

The City Focus



Official Newsletter for the City of Colonial

Summer 2020



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www.colonialheightsva.gov

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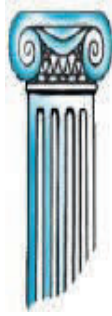


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Contact the City Manager



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COUNCIL COLUMN



T. Gregory Kochuba, Mayor
kochubag@colonialheightsva.gov

Coronavirus/COVID-19 - a word that will not be quickly forgotten. While this pandemic has brought uncertain times and anxious feelings to our community, we as a city are working together to meet the challenges head on!

Despite reduced hours of operations, public building closures, tele-working employees, and alternating work shifts, service and support to our community has actively continued during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Our first responders continue to use their training and experience in caring for individuals that have tested positive or shown virus symptoms. In response to COVID-19, our first responders are working closely with the Chesterfield/Colonial Heights Health District, and many organizations in the region, while we implement practices and procedures to effectively care for our citizens and City employees.

Public Works services and projects continue to operate, to include grass cutting, road repair, water line breaks, and more. Work has also started on the Boulevard resurfacing project (from Westover to Newcastle) and Phase IV of the Appomattox River Greenway Trail.

Recreation & Parks staff continues to provide services to the community by offering Facebook Live Senior Fitness Classes, providing free bus service to seniors for medical appointments, transporting food to seniors from the Food Pantry, and operating parks, playgrounds & trails. While visiting park facilities please practice social distancing and remember not to gather in groups of 10 or more.

The Library is offering "curbside services", encouraging citizens to order materials online for a scheduled pickup.

Our Finance Department/Billing and Collections continues to accept on-line payments for utilities, taxes, licenses etc., with no additional fees, as well as maintaining the drop off box at City Hall for those paying city bills by check.

Economic Development has created a COVID-19 Restaurant Guide which provides details for local restaurants' hours of operation, take-out and curbside services.

City Council has approved an ordinance temporarily eliminating interest, late fees and turn-off actions on utility bills for residents struggling to make payments.

Colonial Heights Schools continue with on-line learning, in addition to providing meals for students throughout the week by delivery and pick-up.

Although there are challenges ahead, we, as a community, are strong and resilient. We look forward to reopening city businesses and schools and celebrating many of the events and opportunities that make our community unique - including the Chili Peppers, our new hometown baseball team!

Together, as a community, we will get through this uneasy time. How can you help? Support our local restaurants, practice social distancing, stay at home when possible, and be a good neighbor. Do your part to "Love Your City!"

On the Cover.....

Thank you once again to Tatiana Hoosack for submitting another beautiful picture for this edition of the City Focus. This picture was taken at Lakeview Park, located at 503 Lake Avenue, this park includes a playground, fishing pier, pavilion, restrooms, and boat ramp for electric or paddle powered boats and watercrafts. The park is open year round from dawn to dusk.



May 12	City Council Regular Meeting 7:00 pm - Council Chambers
May 19	City Council Special Meeting 6:00 pm - Council Chambers (<i>tentative</i>)
May 25	City Holiday - Memorial Day Government Offices Closed
June 2	Planning Commission 7:00 pm - Council Chambers (<i>tentative</i>)
June 9	City Council Regular Meeting 7:00 pm - Council Chambers
June 16	City Council Special Meeting 6:00 pm - Council Chambers (<i>tentative</i>)
July 3	City Holiday - Independence Day Government Offices Closed
July 7	Planning Commission 7:00 pm - Council Chambers (<i>tentative</i>)
July 14	City Council Regular Meeting 7:00 pm - Council Chambers
July 21	City Council Special Meeting 6:00 pm - Council Chambers (<i>tentative</i>)
Aug 4	Planning Commission 7:00 pm - Council Chambers (<i>tentative</i>)
Aug 11	City Council Regular Meeting 7:00 pm - Council Chambers
Aug 18	City Council Special Meeting 6:00 pm - Council Chambers (<i>tentative</i>)
Sept 1	Planning Commission 7:00 pm - Council Chambers (<i>tentative</i>)
Sept 7	City Holiday - Labor Day Government Offices Closed
Sept 8	City Council Regular Meeting 7:00 pm - Council Chambers
Sept 15	City Council Special Meeting 6:00 pm - Council Chambers (<i>tentative</i>)

CITY OF COLONIAL HEIGHTS COVID-19 UPDATES AND IMPORTANT CITY INFORMATION



Colonial Heights is working to keep our community up to date with information on the City's response to COVID-19.

