



Pulaski County Citizen Newsletter

April – June 2007

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View online at: www.pulaskicounty.org
Contact us at 540-980-7705

A publication of the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors
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Debut newsletter for Citizens of Pulaski County

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide information about the county government to the general public that otherwise you may not be aware of. This publication is part of the goals set by the Board of Supervisors in 2004 (please see page 4). We are distributing this newsletter in conjunction with PSA monthly bills and as an insert in The Southwest Times. It is also available via the County's website and can be emailed directly. The County did not engage a professional publisher on this task, but rather county staff. In efforts to save future distribution costs, please inform us via email if you would like to receive this electronically.

The Board of Supervisors conducts its regular meeting on the 4th Monday of each month at 7:00 pm in the Administration Building.

County Celebrates 400 Years of Jamestown

A tour of historic churches was held in January. Carolyn Mathews guided the tour and the County provided a Pulaski Transit bus. About 75 people attended this event. In February we celebrated Black History month with an entertaining and educational show at New River Community College. In March we celebrated the County's 168th birthday and Jamestown. The Va Tech Extension Homemaker's club and Cougar Den provided

cakes. About 100 people enjoyed the nice weather and cake!



In May we have several events planned on Memorial Day weekend. Be sure to look for upcoming events in The Southwest Times.

FY 2007-2008 budget under development

The proposed Pulaski County budget is structured around the following goals:

1. Reducing recurring operational costs, as much as possible, in order to be able to improve employee working conditions, fund Board goals, and meet other community needs on a pay-as-we-go basis;
2. Enhancing the fairness of business taxation by replacing the existing merchants' capital tax with a business and professional license tax. Additional revenues generated through this gross receipts tax would help offset a increased debt service for school construction, parks and recreation needs;
3. Living within other current local revenues over the next two years while being able to fund

critically needed capital improvements;

4. Investing to reduce future costs by maintaining roofs and improving energy efficiency as well as reducing ongoing costs of data lines and internet access by installing fiber optic and wireless services owned by the community, rather than leased on a month to month basis;
5. Revising annual vehicle decal procedures to convert from yearly replacement of decals to a new DMV stop registration process as to provide fairness in the payment of personal property taxes;
6. Implementing carefully selected special taxing districts to fund water, sewer and road improvements in new developments without affecting the general taxpayer;
7. Adjusting building permit fees to more closely reflect the true cost of state mandated inspections and related permits;
8. Encouraging new approaches to operational problems; and
9. Encouraging continued collaboration and coordination between various organizations which may not be directly accountable to each other, but all of which are paid for by the citizens of Pulaski County.

The budget document and specific revenues and expenditures is available on the Pulaski County web site at www.pulaskicounty.org. This web site also includes a link to the County audit reports.

Growth and Development Projects

Pulaski County continues to strive to achieve a balanced growth of industrial, commercial, residential, recreation, and education. The following are current highlights illustrating that balance:

- Subdivision to locate next to Country Club – anticipates build-out of 50 townhomes and roughly 70 single-family homes with prices ranging from 180,000's to 300,000's. Other housing Developments include River Ridge at Heron's Landing and the Atwoods Subdivision.
- Super Wal-Mart opened on May 9, 2007. Construction on the New River Plaza (adjacent to Dublin Wal-Mart) is set to begin mid Spring and will contain restaurants and specialty shops.
- New River Development Corporation at the Competitiveness Center on Viscoe Road currently has space available for small business start-ups. Contact Yolanda Hunter at 540-639-9313.



Update on local road projects

VDOT has several road improvement projects scheduled for this summer. Highlights are as follows:

- Adding turn lanes and entrance to Cougar Trail at new entrance to the high school.
- Rt. 695 (Old Peppers Ferry Loop Rd) and Rt. 114, drainage improvements.
- Grade and pave portions of Clarks Ferry Road.
- Asphalt overlay projects: Hickman Cemetery Rd. (begin Rt. 11, end 1 mile), Cougar Trail (begin Rt. 11, end intersection w/ Ingles St.), Roundhouse Rd. (begin Rt. 11, end Rt. 114).
- Surface treatment overlay ("tar & gravel") on 17 different roads totaling 10.6 miles.

