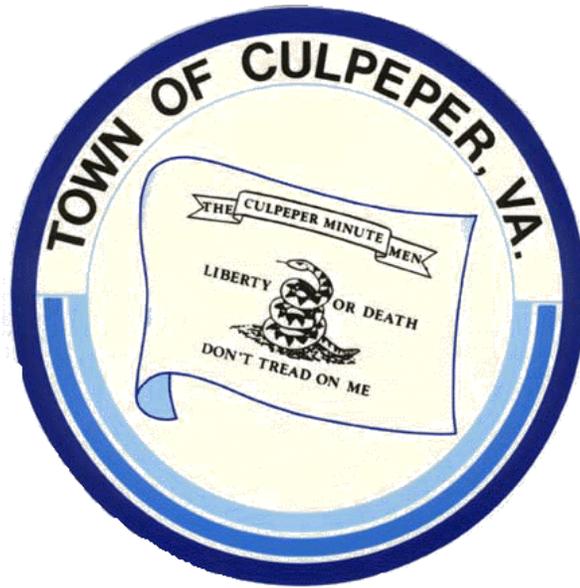


ANNUAL REPORT

to the

MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL



July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012

Respectfully Submitted:

Kimberly L. Alexander
Town Manager

November 13, 2012

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TOWN OF CULPEPER

Town Council

400 S. Main St., Suite 101 • Culpeper, VA 22701
(540) 829-8250 • FAX (540) 829-8249
www.culpeperva.gov

Calvin L. Coleman, Mayor
William M. Yowell, Vice Mayor
Daniel V. Boring
Benjamin P. Phillips
David B. Lochridge
Michael T. Olinger
Frank Reaves, Jr.
James C. Risner
Robert M. Ryan

Town Manager
Kimberly L. Alexander

November 13, 2012

Mayor Calvin L. Coleman, Jr.
Members of Town Council

Dear Mayor & Town Council:

I am pleased to submit the Town of Culpeper's Annual Report for the period of July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012, as required by the Culpeper Town Charter. The report highlights departmental activities during this period and provides statistical data and performance measures for evaluating municipal demand and efficiency.

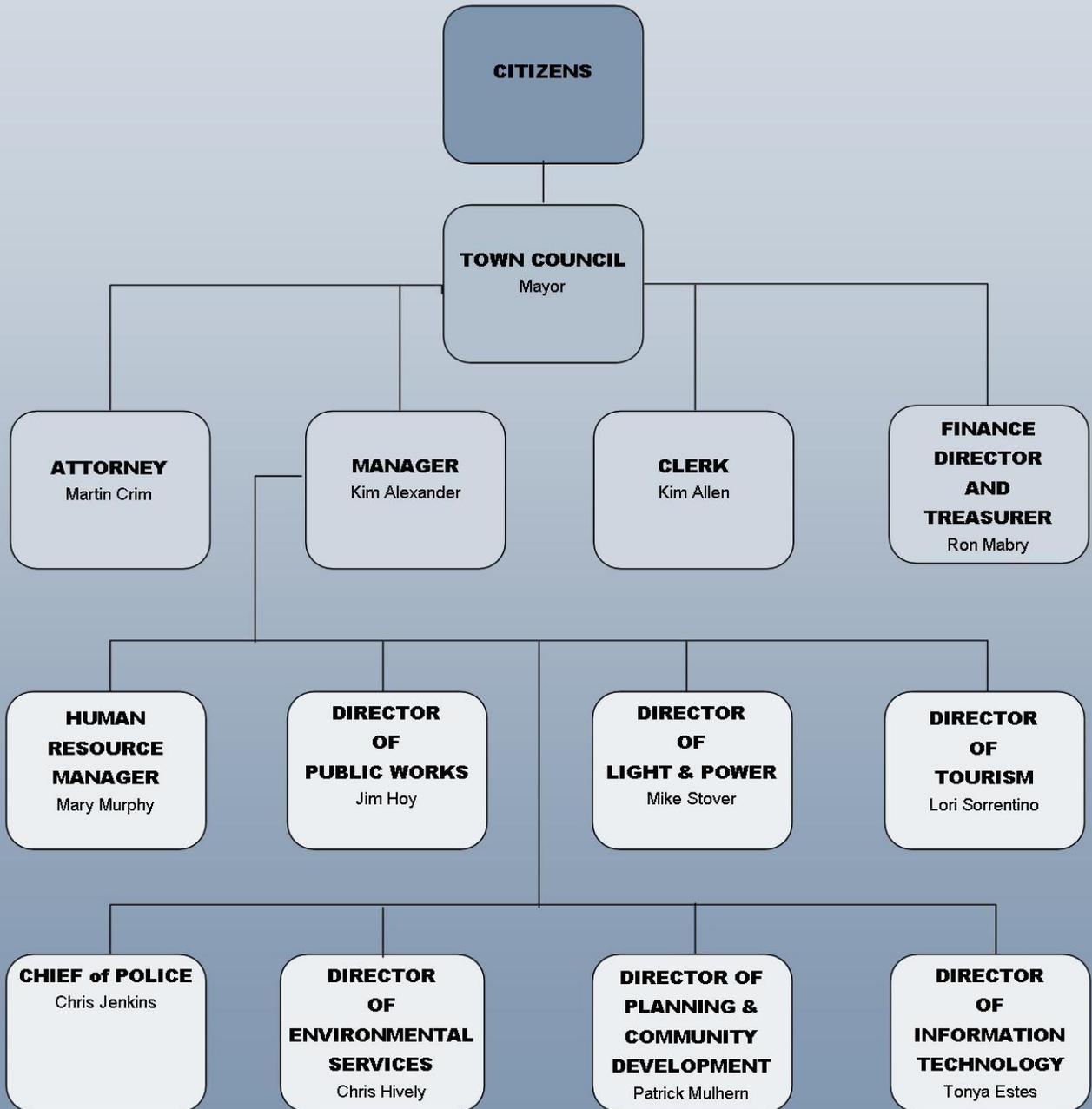
In this last year, the Town and its staff have achieved many accomplishments under the leadership and direction of Council. The staff has prepared this report to provide an accounting of those accomplishments.

On behalf of Town employees, we appreciate your confidence and support and look forward to many years of continued Town service for our citizens.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly L. Alexander
Town Manager

TOWN OF CULPEPER ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



CULPEPER TOWN COUNCIL

The Town Council, as the governing body for the Town of Culpeper, sets policies and establishes ordinances for the general safety, health, and welfare of its citizens. Through its collective judgment, it provides a budget ensuring current and future services are provided in a sound and financially responsible manner.



Culpeper Town Council

Seated from left:

*David B. Lochridge, Michael T. Olinger, Mayor Calvin L. Coleman Jr.,
Vice Mayor William M. Yowell, James C. Risner*

Standing from left:

Benjamin P. Phillips, Frank Reaves Jr., Daniel V. Boring, Robert M. Ryan

TOWN MANAGER

INTRODUCTION

The role of the town manager is to seek, promote, and support a high quality of life for all Town citizens. This is accomplished through the development and contribution of all Town employees working to their maximum potential. Under the direction and leadership of the town manager, Town employees provide quality and innovative services resulting in the highest levels possible for our citizens.

The office of the town manager provides general and administrative oversight of all municipal operations. To fulfill this primary function, the town manager advises the town council on municipal policy and programs affecting the community; directs and coordinates, the activities and work programs of all Town departments; interacts with Federal and State agencies and other local government; conducts short and long range financial planning, including preparation of the annual operating budget and capital improvements program; administers personnel activities and programs; performs special studies, issue analyses, and evaluations to promote informed decision-making; reviews and oversees the submission and administration of federal and state grants; and monitors state and federal activities, legislation and events to represent, as appropriate, the interests of Culpeper.

The current population of the Town is approximately 16,400 and while growth has slowed over the past five years, Culpeper experienced rapid growth for most of the past decade. Although an increasing residential population is normally considered a plus for attracting commercial development, it also creates challenges for Council and administration in serving a community that seems to be quite comfortable with the Town as it currently exists. People will speak with pride as to the 1993 nomination of Culpeper as “One of America’s Top Ten Small Towns.” While its population may have nearly doubled in the past decade, Culpeper continues to be a great “small town” as we continue to provide excellent public safety, transportation, utility and recreation infrastructure, and cost-effective yet high-quality municipal services while preserving and improving a strong economic viability.

FY12 brought a continued focus on improvements to the Town operations and the continuing focus on planning for the future of our community. The following major issues, activities, or events were begun or continued during this past fiscal year.

- **Boundary Adjustment & Water and Sewer Regional Agreement** – A long sought after milestone was accomplished in FY12 with the approval of the Settlement Agreement between the Town and County. This 30+ year agreement secured the Town as the long term regional supplier of water and wastewater for the Town and County water and sewer service area around Town. Additionally, this agreement allowed the Town to boundary line adjust approximately ½ square miles into the Town, primarily developed land in the Montanus area. This boundary adjustment is anticipated to generate approximately \$1.1 million in additional revenue for the Town starting in FY13. The agreement also created a process to allow future boundary line adjustments of developed land that has become urban in nature at a frequency of approximately every 10 years.
- **Western Inter Loop Road** – During FY12 significant effort began toward the design of the Western Inter Loop Road which will work in conjunction with the VDOT Route 15/29 and Route 229 widening and intersection improvements project to relieve congestion at the Main Street and Route 522 intersection. Construction is anticipated to begin on this project in FY13.

- **Regional Water Supply Plan** – During FY12 a Regional Water Supply Plan was completed by the Town and County. The plan identified anticipated water supply needs for the Town and County for the next 30-40 years. In support of the plan findings, the Town completed the first phase of a groundwater study to identify and secure groundwater sources for the Town. Approximately 1.5 million gallons per day of capacity was identified and will be secured and tied into the system during FY13. Additional groundwater exploration will continue during FY13.
- **Maintenance of Older Electrical Infrastructure** – Light and Power has continued the replacement of old poles, wires and underground infrastructure throughout the Town. With new construction picking back up this past year the amount of new customers doubled from the previous year. Design has begun on an underground feeder to bypass the Oaklawn area by removing the overhead lines and putting them underground for system reliability. The long term mapping of the entire electric system is nearing completion and will tie in to the new Automatic Meter Reading system for outage reporting. An automatic transfer switch was installed to provide a redundant feed to the hospital complex. Additionally the LED street lighting pilot project was completed successfully and new LED street lighting fixtures will be installed in the upcoming year.
- **Automatic Meter Reading** – During FY12 the Town issued several contracts for the development of an automatic meter reading system for both water and electric meters. Approximately 50% of the system was deployed in FY12 with the completion of the project anticipated in FY13. Once complete, the system will provide automatic meter
- **Earthquake** – In August 2011, the Town and surrounding community was shook with a magnitude 7.4 earthquake which caused significant damage to many older structures in the downtown area of Culpeper and resulting in the condemnation and ultimate demolition of the Levi building. Damage resulting from this earthquake continued to surface throughout the remainder of FY12.
- **FY12 Town of Culpeper Budget** – The effects of the ongoing economic recession continued in FY12 and continue to present a challenge for the Town in regards to receipts for many local taxes. The initial effects of the recession were felt with a significant reduction in tax revenue from FY08 to FY09 with revenue continuing to drop through FY11. Revenue for FY12 showed a slight recovery as compared to FY11 but is still more than 7% below the pre-FY09 tax revenues. Property values continue to decline with early information for the general reassessment to be completed in January 2013 indicating the taxable value reduction may be in the neighborhood of 10% of the taxable real estate.
- **Town Awards and Achievements** – During FY12, the American Planning Association named Davis Street as one of the top ten Great Streets of America. Additionally, the National Trust for Historical Preservation presented the Town with the Great America Main Streets Award. Only five awards were presented nationally during FY12 for this award. Also during FY12 the Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association awarded the Town with the 2012 Best Comprehensive Plan in Virginia award. Additionally, the Police Department competed in the Virginia Chief's Association Law Enforcement Challenge, earning Second Place Overall.

TOWN CLERK

The Town Clerk’s Office is responsible for providing administrative support and maintenance to the Town Council and Town Manager. This office administers a wide variety of functions as required by Town Code and State statute and is a vital link between Council and the citizens. The Clerk’s Office is staffed by two council-appointed employees, the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk, along with the Office Administration Clerk.

In addition to coordinating council activities, including but not limited to meetings, agendas, and packets, the **Clerk’s Office administers the following ordinances and tax programs:**

- Business Licenses
- Meals tax
- Transient Lodging Tax
- Admissions Tax
- Cigarette Tax

The Clerk’s Office also handles...

