

# New River Valley News & Views



NEW RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

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## “New River Valley Regional Tourism Website” in the Spotlight



A tourism partnership project with support from the Chambers of Commerce, Visitors Centers, local governments, and the New River Valley Planning District Commission unveiled a new regional tourism website on May 31<sup>st</sup>. The regional tourism site, found at <http://www.ExploreNewRiverValley.com>, provides information on outdoor recreation (paddle sports, fishing, trails), cultural activities (events, museums, music), and other tourist attractions and destinations within the New River Valley.

Tourism in the New River Valley has become increasingly important to the region’s economy in the past several years and the Blue Ridge Highlands (Washington to Franklin County, including the whole New River Valley) has become one of the top tourism destinations in Virginia. According to the Virginia Tourism Corporation, the Blue Ridge Highlands region of Virginia

generated \$637 million in revenue, supported more than 7,500 jobs and provided nearly \$50 million in state and local taxes.

The tourism industry proved fairly resilient to the economic downturn. 2009 was a very challenging year for the industry; however, the losses experienced in the New River Valley were less severe than many other communities. Revenues in the Blue Ridge Highlands declined by 5% in 2009 compared to the previous year. In contrast, the state as a whole lost 8% and Virginia remained highly competitive compared to other states. While all industry sectors were lagging in 2009, the tourism industry in the New River Valley showed significant signs of sustained vitality.

So, what makes this area attractive to visitors? According to the Virginia Tourism Corporation, mountains/hills and the scenic beauty of the area top the list for why visitors travel to the New River Valley. When

visitors familiar with the area were asked what the area had to offer, the top three responses were that the region is relaxing, good for families, and offers a lot for outdoor recreation. When asked what the region offers to a significant degree, visitors responded with scenic drives, hiking, wildlife viewing, camping, interesting small towns and villages, good place to walk/stroll, and warm friendly people at the top of their lists. The New River Valley has a lot to offer to those of varying vacation preferences, from extreme sports to family friendly activities.

To further capitalize on the growing tourism trend in the New River Valley, <http://www.ExploreNewRiverValley.com> was created. The site provides a clearinghouse for information for visitors and residents so that they may enjoy all that the New River Valley has to offer. For further information, please contact Brad Mecham at [bmecham@nrvpdc.org](mailto:bmecham@nrvpdc.org) or by phone at (540) 639-9313, ext. 206.

## NRVPDC Commissioners

- **FLOYD COUNTY**  
FRED GERALD  
EVELYN JANNEY
  - **GILES COUNTY**  
RICHARD MCCOY  
VACANT
  - **MONTGOMERY COUNTY**  
RAY CHAMBERS  
ANNETTE PERKINS
  - **PULASKI COUNTY**  
CHARLES BOPP  
JOSEPH SHEFFEY  
DOUG WARREN
  - **CITY OF RADFORD**  
HELEN HARVEY  
TIM COX
  - **TOWN OF BLACKSBURG**  
DON LANGREHR  
HOLLY LESKO, CHAIR
  - **TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG**  
HENRY SHOWALTER  
SCOTT WEAVER, TREASURER
  - **TOWN OF FLOYD**  
MIKE PATTON, VICE CHAIR
  - **TOWN OF NARROWS**  
TOM GARRETT
  - **TOWN OF PEARISBURG**  
VACANT
  - **TOWN OF PULASKI**  
LARRY CLEVINGER  
MORGAN WELKER
  - **TOWN OF RICH CREEK**  
GARY EATON
  - **RADFORD UNIVERSITY**  
RICHARD ALVAREZ
  - **VIRGINIA TECH**  
DAVID DENT  
KEVIN SULLIVAN
- KEVIN R. BYRD, AICP  
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
[kbyrd@nrvpdc.org](mailto:kbyrd@nrvpdc.org)



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## NRVDC Updates

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### **Town of Floyd Comprehensive Plan**

PDC staff are continuing to assist the Town of Floyd Planning Commission and staff in development of the Town's first Comprehensive Plan document focusing solely on the Town. Prior to this effort, the Town and Floyd County maintained a joint comprehensive plan that covered both localities. The Town Planning Commission is currently reviewing draft plan information. For further information, please contact [Patrick Burton](mailto:patrick.burton@nrvc.org) at (540) 639-9313, ext. 217.

