



City of Winchester

NEWS

Volume 3, Issue 1

www.winchesterva.gov

Summer 2006

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Mayor

Elizabeth Minor 667-1815
mayoreminor@ci.winchester.va.us

Council Members

Charles Gaynor, President 667-4253

South Ward

Stephen Bauserman 667-4272
Glen Burke 722-2087
Michael Butler 662-4640
Timothy Coyne 722-3450
Stewart Masters 662-4337

North Ward

Jeffrey Buettner 667-3211
Carolyn Griffin 662-6540
Richard Helm 665-0360
Rick Nelson 450-1270
Philip Pate 667-5431
Theodora Rezba 869-3319

City Manager

Ed Daley 667-1815

Rouss City Hall

15 North Cameron Street 667-1815
Winchester, VA 22601 TDD 722-0782
www.winchesterva.gov FAX 722-3618

In June 2005, the City of Winchester was recognized by the National Civic League as an All-America City because of its innovative programs, partnerships and community involvement. It's one thing to receive the award; it's another to continue this standard of excellence year after year. The City is working hard to continue moving forward by solving issues and offering more quality services to the community. So, what has the City been doing since this time last year? Plenty! This newsletter offers many articles detailing how the City of Winchester is growing, adapting, and changing to continue being a community of choice for thousands of people.

Below is a list of what's happening in your All-America City:

- Created an Office of Housing and Neighborhood Development in 2005 facilitate the creation and development of safe, decent, affordable and accessible housing; promote opportunities for self-sufficiency and self-improvement; and encourage participation in building stable, thriving neighborhoods that collectively make our community home. *See page 8.*
- Allocated annual Community Development Block Grant monies to help fund homeownership programs, and owner-occupied and renter-occupied housing rehabilitation projects. *See page 8.*
- Continued active partnership with Our Health and plan to relocate the Winchester Department of Social Services to the new Phase II health and human services campus on North Cameron Street (when complete).
- Improved neighborhood parks. Completed in 2005: Whittier Park.
- Organized more FREE recreational, creative and art activities for children and adults of all ages. *See page 5.*
- Continued raising money for charity. *See page 6.*
- Offered more information in Spanish. *See page 9 & 11.* A bi-lingual Community Outreach Coordinator was hired to be a liaison for all under-represented populations.
- Restructured City council and the election process in order to provide for better representation. *See page 4.*
- Reorganized City departments in order to better relate to City Council Committees. *See page 12.*
- Beautified the City and improve the safety of infrastructure (Town Run Project and Corridor Enhancement). *See page 11.*
- Updated recruitment strategies in order to hire the best quality police officers, firefighters, EMTs and personnel. *See page 3 and 9.*
- Finding new revenue sources to fund projects and improvements (EMS Fee for Service). *See page 9.*

For more information about these projects and more, contact the appropriate division or the newsletter editor, Amy Simmons, at 533-0603 or asimmons@ci.winchester.va.us.

"Providing quality services to our citizens in a cost-effective, efficient, and courteous manner, while anticipating the future needs of our community."

City Council Opens Doors for 18 Handley Seniors

At the September 6, 2005 Council work session, Council President Charles Gaynor announced that he felt that no child should have the "doors of opportunity close on them simply because they could not afford to attend college after high school". At that time, there were approximately 33 students in the Class of 2005 that would have qualified for the scholarship. The administrators at John Handley High School did not expect the numbers of eligible students to change for 2006. At that work session, all councilors agreed that the proposed scholarship program was an excellent opportunity to impact the lives of a number of children and their families and that Council should get the program started as soon as possible.

In May 2006, City Council members awarded college scholarships to eighteen deserving Handley seniors so that they may have the opportunity to attend college. The scholarship pays the recipients' tuition and fees at Lord Fairfax Community College (LFCC) for one semester. If they receive at least a 2.00 grade point average, they will be awarded further scholarship money to attend a second semester. Dr. Joyner, Handley High School Principal said of this scholarship opportunity: "We deeply appreciate City Council's commitment to our graduates. They present an extraordinary opportunity and a challenge to the recipients to fulfill their potential. This innovative approach supports deserving students and certainly will generate constructive results for our community. We look forward to the current and future recipients exceeding our expectations for success."

To qualify for the scholarship, the students must have:

- 1) attended Handley for at least 3 years;
- 2) been eligible for free or reduced lunch; and
- 3) completed all entrance requirements for LFCC (placement test and application).

Carmen Thompson, Handley Guidance Counselor said, "I spoke with each student individually and when I told them about the scholarship, their expression was heart-warming. They were all so shocked and grateful to the City for providing them with the opportunity to attend college."

Nathan Funk, one of the scholarship recipients, said, "I was very happy and overwhelmed to receive the scholarship and I know I can make the

grades to keep the scholarship for the second semester." Nathan had only thought about college when Ms. Thompson mentioned the City scholarship to him. He wasn't sure if college was even a possibility until he started looking into Lord Fairfax and heard more about the City scholarships. Now, Nathan wants to work toward a degree in broadcasting or business management.

Janae Robinson is a single mother who loves to take her daughter to the park and to hang out with friends. Janae is someone who knows what she wants and is very thankful to City Council for helping her get started on her Associates Degree in Education. After she receives the two-year degree from Lord Fairfax, she plans to transfer to James Madison University to continue working toward a teaching degree.

Corey Murph said he "appreciates City Council giving him the opportunity to get his college career started". Corey plans to get his two-year degree from Lord Fairfax in Business and Accounting and then transfer to Virginia State.

