



## Pulaski County Citizen Newsletter

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Contact us at: 540-980-7705

A publication of the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors  
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### ***Pulaski County Economic Redevelopment Strategy – "A community of opportunities"***

The Pulaski County Board of Supervisors and the Pulaski County School Board are working with the Town of Pulaski, the Town of Dublin and the Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce on an economic development strategy focusing on business growth, education and tourism. Business development, education and tourism have been the key components of the Pulaski County economy for decades. Thus, this focus builds on the following accomplishments:

1. Business Growth - Pulaski County's Corporate Center is nearing complete occupancy after being host to a diverse group of local employers since its founding in the early 1980's. This effort has been followed by the founding of the New River Valley Economic Development Alliance which markets Pulaski County and the New River Valley to businesses throughout the United States. Other economic development efforts to date include the establishment of the Commerce Park (addressing the needs of large firms), the construction and operation of the New River Valley Competitiveness Center (addressing the needs of start-up companies), and the operation and maintenance of the Bob White building (addressing the needs of medium sized firms). The community continues its efforts to establish a solid retail base.
2. Education - Pulaski County offers a truly comprehensive package of educational opportunities through a full service and accredited public school system including opportunities for advanced studies in math

and science through the Southwest Virginia Governor's School and other dual enrollment college credit classes; New River Community College which addresses four-year college transfer programs, vocational programs, continuing education for area employees and residents, adult basic education programs, the Middle College to help young adults who may not have completed high school, and the Old Dominion Teletechnet program which brings four-year, masters and doctoral classes to the NRCC campus. The close location of Radford University and Virginia Tech provide ready access to the full range of research and educational opportunities.

3. Tourism - Pulaski County is one of only four localities in Virginia to be host to two state parks. The County is well situated between the Appalachian Trail and the Blue Ridge Parkway both of which are world class attractions. More locally, Claytor Lake, New River Bike Trail, the Boy Scout reserve, the Pete Dye River Course, Pulaski Country Club, and Draper Valley Golf Course, Randolph Park, the Fine Arts Center for the New River Valley, the Wilderness Road Museum, the New River Valley Fairgrounds, Gatewood Reservoir, and the Motor Mile Speedway and Dragway are all major regional attractions.

The goal of the economic development strategy is to develop a Vision for focusing on the future of our community, to bring Excellence to connecting the accomplishments of the past and in building Pride in what we can accomplish for future generations.

Specifically, the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors seeks your comments, suggestions, involvement and commitment as a resident of Pulaski County in the future growth of our community.

***Building Permits .... Did You Know?*****CLAYTOR LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS**

Did you realize if you have plans to construct accessory structures such as carports, garages, storage buildings, gazebos, and picnic shelters; new single family dwellings or manufactured homes; docks (stationary, floating, slip w/sundeck above), sea walls or other construction you may need a building/zoning permit. The Building/Zoning Department of Pulaski County would like to ask **before you start construction** to come by our office located at 143 Third Street, NW, Suite 1, Pulaski VA to discuss your future plans. You can visit our web site at [www.pulaskicounty.org](http://www.pulaskicounty.org) on which you locate forms to be completed for building/zoning permits, and the Appalachian Power Company application for docks. You can also view and read the Pulaski County Zoning Ordinance, Subdivision Ordinance, and Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance.

**ACCESSORY BUILDINGS**

Did you realize if you have plans to construct an accessory building such as a stick built garage, carport, storage building, barn, install pre-fabricated metal carports, garages, or purchase a storage building already constructed from Lowe's, Home Depot, 84 Lumber or an independent dealer, you may need a building/zoning permit. The Building/Zoning Department of Pulaski County would like to ask **before you start construction** to come by our office.

***Caregiver Conference & Resource Fair***  
**November 1, 2008 9 am – 2 pm**  
**New River Community College**

Are you a caregiver? You are if you provide care to an older adult or person with disabilities. Whether you are a spouse, child, relative or friend, you will not want to miss this important event.