- Fairview Cemetery—records, sales, permits
- Records Management for the Town of Culpeper
- Town Code Amendments
- Transient Assistance Fund

REVENUE GENERATED BY TOWN CLERK’S OFFICE

The programs administered by the Clerk’s Office are major revenue sources for the Town. Once again, in FY2012, **over \$3.5 million in revenue** was generated from the five tax programs, plus cemetery revenue (lot sales, interments, stone permits, and transfer fees), which the trend has been for over six years as illustrated below:

<u>Revenue Type</u>	<u>FY2007</u>	<u>FY2008</u>	<u>FY2009</u>	<u>FY2010</u>	<u>FY2011</u>	<u>FY2012*</u>
Admissions Tax	\$ 38,791	\$ 35,301	\$ 39,633	\$ 38,964	\$ 35,482	\$ 41,551
Meals Tax	\$ 1,950,831	\$ 1,920,171	\$ 1,771,345	\$ 1,732,663	\$ 1,775,185	\$ 1,868,895
BPOL	\$ 1,234,042	\$ 1,208,573	\$ 1,053,284	\$ 1,108,071	\$ 1,045,251	\$ 1,019,364
Cigarette Tax	\$ 193,272	\$ 183,449	\$ 176,055	\$ 148,505	\$ 144,045	\$ 126,516
Lodging Tax	\$ 232,552	\$ 224,216	\$ 221,420	\$ 252,575	\$ 271,136	\$ 294,679
Grave Sales	\$ 54,400	\$ 66,800	\$ 37,800	\$ 59,500	\$ 60,008	\$ 55,300
Interments	\$ 59,400	\$ 60,250	\$ 56,200	\$ 61,000	\$ 70,200	\$ 50,200
Stone Permits	\$ 3,850	\$ 3,750	\$ 3,450	\$ 3,200	\$ 3,250	\$ 3,650
Cem—Lot Transfers	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ 250	\$ 450	\$ 450	\$ 950
ROW Use Fee	\$ 39,481	\$ 54,171	\$ 56,694	\$ 60,480	\$ 50,966	\$ 42,026
Totals	\$ 3,807,019	\$ 3,757,081	\$ 3,416,131	\$ 3,465,362	\$ 3,455,973	\$ 3,503,131

*Unaudited figures

TAX PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

BUSINESS, PROFESSIONAL & OCCUPATIONAL LICENSES

Over 130 new business license applications were requested and provided to prospective business owners. Over 100 were distributed in the Clerk's Office with others being emailed, faxed, or mailed upon request.

After working with the applicants on submitting the necessary paperwork, 176 new business licenses were issued (as compared to 126 in the last fiscal year) as follows by category. This total includes 86 non-resident contractor licenses issued.

5—Contracting

39—Retail

11—Fin/RE/Prof Service

20—Rep/Pers/Bus/Other Service

2—Wholesale

1—Alcoholic Beverage

4—Itinerant Merchant

2—Street Vendor

2—Annual Solicitor/Peddler Licenses

4—Precious Metals & Gems Licenses

86—Non-Resident Contractor licenses (total of 210 contractor applications processed)

As a result of the Town & County approved boundary line adjustment taking effect July 1, 2012, approximately 52 new businesses will be added to the active list of annual business licensees. At the close of the fiscal year, 22 of these businesses had obtained their licenses, which generated nearly \$33,000 additional revenue for FY12.

During the annual business license renewal process, gross receipts are verified through the submission or viewing of filed annual tax reports or other documentation provided by business owners. Where possible, annual gross receipts totals are compared to monthly tax reports submitted for other tax programs and/or to other governmental entities. Businesses are continually monitored for compliance with the cigarette, meals, and transient tax programs.

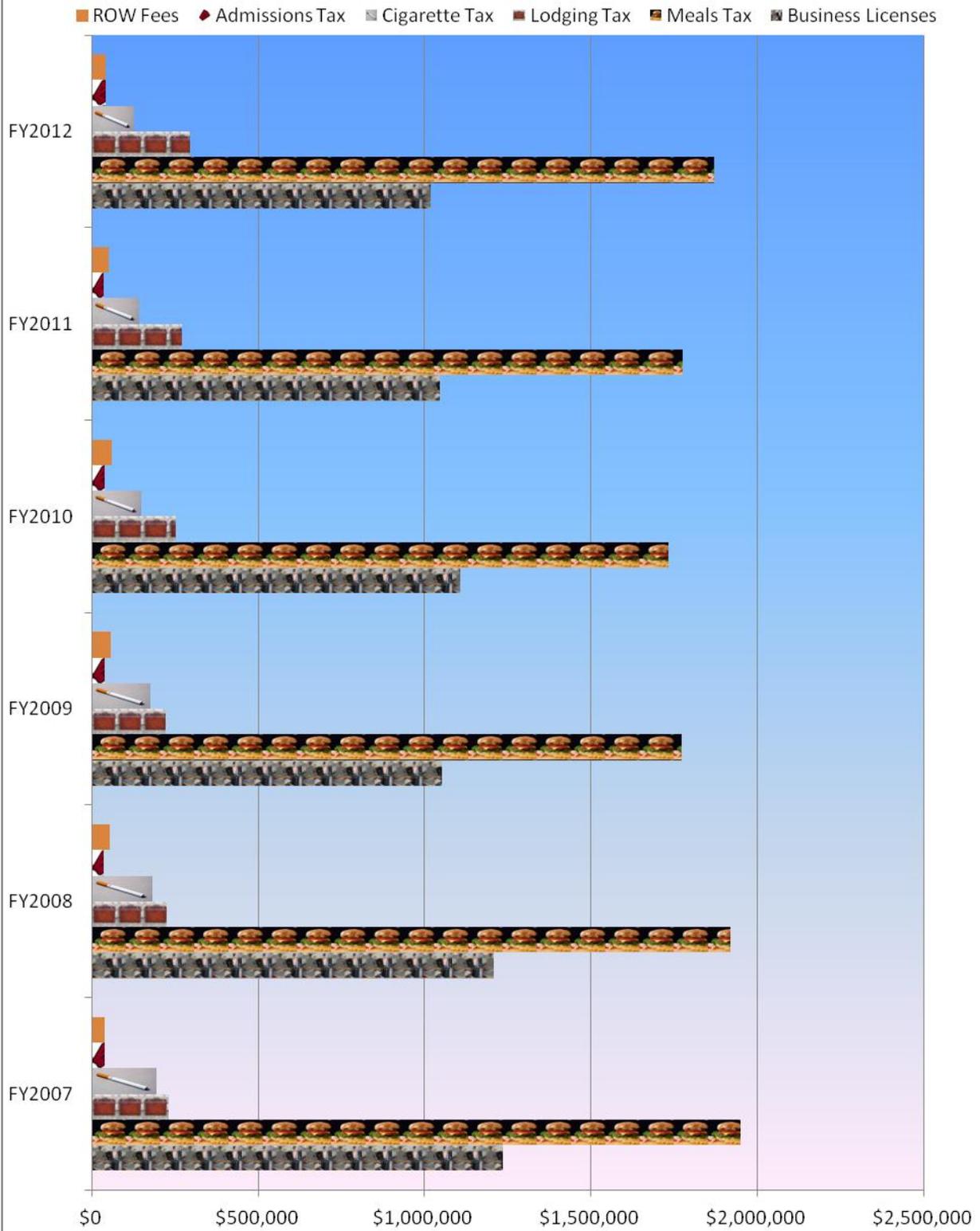
MEALS & TRANSIENT LODGING TAX COLLECTIONS

Meals and lodging tax administration was performed along with continued intermittent monitoring of restaurant receipts. At the end of the fiscal year, there were 89 meals and 12 lodging registered agents. Reports are recorded monthly and compared with previous reports to ensure consistency and accuracy; these reports are also compared to annual business license renewal applications.

ADMISSIONS AND CIGARETTE TAX PROGRAMS

The admissions and cigarette tax programs are also administered by the Clerk's Office, which maintains the list of registered admissions tax collectors and cigarette tax distributors. Nearly \$41,551 was collected in admissions taxes and 1,305,000 cigarette tax stamps (87 rolls) were sold for total revenue of \$126,516 (as compared to 99 rolls including 1,485,000 stamps sold for total revenue of \$144,045 in FY11).

FY2012 Tax Revenue Generated by Town Clerk's Office



RECORDS MANAGEMENT

The Town Clerk is the designated Records Manager for the Town of Culpeper and maintains the comprehensive records management program to ensure compliance with the Virginia Public Records Act (VPRA), FOIA, and records retention schedules developed by the Library of Virginia (LVA).

To ensure staff creates, maintains, archives permanently or destroy records according to the law, the Clerk's Office performed the following activities in FY2012:

- **Records Coordinators and Updates from the Library of Virginia:**
 - Departmental records coordinators were confirmed.
 - In FY2012, the Library of Virginia made six (6) updates to its records schedules for public records in localities, which were provided and explained to records coordinators.
- **Training for Records Coordinators:**
 - The Clerk's Office planned a series of approximately six (6) one-hour records management training sessions for records coordinators and other interested staff, which are scheduled to begin in July 2012.
 - The goal of the training series will be to educate staff on what constitutes a public record, its life cycle including disposition, basic principles of records management, managing electronic records, and disaster preparedness. The sessions will include guest speakers and at least one off-site tour.
 - The training sessions are intended to be interactive. Input from the records coordinators, IT staff, and department heads are a key component of the program.
 - At the end of the process, the Clerk's Office will create a Town Records Management, Archives, and Disaster Preparedness Program.

After individual departments receive approval of their records destruction forms, routine confidential document shredding services were performed. Various records were also transferred to the records room for temporary and permanent retention.

FAIRVIEW CEMETERY - INTERMENTS, GRAVE SALES & STONE PERMITS

The Clerk's Office maintains all records for Fairview Cemetery, including the Antioch, Fishermen, and Oddfellows sections.

In FY2012, the office coordinated activities with funeral directors to arrange for 86 interments and met individuals on-site at the cemetery to complete 59 grave sales. Nineteen (19) lot ownership transfers were processed.

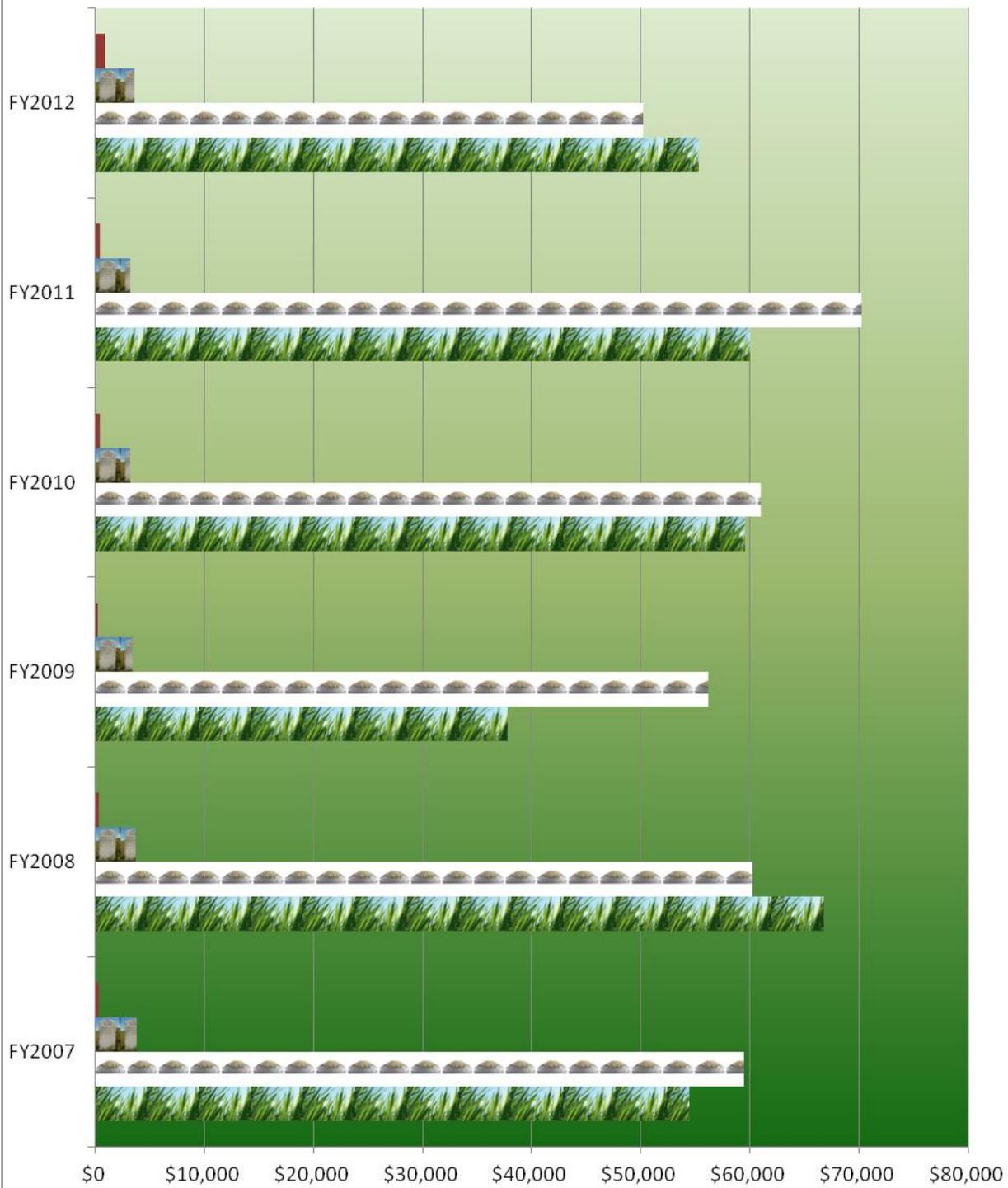
After working with various stone companies and funeral directors, 74 stone permits were issued and prepared for delivery to the cemetery for staking (as compared to 115 interments, 59 grave sales, and 73 stone permits in FY2011).