These are only three wonderful examples of the impact City Council has had on eighteen deserving and hard-working students that might not have had the opportunity to go to college if it weren't for the scholarship. Council believes strongly in empowering Winchester students to move forward and continue their education. This is why the City will be offering this scholarship for years to come so that they can continue making a difference in the lives Winchester's youth.

2006 Scholarship Recipients

Guadalupe Alvarado Acevedo
Lorenzo Avila
Robert Castro
Idalia Contreras
Daffini Evans
Jamie Funk
Nathan Funk
Deborah Gamat
Kathryn Harden
Anthony Hite
Tameshea Holmes
Santos Candelario Jose
Luke Libby
Corey Murph
Eugene Ogilvie
Janae Robinson
Faizan Sheikh
Kim Webster

Congratulations to all of this year's recipients and best of luck in the future!

City and Our Health Recognized

BETTER MODELS AWARD

Excellence in Design for Urban Infill -Amherst Street & Meadow Branch Avenue Area Plan, City of Winchester

This award, by Valley Conservation Council, honors the City and the developer for their roles in reaching a development design for a key infill site. The project will result in a mixed-use, walkable community, a focal point and gathering place in the western end of the city. Carefully designed for both function and aesthetics, the project includes elements of commercial, mixed use, and residential development along a boulevard, and development of the remaining section of Meadow Branch Blvd. The first product of the design is a new CVS Pharmacy being constructed at the intersection at Amherst Street and Meadow Branch Blvd. City staff is working closely with the developer on another CVS Pharmacy on Berryville Avenue.

OUR HEALTH AND CITY PARTNERSHIP HONORED

The City of Winchester recently won the Innovation Group 2006 Thomas H. Muehlenbeck Award for Excellence in Local Government for our partnership in the creation and maintenance of Our Health, Inc. The Our Health project was also honored with the 2006 International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Community Partnership Award.



Our Health is a non-profit organization that currently houses and helps sustain six local agencies including Healthy Families, United Way of Northern Shenandoah Valley, Literacy Volunteers, Concern Hotline, Child-Parent Center, and Free Medical Clinic at one downtown campus. Located at 329 North Cameron Street, Our Health offers a "one-stop" atmosphere for affordable health and human services for the area's underserved and uninsured individuals and families. Our Health will soon be expanding to be able to offer more educational, mental health, and human services. The Winchester Social Services Department will be relocating to the Our Health campus upon the completion of the new building.



Looking For Tomorrow's Leaders...TODAY



WINCHESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT
Continuously accepting applications for:
Uniform Patrol, Civilian Support Personnel, Emergency Communications
www.winchesterpolicy.org • (540) 545-4700 • Fax: (540) 542-1314



Searching For The Best

The Winchester Police Department (PD) understands that to continue keeping Winchester safe, the best officers with the right attitude are needed. Wanting to be able to adequately portray the local law enforcement careers and culture, the Winchester PD decided to update and improve the materials used in recruiting new officers and support personnel. A new table top display which includes photos of Winchester police officers at work can be taken to job fairs and other recruitment activities. New posters (see above) have been distributed to universities, organizations that help with job searches, and several other key locations. In addition, a new recruitment brochure was created to provide important law enforcement career information. These three marketing materials will help the department get noticed at job fairs, show its professionalism, and recruit the best officers to the City.

For more information, contact the Winchester Police Department at 545-4700.

Retired Fire Chief Volunteers in Hurricane Relief

Lynn Miller has been a public service professional for over forty years. After retiring in 2005, Mr. Miller has been serving as the City's Emergency Management Coordinator. After the hurricanes hit the south last year, Mr. Miller's help was requested to serve a deployment as a member of an Incident Management Team from Virginia to Cameron Parish, Louisiana working on hurricane recovery. Mr. Miller was "proud to have been considered and gladly accepted the deployment." Mr. Miller recounts his experience in Louisiana:

I arrived in Cameron Parish around dusk and stopped at a check point by National Guard Troops. The guardsman warned me that what I was going to see was unbelievable. I was told that Cameron had endured eight hours of winds of 120 mph and a storm surge of eighteen to twenty-five feet that rolled in from the gulf.

We were up at 5:00 AM the next morning and as we started our drive it became evident that I was not prepared for what I was about to see. There are no words to describe the destruction other than there was no longer a town of Cameron as the entire community had been reduced to the appearance of a disorganized junk yard. There was limited water, no sewage treatment and natural gas leaks were prevalent.

My initial duty was to gain as much knowledge as possible to insure a smooth transition of duties from the existing team to the relief team that was scheduled to arrive the next day. The

work days involved at least thirteen hours per day. The work, at times, was intense and frustrating as the task of response and recovery was so immense that progress appeared not to exist.

When I accepted the invitation to participate as a member of the Virginia Incident Management Team, I had no concept of what may be encountered. The devastation and

"I went to Cameron as a member of a team to be of assistance and to give my time and skills in the response/recovery efforts, but I came away with much more than I ever gave."

destruction I witnessed was more immense than any words or pictures could ever describe and exceed anything I could ever imagine. But the personal experiences with the people, witnessing their unrelenting resilience, appreciation, intestinal fortitude and optimism in the wake of Rita's destructive visit are almost beyond comprehension. Cameron Parish may be down but don't count them out due to the strength of the people. I have no doubt that Cameron will rise from the rubble and debris created by Hurricane Rita.

I went to Cameron as a member of a team to be of assistance and to give my time and skills in the response/recovery efforts, but I came away with much more than I ever gave. I was proud to be a member of one of the Incident Management Teams from Virginia and from Winchester and would gladly do it again.

Lynn Miller has devoted his entire adult life to helping others, and now, even in retirement, he continues to find ways to give back to the Winchester community and beyond.

