

MEET THE BOARD:

Greene County Economic Development Authority

The EDA board is made up of passionate volunteers who are deeply vested in the economic health and well being of Greene County and the people who call it home. Each appointed board member brings with them their own unique specialties, areas of interest and unique talents which they apply for the good of our community. Our members are involved not only with the EDA, but also with numerous other organizations and functions within the community.

What We Do

The general purpose of the EDA is to promote business development and tourism in Greene County. This includes promoting, growing and retaining existing businesses as well as attracting new businesses and also promoting the county's agricultural products and natural resources.

How We Help

The EDA can assist our community in a variety of ways including, but not limited to:

- Small Business Start-Up Planning & Education
- Business Mentorship
- Pass Through Bond Issuance
- Small Business Loan Program
- Market Research
- Business Plan Creation Assistance
- Private & Public Grant Identification

Lending Program

The EDA offers two limited lending programs to assist local business ventures. The first program is purposed to aid new and existing businesses enter or grow in our community, respectively. The second program is a site-readiness program purposed to aid property owners with investigations for potential development.

Businesses interested in learning more about these programs should contact the chair of the EDA or the Director of Economic Development and Tourism for more information.

Requests for loans are evaluated by the board on a case by case basis using a standard set of qualifying criteria while EDA funds are available. The loans, if approved by the EDA, are secured by the applicant through property or personal guarantee and are assigned an interest rate reflecting the perceived risk of the investment. Loans are not forgiven—i.e., will not become grants.

Tourism Council

The Greene County Tourism Council functions as an advisory board to the EDA and to the Director of Economic Development and Tourism on matters concerning the tourism industry in Greene.

The Tourism Council consists of business owners and managers who meet bi-monthly to advise on how best to promote Greene County as a travel destination and to help raise the economic impact of tourism in the county.

Get Involved

The issues that the EDA deals with are often complex and nuanced. Thoughtful decision makers are always needed and welcomed.

All citizens with a vested interest in Greene County and who are residents of Greene or an adjacent county (Madison, Page, Rockingham, Orange or Albemarle) are encouraged to apply to the Board of Supervisors for appointment to the EDA for a four (4) year term. Appointment profiles are available from the County Administrator's Office once a vacancy is announced. Profiles are reviewed by the Board of Supervisors and offers for interviews are extended to potential candidates.

The ideal candidate will possess a professional background and skill set that complement those already present on the board and will bring a new skill set and voice to the EDA.

Stay Informed

Visit Us Online At:

<https://www.greencountyva.gov/government/depts/economic-development-tourism/eda>

James Tsikerdanos

Chair

Residence: Ruckersville, Virginia
Originally From: Laurel, Maryland
Current Term Expiration: March 1, 2025
Email: JTsikerdanos@gcva.us

Professional Interests & Specialty Areas

Sales; Marketing; Business Development; Big Data; Branding;
New Product Development

Community Involvement

Greene County Chamber of Commerce—Member
Stanardsville Independence Day Committee—Member
Current Greene County Property Owner

Background

James is a 13-year Army Reserve veteran and has lived in Greene County since 2014. He enlisted in the Army as a high school senior and went to college at the Corcoran College of Art and Design to study education.

After moving with his wife to central Virginia, James has enjoyed a career in sales and business development with various local companies.

James has numerous interests and is, at the moment, particularly passionate about workforce development and enhancing education in trades.

Michael Payne

Vice-Chair

Residence: Stanardsville, Virginia
Originally From: Staunton, Virginia
Current Term Expiration: March 1, 2023
Email: MPayne@gcva.us

Professional Interests & Specialty Areas

Project Management; Healthcare Facility Planning;
Data Analysis; Small Business Development; Event Planning;
Fundraising; Marketing

Community Involvement

Stanardsville Independence Day Committee—Chair
Stanardsville Board of Zoning Appeals—Chair
Greene Care Clinic—Board Member
Piedmont-Stella Lodge No. 50 AF & AM
University Baptist Church
Community Block Development Grant Leadership Team
Current Greene County Property Owner

Background

Michael and his wife moved to Stanardsville in 2010 where they have happily enjoyed restoring one of the community's older homes. Michael is an analyst and his wife is a high school biology teacher.

When not busy in the home or at work, Michael enjoys gardening, reading history books, and skeet shooting. He is also active in the community supporting numerous local charities and causes—particularly those addressing food insecurity, wildlife management and cancer treatment.

Get Involved

We encourage you to attend our regular meetings which are held the third Tuesday of every odd month starting at 6:30 PM. Unless otherwise posted, meetings will take place at Stanardsville Town Hall which is located at 19 Celt RD in Stanardsville, Virginia.

Special meetings will be advertised.

