

# THE BRUNSWICK BRIEF



What's stirring in Brunswick County? 

VOL. 4

WINTER - SPRING - 2026

## Herman Road Lake Gaston Day Use Park Officially Opens



**Pictured Left:** An overhead drone photograph of Herman Road Lake Gaston Day Use Park. **Top Right:** The Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony took place near the handicap-accessible kayak launch located just off the shore of Lake Gaston on Friday, April 24, 2026. **Bottom Right:** A local outdoor recreation enthusiast demonstrates the new public access kayak launch.

Brunswick County officially celebrated the grand opening and ribbon cutting of the new **Herman Road Lake Gaston Day Use Park** on Friday, April 24, 2026, marking an exciting new chapter for outdoor recreation, tourism, and public access along Lake Gaston. Located in Bracey, Virginia, the new waterfront park provides residents and visitors with free, safe, and convenient public access to Lake Gaston – something that has historically been limited due to much of the shoreline being privately owned. Constructed by local contractor Clary Construction, the park features a fully ADA-accessible kayak and canoe launch, improved roadway access, and expanded parking accommodations designed to support paddlers, outdoor enthusiasts, and families looking to enjoy the lake. Future phases of the project may include additional recreational amenities such as a fishing pier and picnic pavilion as funding opportunities become available.

The Herman Road project fulfills a major goal identified in Brunswick County’s Vision for 2035, which called for the creation of a public day-use recreation area on Lake Gaston to strengthen tourism opportunities and improve quality of life throughout the County. The park also supports regional outdoor recreation initiatives championed by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and further expands Brunswick County’s connection to the Southern Virginia Wild Blueway paddling trail system alongside neighboring Mecklenburg and Halifax Counties. “This project has been years in the making and represents much more than the completion of construction – it represents the realization of a vision,” shared the County’s Tourism Coordinator and project lead during the ceremony. “It ensures that Lake Gaston remains open and accessible to the public, while creating new opportunities for recreation, tourism, and connection to nature for generations to come.”



## Herman Road Lake Gaston Day Use Park – Continued.

Phase One of the project totaled approximately \$1.26 million and was made possible through strong partnerships between local, state, and regional organizations. Funding support was provided by:

- **Dominion Energy (FERC Funds)**
- **Virginia Department of Transportation Recreational Access Program**
- **Virginia Outdoors Foundation Preservation Trust Fund**
- **Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission**

The ribbon cutting ceremony included remarks from members of the Brunswick County Board of Supervisors, project partners, and County leadership. Alfreda Jarrett Reynolds, Director of Economic Development, served as emcee for the event.

### **Celebrating “Two Paddles, One Brunswick”**

Guests enjoyed light refreshments, commemorative keepsakes, and a fun photo booth experience centered around the theme “Two Paddles, One Brunswick” – a playful nod to Brunswick County’s connection to both paddling on Lake Gaston and stirring a pot of Brunswick stew with a traditional wooden paddle.

A special thank you was also extended to the kayaking enthusiasts who demonstrated the new launch during the grand opening celebration.

### **Visiting the Herman Road Lake Gaston Day Use Park**

Brunswick County encourages all visitors to enjoy the park responsibly while helping preserve the beauty of Lake Gaston for future generations.

#### Park Guidelines Overview

- *Open daily from sunrise to sunset*
- *No overnight parking or camping permitted*
- *Non-motorized watercraft only (kayaks, canoes, paddleboards)*
- *No swimming or motorized launches allowed*
- *Please park only in designated spaces*
- *No alcohol, open fires, littering, or vandalism*
- *Pets must remain leashed and cleaned up after*
- *Visitors are encouraged to pack out trash and respect natural resources*
- *Violations may result in fines or removal from the property.*
- *In case of emergency, call 911.*

#### Park Location

- 260 Herman Road Bracey, Virginia 23919



Delegate Ottowachsmann attended the grand opening of the Herman Road Lake Gaston Day Use Park, eagerly posing in the lively photo booth. He was joined by Mrs. Dixie Daniel, the Tourism Marketing and Social Media Manager, and Ms. Alfreda Jarrett Reynolds, the Economic Development Director. Together, they proudly displayed their "Two Paddles"—a kayak paddle for adventuring on Lake Gaston and a Brunswick Stew paddle—representing the event’s motto: *“Two Paddles, One Brunswick!”*



