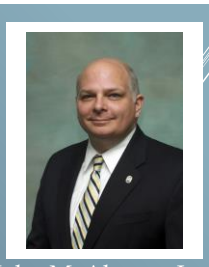
City Manager's Weekly Update

July 2, 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.

Office of the
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CITY COUNCIL LIVE !!!

CITY NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

We are now in Phase Three! The City of Hopewell is in the final stages of preparing to allow us to safely reopen for our citizens. Please remain positive, stay safe, and stay well ☺

	Total Testing Encounters	Total Cases	Hospitalizations	Deaths	7-day Positivity Rate
Statewide	726,152 (24,042↑)	63,203 (416↑)	6,262 (59↑)	1,786 (23↑)	5.9% (0.1↑)
Crater Health District	16,943 (1,669↑)	1,498 (9↑)	152 (4↑)	41 (2↑)	8.9% (0.3↓)
Hopewell	n/a	188 (2↑)	19 (1↑)	3	n/a

- **The COVID-19 Hotline (541-2391) is available Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.** We have received a total of 659 calls to-date.
- **Effective Thursday, July 2, the Burnett & Williams law firm is relocating their Ampersand Pantry Project to the Courthouse Parking Lot. This will be a drive-thru only operation, no walk-ups. Drivers will enter from N. Main Street and exit onto E. City Point Road.** Lunches will continued to be offered on Tuesdays & Thursdays at 11:30am throughout the pandemic for Hopewell residents struggling with food insecurity. Meals will be limited to one meal per person, and each person has to be present to receive a meal.
- Crater Health has set a tentative date of Saturday, July 11 for our next COVID-19 testing in the City. The City received permission from the Cavalier Square property manager to host the testing. This will not be a drive-thru testing. Walk-ups are welcome. We have been informed that Crater will have the capacity to test 50 individuals. More information will provided in coordination with Crater Health District.
- Virginia Rent and Mortgage Relief Program (RMRP) – Staff has been in contact with Flagler House and Commonwealth Catholic Charities to discuss the RMRP program and how City residents can access the program.
- WestRock has committed to donate 500 gallons of hand sanitizer to the City and Schools. The City will coordinate the distribution with Hopewell Public Schools.
- Facial masks ordered by the City will be delivered Monday, July 6th. The masks will be distributed to members of our community in the upcoming weeks.

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

COMMUNITY REMINDERS DURING COVID-19

July 2, 2020

Virginia Rent and Mortgage Relief Program (RMRP)

Program Description

The Virginia Rent and Mortgage Relief Program (RMRP) is designed to support and ensure housing stability across the commonwealth during the coronavirus pandemic. Depending on availability of funds and household need, the RMRP may provide financial assistance for rent or mortgage payments for eligible households. This includes financial assistance for rent or mortgage payments past due beginning April 1, 2020 and onward. Financial assistance is a one-time payment with opportunity for renewal based on availability of funding and the household's need for additional assistance and continued eligibility.

Eligibility

The RMRP will provide financial assistance on behalf of renters and mortgage holders who meet the following criteria:

- Have a valid lease or mortgage statement in their name or other documentation confirming the landlord-tenant relationship; and
- Have experienced a loss of income due to the Coronavirus pandemic including but not limited to:
  - Those who have been laid off;
  - Those whose place of employment has closed;
  - Those who have experienced a reduction in hours of work;
  - Those who must stay home to care for children due to closure of day care and/or school;
  - Those who have lost child or spousal support;
  - Those who have not been able to work or missed hours due to contracting COVID-19;
  - Those who have been unable to find work due to COVID-19; or
  - Those whose are unwilling or unable to participate in their previous employment due to their high risk of severe illness from COVID-19; and
- Have a rent or mortgage amount that is at or below 150% Fair Market Rent (FMR)
- Have a gross household income at or below 80% area median income (AMI) (based on current month's income). From June 29, 2020 through July 20, 2020, programs will prioritize households with a current gross household income at or below 50 percent AMI. The determination of income includes any unemployment insurance received by a member of the household but does not include one-time payments such as a stimulus check.

