

Community members encouraged to update VT Alerts notification preferences prior to Feb. 2 test

Virginia Tech will conduct a full-scale test of its VT Alerts system Tuesday, Feb. 2, on the Blacksburg campus as well as university facilities located in six regions across Virginia.

The test will occur between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

When a VT Alert is sent out, the information is automatically communicated with the community via campus sirens, electronic message boards, emails to vt.edu addresses, and social media updates. Individuals may also subscribe to receive the information via a VT Phone Alert or VT Desktop Alert by visiting the VT Alerts website at www.alerts.vt.edu.

Those with a Virginia Tech PID are eligible to subscribe to VT Phone Alerts, which can be sent to a cell (by voice or text message), home, and/or office phone, or a non-Virginia Tech email address. Subscribers are able to choose up to three preferred contact methods for VT Phone Alerts. However, individuals should make sure to provide only their current and direct contact information.

All community members should expect to receive duplicate messages. This redundancy is intentional to ensure important information reaches as many people as possible in the shortest amount of time.

Students and employees are strongly encouraged to log in to the VT Phone Alerts website at <https://subscribe.alerts.vt.edu> to update notification preferences and verify contact information prior to the Feb. 2 test.

While in the system, users can also choose up to three regions for which to receive notification. The available regions include:

- **Blacksburg** (Virginia Tech main campus, Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine);
- **National Capital Region** (Northern Virginia Center in Falls Church, Va.; Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center in Leesburg, Va.; Middleburg Agricultural Research and Extension Center; Alexandria Center; Occoquan Watershed Monitoring Laboratory in Manassas, Va.; Virginia Tech Research Center – Arlington);
- **Richmond** (Virginia Tech Richmond Center);
- **Hampton Roads** (Virginia Tech Hampton Roads Center, Virginia Beach; Virginia Tech Hampton Roads Center, Newport News);
- **Roanoke** (Roanoke Higher Education Center, Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine and Research Institute);
- **Abingdon** (Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center); and
- **Danville** (Institute for Advanced Learning and Research).

Individuals who have subscribed but do not receive a phone alert during the test should first log in to verify that their record is correct and then contact 4Help at 540-231-HELP (4357).

In the event of an actual emergency, individuals must be aware of their surroundings and take immediate responsibility for their personal safety and security. Initial VT Alerts

messages will provide basic information on the nature and location of the emergency, as well as instructions for what to do. Subsequent VT Alerts messages or first responders will provide additional instructions and updates about the incident until the all clear is given. Detailed information, when available, will be posted to the university homepage (www.vt.edu)

Visit the VT Alerts website at www.alerts.vt.edu for more information or to sign up.

2015 tax documents now available

Electronic W-2s and/or 1042s for 2015 are now available via the Hokie Spa (www.hokiespa.vt.edu). The printed electronic form is an IRS acceptable version of the Form W-2 and 1042S. Employees must have a PID and password to log in.

Retrieval of the electronic version acknowledges consent to electronic receipt. Paper versions will not be mailed. Employees who do not have a PID and password should contact 4Help at 540-231-4357.

Detailed directions to access the electronic form are available at www.co.vt.edu/accounting_operations/Payroll/W-2_%20Info.html.

For tax and payment related questions, contact the Payroll Office at vtw2@vt.edu or 540-231-5201. For questions regarding online access, contact 4Help at 540-231-4357.

Tax form 1095-C deadline extended; IRS advises to file tax returns as normal

The state Department of Human Resource Management will delay mailing form 1095-C to health plan participants until after March 1, 2016. The deadline for employers to send form 1095-C to employees has been extended from January 31, 2016 to March 31, 2016.

The Affordable Care Act (which requires that all individuals have health insurance) requires that employers provide employees with IRS form 1095-C.

While the information on this form may aid in preparing a return, IRS guidelines (www.irs.gov/Affordable-Care-Act/Questions-and-Answers-about-Health-Care-Information-Forms-for-Individuals) state that it is not required. Employees do not need to wait until the form arrives to file a 2015 income tax return.

For more information, visit the IRS website at www.irs.gov/Affordable-Care-Act/Questions-and-Answers-about-Health-Care-Information-Forms-for-Individuals or contact the Human Resources Service Center: at hrrservicecenter@vt.edu or 540-231-9331.

Learn how to love your body at the Body Project workshop

A positive body image helps build self-confidence, self-acceptance, and self-worth. Female employees wishing to learn

how to be body-positive are invited to attend the Body Project workshop, offered by Hokie Wellness.

This two-part workshop provides a welcoming environment to help women challenge their body-related concerns, speak more confidently about their bodies, and positively respond to future pressures.

Part one

-- Thursday, Jan. 28 from 12 – 2 p.m. at McComas Hall (room 143)

Part two

-- Thursday, Feb. 4 from 12 – 2 p.m. at McComas Hall (room 143)

Registration is required by Jan. 27. To register, go to www.training.vt.edu and login, click "view by alpha" and search for "Body Project". Participants are required to attend both sessions.

