

# New River Valley News & Views

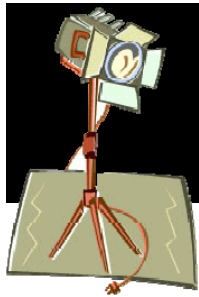


NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

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## “Pulaski County Community Development Block Grant: Baskerville Neighborhood Rehab Project” in the Spotlight

The PDC has assisted Pulaski

County with its application for a Community Development Block Grant from the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), a state agency whose priority is creating safe, affordable, and prosperous communities in Virginia. The Baskerville Neighborhood Rehabilitation Project area is located southwest of the Town of Dublin in Pulaski County, Virginia and proposes to provide housing rehabilitation, substantial reconstruction, and water and sewer line upgrades to the community.

The Baskerville Housing Rehabilitation Project was brought to the County’s attention during one of its annual CDBG public hearings geared toward receiving general comments from the citizens on potential needs. Representatives from the Peoples Community Partnership of Dublin spoke to the County’s Board of Supervisors during their January 2008 Board meeting and described the need for safe and sanitary housing in the Baskerville neighborhood. Shortly thereafter, the County applied to DHCD for a Planning Grant to help evaluate the area and define the needs to be addressed.

A thorough needs assessment revealed that many of the homes in the neighborhood are either stick built homes well over 50 years old or mobile homes that are in various states of disrepair. As the neighborhood’s population continues to age, the ability to continue suitable upkeep of property diminishes greatly. Out of the 39 dwellings located in the project area, two dwellings (5%) are vacant, two (5%) are rental units, and 35 (90%) are owner-occupied. Proposed project improvements include the rehabilitation of 11 income eligible, owner-occupied dwellings, the rehabilitation of one income eligible rental dwelling, and the substantial reconstruction of six income eligible owner-occupied dwellings deemed unsuitable for rehabilitation. It also includes the demolition of one vacant and blighted structure. Those homes slated for substantial reconstruction will involve the demolition of the existing structure and the construction of a new home in its place.

The project will also include a component of water and sewer line upgrades, to be designed by Draper Aden Associates.

The County has requested \$1,000,000 from DHCD for this project and will leverage \$47,000 in local funds, \$207,000 in HOME funds, \$25,000 from Southeast Rural

Community Assistance Program (SERCAP), \$180,000 in State HOME funds, and \$45,000 in State Weatherization funds available through Community Housing Partners, for a \$1,504,000 total project budget.

The County should be notified if its application has been funded by July of 2010. For further information, please contact Jennifer Wilsie at (540) 639-9313, ext. 204.



Pictured above: Potential Housing Rehabilitation Beneficiaries

## NRVPDC Commissioners

- **FLOYD COUNTY**  
EVELYN JANNEY  
FRED GERALD
- **GILES COUNTY**  
RICHARD MCCOY  
VACANT
- **MONTGOMERY COUNTY**  
ANNETTE PERKINS  
JAMES POLITIS  
MIKE HARVEY
- **PULASKI COUNTY**  
JOSEPH SHEFFEY  
SHAWN UTT
- **CITY OF RADFORD**  
HELEN HARVEY  
THOMAS STARNES, CHAIR
- **TOWN OF BLACKSBURG**  
DON LANGREHR  
HOLLY LESKO
- **TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG**  
HENRY SHOWALTER  
SCOTT WEAVER, TREASURER
- **TOWN OF FLOYD**  
MIKE PATTON
- **TOWN OF NARROWS**  
TOM GARRETT
- **TOWN OF PEARISBURG**  
REBECCA MOSES, VICE CHAIR
- **TOWN OF PULASKI**  
JEFF BAIN  
LARRY CLEVINGER
- **TOWN OF RICH CREEK**  
DARLENE FRENCH
- **RADFORD UNIVERSITY**  
VACANT
- **VIRGINIA TECH**  
DAVID DENT  
KEVIN SULLIVAN

KEVIN R. BYRD, AICP  
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
 kbyrd@nrvc.org

