

Activity Report Highlights

City of Staunton



WEST END REVITALIZATION WORKSHOP

The City of Staunton hosted a kick-off meeting for its West End Revitalization Strategy effort on Jan. 9, at the Central Shenandoah EMS Council. The event was the first of three community meetings and the beginning of the in-person outreach process. Over 50 citizens braved the cold, biting rain to attend the event and provide their feedback on the West End. Posters and activities encircled the room for participants to learn about the plan and give feedback. The meeting had three objectives: build awareness, identify community needs, and guide goal themes. Additionally, an online survey and interactive map was provided to receive feedback on the study area. The survey generated 212 responses and the interactive map collected 463 comments. The work continues with another workshop scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Mar. 5, in the Irene Givens Administration Building at Montgomery Hall Park.



January 2024

Dispatched Calls for Service*

Police 2,629

Fire & Rescue 377

Average Response Time month/year

Police 3'59"/3'59"

Fire & Rescue 4'33"/4'33"

*arrows indicate if calls are up or down compared to the previous month

By the Numbers

The new Dunkin' Donuts on Greenville Ave. will be **1,770** sq. ft.

Utility Crews replaced **2** fire hydrants.

The City's Visitor's Guide was requested **159** times vs. **73** last January. An increase of **117.8%**.

Into the Future

West End Workshop, **5:30 p.m., Mar. 5**, Montgomery Hall Park.

Registration for Camp Staunton opens **Mar. 6**.

Heavy Trash Week(s) will be **Mar. 25 - Apr. 5**.



NEWTOWN KIDS OPEN HOUSE

Stop by the Staunton Downtown Development Association's SPACE at 35A South New Street on Saturday, Feb. 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to see the Newtown Kids Exhibit. Enjoy a collection of photos of local kids from Newtown taking part in organized art projects, camping trips, fencing matches, and trash pickups. The exhibit includes video footage from the program and visits from elders in Staunton's black community. Founder Jennifer Vickers will be in attendance and a group photo is planned for noon.



TRAFFIC SIGNALS GET UPGRADED

Citizens may have noticed that the timing of traffic signals along Staunton roadways has greatly improved. Thanks to Public Works signal guru Jason Byram worked with IT staff to replace the antiquated traffic signal system with a new system for better traffic flow and the ability to centrally monitor them. The new system now utilizes the fiber optics installed more than 12 years ago.

SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

One hundred and fifty years ago, in 1874, what eventually became the Staunton Public Library was proposed as a reading room as of part of the new YMCA. When the library became an official City department the main library was housed at 19 S. Market St., what is now Grace Christian School. There was also a branch for the black community at the Booker T. Washington High School until 1959. The building on Market street was named for Fannie Bayly King, was donated by King, and where she lived until her death in 1951. As the library moves through this sesquicentennial year, stay tuned for events and exciting projects.



Notes from the City Manager

Although the budget is not officially presented until I bring it to City Council on Mar. 28, budget work sessions have already begun. In addition to the joint work session with Schools held on Jan. 25, City Council will have a work session on Feb. 22 on the fiscal year 2025-2029 capital improvement plan. There will be multiple work sessions and public hearings throughout the budget process, giving community members many opportunities to provide comment. A list of the work sessions and public hearings follow:

March 28: 5 p.m., City Manager FY 2025 proposed budget presentation

April 4: 5 p.m., budget work session

April 11: 5 p.m., budget work session (joint meeting with City Schools); 7 p.m., public hearing on all budget ordinances

April 18: 7:30 p.m., budget work session

April 25: 5 p.m., budget work session; 7 p.m., consideration of the City Council FY 2025 adopted budget and FY 2025-2029 capital improvement plan



January 2024 Activity Report

Community Development

Key Construction Project Updates

Dixie Theatre Building

Asbestos abatement has been completed for the former Dixie Theater building to renovate and update the space as a multi-purpose venue. A building permit application has been submitted for review and footer inspections are completed.

Dunkin' Donuts

New construction of a 1,770 square foot building to house a Dunkin' Donuts will begin at 704 Greenville Ave. to replace the former Wendy's. A demolition permit was issued, and crews are awaiting final inspection before construction can begin.

Firestone Complete Auto Care Center

Framing inspection has been completed for the new construction at 1012 Richmond Ave. to create a Firestone Complete Auto Care Center. *Picture below.*



1 Barristers Row

A building permit has been issued for interior renovations to the former offices at 1 Barristers Row to create seven short-term dwelling units.

