



City Manager's Weekly Update

CITY NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

January 3, 2020



John M. Altman, Jr.
City Manager

Each week, the City Manager prepares an update for City Council and citizens that addresses the status of major City projects, news, special events, and other matters of interest as well as City-wide accomplishments in the performance of our services to our citizens of Hopewell.

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MEDIA RELEASE

City of Hopewell Crime Summit Scheduled for Wednesday, January 15th 2020

HOPEWELL, VA — Local Government officials are committed to fighting all forms of crime and criminal activity.

It is for this reason that local government officials are hosting a Crime Summit on Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at Carter G. Woodson Middle School beginning at 6:30 P.M. The school is located at 1000 Winston Churchill Drive, Hopewell, Virginia.

The purpose of the summit is to present an overview of crime statistics in the City of Hopewell and solicit input from local citizens, businesses, community leaders, faith based leaders and partner agencies in an effort to combat recent criminal activity.

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City Manager's Weekly Update

COMMUNITY NEWS AND SERVICES

January 3, 2020

Hopewell/Prince George Healthy Families held its annual Christmas Program on December 19th at the Elk's Sunlight lodge. There were 35 families that received gifts for Christmas and a very tasty meal from the Elk's! None of this could have been done without the incredible generosity of all those that donated gifts, our Board, the Elks, our tireless staff and of course- our families!





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HUMAN SERVICES

January 3, 2020



In December, Destination Church hosted a Christmas party for Hopewell foster children, foster parents and Child Welfare staff. The event was filled with a catered dinner, dancing and laughter. The children made Christmas ornaments and Olaf from Frozen was there to give gifts to the foster children and staff.

We thank Destination Church for remembering our foster children and hosting such a joyous celebration.



City Manager's Weekly Update

INTERGOVERNMENTAL & PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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New Program to Help Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and Families

~ More than 40 community organizations and state agencies to help eliminate gaps in access to care ~

RICHMOND—Governor Ralph Northam today announced a new pilot program to help prevent suicide and close gaps in access to care for service members, veterans, and their families.

The Virginia Identify, Screen, and Refer Pilot will enhance the Commonwealth's efforts to recognize these individuals (identified as SMVF), screen for suicide risk, and connect them to services. The pilot is part of the Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide, which Virginia joined along with Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Montana, New Hampshire, and Texas. The pilot program will run through September 2020.

"As an Army veteran, I know firsthand the challenges that our service members may face while on active duty, in their transition to civilian life, and beyond," said Governor Northam. "That's why I've made it a priority to ensure Virginia is equipped to provide quality behavioral health and supports, and that our veterans have access to them. This pilot program will help save lives, and it will help service providers better understand the needs of service members, veterans, and their families."

The program will address the following issues, among others:

- **Cultural Competency:** Enhancing cultural awareness and communication between military-related and civilian healthcare providers. Only 8 percent of behavioral health providers who are not affiliated with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) or TRICARE medical systems report having high military cultural competency, according to a RAND report.
- **Education:** Increasing awareness among community providers about the number of SMVF they are serving and the resources available to them.



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- Efficiency: Reducing duplicative efforts and gaps in community programs and services resulting from a lack of collaboration.

“Stigma around behavioral health keeps many service members and veterans from seeking care in federal treatment systems,” said Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs Carlos Hopkins. “State and community agencies are critical to prevent and end suicide among members of the military and veterans.”

The Governor’s Challenge to Prevent Suicide team is working with a diverse group of agencies, who are voluntarily stepping up without additional resources. These partners have committed to identify SMVF more accurately and reliably, train staff in military culture and suicide prevention best practices, and connect individuals to military- and veteran-specific community resources such as the VA.

“It is essential for local agencies to be a part of this mission,” said Secretary of Health and Human Resources Daniel Carey, MD. “Approximately 70 percent of veterans who die by suicide were not connected to VA care at the time of their deaths. This program will help build infrastructure to serve our military and veteran citizens and gather data on what resources we will need to sustain these essential services.”

VISR Pilot participants include:

Hospitals:

- Augusta Health
- Ballad Health Clearview
- Ballad Health Ridgeview
- Carilion Clinic
- Dominion
- John Randolph
- Lewis Gale
- Mary Washington/Snowden at Fredericksburg
- Novant Health
- Poplar Springs
- Sentara Norfolk
- Sentara Virginia Beach
- University of Virginia
- Virginia Beach Psychiatric
- Williamsburg Place (The Pavilion and Farley Center)

Community Services Boards:

- Alleghany Highlands Community Services
- Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare
- Eastern Shore Community Services Board
- Goochland Powhatan Community Services Board
- Henrico Area Mental Health and Developmental Services
- Middle Peninsula-Northern Neck Community Services Board
- Mount Rogers Community Services Board
- New River Valley Community Services



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- Piedmont Community Services
- Rappahannock Area Community Services Board
- Richmond Behavioral Health Authority
- Valley Community Services Board
- Western Tidewater Community Services Board

Virginia Department of Social Services and social services departments in the following localities:

- Chesterfield-Colonial Heights
- Hampton
- Hanover
- Hopewell
- Middlesex
- New Kent

Virginia Department of Health and the following local health districts:

- Cumberland Plateau
- Lenowisco
- Lord Fairfax
- New River
- Piedmont

Virginia Department of Veterans Services (Virginia Veteran and Family Support Program; Benefits Services)

Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at The Up Center

Since the inception of Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide among SMVF earlier this year, Virginia's interagency team has trained more than 500 community services providers in military cultural competency and suicide prevention, hosting six statewide Military Culture and Suicide Prevention Summits. The team also hosted two regional planning sessions focused on closing access to behavioral healthcare gaps for SMVF. In January 2019, Governor Northam announced that Virginia was selected as one of seven states to participate in the inaugural Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide among SMVF. The Virginia Governor's Challenge team is co-chaired by Secretaries Hopkins and Carey. The team consists of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the U.S. Department of Defense; along with the Virginia Departments of Veterans Services, Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, Health, Social Services, Medical Assistance Services, and Education; the Virginia National Guard, and the Virginia State Police. Other health partners include the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association, Richmond Behavioral Health Authority and NAMI-Virginia. Military service members, veterans, and family members who are in crisis or having thoughts of suicide—and those who know someone in crisis—can call the Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255 (Veterans and caregivers, press 1) for confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

January 3, 2020

On December 20, 2019, Officer Drahms and K9 Knox graduated from the Chesterfield K9 Academy. This was an extensive 14 week school that both handler and K9 enjoyed thoroughly. We are excited to see all of the great things this team will do for our City.



On December 21, 2019, the Police Department defeated the Fire Department in the Balling After Dark Basketball tournament.





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PUBLIC SAFETY

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On December 22, 2019, the Police Department was invited to assist Five Forks Food Mart & New Hope in a Christmas gift giveaway.



On December 23, 2019, the Police Department was surprised with dinner from Saucy's BBQ. We are thankful for their generous donation and continued support.





City Manager's Weekly Update

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

January 3, 2020



City Council Organizational Meeting
January 7, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. Council Chambers



Town Hall Meeting to Discuss Crime
January 15, 2020 at 7:00 pm.
Carter G. Woodson Middle School Multi-Purpose Room

City of Hopewell **CITY COUNCIL CONNECTIONS**



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