



# City E-Currents

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

Issue 6: June 2012

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## Mayor's Corner

Most people in the United States celebrate the 4th of July as Independence Day in America. On this day in 1776, the Declaration of Independence was approved by the Continental Congress, setting the 13 colonies on the road to freedom as a sovereign nation. As always, this most American of holidays will be marked by parades, fireworks and backyard barbecues across the country. Let the Fourth of July always be a reminder that here in this land, for the first time, it was decided that man is born with certain God-given rights; that government is only a convenience created and managed by the people, with no powers of its own except those voluntarily granted to it by the people. The people who signed the declaration risked being hanged for treason by the leaders in Great Britain. They had to be very brave to sign something that would be considered a crime! So every time we look at the Declaration of Independence, we should think about all of the effort and ideas that went into the document, and about the courage it took for these people to stand up for what they knew as right-independence.



Mayor Christina Luman-Bailey

## The First Lady of Virginia Awards \$30,000 to DuPont School



Kindergarten teacher Martha Staples entered the Healthy Playground Makeover Sweepstakes on behalf of Dupont Elementary School and won.

“I am excited to be here to congratulate Ms. Staples and all of you for winning the Healthy Playground Makeover Sweepstakes,” said Maureen

McDonnell, the First Lady of Virginia, who helped present the special award. “I am looking forward to seeing the impact of the brand-new playground equipment very soon.”

“We are beyond excited about being a grand-prize winner,” said Principal Carla

See AWARDS page 2

## Ward 2 - Councilor Roosevelt Edwards, Jr.



Councilor Roosevelt Edwards, Jr.

Councilor Roosevelt Edwards, Jr., was born and raised in Roanoke Rapids, NC. As a devoted husband to my wife Jessica, an active Father to my son Joshua and a proud resident of the City of Hopewell, he is extremely passionate about serving his community through efforts that focuses on rebuilding families, fostering safe and enriching environments for our children. In addition to building successful partnerships between community leaders and fellow Hopewell residents that cultivates positive change and progress.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice from Livingstone College. In addition, he holds membership in several Community organizations: Free and Accepted Masons Fraternity, Virginia Corrections Counselors Association and the National Association of Black Criminal Justice (NABCJ).

He has been employed with the Department of Corrections since 1998. He is a member and attends Word of Life Full Gospel Ministries, where he humbly serves as an ordained Deacon. Solving problems together with the Lord is his buckler and shield. He hides no fact that he loves God with mind, body and soul.

## AWARDS *continued*



Fizer. "Our students are really going to enjoy our brand-new playground."

Dupont Elementary won \$30,000 from Sports Authority that can be used to update their existing equipment and a brand-new playground from Playworld Systems. The total value of the grand prize is over \$40,000.

"A new playground has been number-one on our wish list for many years," added Ms. Staples. "I am completely honored. It is unreal."

The sweepstake is sponsored in part by the Healthy Weight Commitment Foundation, Discovery Education, Sports Authority and Playworld Systems. The school was one of two grand prize winners out of 129,000 entries in the national contest. They hope to have the new equipment installed over the summer.

# The Washington Cultural Foundation and Petersburg National Battlefield, NPS presents Juneteenth National Freedom Day Commemoration



Our 2012 theme is “WE ARE ONE; One Nation, One Humanity” As we commemorate how these historic events initiated the unification of this country. “WE ARE ONE” in theme highlights the union forged by the Civil War, setting a foundation for freedom from slavery and Juneteenth. The increasing awareness that we are all members of one humanity is a value that every person should have at heart.

Help make our cities and state a better place one person, one family, and one community at a time. In kind support is also being provided by WE ARE ONE FOUNDATION.

