

# Charles City County

1st Qtr. 2015 Quarterly Newsletter

## Special points of interest:

- Charles City County awarded \$600,000 broadband telecommunications grant
- Fund will be used to install Fiber Optic cable under the ground to the Roxbury area.
- This access will allow businesses to maintain and/or create close to 225 jobs

## CHARLES CITY COUNTY AWARDED BROADBAND GRANT

On December 22, 2014, Charles City County hosted Maurice Jones, the Secretary of Commerce and Trade of Virginia, to announce the award of a \$600,000 broadband telecommunications implementation grant to the County. The funds will be used to install fiber optic cable underground to the Roxbury area in the northwest part of the County. This area contains the County's Roxbury Industrial Center and the vast majority of the businesses in the County. Once this telecommunications infrastructure is installed, it will give the businesses in that area the ability to access broadband telecommunications. This access will allow businesses to maintain and/or create close to 225 jobs, which is a large factor behind the County obtaining the grant funds. The grant is being funded by the Virginia De-



partment of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) through the federal government's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The County's Economic Development Authority (EDA) is providing another \$55,000 toward the project.

The effort to extend broadband telecommunication into Charles City County is being guided by the County's Broadband Telecommunications Study that

was completed in the fall of 2014 by the firm Design Nine, Inc. The Study was funded by a \$25,000 grant from DHCD and consists of a Needs Assessment and Project Recommendations. The work to be completed with the \$600,000 in grant funds is one of the highest priority projects in the Study. The County is committed to being proactive in pursuing the Study recommendations to address broadband telecommunications needs. Please see future quarterly newsletters for updates on the progress of this and future projects.

## Inside this issue:

Business Permit Fee Informational Sessions	3
Rabies Clinic	3
Parks & Recreation / YMCA	6
Veterans - Real Estate Tax Relief	6
Elderly & Disabled—Real Estate Tax Relief	7
DMV Drivers Motor Vehicle	7
Meals on Wheels	8

# Department of Social Services - 2014.....

## Happy Thanksgiving!



Thanksgiving is a holiday when the family gets together to eat, reminisce about old times and what went on with the family during the year. Social Services was ecstatic to be able to provide over 100

Thanksgiving baskets to the Citizens of Charles City County. Hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving!

*~ Department of Social Services*

The holiday season is all about family, friends, community and of course... giving!



## Angel Tree - 2014



Charles City Department of Social Services would like to thank the community for reaching out and helping them make this past Christ-

mas season brighter for the children in our community. The Angel Tree project, supported by Social Services, was a huge success; It is kind

and generous people like you that make this world a better place.

*~ LaToya J. Davis, Project Coordinator*

## Special Welfare Fund

The Charles City Department of Social Services express their sincere appreciation to all those who donated to the Special Welfare Fund. Your generosity will directly benefit the citizens of Charles City County.



# BUSINESS PERMIT FEE INFORMATIONAL SESSIONS

January 14<sup>th</sup> and January 21<sup>st</sup> 2015

6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

To assist County businesses to better understand and comply with the new Business Permit Fee Ordinance, County staff will hold two (2) informational meetings for County business owners/ managers to go over required forms and applications and the permitting process. These meetings will be conducted at the Charles City County School/Government Administration Building's audi-

torium, located at 10900 Courthouse Road, Charles City, VA, from 6:00pm-7:30pm on Wednesday, January 14, 2015, and Wednesday, January 21, 2015.

To help ensure that a business use conforms to the County's *Zoning Ordinance*, the business owner/manager must first complete a Zoning Business Permit application and submit it to the County Planning Department for approv-

al. Once approved, the business owner/ manager must take a copy of the approved Zoning Business Permit to the Commissioner of the Revenue when applying for a Business Permit.

The *Business Permit Fee Ordinance*, and all applicable forms and applications can be found on the County's main webpage, at [www.co.charles-city.va.us](http://www.co.charles-city.va.us)

Any questions regarding the *Zoning Ordinance* and/or the Zoning Business Permit application, please contact the County's Planning Department at (804) 652-4707.

