

TOWN OF FRONT ROYAL

2013 - 225TH ANNIVERSARY



2013 - A Year of Celebration



The Town of Front Royal celebrated our 225th Anniversary of incorporation as a Town in Virginia. Front Royal became a Town by act of the General Assembly on November 15, 1788. The Town hosted a number of events to commemorate the history of the Town. Our Tourism Department worked with the Warren Heritage Society to coordinate historical presentations of our history, opening of the cornerstone of the Town Hall constructed in 1935, and hosting Founder's Day to celebrate the day of incorporation. In addition, the Town participated in several other community events to commemorate this historical event.

225th Commemorative High School Baseball Game - April 9



Town Hall Cornerstone - August 17



Founders Day - November 16



2013 by the Numbers

Visits to frontroyalva.com	227,305	Gallons of Water Produced:	663,300,000
Visitors to Tourism Center:	37,500	Online Utility Payments:	3,369
Payments using Drive-Thru	21,843		
Increase in the Number of New Businesses opened in 2013 versus 2012:			40%

Planning for our Future

The Town's Planning Commission and our Planning staff dedicated a significant portion of 2013 towards developing the Vision for Front Royal as the first step towards updating our Comprehensive Plan. A draft of the "Envision Front Royal: A Vision for the Town of Front Royal, VA" was completed by our consultant. The visioning project received a great deal of public participation thanks to the featured interactive website, multiple public meetings, and public outreach by staff and the Planning Commission.



*A Lifelong
Community*



*A Popular
Destination*



*Preserved
Assets*



*A Vibrant
Town*



Town Growth

The Front Royal Limited Partnership submitted a citizen initiated annexation petition to the Commission on Local Government requesting the 604 acres of their property be boundary adjusted into the Town limits. The Town, County, and property owner discussed this proposal and conducted several public hearings to determine the appropriateness of this request. The Commission on Local Government ultimately recommended approval of this request. The request will be reviewed by a three judge panel appointed by the Supreme Court in 2014.



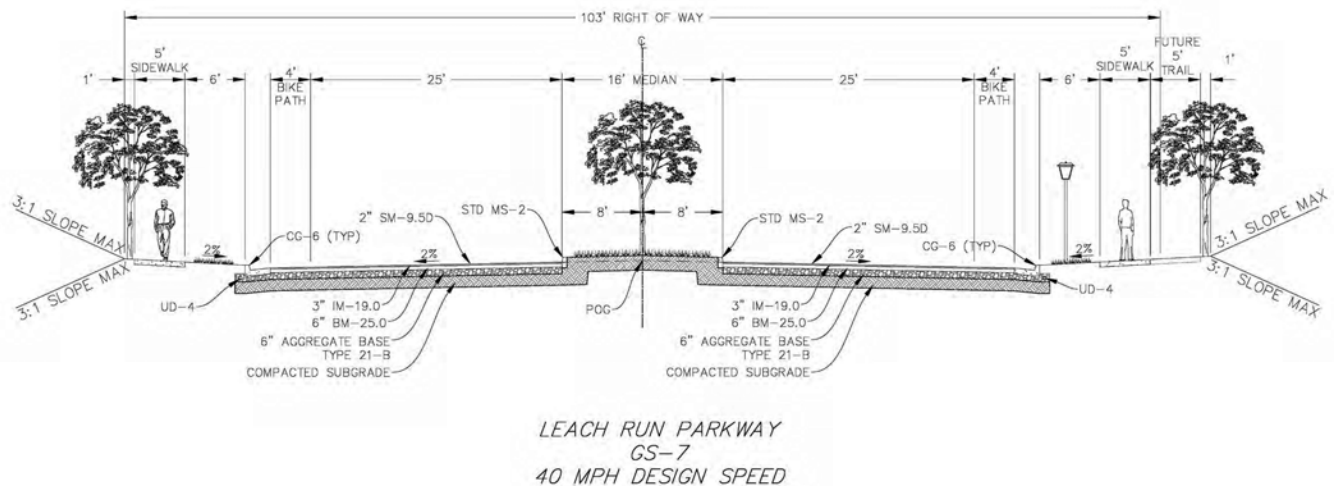
New Deputy Zoning Administrator

The Town welcomed Robbie Seal as our new Deputy Zoning Administrator to provide Code Enforcement processing. A former Police Officer with the Town, Mr. Seal assists the Planning Department to investigate code compliance complaints.