Be Prepared to Help Yourself, Your Family, Your Neighbors, & Community in an Emergency or Disaster

If you live in Winchester or Frederick County, you are invited to become a member of the Community Emergency Response Team. Citizens who attend and complete the training program will meet the criteria to assist and support 1st responders during and after a major emergency or disaster situation. Classes will be held monthly based on the minimum and maximum class size. Please contact Lynn Miller at 667-1815 for more information.



2006 Council Elections

At the November 7, 2006 general election, the first phase of the city council reorganization (and size reduction) will take place as voters elect one councilor from each of the city's four new voting wards. This election will reduce council's size to 10 with a mayor-at-large. The First and Third Wards have two candidates each running for one seat. The Second and Fourth Wards have one candidate seeking the seat in each of those ward. Write-In candidates are allowed for this election.

Candidates whose names will appear on the November 7, 2006 ballot for City Council are as follows:

First Ward: *Jeffrey B. Buettner* (R) incumbent and *Philip E. Pate* (D) incumbent

Second Ward: *Evan H. Clark* (D)

Third Ward: *Vince A. Di Benedetto III* (R) and *Art H. Major* (D)

Fourth Ward: *Michael L. Butler* (R) incumbent

Incumbents not seeking re-election to City Council on November 7, 2006:

First Ward: *Theodora L. Rezba*, *Stephen Bauserman* and *Glen Burke*

The final stage of council's reorganization will take place in November of 2008 when one candidate will be elected to each of the City's four wards reducing council's size to eight councilors and a mayor-at-large.

New Ward Map Effective November 2006



GO VOTE!

November 7, 2006

Federal - Elect one member of the Senate and the 10th Congressional District member of the House of Representatives.

City - To elect four members of the Winchester City Council
In Virginia, the polls open at 6:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m.

GO REGISTER!

Citizens must be registered at their current residence address by 5:00 p.m. on October 10, in order to participate in this election. You may register in person from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Registrar's office located at 107 North East Lane or pick up a Virginia Voter Registration Application at any of the following sites (mail completed application to the Winchester Voter Registrar):

- Handley Regional Library - Piccadilly Street
- U.S. Post Office - 340 N. Pleasant Valley Road
- U.S. Post Office - 132 N. Loudoun Street (Mall)
- Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) - 4050 Valley Pike
- Winchester Social Services - 33 East Boscawen St.
- Military Recruitment Offices - 2220 Wilson Blvd.
- Social Security Office - 12 Ricketts Drive
- Rouss City Hall - 15 North Cameron Street
- Electronically, at <http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/cms>

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

For qualified voters, absentee ballots will be available approximately 45 days prior to the election. An Absentee Ballot Application must be completed before obtaining an absentee ballot. The last day to mail a ballot from the Registrar's office is October 31. The last day to vote an absentee ballot in person is November 4, at 5:00 p.m. The Voter Registration office is open the two Saturdays prior to the election for absentee voting.

NEW POLLING LOCATIONS

Due to the redistricting of Winchester's voting wards (effective January 1, 2006), Friendship and South End Fire Companies will no longer be utilized as polling places. Please check your new voter information card (mailed in March 2006), go to www.sbe.virginiagov/cms, or call the Registrar's office before the election to find your polling location. On election day, the Central Absentee Precinct will be located in the Community Room (3rd floor) of the Timbrook Public Safety Center. All City precincts and polling places are ADA accessible.

BRING YOUR ID!

All voters are required to show ID at the polls on election day. First time voters must bring a current and valid photo ID, any government document that shows your name and current address, or a current utility bill, bank statement, government check or paycheck that shows your name and current address. Voters who have previously voted in VA may use any form of government issued ID (ex: voter card, social security card, or driver's license), or employer picture ID.

CONTACT INFO & MAILING ADDRESS

Voter Registration • (540) 545-7910
City of Winchester • 107-A North East Lane • Winchester, VA 22601



<h2 style="text-align: center;">Winchester Parks & Recreation SPECIAL EVENTS CALENDAR</h2>		Sept. 29	Oct. 21
		<p>Senior's Fall Prom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dancing, twist contest, and couples dance contest • Refreshments • Door prizes and prize for best dressed <p>Location: War Memorial Building Time: 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Fee: FREE Ages: 55 years & up</p> <p><i>Call 662-4946 to register.</i></p>	<p>Halloween Scavenger Hunt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help Mr. Bones find his treasures • Prizes and fun • Refreshments <p>Location: Jim Barnett Park Time: 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Fee: \$2.00 per person Ages: 7-12 years</p> <p><i>Register by Friday, October 13. Call 662-4946.</i></p>
Oct. 21	27&28	Dec. 14	16
<p>Children's Halloween Party</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Light refreshments • Costume contest • Games and trick-or-treating <p>Location: War Memorial Building Time: 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Fee: FREE Ages: 3-6 years</p> <p><i>Register by October 13. Call 662-4946.</i></p>	<p>Halloween Haunted House</p> <p>Enter our Haunted House if you dare. For young and old, it will be a real scare.</p> <p>Location: War Memorial Building Time: 7:00 - 10:00 p.m. Fee: \$4.00 per person (6 yrs. & up) FREE (5 years & under)</p> <p><i>For additional information, call 662-4946.</i></p>	<p>Children's Holiday Party</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theme: Twelve Days of Christmas • Light refreshments • Story telling • Visit with Santa <p>Location: War Memorial Building Time: 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Fee: FREE Ages: 3-6 years</p> <p><i>Register by December 8. Call 662-4946.</i></p>	<p>Senior's Holiday Celebration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lots of fun to be had • Refreshments • Door prizes <p>Location: War Memorial Building Date: December 16 Time: 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Fee: FREE Ages: 55 years & up</p> <p><i>Call 662-4946 to register.</i></p>

