

NEWS & INFORMATION

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Traffic alert: Perry Street extension closed July 18-22

The Perry Street extension from Substation Lot to Turner Street will be closed from 8 a.m. Monday, July 18 to 4 p.m. Friday, July 22 for work to replace a section of a sanitary sewer line. Access to the Substation parking lot will be maintained during the road closure.

Find the most up-to-date traffic alerts at <http://vtnews.vt.edu/notices/adm-fs-ongoingtrafficimpacts.html>.

Traffic alert: Route 460 lane closure

The left lane of east Route 460, 0.25 mile west to 0.50 mile east of existing Southgate Drive, is currently closed to widen the median shoulder of the eastbound lane. One left turn lane (median side) of Southgate Drive is also closed. The left turn lane from east Route 460 onto Southgate Drive remains open.

This closure will be in place 24 hours per day until completed. During the course of this work, large trucks will be entering and exiting the travel lane, so please be advised of turning vehicles. Drivers should expect possible delays and plan to use other routes to access campus if possible.

Find the most up-to-date traffic alerts at <http://vtnews.vt.edu/notices/adm-fs-ongoingtrafficimpacts.html>.

Applications being accepted for 2016-17 Administrative Professional Development Program

Nominations are currently being accepted for the 2016-17 Administrative Professional Development Program cohort.

The program is open to Virginia Tech classified and university staff in pay bands 2 or 3 who perform a variety of duties including office management, bookkeeping, project management, and supervision of other administrative personnel. Participants have the opportunity to exchange ideas, develop new skills and knowledge, and network with employees in similar roles across the university.

Classes are held the first Tuesday of each month, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at North End Center. Classes begin Tuesday, September 6 and will continue through May. Sessions include presentations on leadership, communication, and other skill building activities.

Nomination forms must be completed, signed by the nominee's immediate supervisor, and submitted by Friday, August 5. Individuals selected for the 2016-17 Administrative Professional Development Program cohort will be notified by Monday, August 15.

More information, including eligibility requirements and nomination guidelines, can be found online at http://uopd.hr.vt.edu/Add_Development_Opportunities/Professional_Development_Networks/Administrative_Professional_Development/index.html.

For more information, contact University Organizational and Professional Development at uopd@vt.edu or 540-231-5100.

Turn Around Don't Drown: Campaign signs promote flood safety on campus

Drivers on Virginia Tech's Blacksburg campus have a new reminder to help keep them safe during periods of heavy rain. "Turn Around Don't Drown" road signs have been installed on Duck Pond Drive and Smithfield Road as part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service flood-safety program. The program encourages awareness and preparedness to prevent flood-related deaths.

The Duck Pond Drive and Smithfield Road locations are historically subject to flooding, and the "Turn Around Don't Drown" messages remind travelers to take caution even before roadways are closed by emergency services.

The New River Valley, and the Town of Blacksburg specifically, is vulnerable to riverine floods. Flooding is most likely to occur in low-lying areas as a result of heavy rains of a localized storm, a tropical storm, or a combination of rain and snowmelt. Record setting floods occurred in 1940, 1972, 1978, 1985, and 1991. The 1991 flood caused \$4.5 million in damage on the Blacksburg campus, including major damage to the Donaldson Brown Center.

Each year in the United States, more deaths occur due to flooding than from any other thunderstorm-related hazard. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention reports over half of all flood-related drowning in the nation occurs when a vehicle is driven into hazardous floodwater.

More information on how to respond before, during, and after a flooding incident is available online at www.emergency.vt.edu/guides/weather/flood.html.

Research team formed to invent new material for use on Drillfield Paths

A team of Virginia Tech faculty members have been challenged with inventing a new pathway material that can be used on the university's iconic Drillfield.

The research team has received \$75,000 in funding from the Division of Administrative Services; the Office of the Vice President for Research; the Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Science; and the Institute for Creativity, Arts, and Technology to identify, test, and evaluate all-weather and Americans with Disability Act-compliant solutions to enhance the green-space aesthetic and multi-use purpose of the Drillfield.

The team includes faculty members from the Center for Energy and Harvesting Materials and Systems in the College of Engineering and the School of Architecture + Design in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies.

They are:

- Center for Energy Harvesting Materials and Systems
- Muhammad Hajj, professor/associate dean of the graduate school
- Shashank Priya, professor of mechanical engineering

- Chao Wang, research scientist
- Lei Zuo, associate professor of mechanical engineering School of Architecture + Design
- Aki Ishida, assistant professor of architecture
- Brook Kennedy, associate professor of industrial design
- Margarita McGrath, associate professor of architecture

Their research, along with the feedback collected from students, employees, and community members during the 2015-16 academic year will be used by a university Drillfield Paths Committee to develop a recommendation for a permanent solution.

