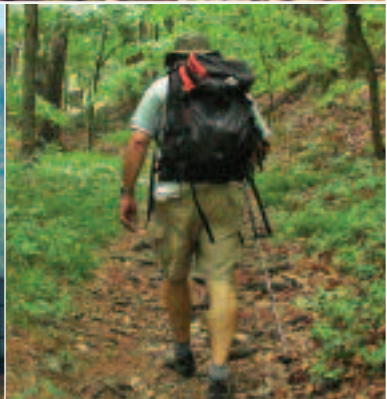


# Alleghany Living

ALLEGHANY HIGHLANDS, VIRGINIA 2009-2010

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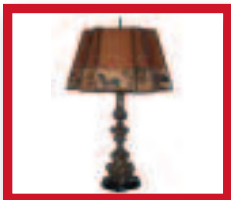
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**Directions: From Interstate 64, take Exit 21 Low Moor. Pass under train trestle. The Company Store will be on the right.**

The Company Store was built in 1872 as a commissary for Low Moor Iron Co. employees. The iron mines closed down about 1925, and the commissary was sold in 1927. It became a privately owned business and has been in continuous operation since. Except for a few cosmetic changes to the interior, the two-story brick building is little changed. The store is known for the quality of its food and the variety of supplies sold.



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# Welcome



## Community, Pride, Beauty, and Purpose

WELCOME TO THE ALLEGHANY HIGHLANDS OF VIRGINIA. WE HAVE DESIGNED THIS MAGAZINE AS A RESOURCE FOR VISITORS TO OUR WONDERFUL AREA AND AS A VALUABLE GUIDE FOR THOSE WHO LIVE OR ARE THINKING ABOUT LIVING IN THE ALLEGHANY HIGHLANDS.

A visit to the Allegheny Highlands will take you on a memorable journey. Railroad buffs, history hobbyists, outdoor sports enthusiasts, antiques shoppers and arts and crafts lovers will find much of interest. Experience exceptional dining and lodging, along with an array of cultural and entertainment venues. Play at our various outdoor facilities that offer golf, fishing, camping, hiking, canoeing or biking. We invite you for a relaxing and memorable getaway.

The Allegheny Highlands has many faces. Although a small town in feel and closeness of community, our pro-business environment is home to internationally known corporations. We are strategically positioned midway along the Eastern Seaboard providing excellent linkages to major U.S. markets. A diverse and trained workforce, ready and available commercial properties, conveniently located and modern industrial areas, low operating costs and a friendly community are all available. The underpinnings of our strong labor force are award-winning schools and a progressive college system that supports continuing education and workforce development needs.

You'll also find a combination of community and civic organizations here in the Allegheny Highlands, including a modern hospital, health and fitness organizations and a new YMCA facility, as well as a wide range of religious organizations.

Maybe it's the scenic beauty that makes the Allegheny Highlands so irresistible. It could also be the thriving arts community. It may even be that it is just far enough away from larger cities to feel off the beaten path. No matter what brings you here, the area has many ways of reaching out and grabbing hold of visitors, encouraging them to plant roots.

I invite you to join our scenic mountain and riverside community and experience the kind of "hometown" service and hospitality that will make you want to return again and again or, maybe, just stay.

If you have questions or need information, call the Allegheny Highlands Chamber of Commerce at 540-962-2178 or visit [www.ahchamber.com](http://www.ahchamber.com).

Mark A. Taylor, *President*

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# Road Rage

*Life is different here in the Alleghany Highlands. But you already knew that.*



What you may not know is that there is so much more! Not only are the Highlands a great place for recreation and relaxation... it's a great place to grow your business, too!

If you own a business or wish to start one, visit our website to find out more about how we can help you do just that. We can help you find potential sites, get financing and so much more.

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**Contact:**

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# Live

CHOICES OF PLACES TO LIVE RANGE FROM REVITALIZED DOWNTOWNS TO FARMS AND LUXURY HOMESITES NEAR THE JACKSON RIVER

## Downtowns vibrate with businesses, entertainment

“Return to the Roots,” a strategy for business growth in the Alleghany Highlands matches highly qualified individuals with employment opportunities, but the area’s location and its quality pace of life are attractions as well. Witness the story of a couple who came from another state and bought a home near the Amtrak Station in Clifton Forge so they can readily hop on a train to see family in New York. Or, the beltway professionals who have found new direction in a retail store and outdoors business. Or, the entrepreneur who is infusing new life into the Low Moor community.

Alleghany County has an inviting climate with about 39 inches of rain and 17 inches of snow each year. Its altitude ranges from about 1,000 feet to just 4,049 feet on Warm Springs Mountain. Temperatures reach a 25-degree low in December and peak at 88 in July, though cooling breezes across the mountains maintain a resort-like feel to the weather.

Abundant outdoor activities, a strong arts and crafts culture and a vigorous attention to preservation enrich the area as well. These, coupled with a broad range of educational opportunities, make the area a great place to live.

Working and living in the rural



*Kars Unlimited Street Scene* annual show draws crowds to downtown Covington

beauty of Alleghany Highlands is stimulating, but the county’s businesses also see to it that the hearts of towns and cities remain vital and productive by vigorously marketing their unique heritage and attributes.

Organizations work together to stimulate a return to the traditional downtown center with all its positive economic development effects.

Lisa Schoppmeyer, an accountant and president of Olde Town Covington Inc., says the organization held four successful concerts called “Rock The Block” during 2008. Each concert fea-

tured bands and vendors to encourage increased traffic and shopping in the Maple Avenue and Main Street area, which boasts a remarkable variety of architectural features.

The 2009 schedule included a merchants event during the Valentine’s Day celebration to be followed by five “Rock the Block” monthly performances May through September. A “Magic in the Mountains” celebration in June is coordinated with Clifton Forge Main Street, its retail merchants and Chamber of Commerce.

Olde Town Covington Inc., which has about 25 members and is an affli-



*River Rock Amphitheater* at Jackson River Recreation Sport Complex in Covington, a venue for a variety of events

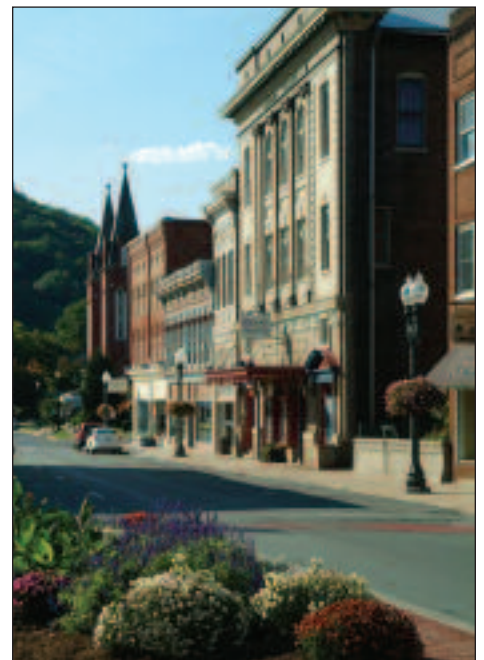
ate of Main Street Virginia, will seek additional grants during 2009 to improve downtown business facades from The Allegheny Foundation. The facade program requires local businesses to finance the facade improvements, mainly storefronts along Maple Avenue and Main Street, and reimburses 50 percent of the expense.

The same style of progressive community spirit is visible in Clifton Forge, according to Debby Faulkenbury, program manager at Clifton Forge Main Street Inc.

