



2016
Annual
Report



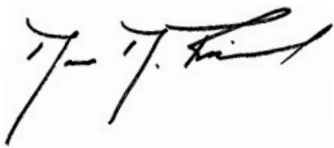
Greetings,

As you read through this 2016 Annual Review, I encourage you to consider our city logo. Modeled after the gravity hump in our rail yard which made Bluefield a strategic point, it also has a symbolic meaning in the day-to-day operations of staff. Consider the climb that is required to get over the crest. In life, we always seek to “climb over that next hill.” In our local government, we are no different. While there are still hills to climb, I am happy to report that we are now cresting over a few of those as we enter into 2017.

In this report you will learn how your government is in action. We want you to see your hard-earned tax dollars and fees at work. This is due to the wonderful city staff that you see, and sometimes do not see, at work everyday. I am thankful for city employees that approach their job with a high level of professionalism, respect, and insight that make Bluefield a wonderful place to live, work, and play.

As always, should you have any questions, please make an appointment to see me at City Hall or attend a board meeting. We would enjoy your participation in your government.

Very respectfully,



Dane D. Rideout, City Manager



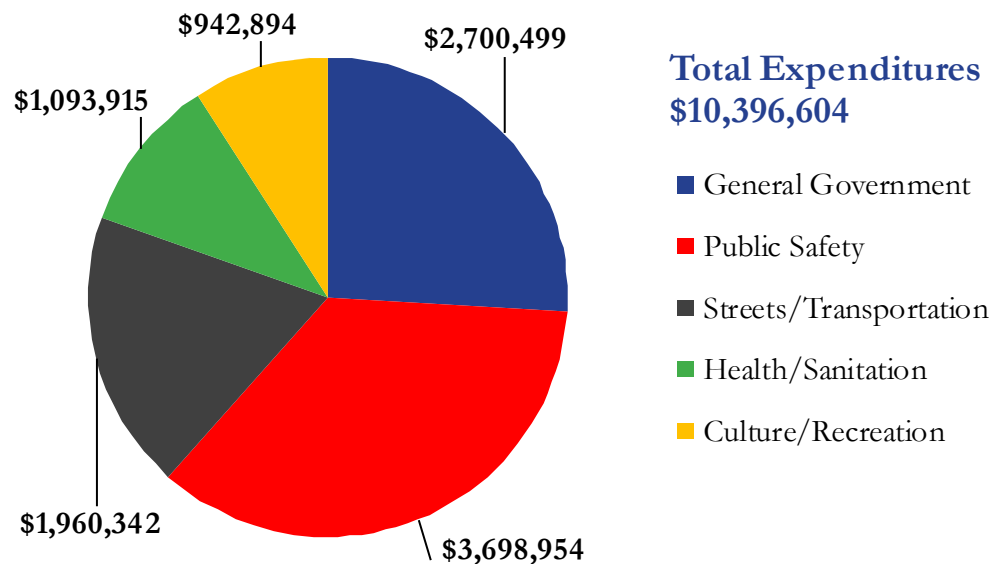
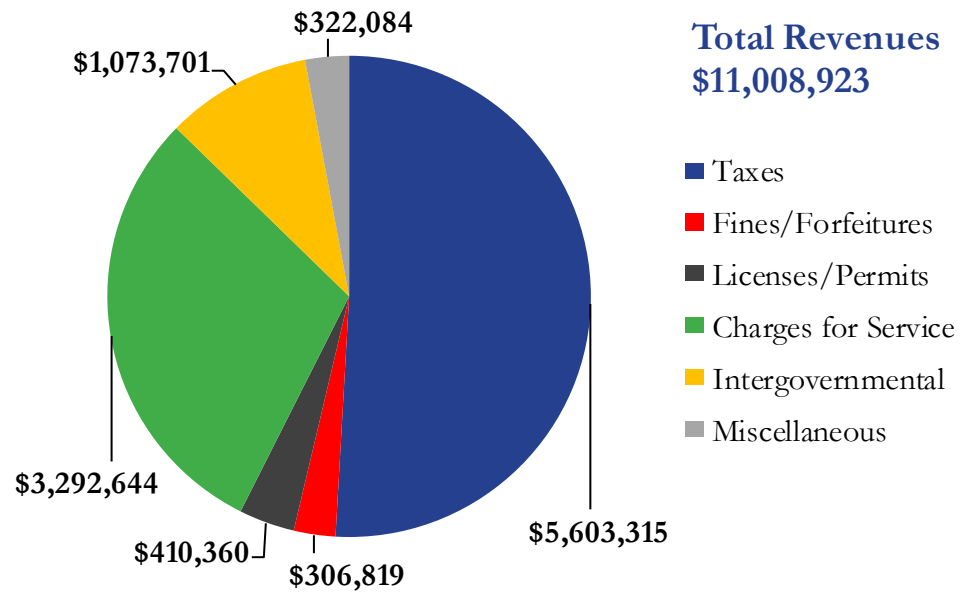
P.S.

