

THE CITY FOCUS

Colonial Heights had Virginia's Second-Highest Taxable Sales Per Capita in 2010

The City of Colonial Heights received further confirmation of its stabilizing local economy with the recent news that it achieved the second-highest taxable sales per capita last year of any Virginia locality, according to analysis conducted by the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service at the University of Virginia.

Based on its 2010 official population count of 17,411 residents, Colonial Heights averaged \$36,848 in taxable retail sales for each of its residents. Only the city of Norton (with just 3,958 residents) had a higher sales tax per capita.

This is not to suggest that each and every Colonial Heights resident personally accounted for \$36,000 in sales last year. Ranking localities by per capita sales rather than overall sales evens the playing field a bit and offers a snapshot into which Virginia cities and counties have a sizable retail presence based on population levels.

Like other localities that were near the top of the state rankings, Colonial Heights has a fairly small population and draws retail customers from outside its borders, resulting in higher per capita numbers.

"We are certainly pleased to receive further verification of the improving health of our local retail economy," said Colonial Heights Mayor Scott Davis. "The City has made a long-term investment in cultivating the type of overall environment that provides opportunities for commercial and retail businesses to be successful here."

(More on Page 3)

Progress Continues on New City of Colonial Heights Courthouse Project

The City of Colonial Heights continues to move forward with the largest single public works project in its history - a new municipal courts facility at 231 Chesterfield Avenue (the former site of the CH Baptist Church). In the planning stages for over a decade, the project began in earnest earlier this year with the demolition of the city-owned building on the site; with the design and construction of the new courthouse now continuing on schedule.

While the City Council will make all final decisions relating to the courthouse and development of the adjacent city-owned property, the Council has also engaged a wide range of citizens and professionals to help guide the project.

The *Building Committee*, which will complete analysis of the functional and operational requirements of the courts facility, is co-chaired by Mayor Scott Davis and the Hon. Herbert Gill Jr., 12th Circuit Court Judge - and includes Sheriff Todd Wilson, City Engineer Chuck Henley, and City Manager Tom Mattis.

The *Land Use Committee*, focused on broader planning issues related to the project - creating synergy for compatible revitalization in the area, developing a pedestrian-friendly environment with substantial greenspace and a unique southern gateway into the city - is led by Vice-Mayor Betsy Luck and includes Councilmember Milton Free-land, Planning Commissioner Jim O'Connell, and citizens/business owners Bob Schrum, Bryan Small, Mike Cherry, and Brian Nerrie.

Schematic plans for both the courthouse building and the site have recently been approved by the City Council (and are available for review at www.colonial-heights.com/CourthouseProject.htm). The current schedule calls for groundbreaking in early 2012 - with the hope that the new courthouse will be ready to open in the summer of 2013.

Comprehensive Plan

What will Colonial Heights look like in the future?

The City is seeking your input

The City of Colonial Heights is seeking citizen input to help guide the Planning Commission and City Council in the development of a new Comprehensive Plan. The City's Comprehensive Plan is a wide-ranging statement by residents, businesses, and political leaders as to the desired future for Colonial Heights.

With your support, the Plan will create a community-defined guide on the desired approach for building on cultural and/or historic

assets, increasing economic base through strategic investments in infrastructure and business development, and enhancing the overall quality of life for city residents.

There will be a Citywide Visioning Meeting on Monday, June 6, 2011 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Colonial Heights Senior Center located at 157 Roanoke Avenue.

Attendees will participate in focus groups to help identify the most important planning issues facing the City. This will help develop a vision, or a shared image of what the community wants the city to be twenty years into the future. Over the next 2-3 years a plan will be developed to achieve this vision.

Visit our website at - <http://www.colonial-heights.com/PlanningComprehensivePlanUpdate.htm> for more information

CH Public Safety Reminder - Hurricane Season is June 1-Nov 30

Discuss the hazards that could affect your family and know your home's vulnerability to storm surge, flooding, and wind.

