

**Town of Bluefield
Town Council
Minutes
February 26, 2019**

The Bluefield, Virginia Town Council held a regularly scheduled Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, February 26, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall located at 112 Huffard Drive, Bluefield, Virginia.

PRESENT

Don Harris, Mayor
Jimmy Jones, Councilmember
Chuck Presley, Councilmember
Jarrod Bailey, Councilmember
Ron Holt, Councilmember

ALSO PRESENT

Mike Watson, Town Manager
Lesley Catron, Town Clerk
Billie Roberts, Comm. Dev. Coordinator
Matt Freedman, Town Attorney
76 Members of Public
Shane Gunter, Police Chief

ABSENT

Anglis Trigg Jr., Vice-Mayor

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Harris called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Travis Lowe, Crossroads Church led the Invocation. Mayor Harris led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Harris removed the Fairway Sign Property Discussion under Town Manager's Report.

Councilmember Jones made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Councilmember Presley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Bailey made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Councilmember Presley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

CITIZEN REQUESTS & SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Special Presentation: GHS Football Team Resolution Presentation – Mayor Don Harris

Mayor Harris asked the football team to come forward.

Mrs. Catron read the following Resolution:



TOWN OF BLUEFIELD RESOLUTION

Honoring VHSL Class 2 A State Champions "The Graham G-Men"

WHEREAS, "2018" marked the year of the Champions for the Graham G-Men Football Team of Graham High School; and

WHEREAS, the G-Men had an incredible season with a fourteen game winning streak; and

WHEREAS, with determination and perseverance, the G-Men worked their way through the season and earned their spot to compete at the Virginia High School League Class 2A State Championship game; and

WHEREAS, on December 8, 2018, Graham fans from near and far packed into Salem Stadium to watch the G-Men battle the Goochland Bulldogs for the State Title; and

WHEREAS, the game ended with a score of 31-9, the G-Men were the victors and brought the State Title back to Bluefield, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the game on December 8th was meaningful not only because it marked the fourth state championship win for the Graham G-Men, but it was also what would have been the 81st birthday of the former Graham High School football coach, Glynn Carlock, Sr., and

WHEREAS, the team, under the leadership of their outstanding coaching staff, including Head Coach Tony Palmer worked very hard throughout the season to achieve their goals and ultimately bring home the trophy.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA, hereby recognizes the hard-work and dedication of the players

and coaching staff of the Graham High School football team during the 2018 season and applauds the accomplishments of our hometown State Champs, the Graham G-Men.

Adopted the 22nd day of January 2019. Presented the 26th day of February 2019.

Donald R. Harris, Mayor

Lesley L. Catron, Town Clerk

Special Presentation: Falls Mills Project Update – Regina Sayers

Ms. Sayers gave council a handout and stated that the Falls Mills Project had taken 6 years to do and she was happy to announce they were in the permitting stage and next would be the pre-construction/construction stage. She stated that it would be at the location of the old Falls Mills Elementary School and they could have 30 or more seniors for the day facility. She stated that it was not an overnight facility and that they would hire approximately 5-25 individuals. She stated that they had meetings on the first Thursday of every month at noon. She stated that they were the provider for the PACE (Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly) program and it was the best that CMS was a part of.

Special Presentation: AEP eScore Program for Citizens – AEP Rep. Melvin Ross (attached at end of minutes)

Mr. Ross gave council a handout and explained Tall Town Makerspace and eScore to them which is attached at the end of the minutes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS & REPORTS

None.

NEW BUSINESS & REPORTS

None.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Graham Transit Title VI Plan and Procedures Manual, VOTE (hard copy on file in the minute books at Town Hall)

Mr. Watson stated that attached in council's packet was a copy of the Graham Transit Title VI Plan and Procedures Manual. He stated that he needed a vote to approve it.

Mr. Holt made a motion to approve the Graham Transit Title VI Plan and Procedures Manual. Mr. Presley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Reschedule Work Session Retreat Discussion

Mr. Watson rescheduled the Work Session Retreat for Tuesday, March 5th at 6 p.m. at Town Hall.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

David Wohlford stated that there were children playing at the old Sedgewood swimming pool area and there needed to be signage and a barricade put up.

Mayor Harris asked if there were any other Citizens Comments.

