

SURRY COUNTY EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

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July - September 2011

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In Memory of



The Honorable Reginald O. Harrison
July 12, 1955 - July 8, 2011

Reginald Orestes Harrison departed his life on Friday, July 8, 2011. He was born July 12, 1955, in Suffolk, Va., to the late Alfred and Victoria Harrison. He graduated from Luther Porter Jackson High School in 1973 and attended Virginia State University, graduating in 1978 with a degree in Elementary Education.

Mr. Harrison, at an early age, joined Lebanon Baptist Church and later moved his membership to Union Baptist Church in Spring Grove.

Reginald retired from Philip Morris, USA, after 31 years of service. He served on numerous Boards and Commissions both locally and regionally, most recently serving as Chairman of the Surry County Board of Supervisors. He is survived by his wife of 32 years, Valerie Wooden Harrison and his two children, David Austin Harrison and Megan Alexis

Harrison of the home. He leaves to cherish his memory his mother, Victoria Harrison, along with numerous other relatives and friends.

Message from the County Administrator



To the Employees of Surry County:

As we reflect on the life and contributions of our past Chairman of the Surry County Board of Supervisors, Mr. Reginald O. Harrison, we can take comfort in knowing that he was a dedicated public servant giving of his time and energy for the improvement of his community – Surry County.

*The Board of Supervisors Mission Statement reads as follows:
“. . . Maintain a strong commitment towards the improved efficiency and effectiveness of County government that impacts the public safety, health, education and welfare of the citizens of Surry; through effective leadership and fiscal integrity, the Board of Supervisors will encourage the orderly growth and development of the community which will enhance the quality of life for the citizens of Surry County.”*

Mr. Harrison strived to achieve the intent of the mission statement in his official duties as a Board member. In memorial to Mr. Harrison, let us encourage all County employees to be open to innovative ideas that foster effective and efficient delivery of services to the general public; I believe that would be what Mr. Harrison would want.

Wishing you the very best during these summer days!

This is the third issue of 2011.

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

Sept. 15th for Oct-Dec. 2011 issue

Jan. 15th for Jan-March 2012 issue



Congratulations To Graduates!

Graduation exercises were held on Saturday, June 11, 2011 for Surry County High School.

TRIVIA CONTEST:

Be the first to answer the following trivia question and win a small prize available in the Administrator's Office.

Which nation was the first to give women the right to vote?

Winners of the previous contest were Linda Ellis and Sonia Beatty. Both came up with the correct name of the County's first Administrator: Mr. Charles Agle.



OTHER EMPLOYEE NEWS

Government Employees Recycling Program



Each department should have received containers for the purpose of collecting mixed recyclables.

If you have not received a recycling container or would like more information regarding materials that can be recycled, please contact the Administrative Office for assistance.

Congratulations:

to Juanita Parker on the birth of her great-granddaughter, Ava, on April 27, 2011.

to Tracy Terry on the birth of her grandson Isaiah on June 20, 2011.

Condolences:

to Michael Rawlings, Harriet and Onike Ruffin on the passing of Mrs. Annie Rawlings on April 28, 2011.

to Ervin Jones on the passing of his father-in-law, Mr. James Ruffin Bailey, in April.

to Gabriella Clark on the loss of her daughter, Valisa Clark, on May 1, 2011.

Best Wishes:

To Stanley Jones and Carlos Turner as they leave us for employment elsewhere.

Hurricane Preparedness Checklist:

- Review your insurance policies
- Prepare an inventory of your personal property
- Plan an evacuation route and destination
- Teach your children what to do in the event of an emergency
- Make a plan for what to do with your pets
- Maintain a supply of water and non-perishable food
- Have a portable radio, flashlight, cell phone and extra batteries for each
- Have an out-of-state friend/relative as a "family contact" in case you are separated
- Fill all vehicles with gasoline
- Maintain an adequate supply of medications and prescription drugs
- Have cash – ATM's may not be functioning
- Turn refrigerators/freezers to the coldest setting
- Secure items that are outside your home
- Trim tree branches that could damage windows or walls
- Assemble a first aid kit
- Assemble important documents in a waterproof container

The Atlantic Hurricane Season runs from June 1st - November 30th .

Employee Profiles:



Ervin Jones, Director of Parks and Recreation says that he is blessed to work for Surry P&R for the last 28 years, to have such a great staff, and to have the support of his wife, Jean, who puts up with the crazy hours he works. Ervin and Jean have been married for 15 years; together they have 6 children and 21 grandchildren.

