

# THE CITY FOCUS

Fall 2013



City of Colonial Heights Courthouse  
Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony  
550 Boulevard

**Friday, October 18, 2013**  
**4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**



## Colonial Heights Courthouse Grand Opening & Ribbon-Cutting

The City Council invites you to attend a ceremony to mark the opening of the new City Courthouse on Friday, October 18, 2013 from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. at 550 Boulevard. The ceremony will include tours for the general public of this new state-of-art facility.

As part of this ceremony, the City will also be installing a time capsule to commemorate the event. The time capsule is scheduled to be opened in October of 2098 to mark the Sesquicentennial of the City of Colonial Heights. Its contents will depict items of the first 65 years of Colonial Heights' incorporation - *and the City is seeking your help identifying items for inclusion in the capsule!*

If you have any item of local historical significance that you would like to offer for inclusion in the time capsule, please contact the City Manager's Office at 201 James Avenue, Colonial Heights, VA 23834 — (804) 520-9265 or at: [gibbse@colonialheightsva.gov](mailto:gibbse@colonialheightsva.gov)

The deadline for all proposed inclusions in the time capsule is Friday, October 11, 2013.

## Police Department Awarded First Place in Law Enforcement Challenge



Pictured above are (from left): Sergeant R. L. Ruxer,  
Colonel Jeffrey W. Faries and  
Staunton, Virginia Police Chief James E. Williams (President of VACP)

The Colonial Heights Police Department is pleased to announce its first place finish in the Virginia Law Enforcement Challenge. The Law Enforcement Challenge is a competition between comparable law enforcement agencies that recognizes and rewards the best overall traffic safety programs in Virginia. It is coordinated by the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police and is supported by a grant from the DMV Virginia Highway Safety Office. The Department competed against other municipal agencies statewide that employed 26-50 officers.

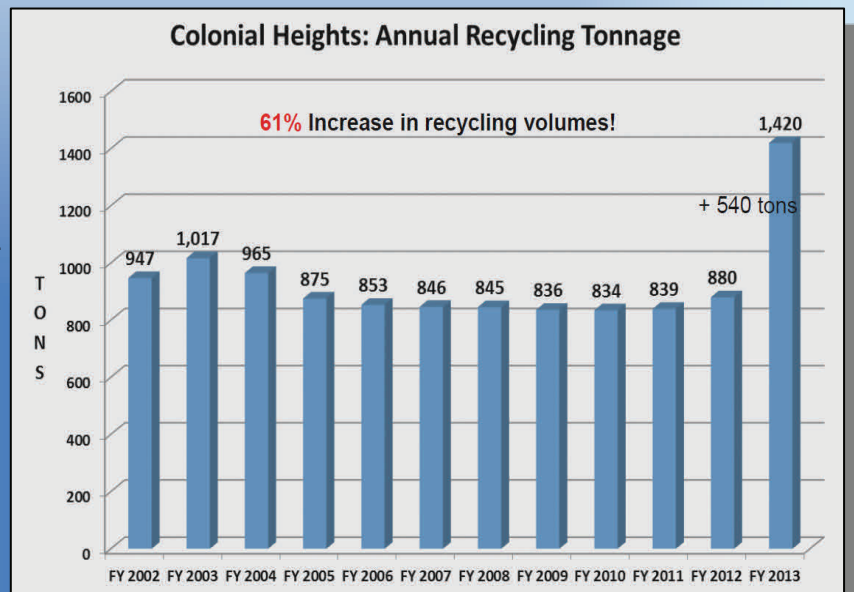
Now in its 24th year, the Law Enforcement Challenge program promotes professionalism in traffic safety enforcement and encourages agencies to share best practices and programs. Awards are based on entries that highlight traffic safety education and enforcement activities in the past year. Judges award points to agencies in the six areas that comprise a comprehensive program: policies and guidelines, training of officers, incentives and recognition, public information and education, enforcement, and an evaluation of the effectiveness of the agency's efforts.

# City is Regional Leader in Recycling

When the City made some tough choices and implemented new programs for residential curbside collection of household trash and recyclables last year, the City Council and staff were optimistic about the possible benefits. Upon review of the statistics from the first twelve months of these programs, however, those changes have not only enhanced city services and saved money, but have also had a tremendously positive impact on the environment.

Since implementing the changes on July 1, 2012, the City decreased its solid waste stream – household trash being collected and sent to the landfill – by **over 500 tons**; and recycling increased by a similar amount. At the same time, citizen participation in curbside recycling has essentially doubled – increasing to **more than 60%**.

One of the broader goals of the new programs was to reduce the total amount of household trash coming from the city to local landfills. The City took an innovative approach of replacing existing 96- gallon trash carts with a smaller, 68- gallon cart. In addition, single family households also received a new, much larger, 96- gallon green recycling cart. By providing a much larger recycling cart, residents have been able to significantly reduce the amount of household trash to be collected, thereby reducing the need for – and costs associated with – the larger trash cart.



The City experienced a steady increase in municipal solid waste (MSW) or household trash collected in recent years. In 2013, however, with the implementation of the new programs, the total amount of trash collected and delivered to the landfill decreased by 506 tons. Correspondingly, as depicted in the graph above, the total amount of recyclables collected **increased by 540 tons** – a 61% increase.

Being responsible stewards of the environment through programs such as these is an important priority for the City,” said Vice-Mayor Diane Yates. “I am very pleased with these initial results and look forward to continuing to grow these programs in the future.”

