

PittCo Weekly



August 23, 2024

Mass Casualty Training Involves Local, State, Federal Agencies



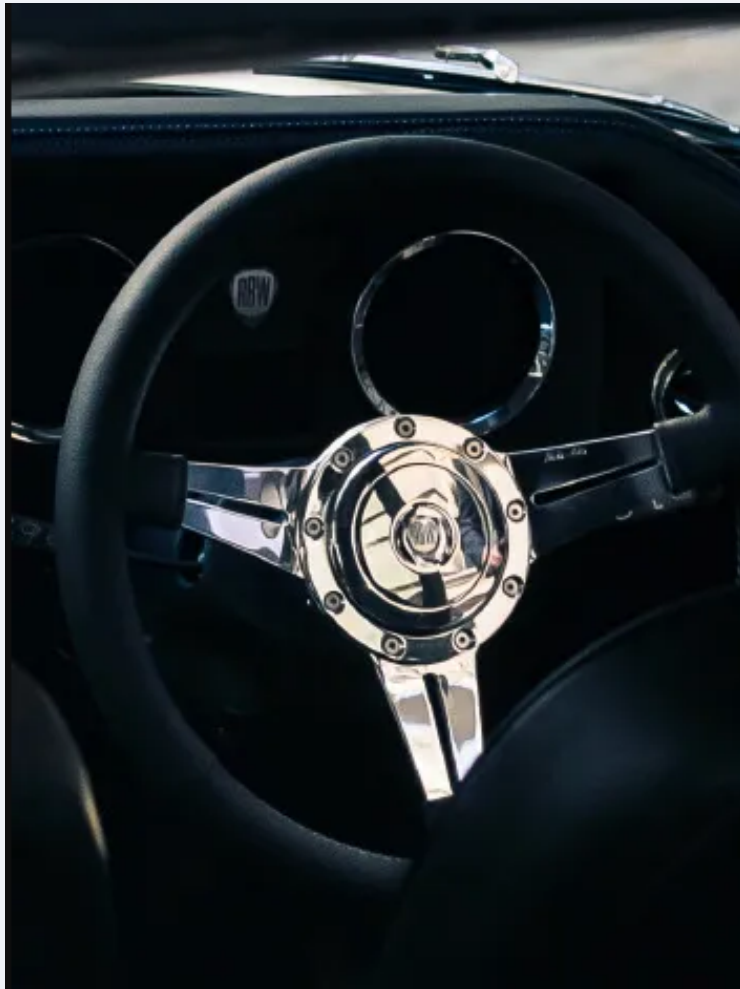




More than 20 local, state and federal agencies collaborated August 23 to simulate a mass casualty training exercise at Unique Industries Inc. in Blairs. Led by the Pittsylvania County Sheriff's Office, the exercise was built around a mock single shooter and simulated fatalities and injuries.

[Learn More Here](#)

