



City E-Currents

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

Issue 14: December 2013

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Mayor's Corner



Mike Bujakowski

“What is Christmas? It is tenderness for the past, courage for the present, hope for the future. It is a fervent wish that every cup may flow with blessings rich and eternal, and that every path may lead to peace.”

~Agnes M. Pahro

‘Tis Christmas, my favorite time of the year.

It is a time where prayers for peace waffle through the air and engulf all people of all nations. Where the simplest gifts and handmade ornaments from our children are unwrapped and hung on the tree or placed around the house to symbolize innocence and simpler times. It is a time where hope abounds and wishes for health and happiness are freely exchanged. It is a time of great joy. It is a time for reflection on the year that was, while looking forward to the year that will be. A time of great promise of good things to come. Most of all, it is a time that allows us to go back to our childhood, to remember our favorite gifts, both received and given, to remember family and friends who

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City of Hopewell hires new Director of Neighborhood Assistance and Planning

The City of Hopewell is pleased to announce the appointment of Tevya Griffin as Director of Neighborhood Assistance and Planning effective October 30, 2013. Previously, Ms. Griffin was appointed Acting Director on September 18, 2013.



Tevya Griffin

The hiring of Tevya Griffin concludes an extensive search for a new Director of Neighborhood Assistance and Planning. In all, 25 applicants from 8 states applied for the position. Ms. Griffin is a proven leader and manager with a sound track record and years of supervisory experience.

Six of the most qualified candidates were selected to participate in an interview process. Ms. Griffin is a well rounded individual that brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the organization. Mrs. Griffin brings more than 8 years of senior level experience in planning, zoning, housing, and grants administration. Mrs. Griffin has served the City of Hopewell for the past 9 years.

Prior to her employment with the City, Mrs. Griffin was the Long Range Planner for Isle of Wight County. Mrs. Griffin's

accomplishments include the rewrite and adoption of ordinance amendments that improved opportunities for development and growth, the administration of over 2 million dollars in Community Development Block Grant funds, the design and site plan approval of various business and office developments, and the rehabilitation of housing in low to moderate income areas.

Mrs. Griffin holds a

Bachelor of Arts in Urban and Public Affairs from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (VA Tech) and a Masters in Community Planning from the University of Maryland, College Park. Mrs. Griffin is a Certified Planner with the American Planning Association. She is originally from Northampton County, on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. She is married to Mr. Nolan Griffin, and they have two beautiful children, Eden (2) and Asa (10 months).

According to Mark Haley, Hopewell Acting City Manager, “Tevya’s energy and enthusiasm are the assets we need in Hopewell to move the City forward. Her experience and commitment to the City make her the perfect choice for our management team”.

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

are no longer with us and to give thanks for the good influence they had on us. It is also a time to do good.

No matter how you celebrate the season I hope that you do so with great passion and that you remember in your own way, based on your own beliefs, the reason for this wonderful season. I hope that you will have the opportunity to do something nice and good for someone else, not for credit, but because you can.

As we move into the holidays I wish the following: For those with sick or aging relatives, I wish you time. For those of you who have lost loved ones during the year, I wish you nothing but good memories and comfort, those with young children, I wish patience and understanding, those with grown children, I wish grandchildren to spoil. For those in leadership positions, I wish humility and wisdom. For all of us, I wish forgiveness for our shortcomings.

I hope you have a safe and joyous holiday season, that all your wishes come true and that you and yours are blessed with good health and a visit from Santa.

"I heard the bells on Christmas Day,
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat,
Of peace on earth, good-will to men"
~Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

LEARN WELL, LIVE WELL, WORK WELL,
PLAY WELL, in HOPEWELL
"An Historic Riverfront Community"

City of Hopewell hires new Fire Marshal

The City of Hopewell is pleased to announce the appointment of James H. "Jim" Reid, Jr. as the City's Fire Marshal, Hopewell Bureau of Fire effective October 16, 2013.



James H. Reid, Jr.

