



City Manager's Weekly Update

June 12, 2020



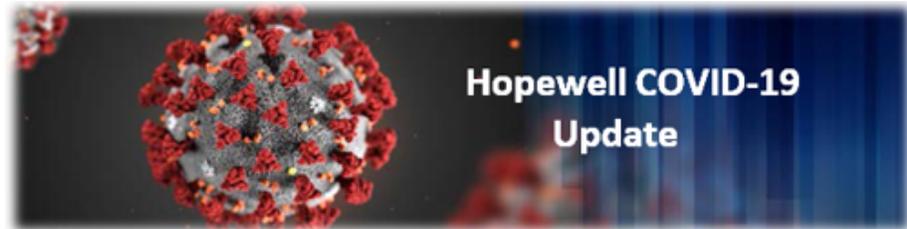
John M. Altman, Jr.
City Manager

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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CITY NEWS HIGHLIGHTS



The City of Hopewell government offices and buildings remain closed to public until further notice in an effort to reduce the spread of COVID-19. The City is preparing for our “new normal” as we work toward safely opening for our citizens. Stay positive and stay well ☺

- Statewide: 453,869 number of people tested; 52,647 total cases; 5,360 hospitalizations; 1,520 deaths. Crater Health District reports a total of 8,643 testing encounters; 10.3% current 7-day positivity rate total. **Hopewell 135**, Dinwiddie 117, Emporia 90, Greensville 246, Petersburg 193, Prince George 154, Surry 14, and Sussex 185. There have been a total of 30 deaths in the Crater Health District. The City reports 3 deaths in Hopewell.
- **The COVID-19 Hotline (541-2391) remains available for citizens to call for information Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.** We have received a total of 466 calls to-date.
- The City of Hopewell DMV Select will reopen June 15, 2020 and will operate by appointment only.
- City is now reaching out to private sources to get cost estimates for additional COVID-19 testing. The City was informed that the VA National Guard's mission has shifted away from community testing, and is now focused on testing in long-term care facilities and detention centers. The City will provide updates as they become available.

COVID-19 UPDATES: <https://hopewellva.gov/coronavirus-covid-19-updates-and-resources/>



City Manager's Weekly Update

COMMUNITY MESSAGE DURING COVID-19 June 12, 2020

State of Virginia Announces Relief for Tenants Who Have Lost Income due to COVID-19

HOPEWELL, VA – In April 2020, Virginia passed emergency measures to help tenants who have lost income during the COVID-19 crisis and are being sued for eviction based on unpaid rent. Many tenants who are eligible may be able to get a 60-day delay in their court case.

Tenants who lost income between March 12 and June 28, 2020 and who have a first court date for an eviction case (and “unlawful detainer”) scheduled for September 10, 2020 or earlier are eligible to delay their eviction case. On June 1, 2020, the Supreme Court of Virginia extended the Declaration of Judicial Emergency in Response to COVID-19 Emergency until June 28, 2020.

In order to get the 60-day delay, tenants need to: show up to their first court date; bring written proof that you lost income between March 12 and June 28; and ask the judge for 60-day “continuance”. Tenants can use the following as their written proof: a paystub showing zero dollars in earnings, a furlough notification letter from your employer, an “essential employee status letter” stating that you were “nonessential”, or a signed affidavit by you stating that you lost wages during this period due to a COVID-19 emergency. Tenants can find an affidavit template on the Virginia Poverty Law Center’s website: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dN8VKZ-NyakiJccWnu6EgclVTGsJJ03b94FfPziFanA/edit>.

Governor Northam will announce a comprehensive rent relief program in response to COVID-19, which will be supported by Federal CARES Act funding in the coming weeks. Tenants are encouraged to know their rights and responsibilities. Visit www.stayhomevirginia.com for more information and resources on tenant rights.

Depending on the situation, or the property, tenants may be eligible for other protections from eviction. For example, if tenants live in federally subsidized housing or in a property with a federally backed mortgage, the federal CARES Act protects you from eviction for unpaid rent until August 25.