Planning & Development Team Welcomes New Staff

The City's Planning & Development Team had several vacancies as a result of former Zoning Administrator, David Beniamino's resignation in April and former Planner I, Greg Bokan's resignation in February. Since that time, Planning Director, Tim Youmans, has been serving as acting Zoning Administrator. Will Moore, former Refuse & Recycling Director, was taking advantage of the City's Sabbatical Internship program and working for six months with the Planning Department when Boken resigned. At the end of his sabbatical, Moore was hired to replace Boken. As a Planner, Moore will be supporting all City staff members, as well as boards and commissions, involved in the planning and zoning processes.

Vincent Diem started as the City's new Zoning and Inspections Administrator on July 3. Helping him is the new Zoning Inspector, Aaron Grisdale. Before coming to Winchester, Diem served as Community Inspector and the Deputy Zoning Administrator for the town of Herndon. Diem also has experience in public safety, having been a police officer and volunteer firefighter. Grisdale is a native of Woodstock and recent graduate of the University of Virginia where he majored in Political Science. Together, the new zoning team will be responsible for: 1) interpreting, enforcing and administering Winchester's zoning ordinance; 2) reviewing building, sign, temporary trailer, and certificate of occupancy permits; and 3) working closely with the Planning Commission, Planning and Development Committee, the Board of Architectural Review, the Board of Zoning Appeals and the City's Housing and Neighborhood Development team.

Diem and Grisdale are currently learning about the City and studying the processes already in place. Diem has plenty of ideas and understands that the City is entering into a new phase of zoning where the following are needed for the department to evolve and become more customer-friendly and efficient:

- up-to-date policies and procedures for zoning enforcement;
- a tracking system for zoning complaints/concerns;
- more public outreach and marketing; and
- an easier way for the public and City employees to submit zoning comments or complaints.

For more information about Zoning, please call 667-1815 or visit the City's website at www.winchesterva.gov/planning.

Winchester GIS Available to the Public

The City of Winchester has a new Geographical Information System (GIS) available to the public online. Anyone can go to the GIS website at <http://gis.winchesterva.gov> to view interactive maps of the City.



GIS is designed to allow users to explore maps and information about the City. Users will be able to locate information regarding utilities, parcels, zoning, streets, crime statistics, fire/police station locations, schools, and parks. The following can be found on the GIS website:

- Interactive maps;
- Electronic maps available for download;
- Pricing for data files or printing mapping requests; and
- List of current projects.

The City uses CAD software to create, design, and convert drawings to be used in GIS. For example, parcels, streets, and utility layers are created in CAD then converted to layers. GIS combines these data layers with database information to create intelligent maps. The purpose and mission of the Winchester GIS Division is to develop, manage, and maintain an accurate geographic information system to help facilitate, support, and enhance decision-making processes in a responsive manner.

For more information contact GIS: 667-1815, ext. 1485 or gis@ci.winchester.va.us

NEED A JOB?

You can now see an up-to-date job vacancy list on the City's official website. This new vacancy list is updated each time a position is filled or becomes available. Just visit our website at www.winchesterva.gov and click on the "Employment" link at the bottom of the main page. This link will take you directly to the vacancy list. Also on the list is a link to the City's new "Employer of Choice" brochures. This brochure details the City as an employer and features award-winning programs, how City employees can have fun at work, training, education incentives, benefits and more! Check it out today. You may find just what you have been searching for.



PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT WINC CHAIN OF CHECKS

Kicking For Charity

Each year, a group of City of Winchester employees participate in a year-long educational program called the EXCELL Academy. In this academy, employees learn more about how the City operates, enroll in three college-level courses conducted in partnership with Lord Fairfax Community College, and participate in a community service project chosen by the class. This year, the EXCELL Academy is organizing a Kickball Tournament to benefit the WINC Chain of Checks for its community service project. The double elimination tournament will be held during the City of Winchester's employee picnic on August 19 in Jim Barnett Park. Employees and family members will make up the teams with the tournament final being played under the lights. Barry Lee from WINC 92.5 will serve as announcer. Each kickball team will be securing sponsorships and raising money to be donated to the 2006 WINC Chain of Checks recipient. If you or your business would like to sponsor a kickball team, please contact Leslie Bowery at the Winchester Parks & Recreation Department at 542-0153.

Focus



Looking for up-to-date government news and information? Tune in to Winchester Community Television Channel 20 on your local Adelphia Cable provider this Fall for the "Focus on Winchester" show.

Each weekly news clip features updates on government programs and services.

Program Schedule:

Mondays and Thursdays:

Midnight, 4 AM, 8 AM, 1:30 PM, 4 PM and 8 PM

Tuesdays and Fridays:

2 AM, 10 AM, 2:30 PM, and 6 PM

Wednesdays: 3 AM, 11:30 AM, 3 PM, 7 PM and 11 PM

Saturdays: 2 AM, 10 AM, 11:30 AM and 3 PM

Sundays: 2 AM, 10 AM, and 1:30 PM

For more information, contact the City's Community Outreach Coordinator, Charlotte Fritts at 545-7548.