On a weekly basis, citizens and families of deceased individuals buried in Fairview contact us about purchasing grave spaces, erecting memorials on graves, rules and regulations, lot ownership questions, ownership transfers, and locating graves as well as seeking information during their activities on genealogy research.

**The chart on the following pages shows the total revenue collected by the Town Clerk's Office from operations at Fairview Cemetery.

FY2012 Cemetery Revenue Generated by the Town Clerk's Office

■ Ownership Transfers
 ■ Stone Permits
 ■ Interment Fees
 ■ Sale of Grave Spaces



FAIRVIEW CEMETERY PERPETUAL CARE FUND

The Fairview Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund shows a balance of \$638,716, including the transfer of 100% of sales for FY2012, which totaled \$55,133.

TRANSIENT ASSISTANCE FUND

The Clerk's Office also administers the Transient Assistance Fund during regular working hours. The fund is available to those individuals who have become stranded in Culpeper and need assistance reaching their destination. The Police Department administers the Fund when the Town Office is closed.

The 2011 transient report was prepared and distributed to local churches, civic organizations, the Culpeper Ministerial Association, and the Department of Human Services, whose program the Clerk's Office administers.

At the close of calendar year 2011, the Fund had been utilized ten (10) times to assist sixteen (16) individuals (as compared to 12 occasions to assist 14 people in CY2010). The fund closed the fiscal year with a balance of \$5,406. Local churches and civic organizations have been unable to make contributions as done in the past; therefore, the funds available to help qualifying individuals continue to decrease.

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

The Town Clerk's Office handles all correspondence for the mayor and council, makes arrangements for council members to attend various training and networking opportunities throughout the year, and prepares and distributes packets for all council and committee meetings. The office also attends, takes minutes of, and prepares committee minutes/updates for each of the meetings.

In FY2012, the Clerk's Office prepared a total of 78 council and committee meeting packets as compared to 79 packets in FY2011. The FY2012 total includes the recordation of 20 council meetings (12 regular, 8 special including joint Town Council and County Board of Supervisors meetings on water and sewer issues) and 58 committee meetings as compared to 34 council and 45 committee meetings in fiscal year 2011.

TOWN CODE AMENDMENTS

The Town Clerk is the designated Code Official for the Town of Culpeper. Code review and updates are worked on as time allows. The Code is available electronically and easily accessed through MuniCode at www.culpeperva.gov.

AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, & COMMISSIONS

Town Council is very proud to have over 55 citizens who volunteer their time and expertise by serving on one of its twelve authorities, boards, or commissions.

The Town Clerk's Office maintains the service and appointment records for all ABC members and coordinates appointments and re-appointments with council so these occur in a timely manner. This office also prepares and publicizes ads for volunteers as necessary.

NEW COUNCIL & COMMITTEE MEETING ROOM

Thanks to the efforts of Town employees Tim Payne, Philip Parker, and Glenn Bankhead from the Light & Power Department, along with Danny McClung and Nicole Romero from the Engineering Department, a portion of the third floor was converted from rented office space to the new Council and Committee Meeting Room. The Information Technology Department and Town Clerk's Office worked together on furnishings for the room. Work was completed in January in time for the monthly committee meetings. It is a huge improvement over the former committee room and is also used for the monthly Town Planning Commission meetings along with other special committee meetings.



ELECTION 2012

The 2012 council election was held on May 1 with all four incumbents retaining their council seats for a new four-year term, namely David B. Lochridge, Michael T. Olinger, Frank Reaves Jr., and Robert M. Ryan. Council members were sworn-in by Circuit Court Judge Swett on June 26.



From l-r: Frank Reaves, Jr., Michael T. Olinger, David B. Lochridge, Judge Swett.
Absent: Robert M. Ryan (sworn-in on different date)

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Thanks to the monetary contributions from council members, 14 bicycles were purchased for needy children and delivered to the Department of Human Services in response to their Board's challenge to Town Council and the Board of Supervisors. Imagine the faces of these 14 children on Christmas morning when they see what Santa brought them!!



FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) Request

As a result of the August 23 7.4 earthquake that shook the downtown area, the Clerk's Office responded to 28 FOIA requests related to the Town's demolition of the former Levy building on North Main Street due to structural damage. Considerable staff time was spent researching, gathering, and reviewing responses received prior to disseminating the information to the requestors. In fact, two of the FOIA requests required 27 hours each of staff time, plus over 1,000 copies.

CULPEPER MEDIA NETWORK

Over the past year, there have been many changes at Culpeper Media Network that have helped our community. What's the biggest change? We are no longer known as Channel 21. With the channel changes at Comcast, it became important to brand the station as a name, not a number. Culpeper Media Network was born. Not only do we air on Comcast in the Culpeper area, we are now available on Verizon's FiOs network. Add to that the on-line presence that provides live streaming and video on-demand, and Culpeper Media Network is reaching more viewers than ever.

Public Awareness

Over 100 "Wanted" individuals aired to the public – Crimesolvers

Quick-Aware service – (Notices are given by County and Town official releases). This gives us the capability to instantly put important information for the residents of Culpeper. Most recently this service was used to keep viewers aware of the Boil Water Notice.

Non-Profit Programming

Public Service Announcements – Many organizations have promoted their cause through CMN. Agencies range from HOTR, Alzheimer's association, March of Dimes, Chamber of Commerce, Culpeper Renaissance, Piedmont United Way and the Red Cross. Rough estimates put the amount saved by these organizations well over \$20,000.*

Non Profit Programming – Promoting Non-Profits through a variety of programs. Most recently, Camp Fantastic, Brandy Station fire Department, Culpeper Fire Department, Relay For Life Culpeper, Special Games at Culpeper and many more. Rough estimates put the amount saved by these organizations well over \$150,000.**

*assumes an average rate of \$500 per session for production costs

**assumes an average rate of \$1750 per session for production & editing costs

Internet

With the station rebranding, we have made sure to add as much social media and internet presence as possible. Our new Facebook page already has over 250 'likes.' Our highest amount of persons reached topped 3,000 late in the month of July. Our Facebook page announces new streaming options, upcoming events and requests for input on programming.

One of the most often asked questions is "Are you on Satellite?" To combat this, CMN has re-dedicated its on-line presence to make it easier for viewers to find information about the area in which they live. Live streaming of the station is now available, and on-demand programming is being updated weekly. When the re-design of our website comes through, viewers will instantly see the latest on-demand viewing options.

Currently, CMN has over 225 programs available of on-demand viewing. This includes archives of all meetings from the Town, County, School Board and Planning Commissions.

Community Message Board

As many are aware of, the CMN Community Message Board (or COMB) is used to keep viewers aware of upcoming community events, give contact information for government officials and update viewers with important local government information.

We have updated this process so that any organization can have direct access to this service and can manage their content at their convenience. A notice was sent out on behalf of CMN to the entire listing of non-profits affiliated with the Piedmont United Way. This will allow the COMB to have more content than ever before with the information being even more relevant and timely.

If you or your organization is interested in using this feature, please contact the station.

Programming

Programming quality and quantity continue to increase. We are always dedicated to airing our regular staple of School Board, Town Council, Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission meetings. All of these meetings, minus the Town Planning Commission, are originally aired LIVE. We look forward to making all meetings live in the upcoming year with the help of the Town.

CMN is vamping up our original programming with partnerships of many organizations. Most notably:

1. Accent on Education – Partnering with Culpeper Schools to educate the citizens the events and people in our school system
2. Germanna Today – Partnering with Germanna Community College allows us to do the same, but with higher education
3. The Care of Culpeper – Partnering with the Piedmont United Way to educate the public of the different non-profits that make our community strong.
4. Crimesolvers – Partnering with the local police allows citizens to have an active role in keeping our community safe.
5. Historical Programming – Partnering with local historian Donnie Johnston, the Town and County of Culpeper have made possible over 16 programs (to date) of historical nature. These range from the 1973 Championship Basketball team to a 3-part series on Brandy Station.

This is just a small sample of the work that we have done over the past year. If you are interested in any more information from the station, or have questions regarding the information posted here, please feel free to contact Station Manager Jonathan Krawchuk at 825-2447.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

INTRODUCTION

The Department of Environmental Services (DES) is comprised of two operating divisions and three support groups. The operating divisions consist of the water treatment plant (WTP) and the water pollution control facility (WPCF). Both plants are supported by a central maintenance group, analytical staff, and administrative staff.

The WTP is staffed by seven (7) operators including the Chief Operator. The WPCF is staffed by seven (7) operators including the Chief Operator, and the analytical support group is staffed by two (2) employees, the Laboratory Supervisor and Lab Analyst. The central maintenance group is staffed by five (5) employees including the Maintenance Supervisor. The administrative staff consists of two (2) employees, the Operations Manager and Administration Support Officer. The total number of DES employees at the end of FY12 was 23.

The primary function of the WTP is to treat water from surface water sources to the extent required for it to meet drinking water standards. During the past fiscal year all water treated at the WTP was obtained from Lake Pelham. The primary function of the WPCF is to treat wastewater from domestic, commercial, and industrial sources to the extent required by the state issued VPDES permit for the discharge of treated effluent into waters of the state of Virginia. A supporting function of the WPCF is to provide treatment and disposal of residual solids separated from the wastewater during the treatment process. Treated effluent from the WPCF continued to be discharged during the past year into the Mountain Run / Rappahannock Basin system.

DEPARTMENTAL GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

The Goal or Mission of DES is to support the town's Strategic Plan in a manner that will result in providing water and wastewater plant processed water and support services in a safe, continuous, and reliable manner at the most cost effective quality levels through the efficient use of resources.

The Water and Wastewater Enterprise Funds business objectives were divided into the major areas of operational, financial, and business maintenance & development functions.