For more information, contact Hokie Wellness hokiewellness@vt.edu at 540-231-9331.

Flint Water Study research team led by Marc Edwards to present on water crisis Thursday night

Virginia Tech's Marc Edwards and his team of research scientists and students will give a presentation at 7 p.m. Thursday night, Jan. 28, in Blacksburg to outline their internationally recognized work — done in collaboration with Flint, Michigan, residents — that exposed widespread lead-in-water contamination.

The presentation will provide an overview of the Flint Water Study (<http://flintwaterstudy.org>) team's efforts combining ethics engineering, citizen science, laboratory experiments, investigative science, and social media to confirm the high lead levels in Flint's water. The event in Quillen Auditorium, located in Goodwin Hall, 635 Prices Fork Road, is open to the public. Parking is available after 5 p.m. in the adjacent lots to Goodwin Hall and the Perry Street garage. It will also be broadcast live online. A live stream link will be posted on the Virginia Tech homepage (www.vt.edu)

Flint's 100,000 residents were exposed to lead-tainted water for over 18 months. Virginia Tech's role in uncovering the problem has been widely reported by media around the world.

The full article about the Flint Water Study team is available at www.vtnews.vt.edu/articles/2016/01/012616-engineering-flinttalk.html.

In memoriam: Jerry Scheeler, senior television and video producer, University Relations

Jerry Scheeler, who began working at Virginia Tech in 1971 as a filmmaker and then led the university's transitions to video and digital, died Jan. 22. He was 68.

Over the years he shot the coaches' films for athletics and was a videographer for retired football coach Frank Beamer's television show, Stith said. He also traveled to create videos about Virginia Tech's work in the Caribbean, Costa Rica, Russia, and Riva San Vitale.

For many years Scheeler, a Montana native, also taught a film production class as an adjunct faculty member. Scheeler also had a career as a respected freelance filmmaker who traveled internationally and once filmed a story on 'Born Free's' George Adamson at his camp in Kenya.

Scheeler is survived by his wife, Marian. The couple recently moved from Montgomery County to Botetourt County in preparation for Scheeler's retirement from Virginia Tech sometime this year.

A memorial service is being planned, but details have not been finalized.

Those in the university community who may wish assistance or desire counseling support may contact:

-- Cook Counseling Center at 540-231-6557

-- Dean of Students Office at 540-231-3787

-- Office of Housing and Residence Life at 540-231-6205

-- Department of Human Resources / Hokie Wellness at 540-231-9331

--Employee Assistance Program:

Anthem at 855-223-9277

Aetna at 888-238-6232 (company name: Commonwealth of Virginia, username: COVA, password: COVA)

Kaiser Permanente at 866-517-7042

Referrals to a campus cleric may be done through the Dean of Students Office at 540-231-3787.

In memoriam: Peggy Johnson Lavery, former first lady of Virginia Tech

Peggy Johnson Lavery, Virginia Tech's first lady from 1975 to 1987 and a longtime resident of Blacksburg, died on Jan. 20. She was 80.

As first lady, Lavery entertained thousands of visitors at the university president's home, the Grove, often selecting menus and preparing part of the food served. She helped oversee renovations to the Grove, and as first lady participated in a university fundraising campaign that ultimately raised more than \$118 million. Along with her husband, William Lavery, who died in 2009, she was a member of the Ut Prosim Society of donors to Virginia Tech.

According to her obituary, Peggy Johnson Lavery was born on a Nebraska farm to the late Virgil L. and Irine Mullins Johnson. Having scored well on the civil service exam, she moved to Washington D.C. in the mid-1950s to work as a secretary at the Pentagon, during which time she met her future husband, then a soldier.

The Laverys married in 1956. They moved to Blacksburg in 1966 after William Lavery joined the Virginia Tech faculty as director of administration for the Extension division.

As an active, involved member of the Virginia Tech and Blacksburg communities, Peggy Johnson Lavery served as a 4-H Leader for her children's 4-H Clubs, a den mother, a parent teacher association volunteer, a Sunday school teacher and coordinator, and an officer in the Virginia Tech Faculty Wives Club.

In the early 1990s, she returned to work full-time, serving in administrative and marketing roles in senior care. She gained a reputation for her experience and advocacy for improving the lives of senior citizens, and was appointed by Governor L. Douglas Wilder to the Governor's Advisory Board for the Aging.

The family will receive friends from 5 to 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 29, at McCoy Funeral Home, 150 Country Club Drive, Blacksburg. A 7:30 p.m. Rosary service will follow the visitation. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 30, at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 1205 Old Mill Road, Blacksburg.

Interment will follow at Westview Cemetery, 723 E. Roanoke Street, Blacksburg. Flowers will be appreciated, or memorial contributions may be made to the Peggy Lavery Gerontology Research and Professional Development Awards (Virginia Tech University Gift Accounting, Mail Code 0336, 902 Prices Fork Road, Blacksburg, VA 24061), or to St. Mary's Catholic Church (1205 Old Mill Road, Blacksburg, VA 24060).

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.