Ervin says that his joy in life is being with his grandchildren and coaching. His greatest inspirations have been his grandmother, Louise Jones, and his college coach, William Dick Price, whose family also happened to be from Surry County.



Sheryl Newby, has served as the Program Coordinator for 30 years with P&R. Her duties include: scheduling classes, organizing special activities, planning trips, and scheduling reservations for building rentals. Sheryl is a member of the Virginia Recreation Parks Society and FAPT of Surry County. Sheryl has been blessed with two sons, one daughter and a grandson who is the center of her life. She is currently pursuing her Masters Degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Public Administration and hopes to complete her studies in March of 2012. Sheryl attends Gethsemane Baptist Church in Newport News. She feels that God has blessed her to have a job "where I can serve those who are in need of recreational services in Surry County and beyond.

Sherri Thomas, has served as Administrative Assistant with P&R for four years. She is a Surry County High School Graduate and holds an Associate's Degree from Paul D. Camp Community College.

Barbara Newby, "a Jewel" was born on the 13th of June. She has been employed by the P&R Maintenance Dept. for 30 years. Barbara has two daughters and four grandchildren and is a member of Mission of Deliverance Church of God in Christ in Ivor. Barbara is welcomed by everyone because of her big heart and her overwhelming love for kids.

WELCOME to New Employees:

Ricky Woodard – Maintenance Dept.

Clifford Redstone – Network Administrator

Shenee Graham – Dispatcher

Benny Back – Deputy Sheriff

Birthdays & Years of Service



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

July 4	Linda Johnson
July 5	Michael Rawlings
July 8	Tamara Arthur
July 31	Elizabeth Collier Natasha Byrd-Berkley
Aug 4	William Thomas
Aug 16	Lorraine Nichols
Aug 19	Mary Butler
Sept 5	Tyrone Franklin
Sept 9	Janice Pierce
Sept 10	Sheryl Newby
Sept 12	Melissa Rollins
Sept 16	Harrygan Kelly
Sept 20	Vernon Scott
Sept 28	Elaine Galloway Thelma Brown
Sept 30	Carlos Turner

Years of Service with Surry County:

Frances Bailey	17 years
Natasha Byrd-Berkley	6 years
Carolyn Dickens	10 years
Lucille Epps	31 years
Mary Lynn Hayes	3 years
Karen Holloway	3 years
James Joyner	20 years
Harrygan Kelly	4 years
Rhonda Mack	6 years
Rudy Mason	3 years
Barbara Newby	30 years
Harriet Ruffin	33 years
Hermione Slade	5 years
William Thomas	20 years

ENCOURAGE SUMMER READING:

1. Read to preschool children at least 20-30 minutes a day. Have older children read to you.
2. Keep good books, magazines and newspapers in the house.
3. Add to your children's enjoyment of reading by discussing each book they read.
4. Make sure your children see you read for at least 20-30 minutes a day.
5. If you have difficulty reading, tell your children stories.
6. Limit TV viewing and monitor what your child watches.

Winner of the Nationwide drawing for a **\$25 Dollar General Gift Card** was Harrygan Kelly.

Winners of AFLAC drawings:

- Gift Cards** – Glynis Epps and Nancy Ray
- Cooler** – Pat Bernshausen
- Gift Bouquet** – Frances Bailey

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

MOTIVATIONAL THOUGHT

You will become as small as your controlling desire; as great as your dominant aspiration.

- James Allen



Thank You

to those employees who participated in the Surry County Employee Clean-Up Day;



and the Surry County Employee Picnic.



Calendar of Events:

- July 3rd - 4th** of July Celebration @ P&R
- July 4th** - Independence Day*
- July 16-17th** - Pork, Peanut & Pine Festival
- August 27-28th** - African American Family Reunion
- September 5th** - Labor Day*
- September 17-18th** - Nottaway Indian Pow Wow

**Government Offices are closed*

Congratulations!



On May 18, 2011, Shevonne Newby was recognized by the Virginia Family Nutrition Program as the Bronze Award recipient, which recognizes her as the best Program Assistant in the state with 3 years or less experience.

Billie Jean Elmer was promoted to Senior Extension Agent, effective July 1, 2011, the highest rank within Virginia Cooperative Extension. Billie Jean was also chosen by the Virginia Tech Alumni Association as the Outstanding Extension Agent. She will be officially recognized by the President of Virginia Tech on August 21 and presented a \$2000 gift.