



TOWN OF APPOMATTOX VIRGINIA

VOL 1, ISSUE 1

CITIZEN UPDATE

SUMMER, 2009

A Message From Mayor, Paul D. Harvey



Hello to all you town folk of Appomattox and welcome to our first newsletter from the Town Council and town staff. Thanks to Ms. Jennifer Jamerson-Scruggs and the Fire and Safety committee for initiating this and to all the staff who helped put this together. We hope that you will find the newsletter informative of the council actions and staff activities.

The council has recently hired a Town Manager and a Director of Tourism both of whom will be profiled in the newsletter. Council is also working to hire a Town Treasurer. Council recently adopted a Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan and has approved action to initiate the process of becoming a Tree City USA which is an Arbor Day Foundation Program.

Repairs have started at the wastewater plant on Ethel Street and council and staff have submitted proposals to do much needed infrastructure improvements on water and sewer lines using our portion of the STAG grant. Wal-mart has gotten its building permit and construction should begin soon.

The Appomattox Railroad Festival committee has begun to meet and we are looking for any volunteers willing to help – past and new. Taking over co-chairperson duties are Will Simmons and Roxanne Paulette and town staff will increase their involvement. I want to offer a huge note of appreciation to Dean Thompson who served as

committee chair for the last several years. Dean and his committee worked diligently and tirelessly to make the festival successful and we are very excited that Dean has agreed to stay as vice – chair to offer his experience to help the festival continue to grow and be even greater.

I hope you all have a great summer, enjoy the fireworks and be sure to attend the Lion’s Club Food Festival in August.

Sincerely,
Paul D. Harvey
Mayor

Town Sponsoring Fourth of July Fireworks



In celebration of our nation’s independence, Appomattox Town Council and staff invite you to bring the family and enjoy a spectacular fireworks display Saturday, July 4th.

Festivities are scheduled to begin at 9:00 pm at the Appomattox County High School parking lot with the singing of the national anthem by McKinley Cardwell. Shortly thereafter, the fireworks will launch from Cole’s farm across from the high school.

ACHS Cheerleaders will be wandering the parking lot selling glow necklaces and bracelets as a fundraiser.

Please do not bring any alcohol onto school grounds.

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Did You Know?

Through May of this year, Appomattox Visitor Center attendance is up 15.8% over the same time last year.

Meet The Town's New Manager, Bart S. Van Nieuwenhuse



A Message From The Town Manager

The position of Town Manager gives me the opportunity to serve the citizens of Appomattox in a direct manner. I have spent most of my career in the public sector. The privilege of serving citizens is rooted in my belief that one should aspire to serving fellow citizens in a positive manner. I hope to put my experience to work for you in providing the best service in the most economical way.

The responsibility and authority of my position is vested in me to serve your needs and the path to which your elected officials determine to be in your best interest. I desire to be active in all aspects of the community and to help guide the Town in a progressive manner. I hope to see you at annual events such as the Railroad Festival and others to participate in things that make Appomattox a great place to live.

I appreciate the confidence of the Town Council in choosing me to be your Town Manager. I look forward in representing the citizens of Appomattox in the affairs of governmental services. If you have any concern, please do not hesitate to call my office.

I started the position of Town Manager on April 27, 2009. It is a privilege and honor to have been chosen to lead the Town of Appomattox. It was an easy decision to come to Appomattox with the fact that I am a native Virginian and have relatives living in the area. I was born in Quantico and grew up in Virginia Beach. I graduated from Bayside High School in 1977 and Old Dominion University in 1983.

My career has been a journey of experience. The first two years was spent working for the City of Chesapeake as a site plan review and small project design engineer. The next phase of my career was six years with engineering consulting firms designing commercial, residential, institutional and municipal projects.

The next segment of the journey was spent in Elizabeth City North Carolina as Assistant and Public Works Director for almost ten years. The experience gained included water and waste water treatment, streets, fleet maintenance, solid waste, and utility systems. The two largest projects that I worked on from conception to completion were the Water & Wastewater Capital Improvement Project and the Water and Sewer Extension Annexation Project. These projects together represented a \$32 million investment on the part of the City's utility customers.

The fourth portion of my career was spent as Public Works Director for Opelika Alabama. The management experience gained included building maintenance, building inspection, cemeteries, fleet maintenance, grounds keeping, solid waste, and streets. The greatest aspect of this segment was my involvement in community events and organizations. I gained a tremendous amount of knowledge in participating in endeavors with the Chamber,

Exchange Club, Humane Society, Tree Board, Planning Commission, Main Street, Envision Opelika, and Keep Opelika Beautiful. This experience included being a member of the board and officer of these organizations.