The effectiveness and efficiency of the department can be measured and monitored by several means including operational performance, financial, and business development. To accomplish this, the report has been formatted into the following sections:

Operational Performance Results

Section I WTP / WPCF production performance as compared to the previous year's performance and current year's demand for services

Section II WTP / WPCF compliance with regulatory, quality, and safety requirements as required by Department of Health, DEQ, EPA, OSHA, and Town of Culpeper

Financial Results

Section III Enterprise fund financial performance as compared to the FY12 budget

Business Maintenance & Development Results

Section IV Facilities maintenance and development

Section V Personnel development, utilization, and performance

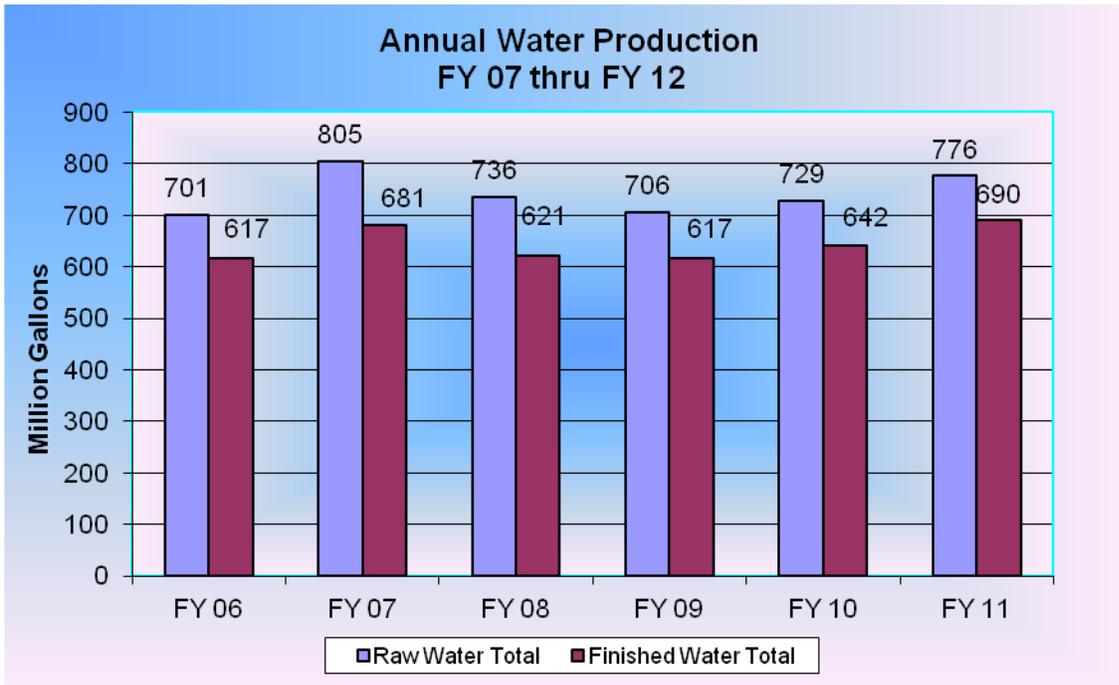
**SECTION I
RESULTS OF PLANT OPERATIONS**

WATER TREATMENT PLANT
SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL DATA

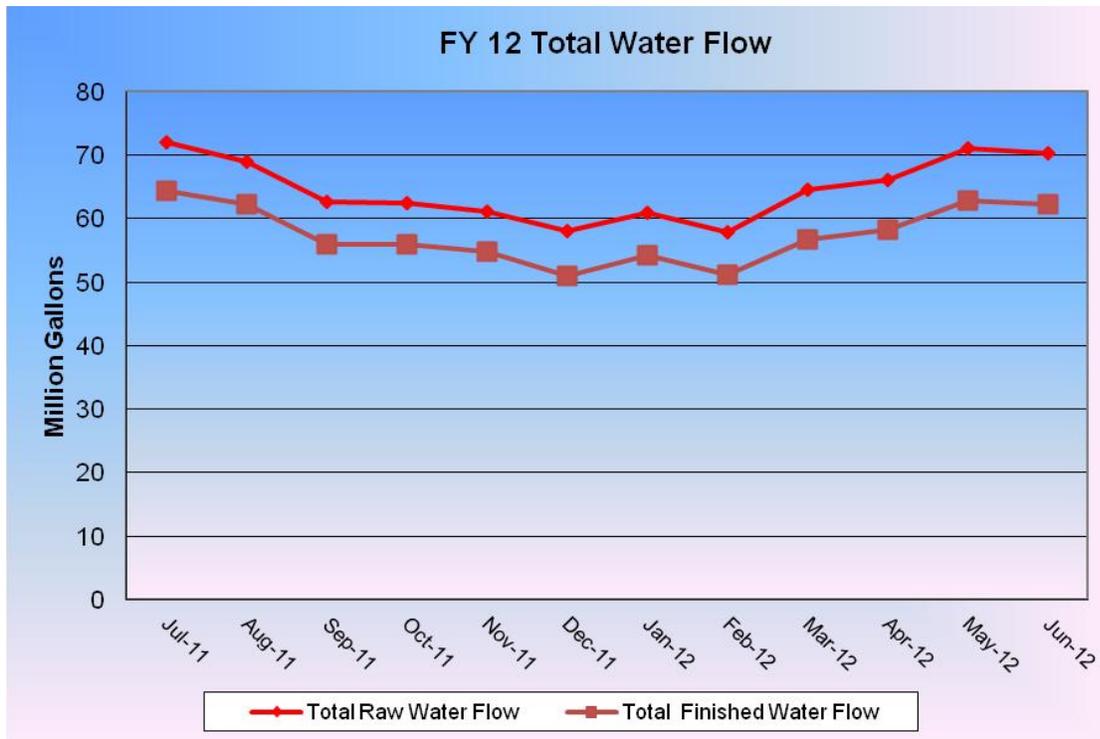
	<u>FY12</u>	<u>FY11</u>
Total Lake Pelham water processed (million gallons)	776	729
Total finished water supplied (million gallons)	690	642
Average daily flow of finished water (MGD*)	1.9	1.8
Peak daily flow of finished water (MGD)	3.2	2.8
WTP Capacity (MGD)	4.0	4.0
Days WTP operated	365	365

* MGD – million gallons per day

The Water Plant was able to meet peak and average customer demands resulting in potable water being supplied on a continuous basis to system customers through FY12. The plant still had treatment capacity to allow the WTP to be shut down for 6 to 8 hours per day.



The total volume of raw water processed during FY12 increased by 6% over FY11. The finished water supplied to the distribution system increased by 7% compared to FY11. Plant efficiency in converting Lake Pelham water into potable water improved slightly in FY12 compared to FY11, largely due to changes to the treatment processes and an improved lake water quality due to natural seasonal variability.



The Town met the Partnership for Safe Water plant optimization and water quality goals for FY12, which is a major accomplishment for the Town. Meeting this nationally recognized voluntary goal established by AWWA and EPA demonstrates optimal removal of particles in the water including bacteria and viruses for improved safety.

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITY

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL DATA – Wastewater Treatment

	<u>FY12</u>	<u>FY11</u>
Total wastewater effluent flow (million gallons)	1085	962
Average daily flow (MGD)	3.0	2.6
Peak daily flow (MGD)	11.4	5.8
Plant Capacity	6.0	6.0
Rainfall (total inches/year)	52.1	43.5
Days WPCF operated	365	365

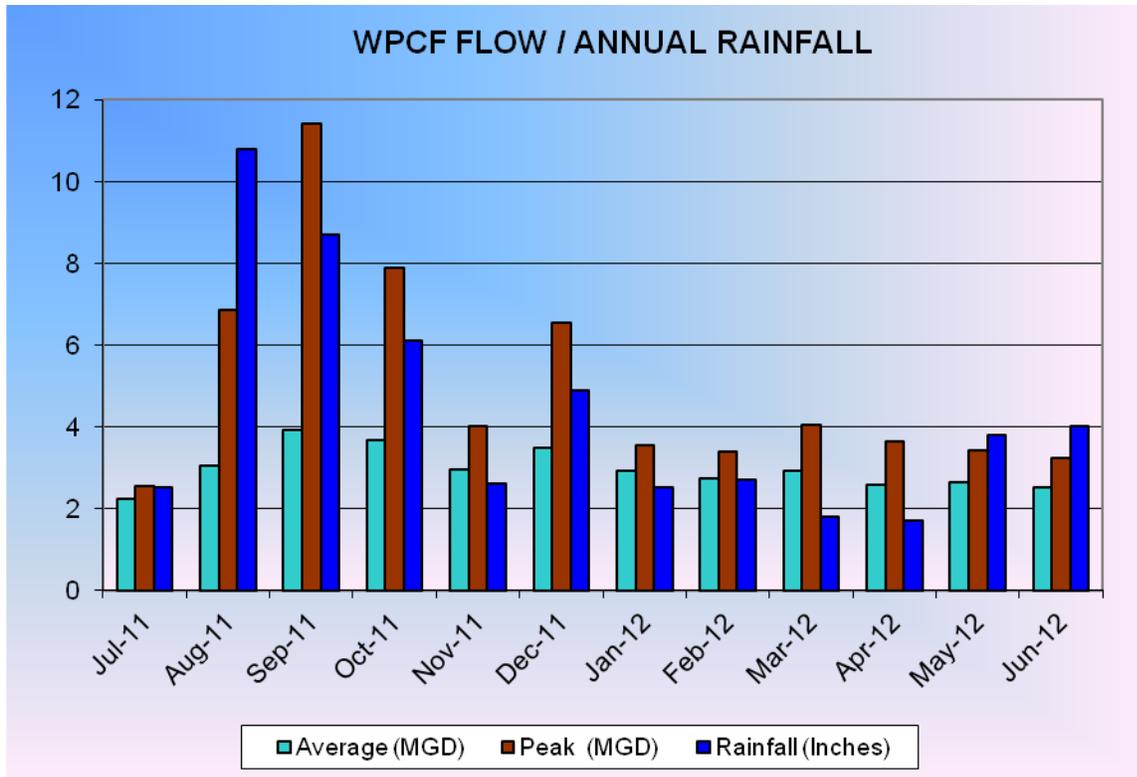
SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL DATA – Solids Processing

	<u>FY12</u>	<u>FY11</u>
Total dry tons of bio-solids	542	599
Gallons of septage processed	442,307	492,005

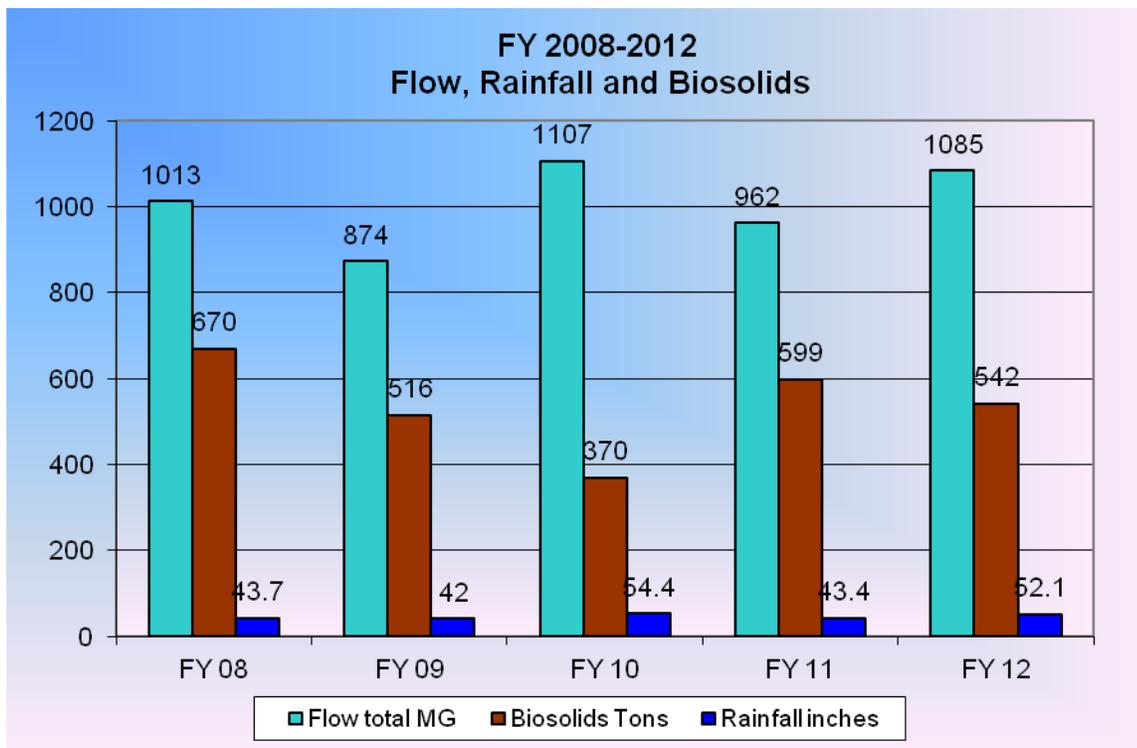
The WPCF is operated on a three shift – 24 hour basis. In order to comply with the new Chesapeake Bay Nutrient Reduction Regulations, a major plant upgrade was required to meet nutrient limits by December 2010. This upgrade was completed in April 2010 increasing the plant capacity to 6 MGD and providing for the required nutrient removal.

FY12 was the first full year of operation with the completed plant upgrade and new permit limits. The WPCF effluent quality was in compliance with all permit limits during this fiscal year.

In looking at historical data, the total FY12 wastewater flow to the plant increased by 11% from FY11. This increase can be accounted for by the increase in rainfall of 8.6 inches over FY12. The Inflow/Infiltration reduction program continues to reduce inflow and infiltration into the plant, but as can be seen by the following graph, significant inflow continues to occur during periods of heavy rainfall.



Centrifuge operation required for solids processing averaged 70 hours per week for FY12. The removal efficiency for organic solids reduction increased to 99% in FY12 as measured by carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand (CBOD₅) and suspended solids.



The pretreatment program, which is used to manage Significant Industrial Users (SIU), was successfully maintained during FY12. There are five permitted industrial users in the program; none of the five permittees were cited as being in significant noncompliance this year. The Cintas Corporation had two separate occurrences of elevated copper concentrations but the levels did not qualify as significant noncompliance. All Significant Industrial Users and Categorical Industrial Users met the requirement to write and implement a Slug Control Plan. The Packard Campus National Audio Visual Conservation Center, the Town of Culpeper Water Treatment Plant and Cintas Corporation participated in an inspection of the pretreatment program by a Department of Environmental Quality representative. At the end of FY12 the Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) program has approximately 105 active permits.

