

Hello. My name is Billy Martin, and I am the past chairman of the Botetourt County Board of Supervisors. I am pleased to be able to provide a Botetourt County news update to the residents and businesses of Botetourt County.

First, a COVID-19 update. We are continuing to see a lot of our neighbors testing positive for the Omicron variant. Our library's have been a resource for at home testing kits, but we are currently out. We hope to have more in stock very soon. Make sure to follow the Roanoke City and Alleghany Health Districts on social media for testing events and vaccine clinics in our area. The Eagle Rock Library will be hosting a vaccine event on Wednesday, February 9th from 1:30 – 3:30pm. Follow our libraries on

social media for other vaccine opportunities and visit our COVID19 website at Botetourt V-A dot gov.

In other news, we are pleased to announce that Botetourt County and LUMOS received funding for universal broadband coverage from the Virginia Telecommunications Initiative Grant from the Commonwealth of Virginia totaling over \$3 million dollars! This grant will wrap up our universal broadband coverage project and should be complete by the end of 2024. We are so excited for what this means for our community. We know that the last two years has shown us that it is so important that all residents and businesses in Botetourt County have access to reliable internet service to conduct telehealth and telemedicine visits, work remotely and also

for our children and adult learners to have virtual classrooms.

While we are excited about Botetourt's future, we also wanted to take a minute and talk about our history. There has been a lot of work happening in Historic Fincastle in regard to the Fincastle Courthouse. We have an update for you on where that project stands.

Architectural Partners of Lynchburg is preparing all design, construction, bid plans and documents for the relocation of the Botetourt County Historical Society and Museum and the monuments located in front of the Circuit Courthouse.

There will be a lot of temporary relocations during the construction project. Work is scheduled to take place in 2022/early 2023. The project is scheduled to be completed and the new circuit courthouse occupied by the spring of 2025. We will keep the community up to date as this project unfolds.

We also want to update you on some work happening at the Greenfield Governmental Center where our Administrative Offices are housed. Botetourt County, in partnership with Virginia Western Community College, is currently constructing an 8,900 square feet expansion adjacent to the County Administration building. Using the leadership of the Economic Development Authority to manage the project, Botetourt has taken the lead to design

and construct the facility to support our partnership with Virginia Western in meeting the needs of existing and future workforce in Greenfield and the greater Botetourt community. The EDA will own and maintain the facility with all costs associated with this effort being paid for by Virginia Western. This is another great example of teamwork between Botetourt County and our partners.

Switching gears –youth basketball is in full swing. We have had 463 children sign up to participate making up 54 teams. Registration for spring baseball and softball opens on February 1. Parks and Recreation does have opportunities for the community to get involved in youth sports. In order for us to provide our programs, we are in need of site supervisors to help manage our winter and

spring sports. These positions offer a flexible schedule. To apply you can visit [botetourt-v-a dot gov](http://botetourt-v-a.gov). Botetourt County is also hiring a Network Support Engineer and Building Inspectors. You can apply online at our website.

That's a wrap for this week! We have a lot of exciting projects on the horizon so stay tuned to our updates! Take care of yourselves and each other and may God continue to bless beautiful Botetourt County!