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# Real Time Updates

for the Chesapeake City Council and Community Leaders

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**Chesapeake**  
VIRGINIA

February 2015

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## NEWS

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### UPDATE ON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR 55 OR BETTER

The Chesapeake City Council was the first to support the community's Comprehensive Plan for 55 and Better and approved a resolution of support on December 19, 2014. This plan, developed by citizen's input, outlines the top five concerns of our City's aging population as: Financial Safety and Security, Health Care, Housing, Transportation, and Quality of Life.

One of the main goals of the plan is to establish support from all sectors of the community to address these areas of concern. The initial investment by Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia, Towne Bank, Chesapeake Regional Medical Center, and the City of Chesapeake was hiring a consultant to develop the action plan. The consultant enlisted civic leagues, the faith community, business community, private and non-profit entities, and citizens at large to contribute to the plan. A survey was conducted at the Sheriff's Annual Senior Support Services Seminar, Parks and Recreation Senior Program, and on the City's and Senior Services' website to gather data.

Community planning for implementation of the plan will begin in the near future. Visit the City's website for more information at, [www.CityOfChesapeake.net](http://www.CityOfChesapeake.net).

### CHESAPEAKE CITY CLERK DOLORES MOORE RETIRES

Chesapeake City Clerk Dolores Moore closed the book on 20 years with the City following her retirement January 31st. Moore, who previously worked for the City of Portsmouth, was honored with a City Hall reception

prior to her departure. Many past City officials, as well as representatives from surrounding cities, joined Mayor Alan Krasnoff and the City Council in thanking Dolores for her service and wishing her a happy retirement.



*Former Mayor William E. Ward, who hired Dolores for the post of City Clerk, returned to City Hall to help her close out 2 decades of service to Chesapeake.*



*Photo on left: Members of the City Council each shared their memories and good wishes with Dolores.*



*The Mayor and City Council presented Dolores with a cherry clock, handmade by Chesapeake First Citizen, Mr. Phil Johnson (left) using wood from the Chesapeake Arboretum, as a token of their gratitude.*

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Additional information can be found at [CityofChesapeake.net](http://CityofChesapeake.net), or contact the City Manager's Office at 382-6166.

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# NEWS

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## CENTRAL FLEET RECEIVES AWARD

Congratulations to Chesapeake Central Fleet's David Gauthier and Mike McColgan who received a Sustained Distinguished Performance award from the Elizabeth River Project/River Star Business in January.

*Pictured left to right: "Princess Elizabeth," David Gauthier, Mike McColgan with Central Fleet, and Karen Squires, President, Elizabeth River Project Board of Directors.*



## NEW DIVISION CHIEF/FIRE MARSHAL APPOINTED

After a competitive process, Battalion Chief Simone (Sam) Gulisano has been appointed to the position of Division Chief/Fire Marshal. Chief Gulisano joined the Department on April 3, 1995, and rose through the ranks, becoming a Lieutenant in 2003, Captain in 2006, and Battalion Chief in 2010. Sam has served in multiple special assignments including Executive Officer to the Fire Chief, Director of Training, Assistant Fire Marshal and Public Information Officer.



In addition to his experience with the Department, Chief Gulisano has three Associates Degrees from Tidewater Community College (Administration of Justice, Business Administration, and General Studies), a Bachelor's Degree in Business from Liberty University, and a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Liberty University. He is also a graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program and holds the designation of Chief Fire Officer by the Center for Public Safety Excellence. Congratulations to Chief Gulisano for this latest achievement.

## COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER OF THE QUARTER AWARD

Marie Belkofer has been a member of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) for four years. She serves two roles with the team: Assistant Greenbrier Team Leader and Marketing Coordinator. As the marketing coordinator, Marie has spent many hours at various City and civic league functions promoting CERT and emergency preparedness, as a volunteer with the City. Among other duties, she is responsible for setting up tents, creating eye-catching displays, and engaging citizens in community preparedness events.

Additionally, Marie assists with new members' orientation and keeps volunteers "response ready" through drills and training. She is also working to create an Equestrian Team within CERT. These volunteers will be highly trained in riding horses in order to assist with recovery and response events. Marie takes pride in her duties with CERT and, just this year, she has generously donated more than 100 hours in new members' and team training, and an additional 80 hours in marketing at various events. Congratulations to Marie for her hard work with the Community Emergency Response Team!



*Pictured left to right: Robert Gelormine with the Fire Department, Marie Belkofer with CERT, and Markkita Coleman with Human Resources.*

## CENTRAL FLEET RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD

The Environmental Protection Agency recognized the City of Chesapeake Central Fleet division for their outstanding leadership in waste prevention and diversion in 2013. Central Fleet received the 2014 *Local Government, Honorable Mention* award. Congratulations to the Fleet Management team!

