

The City Focus

A Report to the Citizens of the City of Colonial Heights

TRAFFIC SIGNAL UPGRADES TO RELIEVE CONGESTION AND IMPROVE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

The City has substantially completed the construction of a first-phase project to upgrade equipment, hardware and software for five traffic signals located in the North Boulevard corridor – Colonial Heights' "Main Street." Intersections included in this project are: Temple Avenue, Ellerslie Avenue, Newcastle Drive, Lakeview Avenue and Sherwood Drive. The contract cost of the project is approximately \$420,000, which is 100% federally-funded.

This is a crucial step in linking each traffic signal to an on-street master controller and to City computers via various communication technologies. These technologies allow the City to modify traffic signal timings as necessary to provide for more efficient traffic flow.

Our long-term strategy for the Boulevard is to create a streetscape with continuous sidewalks and pedestrian facilities throughout its entire length. This first-phase project not only upgrades vehicular traffic signals but also provides pedestrian signals, crosswalks and curb ramps. Pedestrian facilities are necessary to comply with American with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.

Traffic signal coordination and modernization projects in the City provide the following benefits:

- ☆ New traffic control equipment to reduce the time and cost of maintaining aged and deteriorated equipment.
- ☆ New pedestrian facilities to improve safety and comply with current ADA regulations.
- ☆ Improved signal coordination between City- and State-owned signals to reduce travel time and delays.
- ☆ Ability of City staff to monitor and adjust signal timings during peak travel hours, special events, and detours caused by emergency incidents on Interstate 95.
- ☆ Improved response time for emergency vehicles to move through congested travel corridors.

CITY COUNCIL APPOINTS NEW CITY MANAGER

At its Regular Meeting of October 12, 2010, City Council formally approved the appointment of Thomas L. Mattis as the new Colonial Heights City Manager. Mr. Mattis has achieved a successful and diversified career as a City Manager over the past 28 years. Mr. Mattis most recently served as City Manager for the City of Kyle, Texas for the past 8 years. Kyle experienced dramatic growth and development during Mattis' tenure, increasing its population from 5,000 residents in 2002 to its current estimated population of nearly 30,000. In preparing for the growth of Kyle, Mr. Mattis was instrumental in securing infrastructure upgrades and positioning the City to be able to manage the growth. He has negotiated a wide range of successful public-private partnerships facilitating local job growth and business development. Prior to being the City Manager of Kyle, he served as the Municipal Administrator for 10 years with Waterville, Ohio. Mr. Mattis has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science/American History from Bowling Green State University. He has also obtained many certifications from continuing education courses and received awards from various business associations and civic groups. Mr. Mattis and his wife Mary Ann will complete their relocation to Colonial Heights in the near future. For a complete biography, please visit the City Manager's website at www.colonial-heights.com/CityManagerBiography.htm.

CHPD AND CADRE PARTICIPATE IN THE AMERICAN MEDICINE CHEST CHALLENGE

On November 13, 2010, the Colonial Heights Police Department and the Office on Youth will be coordinating the American Medicine Chest Challenge. The event will take place at the Senior Center which is located in the Community Center at 157 Roanoke Avenue. Citizens will be allowed to bring in unwanted prescription and over the counter medications for safe disposal. For more information, please visit the web at www.colonial-heights.com/MedicineChestChallenge.htm





CITY COUNCIL APPROVES CHANGE IN ENFORCEMENT OF TALL GRASS CUTTING



Even though the drought has slowed the growth of grass in the City, City Council recently reviewed a revised policy on enforcement of the City's Tall Grass regulations.

Violators of the ordinance were previously given a 10 day notice to get the grass cut. If that didn't occur, then a five day notice was issued before any enforcement could be carried out.

The new policy replaces the 5 day notice letter with a 48 hour sticker that will be placed on the property. If compliance has not been achieved after the 48 hour period, then the City will have the grass cut and the bill charged to the property owner. If the bill is not paid in 30 days, a lien will be placed on the property. This new policy is now in effect.

For additional information, please contact the Department of Planning and Community Development at 520-9297



NEW RENTAL INSPECTION DISTRICTS PROPOSED



The City Council recently heard a report from the Department of Planning and Community Development on the completion of Phase 2 of the Rental Inspection Program. To-date, there have been over 1,250 inspections made and 1,047 four year certificates issued in the Violet Bank/Flora Hill; Shepherd Stadium, Westover Snead and Toll House Districts. In 2011, the initial rental units inspected will be reinspected as their four year anniversary is achieved.