SECTION II REGULATORY, QUALITY AND SAFETY COMPLIANCE

WATER TREATMENT PLANT

Regulatory Compliance

Monthly Plant Operations Summaries were submitted as required to the Department of Health, Office of Drinking Water. The Plant also published and distributed the annual Consumer Confidence Report to all water system customers.

Water Quality Testing and Compliance

There were no water quality or compliance issues during FY12.

Safety Compliance – Accidents & Incidents

There were no lost time accidents or safety related incidents reported during FY12.

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITY

Regulatory Compliance

During the past fiscal year, there were no overflows in the plant or distribution system. All monthly VPDES Discharge Monitoring Reports were submitted on time and as required.

Wastewater Quality Testing Compliance

The upgrade has allowed plant staff to reduce nutrient levels to less than 3.0 mg/L Total Nitrogen and 0.3 mg/L Total Phosphorous. The improved treatment has also allowed the plant to meet permit parameters for BOD₅ (biochemical oxygen demand), CBOD₅ (carbonaceous BOD₅), TKN, Ammonia, E. coli, and Total Suspended Solids.

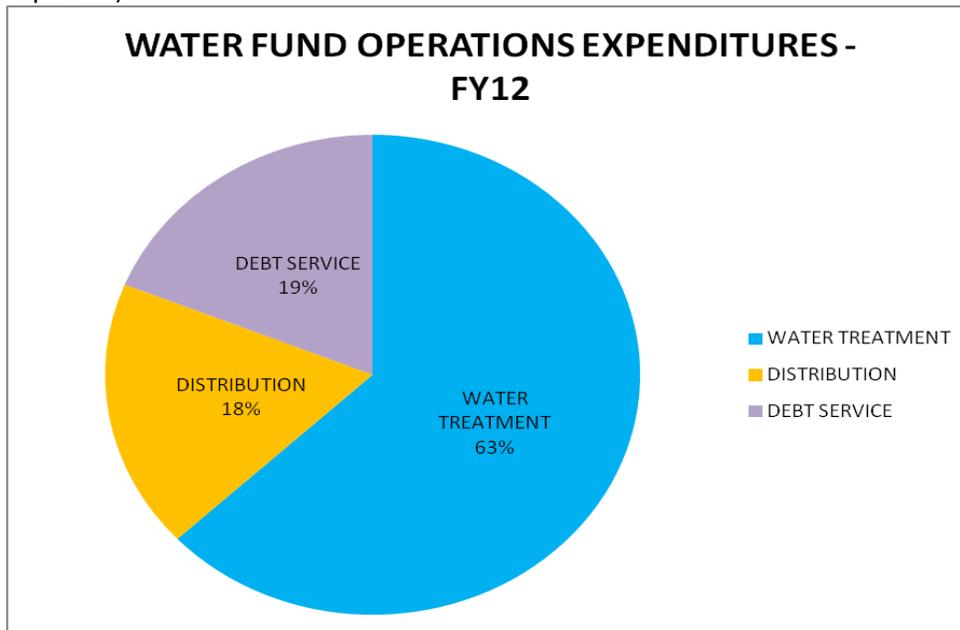
Safety Compliance – Accidents & Incidents

There was one lost time accidents or safety related incidents reported during FY12. Ladder safety practices were revised and reviewed with all affected employees to prevent the reoccurrence of a similar accident.

SECTION III ENTERPRISE FUND PERFORMANCE

WATER ENTERPRISE FUND

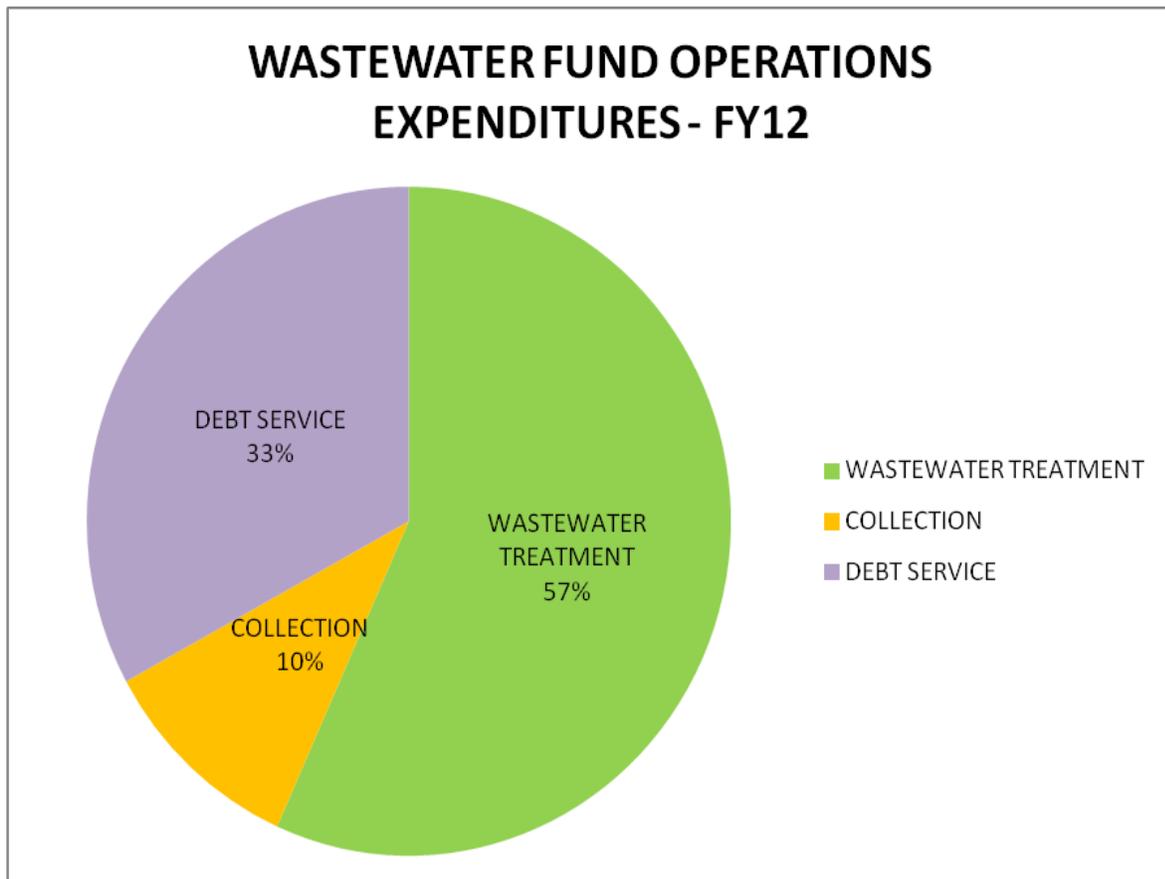
The Water Enterprise Fund consists of the Water Distribution Division and the Water Treatment Division. Based upon the June 30, 2012 Preliminary Budget Report, the Water Fund expenses is expected to exceed revenue resulting in a negative operating margin of approximately \$1,063,000 for the year. This reduction in fund balance was a result of \$1,904,000 of capital project expenditures occurring in FY12. The Water Enterprise Fund operations expenditures for accounting purposes were divided into three major cost groupings. The Water Treatment Division expenditures continued to be the largest of the three cost groupings accounting for 63% of the total Water Enterprise Fund expenditures. (Refer to Water Fund Operations Expenditures – FY12 graph for allocation of fund expenses).



The Water Enterprise Fund financial performance excluding debt service was deemed successful for the year with combined fund expenditures being approximately 3% under budgeted expense level.

WASTEWATER ENTERPRISE FUND

The Wastewater Enterprise Fund consists of the Wastewater Collection Division and the Wastewater Treatment Division. Based upon the June 30, 2012 Preliminary Budget Report, the Wastewater Fund expenses are expected to exceed revenue resulting in a negative operating margin of approximately \$830,000 for the year. This reduction in fund balance was a result of the debt payments (\$1,521,000) primarily resulting from required plant upgrades and \$334,000 of capital project expenditures occurring in FY12. Restraint in fund expenditures and a strong fiscal management plan prevented a more significant fund reduction. The Wastewater Enterprise Fund operations expenditures for accounting purposes were divided into three major cost groupings. The Wastewater Treatment Division expenditures continued to be the largest of the three cost groupings accounting for 57% of the total Wastewater Enterprise Fund expenditures. (Refer to Wastewater Fund Operations Expenditures – FY12 graph for allocation of fund expenses).



The Wastewater Enterprise Fund financial performance excluding debt service was deemed successful for the year with combined fund expenditures being approximately 9% under budgeted expense level.

SECTION IV FACILITIES MAINTENANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

Facilities Maintenance

The past year has been busy and productive for the Environmental Services Maintenance Department. The Hypochlorite project to replace gas chlorine at the WTP was designed and constructed by in-house personnel with the project anticipated to be complete during the first quarter of FY13.

Work flow was managed utilizing eWorkOrders, a web based preventative maintenance program that is also been adopted for used by Public Works. A total of two hundred and eighty four (284) written Work Orders from the water and waste water plants were received in addition to numerous verbal work requests. The work load from requests was 85% WPCF, and 25% WTP.

Maintenance staff assisted with operation of the WPCF centrifuge during normal work hours. In addition the maintenance staff was on standby duty to respond to emergencies and equipment failures. A total of 461 hours of overtime was worked this fiscal year.



Facilities Development

Water Source & Treatment Facilities

A Regional Water Supply Plan was completed by in-house personnel in FY12. The Plan reported that the usable portion of the water supply safe yield for Lake Pelham and Mountain Run Lake may be considerably less than the safe yield that was previously reported in the 2004 Water Supply Study as 5.1 MGD. As the average demand and more importantly the peak month demand for the water approach 50% of total watershed capacity the need to expand the water source became evident. Since the development of an additional surface water source can take decades to complete and cost in excess of \$50,000,000, the Town began a groundwater study to address emergency and short term needs in FY11.

The Geophysical Investigation was completed in FY11 resulting in the identification of numerous drilling targets. Test wells were drilled at the targets ranked the highest in FY12. A well field containing three wells was identified with a safe yield of 0.9 MGD (1.2 MGD during short term emergencies). This well field is anticipated to be developed and connected to the Town system in FY13. Due to the success of this groundwater investigation, Council authorized staff to expand the study area in FY12.

Geophysical Investigation of the expanded study area is anticipated to be complete during the first quarter of FY13 with additional drilling of test wells anticipated to follow.

Due to changes in the Virginia Dam Safety requirements, significant improvements will be required to both Lake Pelham and Mountain Run Dams. An evaluation of the dams was started in FY12, with recommendations anticipated in FY13.

Water Distribution Improvements

The Town's water system has low pressures in the higher elevation area located in the vicinity of the Route 15 Standpipe. To increase the pressure in this area, a higher pressure zone is recommended. Additionally, a water line will be required in Chandler Street to maintain the McDevitt area on the existing town pressure zone and create a system loop to improve water quality and increase reliability of service to this area. Design for this project is nearing completion with construction anticipated in FY13.

Automatic Meter Reading

In June, 2011 the Town of Culpeper entered into several contracts for the deployment of an automatic meter reading system for both water meters and electric meters. The system is currently being deployed by a combination of contractor and town staff and is anticipated to be complete in FY13. Once complete, meters will be read automatically by the system instead of the current manual read system.

Settlement Agreement

On May 4, 2011 Town Council and the Board of Supervisors adopted resolutions approving the Voluntary Settlement Agreement between the Town and County. The bodies received an endorsement of the Settlement Agreement from the Council on Local Government with no changes recommended to the agreement. The Settlement Agreement was then reviewed by a three-judge panel who issued an order ratifying the agreement on March 28, 2012. This 30 plus year agreement establishes procedures for periodic boundary line adjustments by the Town in exchange for water and sewer service being provided to the County service area by the Town.

**SECTION V
PERSONNEL UTILIZATION, DEVELOPMENT & PERFORMANCE**

The total employee count of 23 remained unchanged during FY12. WTP operations required the staffing of two shifts while the WPCF continued to be staffed by three shifts on a 24 hour basis.

Departmental employees are required to obtain continuing education credits to maintain their operator license. The department has and continued to utilize professional associations including the American Water Works, Water Environmental Federation, and Rural Water as training and technology development partners.

In FY12, one (1) Lab Analyst was hired on March 15, 2012, one (1) W/W Operator Trainee was hired on September 29, 2011, one (1) W/W Class IV Operator was hired on June 19, 2012, and one (1) W/W Operator II was hired on May 4, 2012.