## A Taste of Tradition: Brunswick Stew Day at the General Assembly

**RICHMOND** – On Tuesday, February 10, 2026, the rich heritage of Brunswick County took center stage during the much-anticipated annual Brunswick Stew Day at the state capitol. The event was a tremendous success, drawing a large and enthusiastic crowd of lawmakers, staff, and visitors eager to enjoy a bowl of Virginia's ultimate comfort food. Typically, Brunswick Stew Day at the General Assembly is celebrated on the fourth Wednesday in January; however, winter weather necessitated a change.

### Distinguished Guests and Festivities

This year's celebration showcased a lineup of notable guests. Virginia's first female governor, Abigail Spanberger, kicked off the festivities early Tuesday morning by stirring the enormous stew pot. She was joined by a distinguished group of state leaders, including Speaker of the House Don Scott, Senator Emily Jordan, Delegate Otto Wachsmann, and Delegate Tommy Wright, among many others who contributed to the event's success. For lawmakers from both parties, the day offered a welcome, bipartisan opportunity to come together and celebrate a cherished tradition of the Commonwealth.

### Honoring Our Stew Crew and Volunteers

Undoubtedly, the highlight of the event was the delicious Brunswick stew itself. This year's exceptional batch was skillfully prepared by our esteemed Stew Master, Mr. Kevin Pair, along with his family, who dedicated countless hours to ensure the recipe remained faithful to its world-class reputation. Mr. Pair was also the Runner-Up at the 28th Annual Taste of Brunswick Festival Brunswick Stew Cook-Off Competition which was held on Saturday, October 11, 2026, at the Brunswick County Airport in Lawrenceville, Virginia.

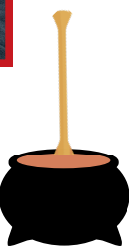
An event of this magnitude would not have been possible without the support of the community. The County extends its heartfelt gratitude to all the dedicated volunteers who traveled to Richmond and devoted their time and energy to ensure that Brunswick Stew Day was an overwhelming success. Their efforts showcased the proud spirit and hospitality of Brunswick County for the entire General Assembly to see.

Thank you to everyone who helped bring a true taste of home to the heart of Virginia's capital!



Governor Abigail Spanberger, Virginia's first female Governor, joined the celebration and even took her turn stirring the massive cast iron pot. She shared how delicious the stew smelled and couldn't wait to enjoy a taste of Brunswick County's signature dish.

*Brunswick County - "The Original Home of Brunswick Stew."*



## The Walk for Peace makes a significant journey through Brunswick County.

The Walk for Peace Monks made a significant and memorable stop at the Brunswick Byways Visitor Center during their inspiring journey from Texas to Washington, D.C. Their visit provided a unique opportunity for peace, reflection, and cultural connection within Brunswick County, allowing residents to witness a remarkable display of dedication and spiritual purpose. Traveling entirely on foot, the monks are part of the Walk for Peace initiative, which aims to promote mindfulness, compassion, and unity among communities nationwide.

Throughout their journey, the group schedules stops in various communities to facilitate rest, meditation, meals, and fellowship before proceeding to their next destination. The Brunswick Byways Visitor Center was designated as an official rest stop by the Walk for Peace coordinators, offering a welcoming environment for the monks to pause during their travels. While at the center, they enjoyed lunch, engaged in meditation, and took time for rest and reflection, all while appreciating the hospitality and serene beauty of Brunswick County.

The group arrived in Brunswick County the previous evening, having stayed in Gasburg, Virginia, before continuing their journey through the county and departing for Alberta, Virginia, which marked their final stop for the night. Their passage through Southside Virginia underscores the importance of community support and the kindness demonstrated by local residents along the way. Brunswick County was honored to host the monks during this historic visit. Community members welcomed the travelers with warmth and respect for the group's privacy and needs, creating a peaceful and inviting atmosphere throughout their stay. This visit served as a poignant reminder of how communities can contribute to larger missions centered on peace and understanding, often through small acts of hospitality.