Middlebrook Trace

A partial framing inspection has been completed for two, three-story apartment buildings each consisting of 41 units, with a total of 82 new apartments, located at 601 Moore St. *Picture below.*



Middlebrook Trace II

New construction of a single, four-story apartment building consisting of 48 units and a common area located at 914 Middlebrook Ave. continues. Footer inspections have been completed.

106 Industry Way

A building permit has been issued and footer inspections are scheduled for a new 40,000 square foot commercial manufacturing facility at 106 Industry Way, in the Greenhills Industry and Technology Center.

Walmart

Interior renovations to the original building in the offices, breakroom, and bathrooms will add a 7,800 square foot exterior pick-up area to the Walmart at 1028C Richmond Ave. Under slab plumbing work is currently in progress. *Picture below.*



4 Silver Creek Drive

A building permit has been issued for the foundation of an office and six storage buildings. The office is 756 square feet, Building 1 is 1,800 square feet, Building 2 is 2,400 square feet, Building 3 is 4,600 square feet, Building 4 is 5,000 square feet, Building 5 is 11700 square feet, and building 6 is 2,600 square feet.

Staunton Apartments II

A new apartment complex located at 1013 Seth Dr., consisting of eight buildings housing 72 units, is under construction. Final Inspections for building 100 are complete, footer inspections are complete for building 200, and footer and foundation inspections have been completed for building 300. *Picture below.*



Staunton Steam – Phase #1

A temporary certificate of occupancy has been issued for the Old Staunton Steam Laundry Building at 704 Hall St. The Laundry Building is two stories with 29,298 gross square feet and will become mixed occupancy to include 28 apartments and 3,868 square feet of future retail or restaurant space. The Armory Building is two stories with 12,293 gross square feet and will become 20 apartments.

Shelburne Middle School

Plans have been submitted for review of an 8,471 square foot, two story addition, as part of the renovation of the existing 12,530 square feet middle school, located at 300 Grubert Ave.

Reports

Site Plans

The following are newly approved site plans:

- 106 Industry Way – two new industrial buildings
- 331 N Central Ave. – parking lot

Environmental Inspections Report

The Environmental Programs Division of Community Development completed erosion and sediment control inspections on residential and commercial construction sites throughout the City as follows:

- Residential Construction – 45 active sites with 81 inspections in January
- Commercial Construction – 11 active sites with 21 inspections in January

Public Shows Strong Interest in the West End Revitalization Effort

The City of Staunton hosted a kick-off meeting for its West End Revitalization Strategy effort on Jan. 9, at the Central Shenandoah EMS Council. The event was the first of three community meetings and the beginning of the in-person outreach process. Over 50 citizens braved the cold, biting rain to attend the event and provide their feedback on the West End. The meeting was an open house format where participants could arrive any time within the 90-minute time window. Posters and activities encircled the room for participants to learn about this plan and give feedback.

The meeting had three objectives:

- Build awareness,
- Identify community needs, and
- Guide goal themes.



Additionally, an online survey and interactive map was provided to receive feedback on the study area. The survey generated 212 responses and the interactive map collected 463 comments.

The City of Staunton will host the second community event on its West End Revitalization Strategy effort, on Mar. 5. The event will be in a workshop format with presentations and small group discussions/activities.

Meeting Details

- **Date:** Mar. 5
- **Time:** 5:30 p.m.
- **Location:** Montgomery Hall Park
 - Irene Givens Administrative Building