There were none.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Holt stated that he appreciated the work that the Police Department done in Bluefield, VA and thanked the Chief. He stated that the shooting of the cop hit home to him and that the police officers made it to where we could have a civilized society. He stated that he would like to add into the monetary award and made a motion to give an additional \$5k to go towards the criminal capture.

Mr. Presley seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Vice-Mayor Trigg:	Absent
Councilmember Presley:	Yes
Councilmember Bailey:	Yes
Mayor Harris:	Yes
Councilmember Jones:	Yes
Councilmember Holt:	Yes

The motion passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

Mr. Jones stated that he would prefer the money be put into the Police Departments account to give.

Chief Gunter stated that he was not sure where the money would have to go.

Mr. Holt stated that we would follow the same protocol with giving as the US Marshals did.

Mr. Presley stated that he needed to be caught because he was a danger.

Mr. Jones stated that he had received lots of compliments from folks concerning the cleanup of the Bank of Graham building, the other building on Virginia Avenue and across from Riley's on the railing.

Mr. Bailey stated that things around the Town looked good and that it had been a tough couple of days for our officers.

Mr. Presley gave a shout out to the Fire Department putting in work on tree removals. He stated that he loved the Police Department and that some random guy stopped him and stated that he loved BJ and gave a shout out to Mike as well for helping with the water problem. He stated that they needed a sign or something up at the intersection at Jack Motor Company and that cameras needed to be put up in Sedgewood. He stated that he had been working on a proposal for the Police Department and he believed that they could pay the officers the same as what everyone around us was paying theirs. He handed it out to council and Chief and asked them to look at it to see if it could be done.

Mayor Harris stated that he, Trigg, BJ, and Mike had visited the officer on Monday afternoon. He stated concerning the pay raise for the Police Department that he had always been for those who made the least such as Public Works who worked on freezing water, worked in the rain, sleet and snow and also those who worked on the garbage trucks. He stated that he did not want them to be overlooked.

Mr. Presley stated that it was just a proposal and those guys were awesome too.

ATTORNEY REPORT

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilmember Presley made a motion to enter into Executive Session pursuant to *Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711-A-1.3* and Mrs. Catron read:

Discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body.

Councilmember Holt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Council entered into Executive Session 8:13 p.m.

Councilmember Presley made a motion to enter out of Executive Session. Councilmember Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Councilmember Holt made a motion to adopt the following resolution certifying the Executive Session and Mrs. Catron read:

WHEREAS, the Town Council of Bluefield, Virginia has convened an executive meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712-D of The Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Town Council of Bluefield, Virginia that such session was conducted in conformity with Virginia law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of Bluefield, Virginia hereby certifies that, to the best of each members knowledge, (I) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under this chapter and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting by the Town Council.

Adopted this 26th day of February.

Councilmember Bailey seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Vice-Mayor Trigg:	Absent
Councilmember Presley:	Yes
Councilmember Bailey:	Yes
Mayor Harris:	Yes
Councilmember Jones:	Yes
Councilmember Holt:	Yes

The motion passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

ADJOURN

Mr. Bailey made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m. Mr. Presley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Don Harris, Mayor

