



City E-Currents

City E-Currents is a publication of the City of Hopewell.

Issue 10: May 2013

Inside This Issue...

Mayor's Corner continued..... 2

City of Hopewell Employee of the Month Feb. and March 2013 3

City of Hopewell Employee of the Quarter 3

Hopewell Student Wins Literary Contest and Travels to WWE Wrestlemania 29 4

Hopewell High School Band Student Wins \$10,000..... 5

Hopewell's own, Bernetta Quinn, receives an award at the annual April Child Abuse Conference 6

Hopewell Twinning Association dedicates a Directional Sign 6

Hopewell City Council Resolution honors the Hopewell Optimist Club 7

Hopewell Citizens Academy..... 7

CAPUP plans to bring up to 400 teenagers and adults to Hopewell, Virginia to improve the homes of local residents..... 8

Gang Prevention & Awareness Community Forum 9

Phone directory 10

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Mayor's Corner

"THE NEEDS OF THE MANY OUTWEIGH THE NEEDS OF THE FEW... OR THE ONE"
Mr. Spock

I believe changes are coming to Hopewell. Not everyone likes change, not everyone agrees with all the changes on the horizon, but change is necessary if we are to grow, prosper, and reclaim some of our past beauty.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

By now you may have heard that Council is considering (and hopefully passing) several City Ordinance changes which will assist in making our City more aesthetically pleasing to those who live here as well as those visiting. We will lower the maximum height of grass from 12 inches to



Mike Bujakowski

10, shorten the number of days to comply with a notice of violation from 10 days to 5. In addition, we will make

See **MAYOR'S CORNER** page 2

Director of the Department of Public Work Retiring

Phillip Elliott, Director, Department of Public Works has announced his retirement from the City after 40 years of public service effective July 1, 2013. He has over 20 years of prior military service and over 21 years with the Virginia Retirement System of which 14 years have been with the City of Hopewell as Director of Public Works, a position he has held since June 14, 1999.



Phillip Elliott

A native of Hampton, Virginia, Elliott graduated from Kecoughtan High School in Hampton, Virginia and attended college at North Carolina State University and graduated with a degree in Civil Engineering in 1983. He was drafted in the military in 1971, served

in the U.S. Air Force until 1991 achieving the rank of Captain. From 1992 to 1995 he was the State Pavement Management Engineer for the Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Transportation. From 1995 to 1999, he served as the Senior Civil Engineer for the City of Richmond, Virginia. Currently, he serves as Director of Public Works, City of Hopewell.

The Department of Public Work's mission is to provide proactive services, maintain city right-of-ways and infrastructure for citizens, businesses and city agencies safely, timely, efficiently and professionally. Moreover, this department is responsible for maintenance of City Buildings and Grounds, maintenance of the City's equipment and vehicle fleet, the Appomattox Cemetery, operation of the Citizen's Convenience Center, construction of the City's Capital Projects, Storm Water Management, and Solid Waste Collection. The City of Hopewell extends its best wishes to Mr. Elliott and his family on his upcoming retirement.

Mayor's Corner..... continued from page 1

keeping an inoperable vehicle in the line of sight a violation. They will need to be kept in an enclosed structure or screened from view (no car covers will be allowed). For most of us these changes will seem like a common sense approach to city code/beautification issues, but the fact that we have let our minimum acceptable standards lapse to today's levels will undoubtedly cause some uproar as we work to regain and retain a more pleasing visual appearance to our City. I encourage you to support these changes and make an effort to improve the appearance of your property and our City. If you see issues please report them to Code Enforcement (541-2226). Keep in mind that the property owner will have 5 days to comply with the "cut grass notice" based on this, you should monitor the situation after your initial report and follow up with Code if needed.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The City continues to monitor the stalemated negotiations involving property owners and a potential development on Route 36 and I-295. Asking prices and in some cases the refusal to allow routine due diligence for the interested major big box retailer are creating impossible situations for compromise. The City cannot justify or qualify its support based on the store's projected sales and the current asking prices of the land and their negative impact to the overall cost of the project. If this opportunity fails, especially with the national status of the retailer seeking to locate on the property, the support the City is willing to provide to help create jobs and additional tax revenue for the City—there may never be another development opportunity of this proportion on these properties. This failure will also send a message to other businesses and the commercial real estate community throughout the region that in spite of what we say, Hopewell is not open for business. This is very sad for Hopewell and all tax paying citizens.

OSAGE

The plan by the new owner, a bio-energy company from the United Kingdom is to dismantle the existing plant and ship the equipment to the UK for the construction of a bio-energy plant there. We will closely monitor the process as it unfolds and provide whatever assistance to the new owner as they study the plant and firm up their original plans. Throughout the process, if there are any changes to the original plan we will let you know.

