

Pulaski County Citizen Newsletter

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www.pulaskicounty.org

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In This Issue...

Real Estate Tax

Staycations in Pulaski County

Commissioner's Office Community Update

Pulaski County Public Schools Nutrition Program

Message from Pulaski County Animal Control

Fall Election Voter Registration

Summer Reading at the Library

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United States[®]
Census
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2020census.gov

Fill it out! Make the future count.



Citizens of Pulaski County Are Reminded to Complete the U.S. Census

Pulaski County Administration is reminding citizens of the importance of completing their Census form if they have not done so already. In April, Census officials mailed postcards to every household in America, with instructions on completing the 2020 Census; however, with the outbreak of COVID-19 bringing our nation to a standstill many residents have forgotten about the 10-year count that has taken place in the United States since 1790. Article I, Section 2 of the United States Constitution mandates a ten year census of the nation and the 2020 count will mark the 24th time the country has counted its population.

Anthony Akers, Assistant County Administrator, serves on the Census Complete Count Committee and reports the response rate for Pulaski County as of May 19, 2020 is at 56.7% of citizens. The current national average is at 59.6% and Virginia response is at 64.7%. If any household has misplaced their Census information, they may go to My2020Census.gov and follow the simple instructions. It takes a little less than 10 minutes to complete the census. The Census provides critical data that affects the number of representatives a community receives in local, state, and national government as well as billions of dollars in federal and state funding for hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads and other valuable resources. Residents are reminded the Census Bureau will never ask you for your: full Social Security Number, banking information, political affiliation or money and donations. Pulaski County is asking local residents to help encourage their friends and loved ones who may not have completed their Census forms to do so as the results will affect every resident.

PENALTY AND INTEREST RATES SET TO 0%

The Pulaski County 2020 First Half Real Estate Taxes are due on June 5, 2020. Due to COVID-19 and the challenges and changes it has brought to our way of life, penalty and interest will NOT be charged on the 2020 First Half Real Estate Taxes until September 9, 2020. The Pulaski County Board of Supervisors made a change to the tax ordinance, for the penalty and interest rates to be set at 0% until September 5, 2020. This date falls on a Saturday, and Monday is Labor Day, so the penalty and interest will resume on September 9, 2020. The Board of Supervisors, County Administration, and the Treasurer's Office realize the burden taxpayers have and are facing due to the current pandemic. Our hope is everyone is staying safe. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the Treasurer's office at 540-980-7785.

County Treasurer
The Honorable Melinda L. Worrell
52 W. Main Street, Suite 100
Pulaski, VA 24301
Phone: 540-980-7785
Fax: 540-980-7885



Staycations in Pulaski County

This summer families will be staying close to home, but that doesn't mean you have to miss out on the fun! Staycation in Pulaski County! Here in Pulaski County you can find many exciting outdoor activities.

- * Throw a game of disc golf at Randolph Park's 18 hole disc golf course.
- * Take a bike ride down the scenic New River Trail.
- * Go fishing on the docks at Claytor Lake State Park.
- * Paddle around Gatewood Park on a paddleboard or kayak.
- * Find a rare bird while bird watching on the Dora Trail.
- * Sit on the patio and enjoy a glass of wine at any of the County's wineries.



There is something for everyone in Pulaski County. Get out and enjoy!

For more about outdoor adventure in Pulaski, visit www.visitpulaskiva.org.

Commissioner of the Revenue Office Has A New Deputy

Sabrina Bishop joined the Pulaski County Commissioner of the Revenue Office in March 2020 as a new Deputy Commissioner. She has 31 years of experience in the financial industry where she worked as an Assistant Manager and Senior Loan Officer. She is proud to be serving her community and enjoys helping others in her new role. Her free time is spent with husband Shannon and children, Samantha and Koty. Sabrina's hobbies are exploring old cars, going to "cruise-ins", and driving her 1959 Edsel. We are excited to welcome Sabrina to our team.





Pulaski County Public Schools Offers Summer Meal Service

The Pulaski County Public Schools Nutrition Program will be providing summer meals to students ages 2 through 18 (or up to age 21 for students with disabilities). Meals will be available on Mondays (2 breakfasts and 2 lunches) and on Wednesdays (3 breakfasts and 3 lunches). Meals are prepared and packaged by the Pulaski County Schools Nutrition Program staff.

