



BLAND COUNTY

NEWSLETTER FALL 2020

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Board of Supervisors

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Bland County Receives Virginia Tourism Corporation DMO WanderLove Recovery Grant for Tourism Marketing

Bland County received \$10,000.00 from the Virginia Tourism Corporation (VTC) DMO WanderLove Recovery Grant Program, a new grant made available to Virginia's Destination Marketing Organizations (DMOs) across the Commonwealth that have been heavily impacted by the novel corona virus pandemic to fund recovery marketing initiatives. \$866,504 in marketing grant funds were awarded to 90 Destination Marketing Organizations as part of the DMO WanderLove Recovery Grant program.

Bland County will use the VTC WanderLove grant funds to increase the visibility of Bland County as a destination for outdoor lovers.

"We are so pleased to have the opportunity to promote the beautiful county that we call home. A hidden gem, Bland County is the ideal country get-away boasting scenic views, hiking, exploring and pristine mountain mornings. It's time we share our love of Bland Co. with others", says Cameron Burton, Director of Tourism and Community Services for Bland Co.

As Virginia begins reopening, there is a lot of pent-up demand for leisure travel and people are seeking safe, close-to-home destinations that allow for social distancing and access to open spaces. With this in mind, the WanderLove campaign provides travel inspiration for road trips, outdoor recreation, hidden gems, small towns, and Virginia's signature [LOVEworks program](#).

"Virginia tourism is a critical sector of our economy and has been heavily impacted by the corona virus pandemic," said Governor Ralph Northam. "Getting travelers back on the road and spending money in our cities and towns is one of the fastest ways to inject dollars back into our economy and our communities. The Virginia Tourism Corporation's DMO WanderLove Recovery Grants gives localities the ability to market their destination as safe and welcoming when visitors are ready to resume travel."

Tourism is one of the Commonwealth's largest economic engines. The tourism and hospitality industries have also been among the hardest-hit by the pandemic, experiencing decreased revenue and job loss, along with the temporary closure of many tourism-related businesses. A revived tourism economy can help spur new economic activity and inject critical funds back into Virginia communities.

About Virginia Tourism Corporation

Virginia Tourism Corporation is the state agency charged with marketing the Commonwealth as a premier travel and film destination. In 2018, visitors to Virginia spent \$26 billion, which supported 234,000 work opportunities and contributed \$1.8 billion in state and local taxes. In 2019, Virginia is for Lovers celebrated its 50th anniversary. To learn more, visit virginia.org

Bland County Treasurer's office will begin selling dog tags for 2021 on November 1, 2020.

Current tags expire on Dec. 31, 2020.

Real Estate and Personal Property tax tickets for 2020 will be mailed by October. The due date of payment of taxes will be December 7, 2020.

If you have any questions, Please contact

Bland County Treasurer's Office

276-688-3741

CENSUS 2020

Be sure to fill out your Census 2020!

The importance of the 2020 census is that up to \$2,000 of federal funding will be lost for each person not counted; as well as upwards of \$20,000 of federal funding lost every ten years. The 2020 Census data will also guide the distribution of approximately \$675 billion of federal funds and grants for schools, hospitals, roads, and public works projects.

For more information:

Contact Bland County Library
688-3737

Fuel Assistance/Crisis Assistance Program

Fuel Assistance component is to assist eligible households in meeting their immediate home energy needs. The benefits are not intended to cover the household's total costs during the heating season.

The Fuel Assistance component will begin October 6, 2020 in all localities and will end November 6, 2020

Checks or credit authorizations will be issued in December.

Crisis Assistance Program will begin November 1, 2020 and run through March 15, 2021. This is for equipment related assistance, security deposits, and emergency shelter.

Applications are accepted online (<https://commonhelp.virginia.gov/access/>) or by calling the Enterprise Customer Service Center at (855) 635 – 4370, and at Bland County Department of Social Services (276) 688 - 4111



Contact: Sara King at 276-688 - 4111 or by email: sara.king@dss.virginia.gov

Bland County Staycation

Residents looking for close to home staycations this summer can find some hidden gems right here in Bland County.

Here are some Bland County favorites that you may be missing out on.



The Bland County Public Library hosted a Passport to Summer Reading Program. Stop by the library or call for information on this free, interactive fun-filled program.



The Wolf Creek Indian Village boasts beautiful trails, scenery and is a perfect family friendly day trip. Take a tour of our local treasure. The gift shop and museum are open with great finds and interesting artifacts. Ask about their pottery class for children. It's sure to be a fun outdoor experience.



Take a look at 5 states from the top of Big Walker Mountain! The overlook provides stunning views and shaded access. Inside you will find the best ice cream around!



Access the Appalachian Trail from the top of Brushy Mountain where you can find parking, picnic tables and a hot juicy hamburger at Brushy Mountain Outpost. The trail from Brushy Mountain to Suiter Rd. is spectacular! Cool off at Dismal Falls. The falls are a refreshing change of pace and children love to explore the shallow pools.



Visit our 3 LOVE signs. Can you find them all?

Let Bland Co. connect you to nature, to family, to Virginia.

EVENTS CALENDAR

4

SEPTEMBER 2020

September 7—Labor Day Holiday
County Administration Offices Closed

September 8—EDA Meeting @ 5:00 pm

September 17—Children's Services Act Meeting
@ 9:30 am

September 22—Service Authority Meeting @ 4:00 pm

September 22—Board of Supervisors Meeting @ 5:00 pm



OCTOBER 2020

October 1—Wireless Authority Meeting @ 5:00 pm

October 5—Planning Commission Meeting @ 6:00 pm

October 12—Columbus Day Holiday
County Administration Offices Closed

October 13—EDA Meeting @ 5:00 pm

October 15—Children's Services Act Meeting @ 9:30 am

October 27—Service Authority Meeting @ 4:00 pm

October 27—Board of Supervisors Meeting @ 5:00 pm

October 31—Farmers' Market Season Closes

NOVEMBER 2020

November 2—Planning Commission Meeting @ 6:00 pm

November 10—EDA Meeting @ 5:00 pm

November 11—Veterans Day Holiday
County Administration Offices Closed

November 19—Children's Services Act Meeting @ 9:30 am

November 24—Service Authority Meeting @ 4:00 pm

November 24—Board of Supervisors Meeting @ 5:00 pm

November 25—Thanksgiving Half-Day Holiday
County Administration Offices Close at 1:00

November 26-27—Thanksgiving Holiday
County Administration Offices Closed



Meeting dates and times are subject to change due to COVID 19.

Please call Bland County Administration for more information: 276-688-4622

www.blandcountyva.gov

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