

HOUSING: Help for residents

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and Smyth will build six.

BUILDING ACROSS THE REGION

Piedmont Habitat's project will stretch across three counties. The group is building four homes here in Charlotte County, plus four in Prince Edward and three in Nottoway.

Up first is Prince Ed-

ward, mainly because it's the furthest along in the process.

"We're doing three builds at once in Farmville, over off Andrews Drive," said Sam Rabon. He works as Piedmont's director of resource development and marketing.

Rabon said the land's already been cleared and construction will get underway soon, with a goal of being

finished by early spring.

"Three at a time is the most we can do," Rabon said. "We're structuring them in a block, doing three in one location, instead of doing one here and one there."

Once these homes in Farmville are finished, then Piedmont staff will turn their attention to the builds in Charlotte and Nottoway counties.

"Those are further down the pipeline in development," Rabon said. "There's still plenty of preliminary work that needs to be done."

MORE TO COME?

Building these 20 homes won't use up the full \$2 million in grant funding, but that's by design, Foster explained.

"We wanted to make sure we didn't run into any

issues," Foster said. "If they need extra, we wanted some on hand. But if things go well, we may put out an additional request for bids and add a few more houses."

As for the future, Foster said if this succeeds, she's hopeful Virginia Housing will do it again.

"This was a trial run, a pilot program," Foster said. "The hope is to go back and get more."

MONEYPOX: Health departments seeing improvements in outbreak

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8,899 vials to the state's 35 health districts and administered 5,875 vials through local health departments and other healthcare providers.

In the Central Region there have been 690 people vaccinated.

The Central Region encompasses the counties of Amelia, Cumberland, Buckingham, Prince Edward, Charlotte, Lunenburg, Nottoway; the metro area around Richmond (Richmond, Henrico, Hanover, New Kent, Goochland, Charles City, Chesterfield, Powhatan, Colonial Heights, Petersburg, Hopewell, Prince George, Dinwiddie); and down to the N.C. border (Emporia, Surry, Sussex, Greensville, Brunswick, Halifax, Mecklenburg).

A LOOK AT THE NUMBERS

On Tuesday, Aug. 30 the total number of monkeypox cases in Virginia stood at 325. Of those cases 33 are in the Central Region.

According to the Virginia Department of Health, males account for 312 cases, with four cases accounting for female.

"While the risk to the general public of monkeypox infection remains low, anyone can get and spread monkeypox, most often through close, personal, skin-to-skin contact," said Piedmont Health District Director Dr. Maria Almond. "Thankfully this is a virus for which we already had an effective vaccine. This is not a novel virus although it is spreading

in a unique way. Being able to reach those who are most at-risk, to provide information and vaccination, is our priority."

Dr. Almond said health departments are seeing improvements in this outbreak with noted declines in the numbers of cases reported globally, driven by the decrease in Europe even as cases rise in the Americas.

"This is in large part due to those who are seeking care immediately for any possible symptoms and helping to notify their contacts; to providers who are testing and identifying cases early; and to a public health system that has worked to reach out to the communities where there is substantial spread to ensure that those most vulnerable and most at-risk have the tools they need to test, treat if necessary and obtain vaccine." Dr. Almond said.

Monkeypox is a contagious rash illness caused by the monkeypox virus. In most cases it resolves without treatment. It is spread by close contact with an infected person. Close contact includes touching skin lesions, bodily fluids, or clothing or linens that have been in contact with an infected person. Spread can also occur during prolonged, face-to-face contact.

While anyone can catch monkeypox if they have close contact with someone with monkeypox, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation, many of those affected in the current global outbreak are gay,

bisexual, or men who have sex with men. While this level of monkeypox activity is unexpected, the risk to the general population is low. People with monkeypox in the current outbreak generally report having close, sustained contact with other people who have monkeypox.

The highest risk activity currently is having sex with multiple or anonymous partners; avoiding these activities greatly reduces one's risk of catching or spreading monkeypox. Monkeypox does not spread from person to person from walking past someone who is infected or through

casual conversation with someone who is infected.

Initial symptoms of the disease often include flu-like symptoms, such as fever, headache, muscle aches, and swollen lymph nodes, followed by skin lesions. However, some people have a rash without other symptoms. Although the majority of cases don't require hospitalization, it is contagious and can be painful. If you have a rash that resembles monkeypox, talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to get tested. Treatment is available for those at risk of severe illness.

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FORM: Gives nurses the opportunity to screen for eligibility

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easier to access the needed protection."

Monkeypox is a rare contagious rash illness caused by the monkeypox virus. In the current outbreak the risk to the general public is low, but anyone can become infected with monkeypox. It is spread by close, personal contact, most often skin-to-skin, with an infected person. The highest risk activity cur-

rently is having sex with multiple or anonymous partners. Avoiding these activities greatly lowers your risk of contracting the virus. Monkeypox cannot spread by casual conversation with someone infected or by walking past someone with monkeypox.

The initial symptoms may be flu-like, including a fever, headache, muscle aches, and swollen lymph nodes, followed by skin lesions.

However, some people only experience a rash with no other symptoms.


If you have any questions or need help filling out the form, please contact your local health department nurse or call the general information hotline at (434) 392-8187 x 137.

The form may be found at <https://redcap.vdh.virginia.gov/redcap/surveys/?s=8MN7EAT-TMM>

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