Juneteenth National Freedom Day Celebration is a historic event followed the Emancipation Proclamation and resulted in General Order Number 3, which informed the resistant state of Texas, that “all slaves are free”. June 19, 1865 – June 2012, marks Juneteenth 147th Anniversary. The symbolic significance of this day celebrates how these historic events initiated the unification of this country and its people. Juneteenth is a tribute to the African American community, its heritage and its achievements as a result of the acts of freedom forged to unite our country as One Nation and One Humanity. This celebration encourages the local community from all ethnic backgrounds to come together in a “family reunion” atmosphere in mutual respect of each other. The program provides cultural, historical and educational opportunities – tours & displays, presenting live performances, displaying original local art work, and promoting area non-profits with resources in their service to the community. Let us continue to strive for Peace, Justice and Freedom for all people. This is our heritage: A celebration of our nation’s history, a celebration of freedom. – Excerpt from Rebecca Rose, Executive Director WCF/ Event organizer

This year’s Juneteenth celebration opened at historic City Point Boardwalk off Pecan Avenue in Hopewell with prayer by Rev. Dr. Rudolph Dunbar, Pastor, First Baptist Church City Point. A moving Libation Ceremony was conducted by Ms. Rebecca Rose, Event Organizer and Founder of the Washington Cultural Foundation.

Rev. Dr. Sylvia Tucker, Chief, Pastoral Care, John Randolph Medical Center opened the official program with prayer. Ms. Mary Jackson opened with a song “America.” The welcome was presented By Mr. Bruce Price, Chief of Interpretations, Petersburg National Battlefield, National Park Service representing Superintendent Lewis Rogers.

A Proclamation was presented to Ms. Rebecca Rose from Christina Luman-Bailey, Mayor, City of Hopewell. In addition, State Senator Henry Marsh remarked about the historical significant of the event and Hopewell City Councilor Brenda Pelham read a proclamation signed by Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell. Ranger Robert Webster, National Park Service read excerpts from the Emancipation Proclamation signed by then president Abraham Lincoln.

Ms. Rebecca Rose introduced the keynote speaker, Mr. Herbert H. Bragg, Director, Intergovernmental & Public Affairs, City of Hopewell. Mr. Bragg remarked about slavery, the brutal conditions on the ships, and how slave were generally treated during the passage. He also spoke of forgiveness and reconciliation despite the horrific conditions of slavery and the

institution thereof. He also remarked that it wasn’t until 89 years after America celebrated the first Independence Day that African Americans was actually free.

The 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution did away with slavery in America said Bragg. The first true independence for African Americans occurred on June 19, 1865. They had died, sung and prayed and finally their liberation had come. This was the African American Jubilee. Dr. Emily DeCarlo presented a rendition and Tribute of the Spoken Word. There was also Artillery Demonstrations and exhibits from the famous Buffalo Soldiers (1856-1952). The Christianaires and the John Randolph Black History Choir serenaded the crowd with their gospel music and songs.

## New Voter ID Law

The new law passed by the 2012 General Assembly and signed by the Governor, requires a voter to have at least one of the following forms of ID:

Virginia voter registration card; Social Security card; Valid Virginia driver’s license; Any other identification card issued by an agency of the Commonwealth, one of its political subdivisions, or the United States; Any valid student identification card issued by a Virginia institution of higher education; A valid identification card issued by an employer containing a photograph of the voter; A copy of a current utility bill; A copy of a bank statement; A government check; A paycheck that shows the name and address of the voter

A voter without identification will be offered a provisional ballot and be told that he may submit a copy of one of the required forms of identification to the electoral board in person, by facsimile (fax machine), electronic mail (email), or through US mail. This proof must be offered by noon on the Friday after the election.

### 2012 DATES TO REMEMBER

October 15th – last day to REGISTER to vote

October 30th – last day to VOTE ABSENTEE ballot BY MAIL

November 3rd – last day to VOTE ABSENTEE ballot IN PERSON

November 6th – GENERAL ELECTION

# National Day of Prayer



Citywide Leaders participate in National Day of Prayer May 3 in the Ashford Civic Plaza Downtown Hopewell

Left to Right:

Sheriff, Greg Anderson  
Delegate Riley Ingram

Jim Gregory, Director, Human Resources

John Tunstall, Fire Chief

Fred Morene, Ford Insurance Agency



## Senior Hall of Fame

The Senior Hall of Fame program started back in 1985 for the purpose of recognizing seniors who have sacrificed and given back to the community. Honorees are selected by the Hopewell Recreation and Parks Senior Advisory Commission.

This year's inductees are Wayne Hedgepeth and Shirley Brannan. Christina J. Luman-Bailey, Mayor, City of Hopewell presented plaques to the new inductees and well as congratulatory remarks on behalf of a grateful City.