Clifton Forge Main Street has developed a database of businesses and buildings that would be of interest to entrepreneurs. Its 15-member board has seen eight of the original 10-point Streetscape programs come to fruition including lighting and streetscape. The

group has received grants totaling more than \$1.9 million from the Allegheny Foundation, which were used to accomplish the improvements to Clifton Forge. The board plans to focus its future attention on seeking grant funds to develop a downtown Farmers' Market and a Railroad Overlook.

The non-profit organization sponsors events with the Clifton Forge Merchants and Professional Association, the Allegheny Highlands Chamber of Commerce, the Allegheny Highlands Economic Development Corp., Douthat State Park and Olde Town Covington. Among the events



*Pristine streetscene* in Clifton Forge includes The Historic Masonic Theater, circa 1905, renovated as a home for Virginia Opry, theatrical performances and a program for challenged adults

are Fun Fridays, Magic in the Mountains, a festival of the Alleghenies; Easter Egg-stravaganza & Parade, the Alleghany Highlands Triathlon, the business employees' Halloween Costume Contest and Halloween Parade, and Breakfast with Santa.

One of the more visible community efforts in downtown is the work of the Bloom Brigade. Volunteers each Friday tend the flower boxes and flower beds in the town's Historic District. The Town of Clifton Forge also has placed baskets on each of the 55 lampposts in the historic district. "We have helped raise funds to reimburse the Town for more than half of them," Faulkenbury says.

In addition to the business communities' efforts, the Alleghany Highlands Arts Council sponsors live professional performances several times a year that attract visitors from communities 50 miles away. The council, which was started in 1953, also sponsors a chorale, an orchestra and a community theater.

Handcrafted clock and handblown glass are among multiple items from area artisans exhibiting at the Alleghany Highlands Arts & Crafts Center in Clifton Forge



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## Moving back always the plan

Charity Tyree Hale had the same longing many people do when they leave Alleghany County at a young age: She wanted to

come back, not only to be here, but to be the first professional athletic trainer at Covington High School.

She and her husband, Nathan Hale, a native of Waynesboro, decided to make the move in 2007. By May 2007, they were living with her mother, Kim Warlitner, information technology director for the City of Covington, and searching for a house.

They bought in Falling Springs Garden near Falling Spring Elementary School, a convenient choice as the family expanded in February 2009 to include Mason Nathaniel Hale.

"After we moved in and got settled, we sat out back and looked at that gorgeous mountain view. We found it really touching to be back in Alleghany County," Charity said.

Charity, 27, has a master's degree in exercise physiology, and Nathan, 31, has a master's in sports management administration. They met when both worked at Bridgewater College and married in 2006.

Even though she left the area at age 18, Charity had set her sights years ago on a job at Covington High School, and, when the offer came, the couple was ready to return to her home area. At the time, Nathan was as an assistant coach at James Madison University, which required long hours and travel with limited time to share with family. The couple had always planned to have children and wanted to raise them in the best environment. For them, that place was back in the Alleghany Highlands.



Nathan and Charity Hale with Mason, born in February 2009

PHOTO BY KIM WARLITNER

"The time factor was one of the main reasons I was willing to move to Covington," Nathan said. "I didn't even have a job when we got here; we sold the house in a week and moved within a month. Now I really look forward to life here, and I find it's a great

place to raise a child. We are close to Charity's parents and a little over an hour from my parents, so we will have plenty of help with our new baby."

Nathan quickly found work, first at the YMCA for a year as program director, and then at Mead-Westvaco where he landed a manufacturing job on the #2 Paper Machine. In his spare time, he helps coach the girls basketball team at Covington High School.

Charity's work at the school includes the design of conditioning and nutrition programs; injury prevention duties such as taping ankles and shoulders; and, providing emergency care during sports events. She also teaches a sports medicine class to juniors and seniors.

Nathan describes the area as a "close-knit little community where everybody knows everybody else, just very pleasant." In his spare time, he expects to expand his trout fishing interest on the Jackson River, which lies barely a mile from the family's Falling Spring Gardens home.

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# Work

THE ALLEGHANY HIGHLANDS HAS EAST-WEST ACCESS ON INTERSTATE 64 AND INTERSTATE 81 TO MAJOR METRO AREAS AND PORTS OF THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION.

## Strong workforce, transportation enhance Highlands

About 245,000 people of working age live within 45 minutes of the Alleghany Highlands. The area's primary governmental jurisdictions are the City of Covington, Alleghany County, and the Towns of Clifton Forge and Iron Gate.

The area is located between Lexington to the east, Hot Springs to the north, Roanoke to the south, and Greenbrier County, WV to the west and is served by CSX rail for freight and AMTRAK for passenger service. Three airports are convenient: Roanoke Regional Airport, Greenbrier Valley Airport just over the West Virginia line, and Ingalls Field just minutes away in Bath County. Access to an International Port of Entry and Foreign Trade Zone can be found only 66 miles away, at New River Valley Airport in Pulaski County.

MWV in Covington, the area's largest employer and a Fortune 500 company, is an environmental award-winning company with three locations. About 80 percent of Alleghany Highlands is hardwood forest with abundant water and minerals deposits, making it a choice location for any industry that relies on natural resources.

## Newcomer major force in business

When Louise Belmont, who had traveled all over the world, decided to choose one place to live, the entrepreneur and antiques lover chose Low Moor. Nestled in the mountains of eastern Alleghany County near Interstate 64, the community's natural beauty, friendly atmosphere and easy pace of life captivated her.

Belmont bought an 1870s lodge, the oldest house in the community, renovated it and filled it with antiques. It wasn't long before she became a clear voice for historic preservation and economic development in nearby Clifton Forge.

Her grandfather founded Reynolds Metals Co, now known as Alcoa and famous as the manufacturer of Reynolds Wrap, and she has spent a lifetime in the business world. She quickly saw new potential for a largely rural area steeped in beauty and waiting to be discovered.



*The Company Store* retains its old character and adds new wine list.

Belmont next purchased an old building in downtown Clifton Forge that had housed a pizza restaurant. There, she created 416 Gallery, an antiques shop

filled with elegant pieces. It is just down the street from the Alleghany Highland Arts and Crafts Center, a major draw for the town and outlet for area artisans.

Belmont next became involved in a number of projects, including a plan to revitalize homes on Keswick Street for conversion into residences and retail business spaces. Belmont believes the Allegheny Highlands can become a major tourist destination for nature lovers, outdoor sports and lots of people shopping for antiques.

**Arts College a consideration**

“There are a number of people, and I am one of them, who would like to convert the former Clifton Forge High School building into an arts college,” Belmont said. “As envisioned, it would be a site for learning as well as a magnet for art education, area artists and their work. It would produce people who could turn their art into a local business, such as designing and printing artisanal fabrics.”

Belmont would model the arts college on the Savannah College of Art and Design in Georgia, which trains talented people for professional creative careers. Among its most popular majors are graphic design, animation, film and tele-

vision, fashion and photography, although the school offers more than 40 majors.

“We believe that there are a lot of talented people here and elsewhere who would be interested in learning from a broad range of offerings, perhaps from painting to developing video game graphics, and that an arts college would be an ideal addition to Clifton Forge,” Belmont said. So far, the project has a grant to develop a business plan and do a feasibility study for the college, which should be complete in 2009.

**Company Store project**

In the meantime, she has focused on the development of The Company Store & Iron Company Restaurant in Low Moor. The 100-year old store was and still is a place where you can buy a bologna sandwich or scrambled eggs and a range



*Store in Low Moor dates to 1925*

of sandwiches, and its fans are loyal. To Belmont, it was important to retain many of the store’s dishes, like biscuits and gravy, which are reminiscent of older, more pleasant times, while adding gourmet burgers, soufflés and omelets.