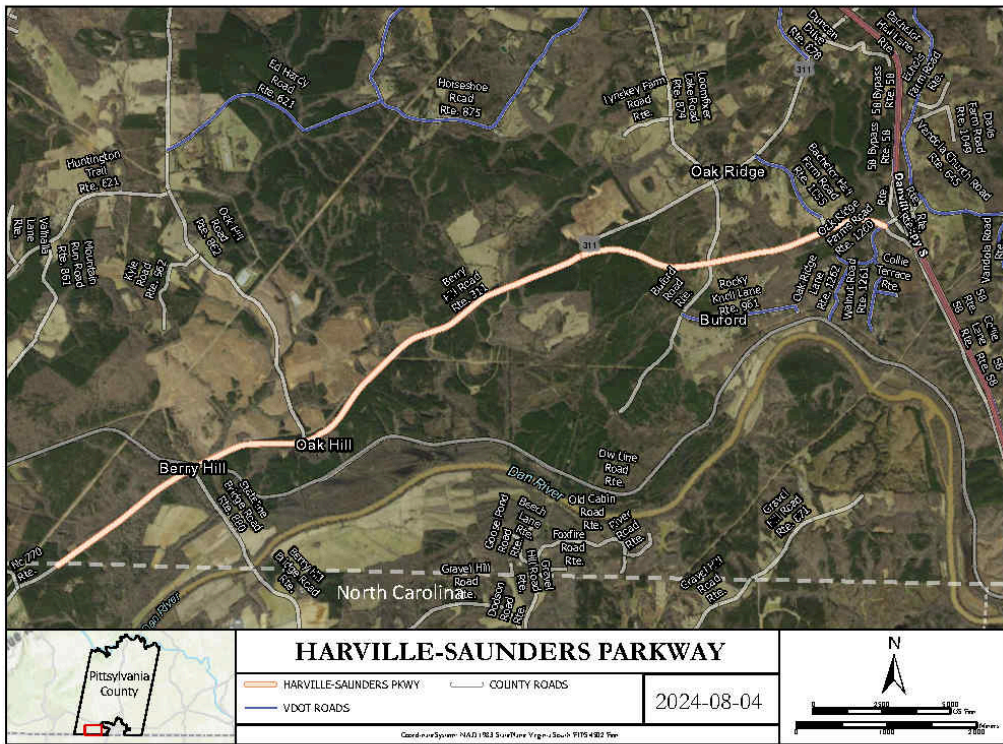
U.K.-based RBW Sports& Classics Coming to Pittsylvania County



RICHMOND Governor Glenn Youngkin today announced that RBW Sports & Classics, the United Kingdom's only manufacturer of hand-built electric classic sports cars, will invest \$8 million to establish a manufacturing facility at Cane Creek Centre, an industrial park jointly owned by the City of Danville and Pittsylvania County. The new facility will produce the company's first left-hand drive RBW EV Roadster and GT models for the U.S. market. The project will create 144 new jobs.

[Learn More Here](#)

Portion of Berry Hill Connector Road to be Renamed Harville-Saunders Parkway



A portion of the new Berry Hill Connector Road will be named after a former Pittsylvania County supervisor and a current Danville City Council member in recognition of their leadership and contributions to the creation and continued development of the Southern Virginia Megasite at Berry Hill.

[Learn More Here](#)

Growing a Farm in Pittsylvania County

Growing a Farm in Pittsylvania County
PittCo Happenings

PITTCO
Happenings

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1x More Info Share

Thinking about starting a farm in Pittsylvania County? Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent Stephen Barts discusses what is needed to get one started and begins by answering the most basic question – what is the definition of a farm? Barts discusses capital costs, financing, marketing, produce and livestock-related laws and other areas

that need to be considered before getting started. Barts also highlights how the Extension Office can assist those with plans to begin farm – whether the goal is self-sufficiency or to create an income.

[Learn More Here](#)

Neal Recognized for Unselfish Service to Ringgold Community





Longtime Ringgold Fire and Rescue Chief Mike Neal was honored through a resolution approved by the Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors at its August 20 business meeting.

Neal was also honored by Virginia Senator Tammy Mulchi (R-9th) with Senate Resolution 632, agreed to by the Senate on July 18, 2024.

Neal retired on June 30, 2024, after serving the station for 55 years. Neal's father, Calvin, was the station's first chief when the organization was founded in 1958. Neal ran around the station as a toddler and began driving a firetruck when he was 16-years old. Neal became assistant fire chief and began serving on the Board of Directors at age 18. When he reached his mid-30s in 1991, Neal was named chief, where he served in that capacity until he retired.

Neal was known as the "King of Fundraisers" and from 1996 through this year, he sold more than \$250,000 in raffle tickets and the station had generated between \$32,000 and \$38,000 per year from Brunswick Stew fundraisers.

Neal's brother Barry, his daughter Stephanie, stepson Walter Henderson and nephew Joseph all served in the station.

