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in Botetourt County

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Botetourt Living 2024

Tom Field publisher, editor, creative director

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Although every reasonable effort has been made to verify all facts and figures herein, Botetourt County Chamber of Commerce and Berryfield take no responsibility for omissions or inaccuracies.

On the cover:

Botetourt and region group fitness instructor **Betty Bridges** strikes a yoga pose on “the rooftop” in historic downtown Fincastle. That’s our popular boutique restaurant **1772 On Main & Rooftop** (also The Pie Shoppe). Thanks to Rooftop General Manager **Ian Burnett** for venue prep and access for the covershoot. Yes, that’s a real airplane body converted into a bar. Fun.



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Quick Facts

About Botetourt County

- Population: 34,135 (2022)
- Land area: 541 square miles
- Homeownership rate: 87% (2022)
- Median household income: \$81,122 (2022)
- Median housing value: \$389,900 (3/24); Median home sale: \$335,000 (3/24)
- Unemployment rate: 1.9% (3/24), compared to the U.S. rate of 3.8% (3/24)
- Industries include: Mining, Advanced Manufacturing, Transportation, Agriculture, and Healthcare
- Moody's estimates cost of doing business: 15% lower than national average
- Cost of living averages 5–6% lower than national average
- Male/Female ratio of population is nearly 50:50
- Fincastle, the County seat: Incorporated in 1772 and attracts genealogists from all over the world
- Dream destination for outdoor recreation: 70,000 acres of the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests; James River with boating access; miles of off-road opportunities for all-terrain vehicles; Appalachian Trail access; 35 miles of Blue Ridge Parkway
- Botetourt Sports Complex: Championship softball, youth baseball fields; soccer fields; cross-country course; 18-hole disc golf course; Wi-Fi

Sources: U.S. Census, Federal Reserve, Botetourt County, Virginia Economic Development Partnership, Zillow (2022—2024)

Welcome

To Botetourt County
and Botetourt Living

The Botetourt County Chamber of Commerce and its members welcome you to the 26th edition of *Botetourt Living* magazine. This edition also covers activities from our Chamber's activities in 2023.

The magazine serves as a guide for visitors and for citizens — those who recently moved here or have lived here for a lifetime. It's particularly geared to our business community and each of us who has a vested interest in the continuing mission to develop this great place to live, work, and play.

Botetourt County is an ideal environment for business and family. Major markets and resource bases are located within a few hours of here and the labor pool is strongly supported with educational and training venues. As an area for arts and culture, Botetourt offers a wide range of amenities with attractive shopping and entertainment opportunities. Outdoor recreation in Botetourt County, including many square miles of Jefferson National Forest and rivers, is second to none in every season.

Botetourt County, a repository for many forms of historical information, was founded in 1770. Lord Botetourt, for whom the County is named, served as Governor of Virginia. The County is now part of the Roanoke Metropolitan Area, though in early times its lands extended as far west as Illinois and Wisconsin. The County shares the Southern Shenandoah Valley with its neighbor jurisdictions of Roanoke County, the cities of Roanoke and Salem, and the Town of Vinton.

Welcome to our beautiful County and all that it offers.
We invite you to visit or call the Chamber for more information.

Come Home to

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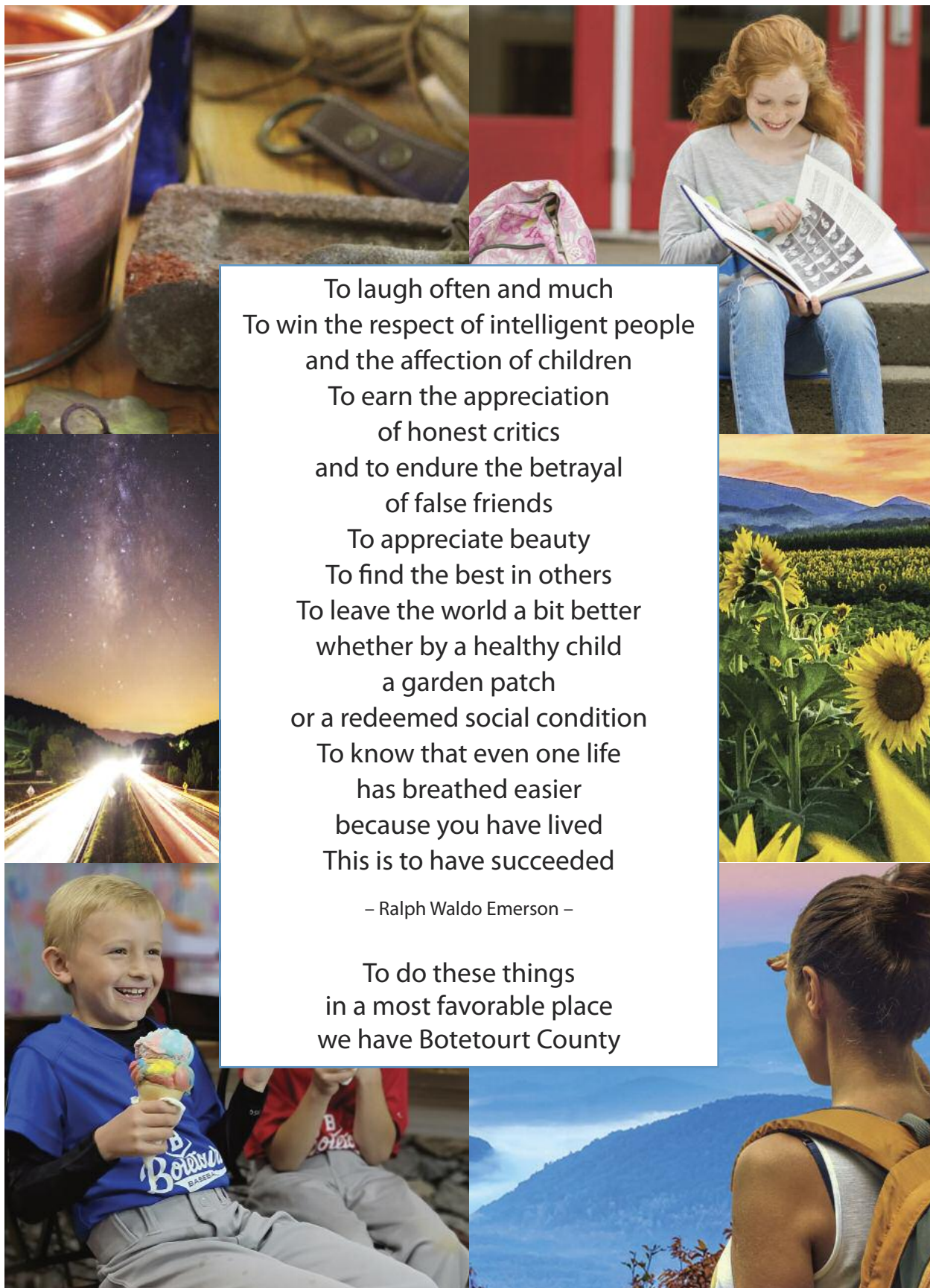
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To laugh often and much
To win the respect of intelligent people
and the affection of children
To earn the appreciation
of honest critics
and to endure the betrayal
of false friends
To appreciate beauty
To find the best in others
To leave the world a bit better
whether by a healthy child
a garden patch
or a redeemed social condition
To know that even one life
has breathed easier
because you have lived
This is to have succeeded

– Ralph Waldo Emerson –

To do these things
in a most favorable place
we have Botetourt County

I don't know if people always realize how significantly wellness is taken into account in the world of community development. From building code to planning, much of our work is framed with the concept of wellness, not just for today's population, but for those who are here long after all of us.