New Parks & Recreation Activities Guide

Beginning August 2006, the Winchester Parks & Recreation's Leisure Guide will have a new look. In the past, the Leisure Guide was published three times a year in *The Winchester Star*. However, beginning this fall the guide will have a different look and a new mode of distribution in order to provide a more user-friendly list of activities. The guide will be published twice a year, once in March for upcoming spring and summer activities and again in August for fall and winter activities. The guide will be mailed out to individuals on the mailing list and distributed to all Winchester Public School students. In addition, the guide will be available at City government buildings including the War Memorial Building and City Hall and at local businesses throughout Winchester. As always, the guide can be downloaded from the City's website at www.winchesterva.gov/parks (click on *Activities Guide*).

To be placed on the mailing list, to request a guide be mailed to you, or for additional information, please contact WPRD at 662-4946 or email wincparks@ci.winchester.va.us. Your thoughts on programs and the new guide are always welcome.



Need Some INSIGHT?

In August 2004, the City of Winchester kicked off the inaugural INSIGHT Citizen's Academy and graduated 20 local participants. In 2006, the City will hold it's second academy and will continue to offer and evolve this program for area residents. Its purpose is to serve as a "tool box" of information to help people navigate through the complex system of government operations and services while improving communication between the public and government. A main goal of the program is to foster increased citizen involvement in local government through empowerment and knowledge.

Below are a few comments made by participants about the overall effectiveness and purpose of the Academy:

"Actually meeting the City leaders and their staffs, hearing the detailed presentations, and witnessing an enthusiasm and dedication that reflected a shared sense of service to the community was what made this program effective."

"Having the opportunity to meet the people first hand was the best part - as it made the workings of the government come to life."

"Each meeting was informative. We all walked away having learned plenty."

"This program has proven to be highly informative and showed the city's resolve to reach out into the populace and breach the wall of ignorance that often impedes progress."

"Thank you for including me in this program. I highly recommend it to citizens who want to be involved with the community."

"Thanks so much to Ed Daley and all for making this program one of the highlights of my life in Winchester."

"I wish everyone would have this experience and feeling of enlightened government working to enlighten its citizens."

"All I can say is a big THANK YOU!"

For more information, please contact the Amy Simmons, Marketing Coordinator, at 533-0603 or asimmons@ci.winchester.va.us.



City of Winchester's 2007 INSIGHT PROGRAM APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

Email: _____

Years Living in Winchester: _____

What do you hope to learn from this program:

Are you planning to attend all sessions? Y N

Shirt Size (please circle): S M L XL

Deadline for Submittal: July 25, 2007

Return this application to: *City of Winchester, Rouss City Hall, Attn: Amy Simmons, Marketing Coordinator, 15 N. Cameron St., Winchester, VA 22601 or Fax to 722-3618*

City of Winchester



2007 SCHEDULE

Date	Subject	
8/16	Council/City Manager/City Attorney/Winchester History	10/6 Tour: Juvenile Detention Center/Regional Jail
8/23	Police/Fire & Rescue/EMS/E-911	10/11 Planning/Zoning/Inspections
8/30	Utilities	10/18 Economic Redevelopment/Parking Authority/Old Town Development Board
9/1	Tour: Water Plant	10/25 Winchester Public Schools
9/6	Parks & Recreation	11/1 Social Services/Housing & Neighborhood Dev.
9/13	Public Works	11/8 Graduation
9/20	Finance/Commissioner of the Revenue/Treasurer	Time: 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.
9/27	Administration/Information Technology/Voter Registrar	<i>NOTE: Each session is held on a Thursday night (9/1 and 10/6 tours are on Saturday mornings) at the featured department's office location. If more than one department is presenting, a convenient location will be chosen. A schedule with meeting locations will be provided prior to the first session.</i>
10/4	Commonwealth Attorney/Sheriff/Clerk of Circuit Court	

Winchester Events

AUGUST

2 First Friday Celebration of the Arts

With a celebration of the "Dog Days of Summer,"

The arts are alive in Old Town Winchester. Enjoy an evening of drawings, paintings, prints, sculpture, ceramics, photography and other visual art. Stroll Winchester's historic streets, visit galleries, meet local artists, view new works and exhibits, and listen to live music. Don't forget the exceptional shopping and dining Old Town Winchester has to offer. Free. 6:00-9:00 p.m. Located on and around the Old Town Mall. Sponsored by Shenandoah Arts Council. Contact: www.shenarts.org or 667-5166.

4,11,18 Bluemont Summer Concert Series

SEPTEMBER

1 First Friday Celebration of the Arts

15-17 Civil War Weekend

At the Old Court House Civil War Museum on the Old Town Mall. The event will feature living history, live Civil War period surgical demonstrations and much more. On Friday, the museum is open and guided tours will be offered from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. On Saturday, camp is open from 9:30 a.m. – 7 p.m. On Sunday camp is open from 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Admission is free on Saturday. Contact: 542-1145.

Jun-Sept Feltner Community Foundation's Museum

Located at 9 Court Square on the Loudoun Street Mall in Winchester. The museum is open Saturdays from noon – 4 p.m., August 26 – September 30. Items include original Mort Kunstler paintings, John Nail's war caisson carved from timbers of Fort Loudoun in 1886, antique toys, dolls from years past, miniature oil lamps, antique beer steins, and old coin banks. Contact: 722-8100.

OCTOBER

6 First Friday Celebration of the Arts

7 Brush & Bottle: Gallery Walk & Wine Tasting

This new event will present juried artists selling their work in booths on the Loudoun Street Mall. Participating galleries, restaurants and shops will host art exhibits and wine tastings. Noon-6 p.m. Contact: 722-7575.

14 Mustang Car Club Show

Forty cars will be on display and a D.J. will play music from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm on the Old Town Mall.