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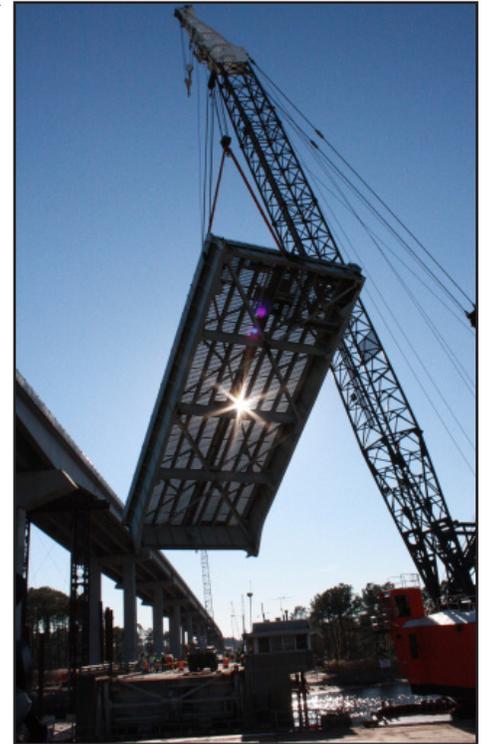
## PROJECTS

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### **STEEL BRIDGE DEMOLITION**

On Friday, January 9, the demolition of the Steel Bridge began. The first bridge leaf was removed from the place it sat for more than 50 years using blow torches and a crane. The 150-ton leaf was then placed onto a barge and sent out to be scrapped and recycled. The second bridge leaf was removed later in January, with demolition of less visible parts of the former bridge to follow. Meanwhile, motorists can continue to use the new lift-free Veterans Bridge on Dominion Blvd.



### **SIGN SWEEPERS IN CHESAPEAKE**

The Public Works Department recently certified 15 new Sign Sweepers and re-certified 8 returning Sign Sweepers. Since the program began in 2012, more than 6,700 illegal signs have been removed from City right-of-way. The City is very grateful to these volunteers for donating their time and efforts to help keep Chesapeake beautiful! Citizens interested in learning more about the Sign Sweeper program can visit [www.CityofChesapeake.net/PublicWorks](http://www.CityofChesapeake.net/PublicWorks) and click on the “Get Involved – Volunteer!” tab on the left side of the page.

### **POSSIBLE SITE FOR NEW FIRE STATION**

Bids have been received for the demolition of the abandoned above ground water storage tank in Bowers Hill. The tank will be removed to prepare the site for a new fire station, which is currently under design.

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## OPERATIONS

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### **PANDA EXPRESS IS OPEN ON BATTLEFIELD BOULEVARD**

The City’s first Panda Express opened on December 24, 2014. The new restaurant is located on an outparcel next to Sonic along Battlefield Boulevard.

### **ZAXBYS IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN HICKORY**

A new Zaxbys is actively under construction at Edinburgh along Hillcrest Parkway next to the Wendy’s.

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## EVENTS

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Presentation:  
How to Use the City's  
Online Service Request  
System  
Thursday, February 19  
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
Greenbrier Library  
Volvo Parkway

Chesapeake Fire Department  
2015 Awards & Recognition  
Ceremony  
Friday, February 20  
7:00 p.m.  
Tidewater Community  
College Chesapeake  
Student Activity Center

Board of Zoning Appeals  
Public Hearing  
Thursday, February 26  
6:30 p.m.  
City Council Chamber  
1st Floor City Hall  
Cedar Road

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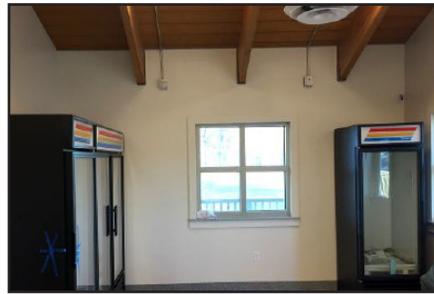
## PROJECTS CONTINUED

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### ELIZABETH RIVER PARK PROJECT

The newly reconstructed Elizabeth River Park is set to open this Spring. The Grand Opening event will take place on April 25. The concession and ship's store equipment is in place and walkways/parking lots are complete.



### CITY BALL FIELDS

All City athletic fields are currently being re-graded in preparation for spring and summer sports.

### NEIGHBORHOOD PARK IMPROVEMENTS

A new accessible sidewalk and new replacement playground for ages 5-12 are complete. Also, the arch bridge on the playground at Stonegate Neighborhood Park has been replaced. Crestwood Park now has a new playground installed for ages 2-5.



### RIBBON CUTTING TO OFFICIALLY OPEN RENOVATED PIER AT BATTLEFIELD PARK

In December, a ribbon cutting was coordinated by the Great Bridge Battlefield and Waterways History Foundation and the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism to officially open the newly renovated pier at Battlefield Park.

*Pictured in photo are City Council members, Great Bridge Battlefield and Waterways History Foundation board members and staff, Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism staff, Virginia Port Authority staff, and other event attendees.*