This information was derived from the Virginia Poverty Law Center, and www.stayhomevirginia.com, and is general legal information, not legal advice about a specific case. If tenants have questions or want advice on their individual case, they can call the Eviction Legal Helpline (833-NoEvict) or the legal aid office (866-LEGLAID).



City Manager's Weekly Update

COMMUNITY REMINDERS DURING COVID-19

June 12, 2020

Share Facts About COVID-19

Know the facts about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and help stop the spread of rumors.

FACT 1

Diseases can make anyone sick regardless of their race or ethnicity.

People of Asian descent, including Chinese Americans, are not more likely to get COVID-19 than any other American. Help stop fear by letting people know that being of Asian descent does not increase the chance of getting or spreading COVID-19.

FACT 2

Some people are at increased risk of getting COVID-19.

People who have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or people who live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread are at an increased risk of exposure.

FACT 3

Someone who has completed quarantine or has been released from isolation does not pose a risk of infection to other people.

For up-to-date information, visit CDC's coronavirus disease 2019 web page.

FACT 4

You can help stop COVID-19 by knowing the signs and symptoms:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

Seek medical advice if you

- Develop symptoms

AND

- Have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.

FACT 5

There are simple things you can do to help keep yourself and others healthy.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.



CS 315446-4 03/11/2020

For more information: www.cdc.gov/COVID19



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COMMUNITY REMINDERS DURING COVID-19

June 12, 2020

COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS DISEASE SYMPTOMS OF CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019

Patients with COVID-19 have experienced mild to severe respiratory illness.

Symptoms* can include



FEVER



COUGH

*Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure.

Seek medical advice if you develop symptoms, and have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.



SHORTNESS OF BREATH



CS 315252-A 03/03/2020

For more information: www.cdc.gov/COVID19-symptoms



City Manager's Weekly Update

BUSINESS SERVICES DURING COVID-19

June 12, 2020



Reopens on Monday, June 15th!

The City of Hopewell Commissioner of the Revenue's Office would like to announce that on June 15, 2020, we plan to reopen our DMV Select. Going forward, we will no longer accept walk-in transactions. Our hours of operation will be by **appointment only**. To make online appointments, please visit: <https://booknow.appointment-plus.com/b99xpe2x/>. This website is also accessible from the city of Hopewell's website, under "Online Scheduling." Please watch the City of Hopewell website and Facebook pages for updates.

Due to COVID-19, operations rules and regulations may change to protect the health and safety of our staff and the public, and social distancing guidelines will be enforced. This is based on guidance from the Governor's office and is subject to change.



City Manager's Weekly Update

BUSINESS SERVICES DURING COVID-19

June 12, 2020



Hopewell OnUp

HOPEWELL CITY TREASURER'S OFFICE

COVID-19 (Corona Virus)

SAFE PAY OPTIONS

COVID SAFE DROP BOX CAN BE USED FOR PAYMENTS!

NO CASH!
MONEY ORDER OR CHECKS

1. REAL ESTATE TAXES
2. PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES (CAR TAXES)
3. BUSINESS LICENSE PAYMENTS
4. ANIMAL LICENSES (INCLUDE A COPY OF RABIES CERTIFICATE)
5. TRASH/SEWER PAYMENTS
6. ANY OTHER PAYMENTS TO THE CITY OF HOPEWELL
7. ANY RECEIPT REQUESTS MUST INCLUDE A SELF ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE.

PLEASE USE THE CITIZENS SELF SERVICE OPTION ON THE HOPEWELVA.GOV WEB SITE FOR ONLINE PAYMENT OPTIONS.

COMING SOON!!! OUR ONLINE SCHEDULING SYSTEM

#TEAMWE IS WORKING HARD TO SAVE YOU TIME AND OUR CITY MONEY

JOAN E.GOSIER, MBA TREASURER





City Manager's Weekly Update

COMMUNITY NEWS & SERVICES

June 12, 2020

TAKE THE TIME TO SHAPE YOUR FUTURE, AND
OUR COMMUNITY'S FUTURE

TAKE THE CENSUS

It's not too late, complete the **CENSUS today.**

The more people counted =

The more resources \$\$ for the City

Go On-line at **my2020.census.gov**

By phone, call 844-330-2020 or

Mail in your Census form



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COMMUNITY NEWS & SERVICES

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The 2020 Census and Confidentiality

Your responses to the 2020 Census are safe, secure, and protected by federal law. Your answers can only be used to produce statistics—they cannot be used against you in any way. By law, all responses to U.S. Census Bureau household and business surveys are kept completely confidential.