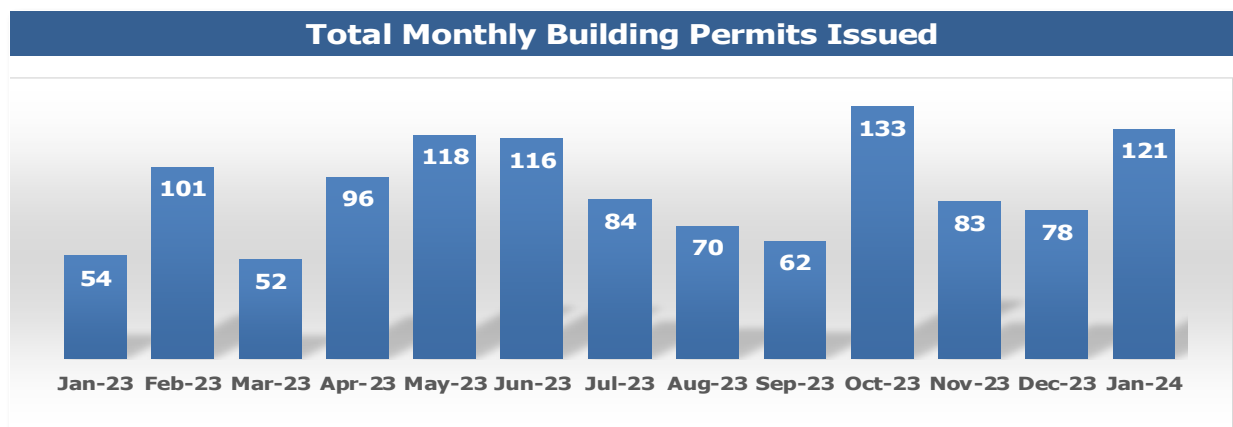
- **Meeting Format:** Community Workshop – The event will start with a brief presentation. Attendees will review a set of community goals and brainstorm recommendations for implementing that vision. In breakout groups, attendees will begin to detail actions and recommendations.
- **Meeting Agenda:**
 - Presentation by consultants
 - Breakout groups and discussion
 - Small group activities on community design
 - A question-and-answer session

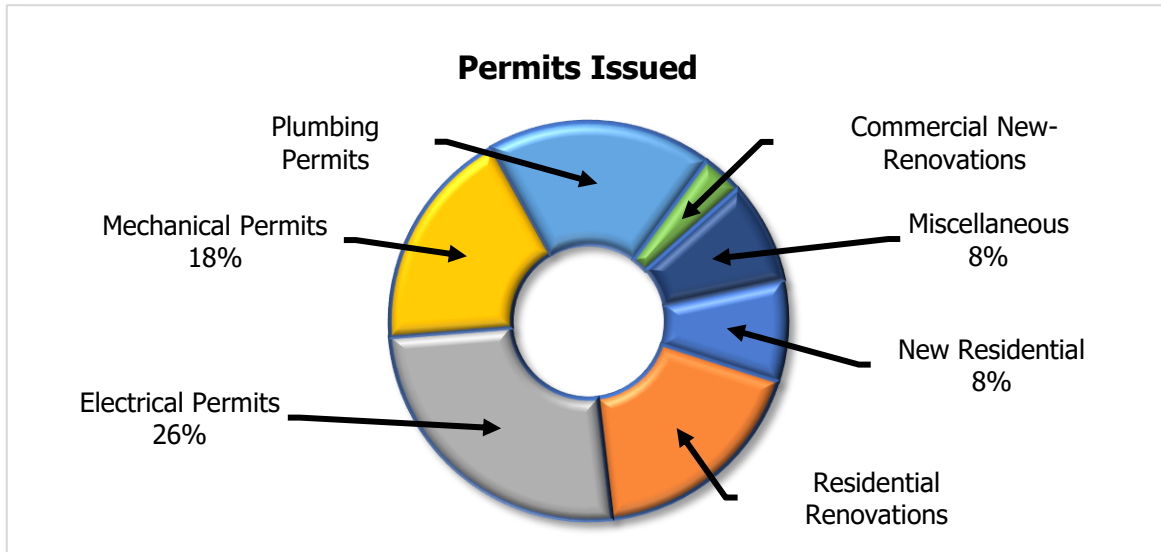
Housing and Grants Coordination

As a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Entitlement Community, the City is required to create a Consolidated Plan and update it every five years. In January, City staff began the first update of the original 2019 Consolidated Plan. The consolidated plan process serves as the framework for a community-wide dialogue to identify housing and community development priorities that align and focus the CDBG program funding. This spring there will be opportunities for stakeholder and public input that will be incorporated into the Consolidated Plan update. The updated Consolidated Plan will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in August for review and approval.

