



# BLACKSBURG NEWS

Volume 23, Issue 5

Chapter # 2613

May 2006

Web <http://civic.bev.net/aarp/>

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## Membership Meeting –Tuesday, May 16, 2006

### Report from the General Assembly Delegates Jim Shuler and Dave Nutter

Blacksburg Senior Center  
11:30 a.m. - Bag lunch and fellowship  
Program from 12 noon to 1:00 p.m.

**Mini program:** We begin with a 3 to 5 minute program by community partner *Michelle Brauns*. **Brauns** is Director of Community Resources, **Free Clinic of the NRV**. The Free Clinic will have a table display with information of interest and to take home.

**Major program: Report from the General Assembly.** Our Delegates *Jim Shuler* and *Dave Nutter* will bring us up to date on recent work of the Virginia Legislature and status of major and difficult items like transportation. You recall the State legislature has just returned from a special session called to deal with Virginia's transportation problems. How to increase safety on overcrowded I-81, provide more options for freight and passenger travel, repair our deteriorating roads, and how to pay for these are all important questions yet to be answered. Come early, bring your lunch and chat with friends before the meeting begins. There will be opportunity for questions and answers following the presentations by our Delegates.

## NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE

Saturday, May 13, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

3354 Glade Road

Please join us as our Chapter takes part in this important service opportunity for all AARP Chapters nationwide. This year we will join other Blacksburg area community groups to complete the outside work at the *Paul Bowyer Family Project*. We will be mainly doing landscaping around the newly rebuilt house. Bring work gloves, rakes, shovels and gardening tools and join us in this AARP National Day of Service. We hope to see you Saturday, May 13, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for our AARP NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE project!

Note: rain date one week later. Call Susan at 951-3505 for count and questions.

## CARL'S COMMENTS

Carl McDaniels, President

"TO SERVE--NOT TO BE SERVED" has been one of National AARP's themes for sometime. That certainly is a theme for our local Chapter 2613 as well. This week several of our members were busy after the Board Meeting on May 2 cleaning up the grounds around the Blacksburg Community Center, our "Adopt-A-Park" location. We expect to repeat this every first Tuesday of the month from 11 a.m. to Noon to keep the area around our meeting place as clean as possible. All members welcome to help. Town furnishes gloves and pick up bags.

May 8-13 is AARP's **National Week of Service period**. In 2005 we helped restore the house and grounds for a widow in rural Pulaski County. This year our Chapter will be joining other community groups on Saturday May 13, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (lunch included) to complete the outside work on the *Paul Bowyer Family Project*, after a devastating fire in which the former BHS Coach lost his life saving a granddaughter. See details else where in this newsletter.

Thursday, April 20, our Hospitality Committee and other Chapter members helped to host AARP Virginia's "**Smart Healthcare Choices**" Seminar. They were there before 8 a.m. and stayed late to make all the 130 or so guests feel welcome and getting all the valuable handouts and other information. The Hospitality Committee comes early to every one of our Chapter meetings to put out name tags, fix hot drinks, and makes sure every thing is in order for a smooth running meeting. Hats off to these volunteers.

In short, many of our members are already volunteering with several of our "Community Partners," such as the Blacksburg Food Pantry, MC Christmas Store, RSVP, and other groups. A numbers of members have recently signed on for shifts at Montgomery Regional Hospital. So join in the spirit of our Chapter in one or more of these community service

opportunities. Remember: TO SERVE-NOT TO BE SERVED!!!



Above is *Jim Wightman* in front of Kroger with the chapter's **member recruitment portable display board**, which is available for use by members. Consider using the board at a meeting to recruit a few new members. As Jim said, "All chapter members, are *ex officio* members of the Membership Committee."