## NRVPDC Updates

### Town of Pearisburg Local Planning Assistance

The Town of Pearisburg Zoning Ordinance update is in the final process of being formalized with text changes complete. Changes to the zoning map are currently being analyzed. A joint public hearing is scheduled for April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The update to this ordinance and the Town of Pearisburg Subdivision Ordinance in 2008 include changes required by law and is in keeping with the Town Comprehensive Plan. Updates to the Zoning Ordinance specifically address issues related to land use and will provide additional opportunities to citizens, business owners, and property owners while keeping with the needs of the Town. *For further information, please contact Jack Whitmore at (540) 639-9313, ext. 259.*

### Floyd County Comprehensive Plan Update

Floyd County is currently in the process of a Comprehensive Plan Update. This update is being completed to reflect changes that have occurred in the County since the last adopted Comprehensive Plan (2002). Focus groups have been held concerning agriculture, tourism planning, infrastructure, economic development, recreation, wellness, and solid waste management. Additional meetings will be held on these topics as well as public safety, housing, and human service issues in the County.

After the focus groups have identified specific issues and projects, it is anticipated that drafting of the Plan will begin and further community meetings will be held in different areas of the County to gain additional input from interested parties. Additional information gathering is ongoing and will provide the County with necessary tools and data to implement the Plan. *For further information, please contact Jack Whitmore at (540) 639-9313, ext. 259.*

### Town of Floyd Comprehensive Plan

The Town of Floyd has begun the process of creating a Comprehensive Plan for the Town. Prior Comprehensive Planning for the Town was included with the Floyd County Comprehensive Plan. The Town Plan will augment the County Comprehensive Plan but will also serve as a standalone document. This Plan will

provide the Town with implementation strategies and data for decisions involving future land use, transportation, economic development, and housing. *For further information, please contact Jack Whitmore at (540) 639-9313, ext. 259.*

### NRV HOME Consortium

Per HUD regulations, every three years, member jurisdictions in a HOME Consortium are required to renew their participation. In part, the HOME presentations given by Consortium staff over the past few months at Councils and Boards of Supervisors across the region have been to inform these governing bodies of the successes the Consortium has seen over the past three years and to encourage their continued participation. The work of the Consortium has been enthusiastically received and has served as a prominent example of regionalism at work in the New River Valley. *For further information, please contact Jennifer Wilsie at (540) 639-9313, ext. 204.*

### Mobility Management

The New River Valley Planning District Commission (PDC) is currently administering a Mobility Management Grant under DRPT, whose scope has primarily included extensive data collection and the drafting of a regional transit resource manual. Data collection will continue over the next few months with drafting of the transit manual slated to begin before the end of the fiscal year. Regular stakeholder meetings will also be held to gain feedback from key transit providers. *For further information, please contact Jennifer Wilsie at (540) 639-9313, ext. 204.*

### Green Infrastructure

Mapping for the Green Infrastructure project is mostly complete. Work is continuing on drafting a report that will provide useful information to member localities and be a valuable resource for other partner agencies.

In the coming months, the Green Infrastructure website will be revamped to include the network mapping, as well as all information gathered during this process. Please continue to check back for this information. *For further information, please contact Regina Elsner at (540) 639-9313, ext. 205.*

### New River/Mount Rogers Workforce Investment Board (WIB)

The New River/Mount Rogers Workforce Investment Board recently received \$252,991 of Stimulus Dislocated Worker funds to provide much needed employment and training services to our displaced workers. Currently we are serving over 650 Dislocated Workers across our area.

The average unemployment rate for the New River/Mount Rogers Workforce Investment Area continues to be very high and consistently above the average for the state. Recently the average unemployment rate was 9% with several jurisdictions experiencing unemployment in excess of 10%. Additionally, many displaced workers are now available for services offered under the Trade Readjustment and Assistance Act. The Workforce Investment Board continues to partner with various agencies and organizations to increase the level of services available to our citizens while maximizing available resources. *For further information, please contact Ronnie Martin at (540) 633-6764 or email [rmartin@nrfdc.org](mailto:rmartin@nrfdc.org).*

### New River Valley Hazard Mitigation Plan

The Drought Hazard Working Group met in February to discuss data available for the hazard, as well as mitigation goals, objectives, and strategies related to drought. The Geologic Hazard Working Group met in March to discuss landslides and earthquakes. On April 27, the Geologic Hazard Working Group will be discussing rockfall and Karst. Additional working groups will be meeting on the following dates to discuss specific hazards: May 25-Severe Weather, June 29-Flooding, Dam Failure, July 27-Human-caused, Wildfire.