- Locate a safe room; and determine escape routes from your home & places to meet.
- Have an out-of-state friend as a family contact, so all your family members have a single point of contact.
- Make a plan now for what to do with your pets if you need to evacuate.
- Post emergency telephone numbers by your phones and make sure your children know how and when to call 911.
- Stock non-perishable emergency supplies and a Disaster Supply Kit.

Visit www.ReadyVirginia.gov for detailed information on preparedness and helpful downloads and printable worksheets.

Employees of the Month

January

Julia Groat – Communications

February

Louis Barchanowicz – Fleet Maint

March

Jonaaron Evans – Fire

April

Judi Whitt – Finance

**Congratulations
Good Job!**

**DO YOU
HAVE
WHAT IT
TAKES?**

JOIN THE VOLUNTEER FIRE SERVICE
IN COLONIAL HEIGHTS
804.524.8730

Experience Colonial Heights Fire & EMS
with Firefighter Stephen Hoke

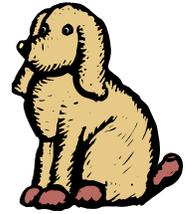


FirefighterStephenHoke
@FirefighterHoke

www.Colonial-Heights.com/FireEMS.htm

Animal Shelter/SPCA Yard Sale

The City of Colonial Heights
Animal Shelter will be hosting a
Spring Yard Sale on



Saturday, June 4, 2011

from 8:00am to 1:00pm to support the
Petersburg/Colonial Heights S.P.C.A.

Donations for the yard sale will be accepted
at the shelter during normal business hours
- M-F, 9am-3pm and Sat, 9am-12pm.

For more information call 520-9397.

FY2011-12 ANNUAL BUDGET APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL

On May 10, the Colonial Heights City Council gave final approval to the *FY11-12 Annual Operating Budget* for all city funds.

Including funding for CH Public Schools, total appropriations for all services and operations for the next fiscal year is \$69.9M.

A complete copy of the Budget and the City Managers' Budget Message is available at City Hall or can be viewed online at www.colonial-heights.com

Taxable Sales *(Continued from Page 1)*

The largest Virginia localities still collect the most sales tax revenue. Fairfax County, whose population is over 1 million, had \$13.1 billion in taxable sales last year, most in the state and better than 20 times Colonial Heights' total. On a per capita basis, however, Fairfax finished just 31st in the state last year.

Taxable sales – and the sales tax revenue resulting from those sales – are an important component of the Colonial Heights Annual Budget. In the FY20011-12 Budget, retail sales tax accounts for approximately 15% of all General Fund revenue.

"This information is certainly consistent with

our internal projections," said Colonial Heights City Manager Tom Mattis. "Higher than average taxable sales per capita is one of the reasons we are able to fund quality city services at low costs for our residents."

Colonial Heights' \$641.6 million in total taxable sales last year was more than that of 57 Virginia localities with a larger population.

"This is good news for our retail partners, but this situation has not happened solely due to the fact that we have a mall," said Colonial Heights Vice-Mayor Betsy Luck. "It's also because the city strives to maintain an overall environment that attracts a wide range of residents and visitors."

Contact the CH City Manager :

Thomas L. Mattis
City Manager
201 James Avenue
P.O. Box 3401
Colonial Heights, VA 23834

Phone: (804) 520-9265

Fax: (804) 520-9207

E-mail:

mattist@colonial-heights.com

<http://www.colonial-heights.com>



CHPD Chief Faries Selected to Attend F.B.I. Executive Development Seminar

Colonial Heights Chief of Police **Jeffrey W. Faries** was recently selected to attend the 68th Session of the Law Enforcement Executive Development Seminar (LEEDS), hosted by the FBI in Quantico, Virginia.

Founded in 1981, the LEEDS program was originally conceived to fill the void in FBI executive training programs for smaller law enforcement agencies. Today, it has grown into an extensive network of leadership and management seminars serving law enforcement nationwide.

The 68th Session of LEEDS training will include topics presented by the FBI Academy Instructors and other resource professionals: The Political, Social and Economic Trends Affecting Law Enforcement Today; Labor Relations; the Mass Media; Affirmative Action; and the Executives Role. Program participants may also enroll in different electives such as Deadly Force, Future Issues for the Police Executive, Leadership Styles, and Personal and Organizational Change.