BUDGET

It looks like we will have a balanced budget this coming year and it does not appear as if we will need to reach into the reserve fund to make this

happen. We did raise the Real Estate tax rate 6 cents to off-set a drop in assessments of 4.7%. This allowed us to balance the budget. The net result to you, as a home owner is you should see little change in your tax payment from last year. The 4.7% drop in assessments is actually lower than expected and could be a sign that we are turning the corner with the economy and housing market. We will keep our fingers crossed.

SUMMERTIME

School is almost out for the summer. Please pay attention when driving and watch out for children playing. I encourage each of you to get out and enjoy our parks and playgrounds. If you have not visited either of our play ships at Mathis Field or City Park please make it a point to do so. Also, make use of our rivers, for boating, fishing, or just sitting and relaxing. We have a lot to offer.

Have a great summer.

LEARN WELL, LIVE WELL, WORK WELL, PLAY WELL, HOPEWELL



Representatives from Senator Mark Warner's office will be traveling around the Commonwealth to meet with individual Virginians who have specific issues dealing with federal agencies.

We will be at the following location:

PRINCE GEORGE
 Wed, May 16, 2012, 10:00am – 11:30am
 Human Services Building
 2nd Floor, 6450 Administration Drive
 Prince George, VA 23875

CHARLES CITY
 Mon, June 4, 2012, 11:00am – 12:30pm
 Government Administration Building
 10900 Courthouse Road
 Charles City, VA 23030

For more information, please visit: <http://warner.senate.gov>

City of Hopewell Employee of the Month Feb. and March 2013

Ms. Cynthia Mabe was selected Employee of the Month for February 2013. Ms. Mabe serves as the real estate appraiser for the City of Hopewell. Ms. Mabe has worked for the City since February 2012. She became a licensed appraiser in August of 2004. The real estate office is responsible for valuing all real property in the City of Hopewell in a fair and equitable manner per Virginia Code Section 58.1-3201.



Cynthia Mabe

Ms. Mabe has over 13 years of real estate appraisal experience and she was the honor graduate of Braxton School of Business in 1994 where she received her administrative Assistant Diploma. She also serves as a Junior Achievement Volunteer for the 2012-2013 school years. In addition, she is a 1993 graduate of Powhatan High School.



James Barefoot

Officer James Barefoot was selected Employee of the Month for March 2013. He serves as a Police Officer with the Hopewell Police Department. Officer Barefoot began his career with the City in July 1986 as a Police Recruit. He became a sworn officer in December of 1986 and a Police Officer on July 17, 2008. Officer Barefoot was commended for 5 years safe driving in 1991. In addition, he was commended for his assistance during a tornado in 1993.

Officer Barefoot has served over 27 years with the Hopewell Police Department. His conduct, actions and contributions are in keeping with the finest tradition of public service and trust, therefore he is recognized as the recipient of the March 2013 Employee of the Month for the City of Hopewell.

The Employee of the Month Award recognizes excellence and the outstanding contribution provided by employees of the City. The criteria for nominating an employee are embodied in the following areas: service, excel, reliable, versatile, inviting, courteous and empathy. The Employee of the Month recipient receives a certificate, t-shirt, photo with supervisor and City Manager and the Mayor has donated his parking spot to recognize an employee each month at City Hall.

City of Hopewell Employee of the Quarter

Captain Robin Yost has been an employee of the City of Hopewell Bureau of Fire since October 1, 1999. He was recently selected for Employee of the Quarter. There are several categories to be considered when nominating



Robin Yost

an individual for this prestigious award. They are job knowledge, teamwork, dependability, quality of work and leadership. In addition, he is a graduate of the following courses. Swift Water Rescue, National Fire Fighters Course, Public Safety Response to Terrorism Awareness, EMT Certification, Effective Business Writing and Customer Service Training.

In addition to his regular duties as a Fire Captain, he has taken on additional responsibilities by developing a top notch Boat Training Program for the City. The increased knowledge of boat and water training what has been provided to fire personnel has shown its importance during the summer months. Hopewell Bureau of Fire responded to an incident on July 24, 2012 to a sinking boat during a storm and rescued two people and a dog off the sinking boat.

“I believe the training received from this boat and water program was instrumental in fire personnel successfully responding to this incident.” said Fire Chief John Tunstall. Hopewell Bureau of Fire. Taking on areas that can be improved with training and understanding shows Captain Yost’s dedication to service and his commitment to making the Hopewell Bureau of Fire a better trained department so that better service can be provided to the City of Hopewell and its jurisdictional partners. If you require additional information, please contact the Hopewell Bureau of Fire at (804) 541-2288.