Previously, Fire Marshal Reid worked 27 years for the Virginia State Fire Marshal's Office as a Deputy State Fire Marshal assigned to the Central Region. The Central Region is responsible for 1/5 of the Commonwealth including the City of Hopewell. Mr. Reid also serves as a Chief Warrant Officer 3 in the Virginia State Military Reserve and works with Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve as the State Training Director.

Fire Marshal Reid has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Management and Leadership from Bluefield College and is a graduate of the National Defense University, Joint Forces Staff College in Professional Military Education and has Associate Degrees in Fire Science and Police Science.

In addition, he holds certifications including Certified Building and Fire Official, Advanced Code Official, Investigator, Inspector, Instructor, Firefighter, Chief Fire Officer, and Advanced Emergency Management to name a few. He has two grown children and two grandchildren, Will (9) and Haleigh (12). Fire Marshal Reid is responsible for fire code enforcement, fire investigations, and public fire safety education for the City of Hopewell.

According to Mark Haley, Hopewell Acting City Manager, "Jim Reid is a welcome addition to Hopewell Fire Department and brings a wealth of experience to benefit Hopewell".

City of Hopewell Employee of the third Quarter

The City of Hopewell is pleased to announce the selection of Thomas Blackwell, Operator, Hopewell, Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility (HRWTF) as the Employee of the third Quarter November 2013.

Mr. Blackwell was assigned to a special project in the fall of 2012. His duties required the operation of two side pilot plant units to determine which provided the best nitrogen removal capability for Hopewell's unique wastewater. Results of this pilot testing were used to make multi-million dollar decisions for the future upgrades at the wastewater plant which will cost approximately \$75 Million.



Thomas Blackwell

Mr. Blackwell grad from Franklin County High School in Rocky Mount, Virginia and from Virginia Tech in 2008 with a Bachelor's Degree in Biology. Mr. Blackwell joined the staff at HRWTF in 2010 and obtained his Class 1 VA Wastewater

license within his first 2-years of employment.

The Employee of the Quarter 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: job knowledge, teamwork, dependability, quality of work, and leadership. The Employee of the Quarter recipient receives a gift certificate of their choice as well as a plaque with recognition by the City Manager and Supervisor. The Employee of the Quarter will also be recognized by the Mayor at the regular scheduled City Council meeting.

City of Hopewell Employee of the Month, Oct. 2013



Kimberly Parson

Kimberly Parson, Administrative Services Manager, Hopewell Police Department, City of Hopewell was selected Employee of the Month for October 2013. Ms. Parson was previously selected as the City's Employee of the Quarter back in 2010. The Administrative Services Division is the primary support center for the department; handling payroll, purchasing, incident reporting (includes warrants and arrests), accident reporting, summons maintenance, and parking ticket maintenance.

Ms. Parson manages the department's budget; applies for, tracks, and manages the Police Department's grants; provide oversight to the management of the City's Radio System; provide oversight to the department's Crime Analysis unit; Emergency Communication Division; and the Victim Witness Program.

The Employee of the Month Award recognizes excellence and the outstanding contribution provided by employees of the City. The criteria for nomination 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. The Mayor has donated his parking spot to recognize the "Employee of the Month" at City Hall.

Ms. Parson graduated from Petersburg High School. In addition, she obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from the College of William and Mary and a Master's of Science Degree from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Ms. Parson is a resident of Surry County and is married to Anthony Parson. They have two children, Bethany and Anthony, Jr.

HRHA strives to be a community partner

The Board of Commissioners is essential to the work of Hopewell Redevelopment and Housing Authority (HRHA) in that it is the legal authority for the agency. Members act in a position of trust for the community and are responsible for effective governance of the organization. Commissioners may serve up to four consecutive four year terms. Leadership and advocacy for public housing, the housing choice voucher program, redevelopment, community relations, and independent reviews and audits are a few of the duties for persons appointed to serve. Interested candidates should have demonstrated ability through experience, education or a combination of both to serve effectively on a governance team.

The operational leadership of the authority is vested in the Executive Director, and closely supported by the Public Housing Director and the Finance Director. The three positions are responsible for ensuring the work of the authority are in concurrence with federal, state and local laws, regulations and programs. They oversee a vast range of responsibilities that include public engagement/partnerships, fiscal accountability and management of 490 public housing units, 373 vouchers and personnel supervision.