In addition to his commitment to Ringgold, Neal also serves on the Pittsylvania County Hall of Fame Board, is a member of the Dan River Ruritan Club, served three years as the vice president of the County's Fire and Rescue Association and retired from Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company after 42 years of service. Neal and his wife Debra are members of Ringgold Baptist Church. They have been married 42 years and have three children: Stephanie, Walter and Tara. Neal will remain on the station's board of directors and will continue to run fire and EMS calls.

The Board recognizes that Neal has given unselfishly of his time and efforts for the County's betterment and is a loyal and faithful member of his community.

The Board expresses its sincere appreciation of Neal for his noble dedication of time and effort toward the development and advancement of the County and fire and rescue.

Neals' Loving, Caring, Leadership Recognized by Board





Community leader Dorothy Mae Burton Neals was honored for her service through a resolution approved by the Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors at its August 20 business meeting.

The daughter of Irvin C. Burton and Vada F. Burton, Neals was appointed as temporary secretary of the Dan River-Blairs Civic League in 1948 by her father when she was 15 years old. Neals became president of the organization in 2016 after the death of William Pritchett, and under her leadership, the DRBCL has grown to more than 48 members. Neals' father had served as president of the organization for more than 50 years.

Neals is a lifelong Pittsylvania County resident and a graduate of Southside High School. She attended St. Paul's College in Lawrenceville where she met her husband, Robert. Neals continued her studies at the University of Virginia where she received her master's degree and taught in Pittsylvania County Schools for 39 years.

Neals is a highly active member of Bethel Baptist Church, where she started the first Children's Choir, served as director of the Senior Choir for many years; serves as Deaconess, Church Clerk, Missionary President and formerly served as a Sunday school teacher, chairperson of the History and Floral committees and the Bylaws, Program and Pastor Anniversary Committee.

Neals is also an active member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, The Links, Inc., the National Education Association, Virginia Teacher's Association, Pittsylvania County Democratic Committee and the Cherrystone Missionary Baptist Missionary Association Women's Division. She has served as president or chairperson of the following organizations: AKA Sorority Links Inc., Southern Area Agency on Aging, Pittsylvania County Electoral Board and was the first black female vice president of the Pittsylvania County Democratic Committee.

Neals' powerful, loving and caring leadership has been evident for many years, and she has given unselfishly of her time and efforts for the County's betterment. She is a faithful and loyal member of the community, providing an invaluable service to County citizens.

The Board expresses its sincere appreciation to Neals for her noble dedication of time and efforts toward the development and advancement of the County.

Yeatts Honored for Invaluable Dedication to County Residents



Herbert Jesse Yeatts, 50-year veteran of Gretna Fire and Rescue, was honored through a resolution approved by the Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors at its August 20 business meeting.

A lifelong resident of Pittsylvania County, Yeatts joined Gretna Fire and Rescue in August 1974. Upon joining, a station phone was placed at his home and each station member would sign up to answer the phone at nights and on the weekends. Yeatts chose Friday nights and the third weekend of the month to

answer that call of duty and kept this routine until the County implemented its 911 system in 1997.

Over the years, Yeatts answered about 300 fire and rescue calls a year and has been in the top five in his crew for call response for more than 25 years.

In addition to his commitment to Gretna, Yeatts also battled wildfires part-time for the Virginia Department of Forestry's County Wildfire Strike Team, which took him many places to fight various types of fires. Those fires included a swamp fire in Virginia Beach and North Carolina; a 40,000-acre fire along the Continental Divide in Montana; in Mississippi after Hurricane Katrina; and in Florida, where his crew fought for three weeks to save a power line that supplied the entire state.

Yeatts' family not only supported him throughout these years, but many made the decision to serve as well.

Yeatts is a lifetime member of Gretna and throughout his years of service he held roles such as lieutenant, captain, assistant chief and chief. He is still active at the station and helps as much as he can.

The Board recognizes that Yeatts has given unselfishly of his time and efforts for the County's betterment and is a loyal and faithful member of his community, providing 50 years of invaluable service to County citizens. The Board expresses its sincere appreciation of Yeatts for his noble dedication of time and effort toward the development and advancement of the County and fire and rescue.