Meals will be distributed from 1 to 3 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays at the following locations: Critzer Elementary, Pulaski County High School, Riverlawn Elementary and Snowville Elementary. We request students are accompanied by their parent/guardian during meal pickup. Parents/guardians should be prepared to provide student ID number(s) if children are not present during pickup.

All meals consist of a minimum of the following items: 2 oz protein, 1 oz grain, ½ cup fresh, frozen or canned fruit, ½ cup fresh, frozen or canned vegetable & 8 oz flavored or unflavored fat free or 1% bottled milk.

For more information on the summer meal service, please visit the PCPS website at www.pcva.us or call the school board office at 540-994-2550.

The past few months have been a trying time for Pulaski County and I could not be prouder of how our citizens have handled things. We have been blessed to have so many of our fine folks make donations of food and supplies to us and I cannot thank you enough. I have been so impressed and inspired when I have encountered strangers helping strangers, young people helping the elderly, and the elderly helping in any way they can. We are not through this time in our history by any means; there are still plenty of uncertain days ahead of us. Please continue to practice common sense and follow the guidelines given in order to keep yourself and your family safe and healthy. Pulaski County Sheriff's Office will continue to perform our duties and be here for our citizens anytime day or night. Thank you for your support.

Be safe and as always, call us if you need us, we never close.



Sheriff Worrell
Pulaski County Sheriff's Office

A Message from Pulaski County Animal Control — House Bill No. 1552 and SB 272 amended

A Bill to amend and reenact § 3.2-6500 and 3.2-6543 of the Code of Virginia, relating to tethering animals; adequate shelter and space

Tethering animals; adequate shelter and space. Provides that the outdoor tethering of an animal does not meet the requirement of adequate shelter during a hurricane warning or tropical storm warning or if the animal is not safe from predators or well suited or equipped to tolerate its environment. The bill provides that unless an animal control officer has inspected an animal's individual circumstances and determined it to be safe from predators and well suited and equipped to tolerate its environment, no such outdoor tethering during a heat advisory, a severe weather warning, or a period when the temperature is 85 degrees Fahrenheit or higher or 32 degrees Fahrenheit or lower shall constitute the provision of adequate shelter. The measure increases the minimum tether length required to constitute adequate space to 15 feet in length or four times the length of the animal, whichever is greater. Current law requires the tether to be at least 10 feet in length or three times the length of the animal, whichever is greater. The bill provides an exception for a case in which an animal control officer, having inspected an animal's individual circumstances, determines that a shorter tether of at least 10 feet or three times the length of the animal makes the animal safer, more suited, and better equipped to tolerate its environment than a longer tether would.



For more information and to access the entire bill, please go to <https://lis.virginia.gov>

Election Day is November 3, 2020

Are you registered to vote? Is your information up to date? Do you have questions about where you go to vote? Now is the time to make sure you are ready for November's Election. Please contact the Pulaski County General Registrar's Office for information and answers to all your election questions.

Interested in working the polls on Election Day? Pulaski County needs citizens to work at the polling places as Officers of Election. You can apply on line at www.elections.virginia.gov or call our office.

Pulaski County General Registrar
87 Commerce Street
Pulaski, VA 24301
Phone: 540-980-2111
Fax 540-994-5883
kwebb@pulaskicounty.org
Kathryn Webb
Director of Elections

**Summer Reading at the Library!**

Research has shown that over the summer break, children lose a significant portion of the skills they gained over the previous school year in what is referred to as the "summer slide." This is particularly relevant to math and reading. This year, more than ever, it is important that we help our community's youth combat the summer slide by encouraging reading and other educational endeavors over the summer months. We would like to invite everyone to sign up for the Pulaski County Library System's Summer Reading Program. There are no requirements for how much or how long you have to read. You and your children can set your own reading goals and pace, and we'll reward them with a prize every two weeks! You'll even receive a free book when you sign up! To sign up, just stop by the library after July 1st, and make sure to keep an eye on our social media for virtual challenges and programs.



The Pulaski County Library System will also offer a summer reading program for adults, and it will be completely online as well! Please check our Facebook page to join the Summer Reading Group - that will be how you register this year. We will offer virtual programs and activities that offer a way to earn points in order to win prizes! We look forward to having you all join us this summer.