### **Radford Local Planning Assistance**

PDC staff are providing assistance to the City of Radford Planning Commission and staff in updating the City's Subdivision Ordinance. This process is just getting underway. An advisory committee consisting of City Planning Commission members will be involved in developing the update. For further information, please contact [Patrick Burton](mailto:patrick.burton@nrvc.org) at (540) 639-9313, ext. 217.

### **Pulaski County Subdivision Ordinance**

PDC staff are continuing to provide assistance to the County Planning Commission and staff in updating the County's Subdivision Ordinance. This effort involves an advisory committee consisting of representatives of the Planning Commission, the development community, and County staff. For further information, please contact [Patrick Burton](mailto:patrick.burton@nrvc.org) at (540) 639-9313, ext. 217.

### **Baskerville Neighborhood Rehabilitation Project**

The Baskerville Neighborhood Rehabilitation project continues to proceed at a steady pace. The first round of applications, consisting of 12 properties, have been processed and three of those properties have been approved by the Housing Oversight Board for construction rehabilitation. Pulaski County has received funding to complete 18 housing rehabilitations, and applications will continue to be taken until all 18 eligible households have been identified. Walk-throughs to document the scope of work and costs, asbestos and termite inspections, and preliminary title searches have been conducted for the first round (12

properties). The first three houses to be bid out for construction are slated for late May with construction to follow in June. This Rehabilitation project is being funded through the Department of Housing and Community Development's Community Development Block Grant Program and is being leveraged with HOME Consortium funds. For further information, please contact [Ken Hall](mailto:ken.hall@nrvc.org) at (540) 639-9313, ext. 208.

### **Transportation Equipment Manufacturing Competitiveness Initiative Update (TEMCI)**

Upon completing letters of intent and submitting formal applications, six companies' projects within the New River Valley, Mount Rogers, and Roanoke Valley regions were awarded funding from the Economic Development Administration's Trade Adjustment Assistance program. Nearly \$1.67 million was awarded to the New River Valley Planning District Commission to aid transportation equipment manufacturers and in this first round, nearly half a million dollars has been divvied out to the six companies with nine projects total. These projects also produced nearly \$200,000 in private investment from the six companies.

The companies that have received funding are Volvo Trucks North America, Volvo Logistics, Salem Vent, Imperial Group of Dublin, Dynax America, and Metalsa of Roanoke. Each of these companies has been assigned a faculty member from Virginia Tech's Center for High Performance Manufacturing, or other department, or staff from GENEDGE ALLIANCE to provide technical assistance for each of the projects. Many of the projects focus on process improvements, while two of the projects will develop new products and two will contribute to green technologies. These three focus areas were previously determined and the nine projects provide a broad spectrum of projects, which was the original intent of the grant.

These projects will all be completed within a twelve month period. At the end of these twelve months, results will be measured by job creation and retention as well as the overall

strengthening of the transportation manufacturing industry in western Virginia which provides thousands of jobs to local workers.

A second round of funding will commence in the fall where the remainder of the grant will be awarded to applicant companies who meet the criteria for funding. Marketing efforts will begin in the early summer to notify companies of this opportunity to strengthen their individual company, strengthen the transportation equipment manufacturing industry, and strengthen the regional economy as a whole. For further information, please contact [Brad Mechem](mailto:brad.mechem@nrvc.org) at (540) 639-9313, ext. 206.

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

While federal funding to support programs under the Workforce Investment Act for next year has been approved, the specific language of the bill is currently being interpreted by the Department of Labor. It is anticipated that funding for the Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth programs will be funded at a 15% reduction over current funding levels. The Workforce Investment Board, in partnership with the Chief Local Elected Officials, has approved funding for program operations beginning July 1, 2011 in anticipation of funding authorization from the Department of Labor. Service levels will be reduced by at least 15% while demand for program services continues to rise, especially with the Dislocated Worker program. Grants currently being operated under the CREATES (Green Initiative) and HITE (Health Information Technology Education) initiatives are very active with over 500 customers being served. The WIB has partnered with local organizations to submit a proposal to fund another CREATES grant beginning in 2012 as well as partnering in other grant opportunities to secure outside funding to better serve and meet the employment and training needs of the citizens of our area. For further information, please contact [Ronnie Martin](mailto:ronnie.martin@nrvc.org) at (540) 633-6764 or email [rmartin@nrvc.org](mailto:rmartin@nrvc.org).