Belmont has added elegant dining at night, complete with linen tablecloths and an extensive wine list, all presided over by the former sous chef at The Homestead resort, now executive chef at The Company Store & Iron Company Restaurant.

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## Businesses helped police design simulator

Business creativity abounds in Allegheny County and showed up full force when Mothers Against Drunk Driving teamed with State Police Troopers of Area 38 to develop a training simulator that would function as a tool to carry an important message to local schools.

Originally, the plan was to have an ordinary golf cart painted in the blue and gray of State Police cars, but Philip Bowen, owner of JenFab, a local industrial fabricator, produced a miniature Dodge Charger convertible police vehicle. Bowen's fabrication shop and employee Chris Persinger, as well as George Halsey of Halsey's Body Shop, created the sheet



JenFab workers transformed golf cart into miniature training car

metal exterior and a great paint job that resulted in a custom, hand-built miniature police car.

In demonstrations, the car is driven by a student through a marked course, and then the event is repeated with the

student wearing "Fatal Vision" goggles, according to Trooper Allen Mann. The goggles cause the student to experience the effects that alcohol would bring to a driver, and the result is a lasting experience in a unique educational tool.

A promotional advertisement for Shentel. On the left, a man wearing a white hard hat with the "SHENTEL" logo and a red button-down shirt is smiling. The background is a solid red color. To the right of the man, the text "Welcome. Rapid Cable is now Shentel." is written in a white, sans-serif font. Below this, in a smaller, italicized white font, it says "We look forward to serving you." At the bottom of the advertisement, the Shentel logo is displayed in white, followed by the phone number "540.962.6916" and the website "shentelnow.com".

Welcome.  
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Annette Comer helps customer choose skin care product

## Engineer turned skills to beauty business

Though Annette Comer has a degree in mechanical engineering from Virginia Tech, an MBA in global business from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and spent 10 years working for corporations, she found she was still curious about what it would be like to own a business.

That curiosity led Comer, 51, to purchase a franchise and open Merle Norman Cosmetics and Day Spa in Covington. The business, now celebrating its 20th anniversary, began as a cosmetics provider, but over the past 10 years has added hair, nails and specialty skin care services.

Year-round Hatha Yoga classes, taught by Comer, and massage services are available at the Main Street location.

“We have a name brand facility in a 2,000 square foot location with a highly skilled staff of eight, including three state-licensed master estheticians. We were the first to bring professional manicure/pedicure services here, and, though we built the business largely on cosmetics, a lot of our reputation has been built on our waxing/shaping, hair and nails services,” she says.



She has sold the three other businesses she operated with husband Keith Flanders. He handles bookkeeping and payroll for her shop and has led its several remodeling projects.

Marketing, training and hiring are Comer's major duties, but she also is an esthetician instructor, the state's highest of three licensing levels.

In her spare time, she serves as a mentor to the New Century Venture Center clients in Roanoke, where she helps provide advice and guidance to entrepreneurs just beginning their businesses. She also serves on the board of the Alleghany Highlands Chamber of Commerce, advises Olde Town Covington and is the chair of a parish committee that does hiring for her local church.

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## Riders Up! plays to area's strong suit: outdoors

Tom and Dawn Kirlin specialize in paddle sports for river lovers, but Riders Up! Outfitters, an 1,800 square-foot shop in Clifton Forge, offers many other outdoor opportunities for visitors to the Alleghany Highlands.

With three fantastic rivers — the James, the Jackson and the Cowpasture — within 20-40 minutes of their outfitting shop, the Kirlins provide breathtaking trips for kayakers and canoers, including vehicle shuttle service. The rivers offer many Class I and II rapids, but for those who insist on more thrills there is the Class III water at Rainbow Gap, just above where the Jackson River enters the James River.

“When the water is up at Rainbow Gap, you can find some real action there,” says Tom.

The Jackson's other reputation, as a substantial trout and smallmouth bass fishery, is fully intact, and fishing is available for trout 12 months a year. The smallmouth tend to be somewhat less active during the freezing winter months, but are famous for their summertime ferocity.

“The Jackson River in its entirety is excellent habitat for trout,” Tom said. “In both the lower Jackson and the James River, you will find great smallmouth bass fishing. On the Cowpasture, which has access issues in a few places, is great kayaking and excellent smallmouth fishing. We also can arrange guided trips to private trout waters in the area.”



*Riders Up! client on Jackson River rapids*

The Kirlins braved traffic in northern Virginia before discovering a new world of work and adventure in the Alleghany Highlands. Their shop, which opened in November 2007, is an outdoor equipment supply experience for any level and type of sport. Kayaks share space with sleeping bags, tents, on- and off-water accessories, upscale clothing and even natural dog biscuits for your pet. Equestrians also will find lots of equipment and services in the store.

Visitors also might find a large black dog behind the counter in the shop; that is Colt, the Kirlins' Labrador Retriever and an expert in the sporting arena.

For more information, the Kirlins can be reached at 540-862-7999, or email to [ridersupinc@yahoo.com](mailto:ridersupinc@yahoo.com)

*Co-owner Tom Kirlin shares moment with Colt, a seasoned hunting dog*



## Non-profit transit serves community

Among the Alleghany Highland's many assets is The Mountain Express, an arm of RADAR, which has been providing rural public and specialized transit services in the Greater Roanoke Valley for more than 25 years.

Mountain Express is a non-profit begun expressly to provide transport to community members served by or through social service agencies, local and state government and other private organizations.

The Mountain Express offers a deviated fixed route service to the citizens of the Alleghany Highlands. The service operates five days a week, Monday - Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Persons who are certified under the Americans With Disabilities Act can ask the van to deviate off its route as much as three-quarters of a mile to make pick-ups and drop-offs. A fare of 50 cents per trip is charged. Children under age 6 ride at no charge.

The Mountain Express drivers are trained in passenger assistance, defensive driving, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and wheelchair securement procedures. For more information regarding this service call 800-964-5707, Ext. 3 or 4.

## Salvation Army expanding

For more than 80 years, the Salvation Army has served the Covington community. It now is expanding to increase programs, especially for the community's elderly citizens. The Salvation Army has begun construction on the first phase of a new community center that will include a social services wing where elderly residents can share meals and take part in activities. The new space also will allow opportunities to better serve the area's youth, says Capt. Karl Dahlin, commander of the Covington program. The advisory board is committed to raising the \$2.1 million needed for all three phases of the center's construction and has received more than \$1.3 million in pledges, he said.

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C&O Railroad yard in Clifton Forge, which is also home to the headquarters and archives of the Chesapeake & Ohio Historical Society and the C&O Railway Heritage Center

## Metal artisan combines business, hobby

Glen Bryant learned to fix all types of machinery while growing up on a farm and still fixes the equipment on his farm in Iron Gate.

Only about 15 years ago he “began playing around with the artistic part” of metalworking or blacksmithing as a hobby.

The results of that work can be seen throughout the Allegheny Highlands and beyond. He built the wrought iron fence around a seniors’ center in Clifton Forge and designed and built a sign for Virginia Coal and Supply compatible with its location in an historic district.

He was commissioned to build the chandeliers and brackets for the bar for the renovation of The Company Store

in Low Moor. In recent months, he has been filling orders for crosses for several churches.

Five or six times a year, Bryant loads up his portable forge and demonstrates metalworking at craft events, such as Douthat State Park’s Apple Days. He belongs to the Old Dominion Blacksmith Association.

