



## **Department of Planning & Community Development Report to Town Council**

December 9th, 2025

Good evening, Members of Town Council,

Here are some updates on key long-term initiatives we are actively working towards as of December 3rd, 2025.

### **Downtown Revitalization**

- The Community and Economic Development Strategic Plan, facilitated by RVARC, is underway.
  - The joint work session between Council and the Planning Commission will be held of Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> prior to the Council meeting. RVARC will draft the plan in early 2026 for review and adoption.
- Branding project – Shawn Terpack of Arnett Muldrow & Associates will be presenting the Clifton Forge brand. If adopted by Council, we will host a brand unveiling in January that will be open to the community.
- We submitted a grant on August 20<sup>th</sup> to DHCD for a downtown master plan. We should hear back by the end of the calendar year.
- Business Spotlights: We are sending letters to brick-and-mortar businesses in town to invite them to participate in the business spotlight program. This will begin in January.
- We are sending out a survey to downtown business owners to gather their opinions on downtown seating options.
- We have three ribbon cutting ceremonies this month. Please be there if you can!
  - Hawt Stuph & Wicked Weiners: Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> 4:30-5:00pm
  - Lyrik's Café & Coworking Lounge: Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> 4:30-5:30pm
  - Family TreeT's Restaurant new location: Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> 4:30-5:00pm

### **Housing Development & Revitalization**

- Housing Needs Assessment/Local Market Assessment project (funded by Virginia Housing). S. Patz & Associates is close to wrapping up their housing study.
- The Town of Clifton Forge is officially a part of the Housing Adopters Program under the Housing Supply Accelerator Challenge, an initiative of National League of Cities and the

American Planning Association. Our local team roster includes representatives from town staff, town residents, Alleghany County, and the City of Covington.

### **Lodging Needs Assessments**

- SERCAP is analyzing the results of their community survey and lodging providers survey.

### **Building & Site Redevelopment**

- Jefferson School: We have a signed Performance Agreement with the Jefferson School Partners. We are awaiting decisions on the \$2M Virginia Housing Trust Fund grant to DHCD, a \$228,530 Brownfields Remediation grant, and a \$1.4M Virginia Housing Workforce Development Program grant.
- 608 Main Street: Stabilization work is in progress and should be wrapped up late Dec/early Jan. This stabilization work has been entirely grant-funded.
- The BAD Buildings Inventory is still in progress. We are meeting with the DEQ/WVU team on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> for project updates.

### **Other Grants Updates**

- DCR grant in the amount of \$148,400.00 for a restroom facility at the Smith Creek: environmental and historical reviews in progress.

### **Misc.**

- I was recently accepted into the 2026 cohort of the Community Investment Training program, offered by the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond's Rural Investment Collaborative.
- I attended the Governor's Housing Conference in Roanoke Nov. 19-21.
- The interpretive trail at Green Pastures that includes seven signs has been completed.
- As part of the Monuments Across Appalachian Virginia (MAAV) Green Pastures project, I have been assisting MAAV in preparing a book chapter about our project that will be published by UVA Press.
- We have signed a Purchase Agreement for the Yard Office building and are officially in the due diligence period.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maria Saxton  
Director of Planning & Community Development  
Town of Clifton Forge