Lesley Catron, Town Clerk



TALL TOWN
MAKERSPACE

Phase 1: The Vision

The Opportunity

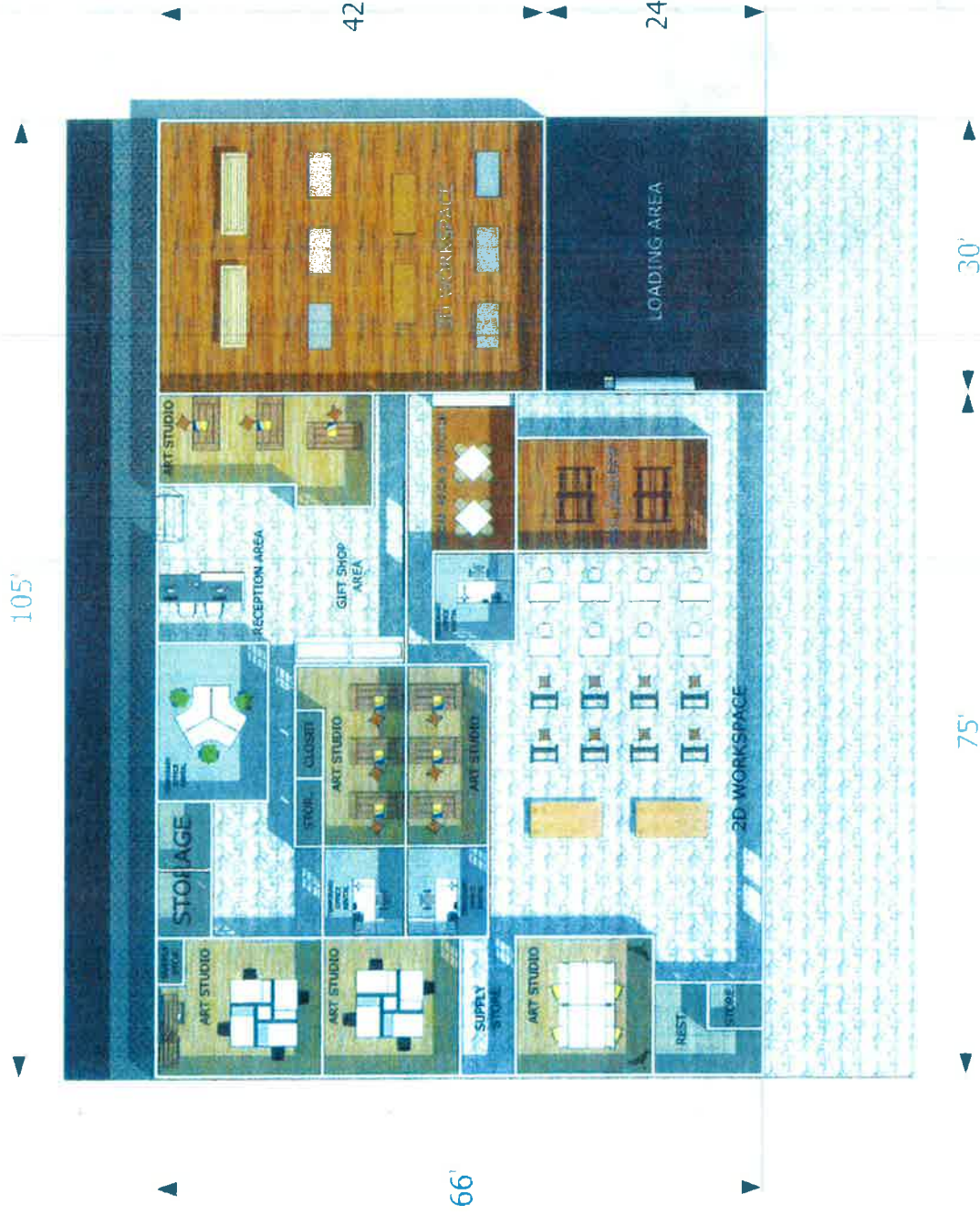
- Many community members say there is not a central “one thing” to do in downtown.
- There is not a lot of meeting spaces in the downtown.
- Families are looking for activities to learn, grow, and gain next experiences in downtown areas.
- Makerspaces (DIY) provide opportunities to engage older community members and disabled members is limited.
- Visitors from outside the area are looking for destination areas.

Overview

- Bluefield College Caudill School of Business would like to partner with members of the Bluefield, VA Art Community and community leaders to support the development of an ArtMaker Space in downtown Bluefield Virginia. The goal of the Bluefield Community Art MakerSpace is to provide an innovative model that supports the economic growth in downtown Bluefield and specifically the artistic and creative talents within the community through tools, techniques, education, and support for a variety of creative work. This work will provide an opportunity to foster community involvement, develop a stronger appreciation of the diversity in art in rural SW VA, and provide the physical space to collaborate with artisans, art / craft educators, and engage visitors from outside the region who are searching for a unique destination.

What are Makerspaces?

- Gives people space or an opportunity to activate and nurture the creative minds
- Give people a place where they can go and express themselves freely given the opportunity to learn something new
- Gives people in the area the opportunity to have a place where they can volunteer
- Gives people a place where they can communicate and interact with one another in the community
- Gives the community the opportunity to thrive of the creative minds within the area
- Gives people of all ages to engage in creativity to expand their minds.