Metal flower arrangements are among his work sold in the gift shop of the new \$66 million Taubman Museum of Art in nearby Roanoke.

The hobby has not taken over his time, however. Bryant oversees Lost River Farm, which he and Chuck Almarez, a professional photographer, operate in Iron Gate. They farm and run some horses, Boer Goats and Angus-Gelbvieh cattle. He also travels around the state working for Pals Service Inc., a metal fabrication and erection company in Iron Gate.



Bryant giving demonstration for gathering of Old Dominion Blacksmith Association



Artisan Glen Bryant made the sign for C&O Railway Heritage Center, Clifton Forge

Hand-crafted thumb latch



But, it's back to metalworking "when-ever I've got a free minute," says Bryant.

One of the more challenging pieces he has fabricated was a trivet because of its difficult joints, he says. "It takes one hour and \$2 worth of material to make something you could buy for \$1.50," but the result is an original.

Bryant and Almarez sell their work through [www.fireandlightgallery.com](http://www.fireandlightgallery.com).



## WELCOME TO ALLEGHANY COUNTY

*"Virginia's Western Gateway"*

Alleghany County is located along Interstate 64 in the western mountains of Virginia. The county offers quality educational facilities, business infrastructure and incentives, and a reliable workforce.

Blessed by mountains, rivers, and streams, Alleghany County is rich with hunting, fishing, biking, hiking, and other outdoor opportunities, including golf. Among its array of interesting places are the historic Humpback Bridge, Falling Spring Falls, Jackson River Scenic Trail, Lake Moomaw, and Douthat State Park.

A heritage in arts and crafts and railroad history attract many to the area year-round.

Whether you are looking for a quiet getaway or a new location for a business, Alleghany County welcomes you.

### Alleghany County Governmental Complex

9212 Winterberry Avenue

Covington, VA 24426

Phone: (540) 863-6600

Fax: (540) 863-6606

Website: [www.co.alleghany.va.us](http://www.co.alleghany.va.us)



# Learn

TWO PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEMS SERVE THE ALLEGHANY HIGHLANDS ALONG WITH A NUMBER OF PRIVATE AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS AND DABNEY S. LANCASTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

## Covington City schools offer broad programs

Covington serves some 950 students in four schools, Edgemont Primary, Jeter-Watson Intermediate, Covington High School and Jackson River Technical Center, where it

partners with Alleghany County to offer career and technical education to students and area adults.

Edgemont Primary was selected for a Title I Distinguished School Award from the Virginia Department of Education and a Federal Blue Ribbon Schools' Award for 2008. Only seven Virginia public schools and three parochial schools were awarded this honor. The elementary school also ranked 10th out of 1,934 Virginia Schools on third grade pass rates in 2007.

### After-School Programs

Jeter-Watson Intermediate School not only offers the traditional courses, but has an after-school remediation and

enrichment program. The school has 120 computer workstations for student use and an exploratory Spanish class for grades four through seven. In fall 2009, the primary and intermediate schools will share new facilities on a campus of 114,000 sq. feet at the cost of approximately \$20.5 million.

Almost half of the students participate in sports and 25 percent are in the band program. Covington High School students have access to a Teacher Cadet Program. In addition, cultural programs through the Alleghany Highlands Arts Council and Alleghany Highland Arts & Crafts Center, enrich the schools' offerings.

After-school programs supply youth with additional opportunities for learning.



*Covington High School Band in formation*

More than 30 different community-based scholarships are awarded to Covington students annually. Each summer, the schools hold a Summer Academy so that students can expand their skills.



*Chorus practice can be fun*



*Jeter-Watson Elementary students have access to 120 computer workstations*

# Allegheny County schools garner award

The Allegheny County Public School Division operates seven schools, and all were included among the Virginia Index of Performance (VIP) award winners announced by the state in early 2009.

Allegheny County was one of only five Virginia school districts in which the division and all of its individual schools were recognized by one of the three tiers of VIP awards program. The awards are based on the percentage of students achieving at the advanced level of Standards of Learning assessments and progress made toward state educational goals.

### Governor's Award

Falling Spring Elementary received the VIP first-tier "Governor's Award for Educational Excellence," which means its students met state and federal benchmarks for at least two years and also met the Virginia governor's goals for achievement in elementary reading, enrollment in Algebra I by grade 8, enrollment in college-level courses and attainment of advanced diplomas and career and industry certificates.

Allegheny County Public Schools, Boiling Spring Elementary, Clifton Middle, and Sharon Elementary were among the divisions and schools that received the VIP second-tier "Board of Education Excellence Award." The third-tier "Competence to Excellence" award was received by Allegheny High School, Callaghan Elementary and Mountain View Elementary.

### Met Benchmarks

In 2007, the Allegheny County school system was one of only 18 Virginia school systems where the division and all of its individual schools met all 113 "adequate yearly progress" benchmarks associated with the federal "No Child Left Behind" law.

Students have access to college credit courses and career and technical education. More than a third of the Allegheny Public School middle school students are

enrolled in the instrumental music program and nearly one in five from the high school participate in marching band.

The school system has been recognized in recent years by the Virginia Music Educators Association, the Virginia Technology Education Association's Children's Engineering Convention, the Virginia Art Education Association, the Virginia Association of School Superintendents, and the Blue Ridge Public Relations Association.

*Mountaineers football team*



*Field trips take education out into the community*



*Band draws 1 in 5 students*



# Allegheny Highlands







Early Childhood Education students work with preschool youngsters at Jackson River Technical Center



## Technical Center also serves adults

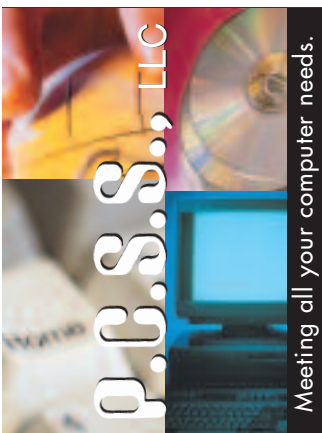
School systems in Covington and Alleghany County are partners in Jackson River Technical Center, which offers career and technical education to 10th through 12th grade students as well as to area adults.

Course offerings range from marketing—especially marketing of sports, recreation and hotels—to computer systems and carpentry, building trades, culinary arts and early childhood education.

The courses offer students opportunities to explore career choices before heading to college or to prepare for work right out of high school.

The Early Childhood Education program is a laboratory school that gives high school students experience working with preschool children. The program also offers some family day-care services.

Students work with youngsters three days a week. The preschoolers' parents pay \$5 a day for the children to attend. In addition to the experience of working with children, the classes enjoy meals prepared by the culinary arts program.



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**ALLEGHANY**  
county public schools



## Community College programs broad-based, also specialized

Dabney S. Lancaster Community College prepares students for transfer to a four-year institution or for entry into a career.

The college offers general education courses and those specific to the professions needed in the area. Its programs, both credit and non-credit, include nursing and health care, medical coding, pharmacy technician, administration of justice and forestry.

The nursing program, long respected in the health care field, consistently graduates superior professionals. These graduates have often achieved a 100 percent passing rate on the first testing of the state licensure exam. The program includes training for licensed practical nurse and registered nurse and a bridge program in



Gary Boyer, head of Dabney S. Lancaster Community College's Administration of Justice program, helps a Forensic Science student conduct an investigation



Forestry student at community college

which LPNs can obtain RN degrees.

The Administration of Justice program prepares students for careers in law enforcement and also recognizes the growing need for Forensic Science specialists.