Questions and information regarding the *Business Permit Fee Ordinance* and/or the Business Permit, please contact the Commissioner of the Revenue at (804) 652-2161.

## CHARLES CITY COUNTY

### Rabies Clinic

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2015**

**8:30 A.M. TIL 11:30 A.M.**

**Government School Board  
Administration Building**

**\$7.00 per animal**



All Dogs and Cats four months or older must have a current rabies vaccination

*(Shots will be administered by a licensed veterinarian)*

## Senior Connections

The Capital Area Agency on Aging A private, nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization provides direct services, information & referral, education & advocacy for older adults, caregivers & persons with disabilities throughout Planning District 15.

For more information, or to schedule an appointment at our Charles City County office, or a home visit, call 804-343-3000 and ask for the Intake Department.



## ***Boxwood Blight on Holiday Greenery***

Boxwood blight has been a problem in western North Carolina since 2011. It has also affected boxwood in eleven other U.S. states. In Virginia, boxwood blight has been a problem in commercial boxwood production. Those plants were identified and destroyed



The situation took a new turn in December with the discovery by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services of boxwood blight in boxwood holiday greenery sold at retail stores in a few North Carolina locations. We do not know how widespread this disease is on boxwood tips sold for holiday greenery, but potentially irreversible damage to established boxwood plantings could happen if wreaths and other greenery with diseased boxwood leaves and stems is discarded outside near boxwoods growing in the landscape.



**Dark leaf spots (left) and dark stem streaks and defoliation (right) are typical boxwood blight symptoms.**

Affected boxwood show three main symptoms:

- dark leaf spots
- dark streaks on green twigs
- leaf drop.

In some cases leaves will lose their luster and dry up without the typical spots, but this can happen for reasons other than boxwood blight. American and English boxwoods are particularly susceptible and are rendered unsightly by the disease, although they do not die. *Sarcococca* (sweet box) is also affected. The fungus can infect *Pachysandra*, too, causing leaf spots that could go unnoticed.

Boxwood blight is caused by a fungus known scientifically as *Calonectria pseudonaviculata*. The fungus is harmless to other kinds of plants, to animals, and to people.

*Calonectria pseudonaviculata* can be spread long distances on infected plant material and could be moved on contaminated clothing, bags, footwear, tools, vehicles, etc. used as one works in their landscape garden. Short-distance movement is by splashing water from rain or irrigation and potentially by animal activity. The sticky spores do not easily become airborne except by water splash. Infected wreaths and roping that are exposed to rains could be a source of the fungus for nearby boxwood, sweet box, or *Pachysandra*. Holiday greenery will pose little immediate risk, but leaves falling from them could be a source of contamination later on.



**Defoliation typically begins near the base of the boxwood plant and moves upward. Photo by Kelly Ivors.**

What should you do if you have boxwood greenery for the holidays?

- (1) Inspect boxwood greenery for blight, and immediately discard suspicious material, including fallen leaves.
- (2) If there are boxwood shrubs in your landscape and if any boxwood greenery has been placed in an area where it is exposed to rainfall, relocate the greenery or bag and discard it. Do **not** handle the material when wet, because you could easily spread the spores.
- (3) At the end of the holiday season, bag up all boxwood greenery and dispose of it in a landfill. Do not place it in the compost.
- (4) Monitor nearby boxwood plantings for symptoms of the disease.

More information about this disease, including more photographs, can be found on NCSU's [Plant Pathology Portal](#). The [Virginia Boxwood Blight Task Force](#) web page is also a good reference and includes lists of best management practices for different situations.

For help Identifying boxwood blight, contact John Allison, Agriculture Extension Agent, Virginia Cooperative Extension at 804.652.4743 or email [john.allison@vt.edu](mailto:john.allison@vt.edu).

## Charles City County Parks & Recreation Department

Attention all county residents young and old.....Start the year off by joining the gym in Charles City County at 13100 The Glebe Lane. Parks and Recreation is offering lots of classes to help everyone, of all ages.