The most recent public sector portion of my journey was the position of Assistant City Manager and Public Works Director of McAlester Oklahoma. This experience included managing every aspect of municipal government ranging from public safety to economic development. I spent a ten month period performing the duties of my position along with all the duties of City Manager and Treasurer positions. I managed a city workforce of 238 and an annual budget of \$30 million.

The last segment of my experience prior to accepting the Town Manager's position was running my own company Maverick Consulting, LLC. I worked on a multi-million dollar housing rehabilitation project for Mobile County Hurricane Katrina Relief. I performed housing condition evaluations for over 900 structures. I also worked on a waterfront development project in Elizabeth City.

Again, I am honored to put this experience to work for you the citizens of Appomattox. I look forward to working with the entire community in making Appomattox a great place to live.

Railroad Festival News

Planning has begun for the 37th annual Historic Appomattox Railroad Festival to be held October 10-11.

If you are interested in volunteering or need an application to be a vendor, please call the Town Office at (434) 352-8268

Town Hires New Tourism Director



Will Simmons, the new Director of Tourism, comes to Appomattox after ten years experience as Research Director with the Virginia Tourism Corporation in Richmond. He holds a B.S. in Recreation, Parks and Tourism from Virginia Commonwealth University. Will's passion for travel has taken him to nearly all 50 states as well to the U.K. and Europe. His most recent adventure took him to the Grand Canyon where he hiked 40 miles over 4 days through primitive desert terrain. Will's primary goal for Appomattox is for it to become recognized as one of the crown jewels of tourism in Virginia. To reach this goal he is working on a comprehensive plan for tourism to include an assessment of the current tourism environment, a cohesive, branded advertising and marketing strategy and a plan for sustainable growth.

Capital Improvements Update

Current Projects

The Town is currently upgrading the SBR Wastewater Treatment Facility to address construction concerns due to the original work done to the plant. The expenditure for this endeavor is approximately \$600,000 and is being funded through proceeds from a court settlement.

Future Projects

The Town has developed preliminary engineering descriptions for numerous small water line improvements and sewer rehabilitation projects. These projects include the following areas:

<u>Water Projects:</u>	<u>Line Size</u>	<u>Linear Feet</u>
Martha Street	8" & 6" lines	1,055 LF & 385 LF
Lucy Street	8" line	1,500 LF
Ethel Street Phase 1	8" line	1,500 LF
Ethel Street Phase 2	8" line	1,000 LF
Patricia Ann Lane	6" line	1,450 LF
100,000 gallon tank	10" line	550 LF
<u>Sewer Projects:</u>	<u>Line Size</u>	<u>Linear Feet</u>
Pine Street	8" line	900 LF
Edgewood Street	8" line	900 LF
Martha Street	8" line	1,050 LF
Plant Drive	8" line	750 LF
Lombardy Street	8" line	530 LF
Dogwood Street	8" line	260 LF
Lucy Street	10" & 6" lines	120 LF & 70 LF
Fleshman Street	6" line	210 LF
Patricia Ann Lane	8" line	1,670 LF

The funding for 80% of these projects is proposed to come from STAG funding and the Town's match of \$400,000 for a total of \$882,150. The total cost for all the projects is estimated at \$1,123,125.

Did You Know?

16,283 visitors went though the Visitor's Center on Main Street in 2008.

178,748 visitors went to the Appomattox Court House National Historical Park.

Recent Tourism Developments

- The Tourism Department hosted two familiarization tours for groups of tourism industry professionals to become better acquainted with sites in Appomattox and the surrounding region.

The first group consisted of state highway welcome center travel counselors from the Virginia Tourism Corporation. These participants spent three days visiting sites in Appomattox, Lynchburg, Amherst,

Campbell, and Bedford.

The second group was a behind-the-scenes tour of the Appomattox Court House National Historical Park and organized in conjunction with the National Park Service.

- The Town and County are in the process of updating the Appomattox Visitors Guide. The guide is used to fulfill requests for travel information and promotes tourism-related

business in Appomattox.

New guides should be available in early July. If you would like a copy of the new guide for friends or relatives visiting the area, please stop by the Visitor Information Center at 214 Main St. for a free copy.

- Appomattox has a Facebook page and you are invited to become a fan. Post pictures, leave comments, and stay up-to-date on local events.

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