

SURRY COUNTY EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

Volume 4, Issue 2
April – June 2013

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This is the second issue of 2013.

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

June 14th for July-September 2013 issue

Sept. 13th for October-December 2013 issue



SURRY COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

is scheduled for Saturday,
June 8th at LP Jackson
Middle School at 10:00 a.m.

If you have a child graduating from high school or college, please let the Administrative staff know.

Message from the County Administrator



Open Government is a practice that all state and local entities across the U.S. should strive to actively maintain. Being accountable and engaging the public is something that we have taken great pride in here in Surry County. Recently, our attempts at transparency have been called into question, which could not be further from the truth. Please take a moment to review my comments to the local press regarding an assessment of Surry County's openness. We will continue to put forth the very best effort in all that we do.

March 29, 2013

Daily Press
Letters to the Editor
letters@dailypress.com
Cathy Grimes
cgrimes@dailypress.com

On March 14, 2013 the *Daily Press* ran an article entitled, **Grades shine light on records access**, reporting on local government transparency as it relates to information provided via county/city/school district websites. Information was compiled and reported by the Sunshine Review.

Please be advised that localities were not made aware of the grading conducted by the Sunshine Review prior to the publication of this information, as one would have expected. Nonetheless, upon receiving the news that the Surry County Government website had been assigned a failing score, staff immediately contacted the managing editor of the Sunshine Review, Ms. Kristin McMurray, to request copies of all materials used in the evaluation of the County's website. On March 27, 2013 County staff received very brief correspondence from Ms. McMurray stating, "It appears that your site hasn't been reviewed since prior to 2010. I'm having a writer re-evaluate it today." While their review has been updated, the County still disputes their evaluation.

The updated evaluation states that, "individual contact information for elected officials, including telephone numbers, email addresses and mailing addresses are not provided." While this is accurate, there is contact information available for concerned citizens to submit correspondence to Board members through the Administrative Office by regular mail and a contact link which is available for email submissions. The County's ranking was also negatively impacted by the opinion that individual email addresses are not provided for administrative officials. Again, contact information is provided on every departmental page with an email link for electronic submissions.

Surry County has taken great care to become more transparent in recent years in order to provide accurate and current information about day-to-day government functions to the public via the internet, and additional website development is planned. Although we are not satisfied that our current website ranking of C- is an accurate representation of our site's content, the real issue for staff is the irresponsible reporting of false information by the news media. Your choice to run such an article without considering the legitimacy of the source or confirming the accuracy of the information provided to you has the potential to create an unnecessarily negative perception of Surry County Government.

Therefore, we encourage the *Daily Press* to be more vigilant and attentive to both the source and the quality of information it publishes. Likewise, Surry County will continue to make progress towards greater transparency in government.

Sincerely,

Tyrone W. Franklin
County Administrator

OTHER EMPLOYEE NEWS

Condolences:

Mr. Spencer Logan lost his grandmother, Mrs. Almedia Logan. Funeral services were held in Roanoke on March 13, 2013.



**Earth Day is
Monday,
April 22nd.**

GUESS WHO

Be the first to identify the employee in the picture below and win a small prize available in the Administrator's Office.



Winner of the previous contest was Frances Bailey. She correctly identified the employee in the photo as Michael Bailey.

APRIL 2013 IS SURRY COUNTY CLEAN-UP MONTH

The Board of Supervisors has designated April 2013 as "SURRY COUNTY CLEAN-UP MONTH". Citizens are asked to clean up, spruce up, and beautify their properties and the roadsides of the county during the month. In an effort to help, the county solid waste collection crews will provide special refuse collection containers at the following locations and times for citizens to dispose of appliances, furniture, yard debris, and scrap building material.

SPECIAL REFUSE COLLECTION SITES:

	Date & Time	Location
April 13th	9:00am— 1:00pm	Bacons Castle Grocery (Rt 10 & Rt 617)
	9:00am— 1:00pm	Old L.P. Jackson School Site
	9:00am— 1:00pm	Goodson Path Collection Site (Rt 10 West) Claremont Fire Station and Claremont Beach
April 27th	9:00am—1:00pm	Pineview Road Collection Site (off Rt 40)
	9:00am—1:00pm	Beaverdam Road (Rt 626 & Rt 610)
	9:00am—1:00pm	Goodson Path Collection Site (Rt 10 West)

Recyclables:

Recyclables including paper, glass, plastics (#1 & #2), along with steel, tin and aluminum cans can be dropped off at the Goodson Path and Pineview Collection Stations during regular operating hours. (7am—7pm M-F; 8am—4pm Sat & Sun) All items should be rinsed clean; please do not include bottle and jar caps as these are NOT recyclable. Recyclable electronic devices may be dropped off at the Goodson Path site only. Please call the Administrative Office for a complete listing of recyclable electronics.

Birthdays & Years of Service



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

April 2 nd	Nancy Ray
April 4 th	Faye Warren
April 14 th	Hermione Slade
April 17 th	Gerald Poindexter
April 27 th	Pat Bernshausen
May 4 th	Harriet Ruffin
May 8 th	Roy Lane
May 9 th	Onike Ruffin
May 17 th	Carolyn Dickens
May 26 th	Frances Bailey Terri Hale
June 13 th	Barbara Newby
June 28 th	Lakeisha Jones

**Years of Service with
Surry County:**

Tamara Arthur	4 years
Tyrone W. Franklin	12 years
Elaine Galloway	10 years
Shenee Graham	2 years
Robert Hill	13 years
Roy A. Lane	15 years
Aaron Mizelle	3 years
Clifford Redstone	2 years
LeJeune Stone	12 years
Marta Terry	6 years
Fannie Thompson	10 years
Stacey Williams	4 years
Ricky Woodard	2 years

Employee Profiles:

Planning Department



Rhonda R. Mack, Director of Planning and Community Development, began her employment with Surry County on July 25, 2005. Ms. Mack has previously worked in local government in both Hampton Roads and Northeastern North Carolina and institutions of higher education in Hampton Roads and Brunswick County. Rhonda is passionate about both family and learning and considers herself foremost a Christian, and secondly a mother, daughter and sister. She earnestly believes that education changes lives and impacts not only the individual student but also their families and communities by creating expanded income earning opportunities, fostering creative problem solving skills and additional reciprocal benefits to include stable and healthier families and households, and heightened community investment. Ms. Mack has two adult sons, currently students, and a Boxer puppy, Ginger.