The leadership of the HRHA work alongside those appointed to serve on its Board of Commissioners to ensure that the authority fulfills its mission to provide adequate and affordable housing, economic opportunity and a suitable living environment free from discrimination. This year has been a year of budget cuts, sequestration and challenges and it is the responsibility of these individuals to ensure that the authority maintains its daily operations that affect the lives of hundreds of families within Hopewell.

The Board of Commissioners recently adopted a "Vision" that correlates with that of the City of Hopewell to carry the agency through the year 2030. HRHA will be the primary agency responsible for affordable housing within the Tri-Cities area. It will work in conjunction with the City of Hopewell to demolish and replace the dilapidated and obsolete housing found throughout Hopewell in the 2015 to 2020 timeframe. In addition, HRHA will offer services such as organizational development, executive leadership development, property management and more to municipalities in the surrounding areas.

HUD scores the operational proficiency of agencies in one of three categories; Troubled, Standard or High Performer. In 2010 the Authority transitioned away from being designated as a troubled agency to a standard performer. This took a considerable amount of effort from all involved. HRHA is focused on achieving the status of high performer in the year 2014 and is implementing plans based on the direction of the Board of Commissioners and leadership.

HRHA strives to be a community partner and asset to the City of Hopewell and surrounding areas. Citizens are invited to attend any of its monthly board meetings or community events. For more information on the authority please visit our website at www.hopewellrha.org.

City of Hopewell Employee of the Month, November 2013



Shawn Grant

The City of Hopewell is pleased to announce the selection of Patrol Officer Shawn Grant who was selected Employee of the Month for November 2013. Officer Grant was hired as a Police Officer Recruit with the Hopewell Police Department in September, 2012. Officer Grant is a March 2013 graduate of the 80th Basic Law Enforcement Academy at Crater Criminal Justice Academy. Prior to employment with the City of Hopewell, Officer Grant was an employee of Riverside Regional Jail.

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Officer Grant is a proud graduate of Prince George High school. His future aspiration is to work in Police Investigative Services.

Hopewell Recreation and Parks Holiday Events



Tree Lighting Ceremony

Join us for an evening of holiday cheer. Music, Give-a-ways rides and of course a visit from Santa.

Who: People of all ages

When: Thursday, Dec. 5, 2013

Where: Ashford Civic Plaza

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Rides begin at 6:00 pm

Cost: Free

Lunch with Santa

Join us for an afternoon of fun as Santa is taking time to come to Hopewell.

Who: All Children

When: Saturday, Dec. 14, 2013

Where: Hopewell Community Center

Time: 12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m.

Cost: \$5.00 per person (includes lunch, special Holiday activity and a present from Santa)



Holiday Boat Parade

Join us for our 10th Annual City Boat Parade.

Dress warmly and see some of the most beautiful decorated boat in Virginia.

Who: People of all ages

When: Saturday, Dec. 7, 2013

Where: On the River between Jordan Point and Anchor Point

Time: Parade begins at 5:30 p.m.

Ground Xero Wrestling Show

Who: All are welcomed

Where: Hopewell Community Center

When: Saturday, December 21, 2013

Time: 6:00 pm (Doors open 5:30 pm)

Cost: \$6.00



Hopewell Recreation Parks

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION SPECIAL

January 2 – January 31, 2014



***If you buy one membership, you will get another membership half price. This includes monthly, limited and annual type memberships. Bring a friend in and split the cost of the membership so both of you benefit! This is for current and new members. For more information, please call (804) 541-2353.**



City Point Takes Center Stage in 2014-2015 Commemoration



One hundred and fifty years ago the course of Virginia's history -- and its future -- was for ever changed by the American Civil War.

No one at the outset could have foreseen the wholesale destruction or staggering loss of life that lay ahead. Nor the abrupt end to slavery and a rewriting of the Constitution that followed. They did not and could not have anticipated how war between the states would reshape the political and economic landscape, or fundamentally redefine how we Americans would come to see ourselves both as a people and as a nation.