A complete listing of water and wastewater licensure follows:

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
LICENSEURE/NEW EMPLOYEES**

EMPLOYEE

CLASS OF LICENSE

Paula Byers	Class I Wastewater
Robert Hester	Class I Water/Class III Wastewater
Christopher Hively, P.E.	Professional Engineer/Class III Water
Jim Hust	Class I Water/Class I Wastewater
	Class I Water, Aquatic
John Morgan	Pesticide
Kevin Tucker	Class I Water/Class I Wastewater
Neil Moore	Class III Wastewater
Justin Newton	Class III Water
Larry Olsen	Class III Water
Chris Harper	Class III Water
Danny Jeffries	Class IV Water
Mike Swindler	Class IV Wastewater
David Olsen	Class IV Wastewater

NEW EMPLOYEES

Robert Cheney	Class Wastewater II
Timothy Smelser	Class Wastewater IV
Andria Swann	Lab Analyst
Matt Hooser	WW Operator Trainee

HUMAN RESOURCES

INTRODUCTION

The Town of Culpeper's Human Resources Department administers a comprehensive Human Resources program consistent with Federal, State, and local statutes, meeting the needs of the governmental employer as well as current/potential employees. The department oversees the following key functional areas for approximately 169 Town employees: Recruitment & Retention, Benefits & Leave Administration, Classification & Compensation, Training & Development, Employee Relations, Policy Development & Administration, Risk Management, and Workplace Safety.

HUMAN RESOURCES GOALS

- Attract and retain high performing workforce.
- Implement diversified strategies that will address challenges associated with employee recruitment, retention, and development.
- Evaluate employee performance management program.
- Manage the Town's insurance programs to provide maximum cost effectiveness and benefit.
- Implement comprehensive risk management programs and safety measures.
- Streamline systems and programs to increase efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery.
- Evaluate training technology and seek opportunities to deliver training using a blended delivery format in a cost effective manner.
- Develop and engage the workforce to take advantage of the Town's wellness program.
- Ensure department staff is abreast of current trends in Human Resource administration that will enhance specific functional operations.

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

The Human Resources Department manages the entire recruitment process for all Town positions. This includes posting position vacancy announcements, screening applications, scheduling interviews, participating in the interview process, selection of coordinating all pre-employment testing and examinations, and providing new hire orientation. The Human Resources Department also oversees the process for internal changes such as promotions, demotions, and transfers. In addition, the Human Resources Department coordinates the exit process for employees who are terminating their employment or retiring.

The following recruitment and retention activity occurred from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012.

Positions Recruited For	29	
New Hires	28	
Terminations	13	
	Voluntary	10
	Involuntary	3
Retirees	7	
Promotions	13	
Demotions	1	
Transfers	1	
Turnover Rate	7.69%	

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

The Human Resources Department handles the selection of benefits providers and administration of benefit programs. The department also oversees employee leave programs which include the administration of family/medical leave (FMLA), leaves of absence, and military leave. The department coordinates retirement programs and counsels employees on benefits, leave, and retirement issues.

Health Insurance

During FY12, the Human Resources Department conducted a review of the Town's health insurance benefits. This study concluded that the health insurance structure offered by the Town was not competitive with the local market. The Human Resources Department obtained proposals from several health insurance programs, and was able to find comparable coverage at a lower cost. The premium deduction structure was adjusted to make family coverage more affordable and competitive within the local market. This change will result in a savings of approximately \$150,000 for FY13 compared to what it would cost the Town to remain with the prior plan.

Leave

Throughout the year, there were 15 employees who requested family/medical leave. The Human Resources department assisted each of these employees with the required paperwork, determined their eligibility for family/medical leave and tracked their leave usage.

A Volunteer Leave Program was implemented to encourage employee participation in projects and organization which contribute to the health and vitality of Culpeper. This program provides employees with 1-day of volunteer leave per year for eligible volunteer activities.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Employee of the Month/Year

Since July 2003, the Town has recognized employee's outstanding performance with the Employee of the Month award. Each month employees are nominated by their peers. Nominees are reviewed and a selection is made monthly by department heads at their staff meeting. The selected employee is recognized for his/her achievement and rewarded with a plaque and a paid day off. Similarly, nominations are considered for the Employee of the Year for recognition at the Award Banquet. Tammy Williams of the Treasurer's Office was selected as Employee of the Year for 2011. The following is a list of award recipients for FY2012:

Month	Award Recipient	Department
July	Hank Milans & Danny McClung	Engineering
August	David Cole	Police Department
September	Joel Kauffman	Public Works
October	Tammy Williams	Treasurer's Office
November	MaryEllen Jarosh, Patricia Lloyd-Soley, Lisa Doles, Steve Miller, John Morgan & Teresa Trillhaase	ERC Committee
December	Tim Payne, Phillip Parker, Glenn Bankhead, Danny McClung, Nicole Romero	Light & Power/Engineering

“You’ve Been Caught...Doing Something GREAT!”

In March 2012, the Human Resources Department implemented a new employee recognition program called “You’ve Been Caught”. This program allows employees to “catch” each other going above and beyond in the performance of their duties. This replaces the Employee of the Month program, which has become Employee of the Quarter. Everyone who is nominated, and meets the criteria, receives an award. An email announcement is then sent out to all employees listing the award recipients each month. On a quarterly basis the Management Team will review all of the *You’ve Been Caught* award recipients for that quarter and vote on an Employee of the Quarter.

TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

The Human Resources Department conducted the following supervisor training opportunities in FY12:

Performance Evaluation

Performance Evaluation training was offered to introduce the new performance appraisal system and review best practices for completing and conducting effective performance reviews.

Family & Medical Leave Act (FMLA)

Family & Medical Leave training was offered to inform supervisors about the requirements of the Family & Medical Leave Act and to review the Town’s procedures. Employee, supervisor, and human resources responsibilities were discussed.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT & ADMINISTRATION

In April 2012, Town Council approved many revisions to the “*Employee Handbook and Personnel Policies Manual*” which were recommended by the Human Resources Department.

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

In May 2012, a new performance appraisal system was implemented by the Human Resources Department. This process includes a new form which not only evaluates employees on core competencies, which are the same for all Town employees, but also evaluates them on specific job responsibilities based on their job description. A self evaluation form is also included in the new system which allows the employee to rate themselves and have input on what they would like their goals to be for the upcoming year. The goal of the new process is to provide more effective performance reviews and improve communication between employees and their supervisors. With the implementation of this system, we will be able to discuss a merit pay system during the FY14 budget process.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Human Resources Department work to ensure compliance with federal, state, and county safety regulations. The department oversees the administration of worker’s compensation as well as the Town’s general liability, property, and auto insurance programs.

Employee Safety

The Town continues to promote and implement a safety program. Personnel attend risk management and safety seminars to continue their knowledge of risk related issues and improving safety. The Safety Committee, comprised of employees appointed from each department, meets monthly to review accidents, address specific safety needs, and comprehensively update the Safety Policy Manual.

Claims Data

The Town of Culpeper has maintained "Gold Star" status each month for maintaining all reports on a timely basis and for completeness.

The following is a history of claims processed and paid and premiums collected for FY12 and the previous four years:

	FY12	FY11	FY10	FY09	FY08
On-the-job Injuries	16	14	18	15	16
OSHA Reportable Injuries	16				
Employee Auto Accidents	6	8	14	8	12
Preventable Auto Accidents	6				
Property Damage Claims	2	0	0	1	4
Liability Claims	11	6	5	7	14
Total Claims Paid	\$61,564	\$91,138	\$78,708	\$94,098	\$55,416
Total Premiums	\$336,383	\$361,228	\$335,559	\$390,891	\$410,716

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

INTRODUCTION

The Department of Information Technology (DIT) provides, maintains and supports Town departments and Town staff in all aspects of technology. The DIT department offers services that include applications development and support, technology infrastructure and integration, information security, geographic information systems, automated meter reading (AMR) and computer/telecommunications support. These services are designed to improve government access, efficiency, and public value through responsive service, integrated information, and a shared infrastructure that is cost-effective, secure and reliable.

DIT supports over 140 users, servers, wireless backbone networks, Voice over Internet Protocol (VOIP) systems, workstations and laptops, iPads, iPhones, mobile data terminals (MDT), cell phones, air cards, printers, copiers, and 8 locations.

DIT GOALS:

DIT is committed to innovation and providing the highest quality of service operations to the Town and Public by:

- meeting their technology needs
- keeping abreast of emerging issues and technologies
- identifying and addressing “at-risk” issues
- coordinating and managing communication systems
- educating and advising users on technology issues
- providing reliable and secure systems
- enabling continuous improvement

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS AND UPDATES

SAN/VMware server

Implementations of VMware server and SAN have been completed. This will help reduce capital expenses through server consolidation and improve operating expenses through automation. Virtualization includes Exchange, SQL, Sharepoint, Microsoft Dynamics, GIS, Web services, backup and disaster recovery.

Disaster Recovery

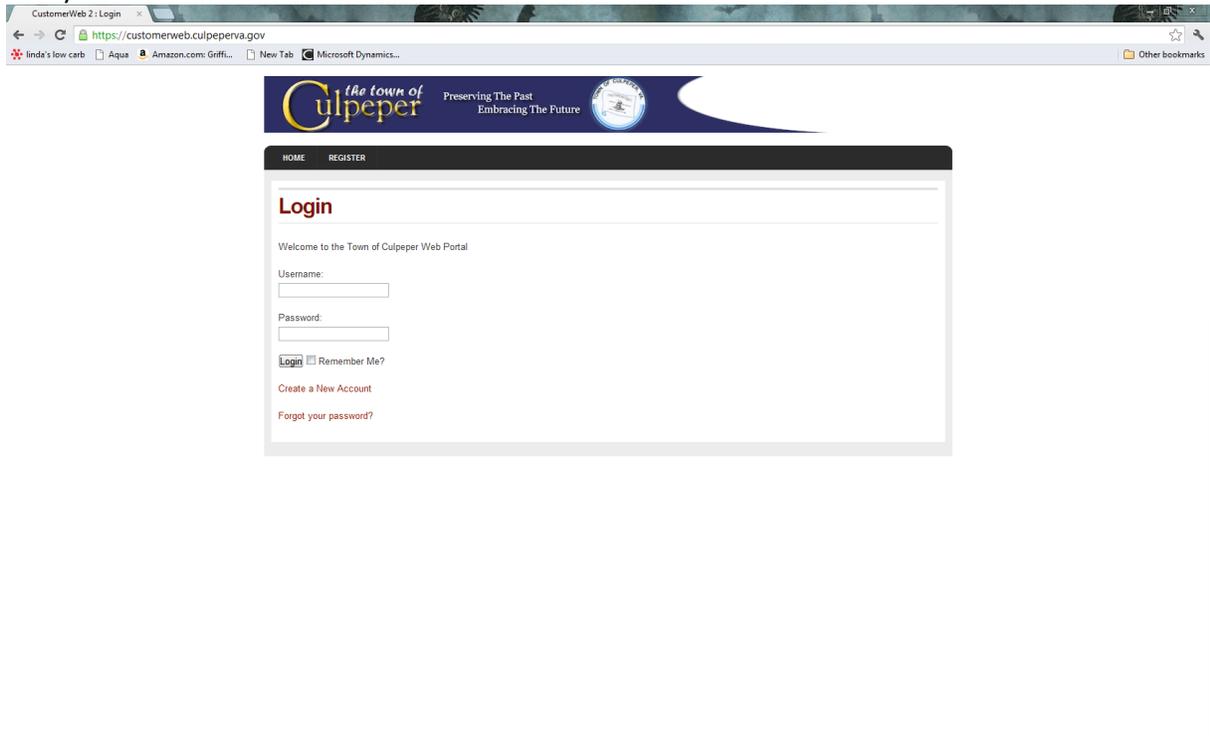
Phase 1 Implementation has been completed. Phase 2 will be completed in FY 12/13. A purchase of an additional SAN/VMware server will be installed at the police department and all servers will mirror each other.

iPads

Laptops were replaced with iPads for Council. Departmental Directors and some supervisors have been issued iPads. Public Works Department is using iPads for field work.

Customerweb Portal

Implementation of Customerweb Portal is in final stage. This will allow customers to view and pay their utility bills online.



IT Relocation

IT relocated to allow the department to be in one location. IT has four offices and one of the offices is occupied by GIS. A training room is in the process of being completed. This will allow for training, webinars and meetings. This relocation allowed the IT server room to be expanded and is in the completion phase.

GIS Relocation

GIS was relocated to the IT Department.

HR Department Relocation

HR Department was relocated to third floor. Cabling was installed for voice and data. A network copier was installed that prints, scans and copies.