Respond to the 2020 Census to shape the future.

Responding to the census helps communities get the funding they need and helps businesses make data-driven decisions that grow the economy. Census data impact our daily lives, informing important decisions about funding for services and infrastructure in your community, including health care, senior centers, jobs, political representation, roads, schools, and businesses. More than \$675 billion in federal funding flows back to states and local communities each year based on census data.



Your census responses are safe and secure.

The Census Bureau is required by law to protect any personal information we collect and keep it strictly confidential. The Census Bureau can only use your answers to produce statistics. In fact, every Census Bureau employee takes an oath to protect your personal information for life. Your answers cannot be used for law enforcement purposes or to determine your personal eligibility for government benefits.

By law, your responses cannot be used against you.

By law, your census responses cannot be used against you by any government agency or court in any way—not by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), not by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), not by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and not by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The law requires the Census Bureau to keep your information confidential and use your responses only to produce statistics.



The law is clear—no personal information can be shared.

Under Title 13 of the U.S. Code, the Census Bureau cannot release any identifiable information about individuals, households, or businesses, even to law enforcement agencies.

The law states that the information collected may only be used for statistical purposes and no other purpose.

To support historical research, Title 44 of the U.S. Code allows the National Archives and Records Administration to release census records only after 72 years.

All Census Bureau staff take a lifetime oath to protect your personal information, and any violation comes with a penalty of up to \$250,000 and/or up to 5 years in prison.

2020CENSUS.GOV
D-1254

Shape
your future
START HERE >

United States
Census
2020



City Manager's Weekly Update

INTERGOVERNMENTAL & PUBLIC AFFAIRS

June 12, 2020



Governor Northam Announces \$66.8 Million in Emergency Education Relief Funding

RICHMOND—Governor Ralph Northam today announced that Virginia schools will receive \$66.8 million through the federal Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund to expand distance learning opportunities, fund services for students disproportionately impacted by loss of class time, and provide financial assistance to higher education students and institutions impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"This funding will help Virginia provide high-quality instruction and continue the delivery of services for K-12 and higher education students during the COVID-19 pandemic," said Governor Northam. "We are prioritizing this federal assistance to help address learning gaps caused by school closures, expand and improve internet connectivity, increase access to robust distance learning programs, and help students in need of additional financial assistance complete their postsecondary education and training."

The GEER Fund, which was authorized under the federal Coronavirus Aid, Recovery, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, gives states the flexibility determine how best to allocate the emergency assistance to meet their educational needs.

Governor Northam is distributing \$43.4 in GEER funding for the following PreK-12 priorities:

- \$26.9 million to support short-term and long-term initiatives expanding high-speed internet access to all communities in the Commonwealth, including providing laptop computers and Mi-Fi devices for students without home internet access;
- \$10 million to expand early childhood education and child care programs in the Commonwealth, especially for children with academic and social-emotional needs;
- \$3.5 million to support the expansion of the Virtual Virginia online learning program to provide content for elementary and middle school students; allow teachers in all school divisions to use the platform to create, edit, and share content as well as provide personalized virtual instruction for all students; and expand the Virtual Virginia Professional Learning Network, in partnership with the Virginia Society for Technology, to ensure that educators and technology-support personnel have the capacity and skills to meet the demand for quality online learning; and
- \$3 million to cover unfunded costs for the continuation of school-based meals programs while schools remain closed, including hazard pay for school nutrition staff.



City Manager's Weekly Update

INTERGOVERNMENTAL & PUBLIC AFFAIRS – cont.