Comprehensive planning practices promote active transportation infrastructure, parks, green spaces, and clear air and water, they protect vital farmland and access to healthy foods. Mixed use zoning, like at the Daleville Town Center and the recently approved Harvest at Blue Ridge supports walkable and bikeable destinations close to housing, work, and recreation. Energy efficient building codes, floodplain regulations, and even something as simple as the orientation of buildings and the number of windows are all great examples of how wellness is a core component of what we do. It's also our job to ensure that these efforts are equitable and that everyone is empowered to have a sense of ownership in Botetourt today and in the future. That's all about providing opportunities for everyone to reach their full potential and contribute to a thriving community. That's a lot of moving pieces, and I am proud to support the awesome BOCO team and wonderful community partners striving to make Botetourt the best it can be today and in the future.

Nicole Pendleton
Botetourt County Development



Living Well in Our Communities

Botetourt County has many communities where residents find it easy to live well. The County is nestled in one of the most aesthetic pockets of the Commonwealth of Virginia, with fields and forests, farmlands and small towns, mountains, rivers, and streams, rolling hills, and beautiful panoramic vistas in all directions.

Four counties surround Botetourt: Roanoke to the south, Craig to the west, Alleghany to the northwest, Rockbridge to the north / northeast, and Bedford to the west / southwest.

Botetourt County has three towns: the Town of Buchanan, the Town of Fincastle, and the Town of Troutville.

Census-designated communities include: Blue Ridge, Cloverdale, Daleville, Eagle Rock, Glen Wilton, Hollins, and Laymantown. Unincorporated communities include: Arcadia, Haden, Lithia, Nace, Oriskany, and Springwood.

The County is segmented into five political districts: Amsterdam District, Blue Ridge District, Buchanan District, Fincastle District, and Valley District.

As you might expect, each of these places has unique characteristics. Individuals and families can choose to live in remote, rural, private, farm, or estate settings—suburban neighborhoods and “bedroom” communities—well-established and even historical houses in and around town—brand new housing developments—and condominiums and apartment complexes. There is no singular, compacted, downtown metro city space in Botetourt County (although there are retail and business locales); most people go “next door” to Roanoke for that environment.

Botetourt County has been featured, showcased, and cited in all kinds of media for its environment as a great place to live—and the residents confirm that reputation.



Living Well with Our Agriculture

Botetourt County is well-suited for farming and agriculture. Even the most casual drive around any of the 541 square miles will reveal farms—offering dairy, beef, chicken, hogs, and fresh produce. It's also a popular home for horses and the equestrian community.

Farming and agriculture are so vital to Botetourt County's economic position that the reputation is celebrated with events and happenings all year long and throughout the seasons, like the Farmers Market in Daleville, the Beaver Dam Sunflower Festival, Fall harvest, and various Fairs and farm/ag-related activities.

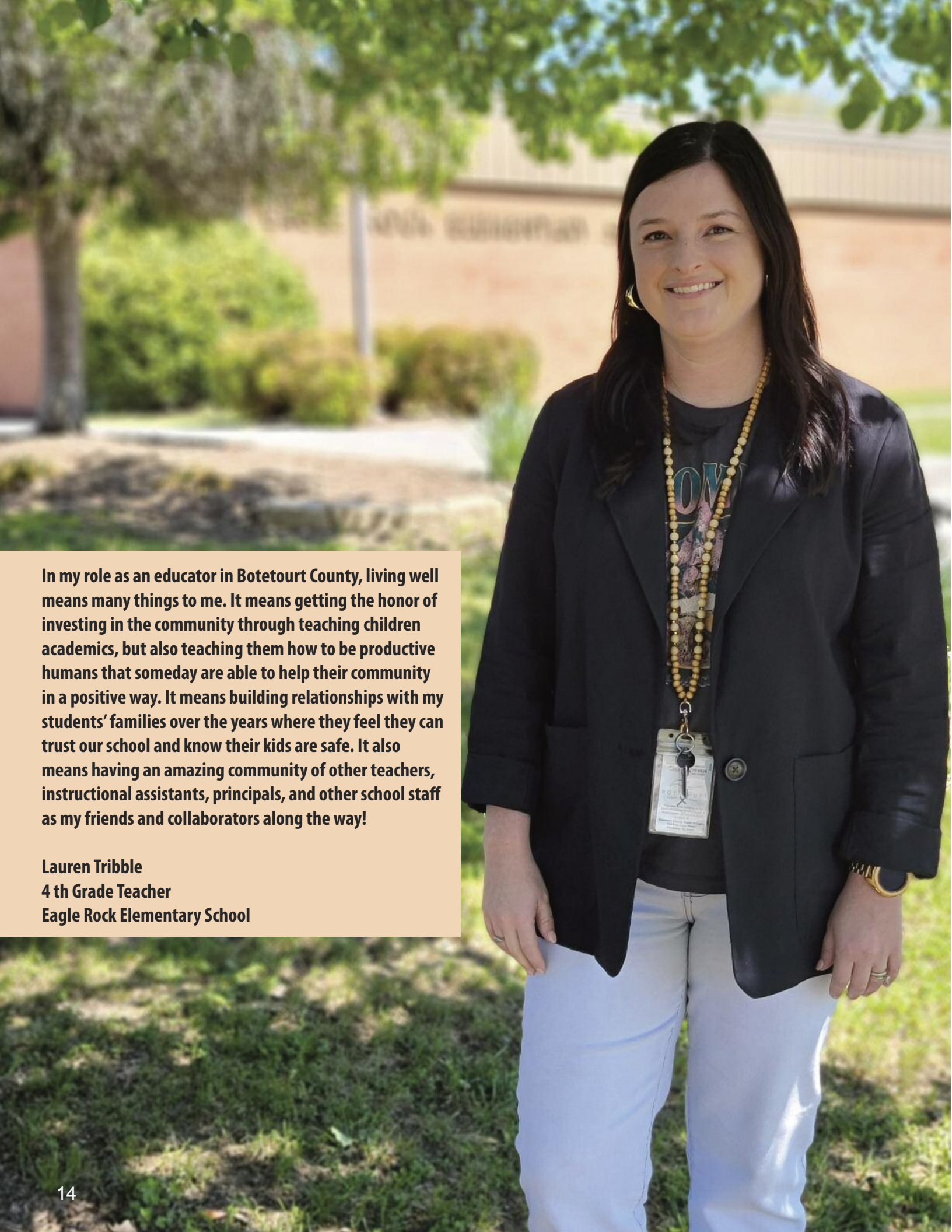


Living well—for what we do—means getting outside and connecting with the land. We raise and manage beef cattle, hogs, meat chicken, egg-laying chicken... and I see more and more people who want to really know where their food comes from.