Matt Sweetanos

Secretary-Treasurer

Residence: Ruckersville, Virginia
Originally From: Napa, California
Current Term Expiration: March 1, 2022
Email: MSweetanos@gcva.us

Professional Interests & Specialty Areas

Mortgage & Financial Education

Community Involvement

Charlottesville Area Association of Realtors & Operations
Group-Affiliate Member
Women's Council of Realtors Blue Ridge-Affiliate Member
Greater Piedmont Realtors-Affiliate Member

Background

Matt moved to Ruckersville in 1998 along with his wife and their then infant daughter from the Tampa Bay area. Matt worked for a time at Technicolor before becoming involved in the mortgage business in 2002.

Since that time, he has transitioned from mortgage loan officer to the Director of Mortgage Services for the UVA Community Credit Union.

In his spare time, Matt enjoys reading, binge watching Netflix, maintaining his cars, and sporting clays.

Julia Roberts

Board Member

Residence: Orange, Virginia
Originally From: Orange, California
Current Term Expiration: March 1, 2022
Email: JRoberts@gcva.us

Professional Interests & Specialty Areas

Banking & Lending; Business Development; Portfolio Management; Certified VHDA Home Buyer Counselor

Community Involvement

Coalition for Economic Opportunity—Volunteer Loan Officer
Greene Care Clinic—Board Member
Arc of the Piedmont—Volunteer
Greene County Chamber of Commerce—Board Member
Central Virginia Mortgage Lenders—Board Member
Current Greene County Property Owner

Background

Julia's personal and professional relationships run deep throughout Greene. She moved to Greene in 1985, married and raised two children here. Presently, her daughter and granddaughter live in Stanardsville and her mother resides at Julia's property in Ruckersville. Julia was instrumental in bringing United Bank to Stanardsville and was a charter member of the Stanardsville Revitalization group before it was known as STAR.

It Is Harder To Create Than Destroy

The EDA board works very hard to make the best decisions possible with the information available to us and within the framework of the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia and the convening authorities that govern us.

Your support of this body and the work we do on behalf of our community is greatly appreciated.

Whitt Ledford

Board Member

Residence: Stanardsville, Virginia
Originally From: Honolulu, Hawaii
Current Term Expiration: March 1, 2023
Email: WLedford@gcva.us

Professional Interests & Specialty Areas

Hospitality; Restaurant Management; Tourism; Farming; Bed and Breakfast; Commercial Food Service

Community Involvement

Greene County Farmers Market—Member
Stanardsville Commons Advisory Council—Member
Stanardsville Independence Day Committee—Day of Volunteer
Current Greene County Property Owner
Current Greene County Business Owner

Background

Cooking is a way of life for Whitt Ledford. Starting in 1973 when he moved to Arizona from Hawaii, Whitt has been in the kitchen for the last 35-years.

Working his way up from cook to Chef and eventually to Executive Chef, Whitt has experience across numerous organizations of various sizes from independent restaurants to large, multinational hotels.

In 1982, Whitt was awarded the Certified Executive Chef certification through the American Culinary Federation. He then moved to Stanardsville in 1984 and began to work as the Executive Chef at the Boar's Head Inn from 1984-95. He left to purchase, renovate and operate the Lafayette Inn in Stanardsville from 1996-2008 after which he became a culinary instructor for Greene County Public Schools from 2008-2011.

He is now "semi-retired" and pursuing sustainable farming operations on a family farm in addition to starting short term lodging operations.

Reach Out—We're Here To Help

Do not hesitate to reach out to us by email if you have questions or concerns

Abbey Heflin

Board Member

Residence: Ruckersville, Virginia
Originally From: Yarmouh, Maine
Current Term Expiration: March 1, 2025
Email: AHeflin@gcva.us

Professional Interests & Specialty Areas

Management; Business Operations; Business Strategy; Staff Development; Sustainable Business Practice; Education

Community Involvement

Daughters of the American Revolution—Member
Legacy Church—Member
Virginia's Academic Library Consortium—Member
Current Greene County Property Owner

Background

Abbey and her husband moved to Greene County in 2016. She works for UVA Health System in the Health Sciences Library as a manager and faculty librarian.

In her spare time, Abbey is pursuing an MBA with a concentration in Sustainable Enterprise. She also enjoys spending time with her dogs, reading, listening to podcasts, and doing anything that involves being outdoors.

Paul Reickart

Board Member

Residence: Ruckersville, Virginia
Originally From: Philipsburg, Pennsylvania
Current Term Expiration: March 1, 2025
Email: PReickart@gcva.us

Professional Interests & Specialty Areas

Property Management and Multi-Site Management. Self-storage is an area of specialization.

Community Involvement

Current Greene County Property Owner
Attends Legacy Baptist Church

Background

Proud husband and father of four whose family was attracted to Greene for its scenic beauty and central location.