

### One contribution to the Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign makes a major difference for charities

The final weeks of Virginia Tech's Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign (CVC) fall during the holiday season. During this time, it is crucial for charities like the United Way of the New River Valley, Feeding America Southwest Virginia, and the Virginia Tech Rescue Squad to receive donations to meet the rising demand for their services. All contributions are crucial for charities to continue supplying much-needed services to communities.

For those in need at this time of year, whether to have a full table for Thanksgiving or a warm place to sleep creates difficult decisions.

The primary goal of FASWVA is to collect large quantities of food for the hungry. As a result of generous contributions to the food bank, a donation as small as \$5 can help provide 30 meals for those in need. Donations also help fuel the distribution network so food gets to where it needs to be quickly and efficiently. During the holiday season, the charity predominantly focuses on its mobile food pantry and making special distributions to ensure that the food reaches as many people as possible before the holidays.

The Virginia Tech Rescue Squad (VTRS) also has higher demand for its services in the final months of the year and relies on the CVC to help purchase medical equipment. Even a \$5 donation can contribute to life-saving supplies that go on the backs of its ambulances.

This year's campaign will run until Dec. 14, so there is still time left to give. Employees can donate to the CVC through an online payroll deduction, choosing either a one-time deduction or a 24-pay-period deduction. Donations can be made through the CVC website. Cash and checks are also acceptable, and pledge cards are available for those who do not have online access. Read more: [bit.ly/2QIzgMx](http://bit.ly/2QIzgMx)

### Health Department offers free flu vaccinations Dec. 4

If you haven't gotten your flu shot yet, be sure to mark your calendar! Partnering with Hokie Wellness, the New River Valley Health District will offer free flu vaccinations on Tuesday, Dec. 4, from 7:30 a.m. - 2 p.m., at Squires Student Center in the Brush Mountain B room.

The clinic is open to everyone and walk-ins are welcome. For more information, contact Hokie Wellness at [hokiewellness@vt.edu](mailto:hokiewellness@vt.edu) or by calling 540-231-8878.

### Parking changes in place for Dec. 1 home football game

To accommodate the increased volume of vehicular traffic on campus for the Dec. 1 home football game versus Marshall, parking and traffic changes will be in place. Read more: [bit.ly/2TQ6eng](http://bit.ly/2TQ6eng)

### Board of Visitors unanimously endorses new Innovation Campus

At a special meeting held Monday in Richmond, the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors unanimously passed a resolution to endorse the creation of the Virginia Tech Innovation Campus in Alexandria.

The new 1 million-square-foot campus will become a global center of technology excellence and talent production where students, faculty, and industry leaders will come together to foster new ideas, support scaling of startups, and collaborate with corporations around the world to transfer technologies into the marketplace.

During the nearly three-hour meeting, board members received reports on the overall project, including enrollment support and faculty start-up costs; the state's higher education package; enrollment, faculty, and capital support in Blacksburg; and research and industry partners. Board members also reviewed memorandums of understanding between Amazon and the Commonwealth of Virginia, those signed between the university and the City of Alexandria, as well as the developer (Stonebridge Associates Inc.) and the owner (BRE/DP Alexandria LLC) of the proposed location.

In other business, the board approved a resolution to amend the comprehensive agreement for the Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institute Biosciences Addition in Roanoke, Virginia. Both Virginia Tech and Carilion Clinic sought to amend the agreement to recognize an increase in the funding authorization by the Commonwealth of Virginia to complete two laboratory spaces within the project, to align the project schedule, and to help mitigate cost overruns. Read more: [bit.ly/2PXZ6Hj](https://bit.ly/2PXZ6Hj)

## Fall commencement scheduled for Dec. 14

Judge Josiah Showalter Jr. and William Hopkins, will deliver the keynote addresses at Virginia Tech's 2018 fall University and Graduate School Commencement ceremonies on Friday, Dec. 14.

Showalter will speak to undergraduate students at the University Ceremony, which begins with a procession at 10:30 a.m., and Hopkins will speak at the Graduate School Ceremony which begins with a procession at 2:30 p.m.

Both ceremonies will be in Cassell Coliseum. Students will be honored for completing their academic degrees at the end of the summer and fall terms at the two events. Read more: [bit.ly/2QoDV0q](https://bit.ly/2QoDV0q)

## 2018 Virginia Farm to Table Conference to be held Dec. 5 and 6

If you're interested in local and regional food and agriculture, dealing with farming stressors in healthy ways, practical applications of soil health, value-added products, farm profitability, and other food and agricultural system topics, plan to attend the 2018 Virginia Farm to Table Conference on Dec. 5 and 6 at Blue Ridge Community College's Plecker Workforce Development Center, Weyers Cave, Virginia.

Virginia Cooperative Extension is partnering with USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Agua Fund, Virginia Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE), and many other community partners to bring in engaging and inspirational speakers with broad experience and knowledge of food, farming, and the environment.

Please note: There is a free community event open to the public on Dec. 5 at 6:30 p.m. at the BRCC Plecker Workforce Center. Enjoy an evening talk and conversation with authors David Montgomery and Anne Biklé on the important role soil ecology plays in restoring land and health. Books will be available for sale and signing.

Early bird registration pricing is available until Nov. 30, and rates will increase significantly after this date. More

details regarding the conference registration are available at: [tinyurl.com/VAFT2018](https://tinyurl.com/VAFT2018). For questions, or if you need assistive devices to attend, call (540) 232-6006 or 6010 at least five days prior to the event. Read more: [bit.ly/2Aq6sbZ](https://bit.ly/2Aq6sbZ)

## Rec Sports offers free lessons during Youth Swim Day

Virginia Tech Recreational Sports will be offering free youth swim lessons at the McComas Hall Pool on Saturday, Dec. 8, from 10 a.m. - noon during the Youth Swim Day event. This event, originally scheduled for Dec. 1, was rescheduled due to the football game.

No university affiliation required to participate in this event so please invite family and friends. There will be limited space available so you must register for one of the allotted time slots.

For questions, contact Lyncee Kowalcik at [lkowalci@vt.edu](mailto:lkowalci@vt.edu). Read more: [bit.ly/2JZzdR9](https://bit.ly/2JZzdR9)

## New day: Bring pets in for photos with Santa

Students at the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech will continue their annual tradition of offering pets an opportunity to meet and be photographed with Santa Claus for \$10 on Sunday, Dec. 2, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the college's Blacksburg campus.

Cats, dogs, and exotics (no reptiles) are welcome. All pets must be contained or on a leash and current on vaccinations. Please provide proof of rabies vaccination for dogs and cats upon arrival.

Photographs will be taken at the veterinary college, located at 245 Duck Pond Drive. Signs will direct visitors to the event and ample parking will be available.

For more information, please contact Sarah Pietropaoli at [smp5bh@vt.edu](mailto:smp5bh@vt.edu). Read more: [bit.ly/2r6m8gf](https://bit.ly/2r6m8gf)

Virginia Tech News is published weekly during fall and spring semester and bimonthly during the summer sessions, by the Division of Human Resources and the Office of University Relations as a service to university employees who do not have computer access on campus. For more information, or to discuss submission of items call 540-231-7643.

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