Farmers have always known this;
and I'm encouraged there is renewed
interest in local food sources.

Jared Frye
C&F Farms



In my role as an educator in Botetourt County, living well means many things to me. It means getting the honor of investing in the community through teaching children academics, but also teaching them how to be productive humans that someday are able to help their community in a positive way. It means building relationships with my students' families over the years where they feel they can trust our school and know their kids are safe. It also means having an amazing community of other teachers, instructional assistants, principals, and other school staff as my friends and collaborators along the way!

Lauren Tribble
4 th Grade Teacher
Eagle Rock Elementary School

Living Well with Our Children and Education

Here's a test for you. Walk up to a soccer game or any public school event and ask the parents of Botetourt County Public School children what they think of the schools. Chances are good you'll hear a high degree of satisfaction, particularly from folks who might have experience with other school systems. Although all schools can improve, there is a pride and a real sense of citizen-ownership with schools in Botetourt. You're likely to find a great deal of support and attention to how Botetourt serves its student communities.

Botetourt County Public Schools include seven elementary schools: Breckinridge Elementary School, Buchanan Elementary School, Cloverdale Elementary School, Colonial Elementary School, Eagle Rock Elementary School, Greenfield Elementary School, and Troutville Elementary School.

Middle Schools include: Central Academy Middle School and Read Mountain Middle School.

High Schools include: James River High School and Lord Botetourt High School.

Botetourt Technical Education Center (BTEC) and Virtual Academy complete the school offerings for the County.

All Botetourt County Public Schools are accredited. The high school graduation rate is 95% (higher than the state average of 91.1%). There are about 4,500 students and 750 employees.

Higher education onsite campus locations under an hour's drive include: Virginia Tech, Mountain Gateway Community College, Virginia Western Community College, Roanoke Higher Education Center, Roanoke

Living well in Botetourt County is being a part of a community that values family, education, community, and the well-being of our children. An added bonus is the natural beauty of our county, from rolling hills to meandering rivers. Having worked in numerous school divisions during my career, I can also say that what we have in Botetourt County is genuinely unique.

**Jonathan D. Russ, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Botetourt County Public Schools**

College, Radford University (and many others within an hour or two drive).

The mission of BCPS is "to ensure that all students participate in quality learning experiences necessary to grow, to adapt, and to meet the challenges of responsible citizenship in a changing global society."

The correlation between living well and education is a strong one. The school system has promoted three commitments recognizing this: 1. Every student graduates prepared for meaningful employment, higher education opportunities, or military service; 2. Every employee is a member of a community of collaboration, planning, and practice that fosters personal and professional growth; 3. Every learning environment is designed to connect students to real life, authentic learning experiences, guided by our community's values and needs.

BCPS has ranked high in numerous areas, including mathematics and reading and on-time graduation.

Extracurricular activities with the BCPS system, recreation sports and leagues, access to playgrounds and parks, and a library network provide myriad opportunities for our youth to thrive and develop a well-rounded experience.

**A man's mind, stretched by new ideas,
may never return to its original dimensions**

– Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr –

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– Lucy Fuggle –



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Living Well Means Living Safely

Botetourt County is a safe place to live, work, and play. The crime rate is significantly lower than both the US average and state average. Violent crime rate is much lower than the national average (9.9 per 100,000 residents versus 22.7); and the same is true for property crime (25.2 per 100,000 residents compared to 35.4).

The County introduced a new public safety radio system that will provide better coverage in emergency situations. First responders will be able to respond quicker with the new equipment.

There are seven Fire & Rescue Departments strategically distributed across the County. The Fire-EMS Department is an all-hazards organization, responsible for fire, emergency medical services, emergency and disaster preparedness, as well as a host of prevention and public

education efforts. There are just over 125 volunteers, around 50 full-time, and 25 part-time career staff. The Community Risk Reduction program has services, training, and education for commercial businesses, farms, families, children, and seniors.

Botetourt Sheriff's Office and E911 Center is comprised of about 70 highly trained and dedicated law enforcement officers.

Although the County is expansive and made up of sparsely populated areas as well as pockets of more dense populations, many residents are familiar with the individual fire, emergency, and law enforcement personnel. That kind of connection serves the collective mission to maintain a safe environment for everyone who lives, works, plays, or visits here.





BOTETOURT FIRE-EMS

Living well in Botetourt County to me, means that people have the ability to live a more well-rounded lifestyle, given the suburban and rural traits of our communities. As Chief of Fire & EMS, our organization strives to ensure that the core services of fire and emergency medical services are in place, so that our citizens and visitors don't have to worry about the what ifs. Living in such a vast and diverse area allows for convenience of amenities for those who want them, but also opportunities for rural, picturesque nature for those looking to get away.

Botetourt County is a great place to live, work, and play. It's a wonderful place to raise a family, take-in the outdoors, enjoy a cup of coffee, or dine at any of our unique restaurants.

Living well in Botetourt means so many things, to so many different walks of life, but all who live in Botetourt can find the best part of what living well means to them somewhere in our community.

Jason Ferguson
Chief of Fire & EMS
Botetourt County



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Life isn't a matter
of milestones
but of moments

– Rose Kennedy –

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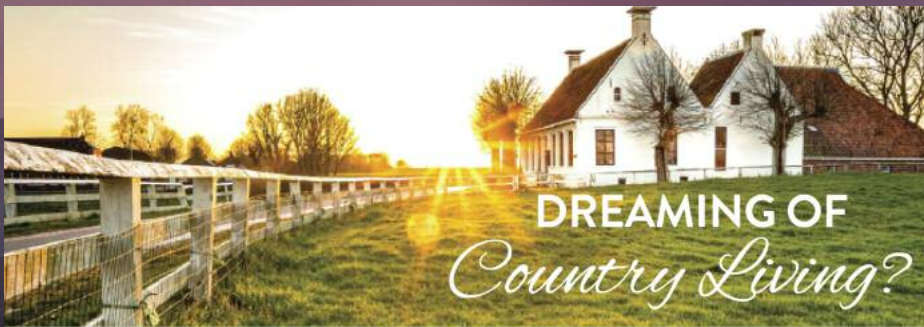
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by the number
of breaths we take
but by the moments
that take
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– Maya Angelou –



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of living
lies in a
fine mingling
of letting go
and holding on

– Havelock Ellis –

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A woman with long brown hair and glasses stands outdoors next to a black dog. She is wearing a red short-sleeved shirt with a blue and white floral pattern, light grey trousers, and a black belt. She holds a black leash in her right hand and rests her left hand on the dog's head. The dog is a black, curly-haired breed, possibly a Weimaraner, sitting on a concrete path. In the background, there is a black metal fence and green foliage.

One of the best ways to live well is to have a good work / life balance. It's taken me awhile to get here, but it's meaningful to do what you enjoy... to do the things that don't cause stress. I also have a small farm; and there is a lot to be said when—at the end of the day—you can get outdoors, be with your dogs, kayaking... Appreciating the best of what we have here in Botetourt County.

