

Dear Volunteer,

Fall is here! May this autumn month bring joy and happiness to you and your family. The following are 5 easy ways to welcome fall into your home from lovegrowswild.com.

- Add layers of pattern and texture. Pull out the extra blankets and cozy sweaters!
- Bring in natural elements of the season.
- Decorate with colors that already exist in your home.
- Add candles for warm ambiance.
- Create simple floral arrangements.

We are happy to offer face-to-face meetings for official business with RSVP staff by appointment only. Please call the RSVP office at 382-5775 to schedule an appointment. Hand sanitizer and face masks are available. Volunteers are asked to practice physical distancing, sanitize their hands, and wear a mask when entering the Human Services division/RSVP office.

Please continue to use the black box at the entrance of our building to drop off volunteer hour sheets and coupons. **The box is labeled for mail.** If your item will not fit inside the box, please call the office in advance and a staff member will offer contactless pickup.

Below you will find updates, volunteer opportunities, and educational information.

## RSVP UPDATES

### Rebranding

**While our group will continue to be named the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), we are no longer under the umbrella of Senior Corps.** We will introduce the following logo on all of our marketing materials and media outlets in the months to come.

“Earlier this fall, the federal agency responsible for AmeriCorps and Senior Corps programs, the Corporation for National and Community Service officially became ‘AmeriCorps’ in the first major update to the agency’s identity in a quarter century. As part of this rebranding initiative, all national service programs are united under a unified AmeriCorps identity and promoted under the AmeriCorps or AmeriCorps Seniors banner. This effort streamlines opportunities to serve for all Americans, at a time when their help is needed most.” -AmeriCorps

**“For 50+ years Senior Corps volunteers have brought out the best of America. Although we have a new name, our legacy will continue.** While it doesn’t change the national service mission, programs, or operations, the new brand will raise awareness about opportunities to serve and elevate service at a time of growing need and demand.” -AmeriCorps



**AmeriCorps  
Seniors**

### RSVP Scholarship Program

The RSVP Advisory Council Scholarship Committee met on September 1 and reviewed seven applications for this year’s \$1,000 scholarship awards. They selected Thinna Svetanant, a student from Blacksburg High School who is attending Virginia Tech to pursue studies in Biomedicine. Also, Tristan Hall, a student of Christiansburg High School who is attending James Madison University to pursue a degree in Nursing.

A special thank you goes to the committee members who carefully reviewed the applications this year.



**Thinna Svetanant**



**Tristan Hall**

## RSVP Fundraising – Online Auction

The RSVP Advisory Council Fundraising Committee will host an online auction on November 16-19 to benefit our scholarship fund, annual tote bag program for area nursing home residents at Christmas, and events for area veterans and military families. **Details will be available on our Facebook page after October 19<sup>th</sup> and in the November update!**

## Holiday Tote Bags

The annual Holiday Tote Bags are ready to be filled for 90 residents of Radford Health and Rehabilitation Center. **Please respond to this email or call the office to schedule a time to pick up a bag to shop for needed items.** A shopping list will be provided in each bag. In addition, we are offering contactless pickup of tote bags at the RSVP office this year. Please schedule an appointment to return your bag by Friday, December 11.

## Overseas Coupon Program

Thank you to all of our volunteers who have delivered coupons to the RSVP office during this unprecedented time! We are also very appreciative of our faithful group of volunteers who continue to clip, sort, and organize the coupons at home. Manufacturer's Coupons valued at \$27,180 will be mailed to our adopted base in Germany this month!

**Reminder:** When delivering manufacturers coupons to RSVP, please make sure that the expiration date is **September 2020** or later. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we are asking you to be mindful of the expiration date so that our military families have time to use the coupons by the time they are shipped overseas. If you have any questions, please contact me at [hayesaw@montgomerycountyva.gov](mailto:hayesaw@montgomerycountyva.gov).

## Volunteer Hour Sheets

Please continue to send any volunteer hours you may have. You can submit them by mail, email or by visiting <https://forms.montva.com/Forms/RSVP-hours>. If you use this link, your volunteer time will be emailed to RSVP staff. Please let me know if you would like an electronic copy of the hour sheet.

# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

## RSVP Advisory Council

We are seeking 3 RSVP volunteers to serve on the RSVP Advisory Council for the 2021-2022 term. If interested, please call the RSVP office or contact Nominating Committee members Carol Johnson, Shannon Hammons, Deborah Lovelace or Carol Cornish before October 9.

## Micah's Backpack

Packing Teams are needed at Micah's Backpack. The teams should be 6 to 8 people (they must remain the same people) that are comfortable packing together with social distancing guidelines in place. The teams would pack every other week on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. They are especially in need of a team or two on Mondays. Please contact the office if you are interested in this opportunity.

## Holiday Cards for Soldiers

RSVP is planning to send Christmas Cards, without envelopes, to soldiers who have been deployed overseas. If you are interested in writing cards to be mailed, please **schedule an appointment to bring them to RSVP by Monday, October 26.**



## Project Linus

Hello Friends,

We are thinking of each of you as we move into the fall season – a time when we would usually be looking forward to a Blanket Day gathering. Since we currently cannot gather for an event, we will be holding a drive-thru drop-off day for any blankets that you have ready and would like to turn in.

On Saturday, October 24, we'll be at the two locations below to pick up finished blankets. Just look for the maroon van with "Blanket Lady" license plates!

