

SURRY COUNTY EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Issue 1
Jan., Feb., March 2011

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Congratulations to Surry County's newly elected Sheriff



Alvin Clayton, Sr. was elected Surry County Sheriff in the special election held on November 2, 2010.

Thanks for making the 2010 Employee Holiday Social a success! Over 175 employees and guests enjoyed delicious food, great entertainment and spirited conversation to kickoff the holiday season. Over 15 terrific prizes were given away including many donated by area businesses: Farmer Joe's, Colonial Farmhouse, Edwards Ham Shoppe, Joe's Alignment, Bacon's Castle Peanuts, Surry Equipment, Dollar General, Farmer's United, Johnson Bros. and Tri-City Office Products. Congratulations if you or your guest was a lucky winner!



Message from the County Administrator



To the Employees of Surry County:

As we begin this new year, I'd like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to all County employees for their hard work and dedication in providing quality public service to the greater Surry County community.

It is important to note that the effects of the economy will continue to be a prominent factor in the upcoming budget process. Although there have been some positive indicators regarding local and state revenue streams, the county will be faced with additional state cuts in areas of public education, public safety, health and human services that we must begin to prepare for.

In reflecting on our year end accomplishments, let us again maintain a sense of optimism in establishing our goals and objectives for the coming year. Remember - Attitude is the starting point for success.

This is the first 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:

March 15th for Apr.-June 2011 issue

June 15th for July-Sept. 2011 issue

Holiday Food Drive

Thanks to your generosity, the County was able to donate 211 pounds of food items to the Peninsula Food Bank.

Donations to the Food Bank can be made year-round. For every dollar donated, the Food Bank is able to distribute more than ten dollars worth of food and necessities to needy individuals living on the Peninsula.

Individuals can make on-line donations at any time throughout the year by visiting www.nfoodbank.org.



Plan now
to be involved in
Surry County
Clean-Up Month,
April 2011.

Recent Events Update:



Surry County's Celebration of Family, Community Unity and Holiday Season was a success despite the unfavorable weather.

The America's Promise Alliance Representative, Ernest Bihms, said that he could "sense the community pride that exists in Surry County and the dedication to the county's youth" as he provided county officials with one of two seals and the push pin trophy provided to the county, by the Alliance, for being one of the 2010 Best Communities for Young People. Bihms' presentation was welcomed by the county as well as the \$1000 grant that ING Investment Firm provided to Surry for being one of this year's 100 America's Promise Alliance winning communities. The grant supported the county's holiday celebration and special "100 Best" ceremony.

County staff presented Community Partners, in attendance, with special gift bags containing Surry County pendants, Souvenir Booklets, 2011 Calendars, and Cookie Tins to thank them for their role in making Surry one of the Nation's best places for youth.

As always, Congressman Bobby Scott and Delegate William Barlow attended the ceremony to show their support. Additional attendees included, the Surry County Board of Supervisors: the Honorable Sherlock Holmes, the Honorable Judy Lyttle, and the Honorable Ernest Blount. Ms. Elsie Dennis and Mrs. Laura Sheffield, Surry County School Board Members, were present. Dr. Serbrenia J. Sims provided remarks on behalf of the School System. The Surry County High School Cheerleaders warmed the crowd with a welcome cheer.

County officials decided to cancel the Parade and Grand Illumination of lights after the inclement weather; however, the Year of the Family "Meet and Greet" Social rallied almost 300 youth and adults.

Even Santa Claus stopped by to take pictures with the youth as well as some of those young at heart.

The Office on Youth, also, was excited to announce at the event that the agency had reached its goal of getting 1000 families to sign their "Pledge for Stronger Families" in support of the 2010 Year of the Family Campaign.

During the Meet and Greet Social, Holiday Committee members recognized the winners of the Grand Illumination of Lights for their participation in this year's Light Competition. The winners were: Residential – Harold Jones' Family, Business - Johnson Brothers and California Crossing-Rt. 10 East.

The county believes that the Christmas Parade would have been a tremendous success and thanks all of the organizations, businesses, and churches who had worked so hard on their parade entries. Surry County Parks and Recreation reported nearly 40 entries were scheduled to be a part of this year's parade. Citizens are asked to plan now because a 2011 parade is definitely in the making!



(L to R) Jason Wiedel, Edward Farmer, Linda Guntharp, Del. William Barlow, Congressman Bobby Scott, Pastor Daniel Baltimore, George Fauntleroy, and Anthony Washington.



Ervin Jones making presentation to Mr. Harold Jones.

Employee Profile:

Sonia Beatty is married to Henry Louis Beatty, Jr. and has two children, Ashanti (15) and Henry, III (12). Sonia has been employed by the County since 1984. In November of 2009 Sonia began a weight loss program and has lost 65 pounds so far! Her goal is to lose another 20 pounds before starting a maintenance program. Sonia suggests the following:

- **Count Calories:** keep a notebook and allow 1,200 to 1,600 calories per day
- **Read Food Labels:** this helps control portion sizes as most packaged foods contain more than one serving
- **Change Eating Habits:** eating every 2 or 3 hours actually prevents overeating. Six small meals each day enhances metabolism and keeps you from feeling hungry.
- **Drink Water:** try to drink 8 glasses of water daily
- **Exercise:** start slow and build up to an hour or more each day.