Proposed Floor Plan

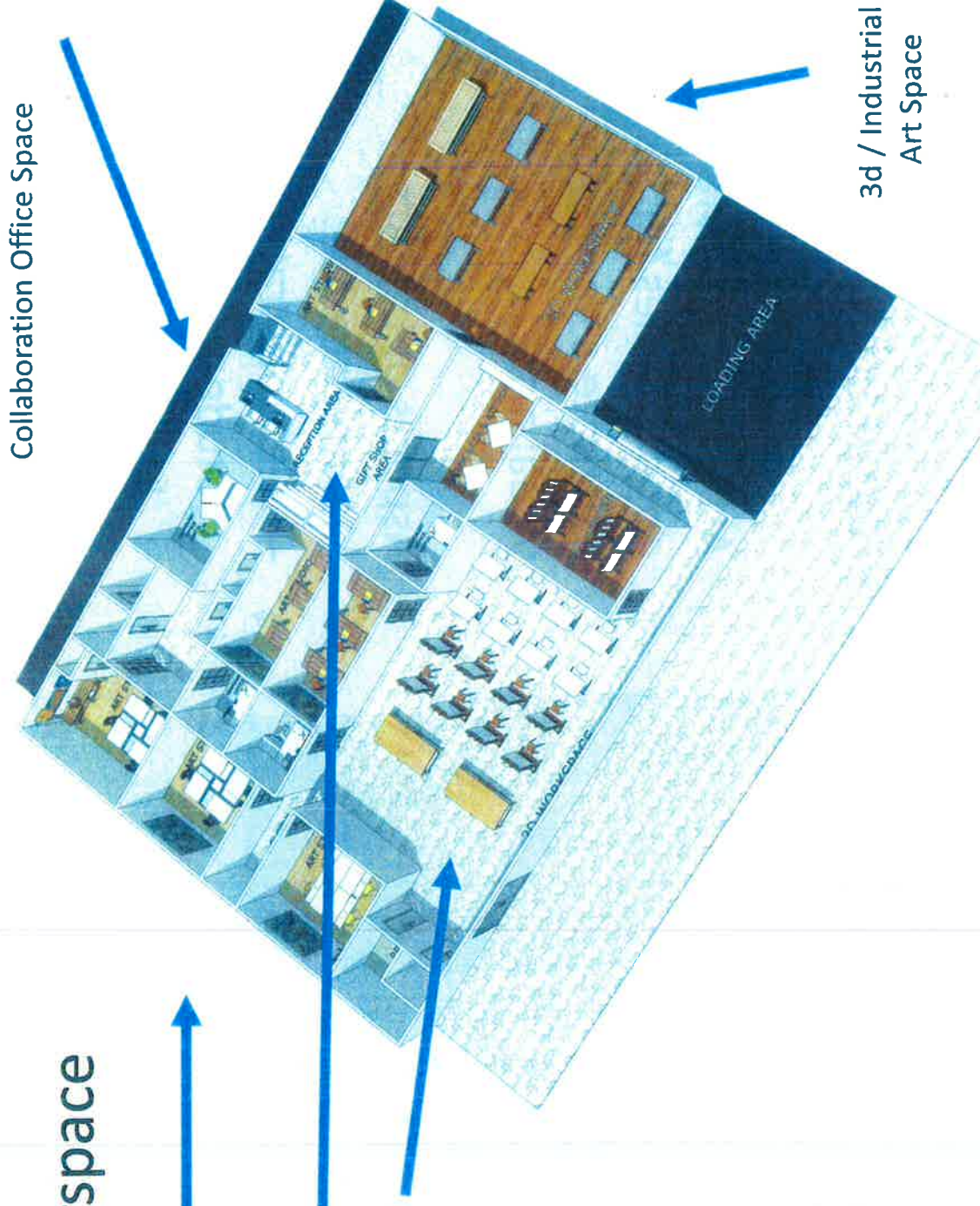
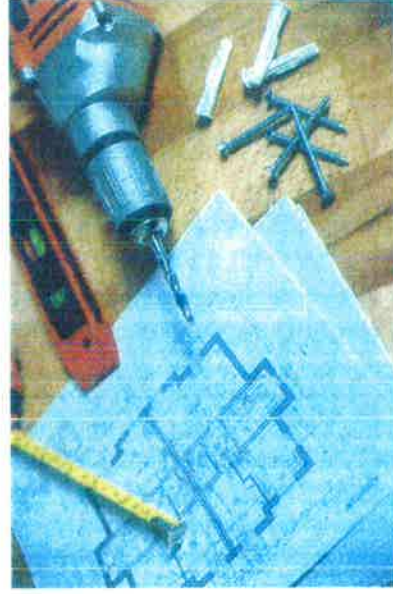
Art Studio's provide opportunities for visitors to create a variety of visual arts.