15-17 Civil War Weekend

At the Old Court House Civil War Museum on the Old Town Mall. The event will feature living history, live Civil War period surgical demonstrations and much more. On Friday, the museum is open and guided tours will be offered from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. On Saturday, camp is open from 9:30 a.m. – 7 p.m. On Sunday camp is open from 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Admission is free on Saturday. Contact: 542-1145.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

The Community Development Block Grant Entitlement program of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development is provided to local governments for activities that meet one of the program's three national objectives:

- Benefiting low- and moderate-income persons,
- Preventing or eliminating slums or blight, and
- Meeting other community development needs

where existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community.

How are CDBG funds used?

CDBG Entitlement funds can be used to benefit low- and moderate-income persons by:

- Providing decent housing;
- Providing a suitable living environment; and
- Expanding economic opportunities.

For example, funds may be used to address the needs of special subpopulations (such as the elderly, developmentally or physically disabled, persons with severe mental illness, persons with alcohol or drug addictions, and persons with HIV/AIDS and their families) which require supportive housing.

Funds may also be used to address non-housing community development needs such as public facilities, infrastructure, public service, anti-crime, youth, senior programs, economic development, and planning.

Finally, funds may be used for rehabilitation loans and site development for housing projects that benefit persons of low- and moderate-incomes.

Eligible activities of the CDBG include:

- acquisition of real property
- public facilities and improvements
- clearance
- public services
- relocation
- rehabilitation of properties
- code enforcement
- special economic development activities
- micro enterprise assistance
- homeownership assistance
- planning and capacity building
- handicap accessibility
- program administrative costs

All activities must meet at least one of the three national objectives for the CDBG Entitlement

Program. Grant funds cannot be used on projects that cause unaddressed displacement of special needs subpopulations or low- and moderate-income families. The following activities are ineligible for CDBG funding: buildings used for general conduct of government, general government expense, political activities, purchase of equipment, operating and maintenance expenses, new housing construction, and income payments.

What will Winchester do with its allocation?

The 2006 Annual Action Plan (FY 2007) for use of CDBG funds identifies activities related to neighborhood improvements. The City will undertake activities that improve services to neighborhoods including sidewalk repair, streetlight installation, landscaping or other activities that improve the condition of neighborhoods.

For more information:

Office of Housing and
Neighborhood Development

107-C North East Lane

Phone: 535-2886

Email: ohnd@ci.winchester.va.us



Housing and Community Resource Center

First Bank of Winchester recently awarded funding to Winchester's Office of Housing and Neighborhood Development to assist in the creation of the Housing and Community Resource Center. The funds will be used to purchase office equipment and training materials for area citizens and nonprofits interested in housing and neighborhood issues.

The Resource Center will serve two major functions: office and meeting space for community organizations, and a resource library for best practices and community problem solving techniques.

Scheduled to open officially in September, 2006, the Resource Center will be available to organizations by reservation. Staff expects the primary use of the Resource Center will be for meetings and client intake days.

Materials in the Resource Center will be available to the public to review and check out. For more information or to make suggestions, please contact Martha Shickle at (540) 535-2886.



Why Implement An EMS Fee for Service?

The answer is simple...to continue providing the quality service Winchester residents expect. The City relies heavily on the work of the volunteer stations and unfortunately, the volunteer force has been shrinking each year. In addition, Winchester's call volume has been rising steadily over time. In 1990, the department responded to 1,390 EMS calls. The number of EMS calls increased to 3,224 by 1994, and to 5,711 in 2005. The call volume can be partly contributed to the community's steady growth over the last two decades not only residentially and commercially, but culturally as well. The call volume has risen faster than the Fire and Rescue Department can add staff to handle the increase because of the lack of funding available.

These issues will continue to worsen in the future unless additional staff is hired, more funds are allocated to the volunteer stations, and additional money is spent on recruiting and retaining volunteer and career firefighters. The City wanted to take action to begin correcting these problems, but due to several capital improvement projects happening simultaneously, the City had no additional funds to address these issues. A committee from the Winchester Fire and EMS community recommended that City Council create a user

NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVE

Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month, representatives from many City departments including Environmental Maintenance, Fire and Rescue, Housing, Inspections, Police, Utilities and Zoning meet to participate in Neighborhood Initiative Walks. The purpose is to address neighborhood issues before they are received by the City as a complaint.

Each staff member looks for items in need of improvement relative to his or her department. Items may be the responsibility of the City or of the property owner. Staff works to be as proactive as possible in identifying and addressing neighborhood issues that will result in better, cleaner, and safer neighborhoods.

The City hopes to accomplish the following through the Neighborhood Initiative Walks:

- Visible neighborhood improvements;
- Faster response to requests and concerns from residents; and
- Increased accessibility of City employees in City neighborhoods.

Staff began the 2006 walking season in April and to date, staff has walked in several neighborhoods of the City. If you would like additional information regarding the Neighborhood Initiative Program, or walks in your neighborhood, please contact the Office of Housing and Neighborhood Development at 535-2886, 107 N. East Lane.

NEW Transit Guide Will Take You There

This summer, the Winchester Transit Division published a new, rider-friendly brochure in both English and Spanish. This colorful guide captures the essence of the Winchester Transit



system with the slogan "We Take You There".

The brochure details the fare schedule including discounts for students, seniors, and Medicare and handicap card holders. Also included are color-coded maps for each bus, trolley, and paratransit route.

For more information or to request a guide, please contact Transit at 662-3982.

Downtown Parking Improvements

Autocashiers

The Winchester Parking Authority, in an effort to provide convenient parking for visitors and customers to Old Town Winchester, recently installed Autocashiers at the Loudoun and Court Square garages. (Braddock Autopark has had an Autocashier since February 2004.) The Autocashier allows parkers to use the garages on weekends, nights and holidays. They simply pay the Autocashier \$1.00 to exit the garage.