Click here to find out if you may be eligible

Required Documentation

- Proof of income (pay stubs, bank statements, letter from employer, social security documents, pension)
- Valid lease or mortgage statement or other documentation confirming the landlord-tenant relationship
- The local program administrator will assist the household in obtaining these documents and will also assist the household in community and any other required documentation

www.dhcd.virginia.gov/rmrp

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Partners for Better Communities

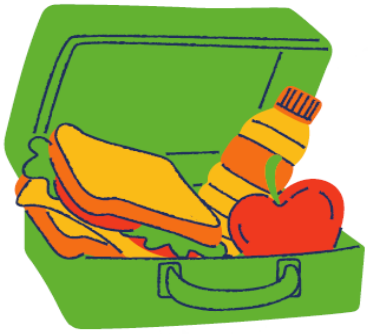
COMMUNITY SERVICES DURING COVID-19

July 2, 2020

The Ampersand Pantry Project SOUTH

FREE LUNCHES

PARTNERING WITH LOCAL RESTAURANTS TO PROVIDE HEALTHY FREE TO-GO LUNCHES



11:30 AM Tuesdays & Thursdays

Donations Welcome

Get what you need,
donate if you can

NO ID REQUIRED, ALL ARE WELCOME!
CONTACTLESS DRIVE-THRU

LOCATION:
HOPEWELL COURTHOUSE PARKING LOT
Corner of N Main St and E City Point Rd

For More Information, please contact Jim Williams:
804-794-0080 or jim@burnettwilliams.com

Burnett & Williams
Personal Injury Lawyers

MEDIA RELEASE

Contact:
Monique Robertson
Public Works Department
PH: (804) 541-2295
mrobertson@hopewellva.gov

Immediate Release
Tuesday, June 30, 2020

Citizens Convenience Center Holiday Closure

Hopewell, VA. The Hopewell Citizens Convenience Center, 507 Station Street, will be closed on Friday, July 3 and Saturday, July 4 in observance of the Independence Day holiday. **Residential refuse and recycling collections will not be affected by the holiday observance**.

COMMUNITY NEWS & SERVICES

July 2, 2020

HPG100 Chamber 1920-2020

REGISTER HERE

COMMUNITY NEWS & SERVICES

July 2, 2020

They grow up so fast.

Now's your chance to shape their future.

A kindergartener counted in the 2020 Census this spring will be starting high school when the next census comes around in 2030: That's 10 years of school supplies, teachers, school lunches, and so much more. This is your opportunity to help ensure they have a bright future.

Right now, students across the country are getting an introduction to the 2020 Census through the Statistics in Schools program. This program offers free activities and resources to schools to help prepare their students for an increasingly data-driven world.

Students are learning that the 2020 Census is a count of every person who lives in the United States and its territories. Responding to the census helps your community get its fair share of funding. Census data guides how more than $675 billion in federal funding is distributed to states and communities each year for schools, health care facilities, roads, transportation, recreation centers, social services, and more.

Students are also learning these key things about the 2020 Census—and we want you to know them too:

- Starting in March 2020, everyone living in your home needs to be counted. That includes children and newborn babies, citizens and noncitizens, relatives and nonrelatives, and even those staying with you temporarily.
- It's easier than ever to respond to the census. You can respond in 13 different languages, and you can complete it online, by phone, or by mail.
- Your responses to the census are safe and secure. The law requires the U.S. Census Bureau to keep your information confidential, and your responses cannot be used against you in any way.

You have the power to shape your future, and the future of all children, by counting everyone in your home in the 2020 Census.

Learn more about how you can shape your future at **2020CENSUS.GOV**.

Get more information about the Statistics in Schools program at **CENSUS.GOV/SCHOOLS**.

STATISTICS IN SCHOOLS

Shape your future START HERE >

United States Census 2020

COMMUNITY NEWS & SERVICES

July 2, 2020

COMMUNITY NEWS & SERVICES

July 2, 2020

HOPEWELL HAPPENINGS

JULY 1 - JULY 8

PHASE 3 OF REOPENING IS HERE!

