



November 2021 Update

NRVRC Annual Award Recipients Honored

The New River Valley Regional Commission is pleased to announce six award winners for 2021. Heroes of the Valley are Dr. Noelle Bissell, New River Health District and Chief Anthony Wilson, Blacksburg Police Department; Citizens of the Valley are Shelley Fortier, Habitat for Humanity of the NRV and John Dooley, Virginia Tech Foundation; Champions of the Valley are Lydeana Martin, Floyd County and Craig Meadows, Montgomery County.

For further information, please contact Kevin Byrd (kbyrd@nrvc.org) 540-639-9313.

Pictured above: Byrd; NRVRC Executive Director, Dooley, Meadows, Martin, Fortier, Bissell, Wilson, Maslaney; NRVRC Chair



Kevin Byrd Passes the NADO Gavel

In October, Kevin Byrd had the pleasure of "passing the gavel" having served as president of the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) for the past two years. His term was extended by the board of directors last fall in light of the pandemic due to ongoing work with federal partners to secure critical funding for regions responding to the economic and health impacts associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Kevin speaks highly of his experience serving on NADO's executive committee being able to advocate on behalf of rural regions by providing congressional testimony and accomplishing several association goals with respect to programs of the US Economic Development Administration. Kevin will serve one more year on the executive committee as past president.

Pictured above: Kevin was joined by Jennifer Wilsie, Elijah Sharp and Christy Straight at the NADO Annual Training Conference in Portland, Oregon for the President's Award Dinner at the completion of his two-year term.



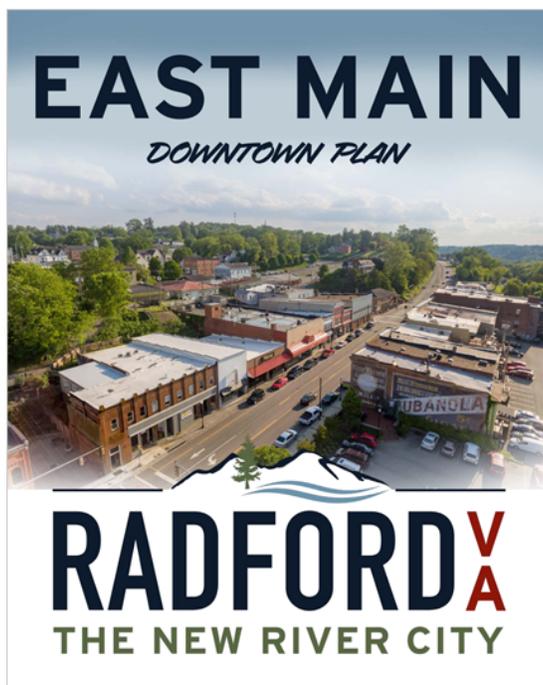
East Main Downtown Plan

The City of Radford recently completed the East Main Downtown plan as part of the renewed vision for transforming the area into an attractive and vibrant destination. Community engagement was an important part of the plan, which provided key input and insights from businesses, residents and leaders, which helped establish some of the driving themes for the plan. These themes are:

- History – build on historical character and assets of the area
- Distinct – Develop a distinct identity by improving the area’s visual aesthetics and leveraging natural and historical assets
- Economic vitality – attract and retain businesses, customers, and residents
- Connectivity – improve experiences in navigation, connections to destinations, navigation, walkability, and parking.

With the plan now completed, the city can use it during implementation of the revitalization efforts, and other investments.

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



Did You Know?

Community resilience is the capacity of individuals and households to absorb, endure, and recover from the health, social, and economic impacts of a disaster such as a hurricane or pandemic. In order to facilitate disaster preparedness, the Census Bureau has developed new Community Resilience Estimates. Information from the Census Bureau was just released in August 2021.

Household characteristics are determining factors in the impacts of a disaster. Some groups are less likely to have the capacity and resources to overcome the obstacles presented during a hazardous event.

Risk factors include:

- Income to Poverty Ratio
- Single or Zero Caregiver Household
- Crowding
- Communication Barrier
- Households without Full-time, Year-round Employment
- Disability
- No Health Insurance
- Age 65+
- No Vehicle Access
- No Broadband Internet Access

In the New River Valley, the following are snapshots of residents that have 3 or more of the risk factors listed above, which effects the resiliency of that community.

Locality	Population	% of Residents with 3+ RF	# of Residents with 3+ RF
Floyd County	15,749	22.41	3,530
Giles County	16,720	25.72	4,300
Montgomery County	89,253	17.88	15,956
Pulaski County	33,207	26.07	8,656
Radford City	14,871	26.04	3,872

The New River Valley Regional Commission is developing an Economic Recovery Planning Strategy that will include resiliency measures and be incorporated in the Regional Economic Development Strategy for the upcoming year. If you have any questions, or would like more information, reach out to Joy Rumley at jrumley@nrvc.org. You can also check out <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/community-resilience-estimates.html>.

Business Continuity Team Update

The BCT held a workshop on October 14th with Uncork-It titled Storytelling for Business Success. Participants had the opportunity to learn from Eileen Bauman about how to tell their business's story. The second part to this workshop was held on October 28th.

The BCT has partnered with McDonald's in Christiansburg and Dublin for a public COVID-19 vaccine clinic where participants will receive coupon booklets to McDonalds. For any businesses interested in Flu or COVID-19 vaccine clinics for your employees please contact Ashley Briggs at abriggs@nrvc.org.

For more information, please contact Melanie Morris at mmorris@nrvc.org.



Welcome to Joy Rumley!

Joy joined the Regional Commission as a Senior Planner with a focus on Economic Development in October. Her major projects will include developing and updating the Regional Economic Development Strategy, completing the EDA CARES Act Recovery Assistance Program, recapitalizing and implementing the Revolving Loan Fund as well as other new and ongoing projects. Prior to joining the Regional Commission, she worked for 17 years in a variety of programs for the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). In 2019, she received her Historic Real Estate Finance Professional certification from the National Development Council. She is currently pursuing coursework to earn the Certified Economic Developer credential. She has a passion for assisting communities with strategic planning and implementation, project planning and development and connecting them to needed resources.

If you are interested in getting to know Joy or any of the projects or programs she's working on, feel free to reach out at jrumley@nrvc.org!



Town of Narrows Community Survey

The Town of Narrows is updating their Comprehensive Plan in an effort to review trends, changes and develop policies and guidelines to help the Town in setting priorities, decision making, and helping the community to thrive and prosper in the future. The community survey for the plan was recently launched. This engagement

will provide an opportunity for the public to provide their feedback on the Town's needs and challenges and help identify solutions and set priorities for implementation.

Take the survey here: engagenrv.org/narrows.

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



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