You can find a digital copy of this report, its presentation, and more at www.cityofbluefield.com under the “Government” tab!

2016 Highlights

- Over \$45,000 in donations allowed for the addition of two K-9 units in the Police Department. Ace and Thor have seized over \$110,000 in illegal narcotics, weapons and confiscated money since July 2016! Additionally, over \$90,000 in donations funded their new home in the renovated Fire Station #2 on Bland Street, creating a 24/7 presence.
- Parks and Recreation’s After-School and Day Camp Program is the only licensed after-school program in Bluefield! The department also hosts thousands of people at the largest Trunk-or-Treat in the region each year!
- In 2016, the building inspector issued 466 building permits with a project valuation total of \$1,854,079! The Buildings Commission removed 47 dilapidated, abandoned structures at a cost of \$200,000. The Code Enforcement team removed over 25 abandoned cars. It is important to note that all of these efforts improve property values across the city.
- A gently-used street paving machine was acquired allowing for a doubled in-house paving capability! Public Works expanded the pot-hole repair team and laid over 1,784 tons of asphalt across the city this year.
- A healthy workforce is more productive, takes less sick-days, and is a stronger overall team. Over three-fourths of city employees participated in a Summer Wellness Series that included proper hydration, exercise, and the completion of a 5K Race. Competing against the Town of Bluefield, Virginia staff, city employees brought home “The Best Bluefield in the Best Virginia” traveling trophy at the Two Virginias 5K Challenge!
- Our Fix-It Bluefield app is working as citizens report issues to the proper area and expedite work orders. In 2016, over 365 requests were submitted, 121 fewer than 2015, showing that means potholes are being filled, leaf collection is more timely, and code enforcement is responding.
- The city is running on fiber doubling speed for faster data access and file transfers between offices. Internal firewalls were also updated to better protect personal, confidential data. A backup generator/battery backup is also in place to insure the city will continue operations in a power outage.

Fiscal Year 2015-2016



Fiscal Year 2016-2017 (Half Year)

Revenues as of December 30, 2016 (1/2 year)		
Percentage of Revenue	Revenue	Amount
46.19%	Taxes	\$2,706,752
2.06%	Fines/Forfeitures	\$120,944
5.36%	Licenses/Permits	\$314,165
30.31%	Services Charges	\$1,776,280
14.43%	Intergovernmental	\$845,367
1.65%	Miscellaneous	\$96,349
Total Revenue (to date) - \$5,859,857		

Expenditures as of December 30, 2016 (1/2 year)		
Percentage of Expenditures	Expenditures	Amount Spent
27.06%	General Government	\$1,523,944
33.92%	Public Safety	\$1,910,009
21.52%	Streets/ Transportation	\$1,212,051
6.94%	Health/Sanitation	\$390,231
10.56%	Culture/Recreation	\$594,932
Total Expenditure (to date) - \$5,631,167		

"We work to maintain a strong financial position for the city. The past two fiscal years we have had a budget surplus allowing us to build a strong "rainy day fund" and make needed investments into capital equipment." - Kelly Davis, Treasurer

Bluefield: Where Start-Up Businesses Thrive

The former freight station on Bluefield Avenue is getting a new name and a facelift for 2017! The City of Bluefield received a POWER initiative grant in the amount of \$2.54 million dollars to transform this dilapidated structure into the Commercialization Station. This is a “dirty space” manufacturing incubator where products can be built, but also where advising from business professional can take place. Once renovations and upgrades are complete, there will be five bays for business incubation.

According to the International Business Innovation Association, “Business incubators nurture the development of entrepreneurial companies, helping them survive and grow during the start-up period, when they are most vulnerable. These programs provide their client companies with business support services and resources tailored to young firms. The most common goals of incubation programs are creating jobs in a community, enhancing a community’s entrepreneurial climate, retaining businesses in a community, building or accelerating growth in a local industry, and diversifying local economies.”

