



Calendar Year 2014

Grayson County Comprehensive Plan Report

Presented to the Grayson County Board of Supervisors 06/11/15



Grayson County Planning Commission and Grayson
County Administration and the Department of
Planning & Community Development

Grayson County Comprehensive Plan Report

Overview: In 2013, The Grayson County Comprehensive Plan identified the overarching goals or themes for economic advancement, long term sustainability and the general well-being of the county and its' citizens.

- Goals:
- a. Support life-long learning opportunities
 - b. Educate and prepare tomorrow's youth for the regional workforce
 - c. Protect the natural and cultural assets of the county
 - d. Improve infrastructure throughout the county
 - e. Strengthen the local economy and increase job growth
 - f. Improve citizen's quality of life and promote healthy lifestyle choices
 - g. Continue efforts to provide safe communities
 - h. Establish reasonable, predictable, and sustainable land-use policy/tools.
 - i. Prepare for issues relating to dynamic shifts in population demographics.
 - j. Promote a responsible and efficient use of government resources.
 - k. Utilize local and regional partnerships.

To meet the goals listed above, strategies/action items were developed and proposed after a series of meetings between the Grayson County Planning Commission and County Administration, County Department Heads, leaders of the county and input from the citizen survey and youth survey.

The strategies were ranked with Priority 1 items identified as most important or time sensitive and Priority 2 and 3 as less critical. The Goal and Action Plan was developed to provide guidance on county priorities for the time period of five (5) years, from December 2013 until the next amendment of the Grayson County Comprehensive Plan, scheduled for December 2018.

The original Chapter 13 – Goals & Action Plan, portion of the Comprehensive Plan, including the one hundred and ten (110) strategies can be found in the Comprehensive Plan Document available at www.graysongovernment.com/uploadimages/GraysonCompPlan_12_18_13.pdf

Purpose: The purpose of this report is to highlight those activities which were initiated or completed **January 1st, 2014** through **December 31st, 2014** and related to a strategy in the Comprehensive Plan. The table provides a summary of these activities. **Attachment A** provides additional information from those Departments who volunteered to submit this information. This report is written for the Grayson County Board of Supervisors as part of an ongoing yearly assessment system that updates the Board of Supervisors on the county's progress in achieving the goals and strategies listed in the Comprehensive Plan.

Prepared by: Grayson County Planning Commission, Grayson County Administration and the Department of Planning & Community Development. Compiled with input from Grayson County Department Heads, Staff, Elected & Appointed Officials and organizations affiliated with Grayson County.

Grayson County, VA - Summary of Action Items- Calendar Year 2014

Strategy Identifier	Strategy Description	Status	2014 Highlights
Priority 1			
1	Comprehensive Plan Accountability- conduct yearly assessment of the county's progress in achieving the goals and strategies. The findings shall be drafted and submitted as an Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors.	Ongoing	Present to the BOS –June 2015
2	Support efforts, where feasible, to encourage the development of advanced communication infrastructure; broadband, wireless internet, and cell coverage/towers.	Ongoing	<p>Through 2013, the Wired Road Authority managed the Grant Computing Center, which had attracted 797 registered users and an average 98 of those users visited the center on a weekly basis.</p> <p>In 2014, the Wired Road completed another wireless tower in Troutdale, which is providing broadband service to the community.</p>
3	Continue support of regional economic development authorities and small business incubators/development centers.	Ongoing	<p>The Blue Ridge Crossroads SBDC served the Twin County residents by providing free business counseling and low cost or free training. In 2014 a total of 153 clients sought services resulting in 648 hours of free counseling services. Additionally, 39 of those clients received 5+ hours of one on one services. The SBDC hosted 11 free training events with a total of 178 attendees. The SBDC assisted with 9 new business starts with 1/3 of those being in Grayson County. The Twin County area saw a capital investment of new or existing businesses in the amount of \$2,115,239. This capital investment helped create 122 new jobs and retain 96 jobs. Additionally, the County continues to support the Twin County Regional Chamber of Commerce.</p>
4	Continue recruitment efforts of industries to the Wildwood Industrial Park, Blue Ridge Crossroads Commerce Park and the Grayson County Industrial Park.	Ongoing	In 2014, the Blue Ridge Crossroads EDA completed utilities to serve Wildwood Commerce Park, including water, wastewater, fiber, and access

			road. Also, natural gas service was initiated. BRCEDA reached the second phase of site certification with McCallum Sweeney Consulting and was invited to complete the site certification process in 2015. Site certification signifies that an industrial park is “ready” for development.
5	Encourage efforts to ensure the necessary infrastructure is in place and operating at the Wildwood Industrial Park, Grayson County Industrial Park, Blue Ridge Crossroads Commerce Park, and other industrial developments where they align with Grayson County’s best interest.	Ongoing	See #4 above – Wildwood Commerce Park A geo-technical report and an appraisal report were conducted on the Grayson County Industrial Park. Both actions are necessary to further facilitate development of the site.
6	Reduce county debt and maintain a healthy county budget by using tools such as fundraising, grant writing, and progressive loan management; develop partnerships and new revenue streams to fund county projects.	Ongoing	In 2014, County Departments secured 30 grants, totaling more than \$2,525,000 for county projects. County Admin developed and executed a Debt Reduction Plan and paid off four (4) long term notes ahead of schedule, saving the county more than \$510,000 in interest payments. The County received a score of an A by Robinson Farmer & Cox (independent auditor firm) for the 2014 Grayson County Audit and an A+ for the County’s Net Financial Position and Fund Balance
7	Support a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) that ensures efficient operation of county departments, facilities and projects.	Ongoing	In 2014, the County completed three (3) CIP items, including the Water Meter Replacement Project, the Phone System Replacement Project and the purchase of a new Building Official Vehicle. Partially completed (6) CIP items, including Courtroom Renovation Project, Pedestrian Trail Phase II, Courthouse Elevator Project, Recreation Park Trail/Bathroom Project, Public Works Compactor Truck and Transfer Station Projects.

8	Develop and implement a comprehensive financial policy that includes an effective and transparent budgeting process.	Ongoing	<p>County Administration in partnership with the Treasurer's Office installed new computer software and accounting procedures to streamline the interface between incoming and outgoing receipts and revenues.</p> <p>County Administration has converted the County Budget to Excel and openly presents and explains the budget to the Board and the public during a series of work sessions as well as publicly presents and adopts the Annual Budget, Mission, Goals and Objects and provides them to the public and the media.</p>
9	Maintain a healthy general fund balance to protect against financial calamity.	Ongoing	The County adopted a Fund Balance Policy and has seen that policy requirement exceed and has enjoyed continual growth of the General Fund Balance year-over-year and increased overall financial stability.
10	Require a code of ethics and a code of conduct for all county board authorities, commissions, and employees.	Ongoing	Currently, the Grayson County Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, Economic Development Authority and Key Staff have signed a Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct. Additionally, the County developed and adopted a new Grayson County Employee Handbook that better conveys ethic and conduct requirements and all employees are required to sign off as agreeing to the conditions of the Handbook.
11	Support volunteer emergency services to ensure that all residents can receive timely emergency assistance.	Ongoing	<p>In 2014, county contributed \$2500 to all volunteer fire and rescue agencies.</p> <p>Finance Office assisted with applications for two emergency services grants, totaling \$312,000</p> <p>County financially supported the E911 Program with the City of Galax.</p> <p>Grayson Tourism invested over \$1000 in promotion/marketing of festivals which are fundraisers for VFD/VRS</p>

			The County for the first time is including in the County's FY-16 General Operating Budgeting, monies for Emergency Response Communications Equipment repairs and preventative maintenance.
12	Prioritize school system capital projects with net cost savings as identified in the previous energy audit.	Pending	Pending
13	Provide advanced technology and technology infrastructure to schools and students. Consider donation infrastructure to get free items.	Ongoing	School System initiated first round of "Digital Conversion" complete with 300 laptops handed out to students. Work continues to strengthen technology infrastructure.
14	Offer diverse after school programs to include non-athletic activities such as ag/forestry, career readiness, arts and craft internships, college courses, leadership training, trade skills and advance degree programs.	Ongoing	<p>County Extension/4-H partners in the 21st Century Program/afterschool hands-on interactive learning & the 4-H camp program, the 4-H teen leadership and the youth cattle working program/animal husbandry.</p> <p>NRSWCD received a working farm donation from Don Philen, to be used for agricultural education.</p> <p>Grayson County Board of Supervisors have offered up to the School Board a substantial supplemental appropriation for FY-16 to develop programing in Workforce Readiness and Career & Technical Education, Fine Arts & Culture programing and/or equipment, and programing and/or equipment for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (S.T.E.M.)</p> <p>The Matthews Living History Farm Museum has offered an SOL based Farm Days experience to K-1st grade, free of charge to all Grayson County Schools for almost a decade and continues with the program this year. *Note: Honors AG students have been given the opportunity for multiple years to participate in the program, giving them leadership training. While teachers and program directors were enthusiastic, school administrators were not supportive</p>