The seniors Hall of Fame program is an annual event sponsored by the Hopewell Department of Recreation and Parks. For additional information, please contact the Hopewell Department of Recreation and Parks at (804) 541-2304.



# Money raised to benefit the Hopewell Humane Society

The Administrative Support Personnel (ASP-PROS) for the City of Hopewell held a Spring Yard & Bake Sale on May 5 at the Hopewell Community to raise money to benefit the Hopewell Humane Society. Pictured is Tanya Harris and Carol Scarbrough, ASP-PROS Fundraising Committee Co-chairs, presenting a check in the amount of \$250 to Carol Betzler with the Hopewell Humane Society. This is one of several community service projects that the ASP-PROS promotes. Others include mentoring to elementary school students in Hopewell and adopting a foster child for Christmas. Their next fundraiser is a Fall Yard & Bake sale on October 6 at the Hopewell Community Center. Proceeds will be used to purchase Christmas gifts for a foster child.



# Summer Fun Begins June 18 at the Appomattox Regional Library

Hopewell, Virginia, 06/05/12 - The Appomattox Regional Library System (ARLS) will celebrate the kickoff of the Summer Reading Program with events for the whole family beginning Monday, June 18. On Monday, families are invited to enjoy a family movie and popcorn at the Prince George Library at 1 p.m. Tweens and Teens can visit the Hopewell Library on Tuesday at 3 p.m. for a movie presentation. Then Nutzy, the mascot for the Richmond Flying Squirrels will stop by the Hopewell Library at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, July 20, and visit the Prince George Library at 3:30 p.m. on June 20. Families are invited to the Hopewell Library from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Friday, June 22 to get their game on with Xbox Kinect, Nintendo Wii and a variety of board games. Fresh hot popcorn and lemonade will be served.

Teens are invited to come out and meet the crew of Tri Cities Paranormal and learn how to conduct a paranormal investigation on Saturday, June 23, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. Teens will learn about the equipment and techniques used to explore unexplained phenomena while they get a view of the historic and possibly haunted Beacon Theatre. Participation in this event requires advance registration by email at [teens@arls.org](mailto:teens@arls.org).

Please see [www.arls.org](http://www.arls.org) or call 804-458-6320 for a full description of upcoming programs including story times, crafts, and special events like the Rainbow Puppets Show, Owls and Falcons Presentation, Virginia Settlers Dream Big, Mammal Mania, and Magic Shows.

The Youth Summer Reading Program will run from June 18 until August 10. Program themes are "Dream Big . . . Read" for children from birth to grade 5, and "Own the Night" for grades 6-12. The library will also host a summer reading program themed "Between the Covers" for adults. Registration begins June 18 and materials will be available at all branches of the library system.

# City of Hopewell establishes Customer Service Philosophy and Promise to our Citizens



The City of Hopewell recognizes that customer service is an ever-changing process that is a critical part of the success of any organization, especially local government. In order to promote a culture of excellence in customer service for our citizens, the City Manager has established the following Customer Service Philosophy and Promise to our citizens. Further, this culture of excellence is being implemented to be a part of our daily communication with citizens and the public as well as among City employees, City administration, and City officials.

Our Customer Service Philosophy "We are all public service professionals committed to providing a culture of excellence in customer service by addressing needs with a caring attitude on a consistent basis."

## Our Promise

We will treat everyone just as we wish to be treated by providing:

- a warm and friendly greeting;
- our full attention and a sense of importance;
- competence, thorough handling, and follow-up; and
- a sincere "thank you."

# Engineering Team Takes Home Awards at National Event

Last month, the Hopewell High School engineering program traveled to the Stewart-Hass Racing headquarters in Kannapolis, NC, just outside of Charlotte, for the Ten80 Student Racing Challenge: NASCAR STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Initiative. The team, that calls themselves the “Tech Devils,” vied against other high schools from as far away as Texas and Massachusetts. The event is part radio controlled car race and part high powered science fair that stresses creative engineering, alternative energy, and graphic design.

The team really excelled in the science project portion of the event, where they were awarded a second-place trophy for the most regular season points, and a third- place win in the Creative Engineering Competition.

