

april 2006



www.roanokepreservation.org

# ROANOKE VALLEY PRESERVATION FOUNDATION focus

## Virginian Station plan back on track

### \$300,000 in grants could get building under temporary roof

A restaurant, an architect's office or perhaps an office for the railroad retirement board.

These were the most popular ideas for a new use for Roanoke's Virginian Station at a March 31 workshop that looked at the historic building's future.

The National Railway Historical Society/Roanoke Chapter, which owns the station, had planned to use it as a museum, but found that plan financially unworkable. The group needs to find a use for the building that would bring in rent money.

Suggestions made by the 30 or so people who attended the workshop ranged from package store to city police station, from greenway office to branch bank. All the ideas will be considered and the most promising ones will be included in the business plan now being developed.

The station was built about 1910 and served the Virginian Railway, which operated in Virginia and West Virginia until it was purchased by Norfolk & Western in 1959. The station was home to a feed store when it burned in January 2001.

The station was subsequently listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

"It's one of the most interesting stations, architecturally, left standing in the area,"



The Virginian Station project is a joint venture of the National Railway Historical Society/Roanoke Chapter and the Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation. Members of these two groups, as well as officials from the city and from the National Trust for Historic Preservation attended the workshop.

said Mike Pulice, an architectural historian with the state Department of Historic Resources and a board member of the Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation.

Alison Blanton, also an RVPF board member and an architectural historian with Hill Studio, which facilitated the workshop, said so far more than \$300,000 has been promised in state and federal

transportation money for the station rehabilitation.

Tax credits for historic preservation, as well as for easements, are also possible funding sources, she said.

The first phase of fixing up the station, she said, is to get the building under a temporary tarpaper roof. When the time comes

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## 11 awards to be presented for good and bad work

Ten awards for merit in preservation practice and the second annual Bulldozer Award for bad practice will be presented by the Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 13.

The award ceremony take place at a residential project of the Roanoke Redevelopment and Housing Authority in the 400 block of Day Avenue S.W.

A reception will be held from noon to 2 p.m. with house

tours following from 2 to 5 p.m.

The foundation is continuing its annual tradition of recognizing exemplary work in residential and commercial restoration, adaptive reuse,

rehabilitation and stewardship as well as people who have made outstanding contributions to preservation.

The individual awards are

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## Mastering plaster



Roanoke Realtor Melissa Morgan, an RVPF board member, puts a coat of lightweight gypsum plaster on metal lath during a restoration workshop March 25 at Buena Vista House in Roanoke. Sponsored by the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, "Why Old Buildings Fall Down! and Historic Window and Plaster Repair" was the first of several restoration workshops and conferences planned this year. Richard Byrne, a restoration consultant from Staunton, taught classes in moisture control and historic window repair, while Sam Saufley, of the Shenandoah Valley Rural Heritage Foundation, taught a class in plaster restoration. Those who attended included architects, architectural historians, architectural review board members, tradesmen and old-home owners. Upcoming workshops include one on masonry and woodwork conservation May 20 in Richmond County and a traditional trades workshop Sept. 22-24 in Surry County. More information is available at [www.apva.org](http://www.apva.org) or (804) 648-1889, ext. 314.

## Franklin Co. monument, Fincastle on APVA list

The Town of Fincastle and the Booker T. Washington National Monument in Franklin County have been nominated for the Most Endangered Sites in Virginia listing of the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (APVA).

Both were recognized as endangered sites by the Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation last fall.

In the Fincastle nomination, submitted by Historic Fincastle Inc., the county seat is described as the oldest incorporated town west of the Blue Ridge, dating from 1770. The town has more than 100 contributing buildings, some built in the 1770s.

Fincastle "is seriously at risk due to the threat of rapid, ill-planned growth that will undermine its historic character and scenic viewsheds," according to the nomination. Two significant contributing historic properties are for sale and another abutting the town boundary is also on the block.

Efforts to update the town's comprehensive plan, assisted by Virginia Tech graduate students, are under way. And a coalition of citizens interested in protecting the U.S. 220 corridor is at work.

But the threat of sprawl from two residential projects near the town "is imminent and current zoning ordinances in both the town and in the area outside the town are not protective."

The nomination of the Franklin County historic property, prepared by several members of the Foundation, describes the threat near the eastern boundary of the monument, off Virginia 122.

Franklin County supervisors have rezoned a 57-acre tract with special use permits for a shopping center, office park, medical facility and townhouses very near the birthplace of Booker T. Washington, a nationally significant African-American educator. The immediate threat is to a walking trail at the rear of the property.

The developer has offered to place a buffer between the townhouses and the trail. Delegate Onzlee Ware, D-Roanoke, introduced a bill that failed in the General Assembly, intended to provide funding to buy some of the property proposed for development. Ware said he still has hopes that some funds may be available from the governor's budget.