			Blue Ridge Discovery Center offers a large variety of in-school and after school programs for the areas youth and adults to learn about natural science, ecology, art and more. Programs include; Mount Rogers Naturalist Rally, Blue Ridge Harvest Calendar, Blue Ridge Expeditions, BRDC Book Club, Avian Adventures, Blue Ridge Illustrated, Fish Bugs, Trout in the Classroom and activities in the City of Galax with the enrichment program. A bio-survey plot has been established at Matthews State Forest for youth education and research.
15	Consider performance based salaries and incentive salaries to attract/keep high performing teachers.	Pending	Pending
16	Increase Career & Tech Education Program and consider other trade based youth/adult programs to educate “workforce ready” population for local employment or for small business development. May include; AC&Refrigeration, Masonry, Landscaping, Building Trades, EMT, Criminal Justice, Property Mgmt, Ag/Forestry, Home Health/Medical, Culinary Arts	Ongoing	<p>Grayson Co. Career & Tech Center added an EMT course in Fall 2014.</p> <p>County Extension/4-H provides Youth Meat Quality Assurance Program and Beef Quality Assurance Program certification skills- nineteen (19) youth were certified.</p> <p>County Extension/4-H assists with USDA low interest loan applications for youth to purchase/begin farming</p> <p>4-H Teen Club-development of soft skills/job skills, supervision, planning & management.</p> <p>Grayson LandCare/Independence Farmers Market involved in farm/ag/forestry based training activities (see Appendix A)</p> <p>Grayson County Board of Supervisors have offered up to the School Board a supplemental appropriation for FY-16 to develop programing in Workforce Readiness and Career & Technical Education</p>
17	Partner with established colleges to offer a “satellite campus” in Grayson County for advanced degrees and long distance learning.	Pending	Pending

18	Consider vacant spaces/buildings to utilize for advanced learning, trade education, small business development, community centers, mentorship/internship headquarters, and other programs.	Pending	Pending
19	Assess the unmet needs of the elderly and develop a strategy to mitigate concerns and meet future needs.	Pending	Several departments currently assist the elderly however a complete assessment is needed.
20	Review existing zoning districts and consider new zoning districts to achieve community land use goals.	Complete	As part of the Zoning Ordinance rewrite it was determined that the existing Zone Districts meet the land use goals for the County.
21	Conduct a Zoning Ordinance review and consider amendments for ease of use and to achieve land use goals.	Complete	Zoning Ordinance revision included changes that improved readability, ease of use and meets current land use goals.
22	Conduct Feasibility Study for school system "Early Diversion Program". Program will identify students who may benefit from career/ technical training programs.	Pending	Pending
23	Create inventory of the privately owned commercial and industrial sites and assist, where possible, with infrastructure needs or marketing to spur economic development.	Ongoing	<p>County Administration & Economic Development partners assisted Core Health & Fitness, LLC (Nautilus), Hanson Turbine, LLC and Independence Lumber, Inc. with creative financing, grants, and programs to locate or expand operations – resulting in 300+ new qualified jobs, retention of 85 jobs and \$9.55 M in new capital investment.</p> <p>BRCEDA continues to actively market the available properties in Fries for business re-development, in coordination with the Town of Fries and Virginia Department of Housing & Community Development.</p>
24	Promote small business development by encouraging creative financing programs such as revolving loan funds.	Ongoing	<p>In concert with People Inc., the EDA developed a new Revolving Loan Fund Program for small businesses.</p> <p>The SBDC assists clients in working with an array of lenders to help</p>

			leverage these funds against one another for lower interest rates, total capital need fulfillment and to increase the overall probability for success.
25	Continue to support web based GIS for citizen's use.	Ongoing	Online GIS – Free service is available on the internet for public use.
26	Proceed with Phase II and Explore Phase III of the Independence Pedestrian and Bike Trail.	Ongoing	Phase II design is at 95% plans and slated for construction.
27	Conduct education and outreach to floodplain property owners.	Complete	Utilized grant resources to mail out National Flood Insurance Program and Floodplain Information to 1,350 landowners with property in the Special Flood Hazard Area.
28	Review and amend land use ordinances to ensure that they are aligned with each other and meet state and federal criteria. Align the ordinances with land use goals.	Ongoing	Conducted a complete rewrite of the Zoning Ordinance and made updates to the Subdivision Ordinance. The Building Dept. redrafted and the Board adopted the Erosion & Sediment Control Ordinance. Additionally, the Building Dept. completed a new draft of the Grayson County Stormwater Ordinance, bringing the Stormwater Management Program under local administration and in compliance with State Code.
29	Support the development of a Community Fitness/Wellness Center to provide opportunity for exercise and physical fitness.	Pending	Included on the Capital Improvement Program. County Administration has written and shopped a Community Fitness Facility Business Plan
30	Improve county tax parcel boundaries and records to accurately reflect the county.	Ongoing	County staff is undergoing GIS training and considering outside assistance for comprehensive upgrade to parcel maps, aerial imagery and lines.
Priority 2			
31	Create a multidisciplinary committee to research techniques/programs that prevent the cycle of poverty. The study should include how poverty relates to lack of employment, education, lifestyle choices, substance abuse, personal responsibility/work ethic and social services.	Ongoing	Social Services developed "Grayson County Family Initiative" a community based program w/area agencies, that provides mentoring and educational classes to parents of "at risk" children.

32	Develop a better understanding of Comprehensive Services Act and assess funding risks to the county budget. Promote avenues to reduce this risk, including lobbying the General Assembly to limit local government social program responsibility.	Ongoing	Social Services & Grayson County Community Policy Management Team (CPMT) developed a long-term goals based plan for reduction of Comprehensive Services Act case load & expenditures as well as conducted a complete policy review and update to satisfy the requirements of the Comprehensive Services Act (CSA).
33	Continue efforts to support the Twin County Airport (TCA).	Ongoing	Twin County Airport renovations were supported to most recently include the completion of new T-hangers and a new terminal building. The county continues to support operational funding for the airport. Note: The TCA has a reported annual economic impact of \$1.3 million to the region.
34	Encourage small businesses and other types of economic development through asset based development. (use of asset inventory)	Ongoing	<p>County Extension identified need for Property Management Services-provided certification and training for employment in this sector.</p> <p>Appalachian Spring Initiative, a regional branding, promotion and support effort has been launched. Promotion of the Mt. Rogers Outdoor Recreation Area is underway and have planned an asset based business plan competition. (MRPDC/SBDC/Grayson Admin).</p>
35	Partner with regional tourism initiatives such as The Crooked Road, Round the Mountain, and other organizations accountable for increasing tourism.	Ongoing	<p>Tourism Department partners with local and regional tourism, such as Friends of SWVA, The Crooked Rd, Round the Mountain, The Historic 1908 Courthouse Foundation and Take A Break From the Interstate regional partnership.</p> <p>Grayson Tourism partnered with Carroll County Tourism on a Marketing Grant to offset tourism marketing costs.</p> <p>The SBDC assisted Round the Mountain in hosting a workshop in</p>

			<p>Grayson County to train artisans on branding, marketing and pricing.</p> <p>The Matthews Living History Farm Museum has maintained membership in The Crooked Road and Round the Mountain since their inceptions. We also maintain active, supportive partnerships with The 1908 Courthouse, Grayson LandCare, Independence Farmer’s Market, Blue Ridge Discovery Center, and many more organizations, participating in their events and they in ours in 2014.</p>
36	Actively promote cultural events such as festivals, markets, music and other communal activities that are regional attractions to Grayson County.	Ongoing	<p>Tourism Department engaged in festival promotion efforts and supports the regional sponsors of music & culture.</p> <p>In 2014, the Matthews Living History Museum held it’s annual Heritage Event - an Autumn Festival - that was well attended. Additionally, the museum hosted a 2-day, hands on, Permaculture Workshop, two Civil War re-enactment camps of instruction, A BRDC “Moth Night” event, Twin Counties Arts Council Stories of the Stitch Quilt Show, and a regional 3-day Oxen Training Workshop which was attended by representatives of Williamsburg Museum with their oxen. The Museum actively promoted/ advertised all of these events.</p>
37	Create a committee of stakeholders and volunteers to analyze the causes of agricultural loss and to recommend policies/strategies to encourage farming, agriculture land retention & strategies to improve ag/economics.	Pending	Pending
38	Develop a suitability analysis to determine prime farmland and consider policies to protect and encourage the farming of this land in future land-use decisions.	Pending	Pending
39	Support local food initiatives and consider collaborating with local farmers and regional agricultural organizations to create a regional food	Ongoing	Extension provided support and training for the Independence Farmers Market -Value Added Workshop.