### Specialized programs

Educational opportunities in the Allegheny Highlands extend far beyond the obvious with programs held in the area's two superior libraries as well as individualized classes for students in need of special help.

The Clifton Forge Public Library, Rivermont School-Allegheny Highlands and Villegas Home School, along with several public schools, received Virginia Picturing America Award grants in 2008 from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

"Picturing America" includes 40 laminated large, high-quality reproductions of significant American art and a comprehensive teacher resource book with lesson ideas to facilitate the use of the images in K-12 grade levels and subject areas.

Other programs for children in the Allegheny Highlands include:

The Allegheny Highlands YMCA provides a variety of childcare, including infants and toddler, and before and after-school. Before- and after-school programs are offered at five schools in various locations. The YMCA also has summer camps at four locations. For information, contact 540-962-9622.

Shenandoah Autism Center, Clifton Forge, is a non-profit facility serving children with autism. Its website is [www.shenandoahaustism.org](http://www.shenandoahaustism.org), 540-862-2327.

Rivermont School – Allegheny Highlands, Covington, 965-6388, is designed for students who cannot participate in regular school because of psychological, emotional or learning difficulties, but who do not require in-patient treatments.

Precious Rainbows Childcare offers services in Covington; 540-962-2828.

# RESOURCE GUIDE

## EMERGENCY/MEDICAL

### IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, DIAL 911

Alleghany County Sheriff	965-1770
City of Covington Police	965-6333
Town of Clifton Forge Police	863-2513

## HOSPITALS

Alleghany Regional Hospital	862-6011
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## ALLEGHANY COUNTY

County Administrator	863-6600
Animal Control	965-1770
Building Official	863-6650
Commissioner of the Revenue	863-6640
Parks & Recreation	863-6622
Senior Services	863-6622
Planning/Zoning	863-6650
Voter Registration	965-1690

## TOWN OF CLIFTON FORGE

Manager's Office Courthouse	863-2501
Animal Control	863-2513
Fire Dept. Administration	863-2516
Public Works	863-2517
Recreation Dept. Armory	863-2539
Voter Registration	965-1690

## CITY OF COVINGTON

City Manager	965-6300
Engineer City Hall	965-6345
Commissioner of the Revenue	965-6350
Parks & Recreation	965-6360
Animal Control	965-6333
Public Works	965-6322
Voter Registration	965-6380

## TOWN OF IRON GATE

Town Hall	862-0770
Fire Department	862-5700

## LIBRARIES

Charles P. Jones Memorial Library	962-3321
Clifton Forge Public Library	863-2519
Dabney S. Lancaster Community College	863-2800

## NEWSPAPER

Virginian Review	962-2121
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## DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Covington Customer Service Center	1-866-368-5463
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## UTILITIES

Gas & Electric	
Dominion	1-888-667-3000
Columbia Gas of Virginia	1-800-543-8911
Whiting-Jamison Oil	962-1176
AmeriGas Propane	862-4148
Dixie Gas & Oil Corp.	962-6336

## CABLE

Shentel	1-800-SHENTEL or 962-6916
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## TELEPHONE

Ntelos	1-877-468-3567 or 965-2255
Verizon	1-800-564-0999 or 304-954-6200

Unless otherwise noted, area codes are 540

## WATER & SEWAGE

Alleghany County	863-6650
City of Covington	965-6322
Town of Clifton Forge	863-2517

## COMMERCIAL AIR SERVICE

Roanoke Regional Service	362-1999
www.roanokeregionalairport.com	
Allegiant Air	702-505-8888
Delta Connection/Comair	800-221-1212
Northwest	800-225-2525
United	800-864-8331
U.S. Airways	800-428-4322

## GENERAL AVIATION SERVICE

Greenbrier Valley Airport	304-645-3961
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## RAILROADS

AMTRAK	800-872-7245
CSX	800-832-6460
Norfolk Southern	981-4000

## COORDINATED PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Ride Solutions	866-260-2153
Mountain Express (RADAR)	800-964-5707

## CAR RENTALS

Enterprise	965-7698 or 1-800-736-8222
Alleghany Motors	962-2274

## TAXI/SHUTTLE SERVICE

Lewis Lloyd, Inc	965-4741
Virginia Taxicab Co.	862-4116
Precious Cargo Shuttle Service	962-8263
	or 1-877-465-6130

## OVERNIGHT PACKAGE DELIVERY

Federal Express	800-463-3339
UPS	800-742-5877

## OTHER SERVICE NUMBERS

State Police	800-542-5959
Career Information	800-542-5870
Consumer Protection Hotline	800-552-9963
Poison Control	800-451-1428
Federal Bureau of Investigations	804-261-1044
Virginia Crime Stoppers	800-821-4357
Alcohol 24-Hour Helpline	800-821-4357
Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline	800-522-7096
Virginia Missing Children	800-822-4453
Runaway Hotline	800-621-4000
Medical Assistance Services Hot Line	800-552-8627
Safelink Systems	965-3237 or 1-877-393-3672
Alleghany-Covington Health Dept.	962-2173
Virginia Cooperative Extension	862-0369
Alleghany Highlands CSB	965-1180
Virginia Employment Commission	962-0983
Alleghany Humane Society	862-2436
Alleghany Highlands Free Clinic	863-3019
1-64 and 1-81 Traffic and Travel Info.	800-578-4111

## CHURCHES- VARIOUS DENOMINATIONS

Please refer to the Yellow Pages for a complete listing or visit the Chamber's website at [www.ahchamber.com](http://www.ahchamber.com)

# Care

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*Alleghany Regional Hospital, owned by HCA, is in Low Moor*

## ALLEGHANY REGIONAL HOSPITAL, Low Moor

Alleghany Regional Hospital offers state-of-the-art medical and surgical services to the residents of eight counties in Virginia's Alleghany Highlands and a portion of West Virginia. Its parent company, Hospital Corporation of America, also owns Lewis-Gale Medical Center, a major regional health care complex located an hour away in Salem.

The hospital is a licensed 190-bed facility that includes general medical and surgical beds, a 10-bed intensive care unit, an eight-bed progressive care unit, and five state-of-the-art operating rooms. Advanced diagnosis and treatment are also available in the hospital's cystoscopy and endoscopy rooms.



The hospital's physicians specialize in more than two dozen medical and surgical areas, backed by an advanced magnetic resonance imaging capability for diagnostic use. The Society of Chest Pain Centers has certified the hospital as an "Accredited Chest Pain Center." A complete range of orthopaedic surgery and is available onsite.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services consistently rank ARH in the top 10 percent of all U.S. hospitals for diagnosis and treatment of heart attacks, pneumonia, surgical infection prevention and heart failure care.

*More information on Alleghany Regional Hospital can be found at [www.alleghanyregional.com](http://www.alleghanyregional.com) or call 540-862-6011.*

## THE GLEBE, Daleville

The Glebe, Southwest Virginia's premier modern example of a continuous-care retirement community, is located adjacent to Alleghany County in Daleville, a small Botetourt County township. Although in a small town environment, practically any service or form of entertainment is just minutes away.

Life at The Glebe circulates around the complex's Community Center, which offers residents a full-service branch bank, a business center with computers, fax and copiers; mail area, convenience store, beauty/barber salon,




*Exterior of main building at The Glebe*

a library, the Depot Café, game room and art studio.

The Glebe has both assisted living and nursing centers, each comprised of 32 private residences with supportive care. Its Health Care Center can provide health maintenance services, nutritional counseling, physical therapy and scheduled physician visits. All health services are under one roof.

