



**SURRY COUNTY
COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER**



Surry County
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www.surrycountyva.gov

Surry County High School Homecoming & Parade



Show your "Surry Pride" at the
Surry County Homecoming Parade
3:00pm in the Town of Surry
Pre-Game Activities begin at 6:00pm
Followed by the game at 7:00pm
At the Surry County High School

A Message from the County Administrator

I personally want to thank employees who attended the recent professional development training entitled "Creating a High Performing Workforce". Your willingness to participate in this very important training opportunity is to be commended.

After the conclusion of each training, each group created a list of proposed recommendations for my review and consideration. The two lists that were generated highlighted some very important topics and issues of concern. Having the opportunity to listen to the two group presentations and carefully assessing the lists of recommendations, I will begin the process to immediately address these proposed recommendations.



I have identified the following as general areas of concern:

- **Safety and Security** - This is a top priority for the organization. Administration will be actively seeking ways to improve both the safety and security of all County facilities. It is our goal to have some solid recommendations regarding actions that can be taken as soon as possible.
- **Focus Group for Interdepartmental Communications** - Within the next two months it is a goal to create a cross-departmental focus group that will meet and reach agreement on some proposed strategies and actions that will help improve interdepartmental communications and relations. The focus group will consist of employees, including department heads and supervisors, representing the various departments.
- **Employee Incentives and Appreciation Day** - It is my goal to request that the focus group formulate effective recommendations to increase or improve employee incentives that will not place an undue burden on the management of the organization. It also will be the task of the focus group to examine ways to sponsor an Employee Appreciation Day, or similar activity, that will help increase employee participation and morale.

Again, thank you for the encouraging feedback and recommendations. As we move forward to improve our workforce and the delivery of services, I will keep you informed regarding progress. County Administration is making every effort to address your recommendations and concerns.

Surry County Core Values



SURRY COUNTY LEADERSHIP TEAM STATEMENT OF CORE VALUES

Surry County department heads have established and affirmed expectations of service to our customers. We commit to the following **CORE VALUES**:

Professional:

We will display respect and high ethical standards when providing services to the community.

Ethical:

We will serve as respectful and responsible stewards of resources while maintaining the public trust through inclusiveness, fairness and diversity.

Accountable:

We will accept obligations for decisions such as fiscal resources/management.

We will be transparent in sharing appropriate information.

We will exercise good standards and responsible business practices.

We will demonstrate professional and personal responsibility, while supporting each other.

Knowledgeable:

We will commit to best practices, continuing education and professional growth opportunities for all employees.

We will share our expertise with all customers.

We will provide accurate information to our customers.

At the July 3, 2015 meeting of the Surry County Board of Supervisors, Finance Director, Ms. Terri Hale, informed the Board that the Surry County Leadership Team had developed a Statement of Core Values. The Leadership Team was composed of all County Department Heads, including the County's constitutional officers, and had worked under the leadership of Mr. Derius Swinton of the SOAR Group to develop the Core Values to serve as the philosophical basis for County operations.

Since the July meeting, all County Department Heads have signed off on a ceremonial copy of the Statement of Core Values, and it has been accepted by the County Administrator, Mr. Tyrone W. Franklin.

The document will be displayed in the Surry County Government Center.

Progress in Tourism

In the fall of 2013, Surry County had very limited tourism marketing exposure and no established branding. As a result, Surry County and its tourism partners submitted a grant application to the Virginia Tourism Corporation's Marketing Leverage Grant Program in October 2013. After receiving notification of a grant award in the amount of \$50,000 in December, 2013, staff began work towards accomplishing the goal of establishing a brand for the County that would visually provide a positive and attracting image for potential visitors.

A professional brand study was conducted in 2014 followed by the development of a tourism logo and recommendations for a pilot marketing plan, which has been implemented. During the eighteen month grant cycle the County also launched a tourism website and a facebook page dedicated to general announcements, tourism and the newly established farmers market.

One of the expected outcomes of the program was to see an increase in tourism visitation of 10%. However, based on reports submitted by Chippokes State Park, Bacon's Castle and Smith's Fort in July of 2015, growth in visitation numbers has exceeded 30% as compared to attendance figures previous to January, 2014.

Additionally, the new Surry County Welcome Center is expected to be completed before the end of 2015 and will further enhance the County's continuing tourism initiatives.

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<https://www.facebook.com/SurryCountyVa>

Circuit Court Records Restoration Grant



Surry County is unique in that it has preserved and protected all of its original records since its establishment in 1652. Holding fast to that tradition, current Circuit Court Clerk, Ms. Gail P. Clayton, recently announced to the Surry County Board of Supervisors the receipt of grant funding in the amount of \$26,225 which is earmarked to restore six volumes: General Index to Deeds, Vol. 1 (1848-1898); General Index to Deeds, Vol. 2 (1898-1913); Deed Book 13 (1848-1856); Wills & C, Vol. 13 (1830-1834); Plat Book 4 (1905-1940); and Plat Book 5 (1946-1958).

