payment Center, or dropping your payment in our night deposit box.



New Administrative Offices

The Town of Front Royal purchased the former BB&T Bank located at 102 East Main Street to consolidate the offices located in Town Hall and the Finance Business Center. Renovation work includes roof repairs, installation of an elevator, new flooring, new HVAC equipment, new network and phone infrastructure, and other improvements. When complete, the Town will offer drive-through payment service. Work is anticipated to be completed in early 2013.



Marketing Front Royal

The Town of Front Royal partnered with several Shenandoah Valley communities to conduct a Washington DC advertising blitz. Signs advertising Front Royal and the other Valley communities were displayed in the Metro Station and on a DC bus in April.



Continuing into 2013

The Town has been notified by the Front Royal Limited Partnership that they have submitted a Petition for Boundary Adjustment to the Commission on Local Government to bring 604 acres into the Town. The property located north of Happy Creek Road and west of Shenandoah Shores Road will require agreement from the property owner, Warren County, and the Town to be brought into Town limits. The process to resolve this petition will be discussed with the Planning Commission and Town Council to ensure it benefits the community.

Channel 16 Upgrades

The Town is working with Warren County to upgrade the recording and broadcast equipment for meetings that air on Comcast Cable Channel 16. The recording equipment will allow digital recording of meetings that can also be broadcast on the Town's website. The broadcast equipment will allow the Town to broadcast the time, weather, and emergency information broadcasts to viewers.

Honors & Accolades

The Town's Finance Department was recognized for the 25th consecutive year by the Government Finance Officers Association by award of the Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for our comprehensive annual financial report. The Achievement for Excellence award is the highest form of recognition to those responsible for developing, managing, and accounting for government revenues and expenditures.

The Town was also recognized by the Office of the Attorney General as being the municipal electric provider with the lowest rates in the Commonwealth.

Town of Front Royal

www.frontroyalva.com www.discoverfrontroyal.com