	<p>hub that will transport and market local agricultural products.</p>		<p>Extension facilitated the Grayson Agribusiness Showcase in the Wilson District with local partners.</p> <p>County Extension partnered with NC Extension on 7-month business development initiative for agribusiness entrepreneurs.</p> <p>Tourism Department developed agri-tourism page on the website to promote local farms and promote the Independence Farmers Market.</p> <p>Grayson LandCare/IFM actively working to boost local food markets, including the Farmers Market in Independence on Friday, regional food hub networking and grower workshops.</p> <p>The Matthews Living History Farm Museum invited all community leaders in AG to participate in a 2-day, hands on Permaculture Training Workshop. Representatives from the Independence Farmers Market assisted with Farm. A 1.5 acre plot of land on Museum Grounds has been developed to operate a demonstration garden, provide workshops teaching innovative techniques, and provide documentation in how to make \$30K. on 1.5 acres right here in Grayson County. The Museum has provided approximately 8 acres to Grayson Land Care who wrote a \$50K grant proposal to use the land for a teaching demonstration for land reclamation utilizing intensive grazing and silva-culture practices.</p>
40	<p>Reduce long term cost to the county by improving efficiency of facilities, services, and work flows.</p>	Ongoing	<p>The County obtained a land gift from a neighboring land owner to allow the necessary room for improvements to a county facility for safety and ease of ingress and egress of county equipment.</p>

			Creatively made energy saving improvements to the Courthouse and resourcefully salvaged/saved much needed storage room when installing a new elevator.
41	Bolster the county Geographic Information System (GIS) to improve land-use planning and county efficiency. Use GIS to understand guardrail needs for reoccurring safety concerns.	Ongoing	New GIS server and software has been installed. County staff is being trained on GIS technology. Web GIS is being used in land use application reviews.
42	Continue to have Grayson County representation on local and regional boards, commissions, and partnerships in which Grayson County has a responsibility, association, or investment in said endeavor.	Ongoing	Elected and appointed leaders, dept. heads and staff continue to actively serve on many local, regional and state boards, authorities, commissions and committees.
43	Ensure that all county departments draft and utilize standard operating procedures to improve efficiency and information exchange.	Ongoing	Comprehensive Employee Handbook was developed (enacted in 2015) and all correlating employee policies and protocols were reviewed and updated during the process.
44	Continue partnerships with non-profit, private, state, federal, regional collaborations, and localities to leverage funds and resources necessary to improving our communities.	Ongoing	Local Elected Leadership, County Officials and appointed citizens are involved in multiple partnerships across many disciplines.
45	Consider the extension of water and sewer lines to communities with gaps in service or when environmental health threats necessitate action	Ongoing	Nuckolls Curve Waterline Extension Project made possible by a \$259,000 DHCD CDBG grant is underway and will provide water services to the underserved community along Nuckolls Curve Rd. The project is approx. 33,700 LF of 8" water line along with the installation of 3 new fire hydrants. The project will serve 27 households with potable water.
46	Evaluate county water infrastructure throughout the county and develop a maintenance schedule to ensure that services remain viable.	Ongoing	The Lead Meter Replacement Project for the Fairview and Baywood Water Systems has been completed and was funded by a combination of grants and financing programs from MRPDC and SERCAP. The County is in the process of developing the Articles of Incorporation for the establishment of a Public Service Authority (PSA) that will be tasked with this objective.

47	Support efforts to reduce crime and substance abuse in Grayson County.	Ongoing	Sheriff Office Report- Attachment A DSS Report- Attachment A Day Report- Attachment A
48	Encourage countywide efforts to reduce waste and increase recycling.	Ongoing	Public Works increased recycling by 21% from FY 2013 to FY 2014. Public Works recycling program generated revenue in 2014. Public Works saved \$30,325 in tipping fees in FY 2014 from recycling program + the reduced costs for trips to landfill. Overall- Solid Waste delivery to the landfill decreased slightly in FY 2014. Public Works began a recycling education program for elementary students in 2014. Public Works completed the installment of "green box" recycling containers for each of the major communities in the county.
49	Support strategies to prolong the life of the regional landfill by increasing recycling/reuse of materials for ALL partners in the Solid Waste Authority.	Pending	See item #48 above. Grayson County Public Works installed cardboard collection containers at 11 new locations in Grayson/Galax/Carroll County. Grayson County Public Works leads the efforts of the Twin County area in recycling and is collecting recycled materials from the regional landfill on return trips to be processed and recycled in Grayson County.
50	Evaluate local incineration of trash and/or transfer station as an option to reduce trips to the landfill.	Ongoing	Public Works parking lot has been expanded and new equipment has been purchased to consolidate, compact and reduce the number of trips to the landfill.
51	Support initiatives that expand the recycling program and the ability to collect revenue. Consider investing in a truck to haul products and a glass	Ongoing	More resources (staff/equipment) will be required to expand the recycling program in the future. Any identified investment(s) needed to

	recycling/crushing process to capture revenue from this waste stream.		fulfil this strategy will be inserted into the Capital Improvement Plan as necessary.
52	Continue to support the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service and public libraries as valuable educational opportunities for the county.	Ongoing	Support continues. Library roof replacement and carpet installation are listed as items on the Capital Improvement Plan. The County has recently entered into a new arrangement with the library to provide IT support and services that will yield a cost savings to the library, as well as the county maintenance staff has taken on the lawn care services for the library.
53	Create a task force to analyze the environmental health of the county. In particular, as it relates to septic tank issues/straight-piping, the lack of a full time environmental health officer. Ensure that the programs offered by the Health Department align with the needs of the county.	Pending	Pending
54	Develop School System Capital Improvement Plan to prioritize transportation and facility improvement projects.	Pending	Pending
55	Develop internship/mentorship program for youth to gain experience/build resumes. Combine with leadership training.	Ongoing	<p>Tourism Department sponsored a WCC intern in 2014.</p> <p>Grayson County Board of Supervisors have offered up to the School Board a substantial supplemental appropriation for FY-16 to develop programing in Workforce Readiness and Career & Technical Education arenas.</p> <p>Each year, the Matthews Living History Museum offers a seat on our Board for an Honors AG student or Honors History student. The student must have access to transportation and participate as a fully functional Board member. This program includes a \$250 stipend to the student.</p>

56	Reach out to second home, retirees, professionals and other potential volunteers to lead education programs in; trades, business, leadership /after school/intern etc..	Pending	Pending
57	Understand the challenges for repeat offenders and the needs for those in the Criminal Justice System to re-enter society as productive citizens.	Ongoing	Day Report- Attachment A
58	Develop an information system/network for county residents to learn about lifelong learning opportunities already offered by area organizations. Support workshops and programs already offered for lifelong learning.	Pending	Pending
59	Work with agencies and educational institutions to develop job skill training programs to meet identified gaps in the local workforce.	Pending	<p>Social Services Director involved in "Southwest Virginia Center for Excellence in Manufacturing Workforce Development" developed to bridge gaps in mfg. workforce.</p> <p>County Administrator serves on the Regional 20/20 Focus Group that prioritizes these issues, serves on the Virginia Association of Counties' (VACo) Economic Development Steering Committee, serves on the Executive Committee of the Virginia's @Corridor, Board of Director on the BRCEA, Executive Board of the MRPDC and is leading the local discussion on Workforce Development needs with local and regional partners.</p>
60	Require all county appointments to attend leadership training within the first two years of appointment.	Pending	Pending
61	Require all Board of Supervisors to attend the National Association of Counties BOS training within one year of service and require Advanced Training for Board or Supervisor Chair.	Pending	Pending
62	Achieve Certified Crime Prevention Community Status	Pending	Full Time Crime Prevention Officer obtained certification as a Crime Prevention Specialist.
63	Expand the Recreation Department programs and facilities to include adult/senior programs and outdoor recreation.	Ongoing	Work initiated on RTP grant project- to develop new trail system at Recreation Park, including ADA compliant trail and ADA bathroom.

