



newsletter

September - October 2021

Community Events

- Sept 7, Registration for LLI courses and events begins at 10 am (p. 2)
- Sept 17, Early voting for the November General Election begins (pp. 4, 5)
- Sept 17, 18, Moss Arts Center "vertical dance" outdoor performance (p. 2)

Chapter Events, Announcements

The picnic tentatively scheduled for Thursday, September 16 has been cancelled due to AARP National protocols for maintaining safety during COVID-19. No in-person gatherings will be held through the end of 2021.

- 1st Tuesdays** (Sept 7, Oct 5):
Board meeting, 10:00 a.m.
- 3rd Tuesdays** (Sept 21, Oct 19):
Chapter program, 11:30 a.m.
- 4th Tuesdays** (Sept 28, Oct 26):
Coffee chats, 8:30 a.m.

If you would like to receive Zoom invitations for the coffee chats, please email Leslie Pendleton, lkpendleton@gmail.com.

Sept 21 Chapter Meeting COVID-19: To Vaccinate or Not and How Often?

Gerhardt Schurig
The need and reasons for multiple vaccinations to protect against infection with COVID-19 will be explained. This includes the upcoming “boosters” and potential future boosters. Differences between vaccines, Pfizer, Moderna and J&J, will be highlighted.

Gerhardt Schurig is professor and dean emeritus of the College of Veterinary Medicine at VT, where he was an immunologist and developer of vaccines.



Oct 19 Chapter Meeting Displacement and Development: The Legacy of the Interstate Highway System

LaDale Winling
The interstate highway system is both America’s greatest public works project and the most prolific displacer of urban residents and families. The expressways cost approximately \$125 billion to build, about \$500 billion in today’s money, and displaced about one million Americans from their homes, according to estimates from the 1960s. Who were those people, and what were the impacts of this massive infrastructure investment on our country?



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Welcome back!

It has occurred to me that our Chapter operates on a typical school schedule (September through early June). As our Chapter activities ramp back up, I have that “back to school” feeling that I still experience in early- to mid-August. Welcome back to you too!

Indeed, for as long as I can remember, and whether I was a student, parent, teacher, or all three, that familiar feeling always comes back. There’s a chill or smell in the air. An unidentified sensory experience reminds me that school, the changing leaves, football, and sweater-weather are all just around the corner. In reality, it may also be that I’ve just

grown tired of the heat and welcome a temperature change. (I imagine you agree the last month has felt particularly hot!)

Remember the “old days” when you were a child or teen returning to school after the summer break? Typically, teachers would ask or have students write about how they spent the summer months. Given that I didn’t like to be bored, I usually reported how I filled the summer months by going to Girl Scout and band camps, attending summer school (to learn and work ahead in my studies), and volunteering at the local hospital as a candy striper. It’s interesting how one’s perspective on time changes with age. I can’t recall a single day of boredom since those early

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Hiking in the New River Valley **Deerfield Trail**

Beth Grabau with Susan Terwilliger and Pat Hipkins—a traveling trio!

The Deerfield Trail, just outside Blacksburg, is a short but pleasant hike on a flat, paved walkway. This out-and-back hike (0.8 miles one way) wanders through woods, along Tom's Creek and by open fields. There are informative signs describing the plant and animal life and several bluebird boxes adjacent to the trail. It is a good walk for bird and wildlife watching (see <https://dwr.virginia.gov/vbwt/sites/Deerfield-trail>) and

offers scenic views in all seasons. There are several benches along the trail including one where the trail crosses Tom's Creek—a nice lunch spot.

Access to the trail is about a mile northeast on Tom's Creek Rd. from the US 460 exit. There is available parking for at least six vehicles, more if you park on the side of the road. It is a wheelchair accessible site.