“The event is much more than just a remote control car race. We also worked on several projects that ranged from aerodynamics to clean energy projects,” explained Andrei Dacko, Hopewell High’s Engineering Technology Program Instructor. The students were only given six weeks to design and build their projects. “This is our first full year to participate, and the students delivered big time.”

One such project was crafted by sophomores Ramika Irons and Peyton Yates. They put over two months into researching and creating a small-scale wind turbine. “We made it out of very simple materials, and it works,” smiles Peyton. “It was a lot we put into it, but we didn’t give up,” added Ramika.

Some of the other projects the team created included a robotic car, a gear drop transmission for quick starts, and a working hover craft using remote control car parts.

“I cannot stress enough that collaboration was key to our success here at the high school. The school’s art classes, robotics team, auto body, and engineering classes all played a part in our group. I cannot thank them enough, along with our sponsors,” said Dacko.

The Hopewell High School Tech Devils are sponsor-mentored by the Hopewell Public School Foundation, Hopewell Manufacturer’s Association, Evonic Industries, Merit Medical Systems, Celebri-TEES, and VCU Engineering.



**Mr. Andrei Dacko, Hopewell High’s Engineering Technology Program Instructor, & Hopewell High engineering students Peyton Yates (left) and Ramika Irons (Right profiled) test their wind turbid using an electric fan at the schools new engineering lab before taking it to competition.**



**Foreground: Zachary Hipps, Seth Powell, Chris Sherr  
Middle: TJ McClung, Kim Megariotis, Zackary Rivera, Alexandria Miranda  
Back Row (against bus): Gaten Cancino, Mr. Andrei Dacko, Ramika Irons, Scott Burgess, Nick Brock, Jonathon Rigney, Katie Hoff and Tito Reyes**

# City tax news

## REAL ESTATE AND MACHINERY AND TOOLS TAX BILLS

Real estate tax bills are mailed to property owners or mortgage holders in late May following Council's approval of the tax rate. Machinery and tools tax bills are also mailed in May. Both bills contain two payment stubs — the first half with a June 15 due date and the second half with a December 5 due date. If you have not received your 2012 bill(s) by June 1st, please call the Treasurer's Office at 541.2240.

At least two weeks prior to the due date(s), the Treasurer also places tax notice ads in the local newspaper, on the City's website, and on the public cable channel. Delinquent real estate tax notices are generally mailed in early July (following the first half due date of 6/15) and early January (following the second half due date of 12/5). Real estate taxes delinquent more than two years may be forwarded to Sands Anderson PC, the City's collection attorney for delinquent real estate taxes.

Elderly or disabled taxpayers may be eligible for an exemption if they are age 65 or older or permanently disabled AND meet financial criteria established by local ordinance. Disabled veterans may also be eligible for tax relief. The deadline for applications is April 1 and must be submitted to Debra Kloske Reason, Commissioner of the Revenue. Please contact the commissioner at 541.2237 for more information.

## PAYMENT OPTIONS:

The Treasurer's Office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm, and the office is closed on weekends and State holidays. In addition to paying in person, other payment options include:

**Pay by Mail:** Please make check payable to Treasurer, City of Hopewell and mail to Treasurer's Office, P.O. Box 199, Hopewell, Virginia 23860. Payment must be postmarked by the due date to avoid penalty and interest.

**Pay at Bank:** Payments may be made by the due date at the Hopewell Branch of SunTrust, located at 200 North Main Street, Hopewell, Virginia. Payments are accepted Monday through Thursday 9 am to 5 pm, Friday 9 am to 6 pm, and Saturday 9 am to 12 noon. Please bring your bill and/or payment stub with you when paying at SunTrust.

**Drop Box:** Payments may be dropped in the drop box located behind the municipal building across from the Police Department entrance. This box may be used for payment of any locally collected taxes by their due date and is checked daily. Payments should be made by check or money order and payable to Treasurer, City of Hopewell.

**Pay by Credit or Debit Card:** Payments may be charged to your credit or debit card through a third party (Official Payments) and may be paid online at [www.officialpayments.com](http://www.officialpayments.com) or by phone at 1888-2PAY-TAX (1 888-272-9829). Please note that a service charge imposed by our service provider will apply. You will be required to enter Hopewell's jurisdiction code (1023) and

your 7-digit sub and parcel number located on the front of the bill.