**FUTURE PROGRAMS:** Mark your calendar-

\*Tuesday, June 20, at noon at Nellies Cave Park. This is our **Annual Picnic and White Elephant Sale/Auction:** *Wayne Garst* (951-3030) will again be our auctioneer, so bring "stuff" from your attic or basement. Plus we will have a Celebration of our 30th Anniversary and antique cars from the NRV Model A Club. All this in Nellies Cave Park Shelter--Rain or Shine!!! And mark your calendar for-

\*July 26 (Wed) and 28 (Fri), 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.  
**AARP Driver Safety Program** at Montgomery Regional Hospital Birthing Center Classroom. Call hospital for reservation which is required. Cost \$10. Number is limited.

*And mark-*

\*Tuesday, September 19, for our Fall kick off with the **2006 Health and Wellness Fair**, Blacksburg Community Center, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

## MEMBERSHIP NOTES

*Jim Wightman*, Chair

Our membership stands at 373 which includes 9 - Complimentary; 5 - Lifetime; 7 - Life; and 2 - Honorary. However, 24% or 85 members have not yet paid their 2006 dues. These members will be contacted by board members over the next several weeks by telephone. Our two student volunteers from Virginia Tech have given good service to our chapter. *Amy Mayers* and *Patrick McGonigle* each spent 2 hours Tuesday, April 11 at Krogers – Gables and 2 hours Tuesday, April 18 at Krogers in Christiansburg. A total of about 70 membership flyers were handed out at both locations. *Amy* is a senior human development major from Manassas, Virginia. *Patrick* is a rising senior finance major from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. *Amy* and *Patrick* have also prepared about 500 mailing labels for Virginia Tech retirees who are not members of our local chapter. Our preliminary plan is to send a letter inviting these retirees to join our local chapter. A copy of the September/October Newsletter will be included in this special mailing. About 25-30 membership flyers were distributed at the recent state AARP-sponsored Smart Choices meeting. We have received membership applications from each of the above sites but the return rate is low. We continue to seek a way to reach the several thousand national AARP members who live in this zip code area but are not members of our local chapter.

A special welcome to the 34 **new members** listed below who have joined our local chapter since January 1, 2006. We hope you have already begun to enjoy the benefits of belonging to this chapter and we look forward to a long association with you.

*David & Nancy Alexander, George Allen, Bob & Ida Comparin, Nita & Wilford Dawson, Benjiman & Judy Dudding, Bill & Jeanne Finley, Henry & Jean Forkner, Michael & Patricia Furey, Rube Harrington Jr., Mary Jane Henika, Wendell & Marie Hensley, Ann*

*Hepler, Mary Ann Hinshelwood, Tom Howard, Garland & Nancy Linkous, Betty Manus, Doris & Norm Marriott, Deborah Mauricio, Bonnie Franklyn Moreno, Gloria & Howard Moses, Don Rude, Judith Scott, Bill & Peggy Skelton, Pam Smith, Donna & Robert Stalcup, Flo Stevenson, Dot Torgersen, and Betty & James Wilson.*

**WELCOME!!!**

### **FOOD PANTRY ASSISTANCE NEEDED**

The Post Office is conducting its **annual food drive** on Friday, May 12. On May 15, 16, and 17, we will need several able-bodied people to help unload a big truck and store all the goods in the basement of the Food Pantry. If you can help, please call *Jim Gaines* at 552-6851 to coordinate.

### **FROM FAITH TO POLITICS**

On Tuesday, May 16 at 7 p.m., the NRV Chapter of the *Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy* is holding “**A Conversation with Delegate Dave Nutter and Senator John Edwards.**” Location: Blacksburg United Methodist Church, 111 Church Street. All are invited to attend. If you can attend a light dinner prior to the meeting at 5:30 p.m., call *Bobbie Littlefield* at 961-1418, or email [bobbielittle@adelphia.net](mailto:bobbielittle@adelphia.net).

### **THANK YOU CONNIE!**

The Blacksburg Electronic Village (BEV) Community Connections can not provide “free” websites to any organization. *Connie Anderson* has contributed (paid) our bill for five years (at \$20 per year) of “connections” for the Blacksburg AARP Chapter (she is also doing this for the League of Women Voters). *Connie* further made substantial contributions in both time and dollars to our highly successful Health and Wellness Fair last year. Further, *Connie* spends considerable time and talent maintaining the Blacksburg AARP Website, helping edit this publication, and much more. Thank you *Connie!*

## **READ ALL ABOUT IT!**

*Margaret Kates, Ways and Means*

Jamestowne Virginia was settled 400 years ago and an updated book was recently published giving all the details. The cost per book is \$25.00, of which \$5.00 will go to our local Blacksburg area AARP Chapter.