Today we are no better than our forebears at reading the Future. BUT we can work to understand and appreciate, and indeed learn from the Past.

Civil War Sesquicentennial. For the past five years the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission has encouraged local communities across the Commonwealth to shine a line on those momentous events of the 1860s. It all began in 2009-2010. Statewide attention focused on John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry and the many causes leading to war.

In 2011, prominent Virginia state and local officials, academic historians, and thousands of citizens from across the state converged on Manassas to participate in a wide range of activities marking the actual outbreak of fighting. The following year saw Northern Virginians joined by Richmonders and communities along the James as they commemorated the Peninsula Campaign, Fort Monroe ("Freedom Fortress") and the spread of emancipation in the Tidewater region, and the battles of Second Manassas and Fredricksburg.

Commemorative events for 2013 centered on the battles of Chancellorsville

and Gettysburg in the east and Vicksburg in the west, also the Emancipation Proclamation, and of course the release of Steven Spielberg's movie Lincoln -- which prompted a nationwide discussion on the war's social and political impact.

As this year closes, attention is already shifting to events planned for 2014-2015 marking the final climactic end to the Civil War. Georgia will hold numerous events commemorating the battle for Atlanta and the impact of General Sherman's famous "March to the Sea." While here in Virginia the focus will be on General Grant's 1864 Overland Campaign, from the Battle of the Wilderness to Cold Harbor, and beyond.



Spotlight on Hopewell and Old City Point. When General Grant made the fateful decision to cross the James River in June 1864 and attack Lee's forces defending Petersburg, he immediately brought the war front and center to City Point (present-day Hopewell).

Situated at the confluence of the James and Appomattox rivers, City Point made a perfect supply base for the invading Union Army. As fighting raged on the outskirts of Petersburg the first Union supply ships began arriving. A beehive of activity quickly transformed the sleepy little hamlet into one of the busiest ports in the world.

As many as 200 ships a day landed and off-loaded hundreds of thousands of tons of supplies destined for the fighting front. Construction workers built over a half mile of wharfs along the shoreline, as some 2,000 newly hired contract stevedores (mostly ex-slaves from the surrounding countryside) moved goods into just-built warehouses, or onto the interminable line of six-mule wagons going back and forth from Petersburg.

In the nine and half months that City Point was operational it was the biggest Union supply base in the entire Civil War. The US Military Railroad Construction Corps built the longest military railroad in the war (over 22 miles) and ran as many as 25 engines and 275 railroad cars along the Petersburg lines. Union quartermaster and commissary personnel stored as many as 9,000,000 soldiers' rations and 12,000 tons of hay and oats for the animals on an average day. And operated a field bakery capable of producing and delivery upwards of 100,000 rations of fresh bread daily.

There were seven hospitals established at City Point to take care of the wounded, including the Depot Field Hospital (located in the vicinity of today's John Randolph Medical Center), that covered 200 acres and was capable of treating as many as 10,000 patients.



General Grant established his headquarters in a cabin on the lawn of the old Eppes plantation. (Both the cabin and Appomattox Manor are still there for today's visitors to see.) During the siege of Petersburg Grant was visited by President Lincoln twice, also by General Sherman, Admiral Porter, members of a Confederate Peace Commission headed by the Confederate Vice President, Alexander Stephens ... and many other military and civilian dignitaries.

This was indeed a place like none other that existed anywhere else during the war. It was unique in every sense. As the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War in Virginia enters its final two years all eyes will be focused on Hopewell/City Point. Ours is a remarkable story ... one that we are privileged to share with our fellow citizens of the Commonwealth, and with the nation at large.

Beacon Theatre historic night of entertainment

The Beacon Theatre 640-seat auditorium will host its first major event on Monday, January 13, 2014 at 6 p.m. Leon Russell will headline this historic night of entertainment. Built in 1928, the historic Beacon Theatre features three levels of event space that accommodates approximately two hundred guests, with Brazilian cherry hardwood floors and a nod to the Art Deco era make this venue unique and versatile for any special event.

