



Pulaski County Citizen Newsletter

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PULASKI COUNTY ANNOUNCES THE LAUNCH OF ITS NEW SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

~ County Acquires NRV Business Center and will be Operating a New Small Business Solutions Center to focus on Supporting Small Businesses and Entrepreneurship ~

Pulaski, Virginia, February 17, 2021 – Pulaski County has officially launched a small business development program that will focus on providing assistance and support to the County's small businesses and local entrepreneurs looking to start or grow their businesses. The rollout of the program coincides with the acquirement of the NRV Business Center, a mixed-use business incubator in Fairlawn, VA. The County recently received ownership of the facility from the New River Valley Development Corporation and will now operate the facility and run its Small Business Solutions services from within the business center. The center will soon be officially renamed the 'Pulaski County Innovation Center.'

"Small business development has been a priority of the EDA ever since we transitioned from an Industrial Development Authority in April of 2018, and broadened our focus to include small business and entrepreneurial support services, tourism and marketing, workforce development, community engagement, retail and commercial development, economic diversification and residential development," stated Jon Wyatt, Chair of the EDA. "It is exciting to see the EDA's business plan reaching its goals of supporting small businesses with professional services, having a new tourism department in place to market the County, and to be aggressively advancing many of the EDA's other strategic targets during these challenging times."

This endeavor is a partnership between the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors and the Economic Development Authority. This new program is a strategic objective identified within the County's recently adopted Comprehensive Plan and will serve to help attain the County's 40-by-30 goal of having 40,000 people call Pulaski County home by the year 2030.

"It is vitalizing to see the Board of Supervisors and the EDA concentrate additional resources on assisting our small business community navigate and respond to today's unique challenges as well as seize upon equally unique opportunities," stated Jonathan D. Sweet, County Administrator. "Pulaski County bodes tremendous entrepreneurial and small business growth potential, and providing support to this sector will help further stabilize and diversify our local economy and make Pulaski County a more resilient and attractive place to both live and invest. This is yet another major step toward making Pulaski County a next-level community."

The County will be hiring a new Small Business Solutions Manager to manage the Innovation Center and run its Small Business Solutions Center. The Pulaski County EDA will be funding the entirety of the new position from rental income revenues generated from within the newly acquired Innovation Center. The new position will be responsible for managing the overall operations of the Innovation Center and working directly with its tenants on both their business and office needs. The position will also comprehensively assist small businesses and entrepreneurs with their individual and unique business needs and be a one-stop in connecting businesses with whatever assistance or resources they may need.

"Entrepreneurs and small businesses have helped to make Pulaski County the wonderful place it is today," stated Michael Solomon, Economic Development Director. "I am pleased with the support from the Board of Supervisors and the EDA Board, their commitment will allow small businesses to succeed when they call Pulaski County home."

For more information on the soon to be named 'Pulaski County Innovation Center', please visit <http://nrvlc.org/nrvbc.html>

COURTHOUSE WAR EXHIBIT UPDATE

The Pulaski County Courthouses Exhibit's Committee is continuing to work on a new exhibit for the 3rd Floor of the Old Pulaski County Courthouse, entitled, "Remembering the Sacrifices for Freedom". The exhibit's purpose is to recognize local war heroes; educate our citizens on the impact of war; preserve local war history for future generations; and to inspire others while promoting pride in Pulaski County's rich history and heritage. Historic war items and artifacts from all wars and conflicts beginning with the Revolutionary War and ending with the Global War on Terror are planned to be displayed. Two war dioramas, one for World War II and one for the Vietnam War, are planned, and a "Collage of Soldiers" wall with local soldiers' photos will be displayed.

Funding assistance for this exhibit has been graciously received from the CE Richardson Benevolent Foundation. Further, various citizens and groups have already either donated or loaned many historic items to the committee for display purposes, and students from Pulaski County High School have provided assistance with the research and writing of war narratives for each war/conflict. Some of the items received thus far include military hats, helmets, uniforms, medals, soldier's dog tags, maps, pictures, ration stamps, and various books.

