

# CRC'S AUGUST 2024 ITEMS OF INTEREST

## Grant Assistance:

- **Congratulations to Prince Edward County** on being awarded \$990,761.90 from the Assistance to Firefighters Grant to purchase new radios.
- **Congratulations to Blackstone Volunteer Fire Department** on being awarded \$97,409.52 from the Assistance to Firefighters Grant to purchase a vehicle exhaust system.
- **VDACS, AFID Planning Grant:** CRC is assisting Cumberland County with a grant application to partial fund the development of an Agricultural Economic Development Plan.
- **DHR, VA250:** CRC assisted the Town of Blackstone with submitting a pre-application to purchase decorative light poles, a monument sign, and curb and gutter. In addition, the town would also construct a concrete walking pad for entry to building, sidewalk, and a parking lot.
- **DHR, VA250:** CRC assisted Mary E. Branch with a pre-application to fund the stabilization of the Mary E. Branch Building.
- **VDFP, Regional Fire Services Training Facilities Grant:** CRC assisted the Town of Blackstone with submitting an application to fund the purchase propane cylinder fire simulator prop and portable fire unit for the Blackstone Regional Fire Training Center.

## Rain Barrel Workshop held in Cumberland County



The CRC partnered with the Cumberland County Virginia Cooperative Extension office to host a Rain Barrel Workshop in Cumberland County. The rain barrel workshop had about 10 kids in attendance.

The CRC is also working with Nottoway County Virginia Cooperative Extension office to incorporate a Rain Barrel Program into the curriculum of an agriculture class this fall at the Nottoway County High School.

## Lunenburg/Kenbridge/Victoria Joint Comprehensive Plan



The CRC is assisting Lunenburg County and the Towns of Kenbridge and Victoria with their joint comprehensive plan update. CRC staff attended the joint working committee meeting and presented the update to the Land Use Section. The joint working committee requested several revisions, which the CRC staff are working on to present at the next working session that is scheduled for September 5th. At this meeting, the CRC staff will also present the Special Policy Areas Section.

## Creation of the Virginia's Heartland Regional Economic Development Alliance (VHREDA) update

The CRC is helping stand up a new Regional Economic Development Organization known as VHREDA. To assist with this effort, the CRC hired a consultant known as Convergent Nonprofit solutions, LLC to begin working on the Private Campaign Fundraising for VHREDA. Six counties have agreed to participate in this new organization. The CRC worked with the attorney to establish bylaws and an agenda for the first board meeting, which was held on July 13th. At this meeting, the board discussed and approved bylaws and elected officers. On August 26th, the board approved the insurance to cover the board members, established meeting dates (every fourth Thursday at 10am), established the organization's Fiscal year (July 1 to June 30th), and set up a search committee to hire the Executive Director for the new organization. The CRC is planning on sending out a VHREDA newsletter in the near future to each of the member localities of the new organization. Stay Tuned for more updates!

## DHCD, Broadband Affordability and Adoption Plan Update



Congratulations to Prince Edward County on being awarded \$175,000 from the DHCD, Broadband Affordability and Adoption Plan. These funds will be used to develop a regional plan to conduct needs assessments, identify priorities, and develop plans with implementation strategies to address and promote digital opportunity for our region. Prince Edward served as the lead applicant for this regional initiative. The CRC assisted with this application and will serve as the consultant to complete this plan. The CRC will have eight months to complete this plan and are planning to start the process in September 2024.

## Town of Crewe Downtown Revitalization Planning Grant



The Consultant hired Hill Studio, a consultant firm based out of Roanoke, VA. Hill Studio held the first kick-off meeting on August 20th with the project management team. The project management team is made up of business owners, the Town Manager, the Town Mayor, and other community sparkplugs. During this kick-off meeting, Hill Studio discussed their roll for this project, reviewed project area, and discussed the expected outcomes of this project.

## Upcoming Funding Opportunities:

**VDACS AFID Planning Grant:** Open; Rolling Basis

**VDOF, Virginia Trees for Clean Water:** Open - Rolling Basis

**Rescue Squad Assistance Fund (RSAF):** Closed, Opens on 9/15/24

**DHR, VA 250:** Pre-app. closes on 8/30/24, Full app. opens on 9/16/24 and closes on 10/14/24

**VTC, VA250 Tourism Marketing Program:** Closes 9/17/24

**VTC, Special Events and Festivals:** Closes on 9/26/24

**VHSIP, Local Systemic Grant:** Opens on 10/31/24

The CRC provides free grant writing services for member localities and local 501C3 non-profits.