

July 19, 2024

Board Approves Rezoning to Allow for First Data Center



The Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors (Board) approved a rezoning application by Anchorstone Advisors SOVA LLC at its July 16, business meeting to allow for a data center in the Dan River District. The approval followed a duly advertised public hearing.

The Board's approval rezones 945.79 acres off U.S. Highway 58 and State Road 735 (Cedar Road) from R-1, Residential Suburban Subdivision District, and A-1, Agricultural District, to M-2, Heavy Industrial. The approval also

amends the County's Comprehensive Plan's Future Land Use designation from medium to high density residential and commercial to industrial.

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Income Threshold Increased for Elderly, Disabled Tax Relief



Revisions to Pittsylvania County's Elderly and Disabled Tax Relief program were approved by the Board of Supervisors during its July 16, 2024, business meeting and following a public hearing.

The changes fall under § 6-6 of the Pittsylvania County code.

The revisions include the following:

- Changing the annual income threshold from \$25,000 to \$30,000;
- Increasing the new worth maximum from \$60,000 to \$70,000;
- Increasing the maximum exemption from \$450 to \$600.

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Board Approves Resolutions Supporting Road Improvements



Two resolutions addressing road improvements were approved by the Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors at its July 16, 2024, business meeting. County staff submitted two projects for Virginia's Smart Scale program and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) determined that they were eligible for full submission on August 2. A resolution in support of the projects by the Board was required as part of the package. That resolution was approved as part of the Board's consent agenda.

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Sheriff Taylor Hosts First Service Awards Ceremony



Pittsylvania County Sheriff Mike Taylor hosted the first Service Awards presentation on Thursday, July 17, at the Community Center in Chatham. More than 40 deputies, investigators and senior staff were recognized, as well as a former deputy for his life saving efforts. The Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors was honored for its support of the Sheriff's Office.

Deputies were honored for Meritorious Service, Life Saving, Bravery and Commendations.

"We can never say enough or do enough for the service you do for our County," said Taylor to those receiving awards.

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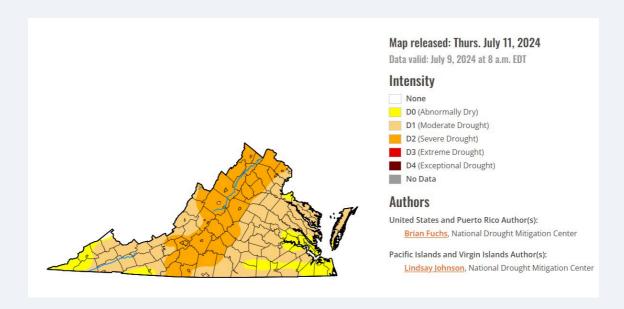
Retiring Ringgold Fire Chief Mike Neal: "It's in my blood"



Mike Neal retired as chief from Ringgold Fire and Rescue at the end of June after serving in that capacity for 34 years and in the department for more than half a century – making his name nearly synonymous with Ringgold. Neal reflects on his years of service in the community as well as his thoughts on the future of volunteer fire and rescue in Pittsylvania County.

Listen to the Podcast Here

Drought Disaster Declaration Approved



Pittsylvania County is currently experiencing severe drought conditions, prompting the Board of Supervisorsto approve a drought declaration at its July 16 business meeting.

The Severe Drought designation (D2) is based on the U.S. Drought Monitor and is the result of high air temperatures, low humidity and inadequate rainfall. Through the declaration, the Board will petition the USDA Farm Service Agency to have the County formally declared a disaster area due to the drought conditions and provide a way for those affected to qualify for any available relief assistance.

The approval of a drought declaration allows Pittsylvania County farmers to qualify for any available relief assistance.

Drug Box Appropriation to Assist Volunteer Agencies



The Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors approved the appropriation of up to \$160,000 to cover the cost of new federally mandated drug boxes to be used by the County's volunteer EMS transport stations at its July 16, 2024, business meeting.

The funds will come from the County's unassigned fund balance and agencies that have already purchased the boxes will have that expenditure replenished.

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LOVE Sign Creators Honored



The businesses, organizations and individuals that contributed to the creation of the LOVE sign at the Olde Dominion Agricultural Complex were presented with Certificates of Appreciation by the Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors at its July 16 business meeting. Their efforts have made a significant impact toward tourism and the beautification of the County. The following entities were honored: Amthor International Inc., Chatham Rotary Club, Chatham First, Homeplace Vineyard, Olde Dominion Agricultural Complex, Southside Concrete Supply, Tim Hilliard Marketing & Promotions LLC, Todd Breaux/State Farm, Warren Shelton PLLC, Elite Fabrication LLC, KG Graphics and Brenda Bowman.

Gretna Boys Baseball Team Commended for Season



Following an impressive season, the Gretna High School varsity baseball team was presented with a Certificate of Excellence by the Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors at its July 16 business meeting. While the team had an 8-14 record, this season marked the highest number of wins in several years. The team also reached the state finals for the first time in 23 years, where they lost to Lebanon High School with a score of 5-4. Gretna also defeated County rivals Tunstall and Chatham high schools for the first time in 26 years, demonstrating determination and growth throughout the entire season. The Board expresses its deepest congratulations and admiration to the Hawks baseball team for these accomplishments.

