

SURRY COUNTY EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

Volume 4, Issue 1
January – March 2013



CHRISTMAS 2012



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Message from the County Administrator

New Year Assessment



A New Year is upon us and like most, we often find ourselves making a list of New Year resolutions. Some have taken the position to not list any New Year's resolutions at all, thinking that they will not be fulfilled anyway. There is nothing wrong with wanting to hit the restart button; a desire to do things a little different in the New Year. Maybe you want to pursue a healthier lifestyle, further your education or spend more time with family and friends. Whatever you desire, it can be obtained, but the first step begins with you.

Self-assessment provides us the opportunity to identify areas in our lives that may need improvement. However, change can be an intimidating experience, for there is comfort in the routine. The key towards achieving any goal is to have an open mind. Staying active and engaged in your attempt to improve the areas you have identified will give you a sense of empowerment.

Just give it a try, you might be pleasantly surprised with the results – an improved you.

This is the first issue of 2013.

As always, if you wish to submit news or corrections, please provide information to Harriet Ruffin on the dates noted below by 12 noon:

March 15th for April-June 2013 issue

June 14th for July-September 2013 issue



Employees and guests attending the **2013 Employee Christmas Social** donated 247 pounds of food to the **Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia** to benefit the victims of Hurricane Sandy.

GUESS WHO

Be the first to identify the employee in the picture below and win a small prize available in the Administrator's Office.



Winner of the previous contest was Vonda Thomas. She correctly identified the employee in the photo as Carolyn Slade Dickens.

OTHER EMPLOYEE NEWS

Congratulations:

- Tracy Terry attended the 34th annual VA Animal Control Association Conference on October 17-19, 2012.
- Tamara Arthur was promoted to Emergency Services Coordinator effective November 1, 2012.
- Lucille and Billie Epps recently celebrated 53 years of wedded bliss!

Condolences:

- Mr. Elwood Wooden, Sr., father of Giron Wooden, Sr., passed in October 2012. Funeral services were held on Oct. 21st.
- Dearyl Anderson lost his father, Charles, on October 21, 2012.
- Mr. Albert Elliott, father of Benita Veiga, passed away on December 17, 2012.

Welcome to New Employees:

- Mr. Chris Gwaltney, Planner, Planning Department.
- Mr. Russell Savage, III, Shelter Attendant, Animal Control.

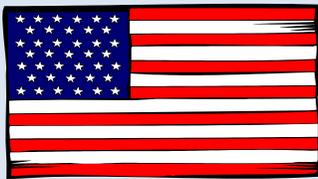
RETURNING TO WORK AFTER THE HOLIDAYS

Returning to work following extended time out of the office can be a daunting task. In order to avoid feeling stressed after the holidays, here are some things you can do:

1. Take a deep breath.
2. Get started – Prioritize tasks for which you are responsible.
3. Be honest with yourself – are you spending time on what is really important?
4. Be honest with others – have you committed to a timeframe that is achievable?
Do you have the right people/resources to get the job done?
5. Be realistic with regard to expectations of yourself and others.
6. Take care of yourself – proper diet, exercise and plenty of sleep are essential for truly effective employees.
7. Focus on one thing at a time.
8. Relive your holiday memories and plan for the next.

Employee Profiles:

Registrar's Office



Lucille J. Epps, Registrar, is a Surry County girl through and through. She has been married to Billy Epps for 53 years. Lucille and Billy have four children, Wayne, Lewis, Mary Lynne, and Paul, as well as six grandchildren: Jonathan, Jacob, Jordan, Lindsay, Skylar and Dalton. Lucille's hobbies include gardening, cooking, canning and visiting thrift stores. She has held the position of Surry County Voter Registrar for 32 years. Lucille says that there have been a lot of changes in that time – but she is still going strong!

Judy Brown was born and raised in Surry County. She lived in Sussex County for a short while, but returned to Surry. She is the mother of three children, Cindy, Matt and Chris and is the proud grandmother of four: Amber, Scott, Dylan, and Evan. Judy has three kitties to help share her love. Her hobbies include reading and puzzles of all kinds. Judy has been with the Surry County Voter Registrar's Office for 21 years and has learned a lot from the experience.