"I am very fortunate to have this opportunity and very appreciative of Richmond F.B.I. SAC Michael Morehart's nomination and support to attend this highly sought executive training" said Chief Faries

THE CITY FOCUS

**City of Colonial Heights
Office of the City Manager
Post Office Box 3401
Colonial Heights, Virginia 23834-9001
www.colonial-heights.com**

**FIRST CLASS
PRE-SORT MAIL
PERMIT NO. 100**

Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:



- * *microbial contaminants*, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- * *inorganic contaminants*, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- * *pesticides and herbicides*, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- * *organic chemical contaminants*, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- * *radioactive contaminants*, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ

transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

Additional Information for Lead

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The City of Colonial Heights is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for



lead exposure by flushing your tap for 15 to 30 seconds or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Where does my water come from?



The Appomattox River Water Authority provides water to the Cities of Colonial Heights and Petersburg and the Counties of Chesterfield, Dinwiddie and Prince George. The Authority obtains its water from Lake Chesdin, a surface water impoundment of the Appomattox River. There are no significant sources of contamination for Lake Chesdin.

The Farmville wastewater treatment plant is forty miles upstream and there are numerous animal feed lots and farms in the drainage area.

Source water assessment and its availability

The Virginia Department of Health conducted a source water assessment of our system during 2002. Lake Chesdin (Appomattox River) was determined to be highly susceptible to contamination using criteria developed by the state in its approved Source Water Assessment Program. The assessment

consists of maps showing the source water assessment area, an inventory of known land use activities of concern, and documentation of any known contamination within the last 5 years. The report is available by contacting Mr. James C. Dawson at 804-590-1145.



Water Conservation

Our Most Important Resource

Water is one of the most valuable resources for sustaining life. The human body is about 65% water, and only about 20% of our body water comes from our food. Less than 3% of the world's water is fresh water; the rest is contained in the world's oceans. In other words, as a population, we need to harness a lot of water from a relatively small source.

We don't always understand how much water we consume for daily activities, either. For example, it takes 11 gallons of water to produce the fruit in one half-gallon container of orange juice, and 37 gallons of water to supply the beans in your morning cup of coffee. An amazing 264 gallons of water are needed to produce one quart of milk, and an astonishing 4,200 gallons of water are required to produce just two pounds of beef.

The average person uses anywhere from 70 to 100 gallons of water per day; per year that amounts to roughly 100,000 gallons for the average family of four. Simple water conservation practices, like checking your home for leaky toilets and faucets, are simple and effective. Leaky toilets can waste as much as 200 gallons each day and dripping faucets can waste about 2,000 gallons of water each year. Making sure your garden hoses are fitted with shut-off nozzles is another easy way to conserve water. For more information on ways to conserve water, log onto www.colonial-heights.com/StormWaterManagement.

Colonial Heights Department of Public Works
P.O. Box 3401
201 James Avenue
Colonial Heights, Virginia 23834-9001
804.520.9334
www.colonial-heights.com/PublicWorks



2010 WATER QUALITY REPORT

Colonial Heights Department of Public Works



This report is designed to inform you about your drinking water quality. Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water, and we want you to understand the efforts we make to protect your water supply. The quality of your drinking water must meet state and federal requirements administered by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH).

Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

Regulated in the Colonial Heights Distribution System

Primary Contaminant	Units	MCLG	MCL	Level Detected	Range	Violation	Date of Sample	Typical Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria	# of samples	0	MCL = 1 positive monthly sample	None Positive	n/a	No	2010	Naturally present in the environment.
Fecal Coliform & <i>E. coli</i>		0	routine & repeat sample are total coliform positive and 1 is also fecal coliform or <i>E. coli</i> positive	None Positive	n/a	No	2010	Human and animal fecal waste.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	ppb	n/a	80	22	3.0 - 32.7	No	2010	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	ppb	n/a	60	31	13.8 - 38.0	No	2010	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Copper - action level at consumer taps *	ppm	1.3	AL = 1.3	0.21*	n/a	No	2008	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Lead - action level at consumer taps *	ppm	0	AL = 15	2.0 *	n/a	No	2008	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Chlorine (as Cl ₂)	ppm	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	2.46	0.2 - 3.3	No	2010	Water additive used to control microbes.
Chlorite	ppm	0.8	1.0	0.61	0.03 - 0.65	No	2010	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