As of the beginning of May, City of Colonial Heights City offices and buildings are closed to the public until further notice. Staff will be working at City offices on a more limited basis during this time, and City administrative hours have been modified to 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. **(Check the City website and Facebook page for updates)**

- **Exception to Building Closure at City Hall:** City Hall will be open on a limited basis for citizen attendance at public meetings, which will be noticed on the City website.

Colonial Heights Courthouse - For more information on court operations please visit the following website: <http://www.courts.state.va.us/main.htm>

City Building and Department Phone List and Directory: City Departments are still working (although some services are limited) and will be able to answer calls or respond to voicemails and emails. A quick reference guide to City services is available at:

<http://www.colonialheightsva.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=932>

For assistance with City Services, please call City offices as listed on the City phone list on back page, or call the **City's Citizens Assistance Line at (804) 520-9266** from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

As your City Government, we are working hard to maintain communication with our Colonial Heights residents during COVID-19. Our information and updates are distributed through our Website(www.ColonialHeightsVA.gov); Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/colonialheightsva>); and Instagram (CityofColonialHeights).

We highly encourage each resident to sign up online for all of our city notification systems by visiting the following links available through the City website:

- **NOTIFY ME- City News Notifications/Updates:** News, Community Spotlight, City Events and Meeting Notifications
<http://www.colonialheightsva.gov/list.aspx?Mode=Subscribe#newsFlash>
(Through this link you can receive all of our news updates and community spotlight notices as well as meeting notices, etc.)
- **Emergency Alerts:** City Notification System (CivicReady)
<https://www.colonialheightsva.gov/918/CivicReady-Notifications>
(Through this link you can sign up for all of our Emergency Alerts, Weather Notices, Closures, etc.)

(COVID-19 updates continued on following page)

COVID-19 Updates (continued):

Public Library Curbside Service: Residents can now request books, audiobooks and movies for all ages by visiting <http://www.colonialheightsva.gov/FormCenter/Library-6-6/Book-Request-Form-71-71> and completing the request form or by calling the library at (804)520-9384. Patrons will be notified when the requested items are ready for pickup.

Colonial Heights Restaurant Guide: <http://www.colonialheightsva.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=928> (Updated regularly)

Curbside Bulk and Yard Waste Collection Update in the City due to COVID-19:

<http://www.colonialheightsva.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=940> - Curbside collection on bulk and yard waste is temporarily suspended. Please visit the City website for information on alternate collection locations or call (804)425-0500.

Recreation & Parks Department Activities & Senior Services: <http://www.colonialheightsva.gov/AlertCenter.aspx?AID=200>.

Please see Page 6 of this newsletter for Recreation, Parks, and Senior Services or visit link above.

To Pay a City Bill Online Please Visit:

<http://www.colonialheightsva.gov/819/Pay-Online>

Additional COVID-19 Resources

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) have many resources available for citizens to learn more about the novel coronavirus known as COVID-19. Please visit these main sites for the most up-to-date information:

- CDC Main COVID-19 Site (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>)
- VDH Main COVID-19 Site & VDH Current Presumptive Positive Case Status in Virginia (<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/surveillance-and-investigation/novel-coronavirus/>)
- CDC COVID-19 Videos (YouTube Channel Playlist) (<https://www.youtube.com/>) and search CDC COVID-19 update

Applications for CDBG Home Repair due by July 31, 2020

The application period for Program Year 2020 of the City's CDBG Home Repair Program opens on Friday, June 26th 2020 and closes Friday July 31st, 2020. Applications will be available during the application period at the Planning Department located on the 1st floor of City Hall, 201 James Ave.



In order to qualify, total household income must be below the HUD Income Limits. Applicants are ranked based on a number of factors including disability status, elderly status, children present in home, and location within a prioritized neighborhood. On average, the City is able to serve 5 to 7 households a year. Previous qualified applicants who were not served are encouraged to re-apply.