Building Construction and Related Activity

Permits Issued	Jan-24	Jan-23	# Chg	% Chg
New Residential	10	1	9	900.0%
Residential Renovations	22	9	13	144.4%
Electrical Permits	31	17	14	82.4%
Mechanical Permits	22	7	15	214.3%
Plumbing Permits	22	15	7	46.7%
Commercial New-Renovations	4	2	2	100.0%
Miscellaneous	10	3	7	233.3%
Total	121	54	67	124.1%





Permit Fees Collected	Jan-24	Jan-23	# Chg	% Chg
New Residential	\$6,122	\$370	\$5,752	1554.1%
Residential Renovations	\$1,968	\$927	\$1,041	112.3%
Electrical Permits	\$2,565	\$1,733	\$832	48.0%
Mechanical Permits	\$2,040	\$648	\$1,392	215.0%
Plumbing Permits	\$1,984	\$1,479	\$505	34.1%
Commercial New-Renovations	\$311	\$1,011	-\$700	-69.2%
Miscellaneous	\$0	\$50	-\$50	-100.0%
Total	\$14,991	\$6,217	\$8,773	141.1%

Economic Development

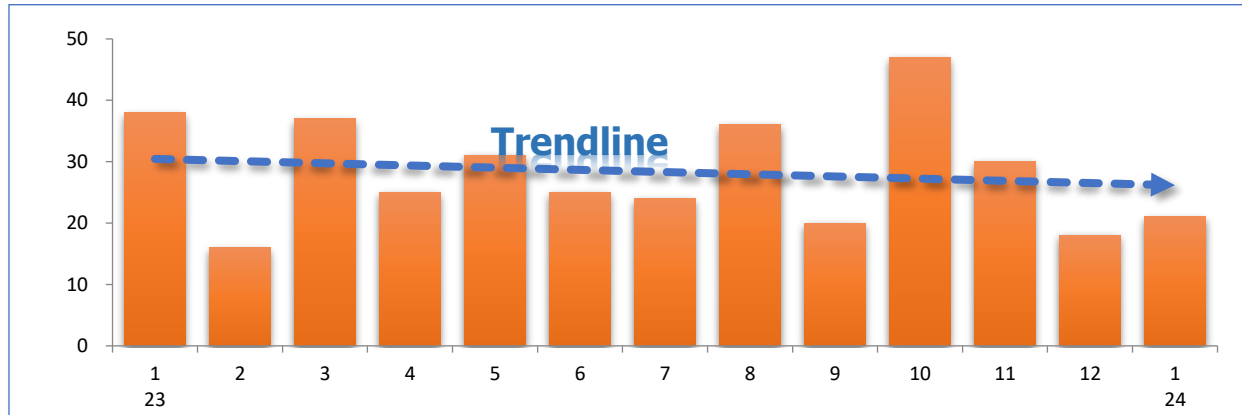
Groundbreaking

On Jan. 22, Economic Development Specialist Amanda DiMeo participated in the groundbreaking ceremony at 106 Industry Way. Mathers Construction is building a 40,000 square foot facility for an unnamed company that plans to build another 60,000 square foot facility adjacent to this. Stay tuned for more information. *Picture below.*

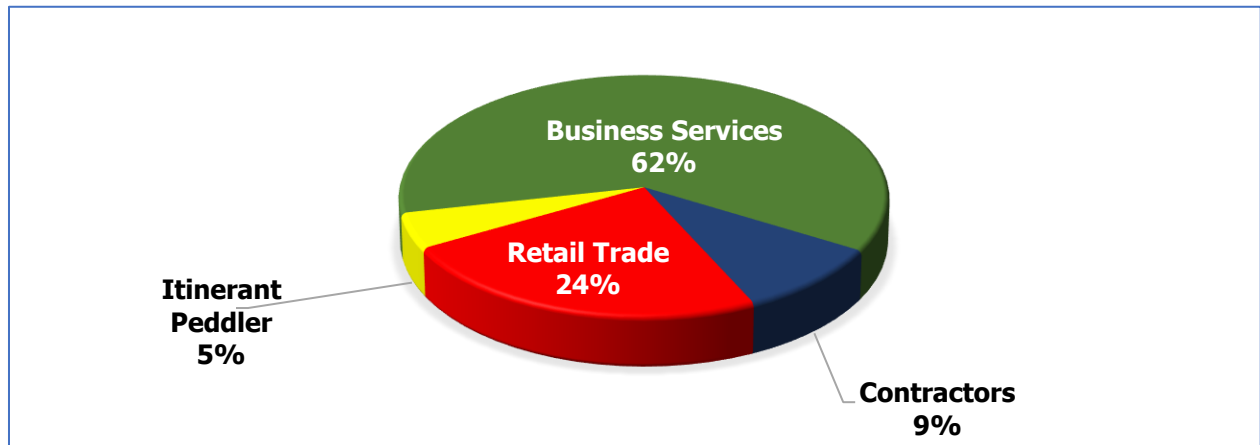


Business License Activity

During the month of January, the Commissioner of Revenue's Office issued 21 business licenses compared to 18 the previous month, representing a 16.7% increase. This month a year ago, 38 business licenses were issued. The following bar chart provides a monthly comparison for the total number of business licenses issued for the past year.



