



Pulaski County Citizen Newsletter

January - March 2022

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www.pulaskicounty.org
143 Third Street NW, Suite 1, Pulaski, VA 24301

(540) 980-7705



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2021 Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting and Awards

The Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce celebrated Pulaski County businesses at its 2021 Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet at Omni Place on November 18, 2021. The theme of this year's meeting was "Facing the Future Together". The message given by many speakers throughout the evening was that the last year proved that no business can grow alone, and our success depends on partnerships with other local businesses and organizations.

PCCC Executive Committee members presented this year's business community awards. The winners were:

- 2021 Non-Profit Excellence, T.G. Howard Community Center
- 2021 Small Business of the Year, Poor Boys Produce
- 2021 Business Excellence - LewisGale Hospital, Pulaski
- 2021 Business Executive of the Year, Debbie Gardner, Thee Draper Village

The Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors presented a new honor to be given annually, the Community Champion Award. This year's Community Champion Award was bestowed to Martin's Pharmacy, whose continued efforts to bring COVID-19 vaccines to our citizens has been invaluable.

The Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and staff would like to congratulate all of the 2021 nominees and winners who collectively make significant contributions to the betterment of Pulaski County. The Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce exists to assist businesses collaborate, to empower and to achieve growth of the area's economy. For more information on membership with the Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce, call 540-674-1991.

The Pulaski County Treasurer's Office has been very fortunate over the last 20+ years to accept credit/debit card payments across the counter at no extra charge. Our Bank has graciously paid fees to Visa and MasterCard so that we and many other localities throughout Southwest Virginia would not have to pass these costs onto our citizens and customers. However, because of rising costs, the bank will no longer be able to provide this service to any locality. Beginning January 1, 2022, there will be a convenience fee of 2.3% charged to each credit/debit card taken across the counter for any payment. I apologize for any inconvenience or frustration this may cause. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Treasurer's Office at 540-980-7785.

Thank you,
Melinda L Worrell
Treasurer, Pulaski County

It is winter again in Pulaski County. Winter presents all sorts of unique challenges and it is important to plan to ensure there is adequate heat for our homes and businesses, shelter from the harsh elements for our furry friends, and that our vehicles are ready for travel for unpredictable conditions. Let's make sure to look out for one another and check in on family members, neighbors, friends and our elders who may be home-bound to ensure they are well. If you or someone you know needs assistance of any kind, there are many resources to help. If you are unsure who to contact, simply call 540-980-7800, and we will help you get in touch with the proper agency to assist. As always, thank you for your support as the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office works diligently to provide a safe community. May you have a have a happy, healthy and prosperous 2022!

Sheriff Mike Worrell



Music and Merchants Festival Returns to Pulaski

Pulaski on Main is pleased to announce the return of the Music and Merchants Festival to Downtown Pulaski on Saturday, May 21, 2022! Main Street will be closed to vehicle traffic from Jefferson Street to Washington Avenue allowing pedestrians to explore downtown with family and friends. The festival will begin at 3 p.m. with music on the main stage and craft, food and beverage vendors featured throughout. There will be an activity area for children to enjoy. Pulaski on Main is currently accepting applications for food and craft vendors and sponsorships for event are available. If you would like to more information or would like to volunteer or contribute to success of this event, contact Chris Conner at 540-320-2920. Pulaski On Main looks for forward to seeing you on Main Street!

Pulaski County Employment Opportunities

Commonwealth Attorney Administrative Assistant
Grounds Maintenance Tech
Garage Office Manager
PCPS Fire/Medic
Randolph Park Aquatics Director
Randolph Park Assistant Aquatics Director
E-911 Dispatcher
Engineering Technical Assistant Clerk
PSA Water/Wastewater Heavy Equipment Operator
PSA Water/Wastewater Crew Leader
PSA Sanitation Worker

Please visit
www.pulaskicounty.org
for additional information and current openings



"The deadline for graduating high school seniors to apply for the New River Community College ACCE (Access to Community College Education) program is **February 1, 2022**. The application and all ACCE information can be found at www.nr.edu/acce."

NEED A RAPID COVID-19 AT-HOME TEST KIT?

Ask for one at the Pulaski County Library or the Charles and Ona B. Free Memorial Library in Dublin. The Pulaski County Library System is partnering with the Virginia Department of Health to provide free test kits to our community. These are telehealth guided test kits and require you to have an internet connection and a device with a forward facing camera and microphone. You will be provided with the test kit and an information sheet with contact information for the Virginia Department of Health. Library staff cannot assist with administering tests. If you have any symptoms, please do not enter the library. Call the library first (Pulaski: 540-980-7770 & Charles and Ona B. Free Memorial: 540-674-2856) and staff will deliver the test kit to your vehicle.