A few moments walk from the Community Center, The Glebe's Fitness Center contains state-of-the-art exercise equipment. Lifelong learning programs also are scheduled at The Glebe by nearby Hollins University.

*To learn more about The Glebe, visit [www.theglebe.org](http://www.theglebe.org) or call 540-591-2200.*



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## BRIAN CENTER, Low Moor

Brian Center Rehabilitation and Nursing Care is a Kissito Health Care property serving Alleghany, Augusta, Botetourt and Rockbridge counties in Virginia and Greenbrier County in West Virginia.

The Center's nursing department oversees a 60-bed certified facility that provides post-surgical care, skilled nursing, IV therapy, tube feedings, pain management, wound management, respite care and a variety of other medical services.

Brian Center expanded in mid-2008 to include a new Post Acute Rehabilitation Center, which offers specialty short-term care for complex medical needs in a setting of state-of-the-art rehabilitation equipment and elegant private rooms.

PARC offers a number of luxuries for the patient and provides a separate entry for easy access, recreational and therapeutic activities, as well as fine dining.

More information is available at [www.briancenteralleghany.org](http://www.briancenteralleghany.org) or call 540-862-3610



Rehab patient works out at Brian Center

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Maybelle Payne, road warrior and resident of The Glebe.



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## ALLEGHANY HIGHLANDS FREE CLINIC, Low Moor

The Alleghany Highlands Free Clinic is a private, non-profit organization supported in large part by The Alleghany Foundation. It is staffed by a paid provider and many volunteers. The Free Clinic provides services to low-income, uninsured adults from Alleghany and Bath counties, the Towns of Clifton Forge and Iron Gate, and the City of Covington. The main clinic is in Low Moor, but it also serves eligible patients at a second location in Hot Springs.

Clinic services include primary medical care, pharmaceutical care, coordination of diagnostic testing and specialized care, and follow-up care. All care is provided by licensed physicians and nurses. The clinic does not provide emergency services.

More information on the Alleghany Highlands Free Clinic can be reached at 540-863-3019/800-370-2407.

## THE WOODLANDS, Clifton Forge

The Woodlands is a non-medical, dually-certified skilled nursing facility offering both onsite and off-site services. Speech/ language pathology services, dental services, podiatry, mental health, social work, nursing, pharmacy and physician services are among those offered onsite. Diagnostic x-ray services are provided offsite. The facility has 60 beds and participates in both Medicare and Medicaid programs. It is staffed by registered and licensed practical nurses, as well as dietary and housekeeping staff.

For more information on The Woodlands, call 540-863-4096.

## SCOTT HILL RETIREMENT COMMUNITY, Clifton Forge

Independent living is the theme for those 62 and older and/or disabled at Scott Hill Retirement Community. Residents of its 140 apartment units enjoy a beauty/barber shop, onsite dining, transportation, no maintenance and two service coordinators to help residents locate any other service. The facility has programs and activities for residents but often invites the commu-



Inviting porch for residents of The Woodlands

nity to share in the fun. It also has podiatric care and a monthly diabetes clinic.

For more information, call 540-862-5741, or visit [www.scotthillapartments.org](http://www.scotthillapartments.org)

## HIGHLAND HOUSE, Clifton Forge

Highland House assisted living facility has a capacity of 28 residents. It offers semi-private and private rooms, either for long-term care or for respite care. Residents get meals and have access to daily activities, nursing and pharmacy services, and van transportation to shopping, movies or doctor's appointments. A physician is available for house calls at the facility.

To learn more about Highland House, call 540-862-4271

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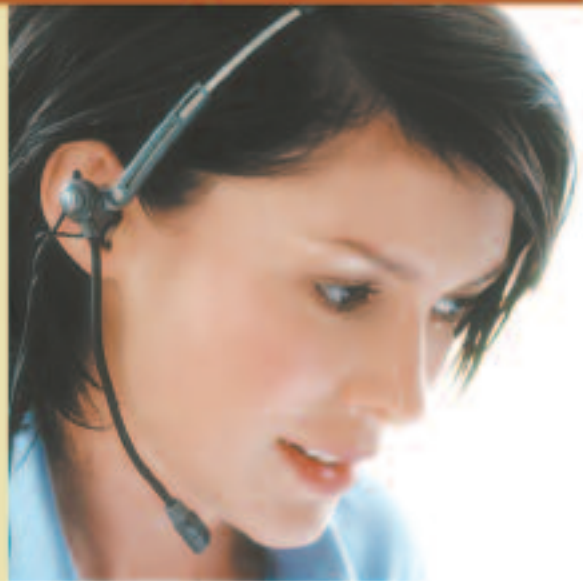
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# Play

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## Abundant, world-class recreation

The Jackson and James rivers are legendary as trout fishing and canoeing or kayaking destinations and set the tone for the rich outdoors of the Alleghany Highlands.

Only a few miles north of Clifton Forge lies Douthat State Park, one of the brightest gems of the Virginia State Parks system. The park, which dates from 1936, is on the National Register of Historic Places. Its two lodges offer free swimming and boat launch for overnight guests, while rental cabins provide a more private experience. Campgrounds serve visitors who prefer camping on the shores of the 50-acre lake. The lake and its attendant stream offer seasonal trout fishing, boating, biking, hiking and swimming.



*Falconry program* a regular event at Douthat State Park, which is also popular with tent campers



Available just north of Clifton Forge are the smallmouth bass-rich waters of the Cowpasture River. And just a few miles north of Covington, Lake Moomaw with 43 miles of undeveloped shoreline is a popular destination for water sports enthusiasts and those who enjoy fishing its very cold, very deep and species-diverse waters.

A delight of choices awaits hikers and mountain bikers in the Alleghany Highlands. Much of the county is covered by National Forest lands: More than 2,000 miles of trails wind through the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests, Gathright Wildlife Management Area and all along the county's rivers and streams. Many trails are adjacent to water and overnight camping facilities and offer convenient trout fishing.

The Jackson River Scenic Trail, an old railroad bed, parallels the river and attracts hikers, bikers and horseback riders.

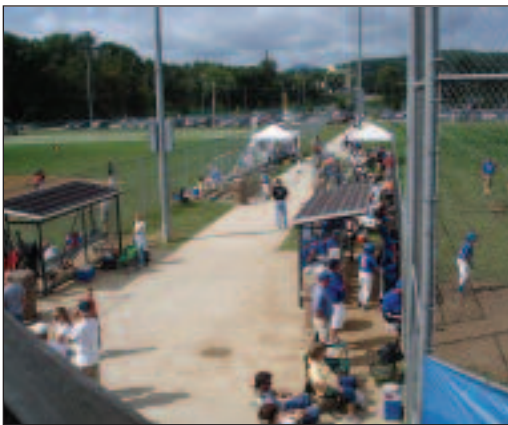
If a more relaxing pace is desired, take a picnic basket and a couple of innertubes and enjoy a day of floating in the sun and bright waters of the Cowpasture and Jackson rivers.



*Youngsters enjoy outing at Covington's Main Street Park pool*

On-the-road cyclists will enjoy landscapes that include farms large and small and many areas that are simply mountainous green open spaces.

*Jackson River Sports Complex, Covington*



*Dock at Douthat State Park*



*Hiking trails plentiful in a county that is 80 percent forest*

## Couple enjoys bicycling heaven

The Alleghany Highlands surely has its share of high, rugged mountains, but it also is home to endless choices for those who pursue recreation on bicycles. No need to spend days poring over maps and reading road signs to determine a route; the route usually begins at the end of your driveway.

