



January 2021 Update

NRVRC Board Member Transitions

The New River Valley Regional Commission would like to thank Chris Kiwus and Tom Garrett for their service to the Commission. Mr. Kiwus served on the Commission four years (2016-2020) representing Virginia Tech and Mr. Garrett served on the Commission twelve years as an elected official representing the Town of Narrows (2008-2012). They were both presented with a token of appreciation containing their dates of service to the region.

The Commission welcomes two new members, Liza Morris, representing Virginia Tech and Sarah Thwaites, an elected official representing the Town of Narrows, who both joined the board January 1, 2021.

Visit NRV

The Regional Commission, in partnership with the local Destination Marketing Organizations, Radford University, and Virginia Tourism Corporation, launched the new regional tourism website – Visit NRV.com! The new tourism website highlights some of the cannot miss adventures visitors and locals can find in the New River Valley. For more information contact James Jones at jjones@nrvc.org. To visit the website, click the link - <https://visitnrvc.com/>.

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

Neighbors in Need Program



Neighbors in Need, a program coordinated by Millstone Kitchen at the Old Prices Fork Elementary School, was created in response to the increased need for food access in response to the pandemic. Local caterers prepared hot individual meals and supplied them to multiple area partners for distribution to individuals in need.

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For further information, please contact Jennifer Wilsie (jwilsie@nrvc.org), 540-639-9313.

NRVRC Welcomes Summer Bork

Summer was hired in November as the Commission's Economic Recovery Planner. Her role is to understand how communities and businesses in the region have been impacted by COVID-19, and work with them to create a new—hopefully better—normal. As part of these efforts, she is working on composing an Economic Recovery Plan for the region, and assisting with the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Update.



Summer earned her master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Virginia Tech in 2020, and her BA in History from James Madison University. While pursuing her master's degree, Summer worked for Virginia Tech's Institute of Policy and Governance where she assisted with the data management and process evaluation for a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services (SAMHSA) grant. She also worked on several projects as part of her Graduate Studies including a site planning project for the National Park Service, research and preliminary language for a temporary/seasonal vending ordinance in Buena Vista, VA, and recommendations for enabling legislation for craft beer production in the Town of Blacksburg, among other projects.

Summer can be reached at 540-639-9313 or sbork@nrvc.org.



The tourism offices across the region are conducting a survey to learn what people love or would like to see in the NRV. Have you visited the New River Valley within the past 3-years? If so, this survey only takes about 5 minutes to complete. You can be entered into a raffle for a \$50 Visa gift card.

https://virginiatech.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8HSMmEO3uhhyxLL?fbclid=IwAR1loUFbdQvFNy0A0ugoERe-geJXIDvczZv9lm0z9zCSjclkpyGJh201nDE

SolSmart

The New River Valley Regional Commission is receiving a Bronze designation from the national [SolSmart](http://www.solsmart.org) (www.solsmart.org) program for advancing solar energy options in the New River Valley. It is only the second regional organization in Virginia to achieve the SolSmart designation. Nationally there are only seven regional organizations designated by SolSmart.

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For further information, please contact Aphi Fancon (afancon@nrvc.org), 540-639-9313.

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