

# THE CITY FOCUS

## City Announces Upgrades to Trash Collection and New, Innovative Recycling Programs

Beginning July 1st, the City of Colonial Heights will be implementing a new program for household trash collection that will include major upgrades in recycling services for city residents. The City will also be initiating an incentivized system for curbside collection of recyclables that will be the first of its kind in the region.

Through an extensive selection process, the City recently approved a 5-year agreement with Container First Services (CFS) of Petersburg through the Central Virginia Waste Management Authority (CVWMA) as the new City trash collection service provider.

“CFS is very excited about this opportunity to begin working with the City,” said CFS President Robert Guidry. “We are committed to providing high quality services to the citizens of Colonial Heights.”

While there will be some general changes with the new service provider, the basic collection policies and procedures will remain the same:

- Trash will continue to be collected on Wednesday of each week (with the exception of the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday, when trash will be collected Thursday, July 5<sup>th</sup>)
- Trash in personal containers will not be collected, but bags, bundled yard waste and bulky waste placed outside the cart will continue to be collected just as it has been in the past.
- Those whose trash is collected from a location other than the curb will continue to receive collection from that location.
- All trash should be put in the wheeled cart and the cart placed at the curb by 7:00 am. The cart should then be removed from the curb by 7:00PM of the day following collection.

Each home will receive a new, burgundy-colored trash cart from CFS in late June, replacing the current blue cart, which will then be collected by the current services provider.

The new trash carts will be smaller (68-gallons) than the current trash cart (96 gallons). One of the City’s broader goals with this new program is to reduce the overall waste stream entering local landfills. By providing a much larger *recycling* cart, residents will be able to significantly reduce the amount of household trash to be collected, thereby reducing the need for—and costs associated with—the larger *trash* cart.

In addition, the City will also begin a new and innovative curbside recycling program on July 1st that will provide various incentives to encouraging residents to begin or continue recycling. The new program will be provided by the City’s current recycling service provider TFC Recycling.



“We are very enthusiastic about this program and the fact that we will be the first in our region to offer this service,” said City Manager Tom Mattis. “The program not only rewards our citizens who are already recycling, but will hopefully motivate others. To start.”

Under TFC’s “Recycling | Perks” program, each resident will be provided, at no cost, a 96-gallon green recycling cart with wheels and a lid. The larger cart will provide additional storage, be easier to transport to the curb and will keep recyclables dry and contained.

The new “Recycling | Perks” program will also give Colonial Heights residents opportunities to earn points and benefits for recycling. Accumulated points can be redeemed in the form of discounts and coupons at a wide variety of local restaurants and retailers.

“This is a very innovative approach to encouraging recycling,” said Kim Hynes, CVWMA Executive Director. “We are pleased that Colonial Heights is taking the lead in this regard for our region and hope similar efforts will expand to our other members.”

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## Colonial Heights Launches New Website

[www.colonialheightsva.gov](http://www.colonialheightsva.gov)

*Redesigned Site Offers New Technologies, Features and Services to Residents and Visitors*

**COLONIAL HEIGHTS, VA** - The City of Colonial Heights officially launched its new website, [www.colonialheightsva.gov](http://www.colonialheightsva.gov) on March 10, 2012.

Designed by city staff and government website experts at CivicPlus, the new site reflects the unique personality of Colonial Heights while incorporating a host of new and improved features and tools designed to help residents and visitors quickly locate the information and services they need.

"We are very excited about our new website," said City Manager Tom Mattis. "Effective and innovative communication through the internet is an absolute imperative in today's world."

The new homepage is easy to navigate and breaks down information for residents, businesses and visitors. The "How Do I" link takes citizens directly to specific information while a "Frequently Asked Questions" feature provides quick answers. Reporting a concern or asking a question is also easier than ever. Visitors simply click the "Let Us Know" button on the left hand side of every page to access a submissions form.

"One of the Council's objectives is to continue to seek out ways to engage and better inform our citizenry," said Mayor Scott Davis. "We hope our enhanced website will help us achieve that goal."

The new website also plays an important role in citizen notifications. Along with our existing CodeRed system, the new "Alert Center" and

"News Flash" features allow us to provide critical information to residents instantly.

In addition to emergency information, the new "Notify Me" option on the homepage allows visitors to sign up to receive alerts from specific departments about special events, bids, public meetings, and a variety of other city activities. Citizens may choose to be notified via email or text message.

"Many of the upgrades to our new website were developed through input from both staff and the general public," said Karen Saunders, Information Technology Administrator, "which will result in better communication and distribution of information."

Other features and functionality of the new city website include an online Job Application system and a new Online Bill Pay (e-payments) system. Social media integration is also in place, as well as mobile Apps for browsing our Resources and Facilities Directories.