The Court Square garage opened on a 24 hour basis on March 20, 2006. All three garages are now open 24 hours.

New Parking Garage

Demand for parking has continued to increase with all undercover spaces leased. The only available leased parking is on the roof at Loudoun Autopark. With the George Washington Hotel slated to open soon and the other restaurants and businesses opening downtown the demand for parking will become even greater.

New Parking Rates

As of July 1, 2006, the Winchester parking rates, both monthly and hourly, were increased.

Parking Garages (monthly):

	Covered	Roof
Braddock	\$35	\$24
Cameron	\$30	\$24
Loudoun	\$25	\$19

Parking Lots (monthly): \$25

Parking Garages (hourly):

\$.50 cents an hour, \$4.00 maximum

On-Street Meters (hourly): \$.50



For more information regarding parking please call 540-665-0355 or visit www.winchesterva.gov/parking.

Winchester Considered A "Boomtown"

Source: www.inc.com

For several years now, the nation's entrepreneurial hotbeds have been migrating from the major urban centers to smaller cities on the periphery. Longtime list-topping cities such as Phoenix, Daytona Beach, and Orlando again are still strong, but the nation's newest entrepreneurial hotbeds can be found even further afield--in cities like Winchester, Virginia that have never registered as business centers. The rise of the small communities is the most important trend emerging from *Inc.*'s 2006 Hot Cities survey. The survey focused on job growth, especially as it applies to entrepreneurs. The Small Business Administration estimates that small companies generate as many as three-quarters of the nation's new jobs; as a result, a region showing strong job creation is likely to be a hotbed of entrepreneurial activity. What's more, strong job growth suggests that a region's economy is expanding. That means new demand and new opportunities.

To compile the ranking, *Inc.* measured current-year employment growth, as well as average annual job growth over the past three years and compared job growth in the first and second halves of the period comprising of the past 10 years. This year, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, which generates the job-growth data, surveyed 393 communities. *Inc.* profiled the top 20 cities in three categories--small (an employment base of less than 150,000); medium (150,000 to 450,000), and large (more than 450,000). U.S. Census figures ranking the nation's cities on measures like medium income, health, and education were also included. The City of Winchester ranked 19 of 60 in *Inc.* magazine's 2006 Hottest Small Cities list with an overall ranking of 26 of 393. Winchester's one-year job growth rate was 4.9 percent with a five-year job growth rate of 12.0 percent. Winchester ranked higher than communities such as Harrisonburg, VA (small city rank 32, overall rank 67), Myrtle Beach, SC (43, 67), Savannah, GA (49, 50), and Salisbury, MD (55, 84).

Celebrate Patsy Cline Forever

Imagine a place that honors and interprets the life and talent of Country Music Hall of Fame singing star, Patsy Cline... well, imagine no more. The new Patsy Cline Museum's first phase will be created in 7,000 square feet of a building located in historic Old Town Winchester and is scheduled to open in September 2006.

The Patsy Cline Museum will interpret Patsy Cline's passionate and poignant life-story through experiential exhibits. These exhibits feature a chronological walkway through Patsy's life complete with artifacts, photo murals and montages representing the different people, places, and events of Patsy's life. Accompanying the different episodes of her life-story, the museum will feature the images, related sounds and moving pictures of her era, creating a soundscape and

visual tapestry of her life and singing career. While presenting Patsy's musical legacy to world-wide audiences during this first phase of the museum, the Celebrating Patsy Cline organization will continue to actively seek to collect and preserve her music, memories, and memorabilia for future generations in a larger, permanent museum.

Celebrating Patsy Cline, Inc. has embarked on a fund raising campaign to create a living tribute for Patsy Cline. Physically and conceptually, Celebrating Patsy Cline will cultivate the museum over the next several years, creating a new kind of

museum for world-wide Patsy Cline audiences, one that unites community and artistic interests in fresh, compelling ways and enhances an appreciation of Patsy's life and legacy through the visual arts and unique performances.



Doing Business in Winchester Guide

The "Doing Business in Winchester Guide" is now available to download from the Economic Redevelopment website at www.winchesterva.gov/econ/publications.php.

This guide offers information regarding:

- business start-up and expansion in the city;
- information on required licenses and permits;
- financial resources;
- doing business in Old Town;
- workforce development, and much more.

Economic Redevelopment
722-7575
2 North Cameron Street
Winchester, VA 22601



Town Run Sanitation/Utilities Projects 1996 - 2006

Town Run Sanitary Sewer Improvements Project

- Completed in 1996
- From the Winchester Medical Center to 844 Amherst Street (Calvary Baptist Church)
- Replaced an old clay sewer with modern materials to increase its reliability and reduce the amount of groundwater entering the sewer

Town Run Utilities Project - Division I

- Construction began in July 2003
- Completed in October 2004
- From Calvary Baptist Church to the intersection of Amherst Street and Boscawen Street (0.5 miles)
- Replaced sanitary sewer, watermain, and storm sewer and upgraded the road
- Final contract price of Division I was approximately \$1.87 million

Town Run Utilities Project - Division II

- Construction began in July 2003
- **Expected completion in Summer 2006**
- From intersection of Amherst Street and Boscawen Street, down Boscawen to Kent Street (0.5 miles)
- Replaced sanitary sewer, watermain, and storm sewer, installed conduit for underground utilities, and upgraded the road. Burial of utility lines is the final stage and is expected to be completed this summer.
- Final contract price of Division II is approximately \$6.38 million
- Estimated cost to other utilities (Allegheny Power, Adelphia and Verizon) is \$1.5 million



City of Winchester NEW WEBSITE

www.winchesterva.gov

On March 15th, the City of Winchester opened its new official website to the public. The totally redesigned site is more informative and user-friendly. New features and improvements include site search, a printable calendar of events, meetings, and activities, and easier navigational menus. The site search feature will allow a word or phrase search of the entire site. In the Fall of 2005, the City reorganized into five teams that cross traditional department lines. The change allows for better communication and ultimately improves how the City provides services to the public. The new website reflects these changes and is another example of continuous improvement to enhance customer service.