Gillian Deegan (with best friend, Seamus)
Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney
Botetourt County
National Animal Welfare Expert

Living Well is a Quality-of-Life Matter

Botetourt County is attractive to people who seek a good work / life balance and those who appreciate the following amenities that have characterized this part of the Commonwealth.

For recreation, most people immediately think of the outdoors when it comes to Botetourt County. That's because the Appalachian Trail, Craig-Botetourt Scenic Trail, US Bicycle Route 76, James River, Roaring Run, and Jefferson National Forest are all popular draws for outdoor enthusiasts (not to mention all the "secret" spots people discover on their own).

"Botetourt Outdoors" is so popular and attractive, the County gets nods all the time from outside media and visitor and tourism organizations, including Virginia's Blue Ridge. In addition to hikers, bikers, campers, hunting and fishing enthusiasts, paddlers and more, the calendar is full of events, such as Ironman 70.3, Troutville Trail Days, Grand Fondo, Buchanan Tri, and several charity race/walks, carnivals and fairs, and outdoor holiday celebrations.

The Botetourt Sports Complex, Greenfield Disc Golf Course, Troutville Park, Ashley Plantation, and Botetourt Golf and Swim Club are favorites for sporting adventurers.

Music and festival lovers have plenty of opportunities

to party and celebrate with Daleville Town Center amphitheater concerts, and a variety of other fun events, like Reggae by the River and County Fair at Buchanan Town Park, and Tractor Days and Trail Days at Troutville Town Park.

Beyond the physical activities, Botetourt County serves the mind (and soul, too) with a dedicated arts scene—including Attic Productions community theater, and an artist guild that hosts the annual Open Studios Botetourt affair.

For the foodie and beverage appreciation crowd, Botetourt County is home to numerous locally-owned restaurants and eatery boutiques, and three winery/vineyards: Blue Ridge Vineyard, Stoney Brook Vineyards, and Virginia Mountain Vineyards. (All three show off beautiful scenery, and each has its unique characteristics.)

History is not just an "offering" of Botetourt County—it is essential to the description. (Some would say history is the top compelling distinction.) Botetourt County once stretched from the Mississippi River to Illinois, and included what would become Kentucky, parts of Ohio, West Virginia, along with numerous other counties. Many families can trace their origins back to Botetourt. As a result, the Botetourt County Historical Society and History Museum is frequently consulted on genealogy.

10TH Anniversary of HERITAGE FAMILY MARKET



Thank You for your Continued Support!

Living Well for Seniors

It's no secret that Botetourt County hosts an aging population. The 2023 US Census reports 24.4% is over the age of 65. (But 18.1% is under the age of 18, so that demographic is growing, as well.) Indeed, Botetourt is a place that seniors love to call home.

Much of that affection can be attributed to heritage and legacy, as many families remained in Botetourt over the decades. But seniors also choose to relocate here, citing quality of life and a peaceful environment while still having access to the services they want and need.

Being removed from the hustle and bustle found in urban areas is an advantage for "homebodies" but

that doesn't mean folks just stay in their homes or sitting out on their porches all the time. Older folks are active and out-and-about all over the County (perhaps more than they would be in metro settings), visiting the farmers market, picking up items at country stores, watching a sporting event at a school or Botetourt Sports Complex, playing golf, walking and riding bikes, or catching a play at "The Attic."

In some sense, it's a bit of a paradox, but Botetourt is advantageous for the senior who desires peace and quiet as well as the senior who enjoys a highly active lifestyle. Botetourt is as much a "playground" for the young as it is for the old. It's living well for the young and the young at heart.

See you on the roof top.

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As a senior living community our goal is to help people continue to live with purpose, stay connected and actively engage in life as they age. Living well at The Glebe in Botetourt County offers all these things, helping seniors live with security, confidence and vitality. Senior Living is evolving. Today's communities offer enriching experiences and countless opportunities to be creative, to grow and learn, and to be fulfilled without the worries and uncertainties of home-ownership. I encourage anyone planning to stay home and "age in place" to consider looking into a senior living community as an alternative.

Shelli Schinkus
Director of Sales
and Marketing
The Glebe

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– Anne Frank –

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Living well is about finding balance in three dynamic areas of our lives: physical, mental/emotional, spiritual. This also matches our mission statement at the Y. Often, people think of the Y as a “swim-and-a-gym” but we’re much more. For example, we’re the largest childcare center here in Botetourt. I’m also a Methodist minister, so I lead Bible studies. The space here is built for the physical, but the reality is we just love each other better here. Our Botetourt Family YMCA is indeed, a family.

Rob Lough
Botetourt Family YMCA



Living Well, Keeping Fit

Botetourt County is a great place to care for your personal fitness. From low intensity activities, like casual walking and biking and yoga—to specialized activities, like attending a gym or fitness center—to outdoor adventures, like hiking and biking the trails and paddling the river—to whatever high intensity workouts you want to do on your own or at boot camps and the like.

Both private facilities—like Botetourt Family YMCA, Carilion Wellness, and numerous small business studios and gyms... and public offerings—like those offered by Botetourt County Parks & Recreation are available and easily accessible, whether you visit them on a regimented plan or in a more random fashion.

You'll often see people walking, jogging, and biking around Botetourt County (so keep an eye out for their safety!), because the environment is so lovely and conducive to enjoying the outdoors.

If you appreciate camaraderie and the energy and spirit you can build with others when keeping fit, there are ample opportunities with classes and groups throughout the County.

Discipline is
the bridge
between goals
and accomplishments

– Jim Rohn –

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Financial Wellness Contributes to Living Well

Financial wellness is an important component for living well. If your financial house is not in order, the burden of stress and anxiety, and in dire cases—livability—can create conditions where it is difficult to live well or in a productive fashion. There are individuals and resources to help you manage the financial matters that make life more enjoyable.

The following list is not complete, but it does give you a general idea of the volume of resources that are easily accessible.

Botetourt County is served by banks and credit unions, including Bank of Botetourt, FirstBank, First Citizens, Blue Eagle Credit Union, MemberOne Federal Credit Union, and Freedom First Credit Union.

Mortgage lenders and related financial services include the banks and credit unions above, as well as Virginia Mountain Mortgage, and Farm Credit of the Virginias.

Insurance agents include John Alderson Agency, Waff Family Insurance, Dominion Risk Advisors, Business Solutions, and F.A. Wagner Insurance Agency.

Financial advisors and consultants include Edward Jones (Josh Werle), and Ameriprise Financial (Christine Smith).

Accountants and CPAs include Bible Accounting Enrolled Agents, Campbell & Lineberry, Cole & Associates, Dominion Accounting & Tax Services, and R. Candace Poling CPA.

There are many services and professionals ready to help you with the money you earn, your savings and investments. Likewise, you have resources for insuring and protecting yourself and your property.

But the Botetourt community is also a giving community. The opportunities to help your fellow citizens as well as give back to your communities are plentiful. Nonprofits and charitable organizations and similar agencies depend on contributions, sponsorships, and other forms of support—and many of them are specific to the Botetourt community. These include service areas such as health and welfare, food and housing, education, youth and senior services, cultural entities, animal welfare, economic assistance, sports and recreation, tourism and hospitality, outdoor amenities, infrastructure development, community and business development, environmental, and yes... all things wellness.