Regulated at the ARWA Treatment Plant

Primary Contaminant	Units	MCLG	MCL	Level Detected	Range	Violation	Date of Sample	Typical Source of Contamination
Chlorine Dioxide	ppb	MRDLG = 800	MRDL = 800	210	-140 - 210	No	2010	Water additive used to control microbes
Fluoride	ppm	4	4	0.73	ND - 1.65	No	2010	Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate	ppm	10	10	0.29	n/a	No	2010	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Barium	ppm	2	2	0.029	n/a	No	2010	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Radium	pCi/L	0	5	0.9	n/a	No	2008	Erosion of natural deposits.
Primary Contaminant	Units	MCLG	MCL	Level Detected	Range	Violation	Date of Sample	Typical Source of Contamination
Alpha emitters	pCi/L	0	15	0.1	n/a	No	2008	Erosion of natural deposits
Beta/photon**	pCi/L	0	50**	4	n/a	No	2008	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Total Organic Carbon (TOC)	n/a	n/a	TT, minimum running annual average removal ratio = 1.0	1.37	1.26 - 1.42	No	2010	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity - filtered water	NTU	n/a	TT=1 NTU max TT=<0.3 NTU 95% of time	0.602 99.2%	n/a n/a	No	Every 15 Minutes	Soil runoff

Other Contaminants of Interest

Contaminant	Units	MCLG	MCL	Level Detected	Range	Violation	Date of Sample
<i>Cryptosporidium</i> ±	oocysts/L	<0.075	n/a	0.012	ND - 0.1	No	October 2006 - September 2008 (raw water)

Unregulated Contaminants	Units	MCLG	MCL	Highest	Average	Date of Sample	Comment
Sulfate	ppm	none	none	31.5	n/a	2010	Erosion of natural deposits
Chloroform	ppb	none	none	9.6	n/a	2010	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Bromodichloromethane	ppb	none	none	3.6	n/a	2010	By-product of drinking water disinfection
MTBE - finished water	ppb	none	none	<5.0	n/a	2010	Gasoline additive
Dibromochloromethane	ppb	none	none	0.6	n/a	2010	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Pharmaceuticals	Units	MCLG	MCL	Analyte Detected	Level	Date of Sample	Comment
P.A.C positive	ppb	none	none	Cotinine	0.002	2008	By-product of nicotine metabolized by the body
P.A.C negative	ppb	none	none	none	n/a	2008	
Estrogens & Hormones	ppb	none	none	none	n/a	2008	
Fragrances	ppb	none	none	none	n/a	2008	
Phenolic E.D.C.	ppb	none	none	none	n/a	2008	

Unit Descriptions	
Term	Definition
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
pCi/L	pCi/L: picocuries per liter, a measure of radioactivity
positive samples/month	positive samples/month: Number of samples taken monthly that were found to be positive
NTU	NTU: nephelometric turbidity units, the measure of turbidity in water
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	Definition
MCLG	MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
MCL	MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection level goal. The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
MRDL	MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level. The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

NOTES

* Thirty (30) samples for lead and copper were tested in 2008. Zero (0) of the thirty (30) samples tested reached or exceeded the recommended action level.

** The MCL for beta particles is 4 millirem/year. EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern.

± *Cryptosporidium* is a microbial pathogen found in surface water throughout the U.S. Although filtration removes *Cryptosporidium*, the most commonly-used filtration methods can not guarantee 100% removal. Our monitoring indicates the presence of these organisms in our source water and/or finished water. Current test methods do not allow us to determine if the organisms are dead or if they are capable of causing disease. Ingestion of *Cryptosporidium* may cause cryptosporidiosis, an abdominal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immuno-compromised people, infants and small children, and the elderly are all at greater risk of developing life-threatening illness. We encourage immuno-compromised individuals to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection. *Cryptosporidium* must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water.