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Carroll Receives Public Safety Communications Grant

Approximately \$1.6 million was awarded to Carroll, Grayson, the City of Galax and Pulaski County for the installment of a digital microwave radio signal system and radio equipment upgrades.

Law enforcement, EMS and fire departments will now have the opportunity to communicate with a digital signal thanks to the awarding of the 2007 Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Grant for agencies in Carroll, Grayson, the City of Galax and Pulaski County.

"It's been a long process, but we are very fortunate and thankful in receiving this grant," said Brenda Marrah - Director of Resource Development for Carroll County and author of the PSIC Grant proposal. Marrah received her certification as a Grant Professional through the Grant Professionals Certification Institute and was one of the first in the nation to receive the award.

The PSIC Grant Program was from the Commonwealth of Virginia's Interoperability Office and was funded through the Department of Homeland Security with the amount of

approximately \$1.6 million for the installation of a digital microwave radio signal and radio equipment upgrades.

Once the signal is installed, law enforcement, EMS and fire agencies will be able to purchase radios that offer digital signal hookups.



Carroll Emergency Medical Services

Joe Roma - Emergency Services Coordinator for Carroll County said the United States is now requiring all emergency services to have digital radios. With the grant award, Roma expressed his thankfulness in receiving assistance in the cost of installing the digital radio signal in the area.

"Officer safety is our biggest concern," said Chief Deputy Glenn Nester of the Carroll County Sheriff's Department after commenting on the needs for the digital infrastructure. "We hope it works well," said Sheriff Warren Manning.

Nester said Carroll deputies have had problems communicating in certain areas in the county and he hopes that with the digital signal being installed, it will solve the communication problems for the department and in turn, create a much safer working environment for officers.

"Everybody has worked really hard to make this happen and without it, we couldn't have achieved this," said Marrah.

County Administrator Gary Larowe said that with the infrastructure, it will be a huge benefit to all agencies in the region and he expressed thanks to all that took part in the grant process.

Young Eagles Soar In Carroll

Approximately 40 students from Woodlawn Intermediate had the opportunity to fly in various aircraft at the Twin County Airport June 4 through the school's grant education program.

Excitement was filled in the air literally as approximately 40 rising 6th and 7th grade students at Woodlawn Intermediate School had the opportunity to fly in airplanes and a helicopter at the Twin County Airport on June 4.

"The kids are loving it and they're getting an experience in which they'll always remember," said Jennifer Campbell - 6th grade instructor at Woodlawn. **(continued on page 2)**

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Having students fly was part of Woodlawn's "Summer of Success" federal grant student enrichment program in which Campbell, along with her husband Marlin - another instructor at Woodlawn, both serve as program directors.

The flying enrichment activity was also part of Twin County Airport's "Young Eagles" rally program where private owners of airplanes and other various aircraft within the Twin County area volunteer their time to take students and children up in the air and offer them a flying experience.



Summer of Success goes from 8:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. Monday thru Friday in which students devote their time to reading and math exercises during the morning while partaking in enrichment activities in the afternoon such as martial arts, gardening and dance.

The program started on June 2 and will end on June 20. Students had to register during the school's regular academic year in order to participate. Students are taught by regular licensed instructors of Carroll and is held during Woodlawn's regular summer academic session. There is no cost for participation.

For more information on Summer of Success, contact Woodlawn Intermediate School at (276) 728-3981. To view photos from the program's event at the Twin County Airport, go to <http://gov.carrollcountyva.org/pressreleases/> and click on "Photo Album 2008" at the left of your screen.

Kids Appreciation Day Has Successful Turnout

Approximately 100 children participated in Kids Appreciation Day held at the Crooked Creek Fee Fishing and Wildlife Management Area in Woodlawn.



Children had a free opportunity to partake in fishing as the Crooked Creek Fee Fishing and Wildlife Management Area celebrated their annual Kids Appreciation Day on Saturday, June 7 in Woodlawn.

"We've had a pretty good turnout today," said Randy Hurst - Va. Game Warden for Carroll County, after stating that

approximately 100 children came out and participated in the event.

From 6 a.m. to 2 p.m., children within the ages of 12 and under had the opportunity to fish without paying the Area's normal fishing fee. Along with fishing, free hot dogs were served to the children provided by the Carroll County Office of Tourism. Chances for door prizes, such as fishing rods and tackle boxes, were given out among the children as well.

The Crooked Creek Fee Fishing and Wildlife Management Area offers approximately 1,500 feet of open stream fishing, which is regularly stocked throughout the year. It is open from 6:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. 7 days a week with concessions open from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.

A \$6.50 fee along with a Va. State Freshwater fishing license is required before fishing in the Management Area.

Individuals can actually purchase fishing and hunting licenses at the Area's concession stand.



For more information on Crooked Creek Fee Fishing and Wildlife Management Area, call (276) 733-0495. To view photos from the event, log onto <http://gov.carrollcountyva.org/pressreleases/> and click on the "Photo Album 2008" at the left of your screen.

Dickerson's Farm Equipment To Serve Carroll Citizens

Just a year in his business, Greg Dickerson currently has a 200 weekly customer base.

After working with farm machinery all of his life, Greg Dickerson decided to open up his own business - Dickerson's Equipment, located at 8162 Floyd Pike in Dugspur.



Dickerson's Equipment offers new and used farm equipment and parts, ranging from selling new and used tractors to even scraper blades and various parts for small lawnmowers and other equipment.

