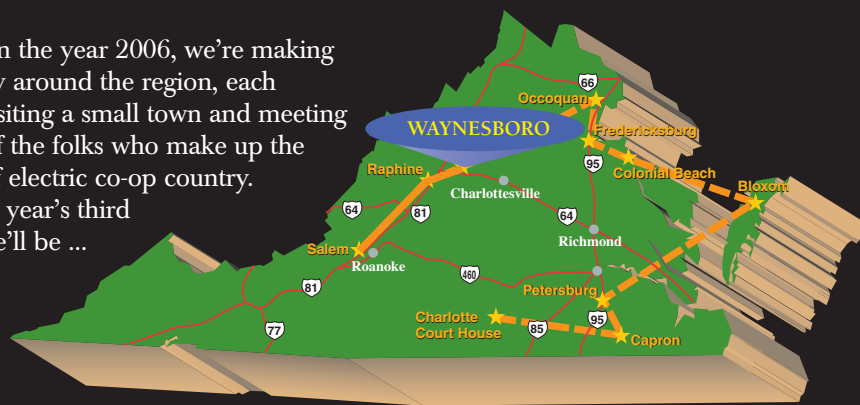


Again in the year 2006, we're making our way around the region, each issue visiting a small town and meeting some of the folks who make up the heart of electric co-op country. On this year's third stop, we'll be ...



DOWN HOME IN WAYNESBORO

by Cammie Tutwiler, Contributing Writer

AT A GLANCE ...

POPULATION: 19,800 in 2004

LAND AREA: 17 square miles

INCORPORATED: 1924

ELEVATION: Ranges between 1,050 and 1,800 ft.

FUN FACT: Waynesboro hosts the third-largest soap box derby in the world, the Blue Ridge Soap Box Derby Classic.

Start with the Blue Ridge Parkway, Skyline Drive, and the Appalachian Trail; wind the South River, one of two urban trout fisheries in the state, through the land; add several venues for art appreciation, a Civil War museum, and specialty shops; throw in a festival for every season, and you have the city of Waynesboro.

Downtown feels like a throwback, with most of the original buildings' facades still in place. The Wayne Theater, in the midst of renovation, still sits at the top of the hill. There is a Sam's Hot Dog Stand, and at the corner of downtown, the original Leggett building stands, only now it houses the popular Cycle-Recycle bicycle store.

Heading out of downtown, it is possible to feel that you are witnessing the evolution of a city in a couple-mile span.

Driving on Main Street out of town, the older buildings turn to strip malls and stand-alone structures; then fast-food establishments, banks and larger storefronts dot the scenery; on the outer edges of town,



CAMMIE TUTWILER PHOTOS



Re-enactors outside of the Plumb House, which was built in the early 1800s.

restaurants, coffee shops, gas stations and hotels are prevalent.

The city, incorporated in 1924 and granted "first-class status" as a city from the

The Wayne Theatre was built in 1926 and closed in 1999. The theatre is currently a revitalization project with the slogan, "... The Wayne. The Theatre with a vision."



The Shenandoah Valley Art Center, overlooking downtown, will relocate soon, but will remain in proximity to downtown.

state of Virginia in 1948, had a population of 19,800 in 2004. Downtown Waynesboro is a Virginia Main Street community and Virginia historic district.

The land for what would become Waynesboro was conferred to William Beverly in 1736 by King George II. Beverly transferred 465 acres of his land to Joseph Tees, who then established the village of Teesville.

In 1797, the town was named Waynesboro after the Colonial officer "Mad Anthony" Wayne.

Two Civil War skirmishes were fought in Waynesboro, on Sept. 19, 1864, and March



Docent Ruth Quillen and a featured quilt-exhibit item at the Shenandoah Valley Art Center.

Breeze by Cycle-Recycle Co. is located at 320 W. Main St. It features a large inventory of bicycles and accessories.

Rockfish Gap Outfitters, located at 1461 E. Main St., has plenty of gear for all of your outdoor adventures.

The Purple Foot is good for two stops, consolidated into one. If you're looking for garden décor, specialty foods, or a great wine selection, it's there. If you're looking for a tasty sandwich, soup, or dessert, you can stop at the Purple Foot, too. Located at 1035 W. Broad St.

Scotto's offers authentic Italian fare; located at 1412 W. Broad St.

The South River Restaurant & The Paddock Wine Shop, located at 23 Windigrove Lane, offer a variety of lunch and dinner items, with pizzas, pastas, steaks and

seafood featured on the dinner menu. The Paddock Wine Shop offers red and white wines, with multiple wine events scheduled each month.

The Waynesboro Heritage Museum, closed until fall 2006 for renovations, is located downtown at the corner of Main Street and Wayne Avenue. The museum showcases pictures, antiques, collectibles, a world-class doll collection and a Valley Native American artifacts collection.

Virginia Metalcrafters is a home furnishings company that has been producing high-quality pieces since 1890. The company creates items for both home and garden. The factory outlet showroom features lighting and garden and fireplace accessories. It's located at 1010 East Main St. and the Waynesboro Outlet Village.

When you go might be as important as where you go. In 2006 ... the **Virginia Fly Fishing Festival** will be held April 22-23 on the banks of the South



2, 1865, six weeks before the end of the war.

A brochure is available about the streets that are located on the grounds of the Battle of Waynesboro.

The Plumb House Museum, located at 1021 West Main St., offers an opportunity to pick up a map and the story of the battle. Restoration efforts are continuing on this location, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Virginia Landmarks Register, and as a Virginia Civil War Trails Location.