This facility is part of the CREATE Opportunity initiative. CREATE stands for Creating Resilient Economies by Assisting Transforming Entrepreneurs. The initiative includes a network of strategic partners working together to create jobs and to help diversify our local economy. Partners include: City of Bluefield, American National University, Bluefield State College, Center for Applied Research & Technology (CART), Community Action South Eastern WV (CASEWV), Concord University, Greater Bluefield Chamber of Commerce, INNOVA, Mercer County CVB, Mercer County Development Authority, Mercer County Technical Education Center, Natural Capital Investment Fund, New River Community & Technical College, Region I Planning and Development Council, Region One Workforce, Robert C. Byrd Institute, TechConnect WV, Valley College, West Virginia Development Office, West Virginia Manufacturing Extension Partnership, West Virginia Small Business Development Center, Wyoming County Economic Development Authority, Bluefield College, and VT Knowledge Works



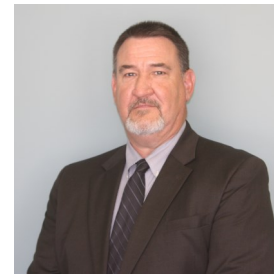
Ribbon cutting ceremony at facility with Congressman Evan Jenkins.

“We Work for You”

The Bluefield Business Directory was completed during the year. This allows businesses to be made aware of workshops hosted by the city. Courses offered for businesses include topics on: marketing, social media, website creation, search word optimization, and more. These courses were taught by area partners, like Bluefield College. Virginia Tech’s VT Knowledge Works also taught a course on entrepreneurship for individuals and businesses considering a start-up.

Small Business Saturday continues to be a way the city can highlight and thank our local businesses. A appreciation breakfast is held in the morning, with scavenger hunts, special deals, and more being offered to entice shoppers to visit these stores during the holiday season.

The City of Bluefield was awarded a Cool and Connected Grant for technical assistance by the Appalachian Regional Commission. This grant will allow the city to look at broadband service and how it can create growth in the city.



This incubator can serve any business in the region. It’s not just about businesses within the city. It’s about the region. We’re in this together.”

- Jim Spencer, Community and Economic Development Director

The Engineering Department works across the entire city ensuring infrastructure projects are running efficiently and effectively. This includes coordinating utilities, assisting public works, paving, improvements to facilities and parks and more.

Sidewalk Incentive Program

The city rolled out this new program in 2016 that allows residents to improve their sidewalks and curbing. This pre-bid process offers a 36-month, 0% interest incentive loan with payments attached to billing for city fees. Three residences took advantage of the program with impressive results. In total, 467 linear feet, or about a football field and a half, of curbing was installed with 787 square feet of sidewalk poured.

Street Paving

The standard in paving is that a city should repave its streets every 25 years. With the adjustment of city fees, we are now repaving the city every 37 years. 2016 saw 3.9 miles of pavement or 17 streets. This totaled 4,095 tons of asphalt poured and 6,038 square yards of milling completed! Remember, just two years ago, only a mile of roadway was being paved.

Other Improvements

A grant was received to place bleachers behind city park tennis courts. To make room, more than 10,000 cubic yards of shale has been moved from behind the courts to pour pads for seating. Utilities, like AEP, have been great partners in upgrading the city's infrastructure. The replacement of 24 vaults and manholes was a needed upgrade throughout business areas.



Improvements to our storm water and GIS systems still need to be made. However, we have made great leaps of progress through the number miles we now pave each year, all major bridges have been replaced, and electric infrastructure upgrades have been made.

- Tony Wagner, City Engineer



“Love Where You Live”... not a phrase but an action

Public Works is an active department with ongoing projects. Crews and city employees participated in the Love Where You Live Campaign to keep Mercer County clean this year with major clean up projects at Mitchell Stadium and Charleston Terrace. However, the Love Where You Live Campaign is not just a special event once a year. It is something we all should participate in each week in our neighborhoods. Jaycee Field received a minor makeover during summer with rocks and dead trees being removed. Crews hauled in 40 tons of dirt and sewed new grass seed for the park. City Hall received a facelift with fresh paint, old bushes and trees removed and replaced, new handicap accessible ramps poured, and a “news and events” board was installed. City crews work throughout the year with the Bluefield Beautification Commission to present a “Beautiful Bluefield.” Crews hung and maintained flower baskets across the city, changed banners throughout the seasons, and hung Christmas decorations. Major projects included digging out and planting new triangles at the intersections of Cumberland and Bland Road and Cumberland Road and Grassy Branch Road to improve the look of the city as visitors travel Route 52 for ATV tourism and for the citizens. The largest transformation and project has been the “260 Foot Journey—Church Parking Lot Project” on Durhing Street. Improvements to this city-owned property improves our historic street of churches and makes downtown look even better.