Eligible activities include but are not limited to addressing leaking roofs, leaking plumbing, unsafe electrical, lack of heating, and accessibility needs. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact the Planning Office at (804) 520-9297. Please share this information with anyone who may be eligible and resides within the City.

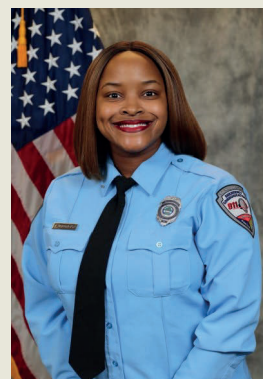
EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER:

WE'RE HERE TO HELP

Have you ever wondered what to expect when you dial 9-1-1? If so, you are not alone. When most people call 9-1-1, it is not on their best day, and for many it may possibly be their worst. Communications Officers (Dispatchers) at the Colonial Heights Emergency Communications Center are trained and prepared to help you in your time of need. For most people, dialing 9-1-1 can be a daunting and tedious task. In reality, it is a very simple and straightforward process. The following are a few helpful tips that will help aid you when dialing 9-1-1. First and foremost **location, location, and location** is paramount! Providing your exact location will guarantee that you have reached the correct jurisdiction/ PSAP (Public Safety Access Point), and give the responding units an exact position to respond to.



Secondly, please listen carefully to the questions that are being asked. We understand that you may feel the need to provide as much information as quickly as possible, however; call takers are trained to ask specific questions in a particular manner to help ascertain pertinent information in a timely manner that will make sense to responding units. Rapidly providing information before being asked by the call taker will slow the process down, and floods the call taker with too much information to decipher, which can lead to necessary information being missed or incorrectly documented. Please keep in mind that the questions that are being asked are not delaying the responding units and that the vast majority of calls for service are dispatched within one minute from the time that the call is received.



When in doubt, trust the calm faceless voice on the other end of the line, this is what we are trained to do.

Four New Police Officers Complete Academy

The Colonial Heights Police Department is proud to introduce our four newest officers: Austin Ramsey, Morgan Davis, Jasmine Lynch and Lamier Thomas.

These outstanding individuals were selected from a field of more than 150 applicants. This is a very competitive process that included written and physical agility tests; multiple interviews; a thorough background examination; a polygraph; and psychological and medical examinations. These individuals truly exemplified the necessary ingredients needed to police our community.

On October 7, 2019, learning began for these officers at the Crater Criminal Justice Training Academy in Disputanta. During their 25 weeks of academy instruction, each recruit learned skills such as interviewing, community policing, report writing, criminal and traffic laws, emergency driving, and physical training, just to name a few. Academy instruction concluded at the end of March and the recruits have now moved on to the next phase of instruction—field training. Over the course of the next 12 weeks, our new officers will become oriented to the city streets, be introduced to many of our businesses and city departments and will put to use what they learned in the academy. Additionally, the recruits will learn department policy, the day-to-day operations of the organization and other safety and operational information needed to be a safe and a successful officer.

We hope that in the coming weeks you will have an opportunity to meet your new officers. In case you are not able to, we wanted to provide a few fun facts.

Austin Ramsey, 23, attended school in Prince George County and is a graduate of Longwood University. Austin enjoys the outdoors, especially hunting and fishing, and has always had a passion for dogs and rescues. He says he could not think of a better career for himself, and he is excited to work for the city and to meet new people.

Morgan Davis, 25, attended Chesterfield County schools. Morgan was a dispatcher for the city before attending the academy. She has also been an EMT for almost 10 years. Morgan loves fishing, running her deer pups in the woods, and her fur baby, “Yeti”. She is excited for this new career and hopes to add a little sunshine to the streets of Colonial Heights.

Jasmine Lynch, 23, also attended Chesterfield County schools and grew up in Chester but spent a lot of her time in Colonial Heights. She enjoys being outdoors with friends and family, especially at the beach. Jasmine says after taking criminal justice classes, she knew law enforcement was her calling. She is looking forward to meeting everyone.