			New exercise fitness programs were developed for adults and implemented in 2014 such as aerobics, Zumba etc.
64	Develop an Environmental Health Loan Program - a low interest revolving loan fund to assist citizens with high cost projects needed for environmental health issues including septic system replacement, demolition of hazardous buildings, and junk removal.	Pending	Pending
65	Host community meetings and utilize key pad polling to gauge citizen input on land use and zoning restrictions.	Pending	Pending
66	Survey other communities to gather input on strategies for attracting medical clinics and services. Support private investment in medical services and clinics where possible.	Pending	Pending
67	Sponsor a suitability analysis for land-use types and develop a future land use map based on the recommendations of the suitability analysis.	Pending	Pending
68	Develop policy for the review of conservation easement applications when county approval is needed.	Complete	In 2014, Conservation Easement review was added under the scope of review by the Planning Commission. Two conservation easements have been reviewed and recommended to be in accordance with our Comp Plan and Land Use Strategies to date.
69	Amend administrative process for rezones to include site plans and review/interaction with VDOT for rezone applications.	Pending	Pending
70	Collaborate with land use agencies who provide technical assistance such as the New River Soil & Water Conservation District, VDOF, USDA NRCS, USDA FSA, and other similar organizations.	Ongoing	<p>County Extension collaborated with NRSWCD, USDA NRCS, FSA and VDOF on cost shares, grants and BMP implementation.</p> <p>County Extension provided support for field days and educational events at NRSWCD- New River Hill Farm.</p> <p>County Extension participated in DEQ-watershed improvement plans for Elk Creek and Chestnut Creek.</p>

			<p>County Extension collaborated with agencies on spring and fall, conservation education programs.</p> <p>County Extension partnered with VDOF on Fall Forestry and Wildlife Tour.</p> <p>County provided support to the NRSWCD and the New River Highlands RC&D organizations in 2014</p>
71	Survey small business owners to understand the needs of these businesses and leverage resources to assist these needs.	Ongoing	<p>Two (2) Tourism Marketing Courses were developed and presented to help Tourism Businesses with their marketing needs. One more is scheduled for Spring of 2015.</p> <p>Extension developed Agribusiness Showcase to connect small business owners with local government leaders, location will rotate each year for each Electoral District of the county.</p> <p>Extension provides resources to small businesses and agricultural providers to address their needs.</p>
72	Support AEP's 5 year Plan for utility improvements in Grayson County.	Pending	Pending
73	Support initiatives that create employment through value add/processing of local agriculture and forestry resources.	Ongoing	<p>Extension supported the Fall Forestry Wildlife Tour that promotes the marketing of holiday greenery</p> <p>Extension partnered on workshops/demonstrations related to hazelnuts, ginseng & autumn olives.</p> <p>Grayson LandCare/IFM sponsored multiple trainings/activities in 2014 for forestry/ag products.</p> <p>Museum Heritage Events provide free booth space for the Independence Farmer's Market, local artisans and soap makers who sell their wares and do very well at all our events. Additionally, we maintain a</p>

			data base and contact and recruit appropriate vendors for the Arts Council Quilt Show and for the Civil War re-enactors and other area organizations that request our assistance.
74	Sponsor independent third party study of the proposed benefits/negative impacts of use value taxation.	Pending	Pending
Priority 3			
75	Understand energy costs across the county and support initiatives that reduce energy use. Promote alternative energy technology and efficiency.	Pending	Pending
76	Support the Independence Community Initiative for development of McKnight Park as part of tourism development.	Pending	Pending
77	Create a tourism brand for outdoor recreational assets on the western end of Grayson County to promote tourism and small business development.	Ongoing	<p>FY-2014 The Grayson County (tourism) Transient Occupancy Revenue saw increase of 30%. [Note: Tourism expenditures increased by 3.6% and tourism employment payroll increased by 6.0% in 2013. According to the US Travel Association, Grayson County employs 140 persons in the tourism sector with a reported payroll of \$3,111,309.96, local tax receipts of \$403,368.71 and a total annual expenditure of \$13,953,845.18.]</p> <p>Appalachian Spring Initiative has been developed. Promotion of the Mt. Rogers Outdoor Recreation Area planned and branding efforts are underway.</p>
78	Promote foster parenting in the community.	Ongoing	Social Services conducted Foster Parent recruitment and training campaign. As a result, recruited, trained and approved six (6) new Foster Parent Families.
79	Complete an inventory and a review of natural and cultural assets of the community.	Pending	Pending
80	Consider a full time visitor/tourism center.	Ongoing	Tourism Dept. initiated Agreement with Historic 1908 Courthouse to serve as "The Official Visitor Center for Grayson County Tourism".

81	Consider expanding efforts of agri-tourism initiatives.	Ongoing	Agri-tourism added to the Tourism Website. Partnerships are being developed to spur agri-tourism.
82	Consider collaboration between Grayson County and local historical societies/organizations to promote important historical/cultural resources of the county.	Pending	Initial discussions about development of a Tourism/Historical map for visitors to find local areas of historical importance/other partnerships
83	Consider creating a tourism business network to improve professionalism and networking of businesses associated with tourism.	Complete	E-mail contact list has been developed for Grayson Tourism. Periodic newsletters are mailed for information exchange. Tourism Ambassador Program implemented to improve tourism business, marketing skills and networking. Assisted with the development of six (6) new logos for tourism businesses.
84	Bridge the Tourism and Recreation Departments to ensure that visitors can access local recreational offerings.	Ongoing	Tourism Department has included the Recreation Department Programs on the Grayson Tourism Website.
85	Continue improving the government website to facilitate the exchange of information in an accurate and efficient way.	Ongoing	The County is including more relevant information in a more timely and transparent fashion to include meeting minutes and financial information. Additionally, we are including government-appropriate information provided by businesses and organizations on websites that provides a community service or is of benefit and value to citizens such as job listings our public service announcements.
86	Consider a spay/neuter ordinance to address the taxpayer cost for animal control and support educational programs about responsible animal ownership. Partner with animal welfare organizations to find homes for unwanted pets.	Pending	Animal Shelter working with the Twin County Human Society on animal placement/adoption programs for unwanted animals.
87	Explore successful models/programs that break the cycle of poverty and replicate these programs.	Pending	Sheriff Office Report- Attachment A DSS Report- Attachment A Day Report Program-
88	Support and expand activities of the Day Report Program to prevent repeat offenders and assist them with transitioning back into the community.	Ongoing	2014, The most successful year to date for the Day Report Program with a NET savings to the County of \$90,056 and multiple examples of

			client success stories. Attachment A for full report.
89	Work with the school system to provide afterschool leadership development academy to encourage the next generation of leaders.	Ongoing	<p>County Extension Report – (Attachment A)</p> <p>Grayson County Board of Supervisors have offered up to the School Board a substantial supplemental appropriation for FY-16 to develop programing in Workforce Readiness and Career & Technical Education, Fine Arts & Culture programing and/or equipment, and programing and/or equipment for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (S.T.E.M.)</p>
90	Utilize crime statistic data and GIS to identify, prescribe and treat areas of acute criminal activity.	Pending	Pending
91	Expand DARE program into the higher grades in conjunction with School Resource Officer program. Consider “scared straight” as part of this program in partnership with River North Correctional Facility.	Ongoing	School Resource Officer Program expanded to every school in the County- DARE is one of several programs SRO involved with to keep children safe.
92	Support private investment in Assisted Living Developments and other housing infrastructure needed for elderly and aging, where possible.	Pending	Pending
93	Create information clearinghouse for citizens in need of building repair and energy improvements by connecting them with established organizations such as Rooftop, People Inc., Rural Development, HUD, and others.	Pending	Pending
94	Build social capital by encouraging the formation and growth of civic clubs that address community needs. Topics may include scholarships, affordable housing, and other social issues.	Ongoing	<p>County Administration actively promoted the expansion of the United Way campaign</p> <p>County Extension provided leadership training and facilitation training to leaders of local civic clubs and organizations.</p> <p>Rooftop of Virginia CAP, INC provided 654 services to Grayson County residents in FY 2014. This included Head Start, Weatherization</p>

			<p>Assistance, Emergency Home Repair, Indoor Plumbing Loan Program, assistance with Tax Returns to get the EIT credit, Rental Assistance, Senior program and emergency services for food, shelter and utility expenses.</p> <p>The Appalachian Independence Center advocates for and assists individuals with disabilities in the Twin County area.</p> <p>The County supports financially and through representation and service, multiple organizations that address community needs such as Feeding America, the Free Clinic and many other community centric organizations and programs.</p>
95	Collect data on ridgetop development and analyze data to determine if future threats exists.	Pending	Pending
96	Consider amendments to the subdivision ordinance to require surveys and/or land division data in digital AutoCAD dxf files.	Pending	Pending
97	Consider participation in regional Enterprise Zone to encourage local investment and business development.	Complete	In 2014, Grayson/Galax/Carroll was awarded by DHCD and announced by the Governor a new "Enterprise Zone Designation". This designation enables incentives/grants and tax credits for job creation and capital investment.
98	Study how lighting choices impact the night sky and consider policy to protect dark skies as a local asset.	Pending	Pending
99	Partner with Towns to expand bicycling and pedestrian transportation options.	Ongoing	The Transportation Enhancement Trail - Phase II, will safely connect down town Independence to the Grayson County Recreation Park.
100	Analyze the need for Park & Ride locations and support public transit/ridesharing infrastructure when cost effective.	Pending	Pending
101	Provide County representation at Commonwealth Transportation Board meetings to lobby for transportation funding and ensure adequate representation.	Ongoing	Brenda Sutherland serves as Grayson County's representative on the Mount Rogers Region's Transportation Steering Committee, and accompanied by County

