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DOWNTOWN LYNCHBURG



MARK HAND PHOTOS, THE NEWS & ADVANCE

Lynchburg Water Resources crews spent Tuesday cleaning up the sediment that had washed onto Jefferson Street from a water main break.

Water main break a big mess

Crews clean up after rupture on 10th Street causes flood damage, power outage

MARK HAND
The News & Advance

Lynchburg Water Resources (LWR) crews spent Tuesday cleaning up damage from a water main break in downtown the previous night that sent water rushing down to Jefferson Street.

Contractors also spent the day using wet vacuums and other equipment to dry out buildings with water damage.

The water main ruptured on 10th Street between Main and Commerce streets at about 8 p.m. on Monday, LWR said in a news release Tuesday. A large volume of water flowed down 10th Street, gushing into and around buildings.

Crews were able to contain the water main break between Main and Commerce streets. “Because our crews were able to isolate the outage to that single block of 10th Street, no customers went without service at any point during this

break and repair,” LWR spokesman Jason Snyder said in an email.

Despite no interruption to water service, customers in the downtown area can expect discolored water or air in their water lines. To flush their lines, the city advises running cold water in a bathtub for 10 minutes.

Soon after the water main break Monday night, residents posted videos on social media of the water gushing down streets.

The rushing water damaged an Appalachian Power Co. transformer near the N.B. Handy Company building between 10th and 9th streets. By late afternoon, nine customers in downtown were still without power due to the transformer damage, according to APCo. Those customers were expected to have their power restored by early evening, the company said.



MARK HAND, THE NEWS & ADVANCE

Water from a water main break flowed down the hill next to the N.B. Handy Company building onto Jefferson Street in downtown Lynchburg.

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IVY CREEK PARK

Keeping anglers busy through winter

Clemmons Lake stocked with roughly 300 pounds of trout by Virginia DWR

MARK HAND
The News & Advance

More than 300 pounds of trout were brought to Lynchburg on Monday morning to stock Clemmons Lake at Ivy Creek Park as part of the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources’ urban fishing program.

Rainbow, brown and tiger trout, each weighing up to a pound, were transported to the lake in a specialized truck with tanks that provide a life-support system for the fish. DWR employees then used nets to remove the trout from the tanks and release them into the lake at various locations.

Mike Bednarski, chief of fisheries for DWR, said the department stocks trout at about eight urban waterbodies across the state during the winter. “We believe



MARK HAND, THE NEWS & ADVANCE

Tom FitzPatrick, of the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources, stocks Clemmons Lake in Lynchburg with trout as part of the department’s urban fishing program.

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DATA CENTERS IN VIRGINIA

Facilities sparking political passions

Assembly, Va. counties raise questions on sites’ effects on energy policy, local residents

DAVE RESS
Richmond Times-Dispatch

RICHMOND — The state’s data center boom is now the subtext to increasingly intense politicking over longtime Virginia issues — climate change, electricity rates and the powers of local governments.

What, if anything, should be done about the energy-hungry facilities that keep the internet humming and that are growing ever larger to feed the ballooning data needs of artificial intelligence systems? That has become a major question before the General Assembly and a growing number of Virginia’s county boards of supervisors.

At the General Assembly, the two key issues involve energy policy.

The first question: Will data centers’ huge and rapidly growing demands for electricity lead legislators to reconsider the state’s 5-year-old policy requiring that all of Dominion Energy’s electricity by 2045 come from sources that don’t emit carbon compounds, primarily carbon dioxide, that cause global warming?

The other: Who will pay the bill for any new generating plants and power lines needed to feed the data centers’ power demand?

At county boards of supervisors, the question comes down to this: Is a data center a good neighbor?

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Va. in crossfire of powering AI while protecting climate

Growing need for electricity a barrier to the state’s efforts to cut greenhouse gas emissions

MICHAEL MARTZ
Richmond Times-Dispatch

PRINCE WILLIAM — Four data center buildings stand in a row along state Route 55 on the eastern edge of Haymarket, a late 18th-century town now in the expanding center of 21st-century digital technology.

Village Place Technology Park — totaling more than 1 million square feet of space for storing and processing data — looks finished, but it still lacks the electricity it needs to run because the utility infrastructure to deliver the power isn’t there yet.

“We call them ‘zombie data centers,’” said Julie Bolthouse, director of land use at Piedmont Environmental Council, a leading critic of the data center industry in Northern Virginia. “They’re built, but inoperable. They’re just waiting to come to life.”

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■ **MORE INSIDE:** Halt data centers until infrastructure catches up, says grid’s watchdog. **Page A6**