## PDC Welcomes New Staff Members



The PDC welcomes **Kim Thurlow** to its staff. Kim has a B.A. in Environmental Law and Policy from American University and an M.S. in Environmental Science from

The Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. Before landing in the New River Valley five years ago, Kim worked for six years with The Nature Conservancy as a conservation planner where she coordinated multidisciplinary research and community outreach projects and guided the development of management, strategic and land use plans for a variety of non-profit organizations and government agencies. Most recently, Kim served as Assistant Director of Virginia Tech's Catawba Sustainability Center where her work focused on program development and coordinating projects related to sustainable land use practices and local economic development. In her new role, Kim will be coordinating the New River Valley Livability Initiative. She can be reached at (540) 639-9313, ext. 202 or [kthurlow@nrvpdc.org](mailto:kthurlow@nrvpdc.org).

The PDC would also like to welcome **Carol Davis** to its staff. Carol is a lifetime Virginia resident. Growing up in the Northern Virginia suburbs, Carol moved down to southwest Virginia in the late 1980s to attend Virginia Tech – and fell in love with the area. Carol joins the staff as the new Community Outreach Facilitator for the Livability Initiative. She recently completed an interdisciplinary degree in Environmental Policy & Planning and Sociology at Virginia Tech. Professionally, Carol's background has focused on addressing the affordable housing needs of very low income households with Community Housing Partners across the Appalachian and Blue Ridge regions. Carol is excited to participate in this regional effort to build upon the region's unique cultural and natural assets to enhance the quality of life for all of the New River Valley's citizens. Carol can be reached at (540) 639-9313, ext. 219 or [cdavis@nrvpdc.org](mailto:cdavis@nrvpdc.org).



## NRVPDC Commission Meeting Summaries

### April 28, 2011

#### Economic Development

- CEDS committee held first meeting on April 19 and discussed projects for inclusion 2012.
- The Commerce Park Participation Committee released an RFP for strategic planning services with work to be completed July 2011 -November 2011.
- NRVPCD staff is preparing an internal and external marketing plan for the Comp. Center.
- Regional Tourism Website ribbon cutting will be 5/31 @12:00 at Competitiveness Center. Delegate Dave Nutter and Shawn Hash of Tangent Outfitters will speak.
- Transportation Equipment Manufacturing Competitiveness Initiative (TEMCI) announced 1<sup>st</sup> round of technical assistance grants for 9 projects.

#### Transportation

- VDOT Public Hearing on Six-Year Improvement Program 5/12 6:00 at Salem District Office.
- PDC to identify 3 regional priority projects.
- Regional Long-Range Plan Public Meeting April 28, 4:00-6:00 in Conference Room at Competitiveness Center. All Commissioners encouraged to arrive early and stop by the Open House style meeting.
- May is Bike Month. April 30, Fix Fest next to the Blacksburg Farmer's Market 9:00-Noon, Hospitality Stations (Promote RideSolutions) May 20 at B'burg Farmer's Market 7:30a-9:00a, May 27 Falling Branch.

#### Land Use

- PDC staff started City of Radford Subdivision Ordinance Update in April
- Railroad Heritage Area Designation meeting held in April to discuss establishing parts of western Virginia and West Virginia as a Federal Heritage Area.
- Woody Bio-mass Feasibility Conference in Wytheville hosted by RC&D April 20-21.
- Planning Commissioner Training Event held April 27. Discussed alternative water/wastewater systems.

#### Regional

- Water Supply Plan must be adopted locally by November 2011.
- Sustainable Communities Memorandum of Agreement local government approval due May 28<sup>th</sup> (Floyd County, Montgomery County, Pulaski County, Radford, Blacksburg, Christiansburg).

#### PDC

- Project Coordinator hired for Regional Sustainable Communities project, Kim Thurlow formerly Assistant Director of Catawba Sustainability Center.

### May 26, 2011

#### Economic Development

- CEDS committee held second meeting on May 17 and discussed projects for inclusion 2012.
- Updated project list is included in packet for Commission review and approval at May meeting.
- BAE won management contract for Arsenal. Working to set up meeting to explain PDC services and assistance available.
- Regional Tourism Website ribbon cutting will be 5/31 @12:00 at Competitiveness Center. Delegate Dave Nutter and Shawn Hash of Tangent Outfitters will speak.