As sections of the plan are completed, they are posted at [www.nrfdc.org/HazardMitigation/HazardMitigationPlanning.html](http://www.nrfdc.org/HazardMitigation/HazardMitigationPlanning.html). Please continue to check back as the website will be updated regularly. *For further information on Hazard Mitigation, please contact Christy Straight at [cstraight@nrfdc.org](mailto:cstraight@nrfdc.org) or Regina Elsner at [relsner@nrfdc.org](mailto:relsner@nrfdc.org) or by phone at (540) 639-9313.*

## Planning Commissioners Training Session

The New River Valley Planning District Commission will hold a training session for planning commissioners and staff on April 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the New River Valley Competitiveness Center ([6580 Valley Center Drive](#), Radford VA) located in Fairlawn.

This year's session will focus on alternative energy and modern applications in residential development. The event will include a presentation by Pat Bixler, owner of Baseline Solar Solutions.

The agenda includes:

- Land Use Applications for New Energy Technologies-Overview of alternative energy sources from large scale, industrial wind turbines to alternative household approaches and how community regulations effect the application of these newer technologies.
- Planning Commission Exercise-A chance to work with Planning Commission members from similar jurisdictions in the region on an application-based workshop scenario.
- Open Forum-Your chance to ask questions for the good of the whole and hear the speaker's and staff opinions.

Tickets are \$13.50 and include a meal. It is requested that you **RSVP prior to April 19<sup>th</sup>**, to Jack Whitmore, [jwhitmore@nrvdc.org](mailto:jwhitmore@nrvdc.org) to ensure an accurate headcount.

This event was planned and coordinated by New River Valley staff planners via bi-monthly round table discussions. *For further information, please contact Jack Whitmore at (540) 639-9313, ext. 259.*

## NRVPDC Commission Meeting Summaries

### February 25, 2010

#### **State Budget:**

- House proposed 15% reduction
- Senate proposed elimination of PDC funding
- Call to Action: Explain PDC serves core function in State government
- Mayor Starnes made contact on behalf of NRVPDC
- Potential need to contact conferees Friday and Monday

#### **Energy Grants:**

- Governor formal announcement today or Friday
- Informally: City of Radford - \$23,000
- Feasibility Study for Bio-mass project

#### **Economic Development Administration Grant:**

- Community Trade Adjustment Assistance Program: Auto industry: Volvo and supply chain
- Potential application with VT Office of Economic Development, NRVPDC to be lead applicant
- Partnering with Roanoke & Mt. Rogers PDCs
- Marketing assistance from economic developers

#### **VAPDC Winter Conference:**

- Secretary of Commerce, Honorable Jim Chang
- Double Governor's Opportunity Fund (\$12 mil to \$24)
- Increase incentives for Film Industry
- Energy capital of east coast (off shore oil and wind turbines)
- Trade offices in China and India (\$1 mil for each office)
- Working to establish a Deputy Secretary for Rural VA

#### **Regional Broadband:**

- Announced VT Foundation received funding for "diversity line" from Bedford through Craig County.
- NRV Network Wireless Authority not funded, but working on an application for round 2. Revising pro-forma and potentially increasing service area.

### March 25, 2010

#### **State Budget:**

- Conference Committee recommended 15% reduction in funds for PDCs (\$77,720 to \$66,062) down from 2007 funding of \$90,000
- 27% reduction in 3 years
- VAPDC Strategic Planning next week to address state funding in future

#### **Regional Partnerships:**

- County Administrators/Town Managers/Regional Agency Directors meet and discuss ways to work together to save funds, time and decrease duplication of resources
- Next meeting will focus on IT services

#### **NRV Tourism Website:**

- Grant from VA Tourism Corporation and local match
- Regional website "without borders" highlighting the green/cultural heritage experiences in the NRV
- RFP for website designer released on 3/23, sent to 6 local firms, bids are due April 19<sup>th</sup>
- Thanks to Montgomery County staff for RFP review

#### **Local Planning Commissioner Training:**

- April 19<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-9:00 p.m.
- Focus on alternative energy systems: Wind Turbines (small and large) and Solar
- PDC staff working on developing large wind energy system ordinance for localities

**Presentation:** Todd Christensen, Executive Director, Southwest Virginia Cultural Heritage Commission. Mr. Christensen presented slides showing the new Heartwood: Southwest Virginia's Artisan Gateway.

