

Serving families for over 140 years, Oakey's Funeral Service and Crematory offers personalized service and a commitment to quality.

Five Chapels in the Roanoke Valley • Call 24 hours a day : 540.982.7777
Toll-Free 800.638.0710 • email - oakeysfs@oakeys.com • www.oakeys.com

Tuesday, January 31, 2012



Make NewsRoanokeYour Home Page



Add NewsRoanoke to Your Favorites



The Roanoke Star-Sentinel Archives

[The Roanoke Star-Sentinel NewsRoanoke.com](http://www.roanokestar.com)



- [Home](#)
- [News](#)
- [Perspective](#)
- [Photos](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Arts & Culture](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Videos](#)

Roanoke City Annual Homeless Count – A Place To Call Home



Posted by [stephen](#) on Jan 27th, 2012 and filed under [News](#). You can follow any responses to this entry through the [RSS 2.0](#). You can leave a response or trackback to this entry

Be the first of your friends to like this.



Volunteers from last week's "Point In Time" count of the homeless.

by [Valerie Garner](#)

Forty dedicated volunteers assembled at Green Memorial Methodist Church Sunday afternoon for a two-hour training session preparing them to hit the streets Monday morning. Some of the six teams started as early as 4 a.m., with a cup of Starbucks coffee and a donut.

The annual Point In Time (PIT) count of the homeless is being conducted this week. The PIT count obtains baseline demographic information about the homeless population in Virginia, explained Karen Michalski-Karney with the Blue Ridge Independent Living Center.

They are canvassing Roanoke's streets and shelters, taking with them a Vulnerability Index survey for the first time this year. Each client they encounter is asked 27 survey questions. They expect to encounter not only men but also women with children and entire families, explained Carol Tuning with Roanoke City Human Services.

This is the first year for the Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness project, "1000 Homes for 1000 Virginians." It is an effort to find and place the most vulnerable, medically at risk, long-term homeless individuals into permanent households across the area.

"A lot of people don't know what to do [with them]," said Tuning.

The City of Roanoke has partnered with local agencies including Blue Ridge Independent Living Center, Trust House, Council of Community Services, Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare, the VA Medical Center and Jefferson College of Health Sciences.

The Vulnerability Index survey goes further than the annual PIT count by prioritizing those individuals that have been homeless the longest and are the most vulnerable. They started creating a by-name registry of those living on the streets and in shelters.

The volunteers are canvassing the Rescue Mission, RAM House, Turning Point, parks, the library and Roanoke City and County jails among other locations. The abandoned Ukrops building has multiple areas where the homeless call home. The open underground parking area is a favorite spot to camp.

Each team has a site coordinator armed with a backpack. Besides flashlights, maps and clipboards they have McDonald coupons for the hungry, condoms to pass out and an air horn. To ensure

volunteer safety unmarked patrol cars are patrolling in the area. One blast of the air horn brings an officer to any out-of-hand situation.

At Sunday's training session Tuning was urged to demonstrate what looked like an innocuous small toy-like horn. They soon heard an ear piercing blast that could have awoken the dead.

The survey is completely confidential. A consent form is read to the clients. If there is resistance to the survey then volunteers were instructed not to push it. They can slightly jostle someone sleeping but if not awakened then they should be left alone.

Judy Lash with the Jefferson College of Health Sciences went over the survey that determines the Vulnerability Index. Many of the volunteers for the week come from the college. The survey will ask for the client's name, date of birth (month/year), social security number and they take a picture. They are asked medical questions from a list of ailments including HIV/AIDS and substance abuse. They determine if the individual is a military veteran, homeless due to domestic violence or is mentally impaired.

Tuning told volunteers if asked what the survey is for to tell them, "we're here to count the number so we can help to get additional resources into the community." They will be asked where they first became homeless. "City council always wants to know that," she said. Other questions include where they slept, had they been denied shelter, how they make money, level of education, looking for work, how they get around, where they go for medical treatment and if there is a child they will be asked if they are in school.

There is a comments section – Tuning said, "some don't want to talk and others will not only talk but you can expect to hear some cuss words too."

The accumulated data helps the city learn not only the number of homeless but how, when and where they became homeless. The data will guide the city in an effort to reduce chronic homelessness in the Roanoke Valley.

A summary of survey findings will be presented to Roanoke City Council in March and made available to the public on the Roanoke City and Community Services websites.

The campaign is a ten-year plan called "A Place to Call Home, Ending Homelessness 10 at a Time." These words are emblazoned on volunteers dark green T-shirts. Roanoke is one of nine communities in the Commonwealth to adopt this strategy to house the most medically vulnerable by 2013.

