



June 2020 Update

Neighbors in Need Program Seeking Funding for Expansion

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many businesses have taken creative steps to continue serving their customers and to keep their staff employed. Millstone Kitchen, the new shared-use kitchen operating out of the old Prices Fork Elementary School, has partnered with HazelBea catering and several food distribution organizations to create the Neighbors in Need program. For every \$10 donation, HazelBea prepares one meal which is distributed to families in need.

To date, the Neighbors in Need program has received \$11,200 in donations and has distributed 966 meals. The remaining funds will allow for the preparation of an additional 172 meals through the end of May. Currently, Millstone Kitchen is partnering with the NRV Diaper Pantry and Radford-Fairlawn Daily Bread to distribute meals.

In an effort to sustain and expand this program, Montgomery County is partnering with the Regional Commission and Millstone Kitchen and has submitted a Community Development Block Grant COVID funding application. If funded, the program would be able to bring on additional staff, source more local ingredients, prepare and distribute meals to at least six food program partners, and build a replicable model for other rural localities to run a similar program in their area.

For more information or to donate to this program, please visit: <https://oldschoolpricesfork.org/millstone-kitchen/neighbors/> or contact Jennifer Wilsie (jwilsie@nrvc.org), 540-639-9313.



Giles County VATI Project A River Runs Through It Art Contest

Giles County and the Regional Commission are currently working with the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DCHD) on expanding reliable broadband internet to additional areas of Giles County. Local Rich Creek company, Gigabeam Networks, is a partner and is providing private match to the project. Currently, the project is in early stages of construction and is scheduled to be complete by November 2020.

For further information, please contact James Jones (jjones@nrvc.org), 540-639-9313.

On Monday, May 4th, Nicole Hersch, a regional planner with the New River Valley Regional Commission joined three other masked judges in Giles County for the amazingly difficult job of selecting a winner to the Giles County art contest, "A River Runs Through It". With over 100 entries ranging in age from three to eighteen years old, students put forth an impressive variety of submissions reflecting on the New River. From composition and performance on piano to minecraft art, poetry, song, painting, pop-up art and collage, it was clear how much the children of Giles admire their beloved New River. Prizes were awarded by age group, with Best in Show going to Liberty Brackenrich, age seven, for her mixed media piece depicting all of the forest and river animals of the New River watershed.



For further information, please contact Nicole Hersch (nicole@nrvc.org), 540-639-9313.



Rabies Awareness

While Corona Virus is still front and center of all health-related topics, the New River Health District recently partnered with two Virginia Tech students to increase awareness about rabies. Both students, Sodiq and Sophie, recently graduated with their Master's in Public Health and were excited to share new materials for the New River Valley.

Since 2011, there have been over 4,000 reported rabies incidents in the NRV. Dogs are the most commonly suspected, but skunks and raccoons account for more than 60% of all confirmed cases. The most commonly domesticated animal that tests positive for rabies is the Cow (17%).

To learn more about rabies and other important health topics for our region, visit www.nrvroadtowellness.com often. For more information about the website or this article, contact Kristie Warack at kwarack@nrvc.org.



1
Vaccinate your dogs, cats, ferrets & livestock.



2
Keep your pet's rabies vaccinations up to date.



3
Avoid contact with wildlife such as bats, foxes & squirrels.



4
Call the Health Department for suspected rabies exposure.



New River Health District
840-585-3300



New River Valley Regional Commission | nrvc.org



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