## IMPORTANT UPCOMING DUE DATES:

**June 15** – Deadline to pay first half real estate and machinery & tools taxes without penalty or interest. Second quarter state estimated tax payments are also due.

**July 1** – ABC licenses go on sale. Please apply with the Commissioner of Revenue's Office.

**July 31** – Deadline to pay for ABC licenses without penalty or interest at the Treasurer's office.

## UPCOMING HOLIDAYS:

Please note the following upcoming holidays that City and State offices will be closed:

Monday, May 28 – Memorial Day

Wednesday, July 4 – Independence Day

## QUESTIONS?

Please contact the Treasurer's Office at 541-2240 and we will be happy to assist you.

## Storm Water

During the 1990's the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) complying with Clean Water requirements, initiated a program designed to help cleanup and protect America's drinking water and waterways, by reducing the negative impact on water quality from storm water runoff. Storm water is water from rain or snow that runs off city streets, parking lots, construction sites, and residential yards. It can carry sediment, oil, grease, toxics, pesticides, pathogens, and other pollutants into nearby drains. Once this polluted runoff enters the street storm water sewer system, it is discharged, untreated, into local streams and waterways. Storm water runoff can contaminate drinking and recreational waters. It also remains a major source of beach and shellfish bed closures. Storm water runoff washes sediment from construction sites and has been identified as the single largest cause of impaired water quality in rivers and the third largest cause of impaired water quality in lakes.

The storm water rules will control the impact of municipal storm water runoff through the issuance of discharge permits under the Clean Water Act. Types of controls could include public education programs, storm sewer inspections for illegal connections, and ordinances to control construction site runoff.

Please be mindful not to discharge any materials into the streets, such as trash or grass clippings and do not place anything into the street drainage system, especially motor oil or other hazardous substances; if not cleaned up these materials eventually find their way into the Appomattox or James Rivers.

# Evonik Industries is first manufacturer in Hopewell to hire JOBS Student

Before coming to Evonik Goldschmidt Corporation earlier this summer, ninth grade student Demetria Thorne had never heard about logistics or any of the specialty chemicals that Evonik manufactures in Hopewell.

That all changed when Demetria, a student at Carter Woodson Middle School, met Charles Shaheen, Evonik Supply Chain Manager, and Hopewell-Prince George Chamber of Commerce Director, for the first time at the J.O.B.S. (Job Opportunity Basic Skills) placement ceremony at the Hopewell Moose Lodge. Demetria was part of the local program, which teaches participants about the business world. Demetria and Charles talked briefly and discussed the next step which would be reporting to work at Evonik's Logistics Department.

"We are the first manufacturer to participate in this program," said Charles, "and we are as excited as Demetria." The world of business was new to Demetria. She had seen safety videos in health class that prepared her for the Evonik safety video that she was required to watch before entering the site. Demetria arrived on time her first day in business attire, armed with a pleasant disposition, an inquisitive mind and a willingness to learn. She quickly became part of Evonik's Logistics Team, interacting daily with two plant schedulers, two logisticians, and, of course, her official mentor, Charles Shaheen.

While at Evonik, Demetria is gaining experience in using computers and performing data analysis with spreadsheets. Because these tasks are critical, the Evonik Logistics team is working closely with her on following multi-step direc-

tions, stressing the importance of being detail-oriented. Demetria is working two, eight-hour days per week until she completes her paid internship of 120 hours.

"When they called my name at the JOBS ceremony and said, 'You will be working for Evonik,' I was worried because I thought this was going to be hard. But I've always wanted to get a job and thought this is my chance. I am ready to try.

Now I am in my second month at Evonik. I am enjoying myself and learn something new every day. I work hard. My goal is to turn in my work before my supervisor asks me for it.

I am gaining more practice reading and working with spreadsheets. The people at Evonik's Logistics Department are training me more each day. The office is busy. Accuracy is important.

I was so shy when I started the JOBS program. Definitely the communication class (Carter G. Woodson Middle School in Hopewell, VA) helped me the most. Also, instructor Dr. (Terrence) Allen, J.O.B.S. Program Founder and Prevention Specialist with District 19 Community Services Board spoke to us with so much respect, and that really helped me to be less shy.