*NRVPDC Commission meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of every month, 6:00 p.m. at the New River Valley Competitiveness Center in Fairlawn. All meetings are open to the public.*



## NRV Economic Indicators

### Population

Provisional population estimates for 2009 show that the New River Valley increased in population (474 persons) from 2008. Montgomery County showed the largest increase (661 persons).

Jurisdiction	2009 Provisional Estimates	2008 Final
Floyd County	15,418	15,173
Giles County	16,648	16,444
Montgomery County	91,395	90,734
Pulaski County	34,167	34,409
Radford City	15,142	15,536
NRVPDC	172,770	172,296
Virginia	7,882,590	7,795,424

Source: Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, UVA Demographics & Workforce Group, 2010.

### Taxable Sales

The dollar amount of taxable sales decreased throughout most of the NRV jurisdictions between the 3rd and 4th quarters of 2009. Montgomery County showed the largest increase (\$4,440,892) with Pulaski County showing the largest decrease (\$5,715,989).

TAXABLE SALES		
Jurisdiction	2009 3rd Qtr	2009 4th Qtr
Floyd County	16,534,748	15,485,046
Giles County	32,801,674	30,470,817
Montgomery County	225,417,898	229,858,790
Pulaski County	77,051,153	71,335,164
Radford City	15,984,557	17,413,517

Source: Virginia Department of Taxation.

### New Vehicle Registrations

Car and truck registrations decreased throughout the District between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters of 2009. Montgomery County showed the largest decrease in car registrations with Floyd County showing the largest decrease in truck registrations, 275 and 18 respectively.

CAR REGISTRATIONS		
Jurisdiction	3rd Qtr 2009	4th Qtr 2009
Floyd County	84	39
Giles County	91	52
Montgomery County	580	305
Pulaski County	174	93
Radford City	78	37
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,007</b>	<b>526</b>

Source: Virginia Automobile Dealers Association.

TRUCK REGISTRATIONS		
Jurisdiction	3rd Qtr 2009	4th Qtr 2009
Floyd County	24	6
Giles County	20	20
Montgomery County	65	56
Pulaski County	28	25
Radford City	15	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>118</b>

Source: Virginia Automobile Dealers Association.


## NRV Transportation News

The Bikeway-Walkway and Technical Advisory Committees met on the 16<sup>th</sup> of March to discuss a variety of regional projects and local planning initiatives. The Bikeway-Walkway Committee was joined by special guests from the Roanoke Valley Alleghany Regional Commission to discuss bicycle friendly communities. The presentation sparked interest amongst meeting participants to explore the official designation of bicycle friendly communities within their respective jurisdictions.

The Transportation Technical Advisory Committee reviewed the draft Rural Transportation Work Program. The FY 2011 work program is slated to receive level funding from FY 2010. The program proposes to provide assistance to VDOT on statewide plans, a corridor study in Montgomery County, and potentially partnering with the Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Montgomery Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for a study on transit in the region. The work program as presented will continue to be a resource offering staff and technical assistance to a variety of communities in the region.

The Bikeway, Walkway, Blueway Plan is steadily progressing the last few months as individual meetings with jurisdictions in the region are completed. The draft document is scheduled to be prepared by mid May. This will be the first plan update in 10 years and will include existing facilities and future planning for each jurisdiction in the region.

The Rural Long-Range Plan will be preliminarily reviewed by the Planning District Commission and Virginia Department of Transportation prior to local jurisdiction reviews. The PDC will send content specific sections of the plan to TAC representatives for a thorough review. Once the preliminary review is complete, a draft of the document will be made available for public comment in June. For further information on transportation related issues, please contact Elijah Sharp at (540) 639-9313, ext. 210.



April 1, 2010 was National Census Day, have you mailed back your census form yet?

The Census Bureau has estimated that if every household completed and mailed back their census form, taxpayers could reduce the cost of taking the census by **\$1.5 billion**. The Census Bureau saves about \$85 million in operational costs for every percentage point increase in the nation's participation rate by mail.