County expands partnership with Goodwill Industries

Goodwill Industries has agreed to establish drop locations at all County large item drop off sites. The locations are in Dublin off Bagging Plant Road, in Pulaski off Dora Highway, and in Fairlawn off of Peppers Ferry Blvd. The hours are Monday – Saturday from 9 am to 5 pm and Sunday from Noon to 5 pm.

This partnership is a win-win situation. Goodwill will staff the drop centers resulting in less County staff needed at the drop sties. Also, Goodwill positions itself to receive a greater amount of goods for their retail stores, which ultimately assists those in need.

This partnership encourages recycling through the reuse of household items. Goodwill can accept many items including housewares, small appliances, furniture, toys, clothing, etc. They cannot take

chemicals, tires, paint, mattresses, trash, major appliances, and generally unsalable items.

Meetings and Events

There are many events and activities in which to view, participate, etc. Take some time to review the below internet web sites to discover information on a wide variety of activities available to the general public of all ages:

www.nrvnews.com
www.pulaskichamber.info
www.nrvfair.com
www.newrivertrail.com
www.caves.org
www.thedrivewaygear.com
www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks.cl.shtml

Local government and authority meetings are held on the following dates and times.

School Board – 2nd & 4th Thursday of each month, 4:30 p.m., School Board Office (Washington Avenue).

Town of Pulaski – 1st Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m., Town Offices, Monthly worksession, 3rd Tuesday, 5:00 p.m.

Town of Dublin – 3rd Thursday of each month, 7:00 p.m., Town Center (Council Chambers).

Peppers Ferry Regional Wastewater Treatment -1st Thursday of each month, 1:00 p.m., Authority's Administration Building.

Regional Jail – 2nd Friday of each month, 9:00 a.m. Finance, 10:00 a.m. Authority, New River Valley Regional Jail.

Airport Commission – 1st Wednesday of each month, 6:00 p.m. p.m., New River Valley Airport.

Public Service Authority – 2nd Tuesday of each month, 9:00 a.m., County Administration Building.

Board of Supervisors – 4th Monday of each month, 7:00 p.m., County Administration Building.

Clean Community Council – 1st Thursday of each month, 11:00 a.m., County Administration Building (Central Gym).

Pulaski Encouraging Progress (PEP) – 1st Thursday of each month, 8:00 a.m., New River Community College.

Planning Commission – 2nd Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m., County Administration Building.

Summer Youth Activities

Randolph Park will be hosting our 5th annual summer camp day care from June 11th through August 17th. This is a ten week camp for youth ages 5 to 12 from 9 am to 4 pm Monday through Friday each week. Application information is listed on the county web site under county recreation or Randolph Park. We will be hosting our 11th annual summer youth camp at Central Youth Center in Pulaski beginning June 25th through July 26th. This is a five week camp that occurs Monday through Thursday of each week from 9 am till 1 pm. Warm lunches are provided for both camps through an FDA grant obtained by the PCHS food nutrition program director Ethelene Sadler. Campers enrolled in the Central Youth Center camp ride a school bus to Randolph Park twice per week for swimming.

We are anticipating large crowds at the pool this summer due to the increase in traffic to the new Wal-Mart on Alexander Road. We have consistently averaged approximately 585 entries per day at the Evelyn Alexander Water Park. Park staff are preparing for a potentially record number of park and pool patrons during this summer season.



Pool rates are as follows:

WEEKDAY	
2 & under	\$3.00
3 – 54 years	\$4.00
WEEKENDS	
2 & under	\$4.00
3 – 54 years	\$5.00

Age 55 & above \$2.00 everyday

We will host two regional USSSA sanctioned boys baseball and girls softball tournaments at the park the week of June 30th through July 5th and July 7th through July 12th. These two tournaments will feature teams throughout the New River Valley and region. County recreation league play for bat and ball sports will convene around the second week of July. Fall sports sign ups which includes football, cheerleading and soccer begin in August.

Reminder: all reservations of the shelters and gazebos are taken at the County Visitor's Center whose phone number is 674-4161.

