



Roanoke Valley-Alleghany

**REGIONAL** commission

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## REGIONAL REVIEW **MAY 2026**



### *Driving Regional Progress Together*

Photo: Celebrating four more miles of Roanoke River Greenway and recreation access at Explore Park

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**Roanoke Region Food & Farm Trail**



We enjoyed participating in a farm tour at **Garden Variety Harvests** last week to kick off the Roanoke Region Food and Farm Trail, an initiative organized by the **Roanoke Foodshed Network**.

Whether you're looking for seasonal produce, farm products, or new places to explore, you can find local food and farm destinations at [roanokefoodandfarmtrail.com](http://roanokefoodandfarmtrail.com)

This searchable website links people to farms and food businesses across the region, along with events and storytelling through a **“Good Food, Good People”** video series.

Amanda McGee, the Community Development Director for the Regional Commission, spoke at the event, emphasizing how supporting the local food system boosts economic development.

According to research from Capital One Shopping, 97% of individuals search online when shopping locally, and of every \$100 spent, approximately \$68 stays in the community.

The Roanoke Region Food and Farm Trail locations span across Roanoke and Salem cities, as well as Bedford, Botetourt, Craig, Floyd, Franklin, Montgomery, and Roanoke counties.

Support local and discover all that our region has to offer!

 VISIT WEBSITE



# CHILDCARE MATTERS WHAT EMPLOYERS NEED TO KNOW

Access to reliable childcare is one of the biggest challenges facing today's workforce. Join us for an informative workshop designed to help businesses understand available childcare resources, recent state-level initiatives, and practical ways to support employees. Participants will be introduced to a local resource guide and have the opportunity to connect with local partners working to strengthen childcare solutions across our region.

 **Thursday**  
**May 28, 2026**

 **The Franklin Center**  
50 Claiborne Avenue, Rocky Mount, Virginia 24151

 **9:00 AM - 10:00 AM**

 **Virtual Option Available Upon Registration**

Join us for “**Childcare Matters: What Employers Need to Know**” on **Thursday, May 28** from **9:00–10:00 AM** at **The Franklin Center** at 50 Claiborne Ave, Rocky Mount.

At the event, we'll discuss childcare resources, state-level initiatives, and practical ways employers can better support their workforce. A virtual option will also be available for this workshop.

We hope businesses, community leaders, and partners from across the region will join us for this free workshop focused on strengthening childcare solutions and supporting working families.

 [REGISTER HERE](#)

**Bike to Work Day: Community Collaboration in Action!**



Community organizations, businesses, volunteers, bike advocates and local government united for Roanoke City's largest ever **Bike to Work Day!** It was a beautiful morning of connecting, cycling and cheer!

Five Celebration Stations were set up across the city, manned by volunteers and event organizers. They provided bike commuters with coffee, donuts, encouragement, and chances to enter a raffle to win tickets to a "Views and Brews" E-Bike Tour, sponsored by Roanoke Mountain Adventures.

A group of cyclists took part in the "**Bike to Work Day Tour**" that connected all five stations. The nearly **17-mile adventure** also served as a tour of recent transportation improvements connected to the City of Roanoke's Complete Streets and Vision Zero efforts. Participants experienced new bike lanes, greenway connections, and other features designed to make cycling safer and more accessible, including a newly added bike lane over Gainsboro Bridge and a contraflow bike lane behind the Taubman Museum of Art.

Over **85 visits** were made to Celebration Stations, with **21 organizers and volunteers** contributing to Roanoke's Bike to Work Day.

The event was co-hosted by the City of Roanoke Transportation department, RIDE Solutions, and PedalSafe ROA. The event was joined by Mayor Joe Cobb and nonprofit groups and businesses including Strong Towns Roanoke, WeeWheel, Just the Right Gear, Good Times Cycle and Adventure and I Heart SE.

## Rural Transportation Survey: Locality Surveys Open until 6/30!



**Use your voice to help shape transportation in our region's rural areas!**

Residents, businesses, and community stakeholders are encouraged to participate in the Rural Roanoke Valley Transportation Plan. Share your feedback at <https://engage.rvarc.org/rlrtp>

This plan will guide transportation priorities through 2050 for Alleghany, Botetourt, Craig, Roanoke, and Franklin Counties, the City of Covington, and the Towns of Clifton Forge, Fincastle, New Castle, and Rocky Mount.

Feedback is crucial for identifying transportation needs, such as road conditions, safety, and connectivity. Public input will help develop strategies to enhance safety, maintain infrastructure, and improve access to jobs, schools, and healthcare.