As of March 31, 2010, the national census participation rate was 50% and Virginia was 55%. The New River Valley's participation rates were as follows: Montgomery County, 52%; Pulaski County, 59%; Giles County, 59%; Floyd County, 61%; and the City of Radford, 48%. Visit <http://2010.census.gov> and click on mail participation rate to find out how your locality is responding to the Census. Source: <http://2010.census.gov>

# April 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

## Meetings

- April 1-MPO Policy Board Meeting-MC Gov't Center-2 p.m.
- April 6-Blacksburg PC-7:30 p.m.
- April 7-Radford Transit Committee-1:30 p.m.
- April 12-Pulaski Town PC-6 p.m.; Pearisburg PC- 7 p.m.
- April 13-Pulaski PC-7 p.m.
- April 14-Montgomery PC-7 p.m.
- April 15-MPO TAC-MC Gov't Center-10 a.m.
- April 19-Radford PC-7 p.m.
- April 20-Floyd PC-7p.m.
- April 21-Montgomery PC-7 p.m.
- April 22-NRVPDC Commission Mtg.-6 p.m.
- April 27-Giles PC-6:30 p.m.; Hazard Mitigation Mtg.-NRVPDC-9 a.m.

# May 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29

## Meetings

- May 4-Blacksburg PC-7:30 p.m.
- May 6-MPO Policy Board Meeting-MC Gov't Center-2 p.m.
- May 10-Pulaski Town PC-6 p.m.; Pearisburg PC- 7 p.m.
- May 11-Pulaski PC-7 p.m.
- May 12-Montgomery PC-7 p.m.; NRV Commerce Park-Noon
- May 17-Radford PC-7 p.m.
- May 18-BWWW Mtg-NRVPDC-11:30 a.m.; TAC Mtg-NRVPDC-1:30 p.m.; Floyd PC-7p.m.;
- May 19-Montgomery PC-7 p.m.
- May 20-MPO TAC-MC Gov't Center-10 a.m.
- March 25-Giles PC-6:30 p.m.; Hazard Mitigation Mtg.-NRVPDC-9 a.m.
- May 27-NRVPDC Commission Mtg.-6 p.m.

# THE COMPETITIVE EDGE

Official Publication of the New River Valley Competitiveness Center  
A Small Business Incubator

Shawn Utt/Doug Hudson,  
Acting Incubator Managers

April – May 2010

## IRS Tax Support to Small Businesses

For those of you who are not aware, the IRS provides a Small Business/Self-Employed Virtual Small Business Tax Workshop. This extensive workshop is designed to help new and existing small business owners understand and meet their federal tax obligations. There are 9 lessons covered through the Business Tax Workshop:



1. Federal taxes and your new business
2. Setting up and running a new business
3. Paying your taxes using a computer (Sole proprietors, partnerships, Corporations, Charities/Non-profits)
4. Running your business out of your home
5. Retirement plans for owner & employees
6. Federal Taxes when hiring employees/contractors
7. How to manage payroll so you withhold the right amount from employees.
8. Making tax deposits and filing payroll taxes
9. Federal unemployment taxes (FUTA)

To learn more about the Small Business/Self-Employed Virtual Small Business Tax Workshop, visit <http://www.irs.gov>.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Social Networking and Your Business – Understanding the Legal Aspects:** Breakfast Briefing Sponsored by the Pulaski Chamber of Commerce and offered by Baker-Donelson Law Firm; Tuesday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am; MK's Pizzeria located at 4941 State Park Road, Dublin, VA 24084. For additional information, contact the Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce at 540-674-1991.

**Small Business Fundamentals Series** – The Radford Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring monthly workshops focused on the quirks of running a small business. On April 6<sup>th</sup>, the focus will be on **Risk Management** while the series spotlights **Small Business Start-up** on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Workshop sessions are held at the Chamber offices located at 200 Third Avenue, Radford, VA. For additional information, contact the offices at 540-639-2202 or visit their website at [www.radfordchamber.com](http://www.radfordchamber.com).

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**Pulaski County Small Business Expo 2010: *Standing the Test of Time*** - The Pulaski County Small Business Expo will be held Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 1210 E. Main Street, Pulaski, VA (aka, the "old Lee Jeans building"). Exhibit space is still available. If interested in participating, contact the Chamber offices at 540-674-1991 or visit their website at [www.pulaskichamber.info](http://www.pulaskichamber.info).