The theatre is located along the corner entrance at the intersection of North Main and East Cawson Streets in Hopewell. Tickets can be purchased at mytickets.tobuy.com



Leon Russell
Monday January 13, 2014
Beacon Theatre
Hopewell, Virginia
Tickets on sale
Friday November 22, 2013
at 10am Buy tickets
www.myticketstobuy.com



Fort Lee invites public to Grand Illumination

The public is invited to join the Fort Lee community for its annual holiday tree lighting ceremony here Dec. 5.

WHAT: Grand Illumination

WHERE: Lee Club lawn, Fort Lee

WHEN: 4:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 5

The 392nd Army Band will perform seasonal music and kids from Child, Youth and School Services programs on post will join local Girl Scouts for a community sing-a-long. Santa Claus will arrive after the tree is lit by Combined Arms Support Command and Fort Lee Commanding General Maj. Gen. Larry D. Wyche and his wife, Denise.

McGruff the Crime Dog® will make an appearance at the Grand Illumination, which also includes games, rides, free refreshments and photos with Santa.

Let it Shine: Air Force Band Presents Holiday Concert

The United States Air Force Heritage of America Band will present a special holiday concert entitled "Let it Shine" at Hopewell High School in Hopewell, VA, on Sunday, December 8, 2013 at 7 p.m. The concert is free and open to the public—however, tickets are required. Tickets (limit of 4 per request) are available on-line at the following location: <http://www.heritageofamericaband.af.mil/events/>

"Let it Shine" is a special production that will feature a wide variety of music to celebrate the holiday season. Programmed selections include "Festival of Light," a dramatic work celebrating Chanukah, the beautiful "O Holy Night," and several family-friendly pieces that will delight audiences of all ages. There is also a poignant tribute to a few of our local U.S. Service members who are serving abroad during the holiday season. According to Mr. Ray Landon, resources specialist with the Heritage of America Band, "This delightful concert is a great opportunity to celebrate the holidays with friends and family. We have planned music that is exciting, lots of fun and showcases the excellence of our United States Air Force. This holiday tradition is something we look forward to each year, and we are pleased to be back in the Williamsburg region to present this wonderful program." The concert will be conducted by the band's Commander, Captain Michael Hoerber, and features both the band's concert band and popular music ensemble, Blue Aces.



For additional information about this free concert, please visit the USAF Heritage of America Band's website: www.heritageofamericaband.af.mil

Activated in 1941, The United States Air Force Heritage of America Band has a rich history of inspiring public patriotism and enhancing esprit de corps among all the US military service branches. These world-class musicians are stationed at Joint Base Langley-Eustis in Hampton, Virginia. They travel throughout the Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic regions of the U.S., presenting over 300 events annually for the general public and in support of Airman morale and protocol events.

DECKING THE FORT

Presented By The Fort Lee Area Spouses' Club

LOVE THE BEST PART OF VIRGINIA

Thursday, December 5th

The Lee Club 6:30-8:30 pm

Tickets \$25 - Executive Chef Blake Boze unveils
A Spectacular Food Experience with Cash Bar

Entertainment, Live & Silent Auctions

Semi Formal Holiday Attire

*AN EVENT TO WELCOME OUR
CENTRAL VIRGINIA NEIGHBORS*

Proceeds From This Event Continues
The Proud FLASC Tradition Of
Giving Back To Our Local Community

deckingthefort@gmail.com

or call 904-502-0485 for tickets

Hopewell High School DECA Team Produces State Fair winners!



After a scorching hot day at the State Fair last Wednesday, Hopewell High School senior, Christian Sherr, and freshman, Tiara Taylor, brought home the gold.

This year the State Fair of Virginia hosted a mini competition, sponsored by Virginia DECA, which was not so tiny. Over 280 teams were divided into groups of 20 and converged on the fairgrounds to get practice for what's yet to come when competition season starts in a few months for Virginia DECA. DECA is an international organization that helps high school and college students learn real world marketing skills in a very hands on way.

The teams were only given 10 minutes to study and figure out how to present their findings or solve a case study in their role playing events. They were graded on how quickly they could come up with a viable solution to the given problem and successfully conveying it to the judges.

