



June 2021 Update

Business Continuity Team Update

The New River Valley Public Health Task Force ended their mass vaccination events on May 18th. After 5 months, 80 large scale vaccination events (over 520 clinic hours), dozens of home visits and outreach events administering COVID-19 vaccines, nearly 1,500 volunteers contributed over 11,500 hours of time onsite at these clinics and another 6,000 hours assisting residents in the vaccine scheduling call center totaling well over 17,500 volunteer hours. Thank you to the volunteers who gave selflessly to their community during this time. The NRV COVID-19 Vaccination Call Center closed at the end of May; however, you can still contact the local health district using the call center line. The Business Continuity Team will continue to support vaccination efforts in smaller community and business clinics across the New River Valley as we move forward. The vaccine is currently approved for all individuals twelve years of age and above. To find out more about future events and to stay up to date on current COVID-19 information go to nrvtowellness.com or reach out the Business Continuity Team.

For further information, please contact Ashely Briggs (abriggs@nrvc.org), 540-639-9313.



Town of Narrows Comprehensive Plan Update

The Commission is working with the Town of Narrows' Planning Commission and staff to update the Town's comprehensive plan. After approval from Town Council, the project team conducted a project kick-off meeting on May 4, 2021. Over the next few months this team will be working together to identify areas of concerns and future needs of the Town. Community feedback will be gathered, and existing conditions will be analyzed in the effort to develop goals and strategies to improve the town over the next 10 years.

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



NRV Housing Resource Guide

The Commission is excited to announce that the Housing Resource Guide, comprised of two information databases on housing, has recently been updated. The Housing Services database allows citizens to search for a wide selection of housing related services, such as home modifications, housing counseling, and fair housing concerns. The Affordable Rental Housing database provides information on income-based rental housing throughout the region. Both databases are now available online at <https://nrvc.org/what-we-do/housing/>. The Affordable Housing Rental guide is hosted through a partnership with Virginia Housing.

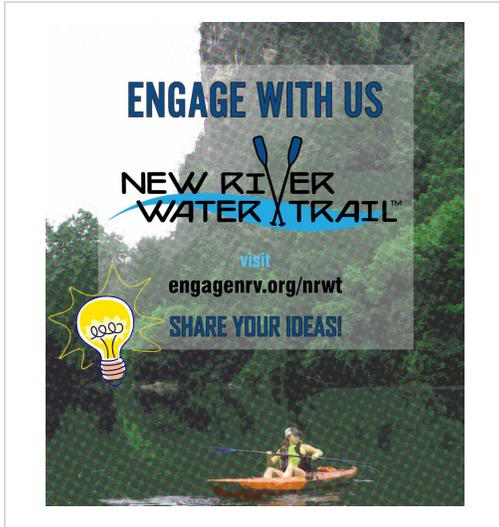
For further information, please contact Jennifer Wilsie (jwilsie@nrvc.org) 540-639-9313.



Welcome Kathleen Armstrong!

Kathleen Armstrong joined the Commission as a Regional Planner in May after completing a master's in Landscape Architecture at North Carolina State University (NCSU). During her time at NCSU, she became intrigued with participatory design theory and worked to create implementable tools for diverse communities across the region. Kathleen has worked in the community engagement field for the past six years, in both experiential education and food access. At the Commission, Kathleen focuses on communication and community outreach. She is passionate about assisting local partners envision the future of the region and connect to the environment. She can be reached at karmstrong@nrvc.org.





CDBG Business District Revitalization Grants

For the past several years, the Regional Commission has been working on downtown revitalization projects in the Town of Narrows and the Town of Pulaski, who both received Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) Community Development Block Grant funding to revitalize downtown public spaces and buildings, and encourage business development in the Towns' historic downtown commercial districts.

Pulaski's project is nearly complete, with a new pocket park across from the Pulaski County Courthouse, and alley lighting and creekside trail improvements, and façade repairs and improvements to 11+ buildings on the Main Street corridor between Jefferson and Washington Avenues. The Town has received additional VDOT funding to complete other recommended pedestrian improvements from their Downtown Master Plan, which should begin in the upcoming year.

In Narrows, construction crews are preparing to begin work on public space improvements, including improved parking lots and alleyways along Monroe Street and the Farmer's Market area, and a creekside trail running along Wolf Creek from the Duck Pond to Lurich Road. Later this year, construction will begin on façade improvements to downtown buildings, and the renovation of the former S&W equipment building near the Duck Pond to house an outdoor recreation outfitter's business.

For further information, please contact Patrick O'Brien (pobrien@nrvc.org) 540-639-9313.

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