- Sew Biz parking lot, 7327 Peppers Ferry Blvd, Fairlawn, VA, 10 am - 12 noon
- Joann Fabrics, Christiansburg parking lot, 2 pm - 4 pm

Sew Biz has agreed to be a collection point for Project Linus, and we are so thankful for that! If you haven't visited their new location on Peppers Ferry Blvd, be sure to stop in and check it out!

For the quilters in our group, or those who would like to begin quilting, the Project Linus Mystery Quilt Challenge will begin on September 26, 2020. Registration is open now and will continue throughout the challenge. Go to <https://www.projectlinus.org/> and click "Lucy's Love Notes" at the top of the page. There will be 7 weeks of clues beginning Saturday, September 26th leading up to the "Big Reveal" on November 7th. If you would like to join but are unable to afford the \$15 registration fee, there are scholarships available. Email [patty@projectlinus.org](mailto:patty@projectlinus.org) for information. When you register, be sure to list New River Valley-Radford chapter and Penny Sweet's name and our chapter will receive your full \$15 registration fee. Thank you!

Don't worry, knitters and crocheters – there will be another Crochet and Knit Along early next year!

Thanks so much to each one of you who for all you do to support our chapter! Stay safe and well!

Fondly,  
Penny Sweet, Chapter Coordinator  
Laura Eanes, Assistant

## EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

### Prescription Drug Take-Back Day

Saturday, October 24 is National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day and aims to provide a safe and convenient way to turn in your unused or expired prescription medication. An environmentally sound and responsible way to dispose of prescription drugs is sponsored by Law Enforcement Agencies, check with your local pharmacy to see if they are an authorized collector location.

### Fuel Assistance

The Montgomery County Department of Social Services will begin taking applications for Fuel Assistance on October 6 and continue through November 13. You may obtain an application or further information by calling (540) 382-6990.

### Shred-A-Thon - Tuesday, October 20, 2020

Help prevent identity theft, shred unwanted documents, protect identifying information and clean out clutter! The Christiansburg Recreation Center will be holding a Shred-A-Thon on Oct. 20, 2020 from 3-6 p.m. Please bring your documents in a box or plastic tote (no larger than 22.5x18x11.5") and respect the limit of three totes/boxes per vehicle. Items that cannot be shredded include: metal, three-ring binders, composition notebooks, hanging file

folders, paint brushes, padlocks, hardback books, keys, eyeglasses, bungee cords, etc.

Please note that the Shred-a-Thon is a drive-thru event; please do not get out of your car and approach the collection site, but rather stay in the line of vehicles for an event coordinator to approach you. No walk ups will be allowed. For more information, contact Tammy Caldwell at (540) 382-2349 ext. 2003 or [tcaldwell@christiansburg.org](mailto:tcaldwell@christiansburg.org).



## Medicare Part D Open Enrollment

It is time to think about your Medicare Part D Drug Plans again. Every January, all Medicare drug plans change. Even if you are happy with your current plan, you need to determine if it will still be the best one for you in 2021. If you fail to make a change during Open Enrollment, you may be stuck in a plan that doesn't work best for you next year. The NRV Agency on Aging VICAP Program will be assisting Medicare Beneficiaries beginning October 15th through December 7th. Call the Agency at 980-7720 to receive a form to fill out so that the VICAP staff can research the Medicare Part D plans that are available to you. If they find a plan that will better suit your needs, they will contact you, probably by phone as appointments aren't being scheduled this year as of now. During this contact, you can choose to make a change based on the information that the staff member presents to you. If they determine that your existing plan works for you in 2021, they will send you a "No Change" letter.

## Montgomery County Christmas Store



The Christmas Store is altering their eligibility and shopping process this year. If someone shopped in 2019, they will receive an appointment in the mail. No need to reapply.

New applicants should leave a message at (540) 391-0549. They will call them for screening and scheduling.

All shoppers will complete a Wish List and pick up items on their appointed day. No in-Store shopping this year.

## Early Voting – A message from Montgomery County

If you are interested in voting early and in-person in the Presidential Election, you'll be able to do so at satellite locations, beginning Sept. 18, 2020. One is at the Montgomery County Government Center and the other is at

[Wonder Universe: A Children's Museum](#) at Uptown Christiansburg (formerly NRV Mall).

Voting in this manner does not require an excuse. The last day to vote in-person early is Oct. 31, 2020.

Learn full details on our website: [www.montva.com/2020election](http://www.montva.com/2020election).



## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



- |                      |                         |                     |
|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 01 Jenny Lindsey     | 10 Penny Sweet          | 23 Kathleen Patrick |
| 01 Jan Marks         | 10 Patricia VanLanding- | 24 Pat Lovern       |
| 03 Martha Carpenter  | ham                     | 26 Brenda Spangler  |
| 04 Judy McNabb       | 13 Mary Adkins          | 30 Anna Dalton      |
| 04 Sharon Naglic     | 17 Christine Fulmer     |                     |
| 07 Donna Thompson    | 18 Nola Elliott         |                     |
| 08 Shirley McPherson | 19 Myra Lux             |                     |
| 08 Joel Pugh         | 20 Mary Lough           |                     |
| 08 Linda Rife        | 20 Jill Songer          |                     |
| 10 Phyllis Lutz      | 20 Mary West            |                     |

## CONDOLENCES

- To Mary West in the loss of her husband.
- To family and friends of Brandol West, former volunteer.
- To family and friends of Ray Spaulding, former volunteer.

The RSVP office will be closed on Monday, October 12 in observance of Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples Day.

You will receive monthly updates by email until Montgomery County reopens its meeting rooms. We continue to be in contact with our volunteers without email. Therefore, we will offer this update in a printed format to those without access to the internet.

Stay safe and well,  
Mandy