			<p>Administration, represents and attends various local, regional and state briefings and hearings regarding transportation needs and priorities.</p> <p>Through planning and resourceful approach, the County is optimistically looking to engage funding for up to twelve (12) projects in Grayson County's State Secondary 6-Year Construction Plan.</p>
102	Consider policy that reduces strip development and multiple entrances to the state highways for safety concerns.	Pending	Pending
103	Consider incentive program to remove pre-76 manufactured homes that may be unable to meet current building codes.	Pending	Pending
104	Consider resolution for "Clean Grayson Month" to promote civic and public actions to clean up the county.	Pending	Pending
105	Gauge the support for a local office park to accommodate those without internet who may be in need of personal office and when space is needed for business development.	Pending	Pending
106	Evaluate the potential to transition the Industrial Development Authority to an Economic Development Authority.	Complete	Board of Supervisor resolution and IDA resolution officially transitioned the Grayson County from an Industrial Development Authority (IDA) to an Economic Development Authority (EDA).
107	Encourage tourism by supporting the Blue Ridge Discovery Center, Matthews Farm Museum and/or other natural & cultural history museums as tourism development.	Ongoing	Tourism supported the Blue Ridge Discovery Center with rack card development. Promoted area organizations activities on county calendar/festival list. The Board of Supervisors supported by motion, efforts to locate a Mathews Farm Museum sign within the VDOT Limited Access Right-of-Way along Rt. 58.
108	Consider a new sheriffs building or a criminal justice center that attaches to the County Courthouse and/or other strategies to improve courthouse security.	Ongoing	Security measures improved with door lock replacements, security peephole installations, and new security adjustments and protocols to accommodate a new elevator.

109	Consider workforce development program to meet the local farm/forestry labor needs and plan accordingly.	Ongoing	County Extension preparing youth for The Beef Industry and Natural Resource Education (items 16 & 70)
110	Evaluate the need for web based clearinghouse of ag/forestry assets and networks to promote this economy. (producers, value add products, active farms, local food infrastructure & transportation options for food products)	Pending	Pending

2014 Summary:

Calendar Year 2014 was a monumental year for the county. Highlights of the year included.

- Progressive economic management of the county’s finances and a healthy fund balance. Strategic debt reduction plans and sound fiscal management gives Grayson a score of A+ in the financial audit.
- Employment growth and economic development/new job announcements included three basic sector projects resulting in 300 new qualified jobs, retention of 85 existing jobs and \$9.55M in new capital investment.
- Grayson Unemployment rate went from 13.3% in 2013 to 6.9% in November of 2014, best unemployment rate in six (6) years, since October of 2008. (source U.S. Bureau of Labor)
- Advancement of agricultural/natural resources education, networking and general promotion of agriculture by County Extension in partnership with robust local organizations such as GLC, IFM, Farm Bureau, DOF
- Redevelopment of land use ordinances. County began active planning/use of the Comprehensive Plan to ensure all County Departments and affiliated organizations work together on common goals to improve the community.
- Preparing for future economic growth such as the EDA change /Enterprise Zone Designation/Loan Program.
- Responsible use of the county’s Capital Improvement Plan to improve county facilities/services.
- Creative approaches to secure grants/ leverage grant dollars to offset costs to the county.(All Departments)
- Advancement in crime prevention program, courthouse security and school security.
- Day Report Program- best year to date- innovative approaches to prevent repeat offenders and save dollars.
- Public Works increased recycling by 21%, reduction in solid waste stream, improved equipment and efficiencies.
- Social Services initiated multiple programs to reduce long term costs to the county for assistance programs and proactive approaches to prevent need for assistance.
- Recreation Department initiated new fitness programs for adults and improved existing programs.
- Tourism growth. Transient occupancy tax receipts/tourism growth by 30%. Tourism network developed and multiple efforts to improve tourism assets.
- Infrastructure improvements pursued, including water meters, water line extension, courthouse improvements, GIS technology and pedestrian trails/recreation.
- Partnerships with area organizations/networks/private business responsible for multiple strategies on the plan.

In 2014, the county completed seven (7) strategies listed in the Goal and Action Plan and initiated or is actively working on sixty (60) strategies.

The county has made considerable progress in the first full year (2013-2014) of the plan. To ensure that progress continues, those action items listed as “pending” should be considered in future work plans and programs. Those items listed as “ongoing” should continue to progress.

* Attachment Enclosed

Attachment A-

Optional-Supporting Information for County Departments & Non-Profit Organizations (as submitted by them)

- 1) County Administrator-2014 Synopsis Report
- 2) County Extension- Summary
- 3) Department of Social Services- Summary
- 4) Sheriff Department- 2014 Summary
- 5) Day Report 2014 Summary
- 6) Grayson LandCare input- relation to Comprehensive Plan
- 7) Matthews Living History Farm Museum
- 8) Rooftop of Virginia

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Announced in concert with the Governor - Three Basic Sector Projects resulting in 300 new qualified jobs, the retention of 85 existing jobs and \$9.55M in new capital investment
- Blue Ridge Crossroads Small Business Development Center:

SBDC Impact

	<u>2014</u>
Jobs Created	70
Jobs Retained	10
Capital Investment	\$
	650,000
New Business Starts	10
Existing Businesses	58
Assisted	
Programs Hosted/Co- Hosted	10
Event Attendees	220

VA SBDC Measurements	<u>2014</u>
Total Clients	136
Long Term Clients	34
Counseling Hours	600+
Average Hours Per Client	4.42

- According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor, over the past five years Grayson County has seen their unemployment rates as high as 14.6% in 2010, 13.5% in 2011, 12.0% in 2012, and 13.3% in 2013. Grayson County's last reportable unemployment rate for 2014 (November) stands at 6.9% and is a 65 month low dating back to October, 2008 when Grayson County's rate stood at 6.7%.
- Changed the name of the Grayson County Industrial Development Authority to the Grayson County Economic Development Authority
- Transferred ownership of the Grayson County Industrial park from the Board of Supervisors to the Grayson County Economic Development Authority for the purpose of more readily facilitating industrial development
- In concert with People Incorporated, The Grayson County Economic Development Authority developed and made available a new Revolving Loan Fund Program offering microenterprise loan products and services for entrepreneurs and small businesses in Grayson County
- The County was reported about on multiple times, in various economic development and news publications to include but not limited to; Virginia Business Magazine, Capital Connections Magazine, Commerce Quarterly and the Roanoke Times

ORDINANCES, POLICIES & PROCEDURES:

- Undertook and successfully revamped the Grayson County Zoning Ordinance
- Adopted the County's most robust 5-year Comprehensive Plan
- Adopted and implemented the Grayson County Stormwater Management Program as required by new state legislation
- Completely rewrote and adopted the Grayson County Handbook
- Debt Reduction Plan - The Grayson County Board of Supervisors successfully paid off four (4) of its long-term notes well ahead of schedule, notably saving the taxpayers of Grayson County more than \$510,000.00 in interest payments over the life of the loans.
- Implemented a County Employee Company Nurse Program and Injury Hotline to provide better care and attention to the employee and save the county money by reducing loss-time, and nonproductive leave, ultimately lowering our Mod-Factor and saving the county money
- Switched to self-funded dental insurance and successfully renegotiated lower rates for county employee health insurance to save both the county and the employee money.
- Developed Grayson's first Coyote Bounty Ordinance and sponsored Grayson County's first ever Coyote Hunter Contest

COUNTY DEPARTMENTS & PROJECTS:

- Local building permits [Commercial permits – Fell off in 2009 and 2010 - **Steady positive increase since 2010** (5); 2011 (16); 2012 (26); 2013 (28); **2014 (31)**
(Note: All time low in 2009 and 2010 and rebounding in 2011 and increased by Approx. 30% in 2012 and have held steady since (*The second home construction market has rebounded)
- Made multiple improvements to the Grayson County Recreation Park facilities
- Processed 25 offenders in 2014 through our Day Report Program saving 3,152 jail days and contributing to a net savings and income to the County of \$89,605.43
- Installed a new integrated county-wide phone system creatively utilizing grant funding to accomplish this investment
- Converted the county's Geographical Information Systems to an internally maintained and developed system in effort to broaden the number and scope of layers and applications
- Sponsored a 2014 Top 10 Grayson County Photo Contest

- Completed both Phase I and Phase II of a III Phase Capital Improvement Plan project regarding Courthouse Security Enhancements, more specifically, we replaced and upgraded for the first time the key lock system within the courthouse.
- Held our first American Red Cross Blood Drive
- Was the largest United Way local government contributor in the Twin Counties
- 2014 Recycle Numbers: 21% increase

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

- Received a \$200k Recreation Trail Program Grant for the Grayson County Recreation Trail Project
- Completed both Phase I and Phase II of the Lead Meter Replacement Project for the Old Town and Fairview water systems through an array of grants and strategic financing.
- The County as a whole was successfully awarded \$948,185 in Community Development Block Grants from the VA Department of Housing and Community Development which equated to 11% of the entire award for the state. Some of which will be used for the Nuckolls Curve Waterline extension project that is slated to be constructed and completed this Spring.
- In 2014 we secured 30 state, federal and private grants totaling more than \$2,525,000.00 for economic and community development purposes

December 19, 2014

Elaine Holeton
Director of Planning & Community Development

Included below is a list of efforts taken by the Grayson County Extension Office in fulfilling strategies outlined in the Grayson County Comprehensive Plan.