Treasurer Installs New Equipment

The Treasurer's Office is now utilizing a new personal property software program created by our Information Technology Department. The new system helps to do a better job of collecting unpaid taxes by using a social security search system. The office is also using a new collection tool called "VRWS", Vehicle Registration Withholding System, that allows the office to stop registration renewals on those owing delinquent personal property. There has been an increase in collections since these new systems have been used for processing.

In addition, the Treasurers Office received the "Award of Accreditation" from The Treasurers' Association of Virginia. The accreditation process provides Treasurers the opportunity to demonstrate voluntarily that their offices meet an established set of high performance standards.

New Children's ACTIVITY BOOK

The City of Winchester created a Children's Activity Book to help area youth learn more about their city and local government. This book follows the second grade SOLs and will be distributed through Winchester schools in the fall. The book will also be available at City Hall, at other City facilities and upon request. Please call 533-0603 or send an email to asimmons@ci.winchester.va.us to request a copy of this cool activity book. Also available in Spanish.

Circle the things you can find in Winchester.

Activity Book
Learn About Our City • Fun Activities • Cool Facts

From the City Manager

By Ed Daley, City Manager

The City is always looking for ways to improve services we offer and how they are delivered to the public. This is why in 2005, we adopted a new team approach, which realigned departments into five functional groups: public safety, public services, human services, development, and administrative services. This organization model allows for better communication across departmental boundaries, ultimately improving our service delivery.

Public Safety Team

Team Leaders: Eric Varnau, Police Chief & Frank Wright, Fire & Rescue Chief

Divisions: Police, Traffic, Fire & Rescue, Homeland Security, Emergency Communications, Sheriff/Joint Judicial Center, Commonwealth Attorney, and Juvenile Detention Center

Human Services Team

Team Leader: Carla Taylor, Director of Social Services

Divisions: Social Services, Parks & Recreation, and Office of Housing & Neighborhood Development

Public Services Team

Team Leader: Director of Utilities (Vacant)

Divisions: Utilities, Property Management, Environmental Maintenance (Refuse & Recycling, Street/Stormwater Maintenance, and Arborist Services), Engineering/GIS, and Transportation (Transit and Equipment)

Administrative Team

Team Leaders: Sharen Gromling, Director of Administration & Mary Blowe, Director of Finance

Divisions: Administration, Finance, Treasurer, City Clerk, Information Technology, Commissioner of the Revenue, and City Attorney

Development Team

Team Leader: Jim Deskins, Director of Economic Redevelopment

Divisions: Old Town Development Board, Parking Authority, Economic Redevelopment, Zoning, Planning, Tourism and Inspections

Please feel free to contact City team leaders or any department if you should have a question or concern. We are here to help and we are proud to be of service to you.

Questions or comments concerning this newsletter? Please contact Amy Simmons, Marketing Coordinator at 533-0603 or asimmons@ci.winchester.va.us.

Division Phone List

City Division	Primary Responsibilities	Contact Info
Administration	human resources, general inquiries	667-1815, ext. 1454
Arborist Services	adopt-a-tree, memorial tree planting, and tree removal, trimming and planting	662-2857
City Attorney	legal requirements and services	667-1815, ext. 1433
City Clerk	council meetings	667-1815, ext. 1423
Commissioner of the Revenue	taxes, real estate assessments, vehicle decals/registrations	667-1815
Commonwealth Attorney	victim witness, criminal prosecutions	667-5770
Economic Redevelopment	economic development	722-7577
Emergency Communications	Emergency Call Center (Police and F&R)	9-1-1
Engineering	supervises City-owned construction	667-1815, ext. 1476
Finance	budgeting, purchasing	667-1815
Fire & Rescue	EMS, Fee for Service, Fire & Rescue	662-2298
GIS	mapping	667-1815, ext. 1485
Homeland Security	CERT program, disaster planning	667-1815, ext. 1402
Inspections	building inspections	667-1815
Office of Housing & Neighborhood Development	CDBG, housing voucher program, Neighborhood Initiative	535-2886
Old Town Development Board	management and maintenance of Old Town Winchester	722-7576
Parking Authority	meters, parking garages and Old Town maintenance	665-0355
Parks & Recreation	recreation, classes, and park maintenance	662-4946
Planning	physical and transportation planning	667-1815
Police	administration, crime solving, patrol	545-4700
Refuse & Recycling	trash and recycling collection	667-1815
Sheriff	security, legal documents service, transportation of prisoners	667-5770
Social Services	economic assistance and social services	662-3807
Street/Stormwater Maintenance	snow/leaf removal, storm drainage, street cleaning	667-1815
Tourism	markets Winchester as a travel destination	542-1326
Traffic	signals, intersection/curb painting, signs	667-1815, ext. 1451
Transit	public transportation	662-3982
Treasurer	collection of revenues, investments of funds	667-1815
Utilities	water and wastewater treatment	667-1815
Webmaster	City's official website	667-1815, ext. 1479
Zoning	administers zoning ordinances	667-1815, ext. 1420