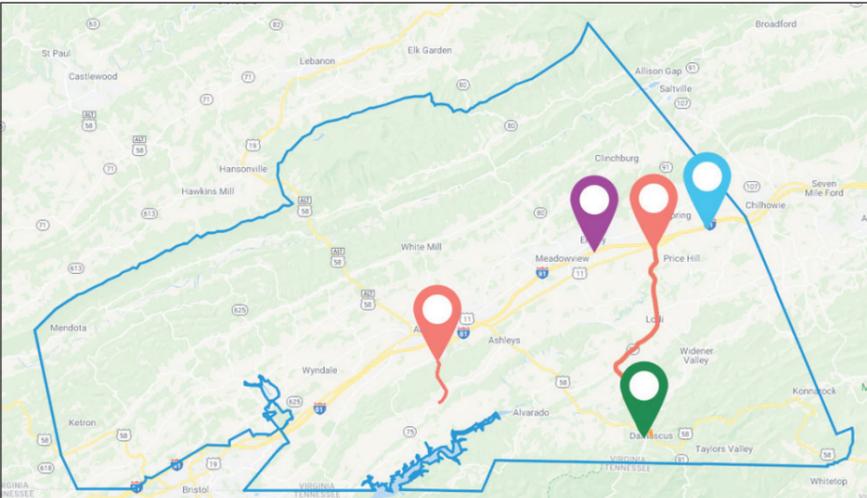


THE WEEK AHEAD

April 29 - May 6, 2020

ROAD CLOSURES



WASHINGTON COUNTY BOUNDARIES ARE MEANT FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES AND MAY NOT REFLECT EXACT DISTANCES. MAP DATA VIA GOOGLE MAPS.

ROUTE 75: This week, be alert to the possibility of lane closures and workers along a portion of Route 75 near the Abingdon area, prepping the road in anticipation of latex paving. The work will take place between the Abingdon corporate limits and Route 672 in Washington County. (Completion: April 2020)

INTERSTATE 81 – EXIT 26: Be alert to shoulder closures along I-81 southbound at Exit 26 in the Emory area of Washington County due to a project to extend the acceleration/deceleration lanes for the southbound on- and off-ramps. The majority of activities for the project will occur along VDOT’s right of way; however, motorists should be alert to workers and heavy equipment in the area. (Completion: late June 2020)

WATER STREET BRIDGE CLOSURE: Due to recent bridge inspection findings, the Virginia Department

of Transportation has closed the Route 1203 (Water Street) bridge in Damascus. The bridge is located across from the Damascus Public Library and crosses Beaver Dam Creek.

ROUTE 91: This week, be alert to the possibility of lane closures and workers along Route 91 between Damascus and Meadowview in Washington County, prepping the road in anticipation of latex paving in the coming weeks. (Completion: April 2020)

INTERSTATE 81 – EXIT 32: This week, be alert to daytime lane closures on I-81 southbound at Exit 32 due to guardrail installation associated with a safety project. Use caution in this area, and be alert to the possibility of delays while improvements are being made. (Completion: May 2020)

Source: Virginia Department of Transportation

Bristol, Washington County to start drive-thru COVID-19 testing

WASHINGTON COUNTY NEWS
The Mount Rogers Health District is offering drive-thru testing for COVID-19 in Bristol, Virginia and Washington County, Virginia, over the next two weeks. People who want to receive testing must be pre-screened and scheduled for an appointment, according to a news release from the health district. The Bristol City Health Department will host testing from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday at its Piedmont Avenue office. The Washington County Health Department will offer testing at its office on Lee Highway from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 6. Those who want to be

screened for testing in Bristol can call 276-642-7335, and those seeking testing in Washington County can be screened at 276-676-5604. Appointments are available until all slots are filled, according to the release. Patients approved for testing will get an appointment time, a testing number and/or an emailed authorization letter, the release states. People who do not have access to email should bring a valid ID to their testing site. Those who go to a testing site are asked to wear a cloth face covering. “Testing is important epidemiologically and helps us determine the prevalence of disease in

our community, but because capacity is limited, we will screen for those at highest risk,” said Karen Shelton, director of the Mount Rogers Health District. “As we continue to test, we expect to have more positive cases.” As of Monday, the Mount Rogers Health District – which includes Bland, Carroll, Grayson, Smyth, Washington and Wythe Counties and the cities of Bristol and Galax – has reported a total of 66 cases of the virus, according to the Virginia Department of Health website. A total of four deaths — three in Washington County and one in Wythe County — have been reported.

MEETINGS

WASHINGTON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: Abingdon, Va. Wednesday, May 6, 4-5:30 p.m., County Government

Center, 1 Government Center place, Suite A. Call 276-525-1300 or email wbonham@washcova.com.

HOW TO SUBMIT INFO
Submission deadline is Monday noon for the items scheduled during the upcoming week. Email news@washconews.com.

\$50K in food relief provided by COVID-19 Advisory Council

WASHINGTON COUNTY NEWS
The Southwest Virginia COVID-19 Advisory Council announced \$50,000 in food relief for 1,000 families across the region Friday. The United Way of Southwest Virginia will provide 1,000 \$50 food vouchers to Feeding Southwest Virginia, which will then distribute them through food pantries, according to a news release.

Localities that will receive food vouchers include: Bland County, Buchanan County, Carroll County, Dickenson County, Giles County, Grayson County, Lee County, Pulaski County, Russell County, Scott County, Smyth County, Tazewell County, Washington County, Wise County, Galax City and Norton City. Feedback from over 150

organizations had identified food insecurity as a major issue across the region, followed by child care, the release states. The COVID-19 Advisory Council includes representatives from the public sector, health and human service agencies and the private sector and was formed in recent weeks to develop coordinated responses to the coronavirus pandemic.