Please consider supporting our chapter by purchasing the book as a gift for a friend, family member, recent graduate, and/or your personal library. Books will be available for sale at the chapter meeting May 16.

## **LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

*Dan Fleming*

Blacksburg AARP participated in a meeting with candidates for Blacksburg mayor and town council held at the Old Blacksburg Middle School on April 22, organized by three local citizens. Other groups participating were the Virginia Interfaith Coalition, the NAACP and the Downtown Merchants.

The meeting format allowed each candidate to meet individually for 12 minutes with each of the four groups. Questions raised by AARP members resulted from an earlier meeting between local AARP members and town and county planners. These dealt with the need of “accessible housing for seniors” including some low income housing, how to provide better transportation for seniors who can’t drive but don’t qualify as being “handicapped,” and how to bring a geriatric care physician to Blacksburg.

Several candidates cited housing projects on Lee St. for lower income citizens as one project to meet this need and mentioned the possibility of converting part of old Blacksburg Middle School into senior housing. Some members commented that downtown housing would also require a downtown grocery and drug store to serve residents of such a facility. Several candidates also proposed that the town have a small bus or van to transport seniors on some form of a schedule. One common theme that reoccurred was the need for better

communication between the town and county on several issues. The need for a larger facility to serve seniors as the Blacksburg population ages was also raised.

## **AARP TODAY**

With a national membership exceeding 35 million, AARP has the power to enhance the quality of life for everyone as we age. Through *information, advocacy* and *service*, AARP leads positive social change and delivers value to members. AARP has a focus to ensure that people 50 and over have the power and choices to be as independent, as healthy and as economically secure as possible.

AARP has offices in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U. S. Virgin Islands. This enables AARP to reach and engage members, volunteers, the media, community partners and policy makers in achieving goals and objectives.

AARP is a strong advocate in Congress, state capitols and the courts to help persons 50+ bring about positive change on issues like Social Security; age discrimination; prescription drug affordability; patient protections in managed care and long-term care; predatory home lending; and other protections for older consumers.

AARP members have access to a wealth of products and services, including Medicare supplement, long-term care, automobile, homeowners and life insurance; and discounts on prescription drugs, eye-health services and eyewear products. Also discounts on lodging, auto rental, airlines, vacation packages, entertainment products and consumer goods. AARP helps you get the most out of your money.

Like many AARP Chapters, the Blacksburg area Chapter works, plays and has fun together. We make Blacksburg and the New River Valley a better place to work and live. We believe we make a difference.

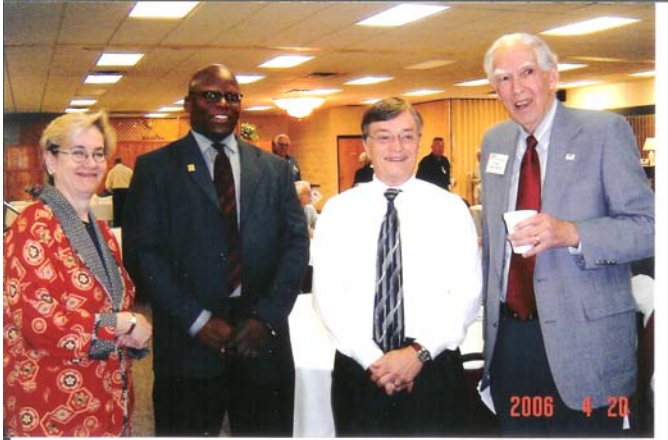
Blacksburg Area AARP hosted a **SMART CHOICES** program last month sponsored by *AARP Virginia* in partnership with *Virginia Health Quality Center* and *Senior Navigator*. The program was open to the public and gave persons help with their healthcare decisions. We learned much about our Medicare rights, how to use Medicare Compare to select a hospital, nursing home or home healthcare services, how to use the internet to find healthcare information; and if the new Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit is right “for me.” Below are photos taken during the program.