Although many exhibit items have already been received from the public and others, the committee is continuing to seek additional items. At this time **items are especially needed relating to World War I, Korean War, Vietnam War, Gulf War and the Global War on Terror.** Therefore, anyone who wishes to either donate or loan items for this exhibit may do so by contacting either Nancy M. Burchett, Chairperson of the Pulaski County Courthouses Exhibit's Committee, at 540-980-6776 or committee member, Sharon Hardy, at 540-980-2892. All items donated or loaned will be safely secured and insured by Pulaski County.

The History of Pulaski County Youth Soccer

In the mid 1980's, soccer was just an idea and was not part of our youth sports landscape. The opportunity arose for an organized effort to develop a youth soccer association called the Dublin Youth Soccer Association (DYSA). It is our understanding that Pat Ford and Fred Gravely started this association and got it officially sanctioned by FIFA. This momentum brought in the Don Stanley's and Marshall Hamden's of the community where their contributions of camps and equipment would energize the program and snowball it from there. It would not take long before soccer would take off in the county with coaches like Brett Whitesell, Beverly Hamblin, Carson Dalton, the Dunnaways, Nancy Myers and Charles Forbes; and amazing coordinators of the likes of the late Calvin Smith .

Once the foundation for soccer was laid and the maturation process complete, it was handed over to the county's recreation department in the early 1990s. From there, the program has continued to grow and thrive from the contributions made by so many, and we now have more than 400 participating in the sport. Pulaski County would like to thank Fred Gravely, Beverly Hamblin, Pat Ford, Robin Whitesell, Calvin Smith, Eddie Sutphin, Carson Dalton, Bruce Farris, Leon Dalton, Johnny Myers, Sam Patterson, Al Carden, Nancy Myers, Brett Whitesell, Si Rasnick, the Dunnaways, Don Stanley, Marshall Hamden and Charles Forbes for helping bring the Pulaski County Youth Soccer program to where it is today - Thank you.

Commissioner of the Revenue Office Updates

- ◆ The County Real Estate assessment book is processed each year in early April and contains the Fair Market Value (FMV) of all assessed buildings/improvements and land taxable by law for that particular year.
- ◆ Land Use Revalidation applications are reviewed on a six-year cycle during the reassessment year which fell in 2020. The application review process wrapped up in March 2021 and is designed to ensure documents provided have been verified and determine continued eligibility as stated in 58.1-3230 and 58.1-3231 of the Code of Virginia.
- ◆ New Land Use applications can be obtained in our office and submitted by November 1 each year for evaluation of eligibility for the following year. Verifiable documentation of farming must be submitted with the application.
- ◆ Land Use for forest acreage of 20 acres or greater require a Forest Management Plan (FMP) not older than 10 years and on file in our office by November 1, 2021, to remain in the land use program.
- ◆ The "Motor Vehicle Property Tax Exemption for Disabled Veterans" exempts totally-disabled veterans from property taxes on one vehicle effective January 1, 2021. For more details contact our office at (540) 980-7750.
- ◆ The pandemic is forecasted to cause a slight increase in 2021 vehicle values stemming from low supply due to auto factory shutdowns, reduced industry sales and fewer trade-ins. Less vehicles available to purchase as buyer demand increases, causes values to increase. Pulaski County uniformly uses the NADA clean trade-in value when assessing vehicles.
- ◆ We are available to answer questions and serve the community in a variety of ways:
 - By phone at (540) 980-7750 for personal property and (540) 980-7753 for real estate
 - By mail or walk-in at 52 W. Main Street, Suite 200; Pulaski, VA 24301
 - By email at commissionerofrevenue@pulaskicounty.org
 - By drop box located on the backside of building to the right of doors

Kim Matthews, Commissioner of the Revenue



The Friends of Peak Creek will have their annual Spring Cleanup on April 24 from 10 AM - 1 PM. Join us at 41 First Street, NE, (parking lot behind the Senior Center) for a safety briefing and area assignments. Wear long sleeves, long pants, and sturdy shoes. Gloves, safety vests, trash bags, drinking water, snacks and trash grabbers will be provided. Watch our Facebook page for changes due to weather.

