



ROANOKE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO HOLD SPRING TRAFFIC SAFETY DAY

by Scott Leamon, RPD Crime Prevention Specialist

The Roanoke Police Department will hold a Spring Traffic Safety Day on Monday, April 4th, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Market Square Plaza downtown. April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month so it will be the perfect time to learn more about traffic safety.

Officers and volunteers will have several fun games for folks to play and hands-on exhibits designed to simulate the dangers of distracted driving, driving while impaired, and aggressive driving. Officers will have sets of "drunk goggles" for folks to try. The goggles provide participants a look at different levels of impairment and how your body and mind react.

There will also be "distracted cornhole," where one team will be required to send text messages to the other while tossing their bags. The other team will play distraction free. Wonder who will win that match-up huh?

None of this is intended to make light of the pain that being involved in a traffic crash can cause. By the time an officer arrives at crash scene, or issues a speeding ticket, writes a summons for someone not wearing their seatbelt, or stops a driver that's been weaving over the center line... it's too late. That's why RPD always preaches prevention.

If we can work together to prevent more traffic crashes then imagine how much pain, anguish, and property damage we could prevent. It's that goal drives RPD's traffic safety efforts and that's the goal we'll have in mind on April 4th. Please stop by and see the Roanoke Police Department..

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Texting while driving has been shown to be six times more dangerous than driving while intoxicated.

The good news: Drunk driving fatalities are declining. The bad news: Traffic deaths caused by drivers who are texting are going up. In fact, the National Highway Safety Administration has reported that texting and driving is six times more dangerous than drinking and getting behind the wheel. The National Safety Council adds that texting is responsible for about 1.6 million accidents every year. Source: <http://www.WiseGeek.com>

Thursday, March 10th is the final night of BB&T's Party in the Market, Downtown's Beach Music Winter Series and will feature music by The Entertainers! Party in the Market is held on the 3rd floor of the City Market Building from 5:30pm - 9:00pm. Tickets are \$10 per person and available for purchase at the door.

Specials & Discounts
Early Bird Rate \$3 for all day parking with entry before 9 a.m. at Campbell Garage
Market Lot Lunch Rate \$1 for parking between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.



McDONALD'S
St. Patrick's Day Parade & Shamrock Festival

The 2016 McDonald's St. Patrick's Day Parade and Shamrock Festival is happening Saturday, March 12th in Downtown Roanoke. Activities include the McDonald's St. Patrick's Day Parade beginning at 11am, the Shamrock Festival 12-5pm behind the City Market Building, McDonald's Kid's Zone 12- 5pm with GAMES, INFLATABLES, FACE PAINTING, & MORE, the Corned Beef & Co. Celtic Celebration 10am - 5pm featuring Second Wynde, plus music on the Historic City Market by Jim Sharkey from 1-3pm. Come Downtown and celebrate!

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Art by Bus Takes Culture on the Road

By Jeremy Holmes, Director of Alternative Transportation Programs

RIDE Solutions and the Roanoke Arts Commission are once again partnering for Art by Bus, an effort to highlight the importance of public transportation to the Roanoke Valley by turning Valley Metro buses into showcases for art, music, and literature. The program is comprised of three parts:

Art by Bus: Featuring four works of art from the City's collection, all by local or regional artists. These pieces will be reproduced on large panels on the exterior of four Valley Metro buses, where they will circulate throughout the community for all of March and April. The works are *Hen Houses* by Kate Woods; *A New Day Dawns* by Eric Fitzpatrick; *Catawba* by Harriet Stokes; *Tinker View of Carvins Cove* by Nan Mahone Wellborn.

The Star Line Trolley Series: For all of March and April, the Star Line Trolley will host a series of free musical performances at on various days and at various times – meaning if you're not riding the trolley, you may be missing out on some great music. Performances include violinist Erin Hunter, trumpeters John Stump and Ernie Freeman, saxophonist Justin Pinckney, and sets by local duo Another Roadside Attraction.

Writer by Bus: In 2015 we inaugurated the Writer by Bus program, exploring public transportation in words by having a local writer take the bus throughout March and use the experience to develop a body of creative work. This year, Meighan Sharp of Hollins University has been selected as the 2016 Writer by Bus, and, like her predecessor Melanie Almeder, will be viewing her bus riding experience with a poet's eye.

The goal of Art by Bus is to highlight the critical role public transportation plays in the Roanoke community. Transit is one of the few features of the city that connects every neighborhood to every other. As a bus rider, you are likely to experience and appreciate parts of the city you never would otherwise, and with someone else at the wheel you have the opportunity to appreciate all the features that make the Roanoke Valley great. Public transportation ties together the social, economic, and cultural fabric of the city together – regardless of where you live or work, whether you take the bus because you choose to or have to, good public transportation means that no citizen has to be left out of the parts of this community that make it a desirable place to live – including its dedication to the arts.

To learn more about this and past Art by Bus programs, visit www.ridesolutions.org/artbybus.