City residents have clearly responded positively to the new programs. Over the previous seven years, Colonial Heights steadily participated in curbside recycling at an average rate of 32% - that is, the percentage of homes in the city that set out recycling for weekly collection. In FY2013, however, coinciding with the implementation of the new trash and recycling programs, participation nearly doubled to more than 62%. This rate of now places Colonial Heights as the leader among area localities for resident participation in curbside recycling.

“When we implemented these programs a year ago, we knew it would be for the overall good, even though it meant changes in long-established service routines” said Mayor Scott Davis. “As the numbers clearly indicate, however, our citizens have joined us in this effort to improve services while helping the environment.”



## 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 and the citizens of our community.

### 5 Years

Kimberly T. Barrow, Recreation & Parks  
 Chad E. Bosserman, Communications  
 Adam C. Brandeberry, Police  
 Robert C. Clark, Police  
 Alfred G. Collins, III, Commonwealth's Attorney  
 Tracy H. Crown, Registrar  
 Mike Foster, Jr. Police  
 Theodore E. Guilmart, Police  
 Karen F. Gwaltney, Commissioner of Revenue  
 Laure A. Hahn, Victim Witness  
 Gregory K. Henderson, Public Works  
 Thad E. Johnson, Police  
 Joseph E. Jolly, Utilities  
 Jeremy D. Moore, Stormwater  
 Kristopher R. Pawlick, Fire & EMS  
 Scot A. Rollie, Public Works  
 Roger L. Santini, Police  
 Geoffrey C. Turner, Fire & EMS  
 Daniel B. Vilardo, Police  
 Michael H. West, Public Works  
 James S. Whitt, Police  
 Judi L. Whitt, Purchasing

### 10 Years

Willard R. Ashworth, Fire & EMS  
 Randolph W. Carter, Utilities  
 Denise D. Chandler, Communications  
 Eileen D. Drake, Senior Center  
 Valentine W. Eiler, Police  
 Christopher D. Hagler, Fire & EMS  
 Krystle S. Hester, Fire & EMS  
 Kevin R. Smith, Fire & EMS

### 10 Years

Wayne L. Rae, Jr., Fire & EMS  
 Robert L. Ruxer, III, Police  
 Kevin R. Smith, Fire & EMS

### 15 Years

William H. Anspach, III, Police  
 Dann P. Ferguson, Police  
 Steven C. Groat, Police  
 Steven D. Hanson, Communications  
 Henry E. Hardy, Buildings & Grounds  
 Horace B. Hines, Fire & EMS  
 Jeffrey M. Santini, Police  
 Todd B. Wilson, Sheriff

### 20 Years

John S. Anderson, Fire & EMS  
 Marjorie C. DeDanko, Commissioner of Revenue

### 25 Years

Gayle R. Braswell, Communications  
 Allan G. Moore, Jr., Fire & EMS  
 Alfred G. Ross, Fleet Maintenance  
 Russell E. Woodburn, Violet Bank

### 30 Years

Rebecca R. Childers, Senior Center

### 35 Years

Bruce N. Hansen, Library  
 Joan M. Patrick, Commissioner of Revenue

# THE CITY FOCUS

City of Colonial Heights  
Office of the City Manager  
Post Office Box 3401  
Colonial Heights, Virginia 23834-9001  
[www.colonialheightsva.gov](http://www.colonialheightsva.gov)

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Contact the CH City Manager:

Thomas L. Mattis  
City Manager  
201 James Avenue  
P.O. Box 3401  
Colonial Heights, VA 23834

Phone: (804) 520-9265

Fax: (804) 520-9207

E-mail:

[mattist@colonialheightsva.gov](mailto:mattist@colonialheightsva.gov)

<http://www.colonialheightsva.gov>

City Offices will be  
closed on Monday,  
October 14th in ob-  
servance of  
Columbus Day.



Columbus Day

Trash will be collected on  
Wednesday, October 16th.

## *It Doesn't Cost a Lot to be Prepared* September is National Preparedness Month



It's no secret that disasters, both natural and manmade, seem to be occurring frequently. September is National Preparedness Month and the perfect time for the citizens of Colonial Heights to get ready for whatever our Virginia weather brings. Listed below are some cost effective ways to be prepared:

**Make a plan.** This may be the single most important thing you can do, and it's free. Make sure everyone in your family understands where to go and what to do in case of an emergency. Update your contact information and post it in a visible place. For help, use the free emergency plan worksheet at [www.ReadyVirginia.gov](http://www.ReadyVirginia.gov).

**Set aside emergency supplies.** Don't wait for a storm. Buy preparedness items throughout the year instead of all at once. Shop at sales and choose the essentials that fit your needs/budget. If you don't have emergency supplies, September is a good time to get started. Get a list at [www.ReadyVirginia.gov](http://www.ReadyVirginia.gov).

- **Request a gift.** We all get things we don't need. Suggest preparedness supplies as gifts from friends and family.

- **Store water.** You don't have to buy expensive bottled water. Just make sure your water containers are disinfected and airtight. Have at least a three-day supply of water on hand (one gallon per person/day).

**Check your policy.** Take a few minutes to review your insurance policy during National Preparedness Month. Get with your agent to make any necessary changes. Consider adding flood insurance (because most policies don't include it). When a disaster strikes, you want to be sure that your coverage will get you back on your feet.

Encourage your loved ones to get ready for emergencies during National Preparedness Month. For more information to prepare for emergencies, visit [www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov).



# Neighborhood Leaf Removal Service

## Fall 2013/Winter 2014



### **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 2012/13 season, city crews collected approximately 3,290 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 4, 2013 and ending January 24, 2014.

### **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 2013/Winter 2014