IT Room/Servers

- Cooling cabinet was installed in IT room.
- After installation, the AC unit in the window continued to freeze up.
- The room reached 100+ degrees and crashed the file server. The server was moved to a virtualized server
- The AC unit that is currently installed is a 10,500 btu unit. The heat that is currently in that room is 19,500 btus which is causing the AC to freeze up and the room to overheat.
- After expansion of the room, implementation of a larger exhaust fan in the ceiling and a centralized AC unit that can be controlled was completed.

IT Steering Committee

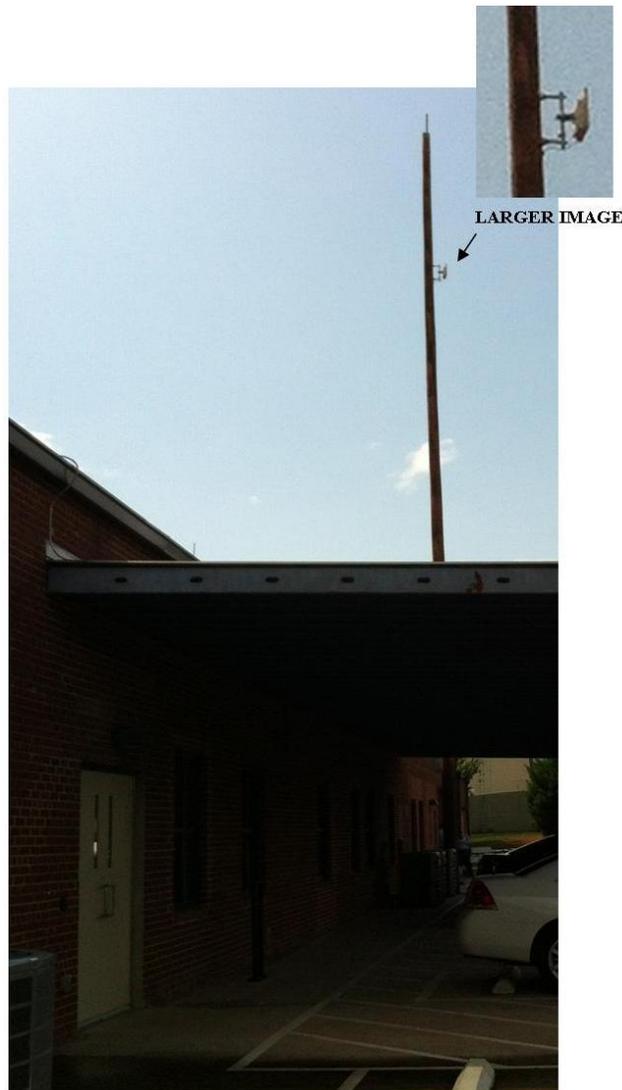
IT Steering Committee scheduled their first meeting in November 2011.

New Positions

- Programmer Analyst. This position utilizes 100% of their time on Microsoft Dynamics Great Plains and a third party vendor.
- IT Specialist for the police department

Microwave Radio

Microwave radios were installed to allow a wireless connection from the police department to the E911 center. This allows the police department to connect to shared resources.



Facebook

Implementation of the Town's Facebook page has been completed. This page is updated with events, and news releases.



Automated Meter Reading (AMR)

- Implementation of 3 VMware servers completed for STAR and TWACS
- Assigned IP addresses and added to the town's domain
- Configuration of external IP addresses for vendors and Virtual Private Network (VPN) purposes
- Upgrades to x64 bit completed
- User permissions, roles and security completed

Surplus

- Surplus equipment can be located at www.govdeals.com or www.publicsuplus.com

VCIN-FBI CJIS Security Awareness Training

- IT attended Virginia Criminal Information Network (VCIN) Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Security Training
- This certification is required every three years
- The training covered security policies and awareness

Joint Telephone System for Culpeper Human Services, Town, County & School System

- The town, county, schools and Culpeper Human Services met on April 4th to discuss a joint venture on sharing resources and connecting the telephone systems
- This was presented to the Town/County Interaction Committee on April 23rd

Emergency Operations Center & Town Police Station IT Options

- Town IT requested SunGard to assist in the evaluation of connectivity needs between the town and county.
- If agreed and issues are found, SunGard is to provide a proposed remediation plan that would include suggested technology and resource requirements to meet connectivity, application delivery, and authentication needs.
- This was presented to the town/county interaction committee on April 23rd and the study was approved.

Sponsorship Program

IT served as a Senior Project sponsor for Highland School. The Senior Project allows students to experience a meaningful closure to their Upper School years.

Sharepoint Server

- Sharepoint server implemented for Microsoft Workflow and Business Portal.
- Workflow is an electronic workflow and approval program that cuts down on paper and time.

24/7 support

Implementation of town and county 24/7 support for the E911 center. This support is split between 2 town and 2 county employees. In the past, county IT was providing support.

Light and Power cameras and card readers

- Cameras and card readers were installed for additional security.
- Both systems are connected to existing network.
- Client software was installed on workstations for monitoring purposes.

Committee Room

- Installation of Cat 6 cabling, switches, patch panel and cable management
- Installation of speakers and microphone system
- Installation of power boxes for each table for power and cable hookups
- Relocation of wireless access point
- Installation of television
- Ordering and installation of furniture



FY 2012-2013 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Continue implementation of Town-wide ERP system
- Continue to evaluate and implement enhancements to the security of the Town's network
- Continue to implement the Town's security policy
- Implementation of a new town website and to continue to evaluate opportunities to expand e-commerce on the Town's website
- Continue to relocate the central core of IT
- Maintain the operational and productive status of existing information systems
- Maintain and continue to enhance the Town's website to ensure that it is an effective communication tool to the residents and businesses
- Improve and enhance network communications within and between town departments and employees
- Assist town employees to better understand and make use of the town's investment in technological resources
- Continue to actively pursue virtualization technologies for servers and computers for improvements and efficiencies in the management of desktop and laptop technologies
- Continue to plan for implementation of desktop virtualization
- Continue to plan for implementation of a storage area network (SAN)
- Continue to plan for implementation of upgrade from Exchange 2003 to Exchange 2010 and server virtualization
- Create and plan for implementation of an in-house paperless agenda packet
- Implement and complete a help desk system and managed services
- Continue to implement an Automated Meter Reading System for electric and water.
- Continue to expand surveillance cameras and card reader systems
- Continue with the implementation of VMware virtualization for second phase of disaster recovery
- Implementation of a generator for the Municipal building
- Implementation and completion of in-car cameras
- Fill GIS Coordinator position
- Update in-house GIS server and website
- Implementation of two software applications for the police department
- Completion of IT server room and IT relocation and training room
- Certification of RMS/CAD for staff
- Additional training for staff

LIGHT & POWER

Introduction

The Light and Power Department consists of three Divisions: Administration, Distribution and Generation. The focus of the department is to provide safe, affordable and reliable electric service to its varied customers within the town limits of the Town of Culpeper. The department negotiates with Dominion Virginia Power as well as the Southeastern Power Administration to purchase wholesale electricity through its purchased power group VMEA (Virginia Municipal Electric Association) The department also operates a peak shaving generation facility to offset the demand requirements of its customers as well as provide emergency back up power to a portion of the town should a failure of the power delivery system occur.

The Administration Division is charged with the overall supervision of the department as well as sharing supervision for the Utility Services Department with Public Works.

The Generation Division operates and maintains the peak shaving plant being on call 24 hours per day, 7 days per week for peaking and emergency operations.

The Distribution Division is responsible for constructing; operating and maintaining the 69.44 miles of infrastructure required to safely and efficiently distribute the purchased and generated power to our customers. In addition this division installs and maintains street lights, automatic traffic control signals and assists with various other electrical tasks assigned by the Town Manager. Assistance is also provided to the Town with Holiday decorations, banner installations as well as assisting Public Works with reducing used Christmas trees to chips and the removal of trees that are hazardous to the public safety.



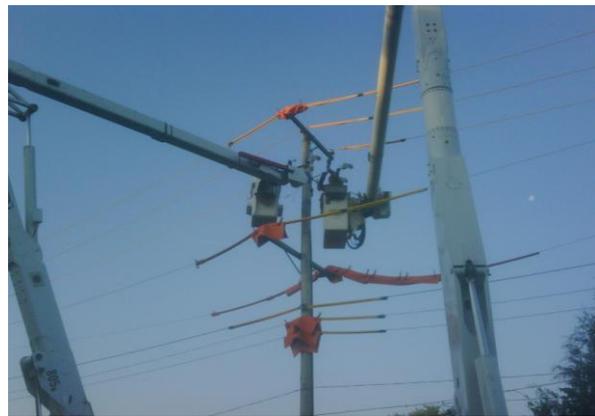
Generation

The generation facility operated at the request of Virginia Power a total of 3 hours for the year reducing the Town's purchased power bill approximately \$248,205 this amount will increase as the Town's electric system load increases and generation value goes up over the upcoming years which will result in further savings.



Distribution

The Department completed many projects for the year including: replacement of damaged utility poles in various locations, installation of primary, secondary and street lights at Meadows of Culpeper, Pelham's Reach, Redwood Lakes, Mountain Brook Estates, Kings Manor subdivisions, Cardinal View. The department has continued updating overhead primary and secondary lines replacing deteriorating old poles and undersized conductors. The department has continued updating underground primary and secondary cables replacing those that have met the end of their life expectancy.



Accomplishments in FY12

- 1) Light & Power has been re-conducting all our 4kv lines to 12kv, so to better our power factor and provide a better quality of power to its customers. This past year 2 more miles of line have been upgraded.
 - 2) The Light & Power department assisted Culpeper Hospital staff with the installation of a manual transfer switch for hook up of an emergency standby generator.
 - 3) Installation of substation equipment and change out of 80% of electric meters as a large part of the AMR Project. Completion and full implementation by the fall of 2012.
 - 4) Installed new services to 89 residential and 1 small general service customers.
 - 5) Developers have begun building new homes and Light & Power has been installing new U.G. electric lines to new homes for additional metering.
 - 6) Installed conduits for parking lot lighting in preparation of the widening of West Street.
 - 7) Replaced traffic light pole & signals heads at Main & Evans.
 - 8) Light & Power assisted the county building officials with all issues created by the August earthquake as well as maintaining the electric system due to unusual severe thunder storms.
 - 9) Light & Power continues the upgrades to the electric system mapping and street light inventory project.
 - 10) Installation of LED pedestrian crossing and a UPS (Uninterruptable Power Supply) was installed at all Town owned traffic signals.
 - 11) L&P staff performed a pilot project on LED street light fixture for future lighting needs.
- Along with these items, normal maintenance continued on the overhead and underground facilities as well as substation maintenance.



Traffic control projects include replacement of the incandescent bulbs with LED bulbs for the existing traffic lights. The department has continued updating the coordination of timing with other lights to accommodate traffic volumes. Repair and maintenance of traffic signal controllers, lights, pedestrian crossing signals and poles were also accomplished.

Employees attended monthly in house safety meetings and Pole Top/Bucket Truck Rescue training. At present time we are happy to say Light & Power has 10 State Certified card carrying journeyman linemen for the town. We have two apprentices in the program now with both beginning the fifth step of an 8 step four year program. We also have one apprentice who has just completed step one of the program.

FY13 Goals

- 1) Planning of 3 phase overhead line from Electric Ave to the Lakeview subdivision to increase system reliability to that area.
- 2) Continue the upgrade of 4 KV facilities to 12 KV to improve system power factor, 2 additional miles of line.
- 3) Continue the electric system mapping to allow for better planning and outage management.
- 4) Continue the replacement of all traffic signal incandescent bulbs with new LED's to reduce power consumption and reduce calls to replace burnt out bulbs.
- 5) To move forward on AMR project with a goal of completion by fall of 2012.
- 6) To convert Oaklawn Drive 4kv and 12kv from overhead to underground to provide system reliability.
- 7) Install new Power Transformer and equipment to update substation.
- 8) Change out of existing 250 watt incandescent street light fixtures on North & South Main St. to new energy efficient LED fixtures.
- 9) Light & Power is currently looking to develop with the assistance of the Council & Human Recourses a training and competitive salary plan to bring future skilled employees to the Light & Power Department.
- 10) To continue to provide the most reliable, efficient and cost effective to the town citizens, our customers.

Customers

The Town began the year with 5033 customers and finished the fiscal year with 5123 customers for an approximate 1.8% increase.