PSA Construction Progress

The sewer collection lines for several subdivisions including Orchard Hills, Rolling Hills. and Highland Park, are in the planning stages. The emphasis at the present time is obtaining easements for the sewer lines through these areas. Water and/or sewer lines are being designed for several Mobile Home Parks including Lee Highway, Mabry, and Tiny Town and the design should be completed this summer. Painting of water tanks will continue this summer with one of the water tanks being taken out of service and painted. The interior of a water tank is the critical area to be painted.

The sewage pump station on the north side of the Interstate 81 exit at Dublin is being replaced. This replacement should be completed by June 1 and will accommodate this developing area. In order to help prevent sewage bypass from sewage pump station during power failures generators have been installed at all of the pump stations. This process has been accomplished and funded over several years and is being completed at the present time.

Water and sewer lines are being extended or planned through several developing subdivision

including Herons Landing in the Fairlawn area.

Other News, Notes, and Happenings

The County will be without a full-time extension agent starting June 1st. For support please continue to contact the office. Neighboring county agents will temporarily assist our office. We hope to have a new agent in either August or September.

Call 211 for free contact information regarding health and human services, non-profit organizations, federal, state, and local governments. 211 has statewide information with specific data for our region. The 211 website is www.211virginia.org

Claytor Lake Festival 10th Anniversary is June 9th. For more info call the Fine Arts Center at 980-7363, County Visitors Center 674-4161, or Claytor Lake State Park 674-5492. Take exit 101 of I-81. Events include: art/craft show, car show, live music, antique fire trucks, fishing tournaments, children activities, radio controlled cars/trucks, food, drinks, wine tasting, and Fireworks!!!

May 25-28: The ARTrain USA will be stopping in Pulaski. We are the only stop in Virginia. Be sure to see this! On this same weekend we are celebrating 100 years of horse shows in the county at the fairgrounds and opening day at Randolph Park we will be dedicating red, white and blue plantings in honor of the founding of our county.

A special thanks to all of those who have supported Virginia Tech, its students, and the victim's families. A special thanks goes to the Sheriff's Office in their response to the tragedy and REMSI for aiding our neighbor when they were needed.

PULASKI COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MISSION STATEMENT

PRIDE in serving the citizens of Pulaski County

EXCELLENCE in employee performance, agency and commission support, intergovernmental relations and public service delivery

VISION for the growth and development of our community

PULASKI COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS GOALS – 2004-2007**Education**

- ◆ Maintain high educational standards
- ◆ Promote GED achievement within the work force
- ◆ Fund school building needs
- ◆ Include full size gym in new buildings for community use

Public Safety

- ◆ Set speed limits at the time roads are upgraded – consider community character in setting limits
- ◆ Improve communications for fire and sheriff's office systems
- ◆ Improve public safety radio dispatch system – consider a safer location
- ◆ Review pay and medical service training for dispatchers
- ◆ Ensure comparable pay for dispatchers with other localities and lobby for State Compensation Board pay increases as may be needed
- ◆ Address traffic problems in the vicinity of the high school
- ◆ Consider increased participation in VDOT revenue sharing program
- ◆ Lobby General Assembly for increased secondary road funding

Economic Development (manufacturing, business, and restaurants)

- ◆ Continue industrial recruitment efforts
- ◆ Increase diversification of the local economy
- ◆ Fill the shell building

Recreation

- ◆ Construct two to three smaller picnic shelters at Randolph Park seating 20 to 30 persons – consider high school student/staff/volunteer construction
- ◆ Survey citizens to determine interest in an indoor Pulaski County activities center similar to what has been done in Christiansburg and Radford
- ◆ Improved coordination between Planning Commission and Public Service Authority in encouraging development in appropriate portions of the County as well as meeting the needs of existing homes
- ◆ Study county-wide uniform utility rates

Public Service

- ◆ Conduct a building space needs/reuse study
- ◆ Improve working communication and operational agreements with both towns
- ◆ Continue property clean-up particularly at entrances to the County
- ◆ Educate citizens on services being provided by the County of Pulaski through a newsletter, citizen report, internet, cable TV public access channel, newspaper articles, radio spots and interviews, student information, civic organizations, formation of a speakers bureau, community meetings, direct contact with citizens, a "Your tax dollars at work" brochure, staff involvement in school civics education and participation in civic groups.