Birthdays & Years of Service

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Jan. 3	Pam Flowers	Feb. 15	Ervin Jones
Jan. 4	Virginia Gary		Robert Hill
Jan. 7	Benita Veiga	Feb. 18	Vita Caine
Jan. 12	Mary Shaw	Feb. 25	Joan Brown
	Rhonda Mack	Mar. 2	Tracy Terry
Jan. 13	Lucille Epps	Mar. 4	LaJeune Stone
Jan. 15	Robin Eley	Mar. 15	Michael Bailey
Jan. 19	Vernitia Cooke		Alvin Clayton
	Sheila Hunt	Mar. 16	Judith Robinson
Jan. 21	Karen Holloway	Mar. 22	Sherri Thomas
Feb. 2	Dearyl Anderson		Robert Mason
	Gloria Holloman	Mar. 30	Roderick Barbee

Years of Service with Surry County:

Dearyl Anderson	10 years	Sandra Pierce	11 years
Angela Blount	14 years	Gerald Poindexter	42 years
Vita C. Huggins	7 years	Nancy Ray	28 years
Gail P. Clayton	13 years	Onike N. Ruffin	11 years
Elizabeth Collier	14 years	Sharon Scott	31 years
Glynis Epps	11 years	Vernon Scott	7 years
Ervin A. Jones	30 years	Tracey Terry	2 years
Jonathan F. Judkins	5 years	Faye Warren	13 years
Deborah Nee	13 years	Devida Wheeler	5 years

WINTER SAFETY TIPS

From colder temperatures to slippery roads and sidewalks, winter is a season that brings unique safety concerns. Keep your family cozy and safe this winter by remembering these important tips:

- Stay warm - request a home heating inspection
- Be aware of the danger of carbon monoxide poisoning
- Protect your plumbing
- Carefully clear snow and remove ice
- Prepare for winter storms
- Know the signs of hypothermia
- Dress appropriately
- Before you head out in bad weather – tell someone about your plans
- Be aware of winter driving safety tips

For more information, go to: http://safety.lovetoknow.com/Winter_Safety_Tips

**MOTIVATIONAL
THOUGHT**

Those who accomplish
great things pay
attention to little ones.

African Proverb

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Visit the County's website at
www.surrycountyva.gov

TENTATIVE BUDGET CALENDAR

Jan 4	Distribute FY 13-14 budget request information to department heads and outside agencies & organizations
Jan 31	Departments, outside agencies & organizations submit FY 13-14 budget requests
Feb 7*	Mid-year review and discussion of FY 13-14 budget goals
Mid-Feb to mid-Mar	Department meetings with budget staff
Mar 7*	Budget work session with Board of Supervisors
Mar 21	Schools present FY 13-14 budget adopted by the school board to the Board of Supervisors
Mar 28	Draft consolidated budget delivered to the Board of Supervisors
Apr 4*	Social Services, County presents FY 13-14 budget to Board of Supervisors
Apr 12	Budget ad submitted to local paper
Apr 17	FY 13-14 budget ad published
Apr 25*	Public Hearing on FY 13-14 budget
May 2*	FY 13-14 budget adopted, 2013 tax rates set and budget resolutions adopted by the Board of Supervisors

* Denotes a Board of Supervisors meeting date
Fiscal Affairs Committee meetings and budget workshops to be determined;
This budget calendar will be revised accordingly

Calendar of Events:

- January 1 – New Year’s Day **
- January 18 – Lee-Jackson Day **
- January 21 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day **
- February 2 – Groundhog Day*
- February 14 – Valentine’s Day*
- February 18 – President’s Day **
- March 10 – Daylight Saving Time Begins*
- March 17 St. Patrick’s Day*
- March 20 – Spring Begins*
- March 31 - Easter*



**Government Offices are closed*

HUMAN RESOURCES NEWS

The 2012-14 Appropriations Act requires that there be only 2 choices for receiving your 2012 Virginia individual income tax refunds:

Direct Deposit or Prepaid Debit Card

Receiving a tax refund check is no longer an option

Visit www.tax.virginia.gov/debitcard for complete details.