#### Transportation

- VDOT Public Hearing on Six-Year Improvement Program 5/12 6:00 at Salem District Office
- Attended Greenway Trail workshop in Luray hosted by RC&D Council.
- Dept. of Conservation and Recreation will be preparing a Master Plan for New River Trail.
- May is Bike Month. April 30, Fix Fest next to the Blacksburg Farmer's Market 60+ participants. May 20 Clean Commute Day. Ride of Silence in Radford 85+ riders.

#### Land Use

- Assisted with revisions to Pulaski County Wind Energy Facility Ordinance.
- Addressing comments from Town of Floyd Planning Commission on Draft Comp. Plan.
- Railroad Heritage Area Designation held second meeting in May to discuss establishing parts of western Virginia and West Virginia as a Federal Heritage Area.
- Staff will be attending Certified Planning Commissioner Training in June and August.

#### Regional

- Water Supply Plan must be adopted locally by November 2011. Remaining to be adopted: Towns: Floyd, Narrows, Rich Creek, Glen Lyn Counties: Montgomery, Giles.
- Sustainable Communities Memorandum of Agreement local government approval due May 28<sup>th</sup> (Floyd County, Montgomery County, Pulaski County, Radford, Blacksburg)
- Heartwood Sneak Peak for NRV local governments 6/1 3:00-5:00
- Shaka Project (think tank between Lynchburg, Roanoke, NRV) shared report and asked PDC directors to help guide next steps.

#### PDC

- Cost Allocation Plan currently being reviewed by GMS Accounting Director.

*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

2009 % Living in Poverty	15.0%	11.9%	13.1%	19.0%	14.2%	27.7%	10.6%
2008 % Living in Poverty	11.9%	12.5%	20.6%	15.4%	26.7%	10.2%	
2000 - % of Population (16 & over) not in Labor Force	38.6%	41.9%	41.0%	39.3%	45.2%		
Avg. Unemployment for last 6 months	7.5%	8.2%	6.9%	7.7%	8.2%	6.6%	
March 2011 Unemployment	7.0%	7.9%	6.8%	7.4%	8.2%	6.3%	
2010 Average Unemployment	7.8%	9.1%	7.4%	9.3%	9.4%	7.0%	
2009 Annualized Unemployment	7.8%	9.2%	6.7%	11.1%	8.6%	6.7%	
2008 Annualized Unemployment	4.4%	5.5%	4.1%	6.6%	5.3%	4.0%	
Qtr 3 2010 Avg. Weekly Wage	\$493	\$689	\$742	\$612	\$743	\$931	
Qtr 2 2010 Avg. Weekly Wage	\$487	\$654	\$664	\$621	\$771	\$929	
Qtr 1 2010 Avg. Weekly Wage	\$475	\$703	\$662	\$572	\$709	\$932	
Difference from State Average	\$435	\$252	\$234	\$325	\$187		
2009 Avg. Weekly Wage	\$493	\$676	\$694	\$603	\$741	\$928	
Difference from State Average	\$22,708	\$19,951	\$16,587	\$19,133	\$27,373		
Median Household Dollar Change	(\$4,850)	(\$3,901)	(\$391)	(\$187)	(\$3,517)	(\$1,838)	
2009 Median Household Income	\$36,664	\$39,421	\$42,785	\$40,239	\$31,999	\$59,372	
2008 Median Household Income	\$41,514	\$43,322	\$43,176	\$40,426	\$35,516	\$61,210	
Per Capita Dollar Change	\$2,232	\$2,612	\$3,129	\$2,585	\$3,129	\$4,535	
2008 Per Capita Annual Personal Income	\$26,509	\$27,594	\$27,102	\$31,813	\$27,102	\$44,075	
2006 Per Capita Annual Personal Income	\$24,277	\$24,982	\$23,973	\$29,228	\$23,973	\$39,540	
% of WIA population by Jurisdiction	8.6%	9.7%	53.0%	19.6%	9.2%		
Est. Population Change from 2000 to 2010	10.1%	3.8%	12.9%	-0.7%	3.5%	13.0%	
2010 Census Count	15,279	17,286	94,392	34,872	16,408	8,001,024	
2000 Census Count	13,874	16,657	83,629	35,127	15,859	7,079,030	
Jurisdiction	Floyd County	Giles County	Montgomery County	Pulaski County	City of Radford	Virginia	