Fine Arts Center for the New River Valley

The Fine Arts Center for the New River Valley invites children and adults in the area to participate in classes and workshops through its Second Saturday Arts Café program. Parents can sign up for free art kits for children that can be picked up the second week of each month. In April, the children's art kits will include paper embedded with seeds for Spring art fun. In May, children can create a collage in the style of famous artist Matisse, and June features a Nature Collage Suncatcher.

Our workshops for adults are currently delivered online until we are safe to be together again. In April, Heather Arnold will demonstrate how to create your own Sketchbook Journal. May includes workshops led by Dr. Kim Lewis on creating Ukrainian-styled Pysanky Eggs, which are beautiful creations of intricate designs. Local watercolor artist Toni Bowman will teach a landscape watercolor class in June.

To find out more, to sign up for free children's kits, or to register for an adult workshop, visit the Fine Arts Center's website at FACNRV.org.

Dear Pulaski County Community,

Your new Tourism Department has hit the ground running, beginning January 4th. Our first objective was to get some relief for our small businesses that have been hit the hardest from COVID-19. Relief came in the form of a grant from the NRV Tourism effort, where we were awarded 1.7 million dollars to be distributed equally among several of the NRV communities. Pulaski County has submitted requests for \$244,000 in the first round for 25 businesses. If you know of any businesses that might need assistance, there will be another round later this year (TBA) and you can call the tourism office at (540) 674-4161 for further information.

We all have a story. Some of us were born and raised here, others have moved here, but we have made a choice to be here in Pulaski County. I bet the reason you are still here is based on how you feel. Pulaski County makes you happy. We visit places that make us feel good. Research from a recent survey in the NRV shows the major reasons people visit our area is that they have heard about it by word of mouth or have visited before and had such good memories they wanted to return.

Sometimes to be able to really appreciate a place, we need to step outside and listen to people from outside of Pulaski, the New River Valley, the state of Virginia and even outside of the United States. Folks love the natural beauty of the area and the serene environment, everything a charming mountain community has to offer. It all comes back to you, the people, that call Pulaski County home. You are the reason people come and return again and again. Share your stories. Let me hear from you on what makes Pulaski County the place you call home. You can follow us on Facebook @pulaskicounty is or you can email me at pwhite@pulaskicounty.org. Don't forget to use hashtags on social media, #pulaskicountyis, #virginiaisforlovers.

Peggy White
Director of Tourism

Pulaski Circuit Court Clerk Awarded Grant to Preserve Local Records

The Library of Virginia announced that the Circuit Court Records Preservation (CCRP) program has awarded Pulaski Circuit Court Clerk, Maetta Crewe, a grant in the amount of \$16,895.50 for local records preservation. The funds will be used to conserve Deed Book 37, General Index to Deeds A-L, General Index to Deeds M-Z, 1839-1909 and Will Book 3, 1871-1882 stored in her office. They were also digitized so that they can be made available to the public through the clerk's online records management system.

"We are very excited", said Mrs. Crewe. "These records are the history of our county, and we have an obligation to make certain that they are available for future generations." Since she became clerk in 2006, Crewe has applied for and has been awarded grant funds in excess of \$167,000. These grant funds were used for obtaining a security camera system for the clerk's office, refurbish and preserve 24 books including deed books, index books and marriage registers, reformatting and digitizing a historical criminal case file and for the purchase of a reader printer. Earlier this year, and in response to the COVID 19 Pandemic, Crewe contracted with Digital Memories, a Southwest Virginia company, to scan all Pulaski County Deed Books and Will Books. [These books are now available online for a fee through secure remote access. Lawyers and title searchers have capability of accessing all of these records while in their independent offices instead of visiting the courthouse.](#)

Since 1990, the Library of Virginia CCRP has awarded over 1,000 grants totaling more than \$20,000,000. This year, the program awarded \$1,633,800.19 to 95 localities to assist the clerk's offices with their preservation efforts.

