



July 2025 Update

Bridging the Digital Divide: Groundbreaking Ceremony Marks Major Broadband Expansion in Giles County

In a landmark moment for regional connectivity, the Regional Commission proudly joined Giles County community leaders, Pembroke Telephone Cooperative (PemTel), and both state and local officials to break ground on a transformative broadband infrastructure project in Giles County.



The groundbreaking ceremony, held on May 29, 2025, marked the official start of construction on a fiber-to-the-home network that will bring high-speed internet access to over 600 unserved and underserved households and businesses in the White Gate, Staffordsville, Poplar Hill, Sugar Run, Wilburn Valley and Walker Creek Communities. This initiative is part of a broader effort to close the digital divide in rural Virginia, ensuring that residents have the tools they need to thrive in an increasingly connected world. This project is not just about laying fiber in the ground, it's about connecting people to opportunity and laying the foundation for economic development, education, and telehealth services that are essential to rural communities.

Construction is expected to start in June with a completion date set for fall of 2026. The Regional Commission is proud to play a part in bringing next-generation connectivity to Giles County and strengthening the region's digital future.

For more information, please contact Chris Owens (cowens@nrvrc.org).



Floyd County Housing Development

Floyd County recently celebrated the completion of a \$1M grant from the VA Department of Housing and Community Development. The grant assisted 14 households across the county with housing rehabilitation. The project also leveraged over \$220,000 in other funding sources to supplement project needs around well/septic repair, weatherization and

energy efficiency needs, junk removal, handicap accessibility modifications, planting of native shrubs and bushes, and other construction funding gaps. A highly collaborative project, the project was supported by Habitat for Humanity of the New River Valley, FISH, SERCAP, the New River Valley Regional Commission, Community Housing Partners, SustainFloyd, Renovation Alliance, and the Floyd-Floyd County Public Service Authority.

Due to the success of the project and overwhelming local demand, the County applied for and was recently awarded a second round of grant funding to continue this important work. The project team and recipients of housing rehab work gathered in June to celebrate the successful completion of this first phase.

For more information, please contact Jennifer Wilsie (jwilsie@nrvrc.org).

NRVRC FY25-26 Officers

Each spring the Regional Commission board selects leadership to serve on the executive committee for the following fiscal year. At the June board meeting the following slate was elected to serve as the executive committee:

Chair – Hil Johnson, Town of Christiansburg
 Vice-Chair – Susan Anderson, Town of Blacksburg
 Treasurer – Leon Law, Giles County
 Past Chair – Michael Maslaney, Floyd County
 At-Large – David Horton, City of Radford
 At-Large – Linda DeVito Kuchenbuch, Floyd County
 At-Large – Larry Clevinger, Town of Pulaski

GO TEC Launch in the New River Valley

On June 10th, the GO Virginia State Board announced its approval for the Region 2 project, "GO TEC Launch in the New River Valley and Roanoke County". This project, led by Montgomery County Public Schools, will bring the GO TEC initiative to five



school districts in Montgomery County, the City of Radford, Giles County, Pulaski County, and Roanoke County.

This initiative will impact over 1,100 middle school students by introducing them to high-wage, high-skill careers in engineering and technology, strengthening the regional skilled workforce.

For more information, please contact Emma Carroll (ecarroll@nrvrc.org).



VIRGINIA'S
Additive Manufacturing
& Applied Materials
TECH HUB

Tech Hubs South Boston Consortium Meeting

Virginia's Additive Manufacturing and Advanced Materials (AM2) Tech Hub held its third consortium meeting on June 3rd at IperionX's Titanium Production Facility in South Boston. During the event, IperionX presented their titanium metal and parts production processes and provided a tour of their facilities. The meeting also helped build momentum for future strategic roadmap projects, including the upcoming AM2 conference scheduled for September 15-17th.

For more information, please contact Emma Carroll (ecarroll@nrvrc.org).



NRV RECOVERY
ECOSYSTEM

NRV Recovery Ecosystem Awarded \$3.35 Million for Third Year of Opioid Abatement Funding

The Regional Commission supported the NRV Recovery Ecosystem in submitting its third-year renewal proposal to the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA) in April. On June 5, the OAA Grants Committee announced its FY26 funding awards—and we are excited to share that the NRV Recovery Ecosystem was awarded \$3.35 million in competitive grant funding. An additional ~\$410,000 in local matching funds was committed by Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, and Pulaski Counties, as well as the City of Radford.

This new round of funding will build on the momentum of the first two years, supporting a comprehensive range of initiatives focused on treatment, supportive housing, education and workforce training, transportation, evidence-based harm reduction, Recovery Court, peer-led services, and a regional anti-stigma campaign.

Highlights from the first two years include:

- Expanded harm reduction services across the region
- Extended hours for on-demand transportation
- Growth of Recovery Court programming
- Launch of peer-led support services
- Implementation of youth prevention programs in local schools
- Opening of new recovery and prevention centers in Giles and Pulaski Counties

As we enter this third year, local governments and service partners remain committed to deepening collaboration, expanding access to care, and building a lasting and sustainable ecosystem of recovery throughout the New River Valley.

For more information, please contact Holly Lesko, (hlesko@nrvrc.org).



NRVRC is Hiring!

Are you interested in a role that will help communities thrive in Appalachia? The Regional Commission is actively seeking a creative, team-oriented, and highly motivated individual for its next Community Designer/Facilitation Specialist. Click [here](#) to find out more about this position!

2025 Annual NRVRC Awards Nominations Are Open!

Help us recognize the people who make an impact in the New River Valley! We need you to nominate worthy candidates for this year's awards program. The Commission is accepting nominations for our regional awards until **August 15th**. Award recipients will be honored at our annual dinner event in the fall. Please click on the links below to nominate candidates for Champion of the Valley (elected/appointed official), Citizen of the Valley, and Friend of the Valley (outside the region).

[Champion of the Valley-Elected/Appointed Official](#)

[Citizen of the Valley](#)

[Friend of the Valley](#)

Visit our website

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