As seen in the following pie chart, the services sector accounted for 71% of the total licenses issued in January.



Finance

- The department issued 7,617 utility bills and general bills totaling \$1,099,474 during January.
- Collection activities in January resulted in the recovery of \$2,291 in delinquent utility invoices.
- The Utility Payment Office processed 3,360 receipts in the amount of \$756,538 during January.

- The department processed 369 City and 170 School accounts payable checks totaling \$4,546,364. 862 City and 562 Schools payroll-related advices totaling \$3,906,430; and 16 ACH debit/wire transactions totaling \$2,997,580 during January.
- The department is submitting data and other pertinent information to Maguire Associates of Virginia, Inc. to begin preparation of the FY 2023 Cost Allocation Plan. The plan distributes central service overhead costs such as finance, city manager, engineering, and legal to operating departments such as public works, parks and recreation, and public safety.
- The department assisted the environmental programs division in issuing a bid for The Gypsy Hill Park Stream Restoration.
- The department assisted Staunton City Schools in posting a bid for Shelburne Middle School Renovations and Additions.
- The department assisted the engineering department in posting a bid for West Beverley Street Sidewalk Improvements & VDOT SGR Repaving, as well as a bid for the Staunton Crossing Utility Improvements Sewer Project.
- The department received bids for Annual Paving; a contract is pending.
- The department worked with Davenport & Co. to issue a bank financing RFP and to conduct the due diligence call with the Virginia Resource Authority in hopes to determine the appropriate financing path for the JDR General District Courthouse.
- The FY2025-2029 Capital Improvement Plan was introduced to the Planning Commission at their meeting on Jan. 18. The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the CIP at their meeting on Feb. 15. The plan will then be introduced to City Council at the meeting on Feb. 22.

Fire & Rescue

- Staunton Fire and Rescue responded to 377 incidents in January. The average response time for January was 4 minutes and 33 seconds.
 - Fire Station No. 1 responded to 247 incidents in January.
 - Fire Station No. 2 responded to 130 incidents in January.
- Staff received over 400 hours of training in January, that averages to 12 hours per person.
- Staff conducted 78 business fire safety inspections and 50 re-inspections in January.
- Staff conducted 13 public education visits in January.

Human Resources

Employee Actions

The following employee actions were processed:

Terminated:

Full Time—0

Part Time/Seasonal—1

Hired:

Full Time—3

Part Time—4

Retired—1

Activities

Human Resources staff members took part in the following activities in January:

Recruitment:

- Initiated recruitment for the following positions:
 - Recycling Attendant – part-time
 - Public Safety Dispatcher
 - Police Officer
 - Maintenance Worker – Parks Maintenance
 - Director of Public Works
 - Regional Firefighter Testing
- Continued recruitment for the following positions:
 - Equipment Operator I – Public Works Streets
 - Equipment Operator I – Public Works Utilities
 - Police Officer – Certified
 - Equipment Operator II – Public Works Utilities
 - Equipment Operator II – Public Works Streets

Orientations:

- Conducted orientations for three full-time employees.

Other:

- Staff hosted a Service Pin Luncheon on Jan. 11 honoring three employees with a combined service of 50 years.
- Staff hosted a seminar on Citizen Response to Active Shooter Events (C.R.A.S.E), with Staunton City PD instructors.

Information Technology

Information Technology staff took part in the following activities in January:

- Replaced end-of-life Crestron controllers in the Caucus Room and Rita S. Wilson Council chambers for the AV system.
- IT staff attended a week-long Onsite Maintenance training class to support the new NG911 call handling equipment that was installed in December.
- Completed configuration for a new server for the Traffic Signals network. The server will run several applications to improve traffic flow and control.
- Created several new GIS layers and maps to support multiple projects throughout the City.
- Installed a cell phone signal booster in the Water Treatment Plant to improve coverage.
- Continued work on building security projects including several camera upgrades to the City Courthouse and design for access control in the Library and City Hall.