The City will celebrate its eighth **Arbor Day** on **Friday, April 27, 2012** at 10:00 a.m. at Fort Clifton Park.



The Colonial Heights Beautification Committee presents



The self guided "at your own pace" garden tour offers the opportunity to explore numerous diverse residential gardens throughout Colonial Heights. The tour is presented by the Colonial Heights Beautification Committee.

Information: 526-2695

Tickets are available at the Colonial Heights Library and the Recreations & Parks Department.



### City of Colonial Heights Adopt-A-Roadway Spring Clean-up Day

**Saturday, April 28, 2012  
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

This event is intended for the "Adopt-A-Roadway" program here in the city. We will meet briefly in the Multi-Purpose Room of the Community Center on Roanoke Avenue where the Vice Mayor will provide the kick-off speech for the day activities. Refreshments and t-shirts are provided for the participants.

If your organization wishes to attend, please visit our website at [www.colonialheightsva.gov](http://www.colonialheightsva.gov) and fill out a registration form. Submit forms to Department of Public Works, Attn: Patsy Dixon, P.O. Box 3401, Colonial Heights, VA 23834.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please call the Public Works Department at 520-9372, Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. or email [dixonp@colonialheightsva.gov](mailto:dixonp@colonialheightsva.gov).

We look forward to seeing everyone there and thank you for all of your support in keeping our city clean!

### New Trash and Recycling Collection Starting July 1

*(Continued from Page 1)*

With the much larger cart replacing the current small bins, collection of recyclables will only be necessary every **two** weeks. **Recyclables will continue to be collected on Friday of each week, but it will be under an every-other-week schedule beginning July 1st.** A bi-weekly curbside collection schedule will be delivered with the new recycling cart.

"This new program is a further example of Colonial Heights' commitment to always seeking ways to upgrade city services in a cost-effective manner," said Colonial Heights Mayor Scott Davis. "These new service agreements will not only create opportunities for improved services, but will also provide cost-containment for the future." The new service agreement with CFS guarantees that fees for trash collection services will not be increased by CFS for the next five years.

Please call CVWMA's Trash Collection Hotline at 425-0500 or visit [www.cvwma.com](http://www.cvwma.com) for more information about trash collection or recycling. Visit [www.recyclingperks.com](http://www.recyclingperks.com) to learn more about TFC's "Recycling | Perks" program.

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**Don't Forget -  
FY12-13 Budget  
Public Hearing  
April 24th**

May 12, 2012 10:30 a.m.—5:30 p.m.



May 13, 2012 12 Noon—5:30 p.m.

## 2011 Water Quality Report City of Colonial Heights

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).

### **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. Jamie Gordon at 804-590-1145.

For more local information, contact the Colonial Heights Director of Public Works, Mr. William (Chuck) Henley, at 804-520-9334 or the Appomattox River Water Authority at 804-748-8627. Public Comment forums are available at all City Council meetings which are held on the second Tuesday night of each month.

## 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	2011	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	2011	Human and animal fecal waste.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	ppb	n/a	80	28	14.1 - 47.0	No	2011	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	ppb	n/a	60	34	23.1 - 46.7	No	2011	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Copper - action level at consumer taps *	ppm	1.3	AL = 1.3	0.201*	n/a	No	2011	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Lead - action level at consumer taps *	ppb	0	AL = 15	2*	n/a	No	2011	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Chlorine (as Cl <sub>2</sub> )	ppm	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	2.63	0.3 - 3.4	No	2011	Water additive used to control microbes.
Chlorite	ppm	0.8	1.0	0.29	0.13 - 0.30	No	2011	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	190	-140 - 190	No	2011	Water additive used to control microbes
Fluoride	ppm	4	4	0.44	ND - 1.40	No	2011	Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate + Nitrite	ppm	10	10	0.18	n/a	No	2011	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Barium	ppm	2	2	0.025	n/a	No	2011	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	1.29	1.25 - 1.36	No	2011	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity - filtered water	NTU	n/a n/a	TT=1 NTU max TT=<0.3 NTU 95% of time	0.142 100%	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	32.1	n/a	2011	Erosion of natural deposits
Chloroform	ppb	none	none	23	n/a	2011	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Bromodichloromethane	ppb	none	none	3.1	n/a	2011	By-product of drinking water disinfection
MTBE - finished water	ppb	none	none	<5.0	n/a	2011	Gasoline additive
Dibromochloromethane	ppb	none	none	<0.5	n/a	2011	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	
<u>Term</u>	<u>Definition</u>
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	
<u>Term</u>	<u>Definition</u>
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 2011. 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.*

\*\*\* *Value is a negative number due to a lab analysis involving multiple titrations and calculations which may result in a negative number.*

± *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.