The community feedback about 14 different materials being considered for permanent installation on the Drillfield was collected via Twitter and the Drillfield Paths website during polls held in September 2015, February 2016, and April 2016.

More than 1,000 people participated sharing more than 10,000 opinions on the various materials.

The Drillfield Paths effort is part of a broader initiative supported by the Board of Visitors to develop a new master plan for the Drillfield that will preserve the beauty of the area while making it a more usable space.

For more information, visit the Drillfield Paths website at www.vt.edu/drillfield-paths.html.

Virginia Tech Police Department dispatchers join new regional 911 center

On July 14, the Virginia Tech Police Department relocated all eight of its dispatchers to the New River Valley Regional Emergency Communications Center.

The centralized 911 dispatch center, located in Montgomery County's new state-of-the-art Public Safety Building at 1 E. Main Street in Christiansburg, Virginia, will more quickly and accurately route calls to the appropriate local emergency medical, fire, and law enforcement agencies by reducing phone transfers, which will cut valuable response time.

Virginia Tech's Vice President for Administration Sherwood G. Wilson calls the project a "dream come true for the region" and credits local government administrators, law enforcement, and elected officials from across the New River Valley for their dedication, hard work, and unwavering commitment.

The effort is a regional initiative led by Virginia Tech, the towns of Blacksburg and Christiansburg, and Montgomery County. The concept of a regional communications center in the New River Valley has been under development for about nine years.

Dispatchers from the Montgomery County's Sheriff's Office and the Christiansburg Police Department have already relocated into the building. Blacksburg Police Department dispatchers will move the week of July 18.

The Virginia Tech Police Department will retain its security center and walk-up window at the university's Public Safety Building, located at 230 Sterrett Drive (0523).

The department is currently in the process of hiring five security center representatives to staff the office and assist with sending out VT Alerts, answering the nonemergency phone lines, and assisting walk-in customers. The Safe Ride program will remain housed in the building and officers will be dispatched from campus to provide transportation or a walking escort to persons traveling across campus between dusk and dawn.

The department will continue to offer fingerprinting services, provide child safety seat checks, and house student weapons and ammunition at the Public Safety Building. While the location will remain open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, fingerprinting services will be offered only from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Individuals who need assistance should call 911 (emergency) and

540-382-4343 (nonemergency). The Virginia Tech Police Department's administrative office number will remain the same: 540-231-6411.

The Virginia Tech Police Department is a full-service, nationally accredited police agency that provides the same level of service offered by municipal police departments, as well as other services unique to an academic institution. The department, which is led by a team of men and women with significant experience at the local, state, and federal levels regularly collaborates with other local law enforcement agencies and shares jurisdiction with the Blacksburg Police Department, the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office.

Virginia Tech recognized as 'leader in using technology to teach, have fun' in latest Money magazine ranking

Virginia Tech earned several accolades in Money Magazine's new best college rankings list, being placed No. 18 overall and No. 9 among public institutions.

In addition, the magazine ranked Virginia Tech No. 2 for "Best Colleges You Can Actually Get Into," and No. 18 for "Best Colleges that Add the Most Value."

Money evaluated 705 colleges based on 24 factors that looked broadly at educational quality, affordability, and alumni success. The rankings also account for how well students did at each institution versus what's typical for students with similar economic and academic backgrounds.

The magazine noted Virginia Tech as "a leader in using technology to teach – and have fun," and lauded the university's "unusually high graduation rate: 83 percent, which is 12 percent higher than the average for its peers."

Beyond outstanding academics, the cost to attend remains low, with annual 2016-17 tuition and fees for undergraduates at \$12,852 for in-state students and \$29,975 for out-of-state students. To help offset costs and increase affordability, undergraduate students received more than \$100 million in grant aid and scholarship support for Fiscal Year 2015. In addition, Virginia Tech offers Funds for the Future, a program that guarantees that tuition and fee rates will not increase for qualifying families for up to four years for entering undergraduates whose families' adjusted gross incomes are below \$50,000, with partial protection for families with adjusted gross incomes below \$100,000.

In addition, Virginia Tech is strengthening its commitment to increase access to higher education as part of its land-grant mission, recently forming the College Access Collaborative, which will forge partnerships with schools in underserved areas of Virginia and offer financial support for students from those schools to attend Virginia Tech.

While the Money ranking used salary data from PayScale.com and the College Scorecard, Virginia Tech's Career and Professional Development tracks students' employment and pay in the six months following graduation. For students who graduated in 2014-15 and reported employment, they reported a median salary of \$58,000.

Virginia Tech News is published weekly during fall and spring semester and bimonthly during the summer sessions, by the Department 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.