To enhance the experience with a local touch, Brunswick Stew was featured on the lunch menu, providing the visitors with an authentic taste of Brunswick County's tradition and hospitality. Sharing one of the county's most cherished culinary staples made the occasion even more memorable for both the monks and their hosts. Brunswick County extends its heartfelt gratitude to the Walk for Peace Monks for allowing the community to be part of their extraordinary journey, wishing them continued safety, wellness, and success as they progress toward the nation's capital.



## The Brunswick County Board of Supervisors has appointed a new Chair and Vice Chair.

Following the Organizational Meeting of the Brunswick County Board of Supervisors on January 5, 2026, the Board has officially elected its officers for the upcoming term.

- **Chair:** The Honorable Welton Tyler, Powellton Election District
- **Vice Chair:** The Honorable Glenda Jackson Gilliam, Red Oak Election District

We would like to offer our sincere congratulations to these Board members on their new leadership positions. Along with the election of officers, the Board also approved the 2026 Regular Meeting Schedule, the Holiday and Pay Calendar for County Employees, and made appointments for both a Clerk and Deputy Clerk, as well as various members to Committees and Boards.

### CHAIR

The Honorable  
Welton Tyler,  
Powellton Election District



### VICE CHAIR

The Honorable  
Glenda Jackson Gilliam,  
Red Oak Election District



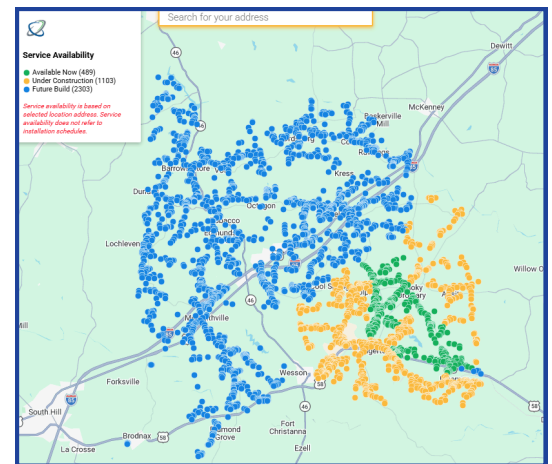
## Brunswick County Broadband Expansion Update.

Brunswick County, in partnership with RiverStreet Networks, is progressing with our county-wide broadband expansion initiative. In March 2026, RiverStreet provided the latest timeline update from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (VDHCD), the state agency responsible for overseeing the grant funds:



- **New Completion Deadline:** VDHCD has extended the deadline until June 2026.
- **Reasons for Extension:** This extension was granted due to current construction progress, external factors affecting the project, and RiverStreet's local efforts.
- **Resumption of Work:** RiverStreet aims to restart active construction in all project areas by April 1.
- **State Oversight:** County staff and VDHCD are maintaining regular communication with project leaders, and VDHCD will closely monitor milestones once work resumes.

RiverStreet acknowledges the importance of reliable internet access for your homes and businesses. We appreciate the patience of Brunswick County residents as we work towards a fully connected community. RiverStreet will provide further progress updates as they become available.



#### ● Available Now

Fiber construction is complete and services are available.  
Register your address to SIGN UP TODAY!

#### ● Future Build

We are currently engineering this area for our 100% fiber network.  
Register your address to show your interest.

#### ● Under Construction

Multiple construction crews are working as quickly as possible to bring fiber Internet to your area.  
Register your address to pre-order fiber services.

<https://myriverstreet.net/community/brunswick-county-va/>

## Brunswick County Recognized as Locality of the Year.

On Thursday, February 5, 2026, Energy Right hosted its Annual Legislative Reception, bringing together elected officials, local leaders, and industry representatives from across the Commonwealth to recognize communities and policymakers who continue to support economic growth through responsible renewable energy initiatives.

Energy Right, an organization dedicated to promoting responsible energy development through education and community engagement, used the event to honor individuals and localities making a significant impact on Virginia’s energy future. Among the distinguished honorees recognized during the reception were Congresswoman Jen Kiggans and representatives from Brunswick County, Virginia, including members of the Board of Supervisors and County Planning Staff.



