



**MARION VA**  
*America's Coolest Hometown*



# PROJECT BAUD

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THE TOWN OF MARION, VIRGINIA

Presented by: Ken Heath, Marion Community and Economic Development  
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# OVERVIEW: MARION'S PROJECT BAUD

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- Blighted
- Abandoned
- Underutilized
- Dilapidated
- ***A comprehensive approach to reducing and eliminating visual and economic blight throughout the Town of Marion by systematically identifying and remediating properties to provide a safe, clean, attractive community.***

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- Started as discussion during the Covid Pandemic
- Marion Economic Development Authority
- Several blighted properties, including former CDBG neighborhood housing projects, spot blight, commercial and public properties that were not serving best and highest use
- Need for safe, affordable housing
- Marion Redevelopment and Housing Authority, VA DHCD, VA Home, US Senators Kaine and Warner, US Representative Morgan Griffith

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- Housing studies (Town of Marion and Mount Rogers PDC)
- Website enhancements (community demographics, online reporting)
- Code Enforcement (Flave Davis)
- Rewriting of Town's Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinances to meet current and future objectives
- **OVERALL GOAL:** To clean up our town while providing safe, affordable housing opportunities

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- Tax sales
- Negotiated targeted purchases
- Property donations
- “As of March 2023, The Town of Marion/Marion EDA has acquired 48 BAUD properties, with the goal of redeveloping 30-35 by the end of the year.” - Town Manager Bill Rush
- “The quicker we work, the faster we can get these properties back in the hands of people who want to build their homes on these lots and be a part of the Marion community!”

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- Code Enforcement
- Strengthening Town Ordinances
- Public nuisance reporting form online
- Working with Commonwealth Attorney and judges for realistic timeframe and penalties
- Other initiatives under consideration: Storefront Preservation, “Paint the Town”, Marion Homestead

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