Source: US Census, Weldon Cooper Center, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Bureau of Economic Analysis, and the Virginia Workforce Connection. Courtesy of the New River/Mount Rogers Workforce Investment Board (nmwib.org)

## Labor Force and Unemployment

All NRV jurisdictions experienced increases in their labor force between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters of 2010. In addition, almost all NRV jurisdictions experienced decreases in their unemployment rate in the same time period, except Floyd County which increased (.1%).

AGGREGATE LABOR FORCE		
Jurisdiction	3rd Qtr 2010	4th Qtr 2010
Floyd County	22,695	22,706
Giles County	24,929	25,079
Montgomery County	136,744	138,669
Pulaski County	53,115	53,452
Radford City	23,922	23,928
New River Valley	261,405	263,834

Source: Virginia Employment Commission.

AVERAGE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
Jurisdiction	3rd Qtr 2010	4th Qtr 2010
Floyd County	7.1%	7.2%
Giles County	8.8%	7.8%
Montgomery County	7.2%	6.9%
Pulaski County	8.7%	7.7%
Radford City	9.5%	7.9%
New River Valley	7.8%	7.3%

Source: Virginia Employment Commission.

## NRV Transportation News

► In April, the Commission selected the top three regional priority transportation projects. The Fiscal Year 2010 – 2016 SYIP list was used as the foundation for the selections. Commissioners reviewed the projects that were not included in the State's construction program to make their selections. The 2011 – 2017 priorities selected by the Commission were: 1) Route 114 widening from Route 460 Business in Christiansburg to the Radford Army Ammunition Plant 2) Interstate 81 interchanges in Pulaski and Montgomery Counties, and the City of Radford, and 3) Route 100 widening between Pulaski and Giles Counties.

► April 26<sup>th</sup> the PDC and the Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Montgomery MPO facilitated the second regional public transportation organization stakeholder committee meeting. The group examined four different organizational models that are common in Virginia. Next steps for the study include meeting with individual stakeholders and developing implementation strategies for future organizational structures. The group will meet again in late June or early July.

► The Transportation Technical Advisory Committee met on May 17<sup>th</sup> and was joined by special guest Ray Pethtel, Senior Transportation Fellow at VTTI and Interim Director of the I-81 Coalition. Ray shared some of his previous experiences as VDOT Commissioner and Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) Chairperson. Ray also led a group discussion on developing local transportation priorities. The discussion provided TAC members insights on transportation language – how safety and congestion is interpreted differently at a local and statewide level. Mr. Pethtel also informed the TAC about the I-81 Coalition, future benefits for communities and states located along the corridor, and the potential role of PDCs in the future.

► The Bikeway-Walkway Committee also met on the 17<sup>th</sup> of May, to discuss local project updates and learn about the recent Hawksbill Greenway tour in Luray, Virginia. The committee was informed that the State Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is preparing a New River Trail Master Plan. The goal of the plan is to identify future routing to connect the Radford Riverway, the Huckleberry Trail and beyond. In addition, the Committee discussed the Regional Bikeway-Walkway-Blueway local review status. Tentative allocations for the Transportation Enhancement Program were also reviewed. A final action has not been taken by the CTB; however, if funding remains consistent, four out of six applicants from the New River Valley will receive funding. For further information on transportation related issues, please contact [Elijah Sharp](#) at (540) 639-9313, ext. 210.

# June 2011

## Meetings

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		

- June 1-Montgomery County-Blacksburg LEPC Meeting-3 p.m.
- June 2-MPO Policy Board Meeting-MC Gov't Center-2 p.m.
- June 7-Blacksburg PC-7:30 p.m.
- June 8-Montgomery PC-7 p.m.
- June 13-Pulaski Town PC-6 p.m.
- June 14- Pulaski PC-7 p.m.
- June 15-Montgomery PC-7 p.m.
- June 16-MPO TAC-MC Gov't Center-10 a.m.
- June 20-Radford PC-7 p.m.
- June 21-Floyd PC-7p.m.
- June 23-NRVPDC Commission Mtg.-6:00 p.m.
- June 27-Pearisburg PC-7 p.m.
- June 28-Giles PC-6:30 p.m.