Aspects of the Art Makerspace are:

- Demonstration area
- Students-at-work
- Exhibition area

Areas in the Makerspace

- Art Studios
- Gift Shop / coffee shop
- Classroom / Lecture Teaching area



The art makerspace can provide community classes covering a variety of different skills and media that range from basic painting to advanced wood-working. All classes are open to anyone and inclusive to all skill levels and age groups.

Sample Class Schedule:

- Jewelry Basics Class
- Soap making Class
- Beginner to Advanced Photography Classes
- Storytelling in Education
- Writing for Storytelling
- Non-Fiction Writing
- Make your own cutting board
- Scrapbooking
- Chainsaw wood artists



Membership

- Membership in the **Bluefield Community Makerspace** would help **generate operational revenue for groups or individuals who have a list of projects to accomplish**. Staff volunteers will be on hand to introduce visitors/members to the equipment and assist in a variety of questions related to any of the activities within the Workspace.
- Visitors / Members who work better in a more one-on-one environment that bigger classes can schedule time with one of the certified volunteer instructors to work along side them as they explore a new skill.

One day pass: **\$20** / One Month: **\$50** / Six Months: **\$300** / One Year: **\$300**

* consider - Co-op
 leading efforts
 of building in
 management
 for startup

2/1/12
 Per year -
 Operating
 cost

Electric

Partnerships with the Bluefield Makerspace

- Educational programs such as art camps, older adult classes, projects or competitions can be utilized in the space.
- Local businesses can sponsor events at the Makerspace and share information about their products, trade shows, or community involvement projects.
- Hands-on team-building activities can be facilitated.
- The space can be used for test proctoring such as SAT/ACT, specialty certifications, ex: cpr certifications, etc..



What's Next...

- How can we fund the purchase and set up of the Arts, Culture, and Education center? Grants?
- What is the best way to set up the formal business entity.
- Where can we get equipment, desks, computers, supplies.
- How can we get volunteers to help with set up and management?
- Where is the focus?
 - Makerspace?
 - Collaboration space?
 - Training center?

To successfully implement the Bluefield Art MakerSpace, the following steps should be considered:

- Develop a community team that includes members from the Bluefield community, educational partners, members from the art community, and others who have an interest in the development of such a community space.
- Explore branding and marketing opportunities. Market and advertise via social media Explore potential grant funding sources i.e.: Corporation foundations that support business, entrepreneurship business student education, and economic growth.
- Work with regional economic development agencies to support in the form of sponsorship and angel investment possibilities. Explore private philanthropic foundations and business sponsorships. Identify sources for grant match-funding, i.e.: Existing SBDC funds Business Department resources (funding and in-kind). Business community and agency matches and explore continued fundraising possibilities.
- To set up a makerspace, the following will need to be addressed:
 - - Rent/lease space (downtown Bluefield Virginia building)
 - - Identify Staff, faculty, and administration engagement
 - - IT support
 - - Marketing
 - - Infrastructure and utilities
 - - Supplies and software
 - - Event support to fund speaker panels, trainers/facilitators hired on for short-term instruction

Branding Ideas



s to help you
money!

an energy savings program
helps homeowners with a simple,
step-by-step path to reach maximum
energy efficiency based on key areas
of the home.

energy efficient the home, the
money saved!



TAKE CHARGE

eScore™

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TakeChargeVA.com/eScore

See how easy
it can be to live
comfortably.



APPALACHIAN
POWER

TAKE CHARGE

...ing ...
easy!

... online or over the phone.

...it TakeChargeVA.com/eScore or call
4567 to get started.

...t a Quality Contractor Network
...member to begin the work you
...do.

...n't know a QCN member, call us or
...website for a list of members specific to
...a. A QCN member can discuss options,
...nd program details with you.