In addition to summarizing the work completed to-date, staff has recommended that three additional areas be added. These are the following neighborhoods: Oak Hill District, Lakeview District and Ellerslie District. City Council will be holding a public hearing in the near future to consider these additional neighborhoods.



ANIMAL SHELTER TO HOST YARD SALE



The Colonial Heights Animal Shelter, in conjunction with the Petersburg/Colonial Heights S.P.C.A., will be holding a yard sale to raise money for our shelter animals. The yard sale will be held Saturday, November 6th, 2010, at the Colonial Heights Animal Shelter from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. If you would like to donate items for the yard sale, you may drop them off at the shelter, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. For more information or directions to the shelter please call (804) 520-9397.



SERVICE AWARD RECOGNITION



Each year, the City of Colonial Heights recognizes employees for their continuous years of City service through the Employee Service Award Program. We are proud to recognize this year's award recipients for their commitment to public service.

5 Years

Theodore Berberich
Erika Edwards
David Hawks
Michael Kelley
Mayben Killingsworth
Kenneth Langston
Jewellyn Nickson
Tricia Quenan
Rex Sharp
Howard Whirley, III

15 Years

Sandra Callis
Hillary Crowell
William Early
Julia Groat

20 Years

Stacey Arehart
Jeffrey Faries
Greg Gentry
John Peterson, III
Lisa Sheppard
Peggy Taylor
Samuel Young, II

10 years

Elena Blanks
Anthony Gough
Eric Gryder
Robert Helms
Katherine Holladay
Elizabeth Luck
Susana McDonald
Larry Melvin
Roger Parker
Chris Pond

30 Years

James Bowman
William Johnson



EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH



The City of Colonial Heights is pleased to recognize the Employee of the Month recipients for January 2010 through September 2010:

January 2010

David Kissner, II
Fire & EMS Dept.

June 2010

Kevin Joyce
Planning Dept.

February 2010

Lisa Briley
Library

July 2010

Donald Hannuksela
Sheriff's Office

March 2010

Sophie Benkendorf
Police Dept.

August 2010

Kevin Smith
Fire & EMS Dept.

April 2010

Christine Kifer
Planning Dept.

September 2010

David Avent
Recreation & Parks Dept.

May 2010

Deborah Rose
Fire & EMS Dept.



THE PETERSBURG SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



The Petersburg Symphony Orchestra will present a free "Pops" concert on Saturday, November 6, 2010, at 7:30 p.m. in the Colonial Heights High School auditorium. The annual concert is sponsored by the City of Colonial Heights as a community cultural event. Admission is free, and tickets are not required. All individuals who are at least five years of age are cordially invited to attend. Doors will open at 7:00 p.m., and seating will be on a "first come" basis. The seventy-member orchestra will be under the direction of Conductor Ulysses Kirksey, who has planned a program of music in a variety of styles, including compositions by George Gershwin. The Orchestra will be augmented by key members of the award-winning Colonial Heights High School Band, under the direction of Kyle Flore. The CHHS musicians will perform side-by-side with PSO members. The High School is located at 3600 Conduit Road. Parking is available at the rear of the School.



Fire Prevention Week was celebrated October 3-9 and this year's theme was:

"Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With!"

Colonial Heights Fire & EMS is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all those living in our community. Each year nearly 3,000 people die in home fires. Almost two-thirds of these home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or non-working smoke alarms. Smoke Alarms are a very important means of preventing house fire fatalities by providing an early warning signal so you and your family can escape. These alarms are one of the best safety devices you can purchase to protect yourself, your family, and your home.

Installing and maintaining a working smoke detector in your house, cuts your chances of dying in a home fire in half. Colonial Heights Fire & EMS recommends at least one smoke alarm on every level of your home, outside all sleeping areas, and in all bedrooms. **Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With.**



The City Focus



The City Focus is a newsletter mailed to residents of the City of Colonial Heights, published by the Office of the City Manager, to inform residents of government actions and events of interest in the City. This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.



CHRISTMAS DECORATING CONTEST



Join in the fun while getting into the Christmas spirit by signing-up to participate in the Christmas Decorating Contest. The event is sponsored by the Beautification Committee and the Colonial Heights Chamber of Commerce.

