



September 2020 Update

NRVRC Annual Award Winners

The New River Valley Regional Commission board, comprised of elected officials and citizen appointees across the region, recently honored their award recipients for 2020.

Mr. Chris Tuck, a former member of the Montgomery County Board of

Supervisors, received the Champion of the Valley Award. Mr. Bill Ellenbogen, a community advocate and businessperson, received the Citizen of the Valley award.



[Full Text](#)

Regional + Local Housing Study

The Regional + Local Housing Study is nearly complete! After hearing that several localities within the region were grappling over similar housing concerns, the Commission sought funding from the Virginia Housing Development Authority to conduct a regional housing study. Over the last 18 months, the Regional Commission, in partnership

with the Virginia Center for Housing Research and Richmond-based non-profit, Housing Virginia, has been gathering and analyzing quantitative and anecdotal data to understand the unique housing challenges and opportunities present in the region. The study contains regional-level findings and seven accompanying strategies as well as locality-level findings and customized strategy recommendations.

[Full Text](#)

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



Water Watcher Program

The New River Valley Regional Commission and the New River Watershed Roundtable have partnered with the New River Conservancy to bring the Water Watcher Program to the New River Valley. The New River Water Watcher program is a citizen science program which relies on amateur scientists to collect water quality data. These data points help us better understand our local water quality—both where it is improving and where

Association for Commuter Transportation's (ACT) Virtual International Conference

Regional Commission staff recently participated in the Association for Commuter Transportation's (ACT) Virtual International Conference. The goal of attending the conference was to learn and bring back ideas that could help with the RIDE Solution's program that the Commission helps manage. The conference covered a wide range of topics including teleworking during COVID-19, what transportation demand management will look like in the coming years and how to improve outreach to small businesses – just to name a few. To learn more

it needs improvement. The New River Conservancy is looking to increase the number of Water Watchers in the New River Valley. Online water quality monitoring trainings will occur this fall. If you think you are interested a great way to learn more is to join an existing Water Watcher in the field.

For further information, please contact Nicole Hersch (nicole@nrvrc.org), 540-639-9313.



about ACT visit <https://www.actweb.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=1> and to learn about RIDE Solutions visit <https://ridesolutions.org/>.

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



Be Committed.
Be Well.

Be committed. Be well.

The NRV Public Health Task Force has launched “Be Committed. Be Well”, an initiative to encourage NRV residents to take care of each other and help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases. This initiative is based around a wellness commitment to do simple things, such as practicing good hygiene and wearing face coverings, to protect

everyone in the New River Valley. Printable campaign materials and other resources are available on www.nrvroadtowellness.com, a site managed and updated by the Commission.

For more information, visit <https://www.nrvroadtowellness.com/be-committed-be-well> or call the New River Health District's COVID-19 line at 540-267-8240.

Montgomery County Chamber 2020 Women's Leadership Conference



The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce held their 2020 Women's Leadership Conference virtually this year. On August 30th women from around the region gathered around the theme of Vision & Visionaries, which focused on aspiring and accomplished professional businesswomen. Three NRVRC staff attended the conference, hearing from keynote speakers Amy Herman and Nanci Hardwick. Herman shared a presentation on the "Art of Perception" which focused on professional development through Visual Intelligence, also the title of her book. Hardwick, the Founder and CEO of MELD Manufacturing Corporation, located in Christiansburg, shared her successes and challenges as she came to develop a novel and innovative manufacturing company with over a dozen patents. The day included breakout sessions, an award ceremony, and an online silent auction. All in all, a very successful day!

For further information, please contact Nicole Hersch (nicole@nrvc.org), 540-639-9313.

New River Valley Regional Commission | nrvc.org



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