

McDonald's coming to Frontier; library trivia; try transit week; dinner in the park — The buzz

Laura Peters, The News Leader

Published 10:12 a.m. ET Sept. 18, 2017 | Updated 9:33 a.m. ET Sept. 19, 2017



(Photo: Mike Tripp/The News Leader)

A new McDonald's is coming to Frontier Center; grab a beer and get some trivia on with the Augusta County Library; eat dinner at the old landfill; and try local transit for free this week. Here's the buzz.

McDonald's

Things are moving along at Staunton Frontier Center, now with word a new McDonald's will be located there, according to city plans.

Staunton Frontier [Center \(/story/news/local/2017/07/13/open-signs-still-year-away-frontier-center-staunton-crossing/475081001/\)](/story/news/local/2017/07/13/open-signs-still-year-away-frontier-center-staunton-crossing/475081001/) across from Staunton Crossing and in front of the Frontier Culture Museum plans to

bring retail, restaurants and lodging to a 42-acre area on land adjacent to Sheetz. The original master plan was presented to city council in 2010 and in 2014, plans lurched forward.

More: [Hemp one step closer to legalization \(/story/news/local/2017/09/18/hemp-one-step-closer-legalization/676671001/\)](/story/news/local/2017/09/18/hemp-one-step-closer-legalization/676671001/)

Work started in the winter of 2016. Now, it's looking more like a shopping center than a pile of dirt. A new round-about has been built and plots are started to be graded.

The new McDonald's will be near the roundabout in the center, but there is no indication if the McDonald's just down the road across from Mrs. Rowe's will remain open or not.



An excavator works to move earth and load dump trucks. Construction continues on land designated for the Frontier Center project, alongside the road that leads to the entrance of the Frontier Culture Museum in Staunton on Monday, Feb. 20, 2017. (Photo: Mike Tripp/The News Leader)

According to Ryland Winston, co-manager for Staunton Frontier Center, four out of five "out parcels" are committed to a retailer and three restaurants. The other two restaurants alongside McDonald's include Bojangles' and a Chick-fil-A. An Aldi grocery store is expected to fill another parcel. Winston said they continue to have discussions with potential users on the fifth out parcel.

The second phase of the project would encompass a shopping center, where the company is in search of an anchor store, Winston said. The shopping center would cover up to 300,000 square feet and require the demolition of the long-defunct DeJarnette buildings on Staunton's southeastern corridor. Discussions are also ongoing with a variety of retailers for Phase II of the project.

More: [Middlebrook residents look to save general store \(/story/news/local/2017/09/17/middlebrook-residents-look-save-general-store/674855001/\)](/story/news/local/2017/09/17/middlebrook-residents-look-save-general-store/674855001/)

Trivia

The Valley Libraries Connection will host the first in a series of quarterly team trivia nights at local breweries starting next week.

On Oct. 4, come to Seven Arrows Brewing Company in Fishersville for an evening of craft beer and trivia fun hosted by one of your favorite Valley librarians.

"The idea for trivia evolved from a brainstorming session between the Valley Libraries (Staunton, Waynesboro and Augusta County) about collaborative outreach projects that would get us out into the community together," said Ali McCue, adult services programer for the Augusta County Library. "Originally, the idea was for some kind of brewery book club. Then, I went to a conference in May and talked with library employees from all over Virginia about outreach programs for adults that had been successful. Some librarians from Suffolk mentioned that their library trivia nights had been really fun and very well-received."

McCue suggested trivia nights and everyone jumped on board.

"We're excited to get out of our buildings and have some fun and drinks some beers with our community," she said. "These kinds of events are vital for libraries because it gives us a chance to show that we are so much more than books. Libraries are dynamic, modern resources for everyone — far less shushing these days. I hope by doing more outreach events like these quarterly trivia nights, we can reach more people and find more ways to improve our services."

McCue is hosting this first trivia night at Seven Arrows. Kayla Payne from the Staunton Public Library is in talks with Redbeard Brewing Company for the winter trivia and the spring trivia will hopefully be in Waynesboro.

Teams can consist of up to six adults. Prizes will be awarded to first and second place winners. Ages 21 and up.



