



Pulaski County Citizen Newsletter

January - March 2024

Vol. XVIII Issue 1

www.pulaskicounty.org
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Chair's Corner

As I reflect on the past year, I am thankful for all our successes, all the individuals who made them possible, my fellow board members, our staff, and you, our constituents. Pulaski County had a wonderful 2023 with twenty-six (26) business growth celebrations this year for small and large, existing and new businesses. I would like to thank our staff, Small Business Development, and our Economic Development Team for all of these positive events, and also the Chamber of Commerce for their help and organization in working with us and our businesses on many of our accomplishments this year. Also, a special thank you to our two Towns for their support and partnership on several of these joint ventures.

We have successfully hosted a SRX Race; an AJSA Jet Ski Race that raised funds for the Pulaski County ACCE program; and so many other events with our award-winning Tourism Department. Our Parks and Recreation Department also excelled in creating and implementing a catalog of sports and activities for all ages, as well as offering events including the Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular attracting over 6,000 participants, the first Gobble & Wobble 5K with 400+ participants, our Winterfest and first tree-lighting ceremony at Randolph Park. They also opened a state-of-the-art outdoor Fitness Court at Randolph Park to encourage fitness for our older youth and adults throughout the County.

There are too many other accomplishments to list including community park openings and upgrades, our Virginia Association of Counties Award for the 'One Bag Challenge', and more! Many of the advances and accomplishments of other departments are not as publicized, but our County staff works hard to advance our public assets, provide diverse services and cultivate a healthy environment that continues our path forward to becoming a Next-Level Rural Community. Many thanks for all the long hours, planning and implementation that are spent by our amazing employees and dedicated volunteers who keep everything functioning smoothly.

All of the above assists our 40-by-30 initiative. We are striving to attract and increase our County population to 40,000 people by the year 2030. This keeps our County viable, spreads around our overhead costs and enables us to continue to keep taxes low, while providing more amenities and services for you, our constituents. We are looking forward to numerous new housing and redevelopment projects currently under construction or in the advanced planning phases to assist us in this important goal.

I wish everyone a most productive and wonderful 2024!

*Laura Walters, Chair, Ingles District
Pulaski County Board of Supervisors*

PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY UPDATES

The Pulaski County Public Service Authority (PSA) is excited about improvements that have been made, and those that are currently underway, at our solid waste convenience centers. These improvements include, but are not limited to, the following:

- New paving at our Dublin site.
- New electronic access gates at our Dublin site.
- Acquisition of additional land area around our Fairlawn site.
- Re-configuration of the Fairlawn site to increase the size of the brush collection area and improve traffic flow, addition of tailgate level containers for disposal of large items, new tailgate level compactors, addition of electronic access gates and improvements to stormwater management.
- Acquisition of the old Red Carpet Inn site in Draper for development of a new convenience center to serve citizens in the Draper, Hiwassee and Allisonia areas of our community. Plans for this site would be consistent with those already completed at our Dublin site and those currently underway at our Fairlawn site.

With these improvements, it is our desire to provide a safer and more efficient way for PSA residential standard volume customers, in good standing, to dispose of their solid waste outside of their normal weekly pickup times.

The costs to operate our convenience centers are paid by the residential standard volume fees collected, so that no fees are required at the site. This allows customers to easily dispose of brush, excess household waste, appliances and recyclables at no additional cost. However, the PSA must pay to operate the sites and properly dispose of the material received. Unfortunately, we were experiencing a large number of individuals and small businesses, some from outside of Pulaski County, utilizing our convenience centers without paying a garbage bill and/or paying the reduced rate (i.e., low-volume). The new gates and scanners at the sites will allow us to more accurately account for the use of the facilities and ensure that the costs to operate the facilities are being paid by those utilizing the service.