Lamier Thomas, 23, is a Colonial Heights native and attended school in the city where he played football and basketball. He has also worked with youth in the city’s Parks and Recreation Department. Lamier enjoys spending time with family and attending sporting events. He says he is looking forward to this new position and embracing the city that embraced him.

We invite everyone to check out our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/colonialheightspolice/>, for more information about our recruits, as well as other updates within our agency.



Ramsey Davis Lynch Thomas

Open Burning Regulations

Every year we get questions about open burning. We get it, family and friends enjoy sitting by a crackling fire. But campfire mishaps can cause unwanted fires and serious injuries. With a few safety tips, you can prevent these accidents.

SAFETY AROUND THE FIRE:

- These regulations only apply to single family and duplexes. Open burning is prohibited at most apartments and multifamily dwellings.
- Recreational fires are permitted. They cannot be larger than 3’ foot in diameter and 2’ foot in height. They have to be 25’ foot from any structure, property line, or other combustible materials. Decks, detached garages, and sheds would be classified as a structure.
- Open burning in an approved burn barrel is allowed. Burn barrels must be 15’ foot from any structure, property line, or other combustible materials. Again decks, detached garages, and sheds would be classified as a structure.
- Manufactured fire pits, like you buy at Wal-Mart or Home Depot, are allowed. You must follow manufacture use and requirements. Regardless, these fire pits should not be used on or near combustible construction.
- You can only burn natural material like wood. No trash, waste, clothing, or similar material can be burned. All material must be contained to the area or broken down to fit within the barrel or fire pit.
- To prevent the spread of fire clear away dry leaves and sticks, overhanging low branches and shrubs.
- Never use gasoline or another flammable or combustible liquids.
- Watch children and pets while the fire is burning. Never let children or pets play or stand too close to the fire. A minimum 3’ foot distance away is recommended.
- The campfire must be attended at all times.
- Always have a garden hose ready. Make sure to put it completely out before leaving the site.
- Open burning on windy, dry days is prohibited. Check with the Virginia Department of Forestry <http://www.dof.virginia.gov/fire/4pm/burn-bans.htm> on open burning advisory and warnings.

Check out NFPA <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education> for more safety information.

COLONIAL HEIGHTS RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00am - 5:00pm

P.O. Box 3401 / 901 Meridian Avenue

Colonial Heights, VA 23834

www.colonialheightsva.gov/recandparks

Recreation and Parks Office	(804)520-9390
Recreation and Parks Fax	(804)520-9203
Senior Activities & Classes	(804)520-9220
Senior Transportation	(804)520-9219
Teen Center	(804)524-8717
Weather Cancellation Line	(804)524-8788
Violet Bank Museum	(804)520-9395



CONNECT WITH US...

Stay up to date on our program and facility announcements on Social Media by connecting with us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.



Recreation & Parks Information and Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

At the time of the printing of this newsletter our Department is still closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation and what that means for us offering programs in the Summer of 2020. At this time it is still unclear when we may be able to provide recreational programs. Included here are updates to our programs for this past Spring and Summer. Please contact our main office with any questions at (804)520-9390. Be sure to connect with us on our social media platforms as we will be updating that page with any new announcements relating to Summer programs.

Cancelled Spring Programs

For those that registered for any our Spring programs that were cancelled, you should have received communication and a full refund of your registration fees; this does not include our youth baseball and softball programs. We are still working on the possibility of being able to offer a summer baseball and softball program and will be sending out the information for this once we know when we will be able to get back outside on our ballfields. If, though, you would like a refund for your baseball and/or softball registration please reach out to us and we will process that for you. If we decide the timing does not work to offer a baseball and softball program this Summer, a full refund will still be given.

For other programs that were cancelled this Spring we are working on rescheduling these classes and events for later this year. Please look for emails, announcements on our website and social media pages, as well as upcoming editions of this newsletter for more information.

Summer Camps

Currently we are not offering any registration for our traditional Summer Camps to include our full-day camp, summer tots, or athletic camps. Our ability to offer these programs will depend heavily on what facilities will or will not be available to us to use this Summer. Staff is working on other options for us to possibly offer camps this Summer, depending on when and where we are able to offer programs.