Lifelong Learning Institute at Virginia Tech Online and In-Person for Fall

LLI classes this fall will be offered online (11) or in-person (15)—something for everyone! Take a look at the LLI website to find everything you need to know, including detailed course and event descriptions, a downloadable catalog, and registration instructions. Also at the website is a recorded video of the August 31 preview of classes and events. www.cpe.vt.edu/lifelonglearning

LLI will follow the evolving COVID-related guidance issued August 6 by Virginia Tech, the CDC, and host facilities which call for masking of all participants in indoor spaces, regardless of vaccination status. Adjustments may be expected as circumstances change.

Online/walk-in/phone registration opens at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 7.

Moss Arts Center Offers Free Outdoor "Vertical Dance" Performance

Sept 17, 18

Bandaloop features dancers rappelling off the side of the Arts Center, using dynamic physicality and intricate choreography. You can see an example at YouTube:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=ff4mc3WBILk

Friday, September 17, 2021, 5 and 6 p.m.

Saturday, September 18, 2021, 1 and 2 p.m.

In case of inclement weather, check the Moss Arts Center website for updates: artscenter.vt.edu/performances/bandaloop.html

AARP-Virginia and LLI Launch Partnership: 3 free lectures to AARP members in Virginia

Brian Jacks, Associate Director of AARP for SW Virginia, offered an opportunity for a mutually beneficial partnership with the Lifelong Learning Institute at Virginia Tech. LLI will share three free lectures from its fall 2021 series with AARP members statewide. AARP-Virginia will advertise these lectures in their newsletter (emailed to 10,000 members) and on their website. They will accept and manage the registrations from AARP members. Representatives of the two organizations will give a brief welcome at the start of each lecture and invite participants to engage further.

AARP-Virginia enrolled several hundred AARP members in each of the free lectures offered by the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at George Mason during spring and summer. LLI at VT is excited to bring statewide visibility to its great educational programming through this new partnership with AARP-Virginia.

LLI will offer the following free lectures to AARP members:

- Friday, Oct 1, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m., **Shenandoah National Park: Natural History Highlights** (Keith Tomlinson, interpretive naturalist and natural resource manager)
- Thursday, October 7, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.: **Voter Suppression and the Future of Democracy** (Rebecca Green, co-director of the Election Law Program at the William and Mary Law School)
- Friday, Oct 29, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m., **Science and Cultural Heritage: From Michelangelo to Maya Blue** (Giacomo Chiari, retired Chief Scientist at the Getty Conservation Institute)

LLI members may enjoy these lectures as part of the member benefits. AARP Blacksburg Chapter members should watch for the AARP e-newsletter or chapter announcement about how to register through AARP.

President's Message

continued

school years, and I feel gratitude for the fact that I was able to have a very busy and active summer. Yet, as a recent retiree, I'm still working on accepting the idea that I can simply do nothing if that's what I choose.

How did you spend your summer months? Were you able to do what



you planned or wanted to do? No matter how you spent your time, I hope you were able to stay healthy and well. As you begin your new "school" year, what are your goals? What will give you purpose and meaning? Hopefully being active and involved in your AARP Blacksburg Chapter is on your to-do list. We have some very interesting Chapter programs lined up this fall, and I welcome you to join me for our monthly Coffee Chats. And, of course, you'll continue to enjoy reading this and future Newsletters. Note that all Chapter programs will continue to be held via Zoom through the end of the year as mandated by AARP protocols for maintaining safety and well-being. I'm looking forward to seeing you (virtually) soon!

Volunteers Needed

Community Ambassador

The Community Ambassador, with supportive Chapter help, will engage in community events throughout the year. This should include participation in the bi-annual Health Fair and on going food drives to help support local food pantries.



Newsletter mailing

Prepare the printed newsletter for mailing.

Pick up copies and pre-printed mailing labels at KopyKorner, affix labels, and take the copies to the Post Office in Blacksburg. The labels are pre-sorted in zip-code order for bulk mailing. This task takes approximately 3 hours 3-4 times a year.