As improvements have been implemented at our Dublin site, we have received some questions regarding recycling options for customers on low-volume accounts. The PSA appreciates the efforts of our customers to recycle and would like to continue to support those efforts. Our current fee structure for residential garbage collection service is offered for standard volume and low volume customers at \$21.00 and \$13.65 per month, respectively. The intent of the low volume rate is to offer those customers that generate very little waste, including recyclables, a reduced rate. We define low volume as one (1) can or less, bi-weekly and no use of the convenience centers. Most customers taking advantage of this rate, do so at a secondary residence or are single person households who do not wish to recycle.

In the case of recyclables, our cost to properly dispose of the items received is more than double, approaching triple, the cost to dispose of standard household waste. We must also transport the items further, which increases overall disposal costs. As an example, a household that disposes of one (1) can of household waste bi-weekly and one (1) can of recyclables weekly will cost more to serve than a household that disposes of two (2) cans of household waste per week. However, the PSA remains committed to providing an option to recycle. The unfortunate reality of recycling is that the incentives are not financial, but are personal to each individual's beliefs and goals regarding the environmental impacts of the solid waste we generate.

Individuals signed up for our low-volume rate and/or small businesses have the option to utilize the New River Resource Authority (NRRRA) regional landfill located at 7100 Cloyd's Mountain Road on a pay by volume basis. The disposal rate for standard municipal solid waste at the NRRRA is \$34 per ton or \$5 minimum, whichever is greater. The disposal rate for recyclables at the NRRRA is \$60 per ton or \$5 minimum, whichever is greater. Recyclables collected at both the NRRRA and our convenience centers are sent to the Montgomery Regional Solid Waste Authority (MRSWA) as single stream. For those wishing to recycle, a few tips/guidelines provided by MRSWA has been included for reference and can be found at <https://mrswa.com/index.php/recycling/single-stream-recycling>.

SINGLE STREAM RECYCLING

Containers, paper, cardboard and all recyclables are combined.

MRSWA ACCEPTS SINGLE STREAM RECYCLING.

Recycle your newspapers, cardboard, cereal and tissue boxes, glass bottles and jars, aluminum beverage cans, steel and tin cans, as well as #1 (PET) and #2 (HDPE) plastic bottles, jugs and food containers.

RECYCLE MOST ITEMS TOGETHER

You no longer need to separate recyclables into containers, paper, etc.

MRSWA now accepts all recyclables combined.

Recycle your newspapers, cardboard cereal and tissue boxes, glass bottles and jars, aluminum and metal cans, and plastic jugs and food containers together.

NOT ACCEPTABLE IN SINGLE STREAM

Currently the following are not acceptable:

- No shredded paper
- No plastic bags (return to retailer)
- No food or liquid (empty all containers)
- No tanglers (no hoses, wires, chains or cords)
- No clothing or toys (use donation programs)
- No electronics
- No Styrofoam
- Please do not bag recyclables (no paper or plastic bags)
- Aluminum Foil (accepted at buyback facility)
- Aluminum Trays (accepted at buyback facility)
- Cat Food Cans (accepted at buyback facility)

PROCESSING FEE

Single Stream recycling fee: \$72.00 per ton for loads of single stream recyclables unless contaminated and rejected, then processing fee is \$77.00.



First Friday Listening Rooms

The Fine Arts Center continues to host the First Friday Listening Rooms in the new year, but we'll be skipping January. The concerts are free and held at the Center. There are light refreshments at 5 p.m. and the music runs from 6-8 p.m. **February 2** is songwriter and recording artist, **Leslie Brooks**. On **March 1**, **Bud Bennett** wants to show you the banjo is not just for bluegrass anymore. Please check our website at FACNRV.org for details.

Acrylics Painting Classes

Popular local artist and teacher, Ernie Ross, will be offering a sequence of classes for those who want to learn to paint with acrylics. Both classes occur on Saturdays from 1-3 p.m. at the Center and run for six sessions.

Acrylic Painting for Beginners runs from January 6 through February 10. **Intermediate Acrylics** runs from February 17 through March 23. Advanced registration is required. Please visit our website at FACNRV.org/classes to register and find a list of necessary materials.