Before opening up his shop, Dickerson worked in construction for a number of years before

deciding on opening up and running his own business.

Dickerson has always been a resident of Carroll and was inspired to serve county citizens by providing a farm equipment service.

"I just thought I would open up a business in this area in which places a huge emphasis on providing parts," Dickerson said.

Dickerson gave thanks to Dr. Dallas Garrett - Director of Small Business Development for the Blue Ridge Crossroads Economic Development Authority for the assistance and development of getting his business started. "He worked really good with us and he offered a flexible time schedule in which we could conveniently meet with him on a regular basis," Dickerson said.

For more information on Dickerson's Farm Equipment, call (276) 728-2421.

Fiddlin' on the Lot Brings Out the Past

Local musicians show music heritage while local antique car owners bring out their cars.

Visions of the past strolled through Woodlawn as Fiddlin' on the Lot & Cruise In featured bluegrass music and antique cars on Saturday June 7.



"This has been the best one we've had this early," said Bobby Patterson, owner of The Heritage Shoppe. This was the 6th Fiddlin' on the Lot event with it being the 4th time as an official event of the Crooked Road - Virginia's Heritage Music Trail.

The festivities were located in the parking lot of Harmon's Women's Outlet, adjacent to the Heritage Shoppe and the Front Porch Gallery in Woodlawn.

Patterson also said that this was the first time the event featured antique cars and was impressed with the turnout.

Members from Woodlawn Ruritan Club were in attendance selling concessions for the event.

Attendants coming all the way from New Jersey listened to bluegrass and gospel music performed by local music artists. Performers included Bobby Patterson and other members of the Heritage IV gospel quartet, Ray Cox, Scott Thomas, Stu Shenk and many others. (continued on page 3)

(continued from page 2) The next Fiddlin' on the Lot event will be September 27, 2008. For more information, contact Bobby Patteron at (276) 236-3049. To view photos from the event, go to <http://gov.carrollcountyva.org/pressreleases/>. Click on "Photo Album 2008" at the left of your screen.

County Pool Opens For Summer

Saturday, June 7 was the opening day for the county's public pool at the Carroll County Recreation Park.

With the first official day of summer is coming up quickly, the Carroll County Recreation Department opened up its doors to the county's public pool on Saturday, June 7.



Throughout the summer months, the pool will be open Monday thru Friday from 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m.- 6 p.m. and Sunday from 1-6 p.m. Admission is \$3 for ages 5 and up - ages 4 and under are free.

The Recreation Department is currently taking reservations for pool parties to be scheduled on Saturday's and Sunday's from 7-9 p.m. Rental fee for the pool is \$65.

Larry Collins, director of the Recreation Department said that plans are underway of offering a possible swimming lessons program in July.

For more information on the county pool, contact the Carroll County Recreation Department at (276) 730-3191.

One On One With The Officials



Mr. Donnie Turner - Director of Tourism for Carroll County

Mr. Donnie Turner showcases all of Carroll's unique treasures by serving as

Director of Tourism for Carroll County. Born and raised in Hillsville, Donnie was part of the first graduation class of Carroll County High School where he was named the Most Valuable Player for the school's basketball team. He graduated from Berea College in Kentucky.

After having a career in recreation at the Galax Recreation Center, managing seafood restaurants in Blacksburg, Va. and West Palm Beach, Fl. and coming back to the area providing assistance to college students at Wytheville Community College, Donnie says he's proud to be serving his home county by promoting its strong tourism aspects.

The Carroll County Office of Tourism serves by providing information to travelers of the area on everything the county has to offer that's tourist-related, and continues to research and develop new tourism initiatives to keep tourism strong in the county area. With Carroll offering multiple tourist attractions, this leads to creating jobs and increasing economic development by tourists constantly coming into the county area.

According to Mr. Turner, "Latest figures show that Carroll County alone has approximately 650 tourist-related jobs and has brought in over 50 million dollars in revenue for the county. Tourism-related business entrepreneurs continually are looking at our area for business setup that will create more businesses and more jobs for the county. Tourism is great to work with and it's always a clean industry to work in as well."



Mrs. Freida White - Voter Registrar for Carroll County

Mrs. Freida White makes sure that people carry out their civic duty by serving as Voter Registrar for Carroll County. Being a life-long resident of the county, White is a graduate of Hillsville High School and actually worked her first job in the Voter Registrar's office.

White has worked in several county departments including the assessor's office and serving as the secretary to the county administrator. Eventually, White came back to the department she actually started in and became the Voter Registrar.

The Voter Registrar's office is responsible for overseeing the voting process in the county. It handles all voter records and processes ballots that come from all voting districts in the county on Election Day. The office is also responsible in keeping up with all information changes of voters in making sure each citizen's records are up to date.

According to Mrs. White, "We always have an open door and most of all, we would like to see more people in Carroll County voting. As of right now, there are only around 17,000 registered to vote out of the approximate 29,000 citizens of the county. Your vote always counts and the people that are voted into office pretty much control your life. They are able to set standards that can effect your way of living. It's extremely important to vote."

Carroll County was featured in The Washington Post!

To view the article, log on to

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/06/AR2008060601715.html>

Please Don't Forget!

Hillsville's Downtown Celebration and Classic Car Cruise-In

Saturday, June 28 @5:00p.m.

For more information, call (276) 728-2128 ext. 16

www.townofhillsville.com