— George Kegley

## AWARDS

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given in fields ranging from the environment, preservation, cultural resources, education, heritage, advocacy, good neighbor and lifetime achievement.

The awards to be announced May 13, during National Preservation Month, will go to three individuals, adaptive

uses of three old buildings, one group project and three renovated landmarks.

The Bulldozer Award will be given for the loss of a significant structure.

Last year's awards went to the Texas Tavern, for longtime maintenance/stewardship; Roanoke Valley Printworks for rehabilitation/stewardship; Old Lawrence Market building, restoration/rehabilitation; Reid's Fine Furnishings

and Too Many Books, commercial rehabilitation; Dr. Warren Moorman, lifetime achievement; Charles Blankenship, lifetime achievement in environmental stewardship; Dan Jones cultural resources; Virginia Lee, posthumously for education/cultural resources; and the Slate Hill project at U.S. 220 and Virginia 419, the first Bulldozer Award.

— George Kegley

## STATION

from Page One

to put on the final roof, one thing in the station's favor is that the maker of its roof tiles, Ludovici Tile, is still in business.

The NRHS/Roanoke Chapter website, [www.roanokeNRHS.org](http://www.roanokeNRHS.org), is under construction and will soon be available with updates on project progress.

— Mike Kennedy

# This & That

## Meeting dates scheduled for the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees meets the first Monday of even-numbered months. Meetings are scheduled for June 5, August 7 and October 2.

Unless otherwise advised, all meetings are at 5:30 p.m. at Hill Studio, 120 W. Campbell Ave., Roanoke.

No date has as yet been set for the Annual Meeting, which is usually held in late November or early December.

## New officers elected at annual meeting

The Board of Trustees elected the fol-

lowing officers and board members at the Foundation's Annual Meeting on Nov. 29, 2005:

Evie Slone, president; Mike Kennedy, vice president; Elaine Powers, secretary; and Al McLean, treasurer.

The following board members were re-elected for a three-year term ending in 2009: Anne Beckett, Elaine Powers, Mike Pulice and Mark Clark.

## Contact information given for Foundation officers

President Evie Slone may be contacted at 342-5263 work, or 989-7392 home.

Vice President Mike Kennedy can be contacted at mikenne3@vt.edu or 981-4372 cell, or 345-8915 home.

## Much responsibility rests with board's committees

The Board of Trustees has six committees where the much of the real work of the Foundation is done.

The Community Activities Committee coordinates all special events and community activities for the foundation.

The Finance Committee's job is to establish and promote sound fiscal policies and procedures for the Foundation.

The Fund Raising Committee provides necessary funding to meet program requirements and ensures that all fundraising efforts are performed in a professional manner.

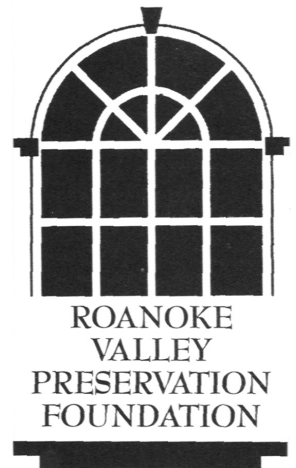
The Heritage Education Committee's purpose is to plan programs relating to heritage education for the Foundation. Among its responsibilities is developing Standards of Learning lesson plans and materials to assist teachers in educating students using local historic and cultural resources.

The Membership Committee solicits new members and coordinates all membership activities.

The Public Relations Committee oversees and manages the production of all general publications, press releases, etc. of the Foundation.

**YES!** I want to help preserve and protect the Valley's historic, natural and cultural heritage by joining the Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation.

\$5	Student	\$100	Friend of Preservation
\$10	Teacher	\$250	Foundation Sponsor
\$25	Individual	\$500	Landmark Donor
\$40	Family	\$1,000	Cornerstone Club
\$75	Business/Organization	Other	\$ _____



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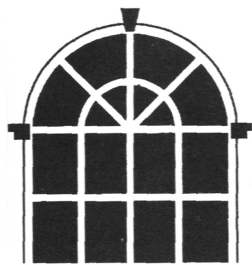
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Please make your check payable to the Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation and return to:  
Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation  
P.O. Box 1366  
Roanoke VA 24007



*The Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation  
cordially invites you to its  
2006 Annual Awards Ceremony and Reception,  
noon to 2 p.m.  
Saturday, May 13,  
at Miller's Hill  
400 block Day Avenue Southwest,  
Roanoke, Virginia.  
Miller's Hill Open House Tour to follow,  
2 p.m. to 5 p.m.*



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