



Virginia Association of Counties

ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



APPLICATION FORM

All applications must include the following information. Separate applications must be submitted for each eligible program. **Deadline: June 1, 2018.** Please include this application form with electronic entry. If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your entry within 3 days of submission, please contact [Gage Harter](#).

PROGRAM INFORMATION

County: Montgomery County

Program Title: Renew the New

Program Category: Regional Collaboration

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Jennifer T. Harris

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SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: F. Craig Meadows

Title: County Administrator

Signature:

Renew the New

Montgomery County, VA

VACo Achievement Awards Program Category: Regional Collaboration

Executive Summary

Everything including the kitchen sink has new meaning to Montgomery County after organizing a local clean-up effort in conjunction with a larger regional clean-up effort in August of 2017. During the clean-up, several items were removed from a local river, the New River, including an actual sink. The collaborative New River clean-up event, held on Saturday, August 26, 2017, was organized regionally by the New River Valley Regional Commission and locally by the Montgomery County Parks and Recreation department. Several localities in Virginia to include Montgomery County, Floyd County, Giles County, Pulaski County, and the City of Radford, all participated in the “Renew the New” regional clean-up event. Montgomery County cleaned the Whitethorne Boat Launch area of the New River between the hours of 8 a.m. and noon. Participants received a t-shirt and a meal.



On that sunny Saturday in August, Montgomery County clean-up volunteers removed .45 tons a refuse and 2.12 tons of tires (123 tires to be exact), making a grand total of 2.57 tons of junk removed from the Whitethorne Boat Launch at the New River. In all, the collaborative, regional effort resulted in 475 volunteers cleaning 19 miles of the New River and its streams, along with 11.5 miles of the surrounding banks and roadsides. This effort resulted in the collection of 11 tons of refuse: 357 trash bags and 401 tires.

Goal

The ultimate goal for Montgomery County in its participation in the regional Renew the New event was to clean up the New River. In addition, the county welcomed the opportunity to collaborate both interdepartmentally and regionally with the New River Valley Regional Commission. Finally, the county wanted to increase both citizen interaction and awareness as it relates to conserving and enjoying a beautiful and fun local resource – the New River.

Overview

Everything including the kitchen sink has new meaning to Montgomery County after organizing a local clean-up effort in conjunction with a larger regional clean-up effort in August of 2017. During the clean-up, several items were removed from a local river, the New River, including an actual sink. The collaborative New River clean-up event, held on Saturday, August 26, 2017, was organized regionally by the New River Valley Regional Commission and locally by the Montgomery County Parks and Recreation department. Several localities in Virginia to include Montgomery County, Floyd County, Giles County, Pulaski County, and the City of Radford, all participated in the “Renew the New” regional clean-up event. Montgomery County cleaned the Whitethorne Boat Launch area of the New River between the hours of 8 a.m. to noon.





The Montgomery County Parks and Recreation department took the primary lead on organizing the county's clean up event. Parks and Recreation provided kayaks and canoes for volunteers to use and partnered with the Montgomery County Regional

Tourism Office to cover the cost of the meal provided to the volunteers. The Parks and Recreation department served as the liaison with the New River Valley Regional Commission to gather and provide clean-up supplies for the volunteers as well.

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Budget

Montgomery County paid \$750 for the meal that was served at the Renew the New event. Two county departments (Parks and Recreation and the Montgomery County Regional Tourism Office) split the \$750 meal costs. The New River Valley Regional



Commission covered the cost of the shirts, and clean up supplies. In addition, the Montgomery Regional Solid Waste Authority waived the tire recycling fee for the tires collected during the Renew the New event.

Results



On that sunny Saturday in August, several Montgomery County clean-up volunteers removed .45 tons a refuse and 2.12 tons of tires (123 tires to be exact), making a grand total of 2.57 tons of junk removed from the Whitethorne Boat Launch at the New River. In all, the collaborative, regional effort resulted in 475 volunteers cleaning 19 miles of the New River and its streams, along with 11.5 miles of the surrounding banks and roadsides. This effort resulted in the collection of 11 tons of refuse: 357 trash bags and 401 tires.

News coverage of the event related to Montgomery County:

County participates in renew the new event

News Messenger, September 6, 2017

On Saturday, Aug. 26, sixty volunteers to include community members and Montgomery County staff met at the public landing on Whitethorne Road in Blacksburg and spent several hours both in kayaks and canoes on the river and walking along the riverbanks collecting trash. Several bags were filled with trash and several large items were retrieved from the river to include 123 tires and even a kitchen sink.

<https://montcova.com/top-stories/county-participates-in-renew-the-new-event/>

By land and by water, volunteers clean up the New River

Roanoke Times, August 27, 2017, by Laurence Hammack

After fishing the New River for trash Saturday morning, volunteers in canoes and kayaks unloaded their catch: discarded tires, beer cans and bottles, plastic milk jugs, waterlogged cardboard, steel pipes, a lawn chair frame, a sunken raft, a rusty barrel...even a kitchen sink. “It’s almost like it’s too cliché,” Nicole Ward said. “We did find everything and the kitchen sink.”

http://www.roanoke.com/news/local/floyd_county/by-land-and-by-water-volunteers-clean-up-the-new/article_d3a47f26-584c-55fb-b660-5c345fb438fc.html

Related Video with interview with Mitchell Haugh, Director, Montgomery County

Parks and Recreation:

http://video.roanoke.com/?ndn.trackingGroup=91597&ndn.siteSection=91597_pp&ndn.videoId=32891035

Related Photo Gallery (18 photos):

http://www.roanoke.com/photo/by-land-and-by-water-volunteers-clean-up-the-new/collection_18d69e81-16d7-5350-aeb4-12905dbf2bba.html