Hopewell Student Wins Literary Contest and Travels to WWE Wrestlemania 29

Every fall, The Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) and the World Wrestling Entertainment host the Wrestlemania Reading Challenge. Students must pledge to read five books and write a letter to their favorite wrestler trying to convince him or her to read their favorite book.

Hopewell High School junior Joanna Wallace decided to enter the contest because she "...had entered writing/reading contests before, but hadn't ever won." Joanna's entry not only won at Hopewell High School but at the regional level as well.

A long time wrestling fan, Joanna wrote to John Cena about her favorite book *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen. When asked why she chose Cena, Joanna explained, "What his persona stands for means a lot to me. Respect and being an overall good person is something I feel our entire country should strive for."

On Friday, February 8th, Joanna's mom, Rebecca Grimsley received the call that her daughter's letter was chosen as a regional winner. She immediately texted Joanna to inform her she had won. Joanna said, "I had to reread it a few times to actually comprehend that I had won. I was quite in shock I think."

The prizes included an all expenses paid trip to New Jersey to see Wrestlemania 29, a three night hotel stay, \$300 spending money, and a chance to win ringside tickets. In April, Joanna received a copy of the book *This Dark Endeavor: The Apprenticeship of Victor Fran-*



kenstein by Kenneth Oppel and read it in preparation for the next level of the Wrestlemania Reading Challenge. Upon arriving in New Jersey, she participated in a trivia contest about the book in an attempt to win those ringside tickets.

In addition to Joanna's winnings, the Hopewell High School library received a set of DK (Dorling Kindersley) books and \$2000 to spend on books. "We are extremely proud of Joanna and happy that she is receiving this wonderful opportunity. She is just another example of the talent our students possess here at Hopewell High School," said Hopewell High School Principal Dr. Rodney Berry. "I also would like to thank Patt Scanlan, one of our librarians, for encouraging her to enter this

contest."

Joanna is one of only 18 finalists in the US and Canada, and the first person from Virginia to win. On April 5th, she and her mom flew to New Jersey and attended a "meet and greet" with the other competitors. The next day, Joanna competed in the challenge for the ringside tickets. On April 7th, she attended Fan Fest and met some of the wrestlers before seeing Wrestlemania 29.

Joanna's passion for reading certainly paid off. "Reading is power and any amount of knowledge can be gained from a book. It allows people to learn things about themselves, as well as the world around them," she exclaimed.

Hopewell High School Band Student Wins \$10,000

Hopewell High School senior, William “BJ” Claiborne, auditioned and won a \$10,000 music scholarship at the Tri-County Band Festival at Greensville County High School in Emporia, Virginia over the weekend.

“Just before I auditioned he (Mr. Pierce) said to me, ‘You have never failed me,’ and I told him, ‘I am not going to start now,’ so when I found out I won, my jaw just dropped,” smiled Claiborne. “It was like the weight of the world was lifted off my shoulders.” The scholarship is for tuition at the prestigious Bethune-Cookman University in Daytona Beach, Florida.

“This is not a program that takes just anyone,” explained Hopewell High School’s Director of Bands Andre’s Pierce. “They take only top notch talent and he met the challenge.”

The school’s jazz and concert bands performed in concert on Saturday, after only spending two days rehearsing the music, with collegiate band directors from Lincoln, Bethune-Cookman, Norfolk State, and Virginia State Universities.

“This was a workshop for jazz and concert bands,” said Pierce. “I knew this was a unique experience for students in Hopewell. I cannot say how proud I am.”

This is not the group’s first award this school year. The band took home several first place trophies at the Mid-Atlantic Regional High Stepping Competition in Washington DC in mid October.

The group has several other competitions lined up for the remainder of the year, including the Music in the Parks competition at Kings Dominion at the end of May.



William (B.J.) Claiborne



On the left is William (B.J.) Claiborne with band director Andre Pierce.

Hopewell's own, Bernetta Quinn, receives an award at the annual April Child Abuse Conference



Bernetta Quinn, Executive Director, Hopewell-Prince George Healthy Families receives an award at the annual April Child Abuse Conference.

The Family and Children's Trust Fund (FACT) is pleased to announce that Bernetta Quinn is this year's Child Welfare Certificate of Appreciation Awards recipient for individuals whose prevention, intervention and treatment efforts in the area of child abuse and neglect have shown exceptional merit in Virginia. Awards were presented at this year's statewide Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Conference in Richmond on April 15, 2013. The conference was sponsored by the Virginia Department of Social Services and Prevent Child Abuse Virginia and co-sponsored by the Family and Children's Trust Fund, Virginia State Parent Education Coalition, and the Virginia Coalition for Child Abuse Prevention.