Rating: 0.0/10 (0 votes cast)

Rating: 0 (from 0 votes)

share

share

Leave a Reply

Name (required)

Mail (will not be published) (required)

Website

Notify me of followup comments via e-mail



Associate's Degree in
**Health Information
Technology**
National College
FIND OUT MORE! ▶

For more information including program costs and other important facts, please visit National-College.edu/programs/medical/hit.htm



Archives by Tag

[area](#) [Auto bill turner](#) [Blue Business](#) [caption](#) [Cave Spring](#) [Cave Spring High School](#) [center](#) [child](#) [city](#) [Council](#) [course](#) [Day](#) [development](#) [Downtown Roanoke](#) [Draft](#) [Education](#) [event](#) [family](#) [half](#) [home](#) [House](#) [Jon Kaufman](#) [life](#) [North Cross](#) [Patrick Henry high School](#) [percent](#) [person](#) [Preacher's Corner](#) [region](#) [Ridge](#) [Roanoke City](#) [Roanoke City Council](#) [Roanoke County](#) [roanoke valley](#) [Saturday](#) [Spring](#) [state](#) [time](#) [University](#) [Valerie Garner](#) [way](#) [width](#) [year](#)

Today's Deal: Roanoke

IPL Hair-Removal Treatments at Wyndhurst Medical Aesthetics i...

Discount: **67%**
You Save: **\$201**


0 Bought

Get It!

Time left **90 . 39 . 50**
to buy **H . M . S**

Powered By **GROUPON**

View Side Deal



Recent Entries

- [More Tales From the ER Diary](#)
- [Health-Care Sticker Shock in VA](#)

- [Corporations Can't Go Home Again](#)
- [By the Sea of Galilee](#)
- [Food For Thought](#)
- [Should Virginia Secede from the Menhaden Union?](#)
- [Hidden Valley Drops Blacksburg 69-56 In Key River Ridge Matchup](#)
- [Salem Downs Northside 73-28 In Non-District Girls Basketball](#)
- [State Champion Celtics](#)
- [Wild Bill's Weekly Sports Roundup](#)

Today's Deal: Roanoke


IPL Hair-Removal Treatments at Wyndhurst Medical Aesthetics i...

Discount: 67%
You Save: \$201

0 Bought

Get It!

Time left 90 . 39 . 50
to buy H • M • S



View Side Deal

Powered By **GROUPON**

Reception Items Tents
Tables
Chairs
China
Linens
Arches
Trees
Gazebos
Screens

Garden Occasions




Aztec Rental Center
2069 Apperson Dr. Salem • 989.1231 • aztecrental.com

GRAND RENTAL STATION
1000 Vinyard Rd. Vinton • 343.1000 • grandrentalvinton.com

[Share](#)



OPTIONS

- [Subscribe](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Advertise With Us](#)
- [Pick up a Copy](#)
- [Star Cam](#)
- [Rail Cam](#)
- [Traffic Cams](#)
- [Weather Cams](#)
- [Puzzles](#)
- [About Us](#)



EXPERIENCE
THE JOY OF
LIVING AT
**THE PARK-
OAK GROVE**

Independent Carefree Lifestyle
Three Delicious Meals Served Daily
Assisted Living Services as Needed
Wellness Program 24-Hour Staff
Medication Administration
and Monitoring
Personalized Care
in Your Own Apartment
Small Pets Welcome



Off Route 419
Across from Oak Grove Plaza
4920 Woodmar Drive SW
Roanoke, VA 24018

(540)989-9501
www.parkoakgrove.com
mbehnore@parkoakgrove.com
Month-To-Month Lease



CELEBRATING 20
YEARS OF EXCELLENCE
1989 - 2009

Local Guides

CHOOSE A CATEGORY ↓↓

Photo Gallery



• [Hanging in There](#)



- [Innovative New Library Arrives This Week](#)



- [Family Service Celebrates 110 Years Of Healing](#)



- [Festivus: A Slightly Different Holiday Party](#)



- [Cave Spring Downs Radford 61-50 In Non-District Basketball](#)



- [Buy-Sell Agreements: Every Business Needs One](#)

Williams Carpet Cleaning



Danny Williams
989-1825
Cell: 765-7144

GOOD NEWS!
THE "SLOWEST CARPET CLEANER IN ROANOKE" IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR YOUR OFFICE CARPET AND FURNITURE

FREE ESTIMATE
FULLY INSURED-WORKMAN'S COMP

Today's Deal: Roanoke

IPL Hair-Removal Treatments at Wyndhurst Medical Aesthetics i...

Discount: 67%
You Save: \$201

0 Bought

Get It!

Time left 90 . 39 . 50
to buy H M S

Powered By **GROUPON**

View Side Deal

- [Home](#)
- [News](#)
- [Perspective](#)
 - [Photos](#)
 - [Sports](#)
- [Arts & Culture](#)
 - [Business](#)
 - [Education](#)
 - [Videos](#)

Main Office Phone: 540-400-0990
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 8338 Roanoke VA 24014

- [Subscribe](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Advertise With Us](#)
- [Pick up a Copy](#)

- [Star Cam](#)
- [Rail Cam](#)
- [Traffic Cams](#)
 - [Puzzles](#)
- [About Us](#)

[Log in](#) / [WpAdvanced NewsPaper](#) by [Gabfire Themes](#)