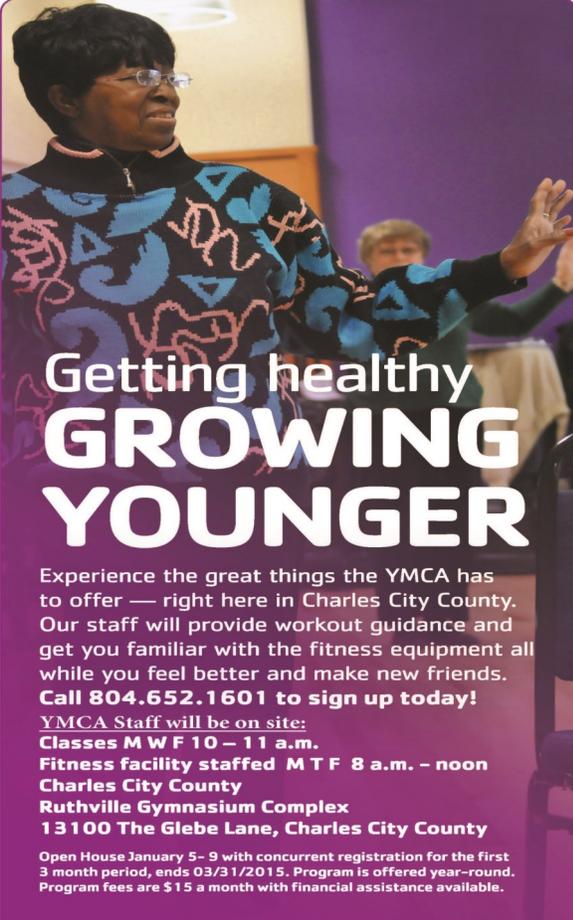
Get your mom and dad out and exercising; The YMCA will be on site to help Seniors or anyone that is available with the workout equipment on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, from 8:00am until noon. The YMCA will also be having Workout Classes on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:00am until 11:00am.

The gymnasium have great workout equipment, so plan to take advantage and start today. Some classes that are currently being offered are:

Line Dance / Yoga / Chair Yoga / Tai Chi / Zumba

Other activities coming up are youth basketball, and adult basketball.

Please call Parks and Recreation at (804) 652-1601 to get detailed information on all activities.



### Getting healthy **GROWING YOUNGER**

Experience the great things the YMCA has to offer — right here in Charles City County. Our staff will provide workout guidance and get you familiar with the fitness equipment all while you feel better and make new friends.  
**Call 804.652.1601 to sign up today!**

YMCA Staff will be on site:  
**Classes M W F 10 – 11 a.m.**  
**Fitness facility staffed M T F 8 a.m. – noon**  
**Charles City County**  
**Ruthville Gymnasium Complex**  
**13100 The Glebe Lane, Charles City County**

Open House January 5–9 with concurrent registration for the first 3 month period, ends 03/31/2015. Program is offered year-round. Program fees are \$15 a month with financial assistance available.

**Y/Growing Younger**  
This program is a collaboration with  
YMCA OF GREATER RICHMOND,  
CHICKAHOMINY FAMILY YMCA and the  
Charles City Parks and Recreation Department.



## Real Estate Tax Relief for 100% Service-Connected, Permanent & Totally Disabled Veterans

Effective January 1, 2011, the General Assembly enacted an amendment to the Code of Virginia allowing 100% tax exemption on real estate occupied as the principal residence for qualified veterans that are 100% service-connected, permanent and totally disabled, or surviving spouse. There are no income or net-worth requirements for this exemption.

The Commissioner of the Revenue's will need the following:

- A letter from U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs (Virginia) stating 100% Service-connected permanent and total disability.
- A Commissioner's office application or signed written statement or indicating the name of the disabled veteran and spouse, certifying the real estate is occupied as the veteran's principal place of residence and owned jointly by husband and wife, if applicable.

For additional information or assistance, you may contact Commissioner of the Revenue office at (804) 652-2161.