*Spend time
with other
generous
AARP
volunteers
Do
something
for the
community*

Membership management

Maintain a database of members and status of renewals. Generate mailing labels from an Excel spreadsheet for the newsletter. Participate on the membership committee.

Veteran Connection: Volunteers

In this newsletter, we honor the military service of fellow AARP Blacksburg member **Richard Neves**, who noted that, prior to his own service, his father served in the Merchant Marines, and three uncles served during World War II. In 1969, just out of graduate school at the University of Maine, Richard was drafted into the Army. After completing basic training at Ft. Jackson, SC, he completed advanced individual training (AIT) at Ft. Gordon, GA. He later served two years in assignments with the military police and as a domestic heating specialist. On a personal level, he gained an appreciation for discipline, the role of the military, and the GI Bill. Richard, thank you for your service!

Chapter Award Nominations Requested

Due October 15

The AARP Blacksburg Chapter presents two local awards each year at the Holiday Luncheon in December. The awards committee requests nominations for these awards from members. Nominations should reflect contributions and achievements in the past year (2020-21).

Chapter Service Award

Member who is giving and making an impact on our local AARP Chapter

Recent past recipients: Leslie Pendleton, Carolyn Rude, Jennie Reilly, Val Coluni and Terry Wildman, Jerry Niles, Don Creamer and Pat Hyer, John and Sharen Hillison

Community Spirit Award

Member who is impacting the community with constituents who are the focus of AARP efforts.

Recent past recipients: Isabel Berney, Carolyn Rude, Coreen Mett, Molly McClintock, Sally Anna Stapleton, Pat Ballard, Jim Wightman

Please send your nominations to Chuck Burress, cgburress@comcast.net, by October 15.

Are you interested in a volunteer position that benefits veterans and their families?

If so, the Ambassador Committee affiliated with Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery (SWVAVC), located in nearby Dublin, VA, is seeking volunteers for their Ambassador Program. **Ambassadors agree to commit to and set aside one weekday per month (typically between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.) to attend one or more veterans' funerals held on that day at the cemetery.** A one-hour, on-site orientation program and tour will be held around the middle of October with the goal of having volunteers in full swing by November 1. To volunteer or obtain more information, contact Mary Summers at marysummers496@gmail.com. You can also learn more at the SWVAVC volunteer website: <https://www.swvavc.org>.

HD Broadcasts: Opera, Ballet, Classic Movies

The Regal Cinema in Christiansburg (110 New River Road) shows HD broadcasts of Metropolitan Opera, Bolshoi Ballet, and classic movies. See <https://www.fathomevents.com/events/> for information and tickets.

Metropolitan Opera Saturdays 12:55 pm, encores Wednesdays 6:30 pm except as noted

Opera synopses are available for each performance at metopera.org/season/in-cinemas/. Scroll down, hover over the opera title, then click on “learn more” in the upper right, then “synopsis” in the page the follows.

2021 Encore performance 6:30 pm the following Wednesday except as noted

Oct 9 *Boris Godunov* 160 min

Oct 23 *Fire Shut Up in my Bones* 175 min

Dec 4 *Eurydice* 185 min

Dec 11 *The Magic Flute* 12:55 pm 115 min; **no encore**

2022 Encore performance 6:30 pm the following Wednesday

Jan 1 *Cinderella* 110 min

Jan 20 *Rigoletto* 210 min

Mar 12 *Ariadne auf Naxos* 185 min

Mar 26 *Don Carlos* 315 min; **begins at noon**

May 7 *Turandot* 210 min

May 21 *Lucia de Lammermoor* 225 min

Jun 4 *Hamlet* 215 min

Bolshoi Ballet Sundays (\$18) 12:55 pm

Nov 7 *Sparticus* 170 min

Dec 19 *The Nutcracker* 135 min

Dec 20 *The Nutcracker* Monday 7:00 pm

Jan 23 *Jewels*. 140 min

Mar 6 *Swan Lake* 155 min

May 1 *The Pharaoh's Daughter* 170 min

Classic Movies, NT Live (www.fathomevents.com/events/)