Hopewell fielded twelve student teams at the event and in addition to the two first place wins, they also received a third place standing along with two other teams in the top five.

"Chris (Sherr) is in Marketing II, but never joined DECA last year," said Hopewell High School DECA advisor Phyllis Slachter. She went on to say, "Most of the students who competed had never been in marketing before, or joined DECA this year, but will not have the class until next semester."

Last year the team qualified and competed in the national DECA conference in Anaheim, California and with such a strong early showing, Slachter is hopeful exclaiming, "The only place Hopewell DECA has to go from here is up!"

This year's nationals are in Atlanta, Georgia in early May.

KEEP HOPEWELL BEAUTIFUL VOLUNTEER LEAF RAKING DAYS!

NOVEMBER 23 and **DECEMBER 7**

Please help us Keep Hopewell Beautiful by volunteering to rake leaves for our elderly and disabled residents!

Volunteers will meet at **8AM** on **both dates** in the parking lot at **2nd Avenue and Broadway** (behind the post office).

Please bring your own rakes and gloves!

A volunteer luncheon will be served at **NOON** at **City Point Park**.

****Do you know a property that needs raking? To nominate a property for raking, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Assistance and Planning at 541-2220.**

Deadline for nominations is Friday, November 15 at 4PM.

Number of properties raked depends upon number of volunteers. ******

Virginians should get ready for winter weather now Dec. 1-7 is Winter Preparedness Week in Virginia

Winters in Virginia can be cold, snowy and icy and bring extended power outages. To highlight the importance of Virginia families and businesses being winter-ready, the National Weather Service and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management have set aside Dec. 1-7 as Winter Preparedness Week.

“We’ve had several record breaking winter storms in the past few years, and they serve as good reminders that it’s smart to get ready,” said Michael Cline, state coordinator of emergency management. “Everyone should take steps now to prepare themselves and their families for whatever winter might bring.”

NWS predictions for the winter of 2013-14 in Virginia suggest normal temperatures and precipitation for the season.

“We don’t see indications of an extremely cold winter in Virginia. However, the potential for normal snowfall and/or ice means we need to be ready for disruptions in travel and schedules,” said Bill Sammler, NWS Wakefield warning coordination meteorologist.

During Winter Preparedness Week, Virginians can take a few easy steps to get ready for severe weather:

Get a kit. Imagine you can’t leave home because of a winter storm. Basic emergency supplies include:

- Three days’ food that doesn’t need refrigeration or electricity to prepare it.
- Three days’ water (a gallon per person per day)A battery-powered and/or hand-crank radio with extra batteries
- After you have these essentials, then add a first aid kit, supply of prescription medications, blankets and warm clothing, supplies for special members of your household, and pet items.

Make a plan. Everyone needs an emergency plan:

- Decide who your out-of-town emergency contact will be
- Where will you meet up with family members if you can’t return home?
- Get a worksheet at www.ReadyVirginia.gov or on the new Ready Virginia app

Stay informed. Before, during and after a winter storm, you should:

- Listen to local media for information and instructions from emergency officials

- Be aware of winter storm watches and warnings and road conditions

- Get where you need to go before the weather gets bad

- Get road condition information 24/7 by calling 511 or checking www.511Virginia.org

- Download the Ready Virginia app. This helpful emergency planning tool for iPhone® and Android™ mobile devices features:

- Location-specific weather watches and warnings issued by the National Weather Service

- Disaster news from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management

- A customizable family emergency plan that can be easily shared

- A checklist for gathering emergency supplies

- Contact information for local emergency managers

“One heavy snowstorm with power outages is enough to disrupt schedules and cause people to wish they had prepared better,” said Cline. “It’s much safer to take a little time now and get ready before a winter storm arrives.”

CHRISTMAS SEASON SAFETY GUIDE

1. Christmas holidays are almost here and with party-going and party-giving, the hustle and bustle of shopping, decorating the house, coping with inclement weather . . . everyone is more prone to have accidents during this holiday season than any other time of year. To help make this a safe and happy holiday season, here are some safety tips.