Whether you drive, walk, bike, ride transit, or rely on community transportation, your perspective is important!

For assistance, please call 540-343-4417 or email Alison Stinnette, [astinnette@rvarc.org](mailto:astinnette@rvarc.org).

 Take Survey!

## Roanoke Valley Collective Response June Stakeholder Meeting

Wednesday, June 3, 2026

9:00am-10:30am

**VIRTUAL ONLY**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84747356766>

**Please Join Us!**

Join us for our special **virtual** June Stakeholder Meeting featuring special guest Eliza Zarka from the **National Recovery Friendly Workplace Institute**.

Eliza will discuss how employers and communities can create supportive, stigma-reducing environments that strengthen workforce wellness, retention, and recovery support.

Questions? Contact Bailey Medeiros [bailey@rvarc.org](mailto:bailey@rvarc.org)



Join the **Roanoke Valley Collective Response** for a special **virtual-only Stakeholder meeting on Wednesday, June 3rd from 9:00 am - 10:30.**

The meeting will feature guest speaker **Eliza Zarka from the National Recovery Friendly Workplace Institute.**

Eliza will be discussing how businesses and organizations can become Recovery Friendly Workplaces, including the benefits this brings to workplace culture, employee wellness, retention, and the broader economy and community.

Please share with this opportunity with anyone in your network who might be interested, especially:

- Business owners
- Human resources professionals
- Organizational leaders
- Anyone who may be a champion for wellness and recovery within their workplace



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## Collective Response partners with students from Roanoke College's Community Problem Solving Class



We're grateful to the **Roanoke College** students of the "Community Problem Solving Class" who partnered with Roanoke Valley Collective Response on meaningful projects this semester!

One student group developed a **Peer Network Survey**, grounded in research on effective survey strategies and the essential role peers play in the recovery ecosystem. Their work will help us better understand how the Peer Network can support peers through training opportunities, educational seminars, and personal wellbeing workshops—and help guide the future direction of the network.

A second group supported **grant development research and writing** by identifying aligned funding opportunities and helping draft language for future applications. Their time and effort contributed to real-world work that can help strengthen and expand our impact across the region.

Thank you to these students for their thoughtful work, fresh ideas, and commitment to community-based solutions.

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## Upcoming Meetings



### Roanoke Valley TPO

[May 28, 2026 @ 1 PM](#)

313 Luck Ave SW

Roanoke, VA 24016

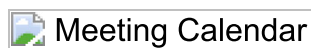


### Regional Commission

[May 28, 2026 @ 3 PM](#)

313 Luck Ave SW

Roanoke, VA 24016



Public participation is encouraged in these meetings, with a designated time for public comments.

**Tune in virtually:** Regional Commission and RVTPO meetings are available to watch later within two business days on our [YouTube](#) page.

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## Regional Stormwater Committee Participates in Clean Valley Day Cleanup

🗑️ RVARC staff and members of the regional Stormwater Committee turned out for a fun and impactful "Clean Valley Cleanup" day at Tinker Creek in Vinton.

👏 Collectively, we filled seven bags of trash and hauled up 6 tires from the waterway while getting a Monday sunshine boost! ☀️

Thank you to **Clean Valley Council** for providing materials and education, and Stormwater partners from **Western Virginia Water Authority, Roanoke Stormwater, Mountain Castles Soil & Water Conservation District** and **Virginia Department of Forestry** for joining us!

The **Virginia Department of Energy** has launched [Virginia Energy Connect](#) ("VEConnect"), a centralized hub for clean energy incentive information. The website curates and simplifies details on incentives for energy efficiency, solar, energy storage, and electric vehicles and chargers, helping residents and businesses reduce energy costs and improve building comfort.

VEConnect primarily serves homeowners, renters, multi-family property owners, and residential-serving contractors, with a focus on income-qualified households and high energy burden communities.



### **Opportunity for Public Feedback on the Draft of RVARC's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy**

The public is extended an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed 2026 draft of the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. View the draft CEDS document and other project information at [engage.rvarc.org/CEDS](https://engage.rvarc.org/CEDS).



### **Roanoke County celebrates 4 more miles of Greenway at Explore Park**

A new four-mile section of greenway opened at Roanoke County's Explore Park, offering river access and programming opportunities at one of the region's top outdoors destinations.



*The Regional Commission is a leader in driving collaboration and strategy within our communities on issues that are critical to the economic growth, quality of life, and sustainability of this region.*

**Connect with Us!**



[www.RVARC.ORG](http://www.RVARC.ORG)

Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission

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