Out with the Old and In with the New (and refurbished)...



Capital equipment will always be a need and important focus for Public Works. It allows crews to get after the major projects in our city. A 2002 CAT AP-1000B asphalt paver purchased for \$37,900 this year. This “gently used” paver from Florida will now allow work crews to tackle larger and wider stretches of roadways compared to our former equipment. This gives residents a more professional product for their city fees paid. Public Works hosted an online auction of old vehicles and equipment through Municibid online auctions. Our net profit was \$55,265. An older garbage truck and dump truck received a facelift with a new paint scheme. Why is this update on equipment important? Why should you care about a paint

scheme on a garbage truck? Simply, we seek to show the community we are good stewards with taxpayers dollars. Taking pride in our appearance, promoting ownership of equipment with staff, and displaying professionalism are values staff now hold with the desire to create an outstanding environment.

Crews also worked long and hard hours to assist other departments in the city so that their department goals could be reached. The Police Department Substation on Bland Street was constructed utilizing crews from the department, a new concrete pad poured at the recreation center for the dumpster to improve the look of the facility for the new afterschool programming and recreational programming, and the former Freight Station was completely cleaned out to make way for the facility to be transformed into the upcoming Commercialization Station for new businesses. Street signs and street markers throughout the city were also updated this year through either a new signage or new paint and stenciling. Finally, the city’s fuel system was upgraded to a new more modern electronic system.

2016 Totals

Total trash collection

4,950.90 tons

Special trash orders

168 orders

Total asphalt used

1,783.62 tons

Leaf collection totals

100 trucks of leaves

How the Demolition Program Works...

Facts:

- The Demolition Program is managed through the city's Buildings Commission. This group of volunteers is appointed by the Board of Directors.
- Properties are not just torn down at random. Strict legal requirements to remove blight in the city must be met.
- Unless property owners choose to deed the property to the city, a neighbor, or another owner, they maintain ownership of the property and responsibility for the taxes, fees, and demolition costs.

Demolition Update

**\$200,000 investment
tearing down 47 blighted structures**

General Step-by-Step Overview of Process:

- Inspections first determine the state of a property's safety and viability and a report is started.
- Property owners are notified and summoned to appear before the commission to discuss the property. Ample time is given, with continuances allowed, for owners to bring their property back to code requirements. Public notice is also given to notify these property owners if they cannot be reached.
- If a property owner does not comply or does not respond, the property is slated for demolition. At that time it is tested for asbestos, asbestos is properly removed by certified, trained city workers, and a contractor demolishes the property. The property is smoothed and seeded at that time.
- A lien is filed on the property for the cost of demolition if bill for demolition is not paid.

Large building projects included:

- New home construction on Oak Grove Avenue
- Renovation of property now The Big Whiskey BBQ Co.
- Renovation of property now Bluefield Yarn Company
- Renovation of property now The Corner Coffee Shop
- New construction on vacant lot now Finish Line Car Wash
- Recovery Point: Four Seasons expanded bed space at facility
- Installation of city's first electric car charging stations by and located at The Bluefield Inn
- Renovation of space creating banquet hall "The Clover Club" at The RailYard
- New townhouse development Devonshire Court off Elks Golf Course

If anyone tells you no one is spending money in Bluefield, they are not paying attention. We continue to see new construction and building permits for improvements to property each month.
—Gerald Steele, Building Inspector



2016 Building Permits

**466 permits issued with a total project
cost of \$1,854,079**





Thank you to the those that made donations to make our K-9 Units and Police Substation a reality. They are a producing asset for the city!

—Police Chief Dennis Dillow

Grants/Donations Make It Possible...

In 2016, the Bluefield Police Department took in \$316,254.17 in grant funds and charitable gifts for projects! Here is a breakdown:

New Police Cars (Five Vehicles)

\$100,000—Donation

\$50,000—USDA Grant

\$5,000—Community Foundation of the Virginias, Inc. Grant for vehicle petitions

Patrol Kevlar Vests

\$8,543—Bullet Proof Foundation Grant

\$8,543—Donation

Police Substation

\$98,353.07—Private Donations

K-9 Units and Equipment

\$45,815.10—Private Donations

These gifts and grant funds allow for the purchase of new equipment, new police vehicles, and K-9 units. A well-resourced, fully equipped department is necessary to feel secured in policing the community. It has made an impact too looking at the included statistics!