Leach Run Parkway

The Town of Front Royal, working with the Economic Development Authority and Warren County, has initiated the project to design, obtain Right-of-Way, and construct the Leach Run Parkway, a four-lane, limited access roadway to connect John Marshall Highway and Happy Creek Road. The project design should be completed in 2014 and construction completed in the summer of 2016.



Police Department Facilities



The Town's Police Department has moved to a new location at 23 Jackson Street. Issue with their previous building necessitated their temporary relocation to the former Warren County Sheriff's Office. The Town also hired a consultant to evaluate locations to locate the new Police Headquarters. Following review of a number of sites, the consultant recommended the former Avtex parking lot located on Kendrick Lane between Adams Avenue and Monroe Avenue. The Town has submitted an offer to purchase this property from the EDA.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades

The Town's consultant continued to complete the design of the upgrades at the Wastewater Treatment Plant necessary for compliance with the Chesapeake Bay Act. The Town anticipates completion of the design in early 2014 with construction to begin in late 2014. The Town did receive confirmation from the Virginia Department of Environmental

Quality that this project has qualified for a zero-interest loan that will save the Town approximately \$10 million in interest payments. In addition, the Town arranged for the purchase of a sludge press from the Town of Round Hill that is necessary as part of the plant upgrades. Acquiring the almost new sludge press from Round Hill will save the Town \$100,000 on construction costs.

Water Treatment Plant Upgrades

The Town conducted an evaluation of our water treatment processes, as well as an analysis of the duration water remains in our distribution system to arrive at improvements to comply with current health requirements. The Town will design and install an ultraviolet system to eliminate cryptosporidium from our source water. The Town will also evaluate other process and system infrastructure improvements to ensure disinfectant by-product compliance.

Main Street Tree Replacement Program



The Town's Horticulture Division continued the next phase of replacing the Bradford Pear Trees along Main Street. This multi-year program will plant a variety of urban trees along Main Street to reduce the likelihood of tree disease in the future. The Town is improving Main Street through the installation of tree pits and improving the environment for the trees to mature. The Town also worked with the Tree Stewards to install information kiosks at the Visitor's Center and the Happy Creek Arboretum.

Happy Creek Trail

The Town has constructed the next phase of the Royal Shenandoah Greenway through the Happy Creek Trail from Prospect Street to Criser Road. The Happy Creek Trail includes street lighting. The Town will also be installing lighting along the existing trail from South Street to Main Street early in 2014.

Virtual Desktop Operation

The Town's IT Department has transitioned several of our desktop computers to a "virtual desktop" environment. The stations now operate a computer that exists only on a network server. Making this transition should result in significant future cost savings to the Town through not having to acquire new computers stations. In addition, this network based system should reduce the time our staff spends troubleshooting workstation issues.

Channel 16 Improvements

The Town and County have upgraded the equipment that broadcasts Channel 16, the local government channel. These upgrades will allow the Town to provide consistent playback of Town meetings, as well as expand the programs aired to include informational segments about the history and operations of the Town. In addition, these upgrades also allow the Town to provide live airings of Town Council meetings on our website frontroyalva.com.

Water & Sewer Upgrades

The Town completed upgrades to our water distribution and sewer collection system in 2013. New waterlines were installed on Proctor Lane, West 16th Street, Hillcrest Avenue, and Jefferson Avenue. In addition, the Town upgraded pump equipment at our Guard Hill Pump Station and our Crooked Run Lift Station. In addition, generator backup power was installed at the Guard Hill Pump Station.

Drainage Improvements

During 2013, the Town completed several drainage projects that will reduce flooding and other stormwater problems throughout Town. Projects were located along Old Belmont Road, Orchard Street, East 6th Street, West 4th Street, South Shenandoah Avenue, and the alley between Virginia Avenue and North Royal Avenue.

Development Ordinance Updates

The Town's Planning Commission and Planning staff have developed draft revisions to the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, the Zoning Ordinance, and the Urban Forestry Ordinance. The updates are now available on the Planning & Zoning's page of the Town's website. Public Hearings for the proposed Ordinance Amendments will be scheduled in the spring of 2014.

2013 Memories