Priority I

Strategy 14 – Non-athletic after-school programs for youth:

- 4-H participates as a collaborator with Grayson County Schools in the 21st Century Grant program by offering after-school enrichment activities. 4-H after-school enrichment is largely hands-on and interactive learning on a variety of topics.
- 4-H Teen Club promotes leadership and community service for middle and high school age participants.
- 4-H camping program includes the week-long summer camp each year with additional weekend and day camps throughout the year. Camp themes are based on youth interests, and life skills are integrated into camp experiences.
- Youth cattleworking program involves teenage youth interested in livestock by developing proper animal husbandry skills in a competition format.

Strategy 16 – Workforce ready skills in trades/technical skills:

- Youth cattleworking competition teaches proper animal health and care procedures. Students must be state certified in animal care and safe handling of food animals through the Virginia Youth Meat Quality Assurance program. Another component of this program is that youth be Beef Quality Assurance certified. This certification carries through to adult producers, and is required for many value-added beef marketing programs. Nineteen youth were certified in Beef Quality Assurance.
- Extension collaborates with parents on youth loan applications through the USDA - Farm Service Agency. Low interest loans are made available to youth for capital purchases to get involved in farming.
- 4-H Teen Club participants develop soft skills such as being responsible for younger children at camps, overseeing activities, developing and organizing events. Each teen must apply, interview and attend training before attending summer camp as a teen leader. This experience provides them job interview experience.

Strategy 19 – Assess unmet needs of elderly, and develop strategies to meet future needs.

- Extension office receives many questions from elderly landowners about how to manage their properties, and who can provide those types of services. Two of the most common requests are how to develop fair rental agreements, and how to control invasive pest species. Another common issue is how to transfer farm assets.
- Extension's Family Nutrition Program (FNP) Assistant conducts regular educational activities focused on healthy living habits such as proper nutrition and physical fitness for area seniors. She has 3 groups with approximately 150 total participants in Whitetop, Fries and Independence. She also supports the S.A.L.T. programs at both Independence and Galax, with

Invent the Future

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

Extension is a joint program of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and state and local governments.

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many seniors from Fries attending Galax S.A.L.T events. She partners with Department of Social Services to offer nutrition-based educational support, and also assists with assessing living conditions during home visits.

Strategy 20 – Review of zone districts

- Extension facilitated the November meeting of the Planning Commission to gather input on updates to the Shoreline Recreational Zone District.

Priority II.

Strategy 34 – Small business and asset-based development.

- Due to the need for property management services, Extension has encouraged youth and adults to consider these types of services as a possible business opportunity. Such activities as lawn and landscape businesses already provide some of these services, and those businesses have been encouraged to expand their scope to include pest control services, tree trimming, fruit tree and grapevine pruning, and others. “For hire” pest control services require state certification. Extension conducted training in June 2014 to address this need.

Strategy 37 – Create a committee of stakeholders and volunteers to analyze the causes of agricultural loss and to recommend policies/strategies to encourage farming, agricultural land retention, and strategies to improve ag/economics.

- One of the tenets of Extension is to meet local needs with unbiased, research-based information. Each county Extension office has a local Extension Leadership Council (ELC) consisting of community stakeholders who assist Extension assess county needs, and ensure local Extension programs are addressing those needs. The ELC also helps prioritize those needs. While the ELC covers the full scope of Extension programming including youth development, this strategy is somewhat met by the ELC. Extension could incorporate an Agriculture Advisory Council which is more specific to county agricultural issues to give more focused effort to this strategy.

Strategy 39 – Support local food initiatives.

- Extension partnered with the regional food network and leadership of the Independence Farmer’s Market to assist in a value-added workshop in January 2014.
- Local foods and agricultural products are highlighted in the annual Grayson Agribusiness Showcase.
- Grayson Extension partnered with North Carolina Extension to develop a 7-month business development program for agriculture entrepreneurs such as those involved in local food initiatives. The program title Blue Ridge Farm School will be launched in the winter of 2015.

Strategy 55 – Develop internship/mentorship program for youth, and combine with leadership training.

- 4-H offered to coordinate an internship program within county government, but student interest was limited and placements were hard to find. Students were less willing to participate once they discovered they would not be paid.

Strategy 58 – Lifelong learning.

- Extension’s programs are largely state or federally funded, thus open to the public. Every effort is made to advertise events via newspaper, newsletters, flyers, email, webpage, and other forms of communication.

Strategy 59 – Job skills training. (SEE PRIORITY 1, STRATEGY 16)

Strategy 60 – Require all county appointments to attend leadership training within the first two years of appointment.

- Virginia Cooperative Extension partners with Virginia Association of Counties to offer the Virginia Certified County Supervisor Program. This is a statewide program open to all county supervisors. Grayson Supervisors have participated in the past.
- Locally, Extension is a partner in the Twin County Leadership Initiative. Over 80 citizens from the Twin Counties have participated in leadership and group facilitation courses based on Extension's curriculum. In Grayson, two current Supervisors, three current or former Planning Commission members, four county department heads, and the Assistant County Administrator have participated in one of the courses.

Strategy 70 – Collaborate with land use agencies who provide technical assistance to landowners.

- Grayson's Extension Agriculture Agent serves on the New River Soil and Water Conservation District (NRSWCD) Board. Partner agencies such as the District and USDA NRCS and FSA are responsible for over \$500,000 in cost-share in Grayson for calendar year 2014 to subsidize conservation and agricultural best management practice implementation. The NRSWCD meets at least monthly. In 2014, New River Hill Farm was donated to the NRSWCD for education and demonstration in best practices and conservation. Extension assisted with or organized one field day, and several joint educational events with youth and adult audiences at this unique county asset.
- Supported the Elk Creek and Chestnut Creek watershed improvement plans to remove these two streams from Virginia's impaired waterways list.
- Extension collaborates with agencies listed under this strategy to offer natural resource conservation education to over 350 youth in both spring and fall events. In 2014, Extension also supported the Fall Forestry and Wildlife Tour in partnership with the Department of Forestry.

Strategy 71 – Survey small business owners to understand needs of these businesses and leverage resources to assist these needs.

- The Grayson Agribusiness Showcase was developed specifically for the purpose of engaging local policymakers and leaders with farm business owners. This gives policymakers an opportunity to witness farm business innovation, and ask farm operations what obstacles exist to farm development or expansion.
- Extension constantly collects information through regular interactions with existing or prospective farm operators regarding farm business needs, and seeks to address those needs through research-based information. Extension leverages federal, state and local public dollars with private support to keep information freely accessible.

Strategy 73 – Create employment through value-added or processing of local agriculture and forestry resources.

- The Fall Forestry and Wildlife Tour highlighted the unique local holiday greenery industry that is closely associated with Grayson's white pine forest resources, and the local Christmas tree industry.
- Extension was a partner on several workshops and demonstrations related to non-timber forest products such as edible (hazelnuts), medicinal (ginseng), decorative (white pine tips), and other value-added forest related products. Extension helped organize a demonstration on autumn olive berry harvest, which yielded almost \$80,000 in local revenue for something previously seen only as an invasive weed.
- Also, see previous comments on Value-Added Producer Workshop and Grayson Agribusiness Showcase.

*Under Priority II, Strategies 38, 56, and 74 are areas Extension seeks to develop further, or where efforts have been limited in 2014.

Priority III.

Strategy 94 – Build social capital.

- Extension is a partner in the Twin County Leadership Initiative. While local government officials have participated regularly, the program is open to any and all civic minded individuals. Since 2008, roughly 50% of the participants in either the leadership or group facilitation courses have not been affiliated with local government. Extension continues to seek ways to engage civic, faith-based, for-profit, and non-profit leadership in these training courses. Courses have already been planned for 2015.