As the Program Director of Hopewell-Prince George Healthy Families, Bernetta Quinn is a "community hero" who has worked tirelessly to sustain and expand services for children and families in the Hopewell community despite budget cuts to Healthy Families programs throughout Virginia. Known for her commitment to excellence, her efforts in collaborating with community organizations to create wraparound services and her successes in securing grants have enabled families to continue to receive quality, in-home services. Her collaborative work with "The Parent Education Consortium" has led to the availability of free parenting classes in the Hopewell community, and her creative leadership led to the establishment of the "Bear Tree Program," resulting in local businesses giving back to families in need during the holiday season. Known as a woman who lives her faith, Mrs. Quinn has also organized various community fundraising events that have helped with costs associated with parent groups and other activities that are critically important to the families in her community.

Hopewell Twinning Association dedicates a Directional Sign



On April 11, 2013 Mr. Ken Emerson, President Hopewell Twinning Association dedicates a Directional Sign at Ashford Civic Plaza and officially welcomes nine English guests from Ashford, Kent, United Kingdom along with their sponsors to the ceremony and City. A reception followed the dedication ceremony at John Randolph Foundation.

Hopewell City Council Resolution honors the Hopewell Optimist Club



The Hopewell Optimist Club was honored by Hopewell City Council with a Resolution on Tuesday, April 9, 2013 for providing (60) years of service to our youths and City.

Hopewell Citizen's Academy

The Hopewell Citizen's Academy is a free 10-12 week (1 to 2) hour weekly session September 12 – December 12. The course is designed to teach residents and or business owners about the City and the services it provides. It is also designed to provide community members with a better understanding of the duties and responsibilities of their local government to include services.

The Citizens Academy covers a wide range of topics and incorporates almost all City departments and agencies; for example, City Administration, Police, Tourism, Development and Planning, Safety/Risk, Bureau of Fire, Economic

Development, Parks and Recreation, Human Resources, Sheriff's Department, Social Services, Hopewell-Prince George Chamber of Commerce, Hopewell-Prince George Healthy Families, Public Works, Real Estate, Finance, Commissioner of the Revenue, City Treasurer, Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility, Hopewell Public School System, Appomattox Regional Library System and the Hopewell Redevelopment & Housing Authority.

We believe an informed and educated citizenry will assist the public to make better decisions about how to protect themselves, their families and

their businesses; in addition to providing an in-depth knowledge of the purpose and functions of government. Citizens or Hopewell business owners must be 18 years or older to participate in the Citizen's Academy. To enroll, you must complete a Citizen's Academy Application.

The deadline to submit an application for the Hopewell Citizens Academy is August 30, 2013 NLT 5:00 p.m. You may fax it to (804) 541-2248 or mail the application to the Intergovernmental & Public Affairs Office, 300 North Main Street, Room 220, Hopewell, VA 23860.

CAPUP plans to bring up to 400 teenagers and adults to Hopewell, Virginia to improve the homes of local residents

Elderly, handicapped, and lower-income residents of Hopewell, Virginia to get free home repairs

As many as 80 local residents will benefit from the work of a projected 400 adult and teenage volunteers at the Workcamp coming to Hopewell, July 29 thru August 2, 2013. The Workcamp will provide free home repairs through the Group Cares (formerly Group Workcamps Foundation) program, sponsored locally by CAPUP.

Group Cares (formerly Group Workcamps Foundation) is a non-profit, interdenominational Christian volunteer home-repair organization headquartered in Loveland, Colorado. This summer, an anticipated 25,000 young people and adults will participate in 48 Workcamps in communities across the United States and Canada.

At each Workcamp, teenagers and adults—all members of church youth groups—volunteer a week of their time to repair homes throughout the community. “This represents about 12,000 hours of volunteer labor—with a total economic impact to the community of over \$300,000,” said Tom Wagstaff, President & CEO of CAPUP – Capital Area Partnership Uplifting People.

“These really are remarkable young people,” said Jeff Thompson, of Group Cares (formerly Group Workcamps Foundation). “Each one is actually paying for the privilege of working in your community. Workcamp registration fees are used to cover our costs for food, insurance, and building materials.”

The Workcamp will be housed at



Hopewell High School, with Workcampers sleeping on classroom floors, eating in the cafeteria, and enjoying evening programs in the gym. “This service to the community would be impossible without the wonderful cooperation of the Hopewell High School,” remarked Tom. Group Cares (formerly Group Workcamps Foundation) will reimburse all costs to the lodging facility.