Narcotics Seized by K-9 Unit

Category	Totals
Marijuana	798 grams
Oxymorphone	226
Hydromorphone	27
Oxycodone Pills	328
Crack Cocaine	112 grams
Street Value of Drugs Seized	~ \$67,625.00



2016 Police Department Statistics

Category	Totals
Calls for Service	9,185
Arrests Made	826
Reports Filed	1,138
Citations Issued	5,632/3,522 warnings
Motor Vehicle Accidents	239
Parking Citations	669
Fines Collected	\$222,740.75

K-9 Unit Statistics

Category	Totals
Misdemeanor Arrests	110
Felony Arrests	41
Vehicles Searched	151
Buildings Searched	7
Suspect Tracks	6
Paraphernalia Seized	199
Currency Seized	\$45,262.00
Assisted Search Warrants	7
Firearms Seized	26

The Benefit to Living In City Limits...

“What do I get for living in the city?” is a question that has been posed to city staff from time-to-time. Code Enforcement is one of those benefits! These individuals help ensure that property values are protected and neighborhoods are kept in good order. A good example of this is a long-term remodel project on Oakhurst Avenue. After neighbors complained of high grass and incomplete project, code enforcement agents contacted the property owner to fix the problem, and then placed a yellow sign notifying the neighbors of the violations. Now the property has been brought up-to-code and is no longer a complete eyesore for the community. The same happened on Giles Street with debris and trash that was left out too long. After a call to Code Enforcement, property owners were notified and the property was cleaned up, improving the look of the street!



Violation	Number of Cases
Total Notices to Correct	815
Weeds Overgrown	317
Garbage/Trash Issue	295
Abandoned Vehicles	112
Other	91
Summons to Court	194
Parking Tickets	247
Rental Inspections	165

In addition, animal control services are provided by this department. Animal Control can be the hardest, most emotional work done by code enforcement officers. Yet, sometimes they are the most rewarding. Take this malnourished dog named Paige for example. When found, she was starved and skin and bones. Officers stepped in, worked with the Animal Shelter to bring her back to life, and now she has been adopted into a loving family!



A Professional Department...

Having a professional fire department is an investment and great benefit to our community and region. The department now proudly houses the first city Arson K-9 team! Administrators are excited to welcome Kendall on staff and congratulate her trainer, Shannon Akers, for completing an extensive training in Maine in 2016. Extensive training is a defining hallmark of any professional staff. Courses on Narcan/Naloxone drug administration, natural gas training, EMT recertification, “Max Fire Box” training, Fire Instructor I & II courses, and a rescue tool’s extrication class were held in addition to other recertification such as CPR. Firefighters also educated community members through fire drills at The Maples Nursing Home, participated in an active shooter drill at Bluefield Middle School, held a two-day emergency evacuation procedures course at the West Virginia Manor, and entered into an automatic aid agreement to service East River Mountain Tunnel. The department also services the Mercer County Airport. Through the Local 347 Union, firefighters covered shifts of other emergency workers in affected areas and raised significant dollars and supplies to assist victims of flooding in West Virginia

Engaging the Community...

The department took significant strides to engage in community life this year. Members of the department desire to be active citizens in the region and give back. Several education based workshops were held during Fire Week and other 2016 activities included:

- Distributing 150 smoke detectors at the senior expo
- Bluefield Christmas Tree Lighting event
- Christmas parade participation
- Lemonade Festival “Touch a Truck”
- Student Government Day
- Firehouse tours
- “Egg Drop” experiment at Bluefield State College
- 9/11 Ceremony
- Water Fun Day at The Wade Center
- Arson K-9 Unit demonstrations
- Career Day at Memorial Elementary
- Trunk-or-Treat at City Park

Fire departments are often steeped in tradition. However, we must evolve with new tactics and technology to be prepared to meet today’s ever changing advancements and challenges.

- Fire Chief Rick Cary



Event	Number of Calls
Fire Alarms	315
Utility Calls	101
Vehicle Accidents	161
Fires	82
Specialty Rescue	36
EMS Calls	209
K-9 Deployment	6



A Connected Workforce...

Improving the network connection between City Hall and outlying office space was a critical internal goal in 2016. Connections have been doubled in speed, allowing for faster data access and file transfers. Phone and network servers were also connected to the city's backup generator ensuring, that in the event of a power outage, systems can keep operating.



Putting the most up-to-date tools and technology in the hands of staff so they can succeed is an ongoing task.