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Living well in Botetourt for me means supporting my community by giving back, through volunteerism and in my role as a community banker. I'm fortunate to work for, and be a customer of, a local bank that prides itself on community engagement. My colleagues and I have the daily privilege of helping our neighbors and supporting their businesses of all sizes to thrive and grow. Having my deposits at a community bank like Bank of Botetourt means my money will be reinvested back into the community to support our local economy, improving our main streets and thoroughfares with services that make living here enjoyable.

Mary Ann Miller
Bank of Botetourt

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Danielle Alexander



Maiya Ashby



Emily Bailey



Dustin Bays



Richard Bennett



Kathryn Bishop



Brittany Bostic



Tracy Branson



Luke Campbell



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Mike Ketron



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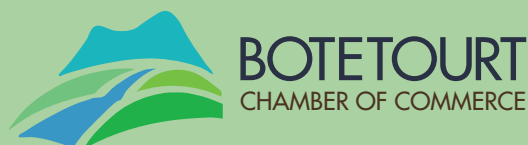


Channing Preston
Community
Engagement
Coordinator

Did You Know?

A membership in the Botetourt County Chamber of Commerce is one of the most important investments a business can make. We're the pro-business voice in Botetourt County and the surrounding region. Being a member will keep you plugged in locally and throughout the region.

Workforce Development • Community Service
Business/Legislative Advocacy • Special Events
Annual Gala • Business After Hours • Mentorships
Workshops • Roundtables • Local Market Intel
Newsletter • Business Growth • Directory



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Secretary **William Nelms**

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Maiya Ashby Craig-Botetourt Electric Cooperative

Emily Bailey Old Republic Title

Dustin Bays Bank of Botetourt

Richard Bennett Blue Ridge PBS

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Elizabeth Wilmer Virginia Western Community College

Grow And Sustain Your Business

Become a member of the Botetourt County Chamber of Commerce—combining traditional community development with modern business economic development.

Advocate—*Create a better business environment*
Taking your ideas, concerns and interests to local, regional, and state officials where the collective voice of business is better heard.

Educate—*Learn effectiveness and efficiency*
Teaching business principles and sharing ideas with small-business owners, entrepreneurs, and corporate leaders, through workshops, programs, and the seminars you want.

Facilitate—*Use tools that bring business*
Marketing your business and delivering resources in an integrated way that is unique and effective to meet your objectives.

Botetourt County Chamber of Commerce

23 South Roanoke Street • Fincastle, VA 24090 | PO Box 413 • Daleville, VA 24083 | (540) 566-8812
e-mail: info@botetourtchamber.com • web: www.botetourtchamber.com

The Importance of the Chamber of Commerce in a Community

Have you ever wondered about the role of the Chamber of Commerce in a community? As a child, I remember hearing words like “board of directors,” “trustees,” “committee meetings”, and of course, “The Chamber of Commerce”. The last one... that’s the one that stuck with me. The Chamber of Commerce was always a significant part of my parents’ lives. They were active in the community, always willing to lend a hand, always willing to serve. Whenever there was a need, they were there. And they were not alone. They were part of a bigger entity, The Chamber of Commerce.

The Chamber of Commerce was more than just a name. It was a directory, a list of elites, the best of the best. It was like an actual phone book, a catalogue of those who had perfected their craft, those who could be counted on, those who were determined and successful, those who were always willing to go the extra mile. It was synonymous with reliability and trust. When you needed someone to do something, to serve, to help, to show up... you reached for that directory. And you knew you could rely on those people. That's what The Chamber of Commerce meant to our community.

As the years went by, The Chamber of Commerce always stuck in my head. It became something more than just a memory of my parents' community involvement. It became a symbol of service, of dedication, and of excellence. My father served as President of our Chamber, along with many other roles. Over the years, my parents continued to stay active and their dedication to the Chamber and the community never wavered.

Now, as an adult with my own family, I understand what they were talking about all those years. I see the importance of The Chamber of Commerce in our community. I see the elites, the ones who show up, who can be counted on. The Chamber is only as good as its parts, and I am proud to say that we are strong. We have a community of dedicated, reliable, and passionate individuals who are always willing to go the extra mile.

I am proud to be a part of, and to serve, the Botetourt County Chamber of Commerce. I look forward to a very successful future for our Chamber. I know that we can do great things, simply because of the sum of our parts. Our community is strong because of our Chamber. We are a testament to the power of service, dedication, and excellence. And I know that with the continued support of our community, the future of our Chamber is bright.

Emily Bailey
Chamber Vice President



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State of the County



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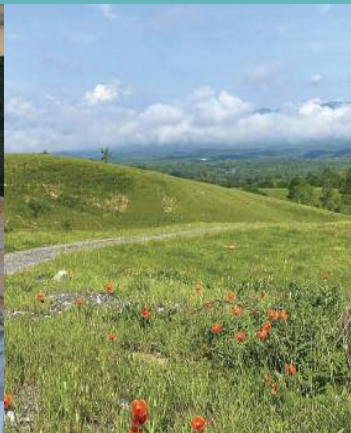
These Botetourt County graduates were chosen based on their commitment to further their education, focus on specific career goals, and involvement in the community.

			
Kylie Muterspaugh Lord Botetourt High School	Andrew Fowler James River High School	Michael Jorgensen James River High School & Botetourt Technical Education Center	Madison Mook James River High School

2023 Chamber Scholarship Recipients



SERVPRO Cocktail Classic at Sunnybrook



Chamber Affair at Virginia Mountain Vineyards



Chamber Ag Dinner



Eldor Partnership



Blue Ridge PBS Partnership



Chamber Member Spotlight Fincastle Farm



Brekinridge Elementary Fireworks



Tuck Chiropractic Open House



Chamber Board Meeting



Visit Virginia's Blue Ridge Event



Vinton War Memorial Event



Botetourt County Citizen Commission Forum



Chamber Scholarship at James River High School



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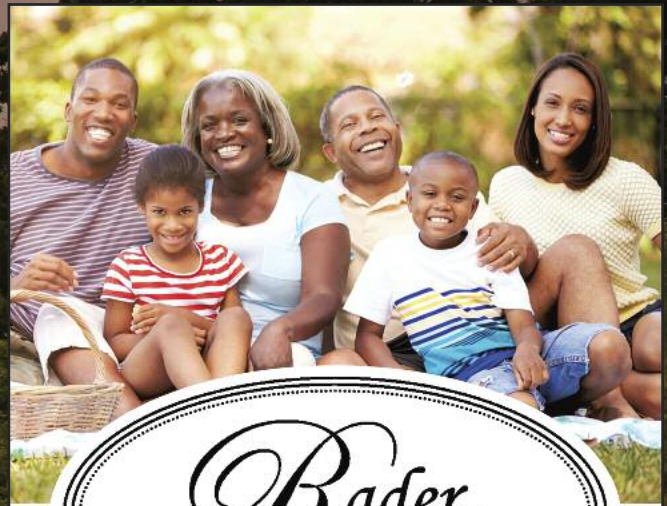
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Life is a daring adventure
or nothing at all

– Helen Keller –



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Wellness refers to general well-being across multiple aspects of health. Physical wellness is not always six-pack abs, running fast, or lifting heavy weights—it is individualized based on different lifestyles. Physical well-being includes mobility, strength, endurance, and balance. As a physical therapist we focus not only on pain and impairments, but on restoring all of these aspects of physical well-being to make our patients feel better, move better, and be better balanced. Restoring well-rounded physical health has a tremendous impact on quality of life and overall health, and that is why it is important to us!