**Bob Brown, Don Elson, Jim Shotts**



**Jim Moore, Charlotte Beamer, Carrie Cole**



**Pam Caldwell, Patrick Johnson, Bill Kallio, Carl McDaniels**

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Last will and testament: Being of sound mind, I spent all my money.

A married couple was having a disagreement while sitting in bed. The wife said to her husband, "You're impossible." To which the husband replied, "No. I'm next to impossible."

The only people who listen to both sides of an argument are the neighbors.

One Sunday morning, the pastor noticed little Alex standing in the foyer of the church staring up at a large plaque. It was covered with names with small American flags mounted on either side of it. The seven year old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up, stood beside the little boy, and said quietly, "Good morning, Alex." "Good morning, Pastor," he replied, still focused on the plaque. "Pastor, what is this?" he asked. The pastor said, "Well son, it's a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service." Soberly, they just stood together, staring at the large plaque. Finally, little Alex's voice, barely audible and trembling with fear, asked, "Which service, the 9:00 or the 11:00?"

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### 2006 BLACKSBURG AARP CHAPTER OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:	<i>Carl McDaniels</i>	cmcd@vt.edu
1st VICE PRESIDENT:	<i>Joyce Martin</i>	jomart23@vt.edu
2nd VICE PRESIDENT:	<i>Jim Gaines</i>	gaines@vt.edu
SECRETARY:	<i>Angela Little</i>	anglittl@naxs.net
TREASURER:	<i>Brian Allen</i>	mballen@prodigy.net
ASSOCIATE TREASURER:	<i>June Schmidt</i>	<u><a href="mailto:schmidtj@vt.edu">schmidtj@vt.edu</a></u>

Committee Chairs and more on **Web:** <http://civic.bev.net/aarp/>

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### Blacksburg AARP Chapter #2613 Board of Directors Monthly Meeting Blacksburg Community Center Tuesday, May 2, 2006

#### Members Present:

R. B. "Ben" Crawford	Jim Wightman	Frank Lau	Dale Oliver
Connie Anderson	Margaret Kates	Mary Ellen Moore	Jim Moore
Jo Ann Underwood	Doris Abraham	Curt Finch	June Schmidt
Donald Elson	Jim Gaines	Cerrie Coil	
Dan Fleming	Carl McDaniels	Angela Little	

1. President McDaniels **called the meeting to order** at 9:35 a.m. Jim Gaines gave an update on the progress that has been made since the Martin's fire. He stated that AARP members, along with VA Tech service learning students, tilled, raked and seeded the Martin's yard on April 15. McDaniels announced that the first effort to clean-up the Blacksburg park will be today immediately after the meeting.
2. Jim Moore requested to add the Ways and Means Committee to the **agenda**.
3. The Board unanimously approved the April 2006 **minutes** as printed.