I would say to other students that if you put in the effort in class you will be ready to have a good experience in the summer. The JOBS program will be easy and fun. You will learn a lot and it will help you later on when you graduate. I am looking forward to the 9th grade at Hopewell High School and I feel more confident because of my job this summer."

## JOBS Program a success

Besides a Hopewell High School diploma, Perrisha Bivins graduated in June with first-hand knowledge about how to land and hold a responsible job. She's acquired long-time friends, learned how to budget her money and become more organized, too. She's also lost her shyness.

In 2008 when Perrisha completed the JOBS Program, sponsored by the Hopewell-Prince George Chamber of Commerce, she was assigned to interview for a job at Hopewell's Randolph Market. The early days of that summer were tough for the shy 15-year-old. But Perrisha stuck with it and remembered the advice she'd been given by the business people who had volunteered to teach the JOBS classes. She pushed herself to make eye contact with her customers in the grocery store's check-out line. She gradually learned to talk to them and remembered it's important to put the customer first.

Chris Neal, an owner of the market, liked her performance and asked her to stay on as a regular part of his staff after she had completed her 120 hours for the JOBS Program. Since then, Perrisha has worked 20 hours a week during the school year and 35 or more hours a week each summer.

Working during the school year did make keeping up her grades harder, said Perrisha, but she graduated from Hopewell High School with a 3.1 grade point average. She took the advanced version of courses, was part of the forensics team and performed in two choirs, one of which was the all-district women's choir for three years. Being able to compete with the forensics team in public speaking events was another JOBS Program gift, said Perrisha. She'd been too shy to consider it at the beginning of her high school career.

The oldest of three siblings, Perrisha has led the way for her half-brother and -sister, Trevon and Shan'tel



Perrisha Bivins

Brown. Trevon, 16, following his big sister's path, completed the JOBS Program in 2009-10. He too has kept the summer job he got at Rosa's Italian Ristorante and Pizzeria. Shan'tel, at 13, is on the cusp of qualifying for the program that teaches job-related skills to eighth and ninth grade students in a series of after-school classes.

Perrisha's mother Angela Brown works at the 508th Transportation Co. at Fort Lee. Brown grew up in Ohio where her school system trained students for school jobs so she knew the potential the JOBS Program offered her children.

"I provide my children's needs," said Brown. "I don't provide their wants." She insists they work to earn the money for what they want. For example, Perrisha made car and insurance payments and helped pay for her cell phone once she got a job. She'll continue working at Randolph Market to help with college expenses when she enters Virginia State University this fall.

Brown said Randolph Market and Rosa's have been very good employers for her elder daughter and son. "I hope the JOBS Program stays around for quite a while," she said. "I hope more employers will give jobs to the kids who complete the program, too. Working keeps teenagers off the streets and it teaches them a strong work ethic. It also makes them able to buy the things they want rather than begging their parents for them."



# First year in the new Human Services building

Submitted by Nancy Treanor, Director, Department of Social Services

Hopewell, VA. What a difference a year makes. It's hard to believe a year has passed since the Department of Social Services moved from their old facility to the new Human Services Building on East Cawson Street. When the VA Department of Social Services evaluated the space needs for the 120 local departments of social services a few years ago, the old HDSS facility was rated the fifth worst in the state.

The old facility consisted of approximately 9200 square feet and had no private interview space, except for supervisors and a few senior workers. It had one meeting room that could only seat 25 of the 54 employees. There was no resource library for agency day care providers, adoptive parents, and foster parents. The lobby area would only seat about 12 people.

When it rained, the basement would flood, creating

mold issues. The old facility was not ADA (American with Disabilities Act) compliant. The filing system was both antiquated and too small to house all case files. Customers frequently stood in line waiting for the receptionist and this created serious confidentiality issues as personal conversations could be overheard. Only six employees could use the employee break room at a time. The old facility did not have a security system. The Comprehensive Services Act (CSA) office was housed at a different location.