**Travis Herald, PT, DPT, Cert SMT, Cert DN
Daleville Physical Therapy**

Living Well with Good Health

As a community noted for its rural charm and “clean living,” it’s often surprising to a lot of people the degree of healthcare services that are located in Botetourt County.

Living well and healthy means paying attention to your state of wellness; and that can include everything from information, checkups, and monitoring—to medical or other treatment.

Both major healthcare institutions in this region of the state—Carilion Clinic and LewisGale—have practice groups in Botetourt.

That includes local access to general physicians, emergency care, family medicine, internal medicine, nurse practitioners, cardiology, nephrology, orthopedic, pediatric, digital imaging and x-ray, obstetrics and gynecology, and urgent care.

Smaller, private practices—such as Lawson Family Medicine—also serve the Botetourt community. This also includes specialties as varied as Eye Care & Surgery, Vistar Eye Center, Cross Lavinder Quinn & Park Dentistry, Kaiser Orthodontics, Lenk Orthodontics, Daleville Chiropractic, Daleville Physical Therapy, Tuck Chiropractic, Kissito Healthcare Brian Center, Good Samaritan Advanced Illness Care (Hospice), several mental health counseling and therapy options, and DownHome Pharmacy, to name a few.

This edition of Botetourt Living magazine is all about how suitable this county is for living well, but it’s good to know we have a caring community of neighbors and wellness resources to help ensure we stay on that path.

Dayna's stats add up

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STORAGE

Wellness is finding joy and excitement in the practice of healthy habits like exercise. It does not mean you have to be perfect and in the best shape of your life—because every day is going to feel a little different. It is about giving the best of what you have each day, each workout, and just having fun!

I just want to help people feel better, through good exercise and moving their bodies. I enjoy connecting with people and helping them improve their physical fitness at whatever level they're at. My number one rule when it comes to working out is to have fun!

**Betty Bridges
Group Fitness Instructor**



Living Well is Good Business

Productivity has a lot to do with living well. Research has proven that a strong, robust, working economy is a contributing factor (perhaps the number one factor) for reducing societal problems (crime, poverty, drugs, inadequate housing, unemployment) while improving successes and the overall state of wellness and quality of life.

Botetourt County has developed a reputation for being a good place to “set up shop” as a small business owner, as well as the ideal location for larger corporations.

The County’s cost of living is significantly lower than the US average and much lower than the Virginia average (9.1% lower).

Of the total working population, roughly 15% of the workforce is in-County residents, a third commute in to the County, and around 50% commute outside the County.

Botetourt County’s unemployment rate is 1.9% (March 2024) compared to 2.4% for Virginia and 3.9% for US.

Top industries include construction, agriculture, manufacturing, technology, administrative, finance, healthcare, education, professional services, and mining. In recent years, including post-COVID pandemic, there has been a surge in the remote labor force, coinciding with expanding broadband.



Living well through my photography, as a resident and small business owner in Botetourt County, Virginia, means more than just taking great photos—it's about capturing the heart and soul of our amazing community, the people, and places that make our community thrive. It's about being present at local events, supporting fellow entrepreneurs, staying up-to-date about things happening in our communities, and using my lens to tell the stories that need to be told. It's about building relationships with my clients, understanding their unique needs, capturing all the beauty that is Botetourt and delivering personalized service that exceeds their expectations. By living well and doing business with integrity, compassion, and creativity, I aim to make a positive impact on my community, one frame at a time.

Jason Rinehart
Hartlight Photography



Good Business is Living Well

Botetourt County has a diverse mix of business sizes and scopes—from solo-preneurs and independent freelancers and contractors to mom-and-pops to micro and small businesses to medium and larger institutions and facilities.

Botetourt County Chamber of Commerce currently has 235 active members. The membership representation includes old-timers (and even charter members) to brand new ventures and enterprises. This variety is part of Botetourt's character. Even the state agencies reveal great diversity in the "largest employer" lists, that range from the biggest manufacturer to a fast-food franchise.

And it's entirely possible a new startup (about a dozen

in 2023) could find itself on the list in a shorter than average timeframe.

Businesses and organizations in Botetourt are renowned for supporting the local community, whether it's by charitable giving or sponsoring fundraisers or hosting activities to draw awareness or help for advancement.

Botetourt County Chamber of Commerce invites and encourages all stakeholders to applaud our business community, to promote the accomplishments, to shop and purchase from local providers of Botetourt-based products and services.

Such patronage is directly related to... living well.





From the Board of Supervisors Chair

As we reflect on 2023, we have seen growth and incredible opportunities in our community. We continued work on universal broadband coverage to bring this necessary and valuable resource to all of our homes and businesses.

In 2023 we saw an increase in youth recreation sports participation and more of our citizens utilized library resources. Botetourt continued to see small businesses thrive and flourish and we made strides in addressing the childcare shortage. We made our Board of Supervisors Meetings more accessible by launching a live stream on the county's YouTube channel. We also told the stories of people making a difference in our community with our "BOCO Storyteller" series. Our exemplary Fire & EMS Department hosted the 2nd Annual Girls Fire Camp and they scooped up local and national awards. 2023 also saw state accolades for our world class Community Development Team for their work on the Gateway Crossing Plan. The county also began working on ways to support our ever growing remote worker community.

I, along with the Botetourt County Board of Supervisors and Botetourt County Administration am pleased to present the 2023 Botetourt County Annual Report. I am proud of what we have accomplished together and can't wait to see what the future holds for beautiful Botetourt County!

Dr. Mac Scothorn
2023 Board Chair

Telling Botetourt's Story

BOCO Storytellers

The BOCO Storytellers Video Series is a new series launched this year to share the stories of people in our community that are doing extraordinary things. Make sure to check it out on our YouTube.

BOCOFacts4U.info

Botetourt County strives to be as transparent as possible with our community. BOCO Facts 4 U was created to correct misinformation spread through the grapevine and via social media in the county. We believe that great discussions of county issues must be based on facts and not assumptions, innuendo, or false narratives.

Live Streaming

Board of Supervisors Meetings

The county enhanced accessibility to its Board of Supervisor Meetings and public hearings by introducing live streaming. Sessions are available for live viewing on the county's YouTube channel. For those unable to tune in live, recordings are archived and accessible, allowing residents to catch up at their convenience. Find out more at www.botetourtva.gov/livestream.

Preserving History

We continue to deepen our commitment to preserving and celebrating our rich history. We proudly teamed up with the

Virginia American Revolution 250 Commission (VA250) and a local committee has been established.

In collaboration with the Historic Greenfield Preservation Advisory Council, Botetourt unveiled a new history book spotlighting the Greenfield structures.