Computers are the default tools of many employees in the city. Just as it is important to replace fire hoses as they end their life cycle, computers must be replaced as well and this year twelve new machines were replaced. It is also important to upgrade technologies to protect personal information shared with the city and files in our databases. This year our internal firewall was upgraded to provide more security and features to staff.

Fix-It Bluefield is Fixing Bluefield...

365 submission with 354 processed by city staff

Top categories (behind "other"):

#1—Pothole/Street Repair

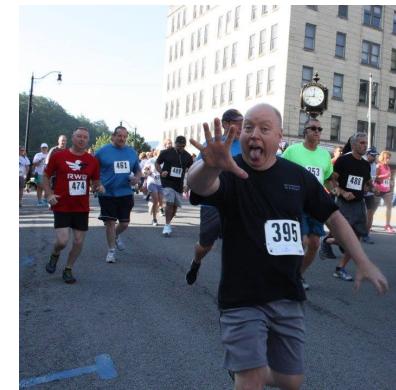
#2—Overgrown Weeds and Grass

#3—Leaf Pick-Up

Did you know that most submissions are made at www.cityofbluefield.com, followed by an iOS (Apple) system, and then an Android device?

Information Technology

Human Resources



A Healthy Workforce...

Over three-fourths of city employees participated in a Summer Wellness Series. This series educated staff on the topics of proper hydration and exercise. Sponsorship provided free water bottles and pedometers to promote proper hydration and the importance of moving during the day. Staff were also challenged to complete a 5K Challenge at the end of the program. Lifestyle changes made by members of the staff made everyone a winner in this program.

A healthy workforce is more productive, takes less sick-days, and is a stronger overall team.

- Angie Foley, HR Director





In addition to providing quality transportation for residents of the region, Bluefield Area Transit also provides transportation for many community events. This includes buses and the city's historic trolley. Being a good community partner is what has made this organization an award-winning agency in West Virginia.

2016 Community Engagement Events

- 2/3 Youth Leadership Program
- 2/3 Swearing-In Ceremony for Federal Judge Aboulhossn
- 2/20 West Virginia Winter Warmer
- 3/22 Board Members site visit
- 3/30 "Love Where You Live" East River Clean-Up Day
- 4/5 Golden Rules Preschool field trip to Concord University
- 4/12 Bluefield High School Student Government Day
- 4/15 McDowell County Schools "Touch a Truck" event
- 5/7 Spring Fling at Linkous Park in Welch
- 5/12 All Together Arts Week in Princeton
- 6/10 Quality Inn to Cole Harley Davidson Shuttle
- 6/11 Celebrate Princeton event
- 6/18 Princeton Railroad Museum Tour
- 6/28 Skyland Bible Conference Tour transportation
- 7/19 Ribbon Cutting for the new Police Substation
- 8/27 Two Virginias 5K Challenge Shuttle
- 8/27 Lemonade Festival
- 12/2 Begin working Holiday of Lights special events
- 12/10 Bluefield Rescue Squad event
- 12/10 Bluefield Christmas Parade

2016 West Virginia Transit Excellence Awards

Best Management Innovation Award

Good Neighbor Award

Passenger Increase Award

2016 Staff Award Winners

Outstanding Maintenance Employee Of The Year

Christopher Lawson

Outstanding Transit Driver for Bluefield Area Transit

Clifton Riffe



We pride ourselves, and the State of West Virginia recognizes us, each year on providing clean and efficient travel options for citizens in our region and our students at our local colleges. Check out www.ridethebatbus.com to see how we could help you today!

- Pat McKinney, Executive Director

The Bluefield Storm Water Board is an offshoot of the Bluefield Sanitary Board charged with maintaining the storm water system in Bluefield, West Virginia. Activities include street sweeping, basin and pipe repair, cleaning of open ditches, detention and retention pond maintenance, and compliance with oversight agencies. The organization has a three-member governing board appointed by the Board of Directors and chaired by either the mayor or the city manager.

The Storm Water Board's acquisition of a new street sweeper truck in 2016 was a purchase of efficiency. The former truck was a two-engine large diesel truck that ran at 1-3 miles per gallon on fuel. The new truck is a single engine unit capable of 13-16 miles per gallon on fuel usage. The cost savings in fuel will assist the board and its employees in completing other projects around the city. The storm water system throughout the city is failing at catastrophic levels as the infrastructure is either very old or non-existent in many places. This is why street sweeping is critical to maintaining the system. Taking debris, leaves, garbage, and more out of the system protects the basin and pipe systems. This prevents back-up and flooding from happening in many homes.

