



## Town of Stanardsville

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Town Awarded Revitalization Grant**

Stanardsville was awarded up to \$35,000 in Planning Grant funds, the maximum amount allowed, by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development last month. The funds will go toward preparation of a full-scale Business District Revitalization grant proposal due next March. The Town expects to apply for more than \$500,000 in federal grant funds through the highly competitive Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program to undertake several revitalization projects.

The Town has established a Management Team of key stakeholders, including Mayor Gary Lowe, Stanardsville Supervisor Bill Martin, County Administrator John Barkley, Economic Development Director Alan Yost, \*STAR\* President Don Pamerter, as well as business owners, property owners, students, and residents to begin exploring proposals for reviving the downtown area. The Team has discussed various projects eligible for CDBG grant funding, including façade improvements and other building renovations; housing blight removal; construction of a Farmers' Market, performance venue, pocket park or other structure; a revolving loan fund for business start-ups; and funds for market promotion to attract new businesses and tourists.

Mayor Gary Lowe commented, "This Planning Grant award shows DHCD agrees we're ready to take on these projects that will give a face-lift to the downtown area and help grow the town's economy. We are excited to begin developing a full grant proposal in the high six-figures to fund projects that will make these needed improvements."

In an "Update to Supporters" announcing the grant award, \*STAR\* president Pamerter said, "This is great news for Stanardsville's revitalization efforts. We are delighted to have the participation of the business community, town residents, and local officials in creating an updated renewal plan that reflects new needs and opportunities in the downtown area."

DHCD will send a facilitator to conduct a Planning Strategy session with the Management Team on November 19 to develop a work plan and cost estimates for completing various activities. The Town intends to contract with a community planning specialist who will work with \*STAR\* (Stanardsville Area Revitalization) to prepare the comprehensive grant application due in March, 2016.

Mayor Lowe also noted that the Town is close to reaching final agreement with the engineering firm, Draper Aden Associates, to extend the sidewalks at either end of Main St. to connect to the shopping center on the west and Madison Rd. on the east. VDOT awarded Stanardsville a federal grant of \$360,000 for that project last summer.