

SURRY COUNTY EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

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A Message from the Chairman Of the Board of Supervisors:

I want to let you know how proud my colleagues and I are of the many accomplishments that were made during the past year.

As we approach the holiday season, we want to bid you all best wishes. This is the time to share with family and friends in your individual traditions. The Board of Supervisors would like to wish you a safe and enjoyable Holiday season.

You continue to keep our slogan "Surry is Something Special" alive.

Reginald O. Harrison

Message from the County Administrator



To the Employees of Surry County:

The decline in our economy will more than likely adversely impact the local operating budget. Yet, the demand for Surry County to provide programs and services to meet a specific community need will remain constant or increase over time. To meet these demands for continued service delivery, great opportunities exist for the county to build partnerships with churches, civic organizations and entities in the public /private sector. By combining our resources in a collaborative effort, we can be proactive in achieving our goals in lieu of budgetary constraints.

A good example of community collaboration would be the recent partnership of Crater Workforce Development, Surry County Social Services Department and Surry County Government with the establishment of the Surry County Employment Resource Center. The primary purpose of the center will be to provide employment services and educational job skills training programs to improve the quality of the county's local work force. The facility will be located on the grounds of the historic courthouse and will begin operation by January 2011.

*The holiday season is quickly approaching; at this time I would like to take this opportunity to wish each Surry County employee a very **Merry Christmas** and a **joyous and prosperous New Year!** Surry County is truly "Something Special".*

This is the third and final issue for 2010.

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

December 15th for Jan-Mar 2011 issue
March 15th for Apr-June 2011 issue

Surry County named one of "100 Best Communities for Young People"



Surry County was recently named one of the nation's "100 Best Communities for Young People" by America's Promise Alliance and ING, a global financial services company.

The "100 Best" designation recognizes those communities that make youth a priority by implementing programs that help keep children in school and prepare them for college and the 21st century workforce. The competition is open to all communities that make children and youth a priority, including small towns, large cities, counties and school districts. In addition to enhancing local educational opportunities, most winning communities have taken steps to facilitate improved access to health care for its young people, encourage youth civic engagement and supply developmental resources that create better places for young people to live and grow.

"Through its innovative and far-reaching programs, Surry County is taking bold and effective steps to help their young people graduate and lead healthy, productive lives," said Marguerite W. Kondracke, America's Promise Alliance president and CEO. "Surry County serves as an example to inspire and educate other communities across the nation to tackle the challenges facing their city and children, and to implement initiatives that give them the essential resources they need to succeed in life."

"I am extremely proud that Surry County has been recognized for this outstanding achievement," said Mr. Reginald Harrison, Surry County Board of Supervisors Chairman. "Our Schools, our quality of life, our family-oriented community (a village) . . . all contribute to the success of raising our children."

On September 21, 2010, Surry County and the other winners spanning 37 states were recognized at a ceremony in front of the Washington Monument on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

Pictured L to R: Spencer Logan, Sopenhia Pierce, Tyrone Franklin, LaJuene Stone, Benita Veiga and Linda Gholston.



Employee Profiles

Mrs. Sopenhia Pierce has served as the Director of the Surry County Office on Youth for almost 13 years. Under her direction, the office has implemented numerous locally-driven programs and several state and federally funded grant programs. She is a trained facilitator of several researched based curriculums that are aimed at helping youth and families to reduce risk factors while improving protective factors/developmental assets. She has spoken and facilitated programs in Surry as well as within the Hampton Roads and Crater Region; some of which have gained state and national attention. Sopenhia holds a Bachelor's of Arts Degree in Sociology- Administration of Justice from Virginia State University. She serves on almost a dozen local, state, and regional boards and committees. In the near future, Sopenhia plans to pursue a Masters Degree in Public Administration and/or Counseling. She enjoys her job and is blessed to have a hardworking staff and dedicated volunteers to assist her with helping to make "Surry One on the Best Communities in the Nation".

Benita Veiga serves as the Administrative Assistant to the Surry County Office on Youth, Comprehensive Service Act (CSA) Coordinator, and is also the Super User for Virginia Child and Adolescent and Strengths Assessment (CANS) for Surry Locality. She has been employed with the county for almost 12 years. Her other duties with the county include serving as staff support to the Public Information Officer for Emergency Services, Adult Secretary for Community Builders Network, and occasionally she assists with various programs and provides support during special events.



Employee Profiles Continued:

LaJeune Stone has been working with the Office on Youth since April 2001 as the Program Coordinator. She is responsible for coordination of the majority of the Office on Youth programs and provides oversight and delivery of services for the Proud Fathers' Program, all of the elementary and middle school safety and mentoring programs, and the agency's parenting/caregiver support programs. She has had extensive training in Advancing Youth Development (AYD) Best Curriculum and is a certified trainer in AYD as well as several other researched based curriculums.