CAPUP – Capital Area Partnership Uplifting People is the Community Action Agency for the cities of Hopewell, Petersburg, Richmond and the counties of Dinwiddie and Prince George. Community Action Agencies (CAA) are local private and public non-profit organizations that carry out the Community Action Program (CAP), which was founded by the 1964 Economic Opportunity Act to fight poverty by empowering the poor as a means of eliminating poverty.

The idea behind the Workcamps started in Colorado in 1977 when residents suffered from the Big Thompson River flood in which hundreds of homes were damaged or destroyed and over 140 people lost their lives. Church

youth groups of many different denominations came from across the country the next summer to help.

In 1978, the program went nationwide to include other disadvantaged areas throughout the country. This summer’s 48 Workcamps will take place in many different states, including but not limited to Alabama, West Virginia, Montana, North Carolina, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Utah, Illinois, New York, Tennessee, Minnesota and Virginia. Now in its 34th year of service, Group Cares (formerly Group Workcamps Foundation) has hosted over a quarter of a million participants who have provided more than 6 million hours of volunteer service directly to people in need.

Repairs offered through the Workcamp include interior and exterior painting, weatherization, porch and wheelchair ramp construction, and other work. Residents interested in applying to receive assistance may contact Joe Bales at 804-788-0050 extension 145 or complete the Application available from City Councilors or at www.capup.org.

Hopewell / Prince George

Gang Prevention & Awareness Community Forum

HOPEWELL HIGH SCHOOL

MAY 4, 2013 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

TOPICS INCLUDE

- Information on gang trends locally.
- Information on gang trends statewide.
- Signs of gang activity.
- What to look for in our youth/Warning signs at home.
- Prevention strategies.



HOPEWELL / PRINCE GEORGE



CRIME SOLVERS

LUNCH & CHILD CARE PROVIDED AT NO COST

DO YOU KNOW YOUR CITY COUNCILORS?

Mayor Michael C. Bujakowski	Ward # 3	PH: (804) 731-0513
Vice Mayor Jasmine Gore	Ward # 4	PH: (804) 541-2249
Councilor Christina Luman-Bailey	Ward # 1	PH: (804) 541-2249
Councilor Roosevelt Edwards, Jr.	Ward # 2	PH: (804) 541-2249
Councilor Wayne Walton	Ward # 5	PH: (804) 541-2249
Councilor Brenda S. Pelham	Ward # 6	PH: (804) 720-8619
Councilor Jackie M. Shornak	Ward # 7	PH: (804) 541-2249

CITY DEPARTMENT

DIRECTOR/OFFICER

PHONE

City Manager	Ed Daley	541-2243
City Attorney	David Fratarcangelo	541-2247
City Clerk	Cindy Ames	541-2249
Comprehensive Services Act	Jamilliah Karriem	541-2470
Development: (Building Official) (Code) and (GIS)	March Altman, Jr.	541-2220
Economic Development	J. Andrew Hagy	541-2243
Engineering	Johnnie Butler	541-2319
Finance	Jerry Whitaker	541-2306
Fire	John Tunstall	541-2288
Healthy Families	Bernetta R. Quinn	458-9278
Human Resources	Gail Vance	541-2246
Information Systems	Terry Newton	541-2225
Intergovernmental & Public Affairs	Herbert Bragg	541-2270
Planning	Tevya Griffin	541-2269
Police	John Keohane	541-2282
Public Works	Phil Elliott	541-2295
Purchasing	April Cone	541-2205
Real Estate	Cindy Mabe	541-2234
Recreation	Jo Turek	541-2304
Regional Wastewater Treatment	Mark Haley	541-2210
Risk Management	Dave Harless	541-2203
Emergency Services	Ben Ruppert	541-2298
School Superintendent	Dr. John Fahey	541-6400
Social Services	Nancy Treanor	541-2330
Tourism	LuAnn Fortenberry	541-2461
Voter Registrar	Pam Clark	541-2232

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

General District Court Clerk	Deborah A. Hatcher	541-2257
Master Commissioner of the Revenue	Debra Reason	541-2237
Commonwealth's Attorney	Richard K. Newman	541-2255
Sheriff	Greg Anderson	541-2301
Treasurer	Terri Batton	541-2240
Circuit Court Clerk	Tamara Ward	541-2239

PARTNER AGENCIES

Appomattox Regional Library	Scott Firestine	458-6329
Hopewell Health Department	George Verghese	458-1297
Hopewell Redevelopment and Housing Authority (HRHA)	Steven Benham	541-1458