Ms. Clayton further reported that by participating in the Virginia Circuit Court Records Preservation Program since 2005 Surry County had achieved restoration of numerous maps and volumes totaling over \$220,000 in grant funding.

November 3, 2015 Local Elections

Clerk of Circuit Court

Gail Clayton
Janeen Jackson
Tom Mayes

Commissioner of the Revenue

Deborah Nee

Commonwealth's Attorney

Derek Davis
Henry Thompson

Member, Board of Supervisors

Bacon's Castle District - Judy Lyttle
Carsley District - Kenneth Holmes
Claremont District - Giron Wooden, Sr.
Dendron District - Ernest Blount
Michael Drewry
Surry District - John Seward

Member, School Board

Bacon's Castle District - Elsie Dennis
Carsley District - Marion Wilkins
Claremont District - Laura Ruffin
Dendron District - Audrey Byrd
Surry District - Harold Jones

Local elections take place in Surry County on Tuesday, November 3, 2015. Polls will be open at 6:00 am and will close at 7:00pm. Candidates for election are listed by office to the left and below:

Sheriff

Christopher Bailey
Michael Bailey
Jonathan Beale
Carlos Turner

Soil and Water Conservation Director (Peanut District)

Jerry Rogers
E. Keith Seward

Treasurer

Faye Warren

For more information on voter registration, polling locations and absentee voting, contact the Registrar's Office at 757-294-5213 or visit the County website at:

<http://www.surrycountyva.gov/departments/registrar/election-november-3,-2015>



The Surry Farmers Market Special Event

**Friday, October 23, 2015
From 2:00pm—5:30pm**

**Join us for more
Homecoming excitement!**

**Entertainment by
Go-Go George Fauntleroy**

**Prize drawings will be held
throughout the event.**



**Prepared foods in addition to
produce, meats, baked goods,
honey, crafts and much,
much more!**

The Surry County Christmas Event



A family celebration full of fun!

“ A Visit with Santa ”

**Saturday, December 5, 2015
10:00am**

**Surry County Community Center
205 Enos Farm Drive**

Games * Refreshments * Prizes

**Kids of all ages are welcome
to have their pictures
taken with Santa!***

***(subject to photographer's fees)**

For more information, please call (757) 294-3044

Meet our Staff: Commissioner of the Revenue



The Commissioner of the Revenue is elected by the citizens every four years and is responsible for the assessment of all real estate in the County and for the maintenance and retention of accurate property records.

The Commissioner works with the reassessment firm during annual real estate assessments. The office prepares information for the Personal Property tax book and provides assessments on all vehicles, boats, mobile homes, trailers, etc.; and assists the public with preparation of state income tax filing; issues and maintains business licenses; coordinates income tax relief for the elderly; prepares and maintains information for land records and other duties.

Commissioner of the Revenue, Mrs. Deborah J. Nee has received certification through the Commissioners of the Revenue Association of Virginia and Weldon Cooper as a Master Commissioner of the Revenue. Mr. Jonathan F. Judkins has also received certification as a Master Deputy Commissioner of the Revenue. Mrs. Therese Bailey, who joined the Commissioner's staff in September, 2014, is currently working towards her certification also.

Real Estate Reassessment and Tax Payments

Wingate Appraisal Service of Roanoke, Virginia was awarded a contract for real estate reassessment by the Surry County Board of Supervisors at their March 2015 meeting. Their field teams are currently at work in Surry County performing the reassessment of real estate. The reassessed values will go into effect in January 2016.

Invoices for Real Estate Taxes and Personal Property Taxes are expected to be mailed out in mid-October and will be due to the Surry County Treasurer by December 5, 2015. For your convenience, the Treasurer's Office has installed a drop box to receive tax payments before and after hours. The drop box is located in the parking area behind the Surry County Government Center near the Sheriff's Department entrance.

Citizens using the drop box to submit payments are advised to include a check, certified check or money order in a sealed envelope with payment stub, or clearly indicate name, address and contact number of the taxpayer along with information detailing account/bill number where payment should be credited. **The Treasurer's Office will not be responsible for cash payments deposited in the drop box.** The drop box is provided for payments to the Surry County Treasurer's Office only. Please contact the Treasurer's Office at 757-294-5206 for more information about the drop box or tax payments.

Surry County Administrative Office
45 School Street
P.O. Box 65
Surry, VA 23883

Calendar of Events

October 12 - Columbus Day *

October 23 - Homecoming

October 31 - Halloween

November 3 - Election Day *

November 11 - Veteran's Day *

November 25-27 - Thanksgiving Holiday *

November 26 - Thanksgiving

December 5 - Community Christmas Social

December 22 - First Day of Winter

December 23 - Dominion Siren Test

December 23-25 - Christmas Holiday *

December 25 - Christmas

December 31 - New Year's Eve

* County Offices Closed

Submissions

If you wish to submit news or corrections, please provide the information to the Surry County Administrative Office by calling 294-5271.