Follies (NT Live) Sun, Sep 12, 3:00 pm, \$16

Forever Golden: A Celebration of the Golden Girls (documentary)

Tue, Sep 14; Tue, Sep 21. 7:00 pm

Citizen Kane 80th anniversary \$14

Sun, Sept 19, 3 pm, 7 pm; Wed, Sept 22, 7 pm

The Silence of the Lambs 30th anniversary

Sun, Oct 17, Wed, Oct 20

High Society 65th anniversary Wed, Nov 10; Sun, Nov 14

West Side Story 60th anniversary Sun, Nov 28; Wed, Dec 1

On Golden Pond 40th anniversary Sun, Dec 12; Wed, Dec 15

Ballot, Nov 2 General Election

Governor

Terry McAuliffe (D)

Glenn Younklin (R) www.youngkinforgovernor.com

Princess L. Blanding (L) princessblanding.com

Lieutenant Governor

Hala S. Ayala (D) HalaforVirginia.com

Winsome E. Sears (R) winsomesears.com

Attorney General

Mark R. Herring (D) herringforag.com

Jason S. Miyares (R) jasonmiyares.com

House of Delegates members

District 12

Jason Ballard (R) ballardfordelegate.com

Chris L. Hurst(D) hurst4delegate.com

District 7

Derek W. Kitts (D) www.Kitts4Delegate

Marie March (R) www.mariemarch.com

Blacksburg (Mayor, 3 Town Council seats)

Mayor Mohsen Manteghi

Mayor Leslie Hager-Smith

Town Council Lauren M. Colliver

Town Council Susan G. Anderson

Town Council Susan M. Mattingly

Christiansburg (Mayor, 3 Town Council seats)

Mayor D. Michael Barber

Mayor Samuel M. Bishop III

Mayor Johana Hicks

Town Council Anthony W. Woodyard

Town Council Casey Paterson Jenkins

Town Council Mike O. Scarry

Town Council Richard H. "Hil" Johnson

Town Council Tanya J. Hockett

Town Council Timothy W. Wilson

Montgomery County

District A

Board of Supervisors Sara R. Bohn

School Board Karen Myers

Linwood D. Hudson

District C

Board of Supervisors Steve R. Fijalkowski

School Board Dana M. Partin

District D

Board of Supervisors Michel T. "Todd" King

School Board Jamie M. Bond

Travis K. Williams

Find your district at elections.virginia.gov or on the back of your voter registration card.

In memory of Darlene Dove, Kopy Korner For as long as anyone can remember, Kopy Korner, owned by Calvin and Darlene Dove, has printed the AARP newsletter as well as other AARP documents. Because of this personal connection, we are saddened to learn of Darlene's death on July 26 from cancer. Darlene was a kind and caring person, always eager to help others. She will be sorely missed.

How to Vote in the November 2

General Election *Doug Feuerbach*

Election Day is Tuesday, November 2, 2021. Virginia allows voters to vote in-person or by mail. Polls are open from 6 am to 7 pm for in-person voting. The procedures and instructions on how to vote can be found on the Virginia Department of Elections website (www.elections.virginia.gov). Below is a summary to help you understand the requirements.



Registering to Vote

In order to cast a ballot in a Virginia election, you must be a registered voter. The voter eligibility requirements are listed on the "Registration" section of the elections website. In addition to being a Virginia resident, you must meet 5 other requirements. Eligible persons can find the procedures for registering to vote and where to do it in the "How to Register" section, which includes instructions for in-person and absentee registration. If you have moved since registering, you must update your address. Registration forms are available at Registrars' offices, DMV locations, public libraries, and on the website. **The deadline for registering or updating your address for the November 2 election is Monday, October 11.**

Absentee Voting

Absentee voting by mail and early in-person voting are options to casting an in-person ballot at a polling location on Election Day. The website section "Casting a Ballot" contains the information necessary for absentee and early voting.

