



## Recent Fire Brings Community Together

In the early hours of Saturday, July 15, a lightning strike started a 4-alarm fire at the Chesapeake Crossings Senior Living apartment complex on Robert Hall Boulevard. More than 150 emergency personnel from Chesapeake and surrounding jurisdictions responded to the blaze, which ultimately left 3 residents dead and more than 150 displaced.

In the days after the fire, City departments, charitable organizations, faith-based groups, and private entities came together in a massive effort to assist those who were forced from their homes. While some were able to return to their apartments, many could not, as their units and belongings were destroyed. Initially, a temporary shelter was established at Indian River High School, with those needing short term lodging being placed in hotels around the area.



The Disaster Resource Center served as a “one-stop shop” of resources for fire victims.

As the magnitude of needs became more clear, a Disaster Resource Center (DRC) was opened at the New Galilee Missionary Baptist Church, to provide fire victims and their families with a “one-stop shop” for information, resources, and assistance. Access to clothing, emergency food, medications, and other necessities were provided to more than 75 residents during the DRC’s four days of operation.

Boyd Homes, the owners of the apartment complex, along with the City’s Development & Permits and Fire Departments, expedited efforts to repair and restore those apartments which could be reinhabited safely following the fire. Additionally, work on reconstruction permits is already underway for the portions of the complex most heavily damaged, where residents are unable to return.

The outpouring of support and assistance from throughout the community showed once again that Chesapeake and its citizens truly live and work together as The City That Cares.

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## Commonwealth's Attorney Elected Vice-President of NDAA

Commonwealth's Attorney, Nancy G. Parr was elected as one of five Vice-Presidents of the National District Attorneys Association (NDAA) on July 16. Parr will serve a three year term in this position and previously served as a Director-at-Large for the 2016-2017 term.

NDAA was formed in 1950 by local prosecutors to give a focal point to advance their causes and issues at the national level. NDAA representatives regularly meet with the Department of Justice, members of Congress and other national associations to represent the views of prosecutors and to influence federal and national policies and programs that affect law enforcement and prosecution.

The NDAA is governed by a board of directors that is made up of state directors appointed by the prosecuting associations of the states, and current and past officers of the association. The officers are chosen by the board annually to govern the NDAA; they are the president, president-elect, treasurer, assistant treasurer, secretary, assistant secretary, and ten vice-presidents. The outgoing president becomes the chairman of the board. NDAA is located in Arlington, Virginia.



Commonwealth's Attorney, Nancy G. Parr

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## DEVELOPMENT & PERMITS NEWS

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### Departments Complete Crisis Track Exercise

The City's Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and the Development & Permits Department completed a Crisis Track Exercise with the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) recently. The City sent three teams of two people, with one team having an Evaluator from VDEM who shadowed their assessments.

The teams performed well with few issues, and completed all reporting before the time allotted. Assessment data was compiled using Crisis Track and sent to the VDEM Evaluator as well as the VDEM Control Team for review. Additionally, Crisis Track has completed the updates to the Citizen Reporting Tool, so it will soon be able to be used to report damage by citizens on the City's web site.

Crisis Track™ is a computer application that helps a community conduct damage assessments and process FEMA grant applications for faster, more efficient, and collaborative disaster management.

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### Register Now for Chesapeake Alert

Chesapeake Alert is your connection to emergency information. [Sign up now](#) to be sure that the City can reach you during emergency situations. You can also sign up to receive automatic weather alerts.



To register for Chesapeake Alert, visit [www.CityOfChesapeake.net/ChesapeakeAlert](http://www.CityOfChesapeake.net/ChesapeakeAlert), or call the City's Customer Contact Center at 382-CITY weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

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## Community Emergency Response Team Celebrates 15 Years of Service

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) promotes a partnering effort between emergency services and the citizens of Chesapeake. The goal is for Emergency Management personnel as well as trained citizens to teach and inform members of neighborhoods, community organizations, religious groups, or workplaces in basic emergency skills and preparedness. The team is entirely funded through FEMA grant funding and falls under the Department of Homeland Security. Fifteen years ago, Chesapeake CERT began with a dozen fresh volunteers ready to assist the City should the need arise. This small group has grown into 275 active members. The team has trained close to 1,000 residents in the city, making them better prepared and ready to assist their neighbor, should a disaster occur.

If a disastrous event overwhelms or delays the city's Fire & EMS services, CERT members are activated and can assist those in the community. Each area/borough of the City has its own "team" which meets on a monthly basis. The entire CERT team gathers quarterly for meetings as well as drills and training. The group is very open and receptive to new members and they are constantly looking for individuals that want to give back and serve their community.

