

# CRC'S SEPTEMBER 2024 ITEMS OF INTEREST

## Grant Assistance:

- Congratulations to Keysville Volunteer Fire Department on being awarded \$3,000.00 from the Virginia State Firefighters Association's Dominion Fire Grant to purchase ladder belts and hoses.
- Congratulations to Drakes Branch Volunteer Fire Department on being awarded \$43,551.00 from CENTRA Health Community Grant Request. These funds will be used to purchase SCBA airpicks, a thermal imaging camera, AED device, and LED scene light.
- Congratulations to Cumberland County on being awarded \$20,000.00 from the Tobacco Commission to partial fund the development of an Agricultural Economic Development Plan.
- VDACS, AFID Planning Grant: CRC assisted Cumberland County with a grant application to partial fund the development of an Agricultural Economic Development Plan.
- DHR, VA250: The Town of Blackstone was approved to move forward with the full application. The CRC is assisting the Town of Blackstone with submitting the full 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.

## CRC Hosted Regional FOIA and eVA Training

**Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council**

The CRC hosted a Regional Freedom of Information Act training on September 26th at the CRC office in the Training Room. Alan Gernhardt from the Virginia FOIA Council provided the training. The training had 33 attendees.



The CRC also hosted a virtual training on eVA on September 24th. Kimberly Mitchell from the Virginia Department of General Services provided this training. The training had 17 attendees.

Special thanks to Alan and Kimberly for providing both of these trainings opportunities for our region.

## Drakes Branch Building Acquisition project



CRC staff prepared and bid out the lead and asbestos abatement work for the Drakes Branch Acquisition project. The bid was posted on eVA and the Farmville Herald. The Town (with CRC assistance) hosted a pre-bid conference on September 30th at 10am at the Drakes Branch Town Hall. The pre-bid conference was well attended. The bid will close on October 15th at 3pm with a public bid opening at the Town Hall. CRC staff are working to prepare the bid documents for the demolition of the buildings for the next phase of this project.

## Rain Barrel Workshop held in Nottoway County High School



The CRC partnered with the Nottoway County Virginia Cooperative Extension office and the Nottoway County High School Agriculture Department to incorporate stormwater education and a Rain Barrel Workshop series into the curriculum of two agriculture classes in Nottoway County High School. Both classes have an estimated 20 students that participated in the second stormwater education workshop.

## Buckingham Comprehensive Plan Update



CRC staff attended the Planning Commission Work Session on September 16th. At this meeting, CRC staff reviewed the revisions to draft section 5 (Land Use) and draft section 6 (Special Policy Areas). The next planning commission work session will be held in October. CRC staff plan on making any requested revisions and present section 7 (Goals, Objectives, and Strategies).

## DHCD, Broadband Affordability and Adoption Plan Update

The CRC is serving as the consultant and has eight months to complete the regional broadband affordability and adoption plan. CRC staff held the first kick-off meeting with the DHCD project management team in September. The project management team is made up of staff members from the CRC, Counties, STEPS, Virginia Department of Health, Library systems, Internet Service providers, local school systems, etc. CRC staff also developed and shared the draft survey for project management team review. CRC staff is currently working on developing a google form, flyer, and QR code for the survey to be distributed. The CRC is coordinating and planning distribution points for this survey. Once the survey has been finalized, CRC staff will work to translate the survey into Spanish. Once all survey elements have been finalized, the CRC will distribute this survey.

## Upcoming Funding Opportunities:

VDACS AFID Planning Grant: Open; Rolling Basis

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

DHR, VA 250: Pre-app. closes on 8/30/24, Full app. opens on 9/16/24 and closes on 10/15/24

DHCD, Affordable and Special Needs Housing (ASNH): Open

DHCD, Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD): Letter of Intent open - closes on 11/30/24

EDA, 2023 Disaster Supplemental: Open; Rolling Basis

EDA, 2023 PWEA: Open; Rolling Basis

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

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