...REE Energy Assessment AND
...pre evaluation of your home.

...y Advisor will evaluate your home to
...n eScore and a list of improvements that
...your home's eScore. They will also install
...oot upgrades for instant savings and
...ccess to more rebates to help make
...ne as energy efficient as possible.

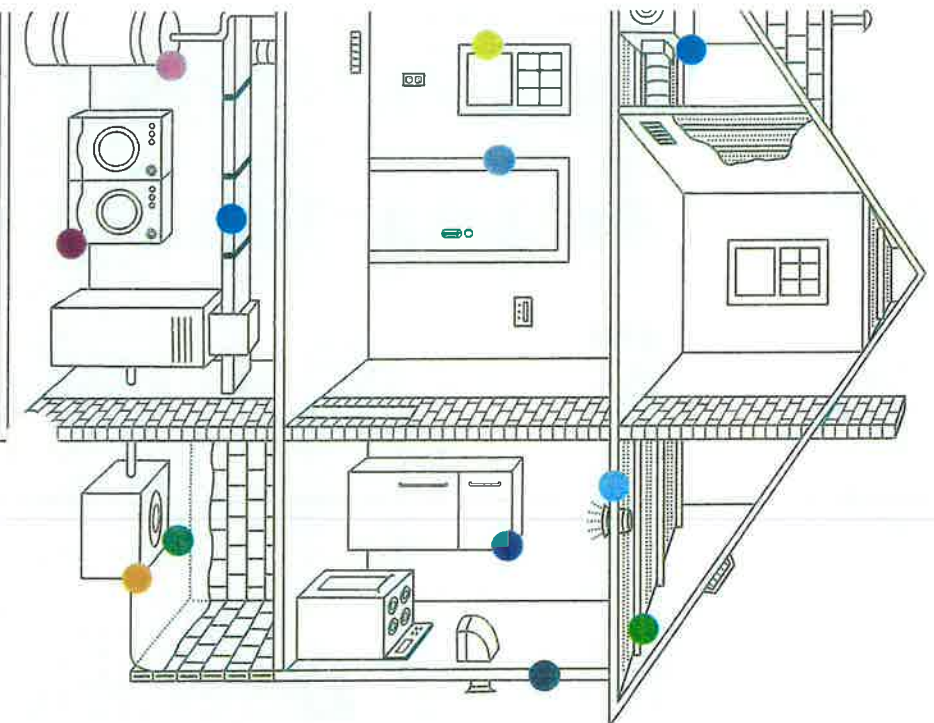
Now you're ready to
...le the next project and
...ake your home a 10!



AKE CHARGE™

Evaluate to receive your eScore:

- Air Sealing**
Check caulking, weather stripping and other drafty cracks that cause energy loss.
- Attic Insulation**
Evaluate the R-value and effectiveness of attic insulation.
- Duct System**
Inspect for leaks, inefficient installation or undersized ductwork.
- Lighting**
Evaluate how lighting could be more efficient.
- Heating/Cooling System**
Determine if the HVAC is the most efficient for the size of your home.



- Appliances/Electronics**
Check that appliances and electronics are drawing energy in the most efficient way.
- Water Heater**
Inspect the water heating system for age, insulation and efficiency.
- Refrigerator**
Evaluate the energy consumption of the one appliance that draws the most power.
- Windows and Doors**
Inspect doors and windows for energy loss.
- Wall Insulation**
Determine if walls are adequately insulated.
- Demand Response**
Verify that you're reducing demand during peak usage periods with our Residential Peak Reduction or Bring Your Own Thermostat (BYOT) Programs. (Plus, you can earn money each year you are enrolled in one of the programs!)

Rebates that are available

Upgrade	Homeowner Rebate*
Attic insulation	Up to \$400
Air sealing	Up to \$150
Duct sealing (existing HVAC only)	Up to \$175
Mini split ductless 19-SEER	Up to \$675
Smart thermostat*	\$75/thermostat
Heat pump 17 SEER—ducted system, non-ducted system or with desuperheater*	Up to \$400
High efficiency furnace fan motor	\$75/motor
Peak reduction	\$40 a year
Bring Your Own Thermostat	\$50 at enrollment, plus an additional \$25 annually

*Must meet ENERGY STAR® requirements