



CITIZENS INVITED TO COMMENT ON OLD BLACKSBURG MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Montgomery County, Virginia – The Old Blacksburg Middle School Transition Committee is seeking public input on May 14 to kick off an international design competition for the old Blacksburg Middle School property on South Main Street.

Citizens are invited to learn about the competition and offer ideas for the best use of the 20-acre site adjacent to downtown Blacksburg. The meetings will be held from 4-6 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. next Wednesday at the Blacksburg Community Center, 725 Patrick Henry Drive.

Comments at the meetings are encouraged, but written feedback also may be submitted through May 28. Comments may be delivered to the Montgomery County Government Center, Attn: Public Information Department, 755 Roanoke St., Suite 2G, Christiansburg VA, 24073-3183 or the Town of Blacksburg Municipal Building, Attn: Town Manager's Office, 300 South Main St., Blacksburg, VA 24060. Comments may be e-mailed to obms@montgomerycountyva.gov.

Suggestions will be collected and distributed to teams entering the design competition. The first phase of the competition will run from August through November. Entries will then be put on public display, and more public input will be taken before a five-member jury selects five finalists.

During the second phase of the competition, which will extend to May 2009, finalists must work with a project developer to come up with a final buildable project. After the jury selects a winner, Blacksburg and Montgomery County will work on a plan to implement the winning design.

Transition Committee Chair and Town Council member Paul Lancaster said he expects the competition will generate some exciting ideas for the property. "I'm hopeful the public input on May 14 will guide the design teams toward some creative ideas for those 20 acres. The importance of that land to the Town, and especially to the downtown area, cannot be exaggerated."

Virginia Tech Architecture Professor Donna Dunay is organizing a team to run the competition.

For more information about the project and to view minutes from the Transition Committee meetings, visit <http://www.montva.com/departments/obms/index.php>.

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