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# Real Time Updates

**Chesapeake**  
VIRGINIA

January 2014

for the Chesapeake City Council and Community Leaders

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## NEWS

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### E-ZPASS ON-THE-GO UPDATE

- The new tolls at the Elizabeth River Tunnels will go into effect starting February 1, 2014. E-ZPass On-the-Go transponders are now available for purchase at the Greenbrier DMV office, all City Treasurer Offices, the Chesapeake Expressway Office, and at Creekmore's Hardware store on Bainbridge Boulevard. Creekmore's is the first retailer in Hampton Roads to sell E-ZPass transponders. For more information about the E-ZPass visit [www.EZPassVA.com](http://www.EZPassVA.com), or call (877) 762-7824.

### SUNRAY COMMUNITY UNVEILS STATE HISTORICAL HIGHWAY MARKER

- A state historical highway marker was unveiled in late December in recognition of the Sunray Community, Virginia's first long-term Polish settlement. The Sunray Farmers Association paid for the manufacture of the sign with installation and location completed by Public Works. The Historic Preservation Commission and Planning Department provided guidance and support in the development of the application and placement of the state highway marker.

Speakers at the dedication and unveiling ceremony included Father David Cupps of St. Mary's Catholic Church, Mayor Alan Krasnoff, Delegate Lionell Spruill Sr., Victor Pickett of the Chesapeake Historic Preservation Commission, and Pamela Schenian of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. Following the dedication ceremony, a public reception was held in the Parish Hall at St. Mary's Catholic Church.

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## OPERATIONS

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### NEW WAL-MART NEIGHBORHOOD MARKETS

- Construction has begun on two Wal-Mart neighborhood markets which will sell grocery items. One of the stores is located at the corner of Kempsville Rd./Greentree Rd. as part of a shopping center that will also include a Wawa. The other location is Cedar Rd./Pines of Warrick Rd. where a traffic signal is also proposed.

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# PROJECTS

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## DISMAL SWAMP TRAIL PHASE 2 PROJECT

- The Dismal Swamp Trail Phase 2 project will be complete by the end of the month. The project extends the paved trail from Number Ten Lane to Deep Creek Park.

## DOMINION BOULEVARD PROJECT UPDATE

- Construction of Dominion Blvd., the largest locally administered project in the history of the Commonwealth, commenced January 7, 2013. Over the past year, all utilities have been relocated, stormwater basins constructed, and bridge components installed. This includes installation of nearly 600 pilings, 29 bridge columns, and placement of 10 spans of the bridge deck.

If you drive on the corridor today, you can see the future northbound bridge emerging from the landscape. Construction of the northbound bridge will be a primary focus in 2014, and traffic is scheduled to be shifted onto the new bridge in early 2015. Also, construction of the future southbound bridge commenced in conjunction with the implementation of the Bainbridge Blvd. detour in October.

The next major milestone will be the traffic shift on Dominion Blvd. near Cedar Rd. and opening of the access roads to accommodate construction of the future interchange at this location. This phase of the project is scheduled for implementation in February of 2014.

With the project team having made very good progress in 2013, the project is on schedule and within budget. For more information or to sign up for Dominion Blvd. project alerts, visit the project page on the City's website at [www.CityOfChesapeake.net/Dominion](http://www.CityOfChesapeake.net/Dominion).

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# NEWS

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## THE CHESAPEAKE POLICE DEPARTMENT TAKES ON A LOCAL CHARITY

- Jessica Handley of the Police Department was inspired to carry out a charitable donation after hearing a moving story from 19 year old Mariah Smith. Before Mariah was adopted by her foster mother, she had been born and abandoned in a car on Christmas Eve. At the young age of 17, Mariah started "Blankets for the Homeless" in which four nights a week she delivers blankets and lunches to the homeless. In the two years since she has started the ministry, Mariah and her mom have been able to deliver more than 40,000 blankets, lunches, hats, gloves, and more. Jessica was so moved by hearing Mariah's story and about her ministry that she initiated a blanket drive through the Police Department. She placed collection boxes at various locations within Police Headquarters and at each of the Precincts and encouraged participation by all. Overall, the Police Department collected enough blankets, coats, hats, gloves, and toiletries to stuff two giant-sized boxes.

## HOLIDAY POTLUCK SUCCESS

- Youth Advisory Board members held their annual Holiday Potluck at Lighthouse Pointe, a retirement community in Great Bridge. The Youth Institute Chamber also participated. The residents enjoyed a potluck dinner, dessert, and holiday crafts. The Youth Advisory Board consists of high school students whose mission is to model and encourage a positive youth lifestyle in partnership with youth service professionals in the City of Chesapeake. The Youth Institute Chamber consists of 8th grade students whose mission is to learn more about the City of Chesapeake and gain skills in how to use their personal strengths in making a difference for their city. For more information on these groups and how to join, please contact Cathy Christian at 382-6928 or by email at [crchristian@cityofchesapeake.net](mailto:crchristian@cityofchesapeake.net).

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM RANKED #1

- The City of Chesapeake's Home Investment Partnership (HOME) program, administered by the Planning Department, has been ranked #1 in the Commonwealth by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for performance during the program year ending October 31, 2013 (PY 39). Chesapeake is ranked first place out of a total of 18 communities receiving an allocation of less than \$1 million of HUD HOME Investment Partnership Program funds. The City was ranked #4 in PY 38.

## COPS AND KIDS

- The Cops and Kids event was held on December 13, from 8:00 a.m. until noon at the Chesapeake FOP Lodge. A total of 27 children attended the event and were escorted to the Hillcrest Parkway Wal-Mart by uniformed Chesapeake Police Officers and Chesapeake Sheriff Deputies in marked police and sheriff vehicles. Each child was able to spend \$200 on gifts for themselves, family members, etc. The money was donated by Chesapeake FOP lodge #9 and its Associate Lodge, area businesses, and personal donations by citizens of Chesapeake. Police Chief Kelvin Wright and Sheriff Jim O'Sullivan attended the event, and Council Member Robert Ike helped wrap presents and serve lunch after the shopping spree.



## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONVENES THIS MONTH

- The 2014 Virginia General Assembly convenes on January 8. For more information on the members of Chesapeake's Delegation, visit [www.CityofChesapeake.net/Delegation](http://www.CityofChesapeake.net/Delegation).

## THE CHESAPEKAE FIRE DEPARTMENT BROUGHT HOME THE GOLD

- Congratulations are in order for Coach Chris Mackiewicz and the Chesapeake Fire Department Football Team for bringing home the gold in December. In an all-day football tournament, the Chesapeake Fire Department walked away with the first place trophy.

All of the aches, pains, bruises, and cuts were to raise money for the Breast Cancer Series Football Cancer Fund to help a local firefighter's family member currently battling breast cancer. While there are certainly no losers in a charitable event such as this, it doesn't hurt at all to come home with first place bragging rights!



## THE COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD HAS A NEW NAME

- The City of Chesapeake's Community Services Board (CSB) has a new name. The new official name was approved by City Council at the December 17, 2013. The Community Services Board will now be referred to and recognized as Chesapeake Integrated Behavioral Healthcare.

## A NEW FACE IN CITY HALL

- David Jurgens has been named the new Public Utilities Director for the City of Chesapeake. He began work on December 31, 2013. Jurgens comes to Chesapeake from the City of Fayetteville, Arkansas, where he served as Utilities Director. He has a combined 31 years of municipal experience and military service leadership. In his most recent position, he was responsible for supervising the Utilities Department with water, wastewater, solid waste and parking, and he managed more than 134 city employees, 47 long-term contract employees, and a \$41 million annual operating budget.