During remarks recognizing Brunswick County, Energy Right Co-founder and Chief Operating Officer Blake Cox commended the County for its leadership and thoughtful approach to renewable energy development. Cox highlighted Brunswick County’s substantial role in advancing energy initiatives throughout Virginia and noted that approved energy projects within the County are projected to generate more than \$100 million in tax revenue over the lifetime of the projects.

Cox further praised the County’s proactive planning efforts, stating that Brunswick County “set themselves up for success from the beginning by taking their time to write and implement a really good policy to help govern projects.” The recognition reflects years of careful planning and collaboration by County leadership to ensure that renewable energy growth is balanced with responsible land use, community priorities, and long-term economic benefits.

As part of the celebration, Energy Right CEO Skylar Zunk and COO Blake Cox presented Brunswick County with the 2026 Locality of the Year Award, recognizing the County’s leadership, innovation, and commitment to responsible economic development through renewable energy initiatives.

The award serves as another example of Brunswick County’s continued efforts to position itself as a forward-thinking community that embraces opportunities for growth while protecting the interests of its residents and future generations.



Energy Right presented Brunswick County with the **Locality of the Year Award** for 2026.

**THUMBS UP!**

**WELL DONE**

**BRAVO!**

**GOOD JOB!**



## Guiding Light Family Services Opens in Brunswick County.

Brunswick County proudly celebrates the successful Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting of Guiding Light Family Services-Lawrenceville, held on Thursday, April 30, 2026, in the heart of Lawrenceville, Virginia. The occasion marked an exciting milestone not only for the organization, but also for the continued growth of services and resources available to residents throughout Brunswick County.

Located at 203 North Main Street, Guiding Light Family Services brings an important mission to the community by providing support and care for families, youth, and individuals through a variety of programs focused on mental health services, mentoring, crisis care, and community support. The organization's commitment to strengthening individuals and families represents a meaningful investment in the overall health and well-being of the region.

Community leaders, residents, and supporters gathered to celebrate the official opening and welcome the organization to Brunswick County. The ribbon cutting served as an opportunity to recognize the importance of accessible support services and the positive impact these resources can have on local families and individuals facing challenges.



As Brunswick County continues to grow and strengthen community partnerships, the addition of Guiding Light Family Services reflects the county's ongoing commitment to enhancing quality of life and expanding access to critical care and support systems for residents of all ages.

Brunswick County extends its congratulations and appreciation to the team at Guiding Light Family Services-Lawrenceville and looks forward to the positive difference they will make in the community for years to come. For additional information about services and programs, contact Guiding Light Family Services at (434) 532-5171 or visit their website at [www.guidinglightfs.com](http://www.guidinglightfs.com).

## The Story Cafe Celebrates Two Years of Community and Connection in Lawrenceville.

Big congratulations to downtown Lawrenceville's own The Story Cafe on celebrating its second business anniversary! Owned by veteran CBS 6 journalist Shelby Brown, the cafe at 121 N. Hicks St. has quickly grown from a "leap of faith" into a vital community gathering space.

To mark two years of success, the cafe hosted an open house featuring live music, community fellowship, and a book signing for Brown's newly released book, *Sacred Reflections: A Journey of Joy, Faith and Gratitude*.

Next time you are downtown, stop by to congratulate Shelby and the team, grab a cup of Virginia-roasted coffee, and support a local business that gives back through youth coaching and financial literacy programs.



## National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week Recognized.

During its April meeting held on Wednesday evening, the Brunswick County Board of Supervisors officially recognized National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week by approving a resolution honoring the County’s dedicated emergency communications professionals. Observed annually during the second full week of April, National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week recognizes the vital contributions of 9-1-1 dispatchers and emergency communications personnel across the nation.

Public safety telecommunicators serve as the critical first point of contact during emergencies, providing calm, professional assistance to citizens in moments of crisis while coordinating communication between callers and emergency response agencies. Their ability to remain composed under pressure and quickly relay lifesaving information plays an essential role in protecting the health, safety, and well-being of Brunswick County residents and visitors each day.