- 4. Treasurer**, Brian Allen, reported that there is a current balance of \$3,343.26. \$30 has been made from the sale of the Jamestowne books.
- 5.** McDaniels stated that \$100 was given to support/cosponsor the **NRV Senior Olympic Games** that began yesterday.
- 6.** McDaniels reported for the **Public Relations Committee** in the Eiss' absence. The station manager of 810 AM, Dominic Andrews, has requested that the AARP Chapter host a series of call-in radio shows from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on Saturday mornings. Suggestions for programs included: legislation, history, leisure activities, driver safety, tax aide, music, etc. Jim Gaines made a motion for the Blacksburg AARP Chapter to enter into a partnership with the 810 AM radio station and to assign the Public Relations Committee to explore doing a one-hour call-in show with them. Don Elson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Crawford suggested that they meet with Tony Hylton, state AARP Associate Director and media expert, for ideas.
- 7.** Jim Wightman distributed a written **Membership Committee** report to the board showing that the membership currently stands at 373. 83 members have not yet paid their 2006 dues. It was decided that reminder phone calls would be made. A September Newsletter will be mailed to Virginia Tech retirees who are not members of the local chapter, inviting them to join. The question was raised as to how you become a lifetime member of national AARP. McDaniels will contact AARP to find out. It was suggested that a special letter of invitation to non-chapter members in our zip code region be mailed, but AARP will not release their mailing list. Crawford stated that AARP could send a letter at no charge to us. McDaniels thanked Wightman for his hard work of chairing the Membership Committee and recruiting members.
- 8.** McDaniels reported on the **Program Committee** in Harriett Cooper's absence. Delegates Shuler and Nutter will be the presenters at the May 16 meeting with the Free Clinic addressing the members as well. Carrie Coil reported that the plans for the June 20 picnic and the **30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration** are in place. Wayne Garst will be the auctioneer for the White Elephant Sale. The Health and Wellness Fair is scheduled for September 19. Jim Moore made a motion to postpone the presently planned fair to partner with a program being sponsored by the VA Tech Retiree Association in October or November. This program will be addressing issues and resources that families of disabled and physically-challenged individuals need, and would have a different theme than health fairs held in the past. Don Elson seconded, discussion followed and the motion did not pass. Jo Ann Underwood, chair of the fair stated that she is looking for ways to put a positive outlook in the fair with the use of clowns, humor and speakers. McDaniels appointed Curt Finch to assist Jo Ann in the planning of the fair.
- 9.** Ben Crawford stated that the deadline for all **newsletter** articles is Friday, May 5.
- 10. AARP Virginia Events:** April 20 - "Smart Choices" Workshops – Blacksburg, Custom Catering with 125 attending; Saturday, May 13 – Day of Service at the Bowyer Family's home from 9-1, with the rain date as May 20. Tim Lawrence will be coordinating the work project.
- 11.** McDaniels recognized Frank Lau as running for Blacksburg Town Council as well as Wendell Hensley, both AARP members. Dominic Andrews and Danny Ratliff from 810 AM came into the meeting to introduce themselves to the Board and explain the goal of the morning call-in show.
- 12.** Dan Fleming, **Legislative Co-chair**, reported that they have moved up the dates that Medicare and Social Security are going to go bankrupt to 2018 and 2040, respectively. A meeting will be held tomorrow with Warm Hearth Village who will be paying for the printing of 500 copies of the Chapter **history**.
- 13.** Margaret Kates of the **Ways and Means Committee** reported on the sale of the Jamestowne books and it was decided to present Delegates Nutter and Shuler with one each at the May meeting. Jim Moore reported that he has contacted 33 state chapters by e-mail asking for ideas for fundraising. He received 11 returns, with drawings being the main activity reported by the majority.
- 14.** The meeting was **adjourned** at 11:08 a.m.

Angela Little, Secretary

Carl McDaniels, President  
AARP Chapter #2613  
P. O. Box 10082  
Blacksburg, VA 24062

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## NEW MEMBER OR 2006 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL APPLICATION

Membership in the Blacksburg AARP Chapter requires membership in National AARP. Contact **Jim Wightman** at 552-2007 or [jpdad@bev.net](mailto:jpdad@bev.net) if you need a national AARP application.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City & Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership: \_\_\_\_\_ New member of Blacksburg AARP Chapter  
\_\_\_\_\_ Renewal of membership in Blacksburg AARP Chapter  
\_\_\_\_\_ Single membership dues **\$10 for 2006**  
\_\_\_\_\_ Joint couple dues **\$15.00 for 2006**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Life Time \$100 per person**

Recruited by (if appropriate) \_\_\_\_\_

Complete, attach check made out to Blacksburg AARP, and bring to the next Membership Meeting on the third Tuesday of each month at the Blacksburg Center, or board meeting; or mail to: **AARP Chapter #2613, POB 10082, Blacksburg, VA 24062.** If you are already a member of the Blacksburg Chapter, please pass this form onto a friend who may be interested in membership