

Town of Front Royal

2015 Year in Review



Progress Forward in 2015

The Town of Front Royal made significant progress toward the future of our Town in 2015 through the continued direction of the Mayor and Town Council. Groundbreakings for numerous major projects occurred that will define our future. In addition, Town Council oversaw the Town's sponsorship and partnership on a number of local events to build community spirit and attention to the quality of life found in Front Royal. With Town Council's guidance, your dedicated Town employees continued to serve our community proudly in 2015.

IT Federal Ground Breaking

On October 26th, the Town, County, and EDA joined Congressman Bob Goodlatte for the ground breaking ceremony of Lot 6 by IT Federal at the former Avtex Site. IT Federal was established in 1989 to provide IT solutions and services to the Federal Government. Lot 6, which is approximately 30 acres of the available 147 acres of the Avtex Site, is anticipated to include office, retail, and technology center development, as well as offer over 600 jobs when completed. The extension of Main Street through the Avtex Site will connect this development with our Downtown. In addition to IT Federal, CBM Mortgage will also develop a lot at the Avtex Site for commercial office space.



Riverton Electric Substation

The Town's Department of Energy Services conducted the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new electric substation to service the Riverton area on March 9th. The construction of the \$1.1 million substation was completed by Town crews over four years with the assistance of Lantz Construction for site grading. The 13.2 Kv substation will provide improved and reliable electric service to current and future customers in the Riverton area.



Leach Run Parkway

The construction of the Leach Run Parkway was awarded to Branch Highways in 2015. Construction on the 1.3 mile road to connect John Marshall Highway to Happy Creek Road is anticipated to be completed at the end of 2016. The project is the result of a partnership between the Town, County of Warren, and the Economic Development Authority. The ground breaking ceremony was conducted on December 16, 2015.



Main Street Enhancements

The Town's Department of Environmental Services completed the final phase of the Bradford Pear Replacement program in 2015. This multiyear program replaced the Bradford Pear trees along Main Street that had been planted in the 1980's. The replacement of the trees followed a plan developed by the Virginia Tech Community Design Assistance Center to diversify the variety of trees found along Main Street. The program also allowed the Town to install tree pits that better support the lifespan of the trees planted along Main Street.



Gazebo Electric Car Charging Station

The Town installed an electric car charging station in the parking lot at the Gazebo and Visitor's Center. Working with Virginia Clean Cities, the DC Fast Charging Station, which can fully charge an electric vehicle within one hour, was installed by Town crews to provide charging for travelers between the Washington DC area and the Shenandoah Valley.



Planning By the Numbers

5-Year Business Licenses



5-Year Code Cases



5-Year Zoning Permits



Public Safety By the Numbers

In 2015, our Police Department received 32,856 calls, and our Officers responded to 18,543 calls for service. Throughout the year, our Officers responded to 629 vehicle accidents, issued 2,817 traffic summons, and made 86 arrests for driving under the influence of alcohol. The Town also responded to 224 assaults, 186 property damage reports, and 390 larcenies.



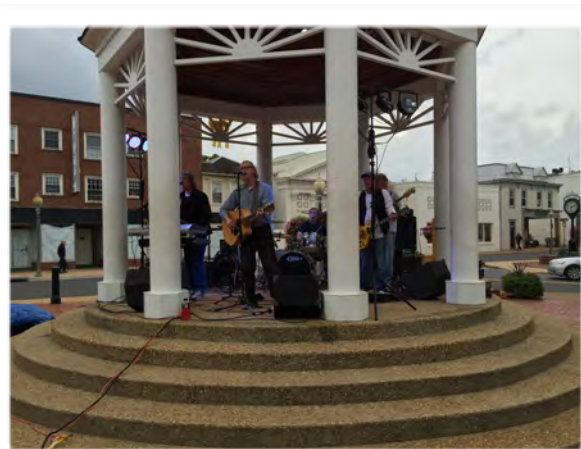
Gazebo Flicks



The Town conducted our inaugural movies at the Gazebo, or Gazebo Flicks, late this summer into early fall. The theme was "Rediscover the 80's". The films and their local business sponsors were: Top Gun - Joseph F. Silek, Jr. PC; The Three Amigos - Edward Jones; Ghostbusters - CBM Mortgage; Back to the Future - Team Waller Real Estate; Ferris Bueller's Day Off - Marlow Motors; Honey I Shrunk the Kids - Aire Serv Heating & Air Conditioning; Raiders of the Lost Ark - Culligan Water Treatment; and The Goonies - Economic Development Authority. Thanks to our sponsors. We'll see you at the Gazebo in the summer.

Royal CruzeIn

The Town Council sponsored the 2015 Royal CruzeIn at the Gazebo on September 28th. This vintage car show included some great cars that had been well loved and restored. Town Council judged and awarded numerous awards to the car owners. Music was provided by The Shockers.



River Day 2015

The Town of Front Royal and the County of Warren celebrated the Shenandoah River on August 15th. Several groups associated with the use and protection of the River set up booths and demonstrations in Eastham Park.



