



# A MESSAGE TO OUR CITIZENS

**TOWN ELECTIONS ARE MAY 1, 2012**

Every other May during the even years, a Town Election for Mayor and Town Council is held. This year it will be held on Tuesday, May 1, 2012. You are encouraged to get out and VOTE. To find out more information on registering to vote, absentee voting, and where the polls are located please call the Voter Registrar's Office at (540)635-4237 or visit [www.warrencountva.net](http://www.warrencountva.net), click Departments, click Voter Registrar. **Your vote does count.**

### **Wednesday Yard Waste Collection begins March 14**

For collection of grass, weeds and/or leaves

- Use reusable containers or open brown bio-degradable bags. Do not use blue trash cans
- Do not mix dirt, rocks, trash, debris, root balls or stumps with yard waste
- Brush is to be shorter than (5) feet in length, weigh less than (50) pounds and be bundled with rope / twine.
- Must be placed at the curb before 7:00am on Wednesday morning.

### **ACQUISITION OF PROPERTIES**

The Town of Front Royal recently purchased two properties from BB&T, Co. The 1st is the former BB&T Bank building located at 102 E. Main Street at a cost of \$810,000. The 2nd is a parking lot at the northeast corner of Peyton Street and Royal Avenue for a cost of \$300,000. The purchase will allow the Town the option to consolidate its services into one location to better serve the citizens. These services include the offices of Town Manager, Town Attorney, Finance, Planning/Zoning, Human Resource, Risk Management, Clerk and Council Meeting Room. The building's size will also provide the Town with the additional space to meet future office space requirements. The acquisition of the parking lot will ensure that use of the building will not impact existing parking within the Peyton Street Parking Lot. The funding for this acquisition and renovation is through an internal loan from the Town's Electric Fund Balance that will be repaid over the next ten years. Necessary repairs to the building will include the installation of an elevator, HVAC upgrades, roof repairs and general upgrades to meet today's standards and codes. We anticipate an Open House in the near future.

### **SAVE THE DATE!**

#### **Front Royal/Warren County Designation Day**

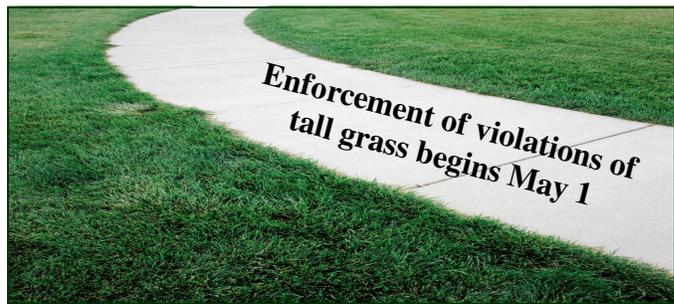
Saturday, April 21

Gazebo Area located at Main /Chester Streets

Enjoy a full day of family activities celebrating Front Royal/Warren County's designation as an official Appalachian Trail Community.

~Guided hikes, picnicking, outdoor games, treasure hunts and more. Interactive campfire performance at 2:00pm, followed by the designation ceremony at 3:30pm. Watch local newspapers and [www.discoverfrontroyalva.com](http://www.discoverfrontroyalva.com) for more details.

*Sponsored in part by Town of Front Royal*



- Permit required. Only (2) FREE per year; \$5.00 thereafter.
- Limited to (6) per year
- **Signs are not allowed to be attached to electric poles or supports.**
- Contact Business Office for more information at (540)635-7799.



### **Town of Front Royal Business Offices will be CLOSED**

**Monday, May 28** in observance of Memorial Day—Trash/Recycling will be picked up Wednesday, May 30

## PAY YOUR TOWN BILLS ONLINE

Customers have the option of paying their Town tax bills online at [www.frontroyalva.com](http://www.frontroyalva.com). Along with paying your bills in person, by mail, by drop box, at Union Bank and drive-thru (in future), this gives the customers of Front Royal another convenient way to pay. The Finance Department can help you if you have concerns with this system at (540) 635-7799. Paying Town Utility bills will be an option in the near future. Town Personal Property/Real Estate Taxes are due June 5.

### Spring Cleaning ?? The Town can help!! LARGE TRASH PICK-UP PROGRAM

If you need old furniture, appliances, odd/ends, etc. that you would like to throw away, please call the Dept. of Environmental Services at (540)635-7819 to arrange for a pick-up. One pick-up per calendar year is FREE.

All others will be \$25.00 a pick-up.

Additional charge for tires and Freon from appliances

No construction debris

### Clocks Spring Forward



**Sunday, March 11**

### LOWEST ELECTRIC RATES FOR RESIDENTIAL ELECTRIC POWER IN VIRGINIA

The Town of Front Royal has been identified as the municipal electric power provider with the lowest rates in the entire state of Virginia of all residential electric power providers. The Town's current rate is also more that \$30.00 cheaper than the national average of \$125.00 per 1000 kilowatt hours. On Jan. 30, 2012, Joe Waltz, Director of Energy Services, presented this news to Town Council. Beginning in 2006 the Town developed a diversified energy portfolio to ensure that variations in the energy market did not have a significant impact on customers. The Town purchases power from various power generation facilities on the open market to arrive at the best cost for customers. These efforts have allowed the Town to successfully program costs for the next several years in anticipation of remaining cost effective. If you have any questions, please contact the Department of Energy Services at (540)635-3027.

### Motorists vs Pedestrians

Motorists please drive with caution as there are many walkers, runners and bicyclists on the streets and sidewalks, especially as the weather warms up.

Pedestrians/Bicyclists are encouraged to use the crosswalks whenever possible.



### **SETBACKS FROM ROME**

You might be surprised to know that governments have required minimum setbacks for buildings since ancient times. The first laws that regulated where a person (citizen) could build a building on their property date back to 451-450 B.C. in the *Twelve Tables*. This was not a huge stretch of the imagination at the time since some forms of building codes had existed since the *Code of Hammurabi* in 1772 B.C.

There are several reasons why setbacks are beneficial for the community. Setbacks create fire separation between structures, maintain open space, and allow sunlight and ventilation. They provide privacy and distance between neighbors, and leave room for future public utilities and roads. In addition, they protect property values over time by adding uniformity and aesthetic appeal to a neighborhood.

In the Town of Front Royal, minimum setbacks are required for most structures and buildings, and are reviewed during the zoning permit process. Citizens that are interested in constructing a new house, shed, garage or other building should contact Planning & Zoning Staff for more information at (540) 635-4236. Information is also available on the Town's website at [www.frontroyalva.com](http://www.frontroyalva.com).

SPRING