



BLAND COUNTY

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2020

Volume 4 Issue 4

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| COMMUNITY INTEREST | 2, 3 |
| CALENDAR | 4 |

Board of Supervisors

Adam Kidd, Chairman
Sharon - District 1

Stephen Kelley, Vice-Chairman
Seddon - District 2

Randy Johnson,
Mechanicsburg - District 3

Karen Hodock
Rocky Gap - District 4

Eric R. Workman, Ed.D.
County Administrator
P.O Box 510
Bland, VA 24315

Telephone: 276-688-4622
Toll free: 800-519-3468
Fax: 276-688-9758



COVID-19 Updates

County officials are continuing to monitor and make adjustments to operations and schedules associated with the global pandemic COVID-19. Plans are being developed regarding the opening of several county operations such as the library, farmers' market, canneries, and Wolf Creek Indian Village. Please note that adjustments may be made rapidly depending on federal and state orders. Therefore, the most up to date information about local governmental operations associated with COVID-19, are located on the County website: www.blandcountyva.gov or call 688-4622.

Here are a few updates:

Wi-Fi Hotspots: Multiple internet hotspots are either operational or being planned. Current operational hotspots are located at the Library, Fairgrounds, Hollybrook Community Park, and the Courthouse. Upgrades are being planned for the Ceres Park and Rocky Gap Park and should be operational soon. Additional hotspots are being planned.

Recycling: Effective June 1st, Bland County will be suspending curbside recycling and recycling bin collections until further notice. COVID-19 has had devastating impact on the already struggling recycling market. Communities across the region have struggled in recent years to find places to accept recycled materials and now many communities are forced to suspend their recycling programs. Bland County will continue recycling tires and electronics on designated days. Large items and white goods will also still be collected in the first full week of the month on your regular trash pickup date. If you have questions regarding the recycling program please call the Bland County Public Works office at 688-4622.

Bland County Library Renovations

At the January meeting of the Library Board of Trustees, the Board voted to pursue renovation projects at the library. This spring, while closed due to COVID-19, library and county staff prepared the library for new paint and carpeting. Approximately 30,000 books loaded into 400 boxes, 28 units of metal shelves, countless computers and office supplies were moved into storage while the work was underway.

Renovation is now complete and library staff is working to reshelv books and prepare for reopening.



Board of Equalization Hearing

Public notice is hereby given that the Board of Equalization for Bland County will meet on the days hereafter listed for the purpose of hearing complaints of inequalities including errors in acreage. Upon hearing such complaints, either oral or written, the Board will give consideration AND INCREASE, DECREASE OR AFFIRM such real estate assessments. Before a change can be granted, the taxpayer or his agent must overcome a clear presumption in favor of the assessment. The taxpayer or agent must provide a preponderance of the evidence that the assessment of the property is not uniform with the assessments of other similar properties or that the property is assessed in excess of its fair market value.

To appear before the Board of Equalization, please call: 276-688-4291, Monday – Friday, 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. Meetings of the Board to hear objections will be held at the Bland County Courthouse, conference room 102, 612 Main Street, Bland, VA 24315. The dates and times set for these hearings are:

Tuesday, July 21, 2020
8:30am - 12:00pm and 1:15pm – 4:00pm
Wednesday, August 19, 2020
8:30am - 12:00pm and 1:15pm – 4:00pm
Tuesday, September 15, 2020
8:30am - 12:00pm and 1:15pm – 4:00pm

Cooling assistance provides purchase or repair of cooling equipment and/or payment for electricity to operate cooling equipment. To be eligible, a household must contain at least one vulnerable individual who is age 60 or over, is living with a disability, or is under age 6.

Applications are accepted online at www.commonhelp.virginia.gov, through the Enterprise Customer Service Center at 1-855-635-4370, and at local departments of social services from June 15 through August 15. Assistance is based on the availability of funds.

Eligibility criteria for assistance include:

- Must be resident of the locality in which application is made
- Must have a heating or cooling expense

Contact: Darlene Conley
Bland County Dept. of Social Services
276-688-4111

Delinquent Personal Property & Real Estate tax notices will not be mailed until June due to the situation with Covid-19.