Strategy 109 – Farm and forest workforce development. (SEE PRIORITY 1, STRATEGY 16)

*Under Priority III, Strategies 81, 89, and 110 are areas Extension seeks to develop further, or where efforts have been limited in 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Spurlin
Grayson County Extension Agent and Unit Coordinator

Grayson County DSS Comprehensive Plan Achievements 2014 – By Anthony Isom, of Social Services

1. Development of the Grayson County Family Initiative: a collaborative community based program which provides mentoring and educational classes to the parents of at risk children. This program is volunteer based, utilizing other community agencies and resources to teach classes, including DSS, Grayson County Health Department, VT Family Nutrition Program, People, Inc., Family Resource Center, Inc., and others. This program is designed to prevent children from entering foster care and to strengthen at risk families in general. Additionally, it is designed to supplant other community based services that Grayson County is currently funding through the Comprehensive Services Act. This program addresses items 31, 32, 44, 47 and 87 of the 2013 Comprehensive Plan.
2. Application for and receipt of multiple grants, both from government sources (state of Virginia) and non-profit sources (United Way of Southwest Virginia), as well as major donations for a total amount of \$26,649.00 for calendar year 2014. These were detailed in DSS' grant receipt report. This addresses item 44 of the 2013 Comprehensive Plan.
3. Development of a long term goal based plan for reduction of Comprehensive Services Act caseload and thus expenditures, scheduled for adoption by the Grayson County Community Policy Management Team on January 21, 2015. This addresses item 32 of the 2013 Comprehensive Plan.
4. Representation of Grayson County on a multitude of boards and commissions, including Rooftop of Virginia Community Action Program, Smart Beginnings of the Twin Counties, Occupational Enterprises, Inc., Hope, Inc., the Twin County Prisoner Reentry Council, and the Highlands Community Collaboration Council. This addresses item 42 of the 2013 Comprehensive Plan.
5. Provision of support of and planning for the Southwest Virginia Center for Excellence in manufacturing. This program provides in depth training and assessment for manufacturing workforce development. Scheduled for expansion to Grayson County in 2015. This addresses items 44 and 59 of the 2013 Comprehensive Plan.
6. Completion of Twin County Leadership Academy 2014. This addresses item 60 of the 2013 Comprehensive Plan.
7. Completed an extensive Foster Parent recruitment and training campaign in 2014 resulting in the recruitment, training, and approval of 6 new local foster families. This addresses item 78 of the 2013 Comprehensive Plan.

*Grayson County
Sheriff's Office
Annual Report
2014*



Sheriff Richard Vaughan



Grayson County Sheriff's Office 2014 Annual Report

Grayson County Deputies had a busy year in 2014, responding to 5,669 calls for service, and served 6,253 warrants (1,145 criminal and 5,108 civil). Deputies and investigators combined for 93 drug arrests. Larceny and burglary charges came to a combined total of 54.

Sheriff's Office Drug Sniffing K-9 Gauge completed 42 searches last year, which included checks at Independence Middle School, Grayson County High School and the CATE Center. The department investigated or assisted with 171 traffic accidents, issued 346 traffic summons and issued 51 warnings. There were 39 DUI arrests made and 6 charges placed on felons in possession of firearms. Thirty-six search warrants were also executed. The department recovered 5 stolen vehicles.

The Grayson County Sheriff's Office has also seen a dramatic increase with the number of cases that were adopted by Federal Law Enforcement Agencies. The department has referred cases to the Federal Bureau of Investigations, The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, The United States Secret Service, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, The Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, and the Drug Enforcement Administration.



Grayson County Investigators requested the Virginia State Police to



administer 5 polygraphs. Grayson deputies served 132 Emergency Protective Orders in cases involving domestic violence. One of the most time-consuming assignments deputies completed in 2014 was the service of 75 Emergency Custody Orders with 28 cases resulting in Temporary Detention Orders (TDO's). When a mental evaluation is completed and a TDO is issued, deputies must transport patients to St. Albans Psychiatric Hospital in Radford or Southwestern Mental Health in Marion. The average time spent on a TDO is 8 to 10 hours.

Courtesy and non-emergency services included:

Patrol deputies make an effort to check the security of every business in the county each day. 22,220 closed business checks were conducted and 36 open buildings were found. Deputies assisted 452 stranded motorists which included, jump-starts, lock-outs, and changing spare tires. Fire departments and rescue squads were assisted by patrol deputies in 250 incidents. The Sheriff's Office provided traffic direction and escort services for 39 funerals. Deputies performed additional patrols in areas of the county where citizens have identified a special need. A total of 2,742 requested patrols were completed in 2014.

Sheriff Richard Vaughan is one of few shared sheriffs in Virginia. In addition to law enforcement responsibilities for the entire county, and providing deputies for court security, a shared sheriff is also responsible for the service of civil process for Grayson County and the Grayson County portion of the City of Galax.

The Grayson County Sheriff's office is comprised of 11 patrol officers, including a Lieutenant, 2 Sergeants and 2 Corporals. There are 3 investigators, one Crime Prevention Specialist, 5 dispatchers, 3 courtroom security officers, and one civil officer. One civil clerk and one administrative secretary are also employed at the Sheriff's office. The department has a drug detecting canine, Gauge. All sworn personnel and dispatchers are first responders, trained in CPR and first aid and have a National Incident Management System (NIMS) certification. Two personnel, including the Sheriff, have completed advanced Crime Scene Investigation training at the Virginia Department of Forensic Science Academy in Richmond.



Funding available from a Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) grant, allowed the Sheriff's Office to transfer Sergeant Carner from Investigations into a full-time Crime Prevention Officer position. Carner obtained his certification as a Crime Prevention Specialist from DCJS and oversees the programs that help us to take a more proactive approach to crime in our communities. He presents safety information to newly licensed drivers, coordinates community watch groups, and conducts security assessments for banks, businesses, and homeowners.



Due to the increasing threats to our children's safety, the School Resource Officer program was expanded in order to provide an SRO to every school in the county. In addition to providing an armed deterrent to crimes against our most valuable resource, SRO's teach a wide variety of law-related courses. These courses include Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.), Virginia Rules, and Eddie Eagle. SRO's partner with the students to save lives through YOVASO (Youth Of Virginia Speak Out about traffic safety). SRO's partnered with the school administration in order to prevent truancy. They have hosted ten Child ID events where parents have the opportunity to compile critical information about their child into an easy to access and easy to store format. SRO's host Child Safety Seat events where they inspect for proper installation and provide traffic safety information to parents. Additionally, SRO's have made contact with students 2,949 times this year. These contacts range from counseling a juvenile about issues such as bullying to intervening in cases of abuse or neglect.



Chief Deputy David Ashby – Performs mostly administrative functions at the sheriff's office. He coordinates training for the staff, keeps deputies supplied with uniforms and equipment, and manages the fleet of vehicles. Chief Ashby is also a Forensic Science Academy graduate, Hostage Negotiator, and a General Instructor.

Karen Smith Administrative Assistant – Performs office related duties, is a certified dispatcher, and coordinates the TRIAD program for Senior Citizens.

Lieutenant Darren Barrett- Supervises the Civil Division and Courtroom Security Operations. Lt. Barrett also serves civil papers on a daily basis.

Deputy Joshua Catron – Provides courtroom security, civil paper service, and transports prisoners from other jurisdictions, including out of state prisoners to Grayson County Courts.

Sergeant Charles Kinzer - Courtroom Security

Susan Dolinger – Civil Clerk responsible for logging in all court issued criminal and civil papers, and greets the public as they enter the office.

Lieutenant Todd Perkins – Supervises the Criminal Investigations Division. Lt. Perkins is also responsible for all evidence handling and submissions to the forensics laboratory in Roanoke. Lt. Perkins is an Intermediate Level Emergency Medical Technician and was honored with the 2010 Regional award for Outstanding EMT. He is also a General Instructor and is deputized with the US Marshals Service, serves on the Virginia Search and Rescue Council

Sergeant Doug Carner – Certified Crime Prevention Specialist and supervisor of the School Resource Division. He conducts security assessments, coordinates community watch groups, compiles grants, and assists the investigations division as needed. Carner is a Hostage Negotiator, General Instructor, and is assigned to the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force.

Investigator Adam Horton – Narcotics Investigator, sworn with the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), Specialized Entry and Response Team (SERT) member, and Field Training Officer. He is a member of the Twin County Drug Task Force, and is deputized with the US Marshals Service.

Investigator Bradley Brown- Awarded 2010 Officer of the Year by the Galax Elks Lodge, General Instructor, SERT Team member and Narcotics Investigator, sworn officer with the DEA, full time task force officer with ATF, and member of the Twin County Drug Task Force

Lieutenant Gary Hash – Patrol Division Supervisor, Certified Dispatcher and D.A.R.E. Instructor, and is also a General Instructor.