June 12, 2020

“These initiatives will support efforts of PreK-12 schools to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on our most vulnerable students and increase the capacity of local divisions to continue instruction and critical support services during future emergencies,” said Secretary of Education Atif Qarni. “We will also allocate flexible funding to our institutions of higher education that will allow colleges and universities to address the unique needs of their students. We trust they will maintain a focus on equity by distributing funds and services to students who are facing monumental challenges due to the pandemic.”

Approximately \$23.4 million – one third of GEER funds – will be distributed throughout Virginia’s higher education system, with \$18.3 million allocated to public and private four-year institutions and Richard Bland College. Of this funding, \$14.5 million will be allocated to four-year public institutions and Richard Bland College, and \$3.8 million will be allocated to private, four-year Tuition Assistance Grant (TAG) eligible institutions. All of these institutions will use the one-time funding to address immediate student financial needs, cover health and safety costs associated with COVID-19, and support activities that make online learning more accessible and equitable.

GEER funds totaling \$4.9 million will be distributed to the Virginia Community College System to support the following initiatives:

- One-time funding to address immediate student financial needs;
- Last-dollar scholarships for displaced adults who enroll in stackable credential programs leading to jobs in targeted industry sectors; and
- Initiatives to extend internet access into parking lots on or adjacent to the 40 campuses to provide help connect students who do not have internet subscriptions at home.

The Governor will also distribute \$175,000 of GEER funds among Virginia’s five higher education centers, which provide access to college degrees and job training for in-demand careers located in parts of the Commonwealth with fewer college and university resources.

GEER funding has been made available in addition to \$587.5 million allocated to the Commonwealth in May under the federal CARES Act. This included \$238.6 million from the Elementary and Secondary School Education Relief (ESSER) Fund for K-12 activities. Additionally, the CARES Act provided \$343.9 million for higher education through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund.

In addition to allocating funding directly to every local school division, the ESSER K-12 funding includes a \$23.9 million state set aside to fund state-level initiatives. In Virginia, these funds will be used to meet the needs of schools in regard to special education, instruction and assessment, student social and emotional health, and COVID-19-related health and safety in school buildings and facilities. More information on the ESSER state set aside funds will be made available through the Virginia Department of Education in the coming weeks.



City Manager's Weekly Update



PUBLIC SAFETY

June 12, 2020



Animal Control Officer **Amanda Sverchek** (far right in photo) started her tour of duty with the Hopewell Police Department in April, 2014. After accepting a supervisory position in a neighboring jurisdiction, she ended her tour this week. She will be missed by all!

Communications Operator Terri Ellis received the Employee of the Month for April 2020. Terri helped an expectant mother in labor through delivery as medics rushed to the scene. Way to go Terri!





City Manager's Weekly Update



SHERIFF'S OFFICE

June 12, 2020

The Hopewell Sheriff's Office Celebrates Brian Loving's Retirement!



Thank you Brian for your 25 years of service to the Hopewell Sheriff's Office! Brian has been an integral part of the Sheriff's office and we wish him well in his future endeavors!



City Manager's Weekly Update



H/PG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

June 12, 2020

HPG Locals!

Staying Closer to Home This Summer?

Virginia destinations are getting ready for in-state visitors. We are starting to get requests for brochure packets and hotel recommendations. People are interested in fishing, biking, touring, heritage, and trails.



The Visitor Center staff would love to help you plan some adventures. Call 804-541-2461 or e-mail info@hpgchamber.org or use “contact us” tab on the web site www.visithpg.com.



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



Upcoming City Council Meetings:

- June 16, 2020 – Budget Work Session at 6:30 p.m.
- June 18, 2020 – Budget Work Session at 6:30p.m.
- June 23, 2020 – Regular Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

(These meetings will be held electronically)

CITIZENS CAN WATCH THE MEETING VIA:

Hopewell City Council Live <https://hopewellva.gov/city-council-live/>
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzz-V2cGfrfyebxDeQ4_x7A

**DEADLINE
*EXTENDED***

**City Council extended the deadline to pay
first half 2020 Real Estate Taxes to June 30.**



City of Hopewell **CITY COUNCIL CONNECTIONS**

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<https://hopewellva.gov/city-council-live>
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<https://www.instagram.com/hopewellva/>