A large problem being identified throughout the city is "I&I" or inflow and infiltration. This is where clean storm water is entering the sewer system. This clean water naturally does not need to be treated. However, many homes have rain water from gutters and drains going into sewer drains. The cost to treat this clean water impacts us all as it increases costs to our sewer bills. If you have I&I in your home, please consider fixing the issue. For more information or questions on this repair, please call the Bluefield Storm Water Board.

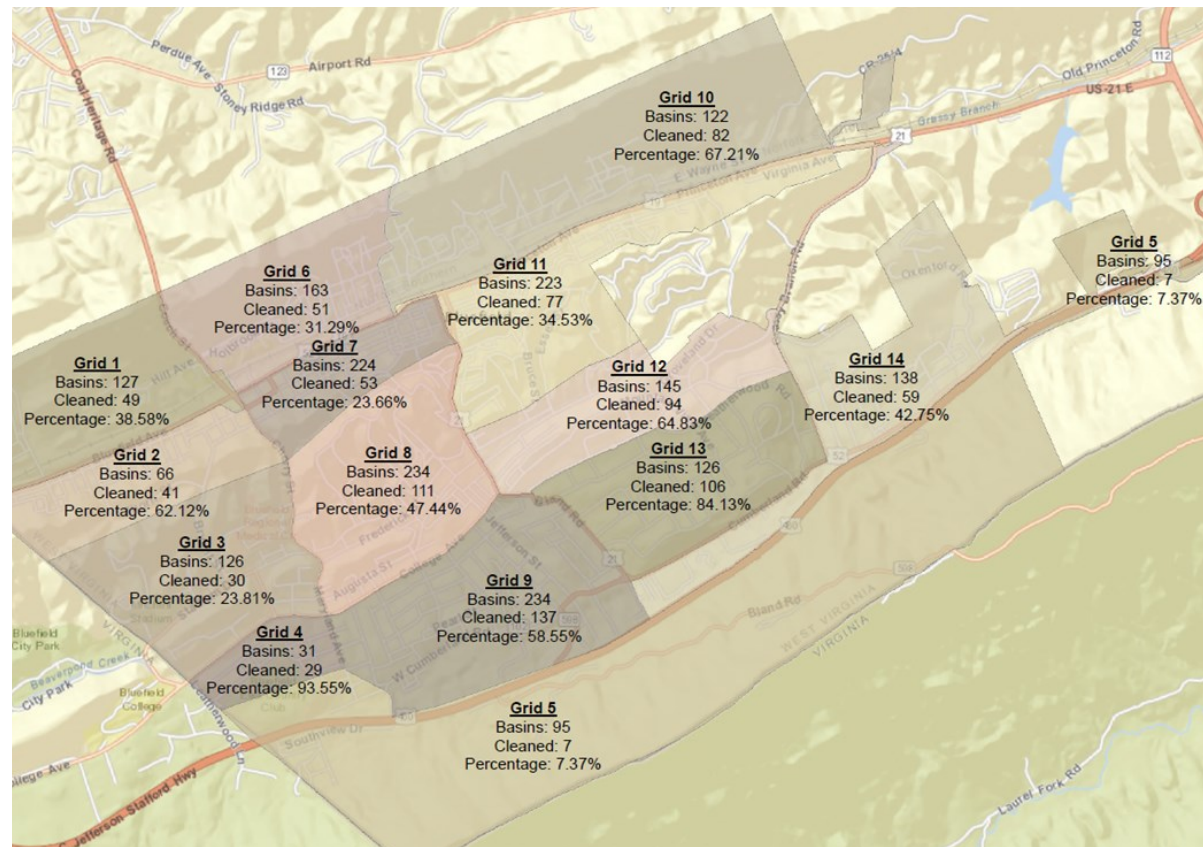
2016 Statistics

3,262 miles
of streets swept

2,351
basins, pipes, and
open ditches cleaned

2,301 tons
of debris removal

Basin Clean-Out Map (right)



A Race to the Top...

The Parks and Recreation Department hosted its first Health Race Series in partnership with Bluefield Middle School, Graham High School, Bluefield College, and Bluefield State College. The six race series provided opportunities for participants in a “Couch to 5K” program to run their first race, opportunities for local runners, and a focus on the health of the community! Participants were encouraged to join in as many races as possible as a male and female champion would be crowned at the end of the season. The City of Bluefield sponsored the Two Virginias 5K Challenge alongside the Town of Bluefield, Virginia and the race saw 162 participants. The Holiday of Lights 5K featured a run/walk through the lights, a costume contest, and 162 participants as well!