The team has assisted during Hurricanes Arthur, Irene, Sandy, Joaquin, and Matthew. They have also assisted with Tropical Storms Hermine and Julia. In addition, the team has been activated and has assisted during several snow events that have affected the City. Their work doesn't just occur during disasters – the team is very visible and proactive during normal City operations and assists with various events such as Paddle for the Border, Chesapeake Jubilee, and the Chesapeake Rotary Christmas Parade. The team works tirelessly to do marketing and public outreach on disaster preparedness and being response ready. To learn more about CERT, [click here](#).



Members of the Community Emergency Response Team recently came together at a cookout to celebrate 15 years of service to the City.



## Courtyard Square Park

Chesapeake City Council voted on July 11 to designate Courtyard Square Park as a new City park, activating the already existing space behind City Hall for such events as farmers markets, food trucks, strolling entertainment, and expos. Alcohol will be allowed, with stipulations.

The park is 2.73 acres behind City Hall and could be available by September 1 for small events and for larger events in March 2018.



## Get Your Play On!

July was National Parks and Recreation month. Throughout the month, the Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department promoted the theme, “Get Your Play On”.

Play has positive benefits for all ages! Citizens were encouraged to share their pictures of “play” in any park, facility, class, camp, event or other program on the PRT Facebook page, and to include the hashtag #PlayOnJuly!



## Rokeby Senior Center

The new Rokeby Center held a Meet & Greet on June 24 and officially opened on July 10. The center provides programming for the 55 and Better community. Activities of interest include Tai Chi, ceramics, jewelry making, potlucks, general exercise classes and more.

Center hours are Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.; Saturdays 9:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. The center is located at 1709 Rokeby Avenue in the Indian River area of the city.



### No Rate Increase and 30-Year Portsmouth Water Contract Approved

**A**t their June 27 meeting, Chesapeake City Council approved a new 30-year water purchase contract with the City of Portsmouth. Due in part to this action, Public Utilities customers will continue to pay the current water rate rather than the previously approved 4.9% increase.

The new contract lowers the amount of water Chesapeake has to purchase annually and reduces the price per thousand gallons. This results in a first year savings to Chesapeake of about \$2 million. The old contract was due to expire in 2026 when Portsmouth would lose its biggest customer – the City of Chesapeake. With a new contract, Portsmouth is guaranteed a very stable, reliable, predictable income stream for the next 30 years and Chesapeake will have a very stable, reliable, predictable water supply for the same time period.

In addition to the Portsmouth water provided to our Western Branch and Deep Creek customers, Norfolk provides water under contract for the Indian River and South Norfolk customers. These strong interconnections between our neighbors, in addition to the Northwest River and Lake Gaston water treatment plants, provide Chesapeake a multi-source plan that ensures an adequate supply of safe drinking water citywide.

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### City Employees Receive Powerful Demonstration

**W**ith hundreds of miles of high voltage power lines crisscrossing the City, not to mention transformers and connectors, being power-smart is vital. That's just the message Dominion Energy brought to City employees during a recent special safety demonstration outside City Hall.



Glen Wilson, Senior Electric Safety & Performance Specialist with Dominion, touches a balloon to a hot wire.



City employees gather to watch the special safety demonstration.



Demonstration of how rubber boots do not provide insulation from arcing electricity.



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## PUBLIC WORKS NEWS

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**H**urricane season is in full swing and the City is preparing for whatever this year may bring. The Public Works Department held their annual hurricane training exercise last month. Each year, Public Works employees take a day to go over the department's hurricane response plan and make any necessary adjustments.

New employees are trained on their responsibilities and seasoned employees get a refresher course on expectations.

Crews actually head out to the streets to run the routes they'd be in charge of during an actual hurricane and they test communications back and forth to the Public Works Emergency Operations Center.

Employees also discuss safety concerns and are reminded of how to prepare themselves and their families for hurricane season.



Public Works Director, Eric Martin, briefs employees on the training exercise.

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### Preparation is the Best Protection Against the Dangers of a Hurricane

Now is a great time to review your emergency plans for residences and businesses. For information and tips on preparing yourself, your family, pets, & your home today, go to [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

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**Chesapeake Criterium  
(Bicycle Race)**  
Saturday, August 5  
7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
City Hall  
For more information: 547-7188

**Clear the Shelter Adoption Event**  
Monday, August 7  
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Animal Services Shelter  
2100 South Military Highway

**One Love  
Caribbean Steel Drums Band**  
Sunday, August 13  
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
Elizabeth River Park  
1400 Elizabeth River Park

**Food Truck Wednesday  
& Kayak Demos**  
Wednesday, August 16  
4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
Battlefield Park  
1775 Historic Way

**Board of Zoning Appeals  
Public Hearing**  
Thursday, August 24  
6:30 p.m.  
City Council Chambers  
306 Cedar Road

**Buffalow Family & Friends  
Community Day**  
Saturday, August 26  
2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Johnson Park  
1006 Grady Street