More: [New medieval shop; local call-in radio show; 360 biz tours — The buzz \(/story/news/local/2017/09/11/new-medieval-shop-local-call-radio-show-360-biz-tours-buzz/652736001/\)](#)

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A view of Waynesboro as seen from the top of the future Sunset Park, being developed on the site of the city's old municipal landfill which closed in 2005. Photo was taken on Wednesday, Sept. 21, 2016. (Photo: Mike Tripp/The News Leader)

Dinner

Enjoy a locally sourced meal prepared by Waynesboro-based Autumn Olive Farms and BlueOregon paired with micro-brews from Basic City Beer Company atop the hill at the future Sunset Park. The event is a fundraiser for the soon-to-be park.

The site boasts over 200 acres of sloping forest trails and a grassy outlook area on what used to be the Waynesboro municipal landfill site before it closed in 2005.

Waynesboro City Council took the next step toward making Sunset Park a reality at its meeting earlier this month, unanimously voting to declare the former regional landfill site a public park and giving city staff the go-ahead to continue working out the details for the project.

More: [Theater community mourns Nancy Houseknecht \(/story/news/local/2017/09/17/theater-community-mourns-nancy-houseknecht/674810001/\)](#)

Harvest Dinner at Sunset



Dinner will be Oct. 7 starting at 6 p.m. at 300 N. Winchester Ave. in Waynesboro. Attire is casual. Tickets are \$80. To buy a ticket go to [Waynesboro.va.us/166/Parks-Recreation](http://www.waynesboro.va.us/166/Parks-Recreation) (<http://www.waynesboro.va.us/166/Parks-Recreation>) or click [here](https://secure.rec1.com/WA/waynesboro-va/catalog?filter=c2VhcmNoPTQxMTk4Ng==) (<https://secure.rec1.com/WA/waynesboro-va/catalog?filter=c2VhcmNoPTQxMTk4Ng==>).



New BRITE buses (Photo: Submitted/Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission)

Transit

This Wednesday you can ride on all BRITE buses for free, thanks to Try Transit Week.

Try Transit Week is an educational event designed to encourage Virginians to reduce their use of single-occupancy vehicles and try a form of public transportation, a release said. Riders can catch any of the following BRITE Bus routes free of charge that Sept. 20.

On _____ ride day, the release said.

2 free articles left.
\$1 for 3 months. Save 97%.

More: [Tourism on the rise in the Valley, statewide \(https://www.wtkr.com/story/news/local/2017/09/11/tourism-rise-valley-statewide/653193001/\)](https://www.wtkr.com/story/news/local/2017/09/11/tourism-rise-valley-statewide/653193001/)

Try Transit Week was created by the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation and transit operators across the Commonwealth to spread the word about public transportation accessibility and its numerous benefits, the release said.

During Try Transit Week, there is a chance to win a year of free transit service from a participating Virginia transit operator, as well as a pair of round-trip tickets aboard Amtrak's Northeast Regional train. Pledges will be accepted through Sept. 22. Rules at trytransitweek.org.

Routes

East & West 250 Connector – connects to the Staunton trolleys, the Waynesboro Circulator, the Stuarts Draft Link and the Blue Ridge Community College Shuttle, and provides service between the cities of Staunton and Waynesboro in the Rt. 250 corridor, with stops including Augusta Health and the Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center Campus.

Stuarts Draft Link – provides service within Stuarts Draft, and connections with Fishersville and Waynesboro. Stops include apartment complexes, Augusta Health facilities, and employment centers.

Blue Ridge Community College Shuttle – the Blue Ridge Community College (BRCC) Shuttle offers two routes. The BRCC South Shuttle provides service between Staunton and the BRCC Campus in Weyers Cave. A BRCC North Shuttle provides service from the campus to Harrisonburg through Bridgewater, Dayton and Mt. Crawford.

Waynesboro Circulator - travels within the city limits of Waynesboro, providing connections to employment centers, retail, and medical facilities.

Staunton North & West Loops and Downtown Trolley - The Downtown Trolley serves historic downtown Staunton destinations; the North and West Loops serve outlying neighborhoods and medical and retail destinations; the Saturday Night Trolley operates Saturday evenings providing connections to retail and entertainment destinations.

The buzz is a short recap of area business trends. Send ideas to reporter Laura Peters at lpeters@newsleader.com (<mailto:lpeters@newsleader.com>) or follow her [@peterslaura](http://www.twitter.com/peterslaura) (<http://www.twitter.com/peterslaura>) and [@peterpants](http://www.instagram.com/peterpants/) (<http://www.instagram.com/peterpants/>).

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