

# SPDC Spring Newsletter

## News & Updates

### **Our New Logo Has Arrived!**

In conjunction with the SPDC's recent strategic planning initiative, a rebranding effort has been underway. Our new, inviting logo captures the natural elements of the Region. Its design encompasses the golden hue of a rural sunset, the flowing waters of our rivers and lakes, and the rolling hills of our agrarian landscape.



[SouthsidePDC.org](http://SouthsidePDC.org)

### **SPDC Welcomes New Commissioners**

The Southside PDC appointed new Commissioners at their January 2021 meeting. Commissioners serve as the decision-making body that determines the overall District strategy, planning, policy, and represent the District in dealing with state and federal agencies. This Commission consists of elected officials and representatives from various interest groups such as agriculture, education, health, and industry. Members are chosen in such a manner that all counties are equally represented and no one interest group controls the Commission.



#### **Meet Commissioner Dr. Charlette Woolridge**

Dr. Charlette T. Woolridge has nearly 30 years of executive management experience in local and state government. Currently, she serves as the County Administrator for the County of Brunswick. In this role, she is responsible to the Board of Supervisors for the proper administration of all affairs of the county which the Board has authority to control. Dr. Woolridge received her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Virginia Union University, Masters in Public Administration from Virginia Commonwealth University, Masters in General Administration from Central Michigan University, and a Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration from Virginia Commonwealth

University. She also has three Executive Leadership Certificates. As a Commissioner, Dr. Woolridge sees her role as working collaboratively with Planning District Commission staff, fellow commissioners and stakeholders to enhance the quality of life in the region through programs and projects which serve the needs of the citizens. In her personal life, Dr. Woolridge enjoys spending quality time with family and friends and traveling.

### **Meet Commissioner Wayne Carter**

Wayne Carter, III serves as the Mecklenburg County Administrator. As the Chief Administrative Officer of the County, he is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the County government, including all County departments and preparation of the annual budget. He has served as County Administrator for the last 17 years and has almost 32 years total experience in the field. Mr. Carter received his Bachelor's Degree in Business Management and Finance. He feels his role as a Commissioner is to enhance the projects performed by the PDC through to fruition. The projects that the PDC performs truly have a lasting effect upon all of our communities and have since its inception. He shares that he is most passionate about economic development "as it can truly transform a community and region." In his personal life, Mr. Carter enjoys relaxing on his farm and spending time with his children.



## **GIS in Action**

**Tobacco Heritage Trail Mapping**



Recently, SPDC GIS staffers have been GPS mapping the Tobacco Heritage Trail. Approximately 10 miles of mapping was completed over the course of several days, creating a GIS-based inventory of trail amenities such as picnic tables, fencing, and signage. A log of damaged infrastructure in need of repair was compiled as well. Once completed, this map data will be accessible online to assist with trail management and maintenance.

## **New Funding Announcements**

### **Clarksville Awarded \$2.3 Million Sewer Project**

The Town of Clarksville was recently awarded USDA Rural Development funding for Wastewater improvements. The \$1.7 million in grant funding and \$600,000 loan will be utilized for the Clarksville Sewer Improvement Project. This project consists of constructing an Integrated Fixed Film and Activated Sludge System at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Additionally, the old Kinderton Pump Station will be demolished and three new grinder pump stations will be installed for end users.

### **Mid-Atlantic Broadband Receives \$900,000 in Support of Regional Broadband Project**

An EDA award of \$800,000, along with \$100,000 in support from GO Virginia, will support Mid-Atlantic Broadband Corporation's efforts to engineer and design 206 miles of new middle-mile open-access fiber infrastructure. Once completed, this project will span a total of 14 counties across GO Virginia Regions 3, 4 and 9. This public-private partnership initiative will provide connections to existing business and industrial parks in addition to supporting several healthcare facilities. You can read more about the project [HERE](#).

## **Resiliency**

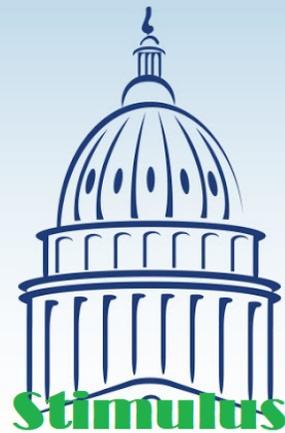




### Where Can I Get Vaccinated?

VaccineFinder, operated by Boston Children's Hospital, helps you find clinics, pharmacies, and other locations that offer COVID-19 vaccines in the United States. Virginia is currently in Phase 2 of vaccinations which means every resident of the Commonwealth age 16 and over is now eligible to receive the vaccine.

[COVID VaccineFinder](#)



### The American Rescue Plan

This \$1.9 trillion economic stimulus package was signed into law March 11, 2021. Key components of the bill include extending unemployment benefits, direct payments to individuals, and additional funding for small businesses, education, and housing. A detailed summary is provided below.

[American Rescue Plan](#)



### Small Business Administration Announces Targeted Funding

According to SBA Administrator Isabella Casillas Guzman, "Many of



### Unemployment Update

Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation has now been extended through the week ending September 4, 2021, increasing entitlements from 24 weeks to 53 weeks. The Pandemic

our nation's small businesses are still struggling to recover from the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and we've found that the smallest businesses -- the majority of which are minority-owned -- are hurting the most. The SBA's Supplemental Targeted Advance program aims to reach those businesses with 10 employees or less who need our help today."

Unemployment Assistance program has now been extended through the week ending September 4, 2021, increasing the number of payable weeks from 50 weeks to 79 weeks. Additionally, \$300 per week of Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation will continue through the week ending September 4, 2021 for qualified claimants.

[SBA COVID Relief Options](#)

[VEC COVID Update](#)

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