Library

- The library launched an all-staff training from VisitAble, a company that teaches organizations, governments and institutions ways to improve the experience of their visitors with disabilities. All library employees are required to complete the training by the end of February to ensure a greater awareness of accessibility around the building and the needs of disabled library patrons.
- The library hosted its first Memory Café in partnership with Trinity Church. Memory Cafés are an opportunity for individuals with memory changes and their caregivers to socialize in a safe, welcoming space. The moderators from Trinity Church arrange for light snacks and live music or a craft, along with a social hour where someone asks a question meant to encourage memories and storytelling. Those who attended include individuals just beginning their journey with memory changes, some much farther down the path, and those who have lost spouses or loved ones to dementia-related illnesses.

- Author and *Washington Post* contributor, Kate Cohen spoke about her new book *We of Little Faith*. The event brought in over 40 people and produced a lively and informational discussion on faith, truth, community, and belonging.



- The Youth Services team reevaluated and relaunched several youth literacy initiatives:
 - new “I Got My First Library Card” procedure to celebrate children getting their first library card.
 - new sponsored incentives for the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program
 - formalized the brochure for the new baby bags given out at August Health
- The Talking Book Center undertook its annual cycle of funding requests to seek financial support from the municipalities it serves. The TBC provides accessible public library services for readers and learners who are blind, low vision, or print disabled and relies on locality funds, grants, and private donors to operate.

Monthly Statistical Report: January 2024

CIRCULATION	Month	YTD		SERVICES	Month	YTD
Adult	10,638	71,032		ILLs Borrowed	12	99
Young Adult (YA)	735	5,114		ILLs Lent	0	0
Juvenile	7,278	47,173		Proctoring/Book-a-Librarians	4	43
Digital	5,604	34,388				
Total Circulation	24,255	157,707		PROGRAMS		
Talking Book Center Circulation	1,390	8,611		Adult	14	77
				Attendance	225	1,147
Items Checked In	20,506	140,267		YA	6	53
				Attendance	541	5,056
Outgoing to VLC Libraries	2,222	13,855		Juvenile	35	263
Incoming from VLC Libraries	1,732	12,249		Attendance	1,257	10,150
Total Holds Filled	5,724	35,812				
				PEOPLE		
Added to Collection	943	6,252		Library Visits	13,006	88,818
Withdrawn from Collection	2,018	10,107		Curbside Visits	78	616
				Computer Users	622	4,752

			Juvenile Computer Users	1,106	4,544
			Meetings Held	3	22
			Volunteer Hours	79	964
			New Card Registrations	160	1,107
			Total Registered Cards		17,209

Parks & Recreation

Horticulture

Horticulture completed the following tasks:

- Staff from Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation and Harrisonburg Public Works visited with City Horticulturist Matt Sensabaugh on Jan. 5. Harrisonburg is currently considering drafting and adopting a landscape master plan for its parks and public spaces. Staunton City staff discussed Staunton's plan, how it was implemented, and the challenges of long-term maintenance. Additionally, the group toured Staunton's parks and green spaces in the downtown area to get ideas for plantings and things that work well for Staunton.
- Tree Work:
 - Staff worked with a contractor from Dominion Power to remove five trees alongside Fire Station #1 on Pump St. The trees were planted too close to the building and adjacent power lines. Dominion Power crews removed the portions of the trees in contact with overhead utility lines and City crews completed the removal, chipped the brush and cleaned up. The trees will be replaced with a large shrub.
 - Removed three purple leaf plums in Gypsy Hill Park and one elm.
 - Four London Plane trees at Lake Tams received root invigoration/air spade treatments. This treatment alleviates soil compaction and will yield improved growth.

Community Outreach

Staff engaged in the following community outreach activities:

- Camp Staunton registration will open on Mar. 6
- HEART staff members completed Medicine Administration Training.

Police

- The Police Department personnel received CPR training and all sworn personnel received the annual ethics and mental health training during January.
- The Police Department's E-911 Center handled a total of 2,959 telephone calls during the month, including 1,066 9-1-1 calls.

- Police personnel responded to 2,629 incidents during the month, including 1,262 citizen calls for service, 704 officer initiated activities, 195 administrative calls, and 468 directed patrols.
- The average response time for police emergency calls for service during the month was 3 minutes and 59 seconds.

Public Works

- The Utility Office established 32 new owner accounts, 20 new rental residential accounts, and 5 commercial accounts.
- The Public Works Utility Office collected \$47,366 in payments.
- 139 accounts were cut off for non-payment during three cut off weeks. Of those cut off, 127 were reconnected after payments were made or a payment plan established.
- Utility crews repaired 10 water main breaks, one water valve, and two water meters. The crew replaced two fire hydrants. The crew responded to one sewer main blockage and 12 sewer lateral blockages.
- Completed the Cold Springs Community Corrections Alternative Program agreement and started working with three seasonal participants.