Absentee voting by mail. Persons who want to vote by mail apply for an absentee ballot. No excuse is needed. You can apply at the Registrar's Office or at elections.virginia.gov. You must submit your application to the Registrar's office. Online, mail, fax, or email submittals by October 22. In-person submittals must be received by October 30. All online links and paper forms are accessible on the elections website. The registration form is a single page.

After the registrar processes your application, you will receive your ballot in the mail. Ballots are mailed out by the registrar starting on September 17 and must be returned before 7 pm on Election Day or postmarked by November 2 if sent in by mail. You can also deposit your ballot in a Drop Box at the Registrar's office during business hours. A witness must sign your ballot envelope.

Early Voting in Person. You can vote early in person between September 17 and October 30. Montgomery County offers two locations. Elsewhere in the NRV, go to the county Registrar's Office (addresses below). All the sites offer Saturday voting Oct 23 and 30.

Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St. Suite 1F, Christiansburg, VA 24073-3169.

September 17 – October 1 from 8:30 am – 5:00 pm

October 4 – October 30 from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Blacksburg Community Center, 725 Patrick Henry Dr.

October 18 – October 30 from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Both locations will also be open on Saturday, October 23 and Saturday, October 30, from 9 – 5.

Both locations will be closed on Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples Day, October 11.

Radford City: Courthouse, 619 2nd St, Radford. 8:30–5 M–F

Floyd County: Courthouse, 100 East Main St, Rm 302, Floyd; 9–5 M–F

Giles County: 201 N. Main St, Suite 1, Pearisburg. 9–5 M–F

Pulaski County: 87 Commerce St., Pulaski. 8:30-4:30 M–F

A Ballot Drop Box for absentee ballots will be available in the Registrars' offices during normal business hours. Ballot Drop-Boxes will also be available on Election Day, November 2, 2021 at each polling site.

The Department of Elections website is relatively easy to navigate and has all the links and forms necessary to cast your ballot. Voters should access the website directly to make sure you are following the complete and specific instructions from the Virginia Department of Elections.



Blacksburg Chapter #2613

Chapter meetings are the third Tuesday of each month via Zoom at noon. Members will receive the link by email a day before the meeting. Board meetings are the first Tuesday of each month at 10 am.

Chapter Officers 2021

President • Leslie Pendleton, lkpendleton@gmail.com

Vice President • Chuck Burress, cgburress@comcast.net

Secretary • Terry Wildman, wiley@vt.edu

Treasurer • Pat Ballard, pballard@vt.edu

Assistant Treasurer • Ruth Anne Niles, rniles2@icloud.com

Board of Directors

2021: Doug Feuerbach, Judith Jones, Lisa Moose, Leslie Pendleton

2022: Linda Correll, Chuck Burress, Kai Duncan

2023: Todd Solberg, Tom Hohenshil, Val Coluni

Newsletter editor: Carolyn Rude, carolyn.rude2@gmail.com

AARP Website www.blacksburgaarp.org



Blacksburg Chapter #2613
 Leslie Pendleton, President
 P.O. Box 10082
 Blacksburg, VA 24062

**Nonprofit
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Blacksburg Chapter

Member Application for 2021

mail this form or join/renew online at blacksburgaarp.org/online-payments

Name: _____

Spouse/Partner: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Annual (*Calendar Year*) Dues: **\$15.00** (*includes spouse or partner*)

New ___ Renewal ___ 90+ years old (free) ___

Please consider an additional donation to support our AARP chapter and its projects. \$10 ___ \$25 ___ \$50 ___ \$100 ___ Other \$ ___

Donations to the Blacksburg Chapter help us carry out our mission and community service activities while keeping member dues as low as possible. However, donations to the chapter are not tax deductible.

Please make your check payable to "Blacksburg AARP Chapter #2613."

Mail the check and this form to:

AARP Blacksburg Chapter • P.O. Box 10082 • Blacksburg, VA 24062