Commissioner of the Revenue Office New Year Reminders

Business Information:

- Business License renewal paperwork is due by **March 1**. Contact Deputy Commissioner Terri Earles at (540) 980-7750 if you have questions.
- New room rental laws took effect in 2021! If you plan to provide rented rooms to the general public, contact our office at (540) 980-7750 for more information.
- Thinking of starting a new business? Resource information for new and existing businesses can be found at the top of our webpage: <https://www.pulaskicounty.org/commissioner-of-the-revenue.html>

Tax Relief and Exemptions:

- Yearly Real Estate Tax Relief applications are due by **April 1**. Applicants must be permanently disabled or 65 years or older to apply.
- Veteran Real Estate Tax Exemption applications are due each year by **April 1**. Veterans must complete an application each year by the deadline and meet the 100% service-connected permanent and total disability requirement. Official documentation is required. A surviving spouse may also apply.
- Property tax exemption on one motor vehicle is allowed for 100% service-connected totally disabled veterans as of January 1, 2021. The vehicle must be used by or for the Veteran. For more information call (540) 980-7750.
- Surviving spouse of an individual killed in the line of duty may apply for a real estate tax exemption. For more information contact our Real Estate Department at (540) 980-7753.
- Applications for all programs can be printed from our webpage: <https://www.pulaskicounty.org/commissioner-of-the-revenue.html>

Income Tax Information:

- Need help filing your Virginia State Income Tax? The Commissioner's Office provides FREE state tax assistance to our residents. The filing deadline is **May 1**.
- Need help filing your Federal Income Tax? New River Community Action continues to serve Pulaski County citizens by offering FREE help through their Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program for those who qualify. Call (540) 382-6187 for more information.

We are available to answer your 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 rear side of building to the right of doors

Kim Matthews, Commissioner of the Revenue

Fine Arts Center News

The Fine Arts Center for the New River Valley invites you to continue to engage with us, our exhibits, and our classes. We are glad to share that we are continuing our First Friday Night Listening Rooms with our friends at Max on Main. Please join us on the First Friday of each month for a great FREE, live concert at Max's each month. Max's will open at 5:00 in case you need some tasty food and treats with a concert from 6-8 p.m.

We are continuing our Second Saturday Art Cafés each month in which we offer free art kits for children at two different grade bands. You can sign up to collect your kits at the Center or at our partner, the YMCA of Pulaski County on the Second Saturday each month. Register for these free art kits on our website at:

<https://www.facnrv.org/shop/second-saturday-art-caf-registration>

Local artist L.S. King will kick off our Second Saturday class series for adults in January with a class on stepping back and reflecting. Her class on creative mindfulness and journal making will allow you to take a breath, reorient yourself, and take action steps for taking 2022 to the next level. Feel free to register on our website at [FACNRV.org](https://www.facnrv.org) and check on additional classes each month.

The first three months of 2022 are focused on the amazing talents of the art teachers and their students in our region through the Scholastic Arts exhibit as well as Youth Art Month in March. Stop by our gallery to see the fantastic work of the student artists in our region.

Spring Classes by Zoom or In-Person from the Lifelong Learning Institute at Virginia Tech

The Lifelong Learning Institute at Virginia Tech (LLI) invites those over 50 to join a community of curious adults exploring topics like Appalachian music, local history, genealogy, US foreign policy, graphic novels, futurism and so much more. There are plenty of opportunities for small classes to engage your creative spirit as well. Zoom and in-person classes and lectures are available. We celebrate the opportunity for fully vaccinated people to gather for learning and socializing. If you choose an online learning experience there are several advantages: it is easier to hear and see presentations, you can join classes even if you travel, and people more distant or less mobile can easily participate from home. Join us to select from 26 courses, 4 field trips, and 8 free special events, a great member benefit!

Visit the LLI website www.cpe.vt.edu/lifelonglearning for more information. You can sign up there to receive the Spring flyer, email announcements, and the LLI newsletter. Don't miss the Spring Preview in late January!

Spring 2022 Calendar

Mid-January	Spring flyer to LLI interested contacts; classes listed on website
Week of January 31	Preview of Spring Program and Events - via Zoom
February 7	Online Registration opens at 10:00 a.m.
Week of February 21	Classes begin

Contact Information

LLI Registrar:	540-231-4364, heidil@vt.edu
General Registration Phone:	540-231-5182
LLI email address:	lifelonglearning@vt.edu



NEW RIVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE
FIDDLE, BANJO & DANCE CLUB
 20 YEARS

***JANUARY 8**
 Java Brothers
 Nobody's Business

***FEBRUARY 12**
 Bluegrass Kinsmen (50th anniversary)
 New Ballard's Branch Bogtrotters

MARCH 4
Black Hawk
 7:30pm
 \$40 reserved seating
 \$30 general admission
blackhawklive.com

***MARCH 12**
 Gate 10
 Friday Night Dance Band

EDWARDS HALL, NEW RIVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE
 *Doors Open: 5pm Music: 6:00pm - 8:30pm
 *FREE ADMISSION (donations accepted to help pay band expenses).
 *Bands subject to change.

nr.edu/fiddle (540) 674-3625  [nrccfiddle](https://www.facebook.com/nrccfiddle) 

Implementation Plan Public Meeting

Over the past eight months, the Town of Pulaski, Pulaski County, Friends of Peak and the New River Conservancy have been working with local residents and organizations to develop a clean up plan for Peak Creek. Currently, Peak Creek does not meet water quality standards for fecal bacteria, which poses a risk to human health when coming in contact with the water. A plan has been developed outlining the best ways to reduce fecal bacteria in Peak Creek. The success of the plan relies on voluntary actions from local landowners. If you would like to learn more about this plan and what you can do to help, please join us on January 6, 2022, at 7 p.m. at the Pulaski Train Station, located at 20 South Washington Avenue. In case of inclement weather, the meeting will be held on January 11, 2022, at 7 p.m.

The draft clean up plan to reduce bacteria will be presented at this meeting. The meeting will also include numerous displays from project partners. Following the meeting data, the draft plan will be available for the public to review. There will be a 30-day public comment period to provide feedback on the plan.

For more information, contact: Cathy Hanks, President, Friends of Peak Creek, Inc. at info@friendsofpeakcreek.org or Karen Kline, Senior Research Scientist, Biological Systems Engineering at klinek@vt.edu.