Tourism

Activities

The Tourism Department staff took part in the following promotional, networking, or administrative activities in January:

- January promotions included Staunton's Cures for the Holiday Hangover, Staunton Hotspots, A Winter Getaway, and Top Things to Do While Planning Your Dream Vacation.
- Staff hosted a Richmond travel writer who will do a feature on Staunton in the March/April issue of *Richmond Magazine* and hosted a *StyleBlueprint* writer who will feature Staunton in the Spring.
- Sales and Marketing Manager Jessica Williams attended the American Bus Association Conference to promote Staunton to group tour operators. *Pictured right.*



- Stuart Hall School students stopped by the Visitor Center, at 35 S. New St. to learn how the City's Tourism Department helps those who want more information about the City of Staunton, whether it be to visit on vacation, for business travel, or to move here.

Public Relations

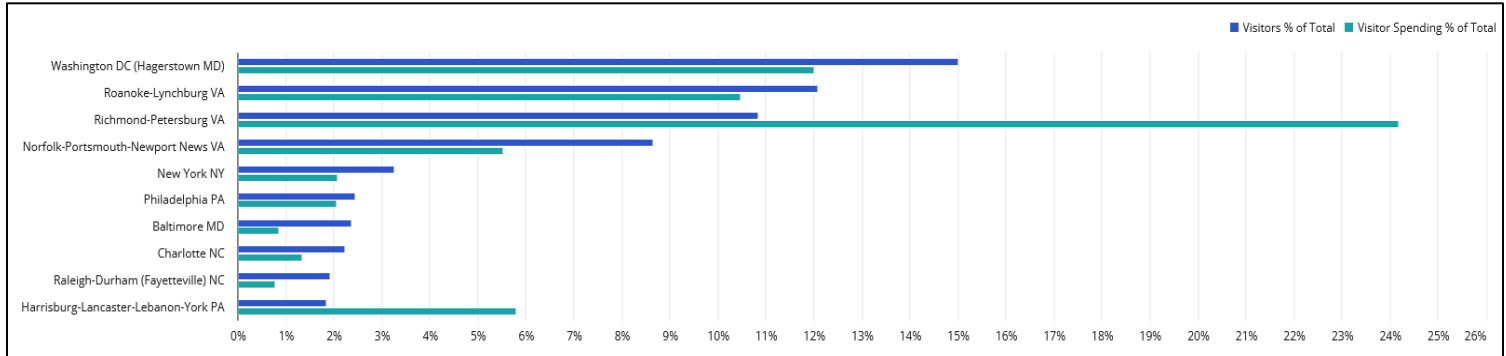
The following is a list of newspapers, websites, magazines, and television stations that published articles about Staunton:

Date	Headline	Source	Reach
Jan. 8	<u>23 Chefs Share the Best Thing They Ate In 2023</u>	Forbes	73,844,154
Jan. 31	<u>11 Top-Rated Small Towns in Virginia</u>	World Atlas	4,610,468
Jan. 23	<u>6 Most Memorable Small Towns in The Mid-Atlantic</u>	World Atlas	4,610,468
Jan. 11	<u>9 Most Memorable Small Towns in Virginia</u>	World Atlas	4,610,468
Jan. 22	<u>Ride The Rails Through Virginia's Countryside on This Historic Train</u>	Only In Your State	3,528,867
Jan. 3	<u>American Shakespeare Center Reveals Vanessa Morosco as New Executive Director</u>	BroadwayWorld.com	1,625,996
Jan. 5	<u>Vanessa Morosco Appointed Executive Director of American Shakespeare Center</u>	Playbill	1,405,318
Jan. 24	<u>New Shared Use Path Coming to Staunton</u>	WHSV-TV	537,876
Jan. 19	<u>Blackburn Inn Partnering with Virginia Scenic Railway for Train Excursion Experience</u>	WHSV-TV	537,876
Jan. 17	<u>Marino's Lunch in Staunton Set to Reopen</u>	WHSV-TV	537,876
Jan. 20	<u>New American Shakespeare Center Director Brings Acting, Directing and Educational Chops to Role</u>	The Daily Progress	352,878
Jan. 4	<u>American Shakespeare Center Announces New Executive Director</u>	News Leader	106,674
Jan. 3	<u>Latin Soul, A New Staunton Restaurant, Set to Open Saturday</u>	News Leader	106,674
Jan. 8	<u>Vanessa Morosco Named American Shakespeare Center Executive Director</u>	American Theatre	40,603
			96,456,196