DRIVE Tourism



The Town of Front Royal and the Chamber of Commerce were recognized by the Virginia Tourism Corporation for completing the DRIVE Tourism on April 7th. Virginia Secretary of Trade and Commerce Maurice Jones presented Tim Smith, Tourism Coordinator for the Town, and Niki Foster, Chamber Executive Director with a certificate commemorating the successful completion of the program that identified several goals to create a tourism identity for the community.

2015 Development Highlights

Our Planning Department and Planning Commission completed a number of significant Town Code Amendments in 2015. Significant updates to the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (Chapter 148), Urban Forestry Ordinance (Chapter 156), and Zoning Ordinance (Chapter 175) were approved that will improve development standards and simplify the consideration of applications. The Town also issued development permits for fourteen new homes and one duplex. In addition, the Town adopted Tourism Incentives that will promote development of tourism related services in various locations around our community.

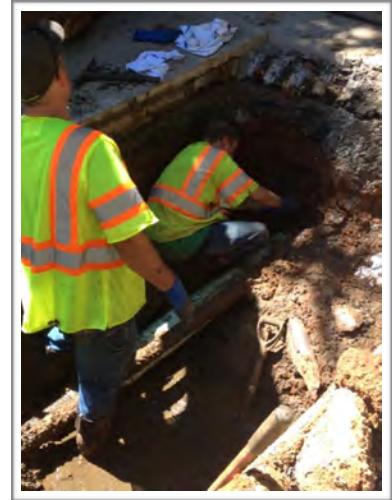
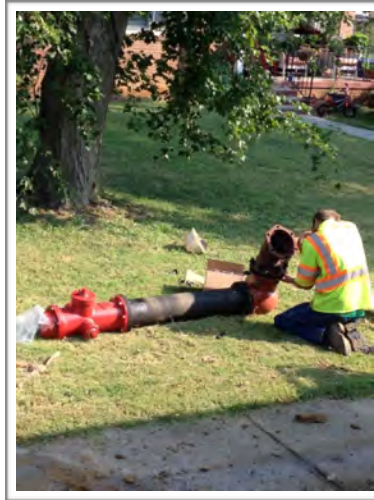
National Night Out

Our Police Department hosted the National Night Out at the Gazebo on August 3rd. The event is conducted nationwide to encourage interaction between law enforcement and the community in a fun setting. The night included displays of various local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. Food, music, and fun promoted a great evening for all.



Utility Maintenance

The Town continued to improve the water distribution and wastewater collection systems throughout the Town in 2015. The Town conducted numerous grease trap inspections, smoke testing in Warren Park, and several point repairs on our sewer mains, and monitored flow throughout the network to reduce the sanitary sewer systems inflow and infiltration issues. The Town worked with contractors to install new sewer mains on West 15th and West 17th Streets to improve water provision in Royal Village. Crews also replaced numerous fire hydrants, upgraded water services, and installed hundreds of remote read water meters.



Water Treatment Plant

Our operators at the Water Treatment Plant completed a number of initiatives to improve delivery of water to our customers in 2015. The plant continued operations while upgrades to the treatment process were completed including the installation of ultraviolet light (UV) disinfection treatment. The Town also completed samplings at numerous locations throughout our distribution system for lead and copper; our system complied with all regulations. Aeration improvements were installed at several storage tanks to improve water quality. The Town produced 712,000,000 gallons of water in 2015.



Wastewater Treatment Plant

The operators at the Wastewater Treatment Plant also had a busy 2015. Construction of the \$44,000,000 improvements began in April with construction anticipated to be completed in November 2017. The project will upgrade the treatment technology to reduce nutrient discharge to comply with the Chesapeake Bay Act. In addition, the plant's treatment capacity will increase to 5.3 million gallons per day which is anticipated to meet the Town's needs through 2040.



Events, Gatherings, and Good Times

The Town sponsored and assisted with a number of events and happenings at the Gazebo and throughout the community in 2015 including Hometown Halloween, Memorial Day Gathering, Veteran's Day Memorial, Taste of the Town, Memorial dedication to Patricia Windrow, and holiday music.



Pedestrian Enhancements

Our Energy Services and Environmental Services crews worked together to continue the installation of pedestrian signalization in 2015. Pedestrian signalization has been installed at the intersections of John Marshall Highway and Commerce Avenue, Main Street and Royal Avenue, South Street and Royal Plaza, South Royal Avenue and South Street, and Commerce Avenue and Royal Avenue. In addition, flashing pedestrian signs have been installed on South Street and the Happy Creek Trail and at Criser Road and Skyline Vista Drive. The Planning Department has secured a grant to install a sidewalk along Westminster Drive to improve access to the high school and elementary school.

New Year's Eve Front Royal

The Town's Tourism Department took the lead in developing and conducting the Town's first New Year's Eve event at the Gazebo in 2015. Several local merchants assisted in planning the event and hosting entertainers throughout the evening. Entertainment was provided by Tap, etc., Ryan Jewel, Kevin and Michelle Owens, the Front Royal Oratorio Society, Steve Foster and Amazing Grace, Grace Place Legomania, the Kiln Doctor, the Silent Monks, and the Positive Music Band.



Other 2015 Memories

