Volume V - Issue III

SURRY COUNTY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Surry County
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Surry County Visitors Center

Construction has begun on what will be the new Surry County Visitors Center, located in the old clerk's building in the Historic Courthouse complex.

Plans call for the renovation and stabilization of the existing building, interior renovation and exterior construction of restroom facilities.

(Continued on page 3)

A Message from the County Administrator

A JOURNEY THAT IS BEGINNING TO COME INTO FOCUS

Those of us who live and work in Surry County are keenly aware of all the special attributes that make this such a great place to visit within the Hampton Roads region. Over the years, the challenge for Surry has been how to get the message out to those outside of our community. As you may know, the Virginia Tourism Corporation (VTC) Marketing Leverage Grant awarded to Surry County has enabled the County and its tourism partners to develop effective marketing strategies and to create a new brand logo that will assist our efforts to attract visitors to our community. The development of Surry County's Brand Marketing Plan has provided a roadmap to enhance our tourism initiatives.

The following are highlights from recent activities:

- Updates and revisions to Surry County brochures and other marketing materials
- Creation of a Surry County Tourism website
- Utilization of social media to enhance a marketing message, through a Surry County facebook page
- Collaborative advertisement with our tourism partners from the Greater Williamsburg Area with emphasis on local timeshare resorts

A notable success achieved through our initiatives: the County stated in its VTC grant application that it would realize a very modest increase in tourism visitation of approximately 10%. Surprisingly, our partners are reporting increases in visitation numbers of 30% or more at the end of the grant cycle.

Statistics show significant increases in activity and visitation to the County's Tourism website. In addition, staff has seen marked increases in the number of visitors following the County on our facebook page. Our weekly reach has been as high as 3,774.

On a special note, I would like to congratulate the Howell Creative Group on winning the 2015 Summit Creative Bronze Award for their design of our County's logo. With more that 5,000 submissions from over 23 countries, their creative design of our new brand identity scored among the very best. Lastly, the visitor center, once completed, will have immediate benefits and will become an important asset for the growth of tourism in Surry County.

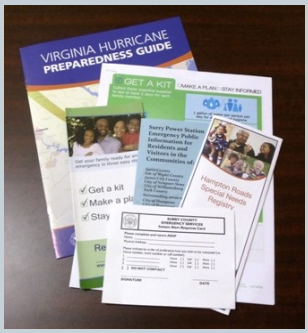
Tourism is a very important economic development tool. According to the VTC, tourism is the fifth largest industry in the state, generating $21.2 billion in domestic visitor spending, supporting approximately 210,000 jobs, and providing $1.36 billion in state and local taxes. In 2013 the economic impact of Surry County's domestic travel generated approximately $9.8 million in expenditures, provided approximately 100 employment opportunities and generated well into the hundreds of thousands of dollars in state and local tax receipts. These numbers only stand to increase significantly as staff continues to carry out the tourism initiatives for Surry County.

Meet our Staff: Circuit Court

The Circuit Court Clerk is primarily responsible for the recordation, preservation and maintenance of all records relating to the people and property of the County. The Clerk performs many duties including the administration of oaths to government officials and certain appointees, issuing marriage licenses and issuing concealed weapon permits. Duties relative to the maintenance of records include the recording of deeds and plats.

The Clerk's office is responsible for admitting wills to probate, qualifying executors and administrators. Administrative court functions include maintaining official court records for civil and criminal cases that are filed with the court, maintaining the dockets of cases pending, issuing subpoenas and summons and coordinating jury duty. The Clerk collects fees annually that are transferred to the County Treasurer and the State. The Clerk of Circuit Court is a constitutional officer elected to an eight year term.

Hurricane Preparedness - Instant Alert



The Surry County Department of Emergency Services would like residents of the county to be aware that Hurricane Season officially began on June 1st and ends on November 30th. Surry County would like to ensure that all residents are adequately prepared in the event of any emergency situation that may occur.

One tool the County uses to keep citizens informed is the **"Honeywell Instant Alert System"** which was implemented in 2007. Instant Alert is a free service to Surry County residents and is an essential tool for notification and communication preceding and during any emergency. Within minutes of an emergency, County officials can use Instant Alert to deliver a single, clear message to its citizens via telephone.

Citizens who are already enrolled but may need to update previously submitted information, or citizens who have not previously subscribed to the service should contact the Surry County Emergency Services Office at (757) 294-5292 to obtain an Instant Alert Card or they may download one from the government website (www.surrycountyva.gov) and return it by mail after completion.

Other hurricane related materials are also available at the Emergency Services Office or can be obtained at: www.readyvirginia.gov.

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Find us on facebook

https://www.facebook.com/SurryCountyVa

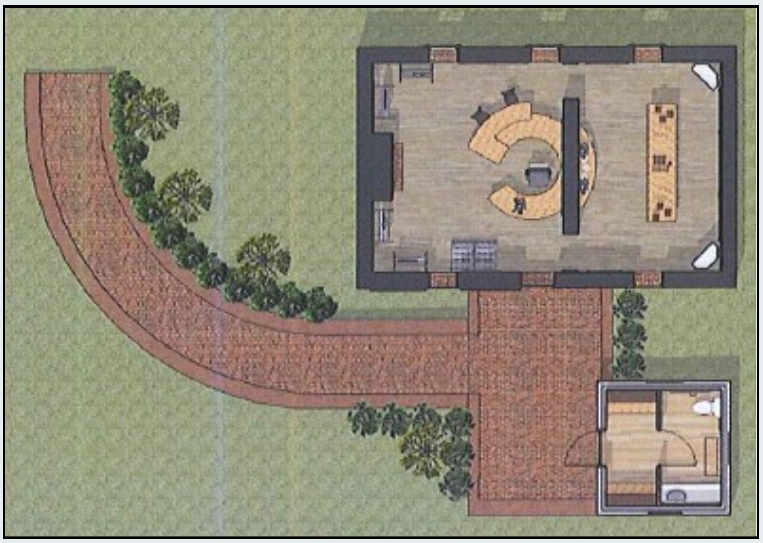
Special Prosecutor Named

Mr. Brian J. Smalls of Williamsburg, Virginia has been appointed Special Prosecutor for the County of Surry, Virginia by W. Allen Sharrett, Chief Judge for the 6th Judicial Circuit. Mr. Smalls will perform the duties of the Commonwealth's Attorney in all Surry County courts, effective immediately, until Gerald G. Poindexter, who currently holds this position is able to attend to his duties.