Spencer Logan, Sr. is a retired Navy veteran, married with three children and pastor of Hope Chapel Deliverance Center. He works with youth in various capacities such as Community Outreach "Camp Hope", Program Coordinator for the Surry Teen Evening Program, and as a Youth Counselor under the Crater Regional Workforce Act Program. Mr. Logan has been trained as a youth worker in the following: the Advancing Youth Development (AYD), SafeDATES, Domestic Violence Prevention and Youth Advocacy Training.

Linda Gholston is a Youth Counselor with the Office on Youth. She has assisted the agency for over 5 years as a Parent Volunteer. She was hired as a Full-time, temporary employee in July 2010. Some of her duties include overseeing and case managing the Surry Youth Employment Program and providing support services to youth ages 14 to 21. Since employed with the Office on Youth, she has worked with numerous programs and also has attended training sessions for several of these programs.

Other Employee News

Sheriff's Department:

Deputy Roy Lane has returned from deployment in Iraq. Along with welcoming him back to the Sheriff's Department, we also welcome back Deputy Michael Keith and two new Sheriff's Deputies: Mr. Roderick Barbee and Mr. Carlos Turner.

October 2010 – Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Be aware of any change in your breast or underarm area. If you notice a lump or knot, any change in size or shape, skin changes, discharge, or if you experience pain that does not go away, you should make an appointment with your health care provider immediately.

Resources:

You can receive information about mammograms and clinical breast exams by contacting the following organizations:

Susan G. Komen for the Cure
1-877-465-6636
www.komen.org

American Cancer Society
1-800-227-2345
www.cancer.org

National Cancer Institute's Cancer Information Service
1-800-422-6237
www.cancer.gov

Birthdays & Years of Service



BIRTHDAYS:

James Smith	Oct. 1
Linda Ellis	Oct 3
Mary Lynne Hayes	Oct. 9
Jonathan Judkins	Oct. 14
Rudy Mason	Oct. 27
Wanda Pittman	Nov. 1
Shelle Switzer	Nov. 2
Sharon Scott	Nov. 8
Stacey Williams	Nov. 11
Gail Clayton	Nov. 12
Deborah Nee	Nov. 23
Sophenia Pierce	Nov. 28
Sonia Beatty	Dec. 6
Marta Terry	Dec. 7
Devida Wheeler	Dec. 11
James Joyner	Dec. 14
Fannie Thompson	Dec. 20
Angela Blount	Dec. 20
Sandra Pierce	Dec.26
Glynis Epps	Dec. 30



Years of Service with Surry County

Michael Bailey	16 years
Sonia Beatty	26 years
Pat Bernshausen	1 year
Sheriff Clayton	29 years
Stanley Jones	3 years
Sheryl Newby	30 years
Sophenia Pierce	13 years
Michael Rawlings	1 year
Raynard Shears	8 years
Shellie Switzer	8 years
Sherri Tynes Thomas	3 years
Benita Veiga	12 years



Glynis S. Epps' wedding date was mistakenly listed as May 2010. It should have been June 4, 2010. Congratulations Glynis!



**DON'T FORGET
TO GET
YOUR ANNUAL
FLU SHOT.**

HELPFUL NOTES



The Top Eight Rules of Proper Cell Phone Etiquette at Work:

1. Turn your ringer OFF or set to “vibrate”.
2. Let unimportant calls go to voicemail.
3. When you must use your cell phone, find a private, quiet place to make your calls.
4. Don’t bring your cell phone to meetings.
5. Never use your cell phone in restrooms.
6. Eliminate embarrassing ring tones.
7. Maintain a low voice during cell phone conversations.
8. Use text messages instead of voice calls to maintain professionalism.

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

TODAY’S THOUGHT

“Success is not measured by what you accomplish but by the opposition you have encountered, and the courage with which you have maintained the struggle against overwhelming odds.”

Calendar of Events:

Oct. 8	Homecoming
Oct. 11	Columbus Day
Oct. 31	Halloween (Observed on Sat., Oct. 30 th)
Nov. 2	Special Election
Nov. 7	Daylight Saving Time Ends
Nov. 11	Veteran’s Day
Nov. 25	Thanksgiving (Offices close at noon on the 24 th , and remain closed on the 25 th and 26 th .)
Dec. 2	First Day of Hanukkah
Dec. 10	County Christmas Social
Dec. 11	Christmas Parade in the Town of Surry Community Celebration for “100 Best” Designation
Dec. 25	Christmas (Offices are closed on the 23 rd and 24 th .)
Dec. 26	Kwanzaa Begins
Dec. 31	New Year’s Eve

SURRY COUNTY EMPLOYEE BENEFITS PROGRAM

Retirement – VRS: Surry County pays 100% - Employee/Employer Share. Members are vested after five years. If you terminate prior to being vested or before retirement, you may be eligible to withdraw contributions made by the County on your behalf.

Life Insurance – VRS: Surry County pays 100% - Employee/Employer Share. Coverage is equal to doubled annual salary (rounded up to the next \$1,000). (Retirement and Life Insurance is mandatory for full-time salaried positions.)

Payroll Deductions
Virginia Credit Union
Deferred Compensation Plan
AFLAC

****Reminder:** please submit your wellness benefit form to AFLAC to receive your refund!**