All entries for this year's Christmas Decorating Contest must be received by 5:00 p.m. on December 3, 2010. The judging will take place Thursday, December 9, 2010, beginning at approximately 6:00 p.m. by judges selected by the Committee. All judges reside outside of the City limits of Colonial Heights.

The categories are:

- ☆ Doors
- ☆ Traditional (House/Condo/Apartment)
- ☆ Decorative House (Most Creative)
- ☆ Decorative Condo or Apartment (Most Creative)
- ☆ Lighting - House
- ☆ Lighting - Condo or Apartment
- ☆ Commercial/Business
- ☆ Lawn Display

All entries will be judged on merit according to the categories in which entered. Last year's First Place winners will not be eligible for First Place, but will be eligible for other awards. All winners will be recognized at a free recognition breakfast at the Dunlop House at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, December 13, 2010.

For further information or to obtain entry forms, please contact the Colonial Heights Chamber of Commerce at 526-5872.

CHPD AND MADD Wish You



MADD

A SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON



MADD

Colonial Heights Police Officers Michael Foster and Joseph Baird were recognized on September 20th by the Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Central Virginia Chapter, for their hard work regarding drunk driving enforcement. Together these officers removed approximately ninety (90) drunk drivers from our City roadways throughout calendar year 2009.

One of the Colonial Heights Police Department's most important missions is to provide safe roadways for all motorists traveling within our City. Your police department has zero tolerance for drunk driving. During calendar year 2009, the Colonial Heights Police Department arrested three hundred and thirty one (331) DUI offenders. With the holiday season right around the corner, we urge motorists to **choose** not to drink and drive!



RECREATION & PARKS



Senior Citizens Transportation

The City of Colonial Heights offers free transportation for City residents sixty (60) years of age and older. Residents may obtain rides throughout the City of Colonial Heights for medical, business, or personal reasons. Transportation is provided to Petersburg, Hopewell and Fort Lee for medical appointments only. Vans are equipped with hydraulic lifts for wheelchairs.

The Transportation Department operates under the supervision of the Senior Citizen Center. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except City Holidays. Phone 520-9219 for more information and policies.

Youth Baseball and Softball Registration

The City of Colonial Heights will have Youth Softball and Baseball registration in February for boys ages 4-16 and girls ages 4-14. Please call 520-9390 for more information or visit the website at www.colonial-heights.com/RecParks.htm

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**City of Colonial Heights
Office of the City Manager
Post Office Box 3401
Colonial Heights, Virginia 23834-9001
www.colonial-heights.com**

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
SAMPLE BALLOT
City of Colonial Heights
GENERAL AND SPECIAL ELECTIONS
Tuesday, November 2, 2010**

**Member
House of Representatives
4th District
(Vote for not more than one)**

- ☐ J. Randy Forbes - R
- ☐ Wynne V. E. LeGrow - D
- ☐ Write-In

**Authorized by Electoral Board of the
City of Colonial Heights
201 James Avenue, Colonial Heights, VA 23834**

Notice: The authority statement printed above must be removed and replaced with the appropriate authority statement for the committee, individual or group using this ballot for their own purposes. [see 24.2-956 and 24.2-622 of the Code of Virginia or the booklet entitled Summary-Campaign Finance Disclosure Act prepared by, and available from, the State Board of Elections.]

**PROPOSED
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**

Question 1: Shall Section 6 of Article X of the Constitution of Virginia be amended to authorize legislation that will permit localities to establish their own income or financial worth limitations for purposes of granting property tax relief for homeowners not less than 65 years of age or permanently and totally disabled?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Question 2: Shall the Constitution be amended to require the General Assembly to provide a real property tax exemption for the principal residence of a veteran, or his or her surviving spouse, if the veteran has a 100 percent service-connected, permanent, and total disability?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Question 3: Shall Section 8 of Article X of the Constitution of Virginia be amended to increase the permissible size of the Revenue Stabilization Fund (also known as the "rainy day fund") from 10 percent to 15 percent of the Commonwealth's average annual tax revenues derived from income and retail sales taxes for the preceding three fiscal years?