Mr. Smalls is a native of Williamsburg, Virginia, a 2003 graduate of the University of Michigan, and a 2006 graduate of the University of Miami School of Law. He worked as an Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney in the City of Newport News for 5 years and has been engaged in the private practice of law since 2012, specializing in litigation in the areas of estate planning, business law, criminal law and family law. He will continue his private practice while serving as Special Prosecutor for the County of Surry.

Visitors Center - Continued from first page

Concept drawings of the exterior and layout of the new Surry County Visitors Center



The new Visitors Center is expected to be completed later this summer and will house displays and tourism information regarding all of Surry's attractions, activities, events as well as information regarding regional offerings. Visitors to the County will be able to easily obtain information and directions from the staff of the Visitors Center.

The Surry County Board of Supervisors awarded a contract to Everest Construction Management Group, Inc. on May 7, 2015 for the project and work began shortly thereafter.

The Surry Farmers Market Special Event

Friday, July 3, 2015

From 5pm to 8pm

Prize drawings will be held throughout the evening.
Join us for an evening of fun as we kick-off the July 4th holiday weekend!

Live entertainment by

George Fauntleroy Jr. & Company

Funfest hours: 5pm – 8pm

Inflatables for the kids

Free popcorn for children 10 and under

Prepared foods in addition to produce, meats, baked goods, honey, crafts and much, much more!

Independence Day Celebration is Scheduled for Sunday, July 5th

A family celebration full of fun!

The Children's Festival begins at 4:00pm

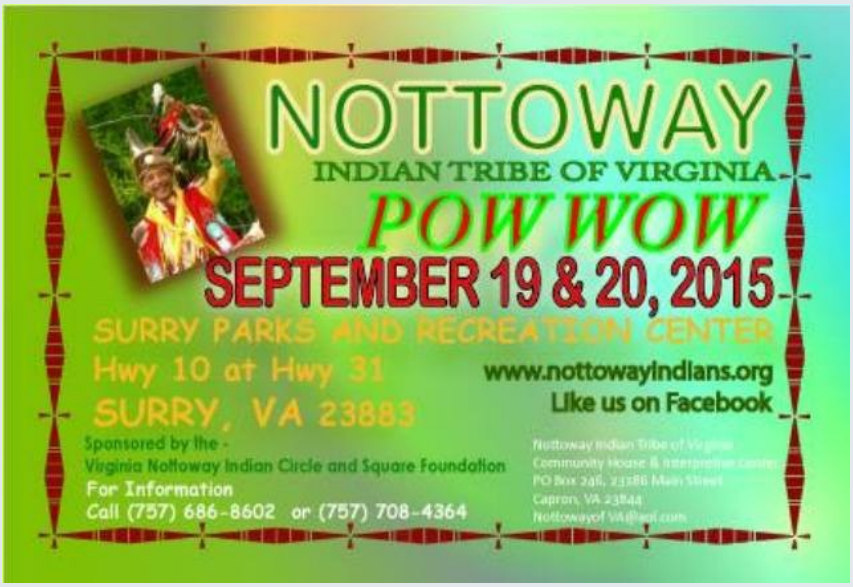
followed by fireworks at 9:00pm.

Food vendors, live music, tail-gating allowed.

No charge!

Dress comfortably, bring your lawn chairs and blankets and enjoy the Surry County Annual Entertainment & Fireworks Display. Held at and sponsored by the Surry County Department of Parks and Recreation, 205 Enos Farm Drive. For more information, please call 294-3002.

Nottoway Tribal Pow Wow



<u>Grand Entries</u>:
Saturday - noon to 5:00pm
Sunday - 1:00pm to 5:00pm

Gates open at 10:00am both days

Don't Miss the 40th Annual Pork, Peanut and Pine Festival!

Held annually at Chippokes State Park in Surry County

July 18th & 19th, 2015

Admission is $5 per person, children 10 and under are admitted free.

The ***Kentucky Headhunters*** will be performing on Saturday from 3:00-5:00pm

Live Music
Exhibits
Food Vendors
Craft Vendors
Ample Parking
Tram Rides

<u>http://www.porkpeanutpinefestival.org/</u>

Surry County Administrative Office
45 School Street
P.O. Box 65
Surry, VA 23883

Calendar of Events

July 3 - Observance of Independence Day*

July 4 - Independence Day

July 5 - July 4th Celebration @ Parks & Rec.

July 18-19 - Pork, Peanut & Pine Festival

July 22 - Day Trip from Parks & Rec.

Sept. 7 - Labor Day*

Sept. 9 - Siren Test, Surry Power Station

Sept. 19-20 - Nottoway Tribal Pow Wow

Sept. 23 - First Day of Autumn

* County Offices Closed

Submissions

If you wish to submit news
or corrections,
please provide the information
to the Surry County
Administrative Office
by calling 294-5271.

SURRY COUNTY
Virginia
ESTABLISHED 1652
Savor the Secrets of Surry