



Radford Named All-America City Finalist

By: Becky Hawke

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The City of Radford is thrilled to announce its designation as a finalist in and 2007 All-America City Award competition.

Sponsored by the National Civic League and touted as the nation's most prestigious and oldest civic recognition program, the All-America City Award recognizes exemplary community vision, collaborative problem solving and inclusiveness to meet local challenges.

City Manager, Tony Cox, calls the finalist designation a "true testament to the way citizens, civic organizations, local government officials join together to tackle issues that are both unique to Radford, as well as those that affect all communities."

A delegation from Radford will head to Anaheim, California, June 6-8th, 2007, to present the innovative programs and solutions that were the focus of its application. These included the efforts to develop the Riverway Trail, Radford's Industrial Development Association (IDA) coupled with the savings program for low-income families spearheaded by Beans and Rice, as well as the after school programs run by Beans and Rice at McHarg Elementary.

Radford will be competing against 20 other cities from across the United States and is the only city in Virginia to be named a 2007 finalist. A jury of national business, government, philanthropic, and nonprofit leaders will select the top 10 communities based on their presentations and applications. Those top communities will be designated All-America Cities.

And while All-America City Committee Co-Chair and Vice-Mayor, Laurie Buchwald, says the "designation is thrilling, and of course a win would be even better," she believes working on the application, itself, was the most positive aspect of the process because "people gave up their time, came together, and critically evaluated what the city is doing well, but also where we need to grow and improve."

Over the past 58 years, over 500 towns, cities, and counties have been honored as All-America Cities. Radford previously won the award in 1960.

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