Gretna Boys Basketball Awarded Certificate of Excellence



The Gretna High School boys basketball team was presented with a Certificate of Excellence for its outstanding season by the Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors at its July 16 business meeting. The Hawks posted an overall record of 16-10 and a regional record of 8-4, finishing second in the district for the second consecutive year. With a 41-33 victory over Martinsville, the team became Gretna's first ever Region C champions. The team advanced to the state tournament for the first time in 24 years but lost to Graham High School with a score of 65-71. The Board expresses its deepest congratulations and admiration to the Gretna boys basketball team for these accomplishments and wishes team members the best in their future endeavors.

RiverStreet Hosts Community Event







More than 200 people attended the RiverStreet Networks community event Saturday at the Riceville-Java VFD. It was a great opportunity to learn more about high speed fiber internet, get acquainted with the company and its representatives, as well as enjoy a free hot dog from Collins Roadside Produce and free giveaways. If you missed Saturday's event but still want to meet with RiverStreet, they will be at the Community Center in Chatham on Tuesday, July 16 and Wednesday, July 31, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. by appointment. RiverStreet has partnered with Pittsylvania County and Pittsylvania County

Schools to bring high speed fiber internet to under- and un-served areas of the County.

Make Appointment Here

Learn More Here

Chowdown!



There was rain, but not enough to deter some folks from getting a great lunch at today's Downtown Chowdown on Thursday, July 18. Many thanks to Collins Roadside Produce, Southern Belle and Sunset Slush, as well as County staff, for braving the weather to make this event happen! Stay tuned to Pittsylvania County's Facebook page for the next Downtown Chowdown.

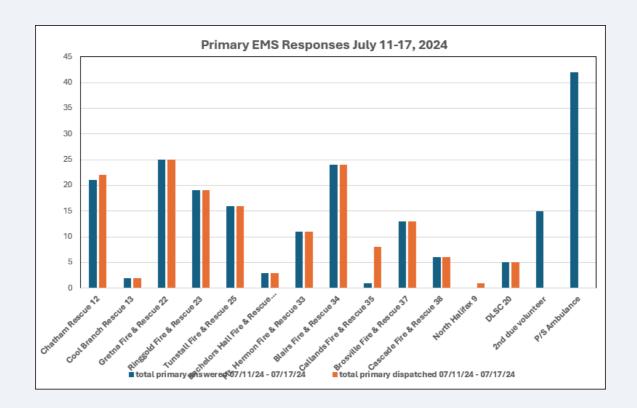
Sign Up for High Speed Internet

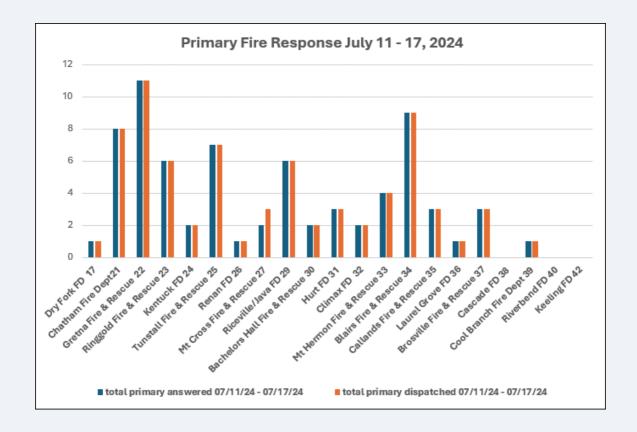




Pittsylvania County's first responders answered the call to service this week, saving the lives and property of the County's citizens. EMS responders answered 203 primary calls for service between July 11-17. Of those, volunteers responded to 161 of those calls – or 79%. Pittsylvania County Public Safety were the primary responders on 42 of those calls, or 21%, and outside agencies took six.

The County's fire departments responded to 72 fire calls during that same period.





Back-2-School Festival in Chatham



Food Assistance for Families

Introducing Virginia SUN Bucks



A federal program created to fight food insecurity by providing eligible children with a one-time **\$120 food benefit** on a Virginia SUN Bucks card to purchase groceries.

Who is automatically eligible for Virginia SUN Bucks and does not need to apply?

Your child is automatically enrolled in Virginia SUN Bucks if they:

- Receive SNAP or TANF benefits or participate in an income-eligible Medical Assistance (MA) program.
- Applied for and received free or reduced-price school meals at school during the 2023-2024 school year through the <u>National School Lunch Program (NSLP)</u>.
- How do I know if my family needs to apply for Virginia SUN Bucks?
 If your child did not apply for and receive free or reduced-price school meals through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) or your family does not participate in SNAP, TANF or an income-based Medical Assistance program, you must apply.
- When and how will VDSS issue Virginia SUN Bucks benefits?
 Benefits will be issued beginning August 2024 on a rolling basis to children who automatically qualify and to families who are eligible by application. SNAP recipients benefits will be loaded onto their existing SNAP EBT card. Non-SNAP recipients' will receive a SUN Bucks card that will be mailed to the address on file.
- B How do I apply?

Beginning July 1st, you can visit <u>VirginiaSunBucks.com</u> to print and and mail the application to 5600 Cox Road, Glen Allen, VA 23060 OR you can call the Virginia SUN Bucks contact center to apply over the phone at a later in July.

Visit <u>VirginiaSunBucks.com</u> beginning July 1, 2024 for information and details about Virginia Sun Bucks.











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Pittsylvania County

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