2. During the Christmas holidays there are more cars, more people, and more confusion than any other holiday during the year. So when driving, make safety your number one job.

- Before leaving for a shopping spree or a big family reunion, be sure your car is holiday safe.
- Be courteous and respect the rights of pedestrians and other drivers.
- Allow extra time for heavy traffic and slippery roads.
- Stay alert for the driver who has over-celebrated.
- Expect the unexpected from pedestrians carrying large Christmas packages.

3. Christmas holidays bring a dangerous combination, the throttle and the bottle. More than half the automobile accidents that occur during the Christmas holidays involve people who have been drinking.

4. What is America's number one fire hazard? If you said the home, you were right. Fifty-seven percent of all home fires are caused by defective heating equipment, specially during the holiday season. The cold weather of the holiday season puts extra demands on your heating system so:

- Check your furnace. It should be cleaned and checked regularly by professionals.
- Check your chimney pipes and flues. They should be clean with no loose mortar.
- Inspect your fireplace for safe operations. Use a screen or glass front. Never leave your fireplace unattended. Don't burn gift wrappings, tissue, or evergreens in the fireplace.

5. Christmas lighting can cause fires. To reduce the chance of fires from Christmas lights:

- Only use lights approved for outdoor use outdoors. Check for Underwriters' Laboratory label.
- Make sure circuits are not overloaded.
- Place cords away from traffic areas and heat sources, not under rugs.
- Check cords and plugs for wear, frayed insulation, cracks, and loose connections.

6. Christmas trees are another serious threat to holiday safety. An eight-foot pine can burn completely in just 27 seconds and create tremendous heat. Some safety tips to remember are:

- Place your tree away from heat sources and

open flames.

- Check the lights before placing them on the tree. Look for loose sockets or broken and frayed wires.
- Keep water in tree base container and check it often.
- Turn lights off when you leave your home unattended.
- Never use a regular string of lights on a metal tree. The danger of shock is great. Use a spotlight to illuminate a metal tree.

7. Some extra precautions to remember over the Christmas holidays are:

- Make your home fall-free for the holidays.
 - Sidewalks and driveways should be kept free of ice and snow. Spread sand or ice melt to prevent slips.
 - Walkways should be considered when you're arranging furniture to make room for the tree.
 - Electrical cords and wires should be away from traffic areas where they could become tripping hazards.
 - Ladders, not stools or chairs, should be used for those out-of-reach decorating jobs.



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

City Manager
 City Attorney
 City Clerk
 Comprehensive Services Act
 Economic Development
 Engineering
 Finance
 Fire
 Healthy Families
 Human Resources
 Information Systems
 Intergovernmental & Public Affairs
 Director of Neighborhood
 Assistance & Planning
 Police
 Public Works
 Purchasing
 Real Estate Assessor
 Recreation
 Acting Director of Regional
 Wastewater Treatment Facility
 Risk Management
 Emergency Services
 School Superintendent
 Social Services
 Tourism
 Voter Registrar

DIRECTOR/OFFICER PHONE

Mark Haley 541-2243
 David Fratarcangelo 541-2247
 Cindy Ames 541-2249
 Jamilliah Karriem 541-2470
 J. Andrew Hagy 541-2243
 Johnnie Butler 541-2319
 Jerry Whitaker 541-2306
 John Tunstall 541-2288
 Bernetta R. Quinn 458-9271
 Gail Vance 541-2246
 Terry Newton 541-2225
 Herbert Bragg 541-2270
 Tevya Griffin 541-2220
 John Keohane 541-2282
 Ed Watson, Jr. 541-2295
 April Cone 541-2205
 Patrizia Waggoner 541-2234
 Jo Turek 541-2304
 Jeanie Grandstaff 541-2210
 Dave Harless 541-2203
 Ben Ruppert 541-2298
 Dr. John Fahey 541-6400
 Nancy Treanor 541-2330
 LuAnn Fortenberry 541-2461
 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
 General District Court Clerk Deborah A. Hatcher 541-2257
 Hopewell Health Department George Verghese 458-1297
 Hopewell Redevelopment and
 Housing Authority (HRHA) Steven Benham 541-1458