

TROUTVILLE Tidbits



Brought to you by Friends of the Park

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We Are On A Vision Quest For Our Town!

Answer this....Who is Troutville? And, what is/should be the major focus for our town?

Our Mayor, Bill Rader, stated, "Troutville is a nice, small country town with a park that everybody likes." (*Troutville's Greatest Asset; Botetourt Living 2008*). Our Park Manager, Cecil Bingham, was quoted in another publication, "This park is probably the heartbeat of the town." (*Four Days, Five Towns; Blue Ridge Country 2008*). **But are we only about our Park?**

Our quest began by interviewing all of the town council members, numerous residents and various business leaders in our community. We also reached out to the Botetourt County Tourism Director for additional insights. Here is a sample of what we heard:

Troutville....has no identity...needs cleaning up...serves no purpose...is Route 11 with a few houses along the way...is not business friendly...the park is the heartbeat...is living in the country, but it's like living in town...has a great consumable asset to build tourism: The Trails!

Trouville needs...parking solutions...to bring back the small shops...to have sidewalks all the way...a visitors center, especially for all the trail people...to build on its railroad heritage...for it's residents to feel like it is THEIR Town...to be a DESTINATION for people.

In short, we determined that we need a VISION and a Strategic Plan for our town! So, on February 18, Sybille Nelson presented our findings and recommendations to Town Council. She shared with them key information about our Town's History and our Key Assets (listed on Page 2). She asked them to appoint a chairperson for this work effort with the expectation that a strategic plan will be developed in partnership with the Appalachian Trail and the Roanoke Rail Consortia. They would also hold town meetings to hear from more Troutville citizens, and involve our extended community via contests to come up with the permanent town logo and the ultimate visual logo for our town. In the meantime, we have a placeholder for our town logo: "Troutville....where the trails meet!"

Two town council members volunteered to work on this initiative: Helen Tippie and Granville Grant (our new Vice Mayor). We plan to keep you updated on this important quest for our town!

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The Poulin House

By Granville Grant

Hello neighbors! My family and I lived north of the Town of Troutville for 17 years. Every day we drove through town going to and from Roanoke, passing this stately Victorian style farm house on the town's "Main Street". I always thought how neat it would be to live within the town limits, on the corner of Route 11, the one and only thoroughfare at one time through the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, and Maple Avenue.

One day I was riding through town and there was a 'For Sale' sign in front of the house. I contacted the listing agent to inquire of the particulars. My wife and I drove into the driveway several times to see the place closer, and even walked around the house and throughout the yard. We finally got up the nerve to take a tour...and another tour...and another tour...and another tour. We never could take our eyes off the house when we drove through town. In some ways, we hoped that someone would buy it and we would not have to worry about it anymore. On the other hand, we were scared to death that someone would buy it.

Sometime later, the 'For Sale' sign changed to include another sign that read 'Contract Pending.' I immediately got a knot in my throat and my heart began to race. I contacted the listing agent and learned that the potential buyer required a rezoning of the property and wanted to turn it into a restaurant. I could not believe it! Turn that beautiful home into a restaurant and that beautifully kept and landscaped yard into a parking lot? The rezoning came before the Town Council twice and was voted down. We bought the house to keep it as a residence, and now Troutville has a nice restaurant just around the corner.

From the day we moved in, we would run into our friends and neighbors, tell them that we had moved and describe the house and its location. Time after time following our description, the response would be, "You mean, the Poulin House?" Well, after hearing that question so many times, we found ourselves scrapping the directions and description and just said, "We bought the Poulin House."

It's been over a year since we moved in, and we have loved every minute. The house is 100 years old and has been very well kept. Maybe some day it will be referred to as the "Grant House." But until then, we are completely happy with the Poulin House. I hope that the Grants can be as good stewards to this place as the Poulins and those before them were.

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