Website Visitation

Website Traffic		
January 2023	January 2024	% Change
37,992 visitors	29,933 visitors	-21.2%
73 visitor's guide requests	159 visitor's guide requests	+117.8%

Top 10 Origin Markets and Visitor Spending



Smith Travel Research (STR) Hotel Occupancy Report

Occupancy (%)	Year To Date														
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	2021	2022	2023
This Year	40.6	45.9	54.1	60.9	65.8	65.6	61.0	60.9	60.8	67.4	53.5	40.1	49.5	58.4	56.4
Last Year	39.6	42.9	51.3	63.8	64.4	65.0	65.0	64.2	67.3	71.7	58.1	47.2	34.4	49.5	58.4
% Change	2.5	7.2	5.3	-4.5	2.2	1.0	-6.1	-5.0	-9.7	-6.1	-7.9	-15.0	43.8	18.1	-3.4

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Office on Youth

Crime Control Programs

- Twenty-Two youth received detention alternative services.

Parenting Programs

- Twelve adults participated in *Loving Solutions* class.
- Twelve adults participated in *Parenting and Divorce* co-parenting program.

Community in Motion Program

- Outreach Coordinator participated in a Book Bus run on January 5.
- Outreach Coordinator participated in *What Are They Running From? Youth Trauma and Addressing Adverse Childhood Experiences* Training facilitated by National Criminal Justice Training Center Jan. 9 and 11 and participated in a webinar, *State of Youth Relationship Education* presented by The Dibble Institute Jan. 10. They also participated in *Mental Health First Aid* Training, presented by Valley Community Service Board Jan. 25.

Check and Connect – Truancy Prevention

- Participants include 74 students from 11 area middle and high schools. There were 10 students from Staunton High School and 15 from Shelburne Middle School.

Personal Responsibility Education Programs (PREP)

- Program Coordinator facilitated Family Life Education for 111, fourth and fifth grade students at Bessie Weller Elementary School Jan. 22 – 25

Staunton Downtown Development Association¹

- Staff submitted end of year reporting as part of Virginia Main Street's (VMS) End of Year Data Survey Bonanza FY 2023. The data is used to develop the VMS Annual Report, nominate local programs for National Main Street Center (NMSC) Accreditation, justify the value of VMS to the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development and the General Assembly, develop a reference for local program salary and compensation packages and create economic development impact and benchmark profiles for each community. Annually, the NMSC requires these reports to evaluate local programs on their eligibility to maintain NMSC accreditation.
- SDDA hosted Virginia Main Street directors during a 3-day conference, Jan. 17-19. The VMS directors stayed at Hotel 24 South and used the hotel's conference rooms for daytime sessions. Attendees participated in a panel session hosted by the American Shakespeare Center (ASC) which featured Queen City Mischief and Magic's Sarah Lynch, Arcadia Project's Pamela and Tom Wagner, Heifetz International Music Institute's Benjamin Roe, Staunton Music Festival's Jason Stell, and Stephanie Cabacoy with the ASC. During the second day, attendees could explore Downtown Staunton as part of a Sub-District Storytelling session. Historic Staunton Foundation's Frank Strassler and Frazier Associates' Kathy Frazier, along with members of their organizations, took small groups to various areas of the district to share the history and let participants see where Staunton is today. The tour finished with a peek into the Historic SunTrust Bank building where building owner Chip Clarke spoke about the building's features and future plans. Many directors expressed how wonderful Staunton is and how they cannot wait to return.
- SDDA Executive Director Greg Beam has taken a position as the Assistant Town Manager in Mount Jackson. With Mr. Beam's departure, Assistant Executive Director Michele Waitier has been appointed as interim director. Recruitment for the Executive Director is underway.

¹ The Staunton Downtown Development Association (SDDA) is an independent, non-profit corporation, separate from the City of Staunton. Pursuant to the Staunton City Code and a contract with the City, SDDA provides facilities and services funded by the City in the City's downtown service district. SDDA furnishes information to the City Manager's Office for inclusion in this Activity Report to update the City in the performance of its obligations.