2016 Health Race Series Winners

Male Champion

Butch Currence, 75, Bluefield, West Virginia

Female Champion

Tabitha Price, 31, Bluefield, Virginia

2016 Health Race Series

Bluefield 5K Color Run

May 7

Trail Days 5K

May 14

Glow Run

May 20

Two Virginias 5K Challenge

August 27

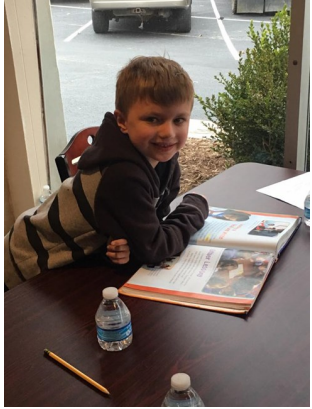
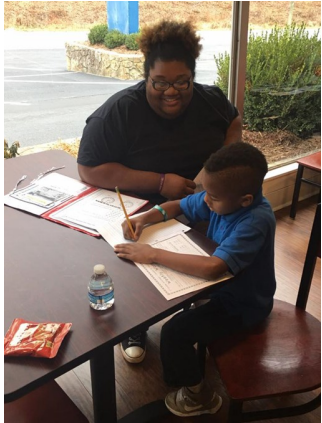
Jason Elswick Scholarship Challenge 5K

September 17

Holiday of Lights 5K Challenge

December 3

An After-School and Day Camp Program Built for Success...



The City of Bluefield's After-School and Day Camp programs began in 2016 as a way to provide parents a safe, healthy environment for students in the area. Structured childcare is a needed resource for working families. The program is open to children from kindergarten to middle school (ages 5-13). This program focuses on development of education values, physical fitness, social and emotional skills, and creativity in students. Tutoring and homework services are provided in addition to snacks and meals for program attendees. Transportation is available from select Mercer County schools from either Mercer County Public School buses or the Parks and Recreation bus.

Day camps are held during inclement weather days, school closings, holidays the facility is not closed for, and summer break. These camp days focus on enrichment of the student's life through physical activity and social engagement opportunities. Students are taken on field trips to great places like Craft Memorial Library, indoor rock climbing walls, the trampoline park, nature trails, Winterplace Ski Resort, zip-lining trips, petting zoos, and more!

This program is a worthwhile investment in our community. Creating safe, engaging spaces for our children is an important part of the economic vitality of our area. Slots are available today for your child to participate in this great program!

If you are interested in more
information on this program for your
student, please visit:

www.cityofbluefield.com
or call the
Parks and Recreation Department at
304.327.2448

Price Structure

Child Care Program*

*\$220 for first child per month and
\$200 per additional child per month*

After School Daily Rate

\$16/child

Day Camp Daily Rate

\$22/child

Mountain Heart Funding Accepted!



Bluefield Regional Medical Center (BRMC) is Bluefield's second largest employer in the city. Since the sale of the hospital to Community Health System (CHS), the corporation has invested over \$5.8 million dollars into facility renovations, revamped many departments with new staffing, and has invested heavily in new equipment for the facility. Medicare rates hospitals on a five star scale*. According to BRMC CEO Derek Cimala, "the reason for the measure and public report is to facilitate improvements in the health of the population by informing consumers about high or low quality providers and to provide information to hospitals that they can act upon to improve the care they deliver." The more stars the better the score, and in 2016 BRMC ranked higher compared with other local West Virginia hospitals! Congratulations Bluefield Regional Medical Center, our community partner highlight, and thank you for doing business in Bluefield!

December 2016 Scores

Bluefield Regional Medical Center	★ ★ ★
Princeton Community Hospital	★ ★
Raleigh General Hospital	★ ★
Beckley ARH Hospital	★ ★

*For more information, please visit: www.medicare.gov/hospitalcompare/results

2017 Dates to Remember

West Virginia Winter Warmer
February 18

Cole Chevy Mountain Festival
May 30-June 4

Municipal Election
June 6

Beaver-Graham Game/Lemonade Festival/Bluefield Blues Festival
August 25-26

Greater Bluefield Chamber of Commerce Coal Show
September 13-15

Trunk-or-Treat and Trick-or-Treating
October 31

Holiday of Lights
November 23-December 31

Holiday of Lights 2016



Over 51,000 visitors

\$42,000 in
donations collected

Bears Decorating Tree
is the 2017 new display