Sandra Regina Hill Pierce, a native of Surry County, Virginia, has been the Administrative Assistant for the Planning Department since February, 2002. Sandra graduated from Kee Business College with a certificate as a Medical Secretary. She married Herbert M. Pierce, III of Surry County. They have been married for 30 years and have three children: Herbert, IV (daughter in law, Sharda), Siera Batten (son-in-law, Terrell), and Stephen; one grandson, Camden, one granddaughter, Daiesha and two grandkids on the way, both due in September. Sandra loves God and his people and desires to continue to be of service to whomever when ever needed.

Frances A. Bailey, Project Coordinator I, has been employed with Surry County for over 20 years. She came to the County as an intern in May of 1992. Upon graduation from Virginia State University in July of 1992 with a B.S. degree in Public Administration, Frances was afforded the opportunity to become an employee. She is the proud mother of two boys, Jaylen and JaMarcus. Frances' favorite pastime is spending time with her children and her sister, and going places and doing things together with them.

This picture represents the State winning poster entry in 4-H from the Virginia Cooperative Extension Winter Conference. It recognizes programming from the Surry Unit collaborating with the L.P. Jackson School Garden. Along with first place, the unit received a \$500 mini-grant that will be used on a field trip for the gardening students this spring to Virginia State's Randolph Farm to view their greenhouses.

Pictured (L to R) are: Dr. Mike Martin, Assistant Director of Virginia 4-H, Billie Jean Elmer, Donna McBride, Glen Slade, and Dr. Bobby Grisso, Associate Director of Agriculture and Natural Resources.



Planning Dept. cont'd:

Angela Wooden Blount is a proud Surry County native and has been employed by the County for over fourteen years; starting in January, 1999 as the Secretary for the Building Department and as Environmental Inspector for the Planning Department since January, 2007. Angela is married to Tyrone Blount and recently celebrated her 24th Wedding Anniversary. Angela is also a mother of two and often refers to them as "The Best Part of Me": daughter Tye, 22 and son Isaiah, 11. She is also the adoptive mother of Peppy, her chihuahua. Angela has always considered herself blessed to be able to work "at home" and have the opportunity to give back to her community.

Christopher W. Gwaltney, Planner, has been employed with Surry County since December 7, 2012. Chris graduated from Virginia Tech with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering in 1998 and attained licensure as a Virginia Professional Engineer in 2003. Mr. Gwaltney is passionate about education and helping people improve and preserve their property. Chris is unmarried and has a Chocolate Lab named Ginger.



ROAST CHICKEN WITH SPRING VEGETABLES

Ingredients

- 3 1/2 lbs skin-on, bone-in chicken quarters
- Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper
- 1 lemon, halved
- 3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 pound fingerling or other small potatoes
- 2 bunches radishes
- 1 bunch scallions
- 1 bunch baby carrots
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh dill

Directions

Preheat the oven to 500 degrees F. Rinse the chicken and pat dry. Season with salt and pepper, then place skin-side up on a rimmed baking sheet. Squeeze 1/2 lemon over the chicken and drizzle with 1 tablespoon olive oil. Roast 15 minutes.

Meanwhile, cut the potatoes and radishes in half and cut the scallions into thirds. Toss the potatoes, radishes, carrots and the remaining 2 tablespoons olive oil in a bowl; season with salt and.

Remove the chicken from the oven and scatter the vegetables around it. Continue to roast until the vegetables are tender and the chicken is golden and cooked through, about 20 more minutes. Squeeze the remaining 1/2 lemon over the chicken and vegetables. Top with the dill and season with salt.

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

MOTIVATIONAL THOUGHT

You will find men who want to be carried on the shoulders of others, who think that the world owes them a living. They don't seem to see that we must all lift together and pull together.

- Henry Ford

Calendar of Events:



April 22, 2013 - Earth Day

April 25, 2013 - FY 13-14 Budget Public Hearing (tentative)

April 26, 2013 - Employee Clean-Up Day

May 2, 2013 - BOS Meeting – FY 13-14 Budget Approval (tentative)

May 12, 2013 - Mother's Day

May 27, 2013 - Memorial Day *

June 12, 2013 - Siren Test (Surry Power Plant)

June 16, 2013 - Father's Day

June 21, 2013 - First Day of Summer



*Government Offices are closed

Human Resources News

The Human Resources Department has scheduled the following dates for employees to meet with insurance and financial planning representatives:

Wednesday, May 8th – Nationwide Retirement Deferred Compensation Plan
11am-2pm (Administrative Conference Room)

Wednesday, May 15th – Anthem Blue Cross & Blue Shield followed by **CommonHealth** presenting “Lighten Up” Program on Healthy Eating
Two group meetings at 10am and 11am (JDR Courtroom)

Wednesday, May 22nd – Aflac 10am–2pm (Administrative Conference Room)

Wednesday, May 29th – VALIC Financial Retirement Planning
10am-1pm (Administrative Conference Room)

Participation should be scheduled in advance. Appointments may be made through the County Administrator's Office at 294-5271.