The CCRP is a part of the Library of Virginia's Local Records Services Branch. Funded through a \$3.50 portion of the clerk's recordation fee, the CCRP provides resources to help preserve and make accessible permanent circuit court records stored in the 120 circuit courts and at the Library of Virginia. For more information on the Circuit Court Records Preservation Program's resources and services, please visit www.lva.virginia.gov.



The PCSO wants to inform our citizens on donations that are being solicited by The Virginia Sheriffs' Institute. The Virginia Sheriffs' Institute is a legitimate organization that tries to keep the public informed about various items impacting law enforcement in Virginia, along with promoting law and order and the suppression of criminal activities. When the Virginia Sheriffs' Institute solicit donations, they are doing so on behalf of their organization, not Sheriff Worrell or the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office. As with all of your charitable donations, please take the time to research the organization requesting your money before you give. Always be very careful when you allow anyone access to your financial information. Sheriff Worrell and Pulaski County Sheriff's Office are always here to serve our citizens, please do not hesitate to contact us any time you need us.



We have a **NEW NAME** that we will be doing business as: **FAIRLAWN SEWER AUTHORITY!** We will still keep our official name, the Pulaski County Sewerage Authority, and everything in our organization will remain the same, but the new "Doing Business As" name will be prominent on all our new mailings and materials.

Fairlawn Sewer Authority is the name we chose because it most simply and accurately reflects our service and our service area. We asked in a survey about the new name change and a clear majority agreed. The new name also helps reduce the confusion between the Pulaski County Sewerage Authority (PCSA), which specializes in providing only sewer service in the Fairlawn area, from the Pulaski County Public Service Authority (PSA) which provides water, sewer and trash service in most of the county and water and trash service only in Fairlawn. The new name also helps us retain and emphasize the authority's independence and the proud heritage of being a part of the Fairlawn community for over 50 years.

With the new name comes a new logo, which features the symbols of the river and hills that are celebrated parts of our community, and a new website filled with information to make it a quick and easy reference you may need about our services. The new website address is:
www.FairlawnSewerAuthority.org

Shop Small Pulaski



Shop Small Pulaski is an initiative by the Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce to garner attention to local businesses that are so important to our community. Through this event, shoppers can earn cash prizes by shopping at participating local businesses through three (3) different Shop Small Pulaski events in 2021. Shop Small Pulaski: Love Local wrapped up in February with Laura, a customer of Sew Biz in Fairlawn, winning \$250! Watch for Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce's next exciting Shop Small Pulaski event happening in May of 2021 when we highlight small businesses for your home and garden needs!

To participate in Shop Small Pulaski, businesses can call the Chamber of Commerce Office at 540-674-1991.

Networking on the Green

Get out of the office and join Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce for the 2021 Networking on the Green on May 14, 2021, at Draper Valley Golf Club. There will be lunch from Commonwealth Catering, prizes, much needed networking opportunities and of course fun! Teams can register online at www.pulaskivachamber.org/events or by calling 540-674-1991.



The Pulaski Free Clinic Now Accepting New Patients

The Free Clinic has been providing high quality, personal, cost-free healthcare to Pulaski County's uninsured residents for almost 40 years.

Anyone in Pulaski County qualifies to become a patient and to receive free medications and free healthcare visits with a doctor or a nurse practitioner if:

- * they are a Pulaski County resident over 18 years old, and
- * they have no insurance (including Medicaid), and
- * their total annual household income is less than:

- \$38,640 for just a single person
- \$52,260 for a household of 2
- \$65,880 for a household of 3 people

For more information, or to set up your first appointment, call the clinic office at (540) 980-0922

Or, stop by the clinic at 25 4th Street, NW, Pulaski, VA.