# July 2011

## Meetings

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
31						

- July 5-Blacksburg PC-7:30 p.m.
- July 7-MPO Policy Board Meeting-MC Gov't Center-2 p.m.
- July 11-Pulaski Town PC-6 p.m.
- July 12-Pulaski PC-7 p.m.
- July 13-Montgomery PC-7 p.m.; Virginia's First-4:30 p.m.
- July 18-Radford PC-7 p.m.
- July 19-BWWW Mtg-NRVPDC-11:30 a.m.; TAC Mtg-NRVPDC-1:30 p.m.; Floyd PC-7p.m.
- July 20-Montgomery PC-7 p.m.
- July 21-MPO TAC-MC Gov't Center-10 a.m.
- July 25-Pearisburg PC-7 p.m.
- July 26-Giles PC-6:30 p.m.
- July 28 - NRVPDC Commission Mtg.-6:00 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*

*June – July 2011*

## **INTER Materials LLC Awarded 2011 Army Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Achievement Award**

INTER Materials LLC, a tenant of the Competitiveness Center, announced that the company is a recipient of the 2011 Army Small Business Innovation Research Achievement Award for its innovative low cost manufacturing technology of high ballistic performance helmets. The Achievement Awards were presented by Dr. Scott Fish, US Army Chief Scientist, at a ceremony May 20<sup>th</sup> at the Pentagon Conference Center in Washington, D.C. Dr. Francisco Folgar and his wife Mila Folgar accepted on behalf of INTER Materials. INTER Materials technology was one of eleven SBIR Phase II projects selected by the Army out of 649 eligible companies for this prestigious award that recognizes companies for their significant contributions to the Army mission and potential for commercialization.

“INTER Materials is honored to receive this recognition by the US Army. The success of this program is attributed to the hard work and dedication for our INTER Materials team, the support received from the group at the US Army Research Laboratory in Aberdeen, the efforts of our Contracting Officer Technical Representative Dr. Shawn Walsh and Dr. Brian Scott, the guidance of Dr. James Zheng, Chief Scientist at PEO Soldier, and the assistance of MILCOM Venture Partners. We are proud to be a part of the Army’s objective in lightening the load carried by the Warfighter,” said Dr. Francisco Folgar, President of INTER Materials.

INTER Materials has pioneered a manufacturing process suited for thermoplastic matrix composite materials that provides superior ballistic performance and significant weight reduction to ballistic helmets at a production rate comparable to the current process used for the incumbent Advanced Combat Helmet. This technology utilizes 70-80% of the current helmet manufacturing infrastructure, resulting in a reduction of the investment risk when adopting a new helmet system and increasing the potential for transition to commercialization. “INTER Materials technology will allow the US Army to combine superior ballistic protection with significant weight reduction at competitive manufacturing costs for their next generation to Enhanced Combat Helmets and Light Weight Advanced Combat Helmets,” continues Dr. Folgar.

The Company appreciates the opportunity given to mature its technology through the Army’s Commercialization Pilot Program after its technology was identified by MILCOM as having strong potential to transition to the Warfighter. This helmet technology also offers potential for the use of thermoplastic matrix composite materials in other Department of Defense armoring applications including military vehicles, aircraft, and personal protective equipment.

A separate SBIR Phase II Program was successfully completed in 2010 for the development of technology to increase the abrasion and scratch resistant properties of large polycarbonate and acrylic windows for helicopters using plasma coatings. The company engineered a surface coating process by incorporating an innovative multiple layer film coating using plasma deposition processes to custom design the adhesion, hardness, and erosion/abrasion resistance properties of metals, glasses and transparent plastics such as polycarbonate and acrylics. For more information, email [info@intermaterials-usa.com](mailto:info@intermaterials-usa.com).