The Botetourt County Citizen Commission for Preservation of Historical Properties hosted a successful Botetourt Historic Preservation event, drawing an enthusiastic crowd of 40 attendees and fostering a deeper appreciation for the area's heritage.

Economic Growth

Altec Industries Expansion

Altec Industries' announcement in May involved the physical expansion of Altec's campus in Greenfield and the addition of 150 manufacturing jobs. Combined with Altec's 2018 expansion, their recent growth in BOCO represents an annual regional economic impact of \$196 million.

New Belgium Comes to Botetourt

On March 23, New Belgium Brewing announced the acquisition of the Constellation Brands facility in the Botetourt Center at Greenfield, located in Daleville.

Addressing the Childcare Shortage

We partnered with childcare providers to improve the availability of services

in the County. In 2023, the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation awarded Wonderschool a \$21,000 pilot grant to assist a new provider in BOCO.

Governor Youngkin

Visits Botetourt

On March 27, Gov. Glenn Youngkin paid a visit to BOCO to tour the Eldor facility to learn more about their manufacturing division that's housed right here in Botetourt County.

Small Business Development

Botetourt's small business development program involves partnerships with the Advancement Foundation and the Greater Roanoke & NRV Regional Small Business Development Center (SBDC).

Small Business Development Center

- Clients Served: 141
- Average Hours Per Client: 4.2
- 7 Business Starts and 11 Jobs Created
- Capital that BOCO businesses secured: \$1 million

Advancement Foundation

- Served 4 Botetourt County-based entrepreneurs
- Weekly business planning program & pitch competition
- Entrepreneurs received \$20,810 in awards and services for their businesses



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Community Development

Planners Bring Home State Awards

Community Development was honored with two awards from the American Planning Association - the Holzheimer Economic Development Award, for the County's Gateway Crossing Zoning Overlay Plan, and the Foxhound Award for Distinguished New Professionals. The Foxhound Award was presented to Jonathan McCoy for his exceptional work in managing long-range planning projects with a focus on community engagement and outreach.

Building Safety Month

Botetourt participated in the 43rd annual International Building Safety Month. Locally, the county shared safety information through social media engagement and community events, hosting the first open house, where members of the community could stop by, meet the team, and ask questions.

Envision 2040 Survey Results

Botetourt County sought input from the community to update our comprehensive plan by launching the Envision 2040 Survey. This plan is the most important document for guiding future land development,

growth, and policy in the county. It sets goals for a variety of planning areas, including transportation, economic development, housing, and future land use. 306 people took the survey and staff has been working on analyzing results and drafting the plan. Public hearings will be advertised and held before any action is taken.

Developing Our Community

In 2023, our Community Development Department completed:

- 1,177 Permit Reviews
- 5,478 Inspections
- 758 Project Reviews
- 981 Permits Issued

Arts / Culture / Recreation

Botetourt Family YMCA in Daleville: ymcavbr.org/locations/botetourt/botetourt-family-ymca

Buchanan Theatre, on the Virginia Landmarks Register: buchanantheatre.com

Open Studios Botetourt, visit artists in their homes/studios: openstudiosbotetourt.com

Attic Productions plays and theatrical events are posted on Facebook and atticproductions.info

Daleville Town Center Summer posts its schedule (including Daleville Summer Concert Series) on Facebook and dalevilletowncenter.com/events

Botetourt Sports Complex posts its schedule of tournaments and other sporting events at botetourtva.gov/639/Botetourt-Sports-Complex

Troutville Trail Days hosts its annual event for outdoor enthusiasts in June: troutvilletraildays.org

Beaver Dam Farm in Buchanan hosts its annual **Sunflower Festival**, date dependent on blooming season: beaverdamsunflowers.com

Botetourt County Fair is held in August. Details at botetourtcountyfair.com

Town of Buchanan posts its events schedule at buchanan-va.gov/news-events

Town of Troutville posts its events schedule at <https://townoftroutville-va.gov/events.php>

Botetourt Chamber of Commerce posts its events at botetourtchamber.com/events

Good Government

Remote Worker Support

Botetourt formed a Remote Worker Focus Group to identify and support remote and hybrid workers. Our goal is to make BOCO a State Certified Remote Work Community and develop initiatives to support remote workers and attract new talent to the area. A survey was launched mid-year and 431 people participated. In partnership with Saving Rural Communities, we are using the survey results to make actionable steps.

County Continues Fiscal Responsibility

Botetourt received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the

Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for the 16th year in a row. Additionally, the County continues to maintain its bond issuer credit rating of Aa1 from Moody's, which is the second-highest rating that can be achieved by a locality. This rating is important to the county government and taxpayers because it helps the county continue to get the best possible interest rates to finance capital projects, which in turn saves money.

Financial information and an info-graphic video outlining BOCO's budgeting process can be found at www.botetourtva.gov/budget.

New Employee Assistance Program

A focus group of employees worked together to analyze, evaluate, and launch a new Employee Assistance Program (EAP). EAPs play a pivotal role in fostering a supportive and productive work environment by addressing a wide range of personal and professional challenges that employees may face. Ultimately, investing in EAPs underscores a company's commitment to its employees' well-being, contributing to a healthier, happier, and more engaged workforce that can better serve our community.



Life is a great big canvas
and you should throw
all the paint on it you can

– Danny Kaye –



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Public Safety

Public Safety Radio System

To improve an outdated (1999) Public Safety Communications system, Botetourt hired an Emergency Communications System Manager who signed a contract to purchase a new public safety radio system. The new system will provide better coverage for the citizens of the county and first responders during emergencies. The system is expected to go into service before the end of 2025.

First Annual

Fire Prevention Week Art Contest

Fire & EMS partnered with Botetourt County Public Schools, inviting 5th grade students to participate in the 1st Annual Fire Prevention Week Art Contest. The event aims to promote fire safety awareness and education through creative artwork. Winners were invited to a celebratory dinner with Firefighters and Emergency Medical Staff.

Girls Fire Camp Receives Awards

Girls Fire Camp is an annual one-day event that encourages young girls to learn more about Fire & EMS as a profession. This unique event was recognized with two accolades: the Summit Award from the Blue Ridge Public Relations Society of America and an award from the National Association of Counties.

Sheriff's Department

Gets a New Look

The Sheriff's Office proudly began wearing an all-black uniform. The decision to transition to a new uniform was made after careful consideration and feedback from staff and the uniform committee. The new uniforms will ensure that deputies are getting a practical, durable, and more functional uniform. 80% of today's uniform market predominately deals with black and blue materials, which will result in cost savings for the county.


Drug Court

The Botetourt/Craig Drug Treatment Court Program allows non-violent drug offenders to participate in an intensive treatment and probation track in lieu of incarceration or standard probation.


The program has 11 participants in various stages of the program. It's estimated that this saves the taxpayers nearly \$20,000 and more importantly, the program helps participants stop the cycle of substance abuse, heals families, and makes the community safer.

Total Calls for Service:

- Sheriff's Department: 34,793
- Fire & EMS: 5,457



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Community Programs

Increase in Community Engagement

Botetourt County Libraries continued to grow in community engagement, with a 20% increase in materials checkouts and a 218% increase in program attendance this year.