Sergeant Jeff Merilic – Supervisor Patrol Team A, SERT Team member, General Instructor, Firearms Instructor and maintains a Master Deputy status

Sergeant Alan Graham – Supervisor Patrol Team B, General Instructor, Firearms Instructor and SERT Team member

Corporal Doug Waller -Supervisor, General Instructor and Field Training Officer

Corporal Travis Jefferson – Supervisor, General Instructor

Deputy Cody McGrady – Patrol Deputy

Deputy Eric Testerman - Patrol, SERT Team and K-9 Handler for Gauge, and Field Training Officer

Deputy Jason Carico – Patrol Deputy

Deputy Jim Winterburn –Patrol Deputy

Deputy Jordan Johnson – Patrol Deputy

Corporal Rhonda Halsey – School Resource Officer, D.A.R.E., Sexual Assault Investigator, Hostage Negotiator, General Instructor and Master Deputy

Deputy Bobby Jones – School Resource Officer, D.A.R.E, Emergency Medical Technician

Deputy Kevin Watson – School Resource Officer

Deputy Brian Cline - School Resource Officer

Deputy Mico Davis –School Resource Officer

Deputy Brandon Phillips – Patrol Deputy
Deputy Brad Hawks – Patrol Deputy
Deputy Chase Thomas – Court Security

Dennis Eller – Communications Supervisor and General Instructor
Brenda Hawkins – Dispatcher
Ron Hoffman – Dispatcher
Brad Chambers – Dispatcher and General Instructor
Justin Wooten – Part-time Dispatcher
Dawn Jones – Part-time Dispatcher
Tim Kirby – Part-time Dispatcher

Grant funds awarded for FY14-15

JAG LE Block Grant	Duty gear for one officer (including vest)	\$2,250
DCJS - CPO	Crime Prevention Officer	\$28,200
DCJS – SRO	School Resource Officer	\$28,200
DCJS – SRO	School Resource Officer	\$28,200
DMV Grant	DUI overtime (road checks) new radar units, breath test kits and training	\$19,950
Attorney General	Triad grant for Senior Citizens	\$2,500
Total Awarded funds		\$109,300

Grayson County Sheriff’s Office – Drug Asset Forfeiture Funds

Local	\$6,530.81
State	\$5,791.98
<i>Total Received in 2014:</i>	<i>\$12,322.79</i>

Grayson County Day Report- 2014 Summary- By Renee Sadler

- The 2014 Calendar Year was the most successful year to date. Our program achieved the highest net savings year, since Grayson County Day Report's inception in 2009. The total net savings for the year was \$90,056.43. This amount reflects the cost savings to the county, that resulted from placement of clients in the program as opposed to serving jail time at the New River Valley Jail and the costs to the county from this incarceration.
- The Day Report Program has many success stories that are often results from the services each client receives while in the program. In 2014, one client completed his GED, several obtained full time employment, and one was granted joint custody of their child. Day Report introduces basic life skills and resources to each individual while in the program. These benefit and assist each individual in leading a drug free or crime free lifestyle and greatly reduces each client's chances of recidivism.

Grayson Land Care input to Grayson County CP Review

1

CP Goal C: Protect the natural and cultural assets of the county

- GLC Task: Monitor water quality
 - Program: Monthly assessment of surface water quality in County
 1. **New River Water Watchers** – GLC and New River Conservancy (Started August 2014)
 - Outcome: Annual report to DEQ and county
- GLC Task: Waterway Restoration
 - Program: **Waterway Clean up**
 - Renew the New – GLC, New River Wildlife, GPW
 - Outcome: Cleanup day (3 Jun 2015)

2

CP Goal E: Strengthen the local economy and increase job growth

- GLC Task: Career, Tech Education Program
 - Program: **Land Stewardship Competition**-GLC
 - Outcome: Scholarships and venture marketing
 - 11 April 2015 at 1908 Courthouse
 - Program: **Farm Team Grayson**
 - Housing-Farm Link-VA Farm Link, GLC, Farmer Veteran Coalition, County
 - Beginning Farmer and Rancher Coalition Program-VT, GLC
 - Whole Farm Planning Demonstration-GLC
 - Outcome: Beginning Farmer trained, partnered with a mentor and housed on available land

3

CP Goal E: Strengthen the local economy and increase job growth

- GLC Task: Promote forestland stewardship and management to ensure harvests of multiple crops/products
 - Program: **Alternative Forest Products**-GLC
 - Outcome: Product network
 - Program: **Autumn Berry Harvest**-GLC
 - Outcome: Harvest market

4

CP Goal E: Strengthen the local economy and increase job growth

- GLC Task: Conduct and promote local agricultural market
 - Program: **Independence Farmer's Market**-GLC
 - Outcome: Weekly physical market from May to October
 - Program: **Online Farmer's Market**
 - Outcome: Weekly virtual market November to April

5

CP Goal F: Improve citizen's quality of life and promote healthy lifestyle choices

- GLC Task: Promote the Greater Good
 - Program: **Save Green**
 - Outcome: Annual Public Awareness and Understanding
 - 12 September at Independence Fire house

6

Priority I.

#21. Offer diverse after school programs to include non-athletic activities such as ag/forestry, career readiness, arts and craft internships, college courses, leadership training, trade skills and advanced degree programs. The Museum has offered an SOL based Farm Days experience to K-1st grade, free of charge to all Grayson County Schools for almost a decade and continues with the program this year. *Note: Honors AG students have been given the opportunity for multiple years to participate in the program, giving them leadership training. While teachers and program directors were enthusiastic, school administrators were not supportive.

Priority II.

#35. Partner with regional tourism initiatives such as The Crooked Road, Round the Mountain, and other organizations accountable for increasing tourism. The Museum has maintained membership in The Crooked Road and Round the Mountain since their inceptions. We also maintain active, supportive partnerships with The 1908 Courthouse, Grayson LandCare, Independence Farmer's Market, Blue Ridge Discovery Center, and many more organizations, participating in their events and they in ours in 2014.

#36. Actively promote cultural events such as festivals, markets, music and other communal activities that are regional attractions to Grayson County. In 2014 the Museum held it's annual Heritage Event - an Autumn Festival - that was well attended. Additionally, the museum hosted a 2-day, hands on, Permaculture Workshop, two Civil War re-enactment camps of instruction, A BRDC "Moth Night" event, Twin Counties Arts Council Stories of the Stitch Quilt Show, and a regional 3-day Oxen Training Workshop which was attended by representatives of Williamsburg Museum with their oxen. The Museum actively promoted/advertised all of these events.

#39. Support local food initiatives and consider collaborating with local farmers and regional agricultural organizations to create a regional food hub that will transport and market local agricultural products. The Museum invited all community leaders in AG to participate in a 2-day, hands on Permaculture Training Workshop. Representatives from the Independence Farmers Market assisted with Farm Days and provided badges to the children that said, "I Ate Goat Cheese!" Rick Cavey approached us and we provided him with a 1.5 acre plot of land on Museum Grounds on which to operate a demonstration garden, provide workshops teaching innovative techniques, and provide documentation in how to make \$30K. on 1.5 acres right here in Grayson County. The Museum has provided approximately 8 acres to GLC's Katie Trozzo and Cynthia Taylor who wrote a \$50K grant proposal to use the land for a teaching demonstration for land reclamation utilizing intensive grazing and silva-culture practices.

#44. Continue partnerships with non-profit, private, state, federal, regional collaborations, and localities to leverage funds and resources necessary to improving our communities. See Grant proposal in # 39. The grant was supported by all appropriate entities. The Museum's partnerships are many and continually growing, in the community, region, and nation.

#62. Develop internship/mentorship program for youth to gain experience/build resumes. Combine with leadership training. Each year, the Museum offers a seat on our Board for an Honors AG student or Honors History student. The student must have access to transportation and participate as a fully functional Board member. This program includes a \$250 stipend to the student.

#73. Support initiatives that create employment through value add/processing of local agriculture and forestry resources. Museum Heritage Events provide free booth space for the Independence Farmer's Market, local artisans and soap makers who sell their wares and do very well at all our events. Additionally, we maintain a data base and contact and recruit appropriate vendors for the Arts Council Quilt Show and for the Civil War re-enactors and other area organizations that request our assistance.

Priority III.

#89. Work with the school system to provide after school leadership development activities. See #'s 21 & 62 above.

#107. Encourage tourism by supporting the Blue Ridge Discovery Center, Matthews Farm Museum and/or other natural and cultural history museums as tourism development. As stated previously, we have been partnering and actively supporting and participating with the BRDC, 1908 Courthouse, Independence Farmer's Market, Arts Council, Chestnut Creek School of the Arts, etc, etc, for almost a decade. Our philosophy is that in offering support and encouragement to other groups builds community. The success of any one entity reflects upon and improves the whole community!

ROOFTOP OF VIRGINIA CAP, INC.
SERVICES PROVIDED TO GRAYSON COUNTY RESIDENTS
JULY 1, 2013 - JUNE 30, 2014

<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>SERVICES OFFERED</u>	<u># OF SERVICES</u>
Head Start/Early Head Start	Children served	101
Weatherization	Houses winterized	25
Emergency Home Repair	Ramp built	1
Indoor Plumbing and Rehabilitation Loan Program	Houses built	1
Earned Income Tax Credit	Preparation of Income Taxes	98
Voucher Choice Housing Program	Assistance with rent	195
Seniors		4
Outreach Program - Emergencies Services:		
	Food	81
	Rent - evictions	18
	Electric Bill - cut-off notices	64
	Heating Fuel	58
	Water - cut-off notices	8
	TOTAL SERVICES	654