"Among our favorites is riding into and around town," said Kyle Midkiff, 63, a retired Covington dentist. "We then branch out to Route 18 toward the Potts Creek area. We ascend Pitzer's Ridge and still are within the city limits."

The Midkiffs have been in the Alleghany Highlands for 30 years, after moving here from Northern Virginia. Sarah is a registered nurse and worked as his office manager. "When we decided we wanted to move to the mountains and practice dentistry, everything seemed to come together in the Alleghany Highlands."

Midkiff has been riding bikes with his wife for six years. They often cycle in a loop to Lexington or Waynesboro and spend the night in a hotel before continuing on their way. They ride touring bikes with mountain bike drive trains.

"At the halfway point of our local ride, we may take a break. We let the level of our fitness, the weather, and the time we need to be somewhere else determine how long that break is," Midkiff says. "Then we go left on Hayes Gap Road, left on Rich Patch Road, come back by Alleghany Regional Hospital, then catch Valley Ridge Road back into Covington."

The local ride is about 35 miles and takes three to five hours. It is especially pleasant in the spring, about April because of the opportunities to see wildflowers. "But, you can usually ride in comfort through October," Midkiff says.

Sometimes the couple makes a grand loop, leaving Covington on a ride to Lexington (44 miles) to Waynesboro (50 miles) and back to Covington. This adds up to about a four-day, 200-mile

trip with night stays in motels.

The Midkiffs are experienced long-distance riders and have ridden from Yorktown, Va., to Florence, Ore., on the TransAmerica Bicycle Trail. "That was about a three-month trip for us, but it could be done at speed in 40-50 days," Kyle says. Their son enjoys a leisurely bike ride, but their daughter is "much a serious rider who enters five-hour adventure races that include mountain biking, kayaking and jogging," Kyle says.

The Midkiffs also recommend the ride from Covington to Douthat State Park, which Kyle describes as "a great all-round recreation area with the best mountain biking trails in the state of Virginia."

The ride from Dolly Ann Drive to Route 609 and heading into Clifton Forge is a favorite trip, as well as the seven-mile Jackson River Trail ride that starts near the Midkiffs' home north of Covington. "This is a family-friendly ride and quite level, so kids can handle it easily," Kyle says.

For the more adventurous, about 20 miles away in Greenbrier County, W. Va., the 77-mile Greenbrier River Trail leads to Cass, W. Va., and is also set in a former railroad bed.

The website, [www.mountaintravel-guide.com](http://www.mountaintravel-guide.com), lists 34 bike trails for the Alleghany Highlands.



Kyle and Sarah Midkiff are veterans of area bike-ways



Charlie Bartocci biking in Douthat State Park



Bikers departing Stony Run Trailhead in Douthat State Park

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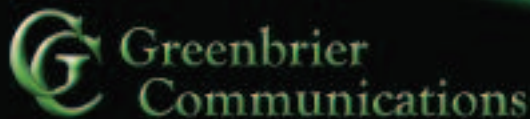
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Saturday, April 25 at 7 pm

Virginia Jr. Opry

Saturday, May 2 at 8 pm

A Night of Classic Rock with Altamont

Saturday, May 16 at 7 pm

STARS

Saturday, May 30 at 7 pm

Gospel Music Reunion

Saturday, June 6 at 8 pm

Ireland meets Appalachia

at the Virginia Opry

Saturday, June 27 at 8 pm

104th Masonic Theatre Anniversary

Show featuring The Free Agents

Saturday, July 11 at 8 pm: The Charlie Mick Show

Saturday, July 18 at 7 pm: STARS

Saturday, August 1 at 7 pm: Virginia Jr. Opry

Saturday, August 8 at 8 pm: Tribute to Elvis featuring Michael Hoover

Saturday, August 15 at 8 pm: Oriskany Strings at the Virginia Opry

Saturday, September 19 at 7 pm: Virginia Jr. Opry

Saturday, October 10 at 7 pm: STARS



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View from restaurant

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## C & O Railway Heritage Center, Clifton Forge

Among the Alleghany Highlands' most admired destinations is the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway Heritage Center at the corner of Main and D streets in Clifton Forge. The center, operated by the C&O Historical Society, is designed to inspire and delight all who visit there and to stimulate the local economy.

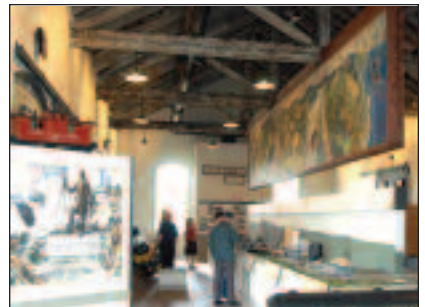
Besides being a focus of community pride and a site for local meetings and gatherings, the C&O Railway Heritage Center is the central concept that will link numerous rail sites to form a heritage trail reaching from Newport News, Va., to the Great Lakes.

The center is housed in an 1895 renovated C&O Freight Depot that contains the primary museum displays and the retail shop. The area around the center, on a crescent of land beside the Jackson River, once held a large maintenance facility for the overhaul and repair of locomotives, a passenger coach yard, a yard for classifying coal and other freight, and the division headquarters for the region. This panorama of rail history is an archetypal example of the American railroad and is collected and displayed in the center, as is the history of Clifton Forge, historically one of rail's most important locations.

The C&O Railway Heritage Center ([www.candoheritage.org](http://www.candoheritage.org)) is open from noon - 4 p.m., Monday - Friday, and 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Saturday. For information, call 540-862-8653 or 540-862-2210.



C&O Heritage Center, Clifton Forge



Heritage Center Displays



The Golden Arrow Plaza is nestled quietly in a rural area, five-tenths of a mile off of Interstate 64 and three miles outside of the city limits of Covington, Virginia, in a historic area known as Wrightsville, in Alleghany County on the Jackson River between Lexington and West Virginia, just nineteen miles southwest of its' border. Wrightsville was settled in the late 1800s, after the Civil War, by freed slaves Archie and Mary Wright. It is one of the many "vanishing African American communities struggling to hold on to its' place in the history of the American landscape". At the turn of the century Wrightsville was the only African American community in Alleghany County and the Golden Arrow Tea Room and Restaurant, owned and operated by Mr. William B. McClinton Sr., was "the" major stopping point for top entertainers and entrepreneurs traveling from north to south on old highway route 60 during the 1930's, 40's and 50's.

Today, the Golden Arrow Plaza, (moved and reconstructed in 1961 just 600 yards from the original location) is a newly renovated facility housing a Performing Arts Center, Studios, Restaurant and Jazz Club.

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## C & O Depot, Covington

The newly refurbished 1908 depot in Covington can be rented for events through Covington's Parks and Recreation Department. After interest in the depot on Maple Avenue was rekindled by the Allegheny Highlands Historical Society, the city joined with community leaders, business, and other groups to contract a restoration that included complete removal of the unique terra cotta roof so structural repairs could be made. Replacement tiles were obtained from the original manufacturer to complete the dramatic reconditioning of the exterior. Covington City Public Works Department decided to renovate the interior and the project was completed in 2007 with exceptional results. The Depot and its budding museum of photographs and railroading artifacts is open to visitors on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays, 2-4 p.m.