If anyone has any questions regarding delinquent taxes, please call the Bland County Treasurer's office
276-688-3741

Bland County Multidisciplinary Team
Will meet again this quarter.
Working for Bland County:
Commonwealth Attorney, Victim Witness Assistance, CPS (Child Protective Services), Sheriff's Office, Emergency Management CAC (Child Advocacy Center) and Forensic Nursing

Together, working for You
Contact Pam Gibson for more information 688-3206

Authorized by VA Code# 15.2-1627.5

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

Seniors interested in the Farmers Market Fresh Fruit/Vegetables for Seniors Program can call District III to get an application mailed to them
276-783-8157

COMMUNITY INTEREST

3



Voter Registration & Elections Office

Republican Primary

Tuesday,
June 23, 2020

United States Senate

DUE TO COVID-19...VOTERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO VOTE ABSENTEE BY MAIL...USE REASON 2A, "My disability or illness".

A PHOTO ID IS REQUIRED TO VOTE

Please verify your voter registration,
polling place and **VALID** Photo ID

before Election Day!

elections.virginia.gov

POLLS OPEN 6 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Tuesday, May 26, 2020: Last day to register to vote or change your voter registration information for this election.

Mailed voter registration applications must be sent to the Bland County Voter Registration and Elections Office postmarked on or before the deadline.

In-Person Absentee Voting

20 Fairground Street, Bland, VA 24315

Monday-Friday, May 8-June 19, 2020: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Saturday, June 20, 2020: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Last day to vote a regular, in-person, absentee ballot at the Bland County Voter Registration and Elections Office- 06/20/20.

Mail Absentee Voting

Tuesday, June 16, 2020: Last day to request an absentee ballot by mail. Applications must be received in the Bland County Voter Registration and Elections Office by 5 p.m.

Tuesday, June 23, 2020: Election Day ALL Absentee voted ballots must be returned to the Bland County Voter Registration and Elections Office by 7 p.m. to be counted.

Stacy Tibbs Grady, Director of Elections and General Registrar

P.O. Box 535, Bland, VA 24315-0535

TELEPHONE: 276-688-4441 FAX: 276-688-2135

Email: govote021@embarqmail.com

Website: <http://www.blandcountyva.gov/departments/voter-registration/>

www.blandcountyva.gov

Bland County is an Equal Opportunity Employer & Provider

EVENTS CALENDAR

JUNE 2020

June 1—Planning Commission Meeting @ 6:00 pm
June 9—EDA Meeting @ 5:00 pm
June 10—Library opening—Tentative
June 10—WCIV opening—Tentative
June 13—Farmers' Market opening—Tentative
June 18—Children's Services Act Meeting @ 9:30 am
June 20—Farmers' Market open 9:00 am—12:00 pm
June 23—Service Authority Meeting @ 4:00 pm
June 23—Board of Supervisors Meeting @ 5:00 pm
June 27—Farmers' Market open 9:00 am—12:00 pm

JULY 2020

July 2 —Wireless Authority Meeting @ 5:00 pm
July 3—County Administration Offices Closed
Independence Day Holiday
July 4—Farmers' Market open 9:00 am—12:00 pm
July 6—Planning Commission Meeting @ 6:00 pm
July 8—Bland County Library Board Meeting @ 5:30
July 11—Farmers' Market open 9:00 am—12:00 pm
July 14—Economic Development Authority Meeting @ 5:00 pm
July 16—Children's Services Act Meeting @ 9:30 am
July 18—Farmers' Market open 9:00 am—12:00 pm
July 25—Farmers' Market open 9:00 am—12:00 pm
July 28—Service Authority Meeting @ 4:00 pm

AUGUST 2020

August 1—Farmers' Market open 9:00 am—12:00 pm
August 3—Planning Commission Meeting @ 6:00 pm
August 8—Farmers' Market open 9:00 am—12:00 pm
August 11—EDA Meeting @ 5:00 pm
August 15—Farmers' Market open 9:00 am—12:00 pm
August 20—Children's Services Act Meeting @ 9:30 am
August 22—Farmers' Market open 9:00 am—12:00 pm
August 25—Service Authority Meeting @ 4:00 pm
August 25—Board of Supervisors Meeting @ 5:00 pm
August 29—Farmers' Market open 9:00 am—12:00 pm

Bland County Board of Supervisors and Bland County Administration would like to congratulate the Bland County High School Seniors of 2020!



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

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