"The Plumb House is our tribute to the Civil War. The house stood during the Civil War between enemy lines," says **Lianne Crookshanks**, Waynesboro's director of tourism. "A washtub full of shells was collected by the Plumb family."

She says Civil War memorabilia are on display at the Plumb House.



Director of Tourism Lianne Crookshanks at Waynesboro's Office of Tourism, which is located downtown on Main Street.

"There is a very nice collection in the Civil War room," she notes.

It may seem surprising for a smaller city, but Waynesboro is home to the Artisans Center of Virginia – a museum for artists that's known across the country, and the Shenandoah Valley Art Center.

The Artisans Center of Virginia, currently located just off of Interstate 64, is a little more than five years old.

"Our goal is to provide a presence for the approximately 3,000 artisans that live and work in the state of Virginia," says **Michael Dowell**, executive director for the Artisans



River at Constitution Park from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. Ideal for fly fishers of all abilities, from those new to the sport to experienced anglers!

Riverfest will be held April 29. This is an all-day event to celebrate the South River. A different "river spirit" is celebrated each year.

The Tour of Shenandoah Bike Race will be held April 30 in Waynesboro. Waynesboro is the final stage of the seven-stage tour, which makes stops in seven Valley locations.

The Blue Ridge Soap Box Classic will be held June 3. In the third-largest soap box derby in the world, the racers scream down Main Street, which is lined with hay bales and spectators.

Cyclists climb the mountainous terrain around Waynesboro during the Tour of Shenandoah Bike Race. Waynesboro is the last stage of the race, which takes place annually in April.

XtremeFest will be June 3 – "Hike It, Bike It, Paddle It, Climb It." Adventure sports, such as rock climbing, kayaking, mountain biking, and hiking will be showcased at this event, which is open to everyone, from novices to veterans.

Summer Extravaganza will be July 8-9 at Ridgeview Park, a weekend's worth of family fun featuring entertainment, food, music and arts.

The Apple Days celebration will be **October 7-8** at Willow Oak Plaza, featuring exhibitions and sales of food, crafts, and gifts.

The Virginia Fall Foliage Festival will be October 14-15. Between 15,000 and 20,000 people visit this yearly exhibition and sale highlighting works of more than 200 artists. The festival takes place downtown. ■



He adds that visitors can expect to see museum-quality work in the gallery.

"They will see some of the finest work being produced in the state of Virginia by Virginia artisans," Dowell says. The center also has a retail sales gallery. In the future, the

center will relocate. For updates on the time frame of the move and further information, visit www.artisanscenterofvirginia.org.

The P. Buckley Moss Museum, which opened in 1989, is located near the Artisans Center. The museum attracts about 45,000 visitors a year and displays a permanent collection of Moss' work. Tours and video presentations are available and a sales gallery offers a selection of prints and other gift items. Visit the Web site at www.pbuckleymoss.com.

"Her permanent collection is remarkably vast. I am always blown away by how much artwork is displayed in the museum,"



The Artisans Center of Virginia (above) was endorsed by the Virginia General Assembly in 1999 as the Official State Center for Craft.

Center of Virginia, Virginia's Official Center for Craft.

He says the center has a different artisan every month, usually a Virginia artisan.

"We concentrate on the best of the best," Dowell says. "To be featured they have to go through a juried program."

The P. Buckley Moss Museum (right) features an extensive collection of Moss' works.

Crookshanks says. "There is an extraordinary amount of work there. My absolute favorite is her tribute to 9/11."

The Shenandoah Valley Art Center is located at the top of Main Street in a yellow building. The organization is working on plans for the construction of a new center, to remain located near downtown.

Docent **Ruth Quillen** says the center features paintings, sculptures, quilts and other forms of art.

There are two galleries at the center – the invitational gallery, where visitors who have applied and passed judges' muster are shown, and the SVAC members' gallery, where members display and sell their work.

"The art center itself really caters to the artists in the area and art enthusiasts," Quillen says. She adds that three times a year, the center hosts workshops with nationally known artists. "People from all over the country come to those," she says.

"Our biggest draw, I believe, is the Blue Ridge Parkway and Skyline Drive," says tourism's Crookshanks.

The Blue Ridge Parkway, Skyline Drive, and Appalachian Trail are all a three-mile drive from Waynesboro.

"Hikers are a wonderful boost to our economy here," Crookshanks continues. "However, we have a significant number of people who visit due to the proximity of the Blue Ridge Parkway and Skyline Drive. We're a terrific location for the outdoor enthusiast simply because of where we are."

She says Appalachian Trail hikers stop in Waynesboro because it's one of the first full-service cities they come to after leaving the trail's mouth in Georgia.

The Blue Ridge Parkway is a product of the Great Depression era as a means of access to the Shenandoah and Great Smoky Mountains national parks. Construction started in 1935 and finished in 1987. Campgrounds, picnic areas, visitor centers, lodges and restaurants offer opportunities for adventure and enjoyment.

Skyline Drive is a 105-mile road that follows the crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Miles of hiking trails are available through many different types of terrain.

The idea for the Appalachian Trail came about in 1921 when conservationist Benton Mackaye suggested an "experiment in regional planning." Work started on the trail in 1922 and by 1937 the 2,100-mile trail was finished.

Waynesboro is also home to one of only two urban trout fisheries in the state – the South River. The river runs through downtown, connecting the five city parks. Plans are in the works for a South River Greenway.

"I think we live in one of the best possible places you can live in Virginia," Crookshanks says. "More and more we see people come from the northeast to move here. They visit here, they vacation here, then they want to know what's for sale." ■