☐ Yes

☐ No

**Member
City Council
(Vote for not more than three)**

- ☐ Michael A. Cherry
- ☐ C. Scott Davis
- ☐ Milton E. Freeland, Jr.
- ☐ John T. Wood
- ☐ Write-In
- ☐ Write-In
- ☐ Write-In

**Member
School Board
(Vote for not more than two)**

- ☐ Christopher M. Foederer
- ☐ Cindy G. Shortlidge
- ☐ Richard M. "Mike" Yates
- ☐ Write-In
- ☐ Write-In

Polls Open 6:00 am and Close at 7:00 pm Election Day, November 2, 2010
ID is required

Deadline to request an absentee ballot by mail: October 26, 2010

Deadline to vote absentee in-person: October 30, 2010

To check if you are registered or where to go to vote, visit State Board of Elections
website: <http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/cms>

or

City of Colonial Heights Registrar's website:
<http://www.colonial-heights.com/Registrar.htm>

or

Contact Registrar's office at 804-520-9277
201 James Avenue, 1st floor
Office hours are 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

ABSENTEE VOTING IN COLONIAL HEIGHTS

Absentee voting is available for registered voters who will not be in the City on Election Day, or who are unable to go to the polls for one of the following reasons. An application for an absentee ballot is available at the Registrar's office or to download at www.sbe.virginia.gov.

Valid reasons for voting absentee are:

- Students at institutions of higher learning, and their spouses
- Absent for business purposes
- Absent for personal business or vacation
- Scheduled to work at one's workplace at least 11 of the 13 hours the polls are open
- First responder (law enforcement, fire fighters, emergency techs)
- Unable to get to the polls because of physical disability or illness
- Pregnancy
- Caretakers of confined family members
- Awaiting trial and under confinement
- Serving time for misdemeanor convictions
- Religious conflicts
- Active duty uniformed services or merchant marine personnel and their dependents
- Regularly employed outside the U.S. and dependents

POLLING LOCATIONS AND HOURS

When you register to vote, you are sent a voter registration card with the name of your precinct and location of your polling place. If you've lost or misplaced your card, please call the Registrar's office at (804) 520-9277.

Polling locations in Colonial Heights are as follows:

<i>PRECINCT NUMBER</i>	<i>POLL LOCATION & ADDRESS</i>
0001	Community Building 157 Roanoke Avenue
0002	Colonial Heights Middle School 500 Conduit Road
0003	Lakeview Elementary School 401 Taswell Avenue
0004	Colonial Heights High School Technical Center 3451 Conduit Road
0005	Tussing Elementary School 5501 Conduit Road



Neighborhood Leaf Removal Service

Fall 2010/Winter 2011



Convenient Service during Fall Season

The City of Colonial Heights Department of Public Works is pleased to announce that convenient leaf removal services will be provided in city neighborhoods again this year. Each fall, residents collect and stockpile loose leaves along city streets, which city crews remove and make available to local recycling businesses. During the 2009 season, city crews collected approximately 3,000 cubic yards of leaves.

Year Round Service Option

Bagged leaves are collected year round and may be placed at the curbside on regular trash collection days. The limit per collection day is 30 bags, each weighing no more than 50 pounds.

Neighborhood Service Areas

This year leaf removal operations will occur in three main service areas, each consisting of three to four neighborhoods. Figure 1 shows the service areas and schedules. Signs will be installed on adjacent thoroughfares to let residents know in advance when service is scheduled in their area. Please note that the time for service in each area is subject to change depending on inclement weather conditions and other events beyond the City's control.

Scheduled Time of Service

Leaves will be collected and removed during the hours of 7:30 AM and 3:00 PM, Monday through Friday, beginning November 08, 2010 and ending January 28, 2011.

Preparing Leaves for City Collection

Residents are asked to place leaves along street frontages and roadsides one week before service is scheduled to begin in their neighborhood. No leaves will be removed except during regularly scheduled times. Leaves that are not placed before regularly scheduled removal times will be removed during the next regularly scheduled service in the area. City crews cannot remove leaves from private property.

Avoid Mixing Leaves with Other Debris

Residents are asked to keep leaf piles free of tree branches, lumber, steel, rock, concrete or other debris. Hard objects mixed with leaves are hazardous and may damage leaf vacuum equipment causing unnecessary time and expense to repair or replace.

Neighborhood Parking During Leaf Removal Service

Residents can assist city leaf removal operations by keeping parked vehicles clear of leaf piles. The use of off-street parking is encouraged wherever available. "No Parking" signs may be used to restrict parking on neighborhood streets while city crews remove leaf piles. To avoid damaging personal property, city crews will not rake leaf piles out from under or between parked cars.

More Information

Residents may contact the Public Works Department at 520-9372 for more information about this convenient neighborhood service.



Neighborhood Leaf Removal Schedule Fall 2010/Winter 2011