Other Employee News

Congratulations: Miss Mary Elmer, daughter of Billie Jean Elmer, returned home from studying in Australia and will resume her studies at VA Tech. as a junior this year.

Congratulations: Ms. Tracey Terry will begin as Chief Animal Control Officer in January.

Congratulations: Mr. Gerald Poindexter was blessed with twin grandsons in January.

Condolences: Mrs. Louise Franklin, grandmother of Mr. Tyrone Franklin, passed recently. Services were conducted on Friday, January 7, 2011.



Exercise and Stress: Get Moving to Combat Stress

Exercise increases your overall health and your sense of well-being. But exercise also has some direct stress-busting benefits. It helps relieve tension and improves your mood. Here are some things to keep in mind as you consider starting an exercise program in the New Year:

- Consult with your doctor before beginning a fitness program
- Build your fitness level gradually
- Pick an activity you enjoy
- Carve out time to exercise everyday and make it a priority
- Set some goals
- Exercise with a friend

Birthdays & Years of Service

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Jan 3 Pamela Flowers	Jan 19 Stanley Jones	Mar 4 LaJeune Stone	Mar 15 Michael Bailey
Jan 4 Virginia Gary	Jan 21 Karen Holloway	Mar 16 Judith Robinson	Mar 22 Sherri Thomas
Jan 7 Benita Veiga	Feb 2 Dearyl Anderson	Mar 27 Raynard Shears	Mar 30 Roderick Barbee
Jan 12 Mary Shaw	Feb 15 Ervin Jones	Mar 31 Gwendolyn Brown	
Jan 13 Rhonda Mack	Feb 18 Robert Hill		
Jan 13 Lucille Epps	Feb 21 Vita Caine		
Jan 15 Robin Eley	Feb 21 Steven Blount		
John Edwards	Feb 24 Carol Serviss		
	Feb 25 Joan Brown		

Years of Service with Surry County:

Gail Clayton 11 years	Gerald Poindexter 40 years
Elizabeth Collier 20 years	Nancy Ray 7 years
John B. Edwards, Jr. 4 years	Melissa Rollins 16 years
Robin Eley 17 years	Onike Ruffin 9 years
Linda Ellis 32 years	Sharon Scott 29 years
Glynis Epps 9 years	Vernon Scott 5 years
Jonathan Judkins 3 years	
Deborah Nee 11 years	
Sandra Pierce 9 years	

Congratulations!



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*Don't forget
your sweetheart on
Valentine's Day!*



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

**MOTIVATIONAL
THOUGHT**

*"In the absence of
clearly defined goals,
we become strangely
loyal to performing
daily acts of trivia."*

-Author Unknown

Driving safely on icy roads:

- Decrease your speed and leave yourself plenty of room to stop. You should allow at least three times more space than usual between you and the car in front of you.
- Brake gently to avoid skidding. If your wheels start to lock up, ease off the brake.
- Turn on your lights to increase your visibility to other motorists.
- Keep your lights and windshield clean.
- Use low gears to keep traction, especially on hills.
- Don't use cruise control or overdrive on icy roads.
- Be especially careful on bridges, overpasses and infrequently traveled roads, which will freeze first. Even at temperatures above freezing, if the conditions are wet, you might encounter ice in shady areas or on exposed roadways like bridges.
- Don't pass snow plows and sanding trucks. The drivers have limited visibility, and you're likely to find the road in front of them worse than the road behind.
- Don't assume your vehicle can handle all conditions. Even four-wheel and front-wheel drive vehicles can encounter trouble on winter roads.

Calendar of Events:

- | | |
|----------|------------------------------|
| Jan. 1 | New Year's Day |
| Jan. 14 | Lee-Jackson Day* |
| Jan. 17 | Martin Luther King, Jr. Day* |
| Feb. 14 | Valentine's Day |
| Feb. 21 | President's Day* |
| March 13 | Daylight Saving Time Begins |
| March 17 | St. Patrick's Day |

**Offices are closed*

BUDGET CALENDAR FY 11-12

(Subject to change)

Date	Item	Time
January 6, 2011	Board of Supervisors Budget Planning Session	6:00 P.M.
February 7-9, 2011	Scheduled Meeting with County Administrator on Proposed Budget Issues	TBA
February 17, 2011	Board of Supervisors Budget Work Session #1	6:00 P.M.
February 18, 2011	Due Date – Departmental Budgets and Revenue Projections	5:00 P.M.
March 17, 2011	Preliminary Budget Presentations: School Division, General Government and Social Services	7:00 P.M.
March 21-23, 2011	Department Meetings on Recommended Budget	TBA
April 7, 2011	Public Hearing on School Division Budget County Administrator Presents FY11-12 Proposed Budget	7:00 P.M.
April 21, 2011	Board of Supervisors Budget Work Session #2	6:00 P.M.
May 5, 2011	Action on FY11-12 School Budget	7:00 P.M.
May 19, 2011	Public Hearing on FY 11-12 Consolidated Budget	7:00 P.M.
May 26, 2011	Final Work Session #3	6:00 P.M.
June 2, 2011	Action on FY 11-12 Budget	7:00 P.M.