The Board’s recognition highlighted the professionalism, dedication, and commitment demonstrated by Brunswick County’s emergency dispatch staff, whose work often takes place behind the scenes but remains essential to the success of public safety operations throughout the community.

Brunswick County extends its sincere appreciation and gratitude to all public safety telecommunicators and 9-1-1 dispatchers for their tireless service, compassion, and unwavering commitment to serving others. Their work continues to make a lasting impact on the lives of countless individuals throughout the County.



### **NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK** **APRIL 12 – 18, 2026**



**“THE FIRST VOICE YOU HEAR WHEN YOU CALL, 9-1-1.”**

## Employment Opportunities.

- EMS Basic Life Support Provider - FULL TIME
- EMS Basic & Advanced Provider - PART TIME
- Part Time Customer Service Generalist

For more information regarding these job listings, please visit [www.brunswickco.com/departments/human\\_resources/job\\_listings](http://www.brunswickco.com/departments/human_resources/job_listings)



## Events and Activities Across Brunswick County



- **Juneteenth - Holiday - Observed**
  - Friday, June 19, 2026 - County Offices - Closed.
- **Independance Day - Holiday - Observed**
  - Friday, July 3, 2026 - County Offices - Closed.
- **Jazz on the Square - August 22, 2026**
  - Courthouse Square -Lawrenceville
- **Taste of Brunswick Festival - October, 10, 2026.**
  - Brunswick County Airport
- **Veterans Day Program - TBD.**
  - Brunswick County Conference Center

Be sure to check out the Town of Alberta's **Farmers Market Fridays 4 PM until 7PM!**



The Town of Lawrenceville will be hosting its annual **Red, White & Blue Parade and Sparks in the Ballpark Spectacular** on Friday, June 26, 2026.



**Cousins Maine Lobster.** IS COMING TO THE **Brunswick Byways VISITOR CENTER!**

*Great food. Maine tradition.*

**FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2026**  
**11:00 AM – 2:00 PM**

FRESH, SUSTAINABLE, AUTHENTIC MAINE.

Cousins Maine Lobster Truck will be onsite with fresh, delicious lobster rolls and more!

Brunswick Byways Visitor Center - 13516 Christanna HWY Lawrenceville, VA  
 Enjoy your meal under our beautiful pavilion, just beyond our unique LOVEwork located on the grounds of the center.

*See you there!*

### LET'S TALK BUSINESS

Hosted by Brunswick County Economic Development with RISE  
 A Conversation About the Entrepreneurial Ecosystem & Supporting Business Growth

**Tuesday, June 2, 2026**  
 5:30 – 7:30 PM  
 Brunswick County Conference Center  
 100 Athletic Field Road, Lawrenceville, Virginia 23868

Join **Brunswick County Economic Development** and **RISE** for a conversation focused on connecting, sharing ideas, and supporting local business growth.

**Bonus:** Complimentary Headshots Available

*Free to attend. Light refreshments provided.*

**SHARE IDEAS • MAKE CONNECTIONS • ASK QUESTIONS**

**Who should attend:**  
 Business owners, entrepreneurs, farmers and agricultural producers, service providers, and anyone interested in growing Brunswick County's economy.

**RSVP TODAY**  
[sovarise.com/LTB](http://sovarise.com/LTB)

Presented by:  
**RISE**  
 Regional Investment in Startups & Entrepreneurs

## Monthly Meetings

*\*unless otherwise posted.*

**2nd Monday – 7 PM**

**Brunswick County School Board - Board Meeting**

1718 Farmers Field Road  
 Lawrenceville, VA 23868

**2nd Tuesday – 6 PM**

**Brunswick County Industrial Development Authority - Board Meeting**

100 Athletic Field Road  
 Lawrenceville, VA 23868

**2nd Tuesday – 7 PM**

**Brunswick County Planning Commission - Board Meeting**

100 Athletic Field Road  
 Lawrenceville, VA 23868

**3rd Wednesday – 7 PM**

**Brunswick County Board of Supervisors - Board Meeting**

228 North Main Street  
 Lawrenceville, VA 23868