Therapeutic Recreation Programs

We have cancelled all TR programs for the time being but we do fully intend to start our Wednesday night classes back up as soon as we are able to. Staff will reach out to families and individuals once we are ready to start this program back up.

We have suspended registration for Summer programs at this time to include the TR week long Summer Camp. If we are able to off this program this Summer we will send the information out to parents and families.

Youth Football and Cheerleading

We are not accepting registration for the Youth Football and Cheerleading program at this time. While we do plan on offering these programs this Fall, it is still unclear what restrictions and facilities we will have. Once we get direction from our league we will advertise the information for registration.

Senior Center Activities

At this time the Senior Center remains closed to the public and all programs, activities, and trips have been cancelled. You should have received notification about these cancelled activities and received a refund if requested. Please contact the Senior Center at (804)520-9220 with any questions pertaining to a program or trip you registered for.

Our Senior Center staff is offering live online classes on their Facebook page daily during this closure; search Colonial Heights Senior Center on Facebook to connect to these classes.

Senior Transportation Services

For the safety of our riders and drivers we are only offering Senior Transportation Services for medical reasons only at this time. We are still offering a modified pick-up and delivery of food items from the Food Pantry weekly, you must contact us to be included on the weekly list for this service. We have suspended transportation for all other reasons at this time. For more information or to schedule a pick-up please contact the Transportation office at (804)520-9219.

Rentals

We are monitoring the current closure mandates for the Commonwealth. Due to current restrictions we are having to cancel all rentals at our facilities. We are working with anyone that has reserved a ballfield, park shelter or the Community Center into the Summer months. If you have reserved a facility with us for this Summer we will be reaching out to you and let you know the status of your rental. Please contact us at (804)520-9390 with any questions.

Parks and Facilities

Our Parks, Playgrounds, and Trails remain open at this time, and being outdoors in nature is a great way to get much-needed fresh air and exercise. While we encourage park visits, we do ask that if you are sick and/or experiencing symptoms consistent with the COVID-19 infection that you please refrain from visiting. Guests are also encouraged to follow social distancing guidelines during all visits by keeping a distance of 6 feet or more between you and other guests. Also, groups or gatherings of more than 10 people are prohibited. It is important to remember that any public facility is only as clean as the last person who touched it. Therefore, a good portion of your safety relies on you. You should also be aware that our sanitizing and disinfection protocols do not include outdoor surfaces, play equipment or picnic tables.



Stay Safe **VOTE FROM HOME**

The Voter Registration & Elections Office encourages voters to
Vote Absentee by Mail
for the June 23, 2020 Primary Election

Easy Ways to Apply for an Absentee Ballot

ONLINE:

Go to <http://www.colonialheightsva.gov/334/Absentee-Voting> for instructions and application form.

Register to vote, update your registration information, or apply to vote absentee at:

<https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation>

BY MAIL:

Call (804)520-9277 to request an application to be mailed or emailed.

Your completed application must be received by Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. Return it by Email to schottj@colonialheightsva.gov, Fax (804)520-9209, City Hall Parking Lot Drop Box (use the Large White Drop Box) or Mail to:

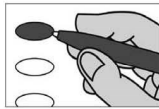
Attn: General Registrar

201 James Ave., PO Box 3401 / Colonial Heights, VA 23834

Commonwealth of Virginia
Sample Ballot
City of Colonial Heights
Democratic Party Primary Election
Tuesday, June 23, 2020

Instructions:

To vote for a candidate, use a black ballpoint pen to fill in the oval next to the name.
If you want to change a vote or have made a mistake, ask for another ballot.
If you make marks besides filling the oval, your vote may not count.



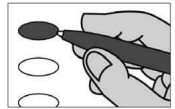
Member
House of Representatives
4th District
Vote for only one

- ☐ A. Donald McEachin
- ☐ R. Cazell Levine

Commonwealth of Virginia
Sample Ballot
City of Colonial Heights
Republican Party Primary Election
Tuesday, June 23, 2020

Instructions:

To vote for a candidate, use a black ballpoint pen to fill in the oval next to the name.
If you want to change a vote or have made a mistake, ask for another ballot.
If you make marks besides filling the oval, your vote may not count.