The New River Valley Agency on Aging Caregiver Conference & Resource Fair was created to help empower caregivers with valuable information, answers and links to community resources in an effort to provide them with some relief of their daily responsibilities and help caregivers continue their important work.

- **Visit with exhibitors** to learn more about products and services available to assist caregivers.
- **Attend expert presentations** throughout the day on a variety of topics. **Featured presenter: Teepa Snow**, Dementia Care & Dementia Education Specialist.
- **"Ask the Expert"** and receive answers to questions on Medicare, Medicaid, prescription assistance and long term care insurance.
- **Discuss one on one** your care giving situation with Information & Assistance specialists to learn about specific services and resources available in your community.

- **Flu Shot Clinic available on site**
- **Enjoy free morning refreshments and lunch.** Afternoon snacks also available
- **Door prizes & giveaways!**

For more information, contact Cassie Mills at (540) 980-7720 or [cmills@nrva.org](mailto:cmills@nrva.org).

***Pulaski Trolley Rides***

Fall Foliage Tour: Sunday October 5<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 and 3:30 rides. Take an afternoon off and enjoy the scenery of the Town and Pulaski County, featuring Gatewood Park. \$2 per person, children under 13 are free. Depart from Maple Shade parking lot. Please register by calling 994-8627.



Holiday Lights Tour: Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 pm and 7:00 pm rides. \$2 per person, children under 13 are free. Enjoy downtown Pulaski and its charming holiday displays. Depart from Maple Shade parking lot. Please register by calling 994-8627.

### **Public Service Authority Recycling Efforts**

The Public Service Authority drop sites located in Dublin, Pulaski, and Fairlawn are actively engaged in recycling opportunities. Not only does the PSA accept goods that can be recycled, but also reused goods through our partnership with Goodwill Industries.

All drop sites accept and recycles the following goods: paper, cardboard, plastics, glass, aluminum cans, metals, yard waste, white goods (refrigerators, washers, dryers), and brush/yard waste.

In FY 2007-2008 (July-June), the PSA recycled 90 tons of paper and cardboard and almost 48 tons of plastic and glass. The PSA was able to recycle 381 tons of metals and white goods as well as 8.5 tons of aluminum cans. These recycling efforts saved \$16,880 in landfill disposal tipping fees.

We would encourage all to use these facilities so these numbers can increase in FY 2008-2009. Please visit one of the drop centers with your recyclable materials. Questions regarding operating hours and locations of the drop centers can be answered by calling 540-674-8720.

### **What is Hydrilla?**

In areas of North America where Hydrilla has become established, it has detrimental impacts on water use. Hydrilla adversely impacts aquatic ecosystems by forming dense canopies that

often shade out native vegetation. Extensive stands of Hydrilla can provide poor habitat for fish and other wildlife, although Hydrilla is eaten by waterfowl and is considered an important food source by some biologists. While dense vegetation may contain large numbers of fish, density levels obtained by plant species such as Hydrilla may support few or no harvestable-sized sport fishes. Dense mats alter water quality by raising pH, decreasing oxygen under the mats, and increasing temperature. Stagnant water created by Hydrilla mats provides good breeding grounds for mosquitoes. Hydrilla interferes with recreational activities such as swimming, boating, fishing, and water skiing.

Elodea (*Elodea canadensis*) (native plant) versus Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*) (exotic plant), which look similar:



Hydrilla leaves

Elodea leaves occur in whorls of 3 around the stem. Elodea leaves have smooth edges. Hydrilla leaves are in whorls of 4 to 8 around the stem. Hydrilla leaf margins are distinctly visibly saw-toothed; often with one or more sharp teeth along the underside midrib.

Naturally, it is always best to do research and have the plant properly identified before treating any evasive plant species. Remember there is another

thriving world out there that can be removed from the delicate Eco-system if the rules are not followed. Please feel free to call the Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries if you have questions or need further assistance.