Quilt Raffle

Members of the Draper Quilt and Art Collective have hand-crafted a beautiful king-size quilt to be raffled off by the Fine Arts Center. This collectible quilt is washable and uses the Log Cabin pattern but with a contemporary color palette. Tickets can be purchased at the Center or on the FAC website at FACNRV.org.



117 Edwards Hall, NRCC
 *Second Saturdays, October-April
 *FREE ADMISSION
 Donations accepted to help pay band expenses.
 *Bands subject to change.
 *Doors Open: 5:00 p.m.
 *Music: 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

***January 13, 2024**
Jaelyn Taylor & 21 South
New Ballard's Branch Bogtrotters

***February 10, 2024**
Mountain Thunder
Gap Civil

***March 9, 2024**
Java Brothers
Marshall Page & Coal Mountain



NEW RIVER
 Community College

www.nr.edu/concerts **NRCCConcerts** (540) 674-3625

Package thefts from a citizen’s porch are a continuing problem not just in Pulaski County, but all across America. A few things you can do to help lessen your chances of becoming a victim is to install video cameras and post signs that says that video cameras are in use. Thieves hate being recorded on video. You can also ask your neighbors to keep an eye out for a particular package if you’re expecting a special delivery. Another thing that you can do is register with the post office to let you know what mail you can be expecting. You can do this by going to www.usps.com and register for Informed Delivery. Once registered, you will receive an email with pictures showing what mail you should be looking for when it’s delivered. If you have elderly relatives or someone that is not very tech savvy, please help them get registered. As always, Pulaski County Sheriff’s Office is here to help you anytime that we are needed. Thank you so much for the support, it is greatly appreciated.

Sheriff Mike Worrell



Free books for kids ages 0-4!



If your child lives in Pulaski County and is under the age of 5, he or she can receive a free book in the mail every month through the Imagination Library.

Partly funded by the Pulaski County Library System, you can sign up at a library branch or online.

Register by going to:

imaginationlibrary.com
or
pclibs.org

Or email Kristine at k Saunders@pclibs.org



New Year Reminders from the Commissioner of the Revenue Office

General Reminders:

- Now is a great time to update your DMV record due to an address change or disposition of a vehicle. The DMV updates our office of these changes. Keep a record of taxable property discarded or sold.
- Thinking of starting a new business this year? Resource information for new and existing businesses can be found at the top of our webpage (<https://www.pulaskicounty.org/cor>) under “Business Info At A Glance”.
- Are you using your home to provide short-term room rentals to the general public? If so, complete the necessary paperwork in our office for the local taxes you’ve collected from your customers. Contact Deputy Commissioner, Sabrina Bishop for more information.
- Business License renewal paperwork is due by **March 1** every year. Contact Deputy Commissioner Terri Earles if you have questions.
- Real Estate Tax Relief applications are due by **April 1**. Applicants must be permanently disabled or 65 years or older to apply. Contact our office for more information.
- Veteran Real Estate Tax Exemption applications are requested by **April 1**. Veterans must meet the 100% service-connected permanent and total disability requirement. Official documentation is required from the U.S. Dept. of Veteran Affairs. A surviving spouse may also apply.
- A tax exemption on one motor vehicle as of January 1, 2021 is also allowed for 100% service-connected totally disabled veterans. The vehicle must be used by or for the Veteran. For more information contact our office.
- Surviving spouse of an individual killed in the line of duty such as law-enforcement, emergency response, correctional officer, etc. may apply for a real estate tax exemption. For more information contact our Real Estate Department at (540) 980-7753.

Income Tax Reminders:

- Need help filing your Virginia State Income Tax? The Commissioner’s Office provides FREE state tax filing assistance to our residents all year. The filing deadline is **May 1**.
- Need help filing your Federal Income Tax? New River Community Action continues to service Pulaski County by offering FREE help through their Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program for those who qualify. Call (540) 320-3217 for more information.

Pulaski County Commissioner of the Revenue Office

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Kim Matthews, Commissioner of the Revenue