Virginia entered Phase 3 of Governor Northam's reopening plan today! Phase 3 increased the limit of people at social gatherings to 250, and removed the occupancy guidelines for many business sectors. Fitness facilities and swimming pools are still restricted to 75% of occupancy. Entertainment & amusement venues and youth sports are restricted to 50% of normal occupancy. For more information on the Phase 3 guidelines, please visit the Governor's website.

Because Virginia has entered Phase 3 of reopening, we have decided to start distributing the Hopewell Happenings newsletter again. These newsletters will look a little different as we all adjust to our "new normal." The newsletters will feature a mix of digital and in-person events. We encourage everyone to listen to Public Health officials and continue to socially distance in public.

The Beacon Theatre

The Beacon Theatre has been monitoring the COVID-19 siutation closely, and has begun to reschedule shows. Keep checking back to The Beacon website and Facebook page for updated information regarding digital and in-person shows. When new dates are announced, your tickets will be honored at the new concert date. For refund information, please contact the Beacon.

MORE INFO

In-Person Events

Danny Kensey & Barefoot Joe LIVE
At Omega Bar & Grill. Wednesday, July 1st at 7pm. Enjoy some live music at Omega Bar & Grill!

MORE INFO

Beaunuts Donuts Pop-Up!
At Roja Taco Joint. Sunday, July 5th from 9am-12pm. Check out Beaunut's Facebook page for menu and pre-order information!

MORE INFO

Keith Horne & Jay Camacho on the Patio
At Omega Bar & Grill. Tuesday, July 7th at 6pm. Enjoy taco Tuesday while you're here!

MORE INFO

COMMUNITY NEWS & SERVICES

July 2, 2020

HOPEWELL HAPPENINGS

JULY 1 - JULY 8

Digital Events

Storytime LIVE
On the Appomattox Regional Library's Facebook page. Tuesdays & Thursdays beginning between 9 & 9:30am. Join Miss Sarah for weekly online story times!

MORE INFO

ARLS Summer Reading Program
This year's summer reading program will run from June 15th – August 15th. Kids of ALL ages are welcome to join in the fun! Attend fun events and read your way to cool prizes! ARLS has also introduced an adult summer reading program! Find information on both programs on the ARLS website.

MORE INFO

BUSINESS UPDATES

Appomattox Regional Library:

- The Appomattox Regional Library Hopewell branch will reopen on Monday, July 6th at 9am! ARLS Hopewell branch new hours of operation will be from 9am-7pm Monday-Thursday, and 9am-5pm Friday & Saturday. Staff will be taking extra steps to clean the library including the public computers. Due to social distancing the number of public computers will be fewer. Meeting rooms will remain closed at this time. Library visitors will have to maintain 6 feet social distancing and must follow the governor's directive to wear a mask while in the library. Curbside service will continue.
- The Appomattox Regional Library has launched a YouTube Channel! Digital programming for youth and adults will be made available throughout the summer. Make sure to like and subscribe to stay up-to-date on all the new videos. Craft and STREAM videos are already available with more being added this week!

Hopewell Quick Lunch:

- The Hopewell Quick Lunch is now open! Their current hours are 9am-3pm Monday-Friday for dine in or carry out. Follow the Hopewell Quick Lunch on Facebook to find out "what's cooking at Quick Lunch!" Hopewell Quick Lunch features daily specials and breakfast all day!

If you would like to be featured in our next Hopewell Happenings, please contact Stacey English at senglish@hopewellva.gov.

Governor Northam Applauds Historic Progress As New Laws Take Effect in Virginia

~ Sweeping measures include minimum wage increase, worker protections, gun violence prevention, expanding voting access, fighting climate change ~

Governor Ralph Northam highlighted new laws that take effect today as Virginia begins a new fiscal year. The Governor worked closely with members of the General Assembly to take forward-looking and historic steps to protect vulnerable Virginians, increase equity, and position the Commonwealth for future growth and success.