### **Fine Arts Center of the NRV- One the Move**

The Fine Arts Center now owns the building formerly known as the Rutherford Pontiac Dealership on the corner of Route 11 and Washington Ave. This 12,000 s.f. building will more than triple the size of the Center's current space. It is anticipated to house four changing exhibition galleries, multiple classrooms/studios, a digital lab, meeting and event space, and a library room for the Center's collection of art books.

In order to make this initiative a reality, a fund raising campaign is in full swing. The Center needs a total of \$1.1 million to realize its full potential. A few significant gifts have already been pledged. The campaign offers several naming opportunities as well other multiple levels of giving.

For more info regarding this exciting community initiative, please contact the center at 980-7363 or visit [www.facnrv.org](http://www.facnrv.org)

### **Pulaski Fest 2008**

Come out to Jackson Park in downtown Pulaski for great food, arts, crafts, book signings, live music, and several children's activities on Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 5 pm. Admission is Free!!!!

***Youth Excel Program***

The Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce is launching a mentoring program designed to give 11<sup>th</sup> graders a real life experience in their area of occupational interest. It is the Chamber's intention to help participating students develop meaningful and useful work ethics and gain a greater understanding of the skills, expectations, and knowledge required for their chosen profession and future employment. The Chamber received over 100 commitments from business, government, and non-profit officials to participate and partner with an 11<sup>th</sup> grader. The program kick-off is on November 21<sup>st</sup>.

***County Library Info*** - September is Library Card Sign-up Month

Public Preschool Story Times are on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 at Charles & Ona B Free Memorial Library in Dublin and on Thursday mornings at 10:30 at the Pulaski County Library in Pulaski. Preschoolers and their parents and caregivers are invited to participate in programs that will include stories, songs, fingerplays, crafts, and lots of fun! Public story times will begin on Tuesday, September 23 in Dublin & on Thursday, September 25 in Pulaski.

Pokemon Club will meet on the First and Third Tuesdays of each month at the Pulaski Library 4:00 - 5:00. Scrapbooking Group meets the second Tuesday of each month 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. at the Pulaski County Public Library, (September 9, October 14 and December 9).

Book Discussion Group: Charles and Ona B. Free, Memorial Library, Dublin - What Have You Been Reading? Bring your lunch on Tuesday, October 21, 2008 at 12:30 p.m. to share what you have been reading.

***State says, "Stop feeding deer"***

Effective September 1, it will be illegal to feed deer statewide in Virginia. The prohibition runs through the first Saturday in January (January 3, 2009). The regulation designating the prohibition went into effect in 2006. This regulation does NOT restrict the planting of crops such as corn and soybeans, wildlife food plots, and backyard or schoolyard habitats. It is intended to curb the artificial feeding of deer that leads to negative consequences.

Problems with feeding deer include: unnaturally increasing population numbers that damage natural habitats; disease transmission, including tuberculosis as well as many deer diseases; and human-deer conflicts such as deer/vehicle collisions and inappropriate semi-taming of wildlife.

In addition, feeding deer has many law enforcement implications. Deer hunting over bait is illegal in Virginia. Prior to the deer feeding prohibition, distinguishing between who was feeding deer and who was hunting over bait often caused law enforcement problems for the Department.

To learn more about Virginia wildlife regulations visit the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries website at [www.dgif.virginia.gov](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov).

***Make more money, get your GED***

Did you know that those who do NOT have a high school diploma or GED earn \$7,000 less per year than those who do? In the next 5 years, over 70% of ALL jobs will require a diploma or a GED. In Pulaski County, approximately 25%, or over 7,000 adults do NOT have a GED or diploma.

For more info about how to obtain a GED, please contact the New River Community College Adult Education program at 674-3645 or visit [www.nr.edu/adulted](http://www.nr.edu/adulted). Classes are held in multiple locations throughout Pulaski County.