Member
United States Senate
Vote for only one

- ☐ Daniel M. Gade
- ☐ Thomas A. Speciale II
- ☐ Alissa A. Baldwin

In Part #2 of the Absentee Ballot Application, you must select if you are applying to vote in either the Democratic Primary or Republican Primary.

Pursuant to § 24.2-530 of the *Code of Virginia*, all persons qualified to vote may vote at the primary.
No person shall vote for the candidates of more than one party.

Authorized by Electoral Board of the City of Colonial Heights
201 James Avenue • Colonial Heights, VA 23834
The authority statement printed above must be removed and replaced with the appropriate authority statement for the candidate, committee, individual or group using this ballot for their own purposes. The authority statement used for this ballot must comply with the requirements of either federal or state law, as appropriate. For state requirements, see §24.2-955 et seq. of the Code of Virginia. For federal requirements, call the Federal Election Commission, 1-800-424-9530.

Ballot Style # 001

Typ:01 Seq:0001 Spl:01

Authorized by Electoral Board of the City of Colonial Heights
201 James Avenue • Colonial Heights, VA 23834
The authority statement printed above must be removed and replaced with the appropriate authority statement for the candidate, committee, individual or group using this ballot for their own purposes. The authority statement used for this ballot must comply with the requirements of either federal or state law, as appropriate. For state requirements, see §24.2-955 et seq. of the Code of Virginia. For federal requirements, call the Federal Election Commission, 1-800-424-9530.

Ballot Style # 002

Typ:02 Seq:0001 Spl:01

City of Colonial Heights
Department of Public Works



Consumer Confidence Report 2019

The latest edition of the Department of Public Works' Consumer Confidence Report is now available online. This report summarizes important information regarding Colonial Heights' drinking water source, detected contaminants, educational information, and our efforts to ensure that we continually deliver the safest and highest quality drinking water to our customers. We encourage you to review the report on our webpage available in the Quick Links section of the Public Works Department page or directly at:

<http://www.colonialheightsva.gov/DocumentCenter/View/10193/2019-Water-Quality-Report2>

If you wish to obtain your own copy of the Consumer Confidence Report, please contact us at (804)520-9372. We will gladly mail it to you.

**Important City of Colonial Heights
Phone Numbers**

Police/Fire Emergency	Dial 911
Police/Fire Non-Emergency	(804)520-9300
Recreation & Parks	(804)520-9390
Office on Youth & Human Services	(804)520-9286
Colonial Heights Health Department	(804)520-9380
Utilities Billing	(804)520-9288
Billing & Collections	(804)520-9320
Commissioner of Revenue	(804)520-9280
Planning & Community Development	(804)520-9297
Registrar/Director of Elections	(804)520-9277
Curbside Trash Collection	(804)425-0500
Curbside Recycling Collection	(804)340-0900
Circuit Court	(804)520-9368
General District Court	(804)520-9346
Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court	(804)524-8741
CH Recycling Center (Household Hazardous Waste & Other Materials)	(804)479-7056

Call Us

EVERYONE
COUNTS *Census 2020*

**WHAT IS THE DECENNIAL
CENSUS?**

Every 10 years, the federal government conducts a population count of everyone in the United States. Data from the census provide the basis for distributing more than \$675 billion in federal funds annually to communities across the country to support vital programs—impacting housing, education, transportation, employment, health care, and public policy.

**WHY IS A COMPLETE AND
ACCURATE COUNT SO
IMPORTANT?**

The census is a valuable tool for improving communities across the country. If our community members don't respond, our community may not receive the funding we need. It is important that every community member be counted!

WHAT TO EXPECT IN 2020!

Households should have received an invitation to participate in the census. You'll then have three options to respond: online, by phone, or by mail. (When completing the census, you'll note where you are living as of April 1.)

**If you have NOT already done so, please
complete the 2020 Census today!**

Visit www.2020census.gov for more information.

THE CITY FOCUS

City of Colonial Heights

Office of the City Manager

Post Office Box 3401

Colonial Heights, Virginia 23834-9001

www.colonialheightsva.gov

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ECRWSS

U.S. POSTAGE

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*****ECRWSS*****

Local

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