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*Mayor, Councilwoman, District 3: Stephanie R. Clark  
Vice-Mayor, Councilman, District 5: Robert L. Bennett, III  
Councilman, District 4: Earl L. Brown  
Councilman, District 2: David C. Bryant, Jr.  
Councilman, District 1: William B. Zimmerman, Jr.  
City Manager: John V. Doane*



Youngsters practice baskets at new YMCA in Low Moor

## Opportunities for sports

A locally owned professional baseball farm team and the Jackson River Sports Complex make the City of Covington lively during spring, summer and fall.

The Covington Lumberjacks, part of the Valley League that has produced more than 1,000 professional baseball players, plays at Casey Field in Covington beginning in late May-early June each year. The Lumberjacks will compete in the South Division with Staunton, Waynesboro, and league newcomer Rockbridge Rapids. The Valley League has changed its format to three four-team divisions for the 2009 season.

The Jackson River Sports Complex, located in Covington, has five lighted softball fields, basketball courts, lighted tennis courts, soccer fields and walking areas. It will be host to the Covington Clash Baseball Tournament in June.

The new YMCA in Low Moor also has expanded sports opportunities for all ages.

Another sporting highlight for 2009 is the Alleghany Highlands Triathlon scheduled in May.



Will that shot make it?

Golf is a popular game in the Alleghany Highlands where followers of the sport have access to the Alleghany Country Club, Clifftondale Country Club and Cliff View Golf Club. At Cliff View, hole #14 along the Jackson River proves challenging with its short 141-yard, par 3. The Homestead Resort greens, only a short drive into adjacent Bath County, include three championship courses. The Homestead will host the 2009 USGA Senior Women's Amateur Championship in September.



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All three properties are located at exit 16 off I-64. Several golf courses are in close proximity to hotels which are also 20 miles from fishing and swimming at Douthat State Park or Lake Moomaw. Skiing located within 25 miles at the Homestead Resort. Each has fax/copier service, guest laundry, 56+ channel TV, including HBO & ESPN, free local calls.

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Millboro, VA 24460  
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Morris Hill Campground  
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## RESTAURANTS

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Covington, VA 24426  
540-965-8255

The Buckhorne Country Store  
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Clifton Forge, VA 24422  
540-862-4502

Burger King  
900 Valley Ridge Rd.  
Covington, VA 24426  
540-962-0319

Cat & Owl Steak &  
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110 Karnes Rd.  
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Clifton Forge, VA 24422  
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The Court Street Restaurant  
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# Alleghany Highlands Annual Events 2009 - 2010

Please visit the calendar of events at [www.ahchamber.com](http://www.ahchamber.com) for more information.

## JANUARY

- YMCA Winter Prom
- Broadway Performances; contact Alleghany Highlands Arts Council at 540-962-6220

## FEBRUARY

- Missoula Children's Theatre

## MARCH

- Annual Chamber Dinner - The Homestead
- Annual Art of Chocolate Festival, fundraiser for the Alleghany Highlands Arts and Crafts Center; Dabney S. Lancaster Community College Moomaw Center, Clifton Forge call 862-4447 for more information

## APRIL

- Appalfolks of America – performance season begins at the Historic Masonic Theatre call 877-301-3817 for more information
- Clifton Forge Easter Egg Hunt & Parade
- Covington Easter Egg Hunt and Parade, Main Street Park, Covington
- Douthat Easter Egg Hunt, Douthat State Park
- Benefit Poker Run for the Alleghany Highlands Free Clinic for motorcycles and cars, call 863-3019 for more information
- Kids Fishing Day at Boys' Home in Covington
- Pitch, Hit and Run, Altamont Park in Covington and Linden Park in Clifton Forge; contact ACPR at 540-863-6622
- Outdoor/Nature/Natural History Earth Day Celebration, Douthat State Park

## MAY

- Bike Rodeo & Kids Fun Day, Covington City Park – contact Parks & Rec at 863-6622 or 965-6360
- Girl Scout Day at Douthat
- Mountain bike race - Middle Mountain Momma at Douthat, sanctioned state championship series race, supported by Mead/Westvaco
- Railroad Heritage Festival, C&O Heritage Center, Clifton Forge call 862-2210 for more information
- Alleghany Highlands Triathlon - Contact Info: Tom Kirlin Riders Up! Outfitters ridersupinc@yahoo.com 540-862-7999
- Douthat Lake Run Cruise-In and Car Show
- Fun Fridays, sponsored by Clifton Forge Main Street
- Rock the Block Concert, sponsored by Olde Town Covington
- Memorial Day activities at Douthat State Park & at The Homestead

## JUNE

- Senior Fishing Day at Boys' Home in Covington
- Fishing for the Kids & Clean the Bay, Douthat State Park
- Virginia Blues & Jazz Festival, Garth Newel, Warm Springs Mountain, Bath County,
- Magic in the Mountains Festival, Downtown Covington, Clifton Forge and Douthat State Park
- Fun Fridays, sponsored by Clifton Forge Main Street
- Rock the Block concert, sponsored by Olde Town Covington

## JULY

- 4th of July Celebration, Jackson River Sports Complex, entertainment & fireworks – sponsored by MWV, City of Covington, The Radio Center and the Alleghany Highlands Chamber of Commerce
- Garth Newel Music Center Summer Festival - Independence Day Weekend to Labor Day Weekend. Saturday concerts followed by an optional gourmet dinner, or Sunday followed by lemonade and cookies under the tent
- Douthat Arts & Crafts Fair, Douthat State Park

## AUGUST

- Street Scene, annual car show sponsored by Kars Unlimited, downtown Covington
- Garth Newel Music Center Summer Festival - The Summer



Missoula Children's Theatre  
a regular attraction brought to the Masonic Theatre  
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*Humpback Bridge* west of Covington was built in 1857 and is considered the oldest of Virginia's remaining covered bridges. It is now part of the 5-acre Humpback Bridge Wayside State Park



Festival runs from Independence Day Weekend to Labor Day Weekend.

- Chamber Classic Golf Tournament
- Big Country 101 Back to School Beach Bash & Cardboard Boat Regatta, Doughat State Park; 540-862-8100
- Callaghan Bluegrass Festival, Covington Moose Park; 540-962-6220
- Fun Fridays, sponsored by Clifton Forge Main Street
- Rock the Block, sponsored by Olde Town Covington

### SEPTEMBER

- Summer Chamber Music Festival Finale. Garth Newel Music Center, Warm Springs. Mozart, Beethoven and Gubaidulina concert at 5 p.m., followed by optional gourmet dinner; 540-839-5018

### OCTOBER

- Wine Tasting – sponsored by the Alleghany Highlands Chamber of Commerce
- Apple Day: A Celebration of Appalachian Heritage at Doughat State Park at the Beach Complex. Apple butter making, frontier games, campfire cooking, hay rides, artisan and craft demonstrations, bluegrass music and a pig roast, 540-862-8100
- Fall Foliage Festival, downtown Clifton Forge, Oct. 16; contact Shriners for more information at 540-862-4600.
- Pumpkins in the Park, Jackson River Sports Complex, Covington

### NOVEMBER

- Alleghany Highlands Orchestra Concert

- Thanksgiving Music Holiday, Garth Newel Music Center in Warm Springs; cocktails and concert followed by Chef Randy's Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner. 540-839-5018.

### DECEMBER

- Ornament Making Contest, Doughat State Park
- Alleghany Highlands Chorale Concert
- Christmas parades in Covington, Clifton Forge, Iron Gate
- Hometown Holidays – events planned throughout the Alleghany Highlands
- New Year's Eve Music Holiday, Garth Newel Music Center. Jazz trio with dance music until the champagne toast at midnight, followed by New Year's Day Concert & Brunch. 540-839-5018.



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