More than 91,000 people visited library branches, asking over 30,000 questions about research, reading recommendations, and more.

Library staff helped citizens learn digital literacy skills by assisting with over 3,000 short computer help sessions (<15 minutes) and 440 one-on-one computer tutoring sessions (15-45 minutes).



New Mobile App

Roanoke Valley Libraries rolled out a new mobile app, that makes using the library even easier and more convenient, allowing patrons to take the library with them wherever they go. With the app, patrons will have a one-stop-shop for library needs, including reading eBooks and eMaterials. The app works on phones and tablets. Download from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.

Library Incentive Fund

Botetourt County Libraries awarded \$15,000 in funding through the Library Incentive Funds grant.

This program offers matching funds to community service groups, individuals, and businesses wishing to make improvements to our libraries. Grant funds were awarded to:

- Friends of the Fincastle Library to upgrade furnishings and increase accessibility: \$7,750.
- Friends of the Eagle Rock Library to upgrade furnishings in the youth area and facilitate resource organization: \$2,500.
- Friends of the Buchanan Library to continue work on the memorial garden and mural project: \$3,000.
- Friends of the Blue Ridge Library to continue work on the mural artwork: \$1,750.

The really important thing
is not to live but to live well

– Socrates –

A black and white advertisement for Buchanan Theatre. At the top, there is a sign that says "BUCHANAN" and "STANDING ROOM ONLY". Below the sign is a photograph of the theatre's interior, showing rows of red seats facing a stage. The text "BUCHANAN THEATRE" is prominently displayed, followed by "Local, Affordable, Family Fun!". Below that, it says "See what you have been missing at the Buchanan Theatre." At the bottom, it provides the website "www.BuchananTheatre.com" and the phone number "Or Call: 540-254-1155".

BUCHANAN
STANDING ROOM ONLY

BUCHANAN THEATRE
Local, Affordable, Family Fun!

See what you have been missing
at the Buchanan Theatre.

See what's showing by visiting:
www.BuchananTheatre.com
Or Call: 540-254-1155

A color advertisement for Crooked Shoreline Steak & Seafood. The top half shows the interior of the restaurant with wooden tables, chairs, and a large window. Below the photo is a circular logo with a bird in flight, the text "STEAK & SEAFOOD", "CROOKED Shoreline", and "EST. 2023". At the bottom, it says "Our New Favorite Restaurant!" followed by the address "33 Cedar Plateau Way Daleville, VA 24083", the phone number "540-591-3425", and the website "crookedshoreline.com".

STEAK & SEAFOOD
CROOKED Shoreline
EST. 2023

Our New Favorite Restaurant!

33 Cedar Plateau Way
Daleville, VA 24083
540-591-3425
crookedshoreline.com

A color advertisement for Daleville Physical Therapy. The top half shows a gym-like setting with exercise equipment. A QR code is in the top right corner with the text "Request an Appointment". Below the photo, it says "Our team is ready to help you become PAIN FREE". The address "29 Cedar Plateau Way Daleville, VA 24083" and phone number "(540) 591-6060" are listed. At the bottom, it says "Daleville PHYSICAL THERAPY" and "A H2 HEALTH Company".

Request an Appointment

Our team is ready to help you become
PAIN FREE

29 Cedar Plateau Way
Daleville, VA 24083
(540) 591-6060

Daleville
PHYSICAL THERAPY
A H2 HEALTH Company

Recreation

BOCO WILD

Sees Record Numbers

The 2nd Annual BOCO WILD welcomed 650 participants this year, double the attendance from 2022! The event featured a variety of outdoor activities geared towards our BOCO families!

Pickleball in Botetourt

Pickleball popularity swept the nation in 2023 and our community asked for opportunities to play. We partnered with Botetourt County Schools to offer Pickleball to 80 people! Those 80 individuals played a combined 180 times! Courts were set up at Breckinridge Elementary School and all equipment was provided to players.

Recreation Incentive Fund

This fund provided over \$48,000 to local organizations through the Parks & Recreation Department.

- Breckinridge PTA: \$1,200 for Outdoor Basketball Court Improvements
- Cloverdale PTA: \$8,865.50 for Basketball Court Rejuvenation
- Colonial PTA: \$7,750 for Playground Enhancements
- Eagle Rock PTA: \$3,219.55 for Outdoor Basketball Court & Track Enhancements
- James River High: \$7,619 for School Scorer's Table
- Troutville PTA: \$10,000 for Playground Updates
- Buchanan Town Improvement Society: \$10,000 for renovations to the Community House

Youth Recreation Sports

2,218 youth and 607 coaches registered for 8 recreation sports leagues. Seasons included: Cheerleading with 4 teams, Flag football with 11 teams, Tackle Football with 6 teams, Soccer with 55 teams, Baseball, Softball, and Teeball with 78 teams, and Basketball with 65 teams. Youth participation was up by 3% this year!




The trick to living well
is to learn to live it fully
to soak it up to revel in it

– Joan Chittister –

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Quality of Life

Senator Warner Visits Botetourt

Senator Mark Warner visited Botetourt County to celebrate the completion of the Virginia Telecommunications Initiative 1 (VATI1) grant, totaling \$1,364,337. In partnership with Lumos, we were able to bring fiber to 548 addresses, including 30 businesses.

The event also launched the VATI2 build which will bring service to 1,901 addresses in the county. BOCO

continues to work with our internet service providers to make universal broadband coverage a reality for our community!

Quality of Life Survey

In 2023, Botetourt County launched a "Quality of Life" survey. 554 residents completed the survey to help the county better understand the needs and wants of our community. Some of the needs and desires expressed by

BOCO residents are: family friendly activities, walkable town environment, recreational opportunities, preserving local culture and agriculture, education and learning opportunities, being a diverse and inclusive community, support for local businesses, balanced growth and environmental consciousness.

Read more at www.botetourtva.gov/qualityoflife.



Learn more about Botetourt County and access digital copies of our annual report by scanning the QR code or by visiting:

www.botetourtva.gov/2023

To live well is to live
in harmony with ourselves
others and nature

– Frederick Beiser –

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Fax: 473-2994

e-mail: mdoubles@doubleslaw.com

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Rick & Gary Woods



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Contacts

Botetourt County Constitutional Offices

Clerk of the Circuit Court	540-928-2350
Commissioner of the Revenue	540-928-2050
Commonwealth's Attorney	540-928-2150
Treasurer	540-928-2030

Botetourt County Administration

County Administrator and Deputy	540-928-2006
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Botetourt County Departments

Animal Control	540-928-2200
Communications	540-928-2004
Community Development (Services, Building)	540-928-2070
Community Development (Planning, Zoning)	540-928-2080
Economic Development.....	540-928-2140
Elections & Voter Registration	540-928-2000
Fire & EMS (for emergencies, dial 911)	540-928-2006
Health Department	540-666-4275
Libraries	540-928-2900
Parks & Recreation	540-928-2130
Sheriff (for emergencies, dial 911)	540-928-2200
Social Services	540-591-5960
Solid Waste	540-992-5111

Botetourt County Public Schools	540-473-8263
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Botetourt County Sports Complex	540-928-2400
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Botetourt County Chamber of Commerce	540-566-8812
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