Dan River Varsity Baseball Recognized for Remarkable Season



The Dan River Wildcats varsity baseball team was presented with a Certificate of Excellence for its remarkable season by the Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors during its August 20 business meeting.

The Wildcats became the Region C champions after a 1-0 victory over Gretna. The team advanced to the state quarterfinals where they defeated Central Wise with a 6-5 win, moving up to the state semifinals where they faced Poquoson High School. Poquoson narrowly defeated Dan River with a score of 2-1. The team had an overall record of 12-12 and a regional record of 6-5, putting it fourth in the district.

The Board expresses its deepest congratulations and admiration to the Dan River varsity baseball team for its amazing accomplishments and wishes its team members the best in their future endeavors.

Be a Weather Spotter

SKYWARN Spotter Training

September 26th, 2024 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Pittsylvania County Community Center

115 S Main Street, Chatham, VA

Training is free and open to the Public

Photo Credit: Cameron Worsham

**National Weather Service
Blacksburg, VA**



The National Weather Service encourages anyone with an interest in public service to join the SKYWARN® program. Volunteers include police and fire personnel, dispatchers, EMS workers, public utility workers and other concerned private citizens. Individuals affiliated with hospitals, schools, churches and nursing homes or who have a responsibility for protecting others are encouraged to become a spotter. You'll learn:

- Basics of thunderstorm development
- Fundamentals of storm structure
- Identifying potential severe weather features
- Information to report
- How to report information
- Basic severe weather safety

Library Offers New Databases



ANNOUNCING 3 NEW ONLINE RESOURCES:

Access World News:

Including Start Tribune
2003 - present

Black Life in America

Heritage Hub

www.pcplib.org

Access World News Research Collection

Star Tribune: 2003 - Present,
Click A-Z Source List & search for Star
Tribune.

Explore and stay informed on local,
national and international topics.

Black Life in America

Comprehensive coverage of the African
American experience from the early 18th
century to the present day.

Heritage Hub

Explore your family history with the
premier collection of U.S. obituaries and
death notices for in-depth genealogical
research from 1704 - today.

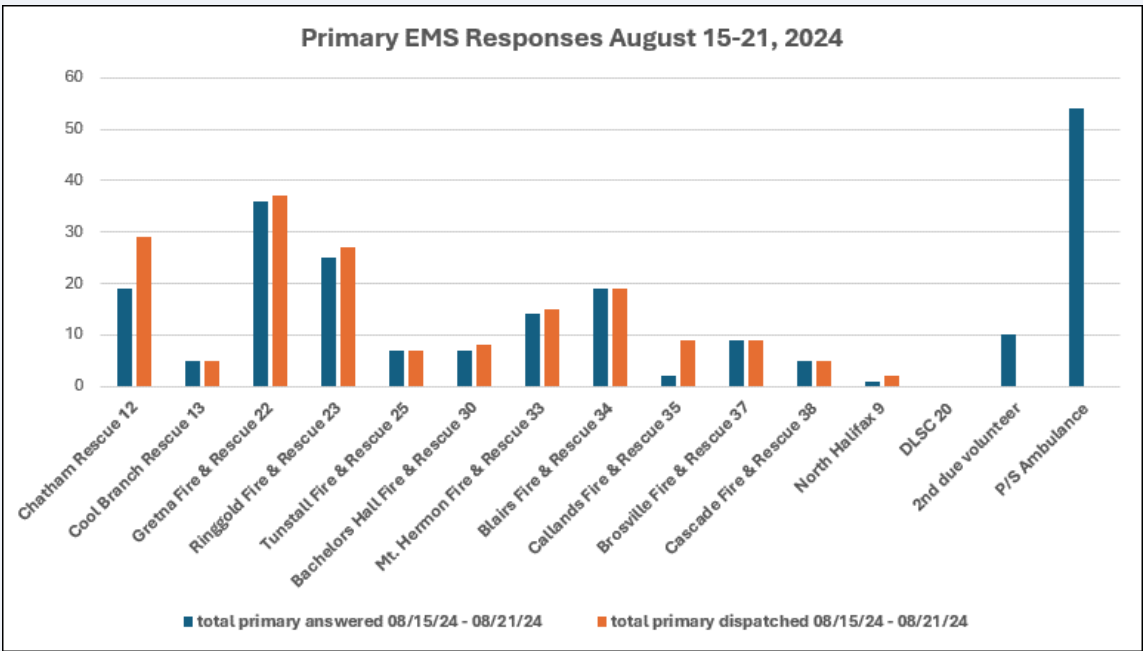
Accessed with a
library card through the
library's webpage:

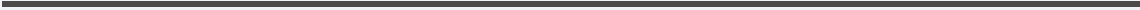
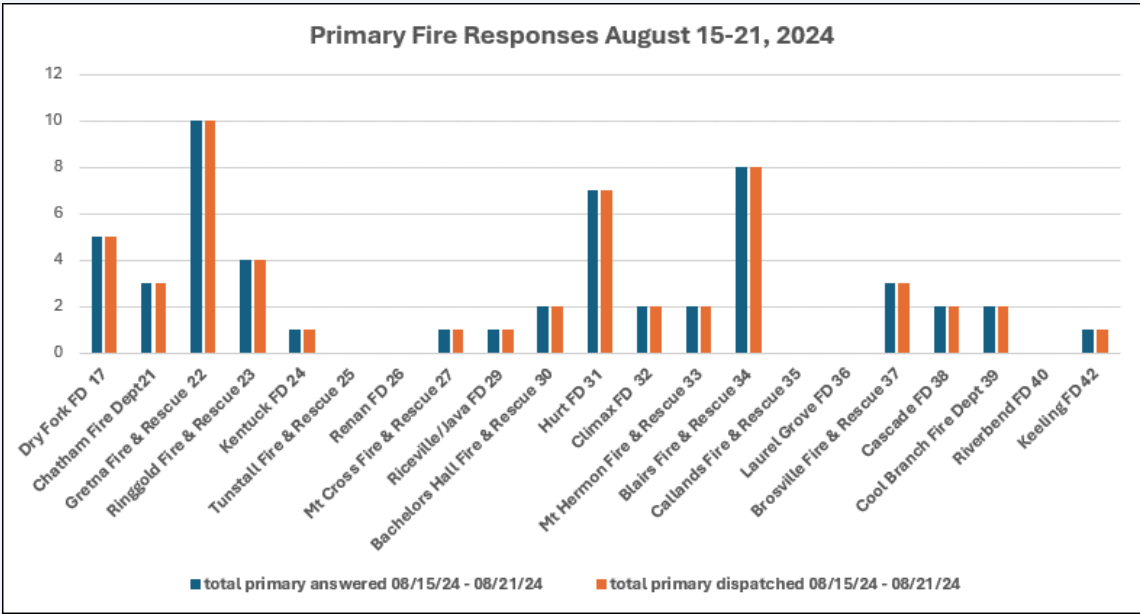
[Research & Learn
Research](#)



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 213 primary calls for service between Aug. 15-21. Of those, volunteers responded to 159 of those calls – or 75%. Pittsylvania County Public Safety were the primary responders on 54 of those calls, or 25%, and outside agencies took five.

The County’s fire departments responded to 54 fire calls during that same period.





**PITTSYLVANIA
COUNTY OFFICES
WILL BE CLOSED
FOR
LABOR DAY**

Monday, September 2

**Offices will reopen during normal
business hours on Tuesday,
September 3**

PITTSYLVANIA
COUNTY, VIRGINIA



Are you thinking about ...

Being first on the scene?

Serving your community, learning valuable new skills and becoming part of a close-knit team?

Achieve all that and more by serving as a firefighter or EMT in Pittsylvania County at a volunteer station near your home or workplace.
To learn more, visit <https://ow.ly/gOV450Pit0A>

[Learn More Here](#)



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Pittsylvania County
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