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**FREE SUSTAINABILITY WORKSHOP FOR NRV  
BUSINESSES**

*go green NRV* is happy to announce a free upcoming workshop available to all NRV businesses looking to 'go green' and learn how to participate in the *go green NRV* initiative.

The workshop will be held **Thursday, April 29<sup>th</sup>** at Mountain Lake Conservancy and Hotel in Pembroke, VA from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Workshop includes a complimentary lunch for all guests, informational session on calculating a business' carbon footprint, overview of the go green NRV program, and a tour of Mountain Lake to learn how the Hotel and Conservancy are using eco-friendly practices on the mountain.

Participating in the *go green NRV* initiative will help your business save money, improve employee wellness and productivity, increase marketing edge over competition, be a part of the new green economy, and most importantly, conserve resources and protect the environment.

To register for the workshop, please e-mail Emily Woodall at [mlc@mountainlakehotel.com](mailto:mlc@mountainlakehotel.com) or call her at 540-626-7121 x444. Carpooling options available; please indicate your interest when registering. Space is limited, so register early! Registration deadline is **Monday, April 19<sup>th</sup>**.

*go green NRV* was established in the Fall 2008 to promote a Green Business Program for businesses in the New River Valley and is currently represented by companies in Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, and Pulaski counties, and the City of Radford. For more information on participating in the go green NRV initiative please visit: [www.gogreenrv.com](http://www.gogreenrv.com).

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**For Competitiveness Center information contact:**  
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Phone: (540) 633-6730 Fax: (540) 633-6768  
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**New River Valley Planning District Commission**  
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## RIDE Solutions: May is Bike Month!

Jan R. Gilbertson, Newsletter Editor  
 jgilbertson@nrvdc.org

RIDE Solutions is partnering with other local organizations to celebrate Bike Month. There are several events already planned including a chance for you to get a free, basic tune-up for your bike in April. More information and events will be posted on-line at [www.ridesolutions.org/cleancommute/index.shtml](http://www.ridesolutions.org/cleancommute/index.shtml), but here's what's planned for now:

**Fix Fest and Bike Swap**  
 April 17, 9am to noon —Draper Avenue adjacent to the Blacksburg Farmer's Market

**Fix Fest:** Dust off your bike, pump up the tires, and grease the chain. Spring is here! You can bring your bike downtown for a free check and basic tune up. Local bike shops —Bike Barn, East Coasters, and Hokie Spokes—will be on hand with mechanics

offering basic services. (Participants that require part replacement or more involved repairs will be referred to the bike shops.)

**Bike Swap:** Come out and barter, trade, buy or sell bike-related goods. Anyone with a surplus of road, mountain or commuter bike stuff (e.g., frames components, clothing or complete bikes) can reserve a sellers' space at the Bike Swap. Contact for the bike swap is Ed Hokanson at (540)552-7825 or by email at [edh@email.com](mailto:edh@email.com). Presented by Sustainable Blacksburg and sponsors: NRV Bicycling Association, Town of Blacksburg, RIDE Solutions, Hokie Spokes, Bike Barn, East Coasters

**Clean Commute Fridays**  
 Every Friday in May

Clean Commute participants will pledge to use a cleaner commute mode – biking, walking, riding the bus, carpooling – on one or more Fridays in May. Each day pledged is an entry for the prize drawing which will include a variety of prizes. You can make your pledge and sign up on-line at the website listed above. Bike to Work routes (NRV routes are being added this month) are also available to help get you ready for Clean Commute Fridays. You can also enter the Cleanest Team competition.

Blacksburg's designated Clean Commute day is May 21. Hospitality stations will be set up at Blacksburg's Farmer's Market and the Corporate Research Center during the morning commute (7:30 to 9 am). For further information, contact Christy Straight at [cstraight@nrvdc.org](mailto:cstraight@nrvdc.org) or (540) 639-9313, ext. 209.

*We're on the web at [nrvdc.org](http://nrvdc.org)*

**If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically, please email [nrvdc@nrvdc.org](mailto:nrvdc@nrvdc.org).**