New laws include commonsense gun safety measures, worker protections, improvements to voting accessibility, criminal justice reforms, and measures that advance the rights of women and the LGBTQ community. Governor Northam also signed legislation that removes discriminatory and racist language from Virginia's books, and include actions to fight climate change and dramatically boost Virginia's renewable energy production.

"I am proud of the bold legislation we championed with the General Assembly this year," said Governor Northam. "From protecting civil rights, to expanding voting access, to supporting workers, we have made generational progress on some of the most critical issues of our time. With these new laws, Virginia will be an even better place to live, work, visit, and raise a family."

INTERGOVERNMENTAL & PUBLIC AFFAIRS-cont.

July 2, 2020

Key measures from the 2020 General Assembly Session that go into effect today include:

- Advancing historic justice and equity with new laws that give localities authority over Confederate war memorials, remove of discriminatory language from the Acts of Assembly, and establish a commission to study slavery in Virginia and subsequent racial and economic discrimination. New measures also ban discrimination based on hair.
- Enhancing worker protections with measures that increase the minimum wage, ban workplace discrimination, and combat worker misclassification and wage theft.
- Commonsense gun safety laws that reinstate the restriction on handgun purchases to one per month, implement background checks on all firearm sales, require the reporting of lost or stolen firearms, and establish an Extreme Risk Protective Order.
- Criminal justice reforms that include decriminalizing marijuana, raising the felony larceny threshold, and permanently ending the practice of driver's license suspensions for unpaid court fines.
- Expanding access to the ballot box by allowing early voting 45 days prior to an election without a stated excuse, extending in-person polling hours, and making Election Day a state holiday by repealing Lee-Jackson Day.
- Accelerating Virginia's transition to clean energy with the Virginia Clean Economy Act and measures to advance offshore wind and solar energy sources, establish renewable portfolio standards, and enter the Commonwealth into the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

INTERGOVERNMENTAL & PUBLIC AFFAIRS-cont.

July 2, 2020

- Increasing protections for LGBTQ+ Virginians with the Virginia Values Act, which prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in housing, employment, public spaces, and credit applications. New laws also ban the harmful practice of "conversion therapy" for minors, increase protections for transgender students in public schools, expand the definition of a hate crime, and make it easier for LGBTQ+ individuals to obtain a birth certificate that matches their gender identity.
- Restoring reproductive rights by repealing medically-unnecessary restrictions on women's healthcare. The Reproductive Health Protection Act repeals Virginia's mandatory ultrasound law and 24-hour waiting period prior to abortion, and rolls back politically motivated "TRAP" restrictions on women's health centers. "The purpose of the highway marker program is to educate the public by presenting an objective and truthful version of history. It is past time for Virginians to more fully understand and appreciate the experiences and many contributions of African Americans who shaped the Virginia of today," said Director of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources Julie Langan. "Yesterday's actions by the Board of Historic Resources couldn't be more timely or fitting."

PUBLIC SAFETY

July 2, 2020

Support from the Community on Change

On July 1, 2020, Ms. Shamika Lewis with the Community on Change organization brought subs from WaWa for our staff to enjoy. We can't thank Ms. Lewis and the Community on Change enough for their generosity and for thinking of us!

On June 27, 2020, Chief Afzal participated in a peaceful protest and march with event organizers, Tyquan Lewis and Jhovan (Jay) Galberth. City divisions came together to provide a safe passage for the participants as they marched from the Hopewell Community Center to the Ashford Civic Plaza exercising their First Amendment rights.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

July 2, 2020

Upcoming City Council Meetings:

July 14, 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

City employees will be observing the Independence Day Holiday on Friday, July 3. Have a safe and enjoyable holiday!

City of Hopewell
CITY COUNCIL CONNECTIONS

Hopewell City Council
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Hopewell, VA 23860
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https://hopewellva.gov/city-council-live
https://www.facebook.com/hopewellva.gov/
https://twitter.com/Hopewell_VA
https://www.instagram.com/hopewellva/