The new Human Services Building, which has approximately 2100 square feet, has private offices for all staff who interview customers. There is a Multi-purpose room which seats 60 and is available for use by all city departments. Training rooms are now equipped with flat screen TVs and DVD Players for training purposes. The employee break

room seats 16, and the new facility has six restrooms instead of three.

There is an intake room that includes a restroom with a shower so that children coming into foster care can get cleaned up before going to a foster home. Having this room also eliminates having the child sit at the Social Worker's desk while multiple phone calls are made in an attempt to locate a foster care placement.

The new facility is equipped with an electronic filing system instead of the old hand crank system used in the former building. Unlike the old building, the current Human Services Building has a security system and is ADA compliant. The Comprehensive Services Act office is now housed with Social Services at the new facility.

Over 50% of the households in Hopewell receive financial or social service assistance from the department.

During FY 10/11, not including CSA visitors, 23,807 individuals conducted business at the Hopewell Social Services office.

Discussions re the need for a new human services building spanned 30 years. The new building has allowed the Department of Social Services to accomplish its mission with greater efficiency, professionalism, and pride and employees are delighted to be in their new facility.

Hopewell Department of Social Services employees are very appreciative of the leadership and support provided by Delegate Riley Ingram, Dr. Edwin Daley, City Manager, and City Councilors who made the vision a reality. Thanks, too, to Harlan Construction Company for their construction expertise and outstanding partnership that enabled us to translate employee/customer needs into such a wonderfully designed building.

## Virginia State Police concludes City of Hopewell police department evidence room investigation

CITY OF HOPEWELL – Special agents with the Virginia State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigation, Richmond Field Office, have concluded their criminal investigation into the management and maintenance of the City of Hopewell Police Department's property and evidence room. Upon consultation with the City of Hopewell Commonwealth's Attorney, no charges will be filed in the matter as the investigation revealed no criminal violations of state law.

The investigation was initiated in August 2007 at the request of then-Chief James Stanley. A private company's review and inventory of the department's evidence room led to the discovery of missing property and evidence. The state police was called in

to determine if any criminal misconduct was associated with the missing items.

The extensive and lengthy investigation by State Police revealed multiple problems in the agency's administrative policy and procedure for the storage, maintenance, security and disposal of property and evidence by agency employees. State police investigators identified 122 missing or misplaced items from 96 separate cases from 1989 to 2005. Except for one case, the thorough examination and analysis conducted on each of the 96 cases did not yield or result in any commonalities or criminal intent among agency employees.

State police did identify a suspect in the disappearance of \$55 in cash from evidence assigned to a 1989 case.

However, the individual – a police officer who is no longer employed by the Hopewell Police Department – cannot be prosecuted due to the fact that the statute of limitations for petit larceny expired in April 2006.

According to the City of Hopewell Police Chief, John Keohane, "I want to assure the citizens of Hopewell and the judicial system that the Police Department now has a sound policy, state of the art property and evidence tracking computer system, enhanced security, and accountability that has corrected past problems and will prevent any further issues with property and evidence. We have established a great working relationship with the Commonwealth Attorney, District and Circuit Court Clerks and

Judges to dispose of property and evidence by following State Law and to alleviate the backlog. Approximately 2000 pieces of property and evidence have been disposed of since my arrival. It is a priority of the Department and it will be an ongoing process. The property and evidence room problems have been corrected and we are moving forward with an aggressive agenda to become a Virginia State Accredited Agency".

According to the City of Hopewell Commonwealth's Attorney, Richard K. Newman, "I want to thank the Virginia State Police for their thorough investigation of this matter. This has been a black eye on the police department for too long of a time and I am glad that we have put this matter to rest."

## DO YOU KNOW YOUR CITY COUNCILORS?

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

### CITY DEPARTMENT

### DIRECTOR/OFFICER

### PHONE

City Manager	Ed Daley	541-2243
City Attorney	Thomas Lacheney	541-2247
City Clerk	Ann Romano	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	Elesteen Hager	541-2306
Fire	John Tunstall	541-2288
General District Court Clerk	Deborah A. Hatcher	541-2257
Healthy Families	Bernetta R. Quinn	458-9278
Human Resources	Shayna Johnson	541-2246
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	Kevin Winfree	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

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 Redevelopment and Housing Authority (HRHA)	Steven Benham	541-1458