## CERT

*(Community Emergency Response Team)*

Planning is underway to provide training and instruction for our next Community Emergency Response Team, CERT, presentation. This group will meet one night a week for 3 hours for 8 consecutive weeks and cover the following topics:

Introduction & Disaster Preparedness, Fire Safety & Utility Controls, Disaster Medical Operations Part 1, Disaster Medical Operations Part 2, Light Search & Rescue Operation, CERT Organization & Disaster Psychology, Terrorism & CERT, and Review/Exam/Exercise.

We are projecting a starting date of mid-March. Come out and be a part of helping your community. For more information please call Dallas Johnson at (804) 652-4729 or Lesa Jones at (804) 652-4702.

## Real Estate Tax Relief for the Elderly & Disabled Due March 2, 2015

The eligibility requirements for Real Estate Tax Relief for the Elderly and Disabled are:

1. Applicant must own the property as of December 31, 2014 and **the property must be the only residence** owned by the applicant.
2. Applicant must be 65 or older **or** permanently disabled by December 31, 2014.
3. The **gross combined income** of applicant; spouse and anyone living in the home **cannot** exceed \$50,000.
4. The **net financial worth** of the appli-

cant and spouse **cannot** exceed \$150,000 excluding five acres of land and the residence.

The Commissioner of Revenue must have all bank account statements verifying income

no later than December 31 before your application can be processed. If there are relatives living with you, please provide copies of their W-2 forms. For more information call the Commissioner of the Revenue office at (804) 652-2161.

DMV **GO**



DMV will be at the Charles City Government/School Board Administration Office Building on **Friday, March 2, 2015, 9:00am until 4:00pm.**

Some services DMV will be able to offer are:

- Apply for or renew your ID card (adults and children).
- Apply for or renew your driver's license.
- Take road and knowledge tests.
- Get your picture taken.

- Reinstate driving privileges.
- Get a copy of your driving record.
- Obtain vehicle titles, license plates, decals, transcripts.
- Update your address,

and you can also update your organ donor status.

If you have any questions, contact the Treasurer's Office at (804) 652-4738.



**Charles City County**

10900 Courthouse Road  
Charles City, VA. 23030

Hours: Monday - Friday  
8:00am - 4:30pm

Phone: 804-652-4701

Web Page:

[www.co.charles-city.va.us](http://www.co.charles-city.va.us)

**JOIN US ON  
FACEBOOK**

County and Government  
Offices will be closed on  
the following holidays:

**January 16th (Friday):**

Jackson Lee Day

**January 19th (Monday):**

Martin Luther, King, Jr.  
Day

**February 16th (Monday):**

George Washington Day

*Do you know of a family member or neighbor that  
could benefit from this service?*

**Now serving 1,000 nutritious meals  
a day to homebound neighbors.**



No homebound neighbor should go hungry  
when Meals on Wheels can help.

To receive home-delivered meals,  
call **804.673.5035**.

To volunteer to be a Meals on Wheels  
delivery driver, call **804.934.1951**.

**FEEDMORE'S**



**MEALS  
ON WHEELS<sup>SM</sup>**

*Working together to feed more*

[www.feedmore.org](http://www.feedmore.org)

## Santa's visit to Charles City County

*Santa's Workshop* was held on Friday, December 12, 2014; over 35 kids attended this workshop. The children in attendance spent their time helping Santa with arts and crafts painting deer and wreaths; the kids also made gingerbread houses with the help from the Parks & Recreation staff and parents. Parks & Recreation provided snacks, hot chocolate, cookies and fruit to all the kids that participated. Everyone had a fun filled evening while getting in the Christmas spirit. On Saturday, December 13, 2014, Parks & Recrea-

tion was able to get on Santa's agenda to have *Breakfast with Santa*; over 50 kids were in attendance; Santa was able to give all kids in attendance a toy, which they did not expect to receive. That was an excellent way to start the Christmas Holiday. Right after breakfast everyone gathered on Route 155 and Ruthville Road to see the annual Charles City County Christmas Parade. The parade had five floats, two bands, Ft. Lee and Charles City High School Marching Band; antique cars and other participants; Dr. Janet

Crawley, retired Superintendent of Charles City County Schools was the Grand Marshall. Of course Santa was there to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