Northam open to idea of reopening business on regional basis

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS and WCN STAFF
FALLS CHURCH, Va. — Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam said Bristol, Virginia is a great example of why it may be a good idea to reopen certain regions of the states rather than waiting to reopen the whole state at once. “Is it really fair for Tennessee’s businesses to be open and Virginia’s not to be? And so this is one of the things we will be discussing this afternoon with our businesses,” Northam said Monday during a COVID-19 briefing. Bristol now faces a situation where restaurants on the Tennessee side of the border can provide dine-in services to patrons. Those on the Virginia side cannot. Last week, Northam had downplayed the idea of opening businesses on a regional basis. But Monday, he said he wanted to discuss the idea further with the business community. “To try to be consistent, is it really fair for Tennes-

see’s businesses to be open and Virginia’s not to be?” Northam asked. “I’m open-minded to all of that. I would say, ‘Stay tuned.’” Northam faced increasingly skeptical questions at Monday’s press conference about his justification for continuing his executive orders closing nonessential businesses and requiring Virginians to stay at home, particularly as other Southern states are beginning to ease restrictions. Northam said he’s trying to be guided by the science, but he acknowledged Monday that the science is in a state of flux. One computer model, for instance, suggests that Virginia may have reached its peak of COVID-19 cases. Another model, prepared by the University of Virginia, suggests that keeping stay-at-home restrictions in place through the duration of Northam’s current order of June 10 will only delay an inevitable surge of cases and result in a sharp peak of

cases in August. “It’s not a perfect science, and I would be the first as a scientist to agree with that,” said Northam, a physician. “They call this a novel COVID-19, novel meaning new to the world. So there a lot of things that we don’t know about the virus that we’d like to know.” Also Monday, Northam said he worked with the governors in Maryland and Delaware to request federal help to deal with an outbreak of COVID-19 cases connected to poultry plants on the Delmarva peninsula. He said workers from the federal Centers for Disease Control arrived in Virginia on Monday. Teams include epidemiologists, contact trace workers and translators who speak Haitian Creole, a language commonly used among the region’s poultry workers. “The poultry economy on the Delmarva peninsula is so interconnected that a coordinated approach is critical,” Northam said.

Pickup/Delivery Options for Washington County

Business	Pickup	Curbside	Delivery	Phone #	Website	Address	City
128 Pecan	✓	✓	✗	276-698-3159	www.facebook.com/128-Pecan	128 Pecan St.	Abingdon, VA
Bella’s Pizza and Subs	✓	✓	✗	276-628-8101	www.facebook.com/bellapizzaandsubs	872 E. Main St.	Abingdon, VA
Bonfire Restaurant	✓	✓	✗	276-623-0037	www.thebonfiresmokehouse.com	260 W. Main St.	Abingdon, VA
Greeko’s Grill & Café	✓	✓	✗	276-525-8107	www.greekosabingdon.com	217 W. Main St.	Abingdon, VA
Jersey Mike’s Abingdon	✓	✗	✗	276-525-8517	www.jerseymikes.com/order/6066	133 Cook St.	Abingdon, VA
JJ’s Restaurant & Sports Bar	✗	✓	✓	276-525-4999	www.eatatjjs.com	115 Charwood Drive	Abingdon, VA
Lakeshore Deli	✓	✗	✗	276-628-5394	N/A	19417 County Park Road	Abingdon, VA
Luke’s Café	✓	✓	✗	276-623-2233	www.ilovelukes.com	823 W. Main St.	Abingdon, VA
Mamma Mia Italian Restaurant	✓	✓	✓	276-525-1144	N/A	134 Wall St. SW	Abingdon, VA
The Peppermill	✓	✓	✓	276-623-0350	www.thepeppermillnew.com	231 W. Main St.	Abingdon, VA
Rain Restaurant and Bar	✓	✓	✗	276-739-2331	www.facebook.com/Rain-Restaurant-Bar-16233773805834/	283 E. Main St.	Abingdon, VA
Subway	✓	✗	✗	All locations	www.subway.com	All locations	All locations
White Birch Juice Co.	✗	✓	✓	276-608-0541	www.whitebirchjuice.com	170 E. Main St.	Abingdon, VA

Solid Waste Revised Schedule

In an effort to help mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the following adjustments will be made to all Washington County Solid Waste facilities starting April 6 until further notice. Station, located at 14579 Industrial Park Road, will remain on normal business hours of 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. For questions concerning Washington County Solid Waste hours and operations, please call 276-623-1044.

Location	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Damascus, Glade Spring, Hayters Gap, Benhams, Mud Hollow, Gate City, Lodi, Green Springs, Konnarock, Route 19	Closed	12 to 5 p.m.	9 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Closed	9 a.m. to 3 p.m.	11 a.m. to 3 p.m.	9 a.m. to 3 p.m.	
Landfill	Closed	8 a.m. to 5 p.m.	8 a.m. to 3 p.m.	8 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Closed (will be open 4/9/20)	8 a.m. to 3 p.m.	8 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Closed
Mendota Area	Closed	12 to 5 p.m.	11 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Closed	11 a.m. to 3 p.m.	11 a.m. to 3 p.m.	9 a.m. to 3 p.m.	
Tumblin Creek	Closed	12 to 5 p.m.	12 to 3 p.m.	Closed	12 to 3 p.m.	Closed	10 a.m. to 3 p.m.	