## New River Valley Revolving Loan Fund

The New River Valley Revolving Loan Fund (NRVRLF) is available for small businesses and business start-ups in the New River Valley. The primary advantage of taking out an NRVRLF loan is that interest rates are often more competitive than commercial banks in the area. The interest rates on RLF loans are based on the Treasury Rate which are currently near historic lows. The NRVRLF works with businesses to provide financing that may not be available elsewhere. With a business friendly loan structure, the NRVRLF can help strengthen businesses in the New River Valley. Following are points regarding the basic structure of the loan:

- Revolving Loan Fund will provide no more than 40% of the total project with a maximum of \$10,000 per applicant
- Loans in excess of \$10,000 or greater than 40% of the project would require 2/3 vote of the Board of Directors of the New River Valley Development Corporation
- Anticipated loan structure: 50% from commercial or other type of lender, 40% Revolving Loan, 10% equity injection
- Interest rate will range from 3% below the five (5) year Treasury rate to 1% above the Treasury rate determined by the perceived risk

The goal of this fund is to support local businesses in their pursuit of becoming a successful and sustainable business within the New River Valley. For more information on the New River Valley Revolving Loan Fund, visit <http://nrvdc.org/dcfinance.html> or contact Brad Mecham of the New River Valley Planning District Commission at [bmecham@nrpdc.org](mailto:bmecham@nrpdc.org) or 540-639-9313, ext. 206.

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## NRV Competitiveness Center Welcomes New Tenants:

### Enertronics

Enertronics is working on next generation electronic products for renewable energy and utility grid applications. At its initial R & D stage, prototypes of utility scale transformer and electric vehicle fast chargers have been developed for field testing. The Company has teamed with major utilities and equipment manufactures to continue the development and testing. For further information, please contact [enertronics@comcast.net](mailto:enertronics@comcast.net).

### New River Security Investigations

New River Security & Investigations, Inc. (NRSI), a diversified outsourcing services company based in Wytheville, Virginia, was formed in 1986 expressly for the purpose of providing a variety of quality security support and investigative services for personal, corporate, non-profit and government organizations. NRSI professionals are specifically trained in state of the art surveillance equipment to obtain and document the evidence their clients require. Their services include:

- Employee/Employment Background Investigations
- Internal Covert Investigations
- Vehicular Accident & Reconstruction by Court Certified Experts
- Civil Wrong Doing, (Malpractice, Negligence, Product Liability)
- Corporate Protection/Investigations
- Fraud & Financial Investigations
- Workers Compensation Investigations
- Employee Theft
- ID Theft & Cyber Crimes (Terrorism & Espionage)

For more information, please contact Frankie Scott at [FScott@nrsiinc.com](mailto:FScott@nrsiinc.com), ( 276) 228-7632 or visit [www.nrsiinc.com](http://www.nrsiinc.com)

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**For Competitiveness Center information contact:**  
Shawn Utt or Doug Hudson, Acting Incubator Managers  
6580 Valley Center Drive, Suite 302, Radford, VA 24141  
Phone: 540.633.6730 Fax: 540.633.6768  
[incubatormanager@nrvdc.org](mailto:incubatormanager@nrvdc.org) or [www.nrvdc.org/nrvcc.html](http://www.nrvdc.org/nrvcc.html)



**New River Valley Planning District Commission**  
6580 Valley Center Drive, Suite 124  
Radford, VA 24141

## RIDE Solutions and Bike Month

RIDE Solutions partnered with the New River Valley Cycling Association, the Town of Blacksburg, and a number other event partners to celebrate Bike Month with two new events in Blacksburg: the *Fix Fest and Bike Swap* and a *Clean Commute Fridays* celebration.

They had a great turnout for the second annual Fix Fest in Blacksburg. Over 60 bikes were tuned up and made road-ready on April 30. Quite a few volunteers contributed to putting on this event. Without Bike Barn, East Coasters, Hokie Spokes, Sustainable Blacksburg, the New River Valley Bicycle Association, the Town of Blacksburg, and Modea giving their time and effort, this wouldn't have been possible.



On the third of four Clean Commute Fridays in May (May 20), Ride Solutions hosted a hospitality station at the Blacksburg Farmer's Market during the morning commute to thank those who take the clean commute pledge.

Every year, RIDE Solutions runs a Clean Commute campaign to encourage commuters to use a cleaner commute mode – biking, walking, riding the bus, carpooling – on one or more Fridays in May. Participants pledge to use a cleaner commute mode, register their miles online, and are entered for a prize drawing. Results for this year aren't in as of press time, but last year, 200 participants pledged nearly 10,000 miles! For more information, please contact [Christy Straight](#) at (540) 639-9313, ext. 209.

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