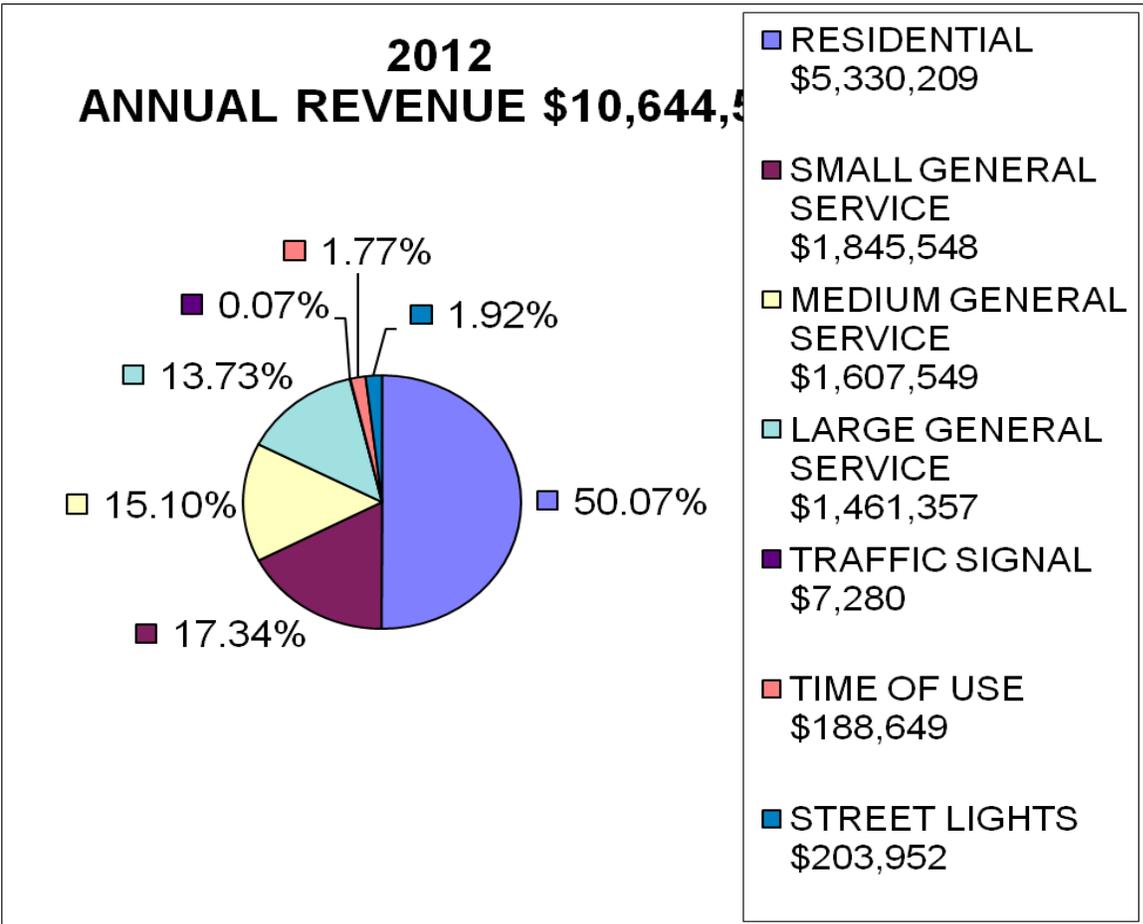
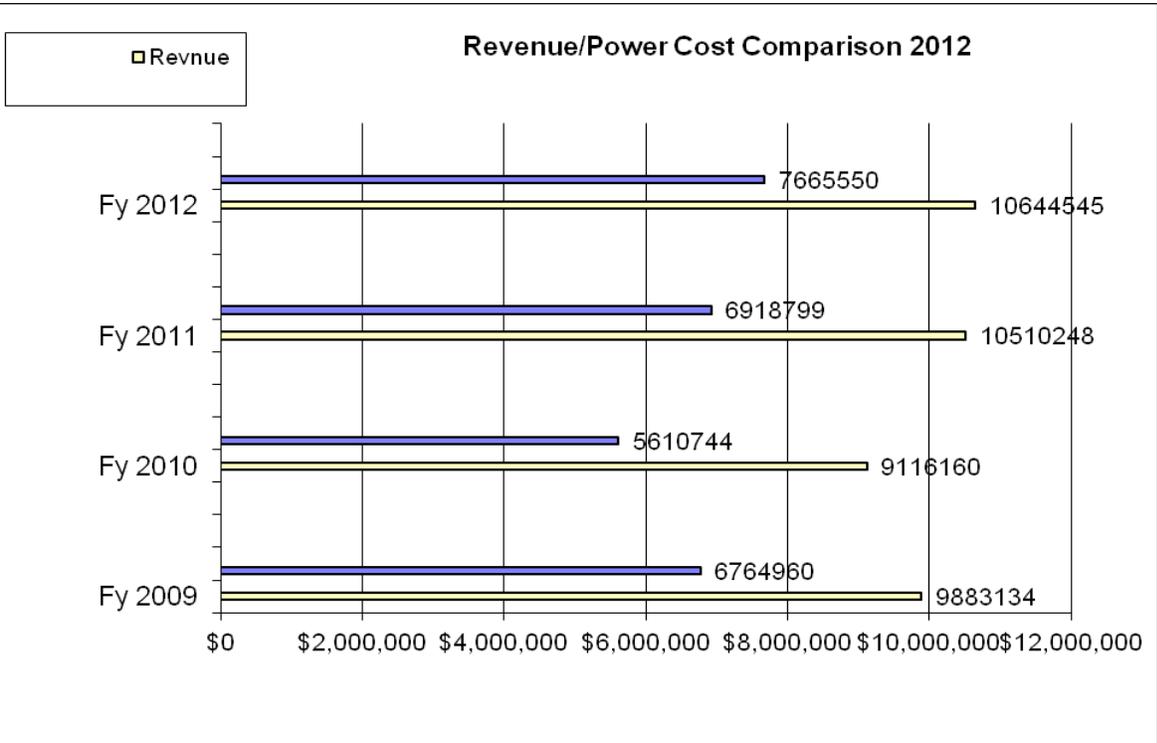
Rates

The Town has very comparable rates for all customers it serves. An increase to the wholesale power costs began July 1, 2012 of approximately 5%. The retail rates that the Town charges began slowly increasing with the planning of the FY11 budget and again with the FY12 budget to prepare for this increase and allow the fund to maintain its current rate of return.

Revenues

The Town purchased \$7,665,550 of wholesale from Dominion Virginia Power and Southeastern Power Administration. Total revenues for the year were \$10,644,545 for the sale of power.

The charts on the next page compare the past revenues to power costs and show the percentage of revenue by customer class.



PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Introduction

The Planning & Community Development Department encompasses planning and zoning services. The department also serves numerous boards and authorities including, Planning Commission, Parks & Recreation Commission, Parking Authority, Joint Board of Zoning Appeals, Public Transportation Board, and the Architectural Review Board.

The department serves the public by providing current and long range planning services; administering the Zoning Ordinance and Comprehensive Plan; and processing a variety of applications. These applications include rezonings, variances, site plan reviews, zoning permits, conditional use permits, appeals, residential and leased parking permits, findings of architectural compatibility, subdivision/plat approvals, water and sewer tap assessments, nuisance and property complaints, commercial and residential burning permits, and park reservations for Mountain Run Lake Park and Yowell Meadow Park.

The department currently consists of seven staff positions: Director of Planning & Community Development, Zoning Administrator, Principal Planner, Planner II (vacant), Zoning Inspector (vacant), Planning & Zoning Assistant, and an Office Assistant.

AUTHORITIES, BOARDS and COMMISSIONS

Planning Commission

The Commission reviewed the following items:

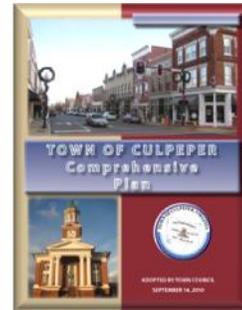
- Seven major site plan requests:
 - County of Culpeper – addition to the new Human Services building
 - Culpeper Regional Hospital – new parking lots
 - Town of Culpeper – West Street Improvements
 - Town of Culpeper – James Madison Hwy sidewalks
 - 7-Eleven – removal/construct new canopy, fueling tanks
 - Merchants Grocery – building addition
 - Chevy Chase Bank – construct new building
- Two ordinance amendments:
 - Zoning Ordinance and Facilities Standards Manual Amendments
 - Request to allow tattoo parlors in C2 district
- Eighteen minor site plans/change of use requests.

There were no rezoning or conditional use permit requests.

The 2013-2017 Capital Improvements Plan for the Town of Culpeper was reviewed and forwarded to Town Council with a favorable recommendation. The CIP is a five-year plan to guide property acquisitions and the construction of the Town's capital projects. Major projects are identified and prioritized, and the best method of financing is determined.



Comprehensive Master Plan - As part of the yearly review, the Commission has suggested several changes. The update process will continue into the next fiscal year.



Joint Board of Zoning Appeals

- ❖ Sign variance request by the Herndon House, LLC – approved.
- ❖ Rear addition variance request by David Duey – approved.

Parking Authority

- A fall retreat was held to discuss parking inventory, event parking, public financing of capital improvements, and signage. As a result of the retreat, the parking policies were changed.
- Changed all leased parking lots to 3 hour, and allow all day parking in the 3 hour lots upon completion of a new permit parking agreement. New signage was installed, and public notices were sent to all current leaseholders and the newspaper.
- Held a joint meeting with the Planning Commission and discussed existing parking, planning for the future as it relates to parking in the downtown, working together to make changes as necessary, and how to make ideas happen.
- Approved the Culpeper Farmer's Market request to utilize the E. Davis Street Parking Lot on Saturday mornings from April to October.
- Waived parking restrictions in downtown parking lots for the annual Ruritan's Club "Culpeper Day" event on Saturday, May 5, 2012.
- Approved and adopted the fiscal budget; and approved the projects in the 5-Year Capital Improvements Plan relating to the Parking Authority.
- Continued to discuss the Town's fiscal audit report and how the Parking Authority can continue to be financially responsible and operate independently.
- Staff and the Authority made changes to the Alleyway & Parking Lot Improvement Project behind Knakal's Bakery. The project will begin in the fall of 2012.



- Discussed the renewal of the Ann Wingfield Commons agreement (Ann Wingfield Parking Lot); due to the relocation of the County's Department of Human Services, there will be 52 parking spaces available in the downtown. The Authority has sent a letter of interest to renew the agreement, which will expire in December 2013.
- Continued to hold quarterly meetings (January, April, July and October), and special meetings as needed.
- Changed the bylaws to allow the quarterly meetings to be at 8:30 a.m.
- Monthly maintenance expenditures were reviewed, submitted by the Public Works Department; and the financial reports reviewed from the Treasurer.

Parks & Recreation Commission

- Dave Lockridge was named as Council's representative, and new members Laurel Care Gravatte, Tom Letts and Robert Upton joined the Commission.
- Yowell Meadow Park was the site of the annual July 4th Celebration; approximately 5,000 visitors enjoyed a day in the park; and the \$12,500 fireworks display. This event continues to be a great success.
- Discussed an informal request to hold a business demonstration at Yowell Meadow Park. Further discussions will be forthcoming regarding policies for these types of events.
- Dog Park – A subcommittee was formed to work with a community member so that this project can move forward. A location will also be decided.
- Skatepark Liability Forms are no longer needed.



- Wine Street Memorial Park continues to receive requests for brick pavers from interested persons who would like to honor the veterans of World War II and the Korean War.



- Walk-through of Parks – A list of safety concerns for both parks was compiled and given to the Public Works Department for action.
- Spring Street Property – Discussed the status of the property and whether a nature trail, bridge, pocket park, cultural/arts center or other improvements that might be appropriate for this site.
- Vendors in Yowell Meadow Park – Discussed whether to do an RFP to find a vendor to construct a vending area, and whether the activity is appropriate in the park. The Commission decided it was not appropriate at this time.

- Commerce Street Parcel – Discussed the status of the area and the future plans. Staff presented a concept for a large multi-use pavilion to hold concerts, the farmers market, ice skating in the winter, and other activities. This pavilion project would also require the purchase of adjoining lots, which is under consideration by Council.



- Greenway Plan – Continuing to work with staff on the preparation of a Greenway Network for the Town.
- Pocket Parks - Analysis and suitability study of parcels to be developed into pocket parks as identified in the Comprehensive Plan. Staff is exploring existing Town property for potential park development.

Architectural Review Board

- The Board reviewed seventeen (17) requests by property owners in the Historic District, to rehabilitate/renovate the exterior of their historic structures. The requests were as follows:



- ❑ S. Preston Will, 118 N. West Street – demolition of garage.
- ❑ Oliver Price, 202 E. Davis Street- replace 2nd floor window.
- ❑ Charlie Barrell, 134/138 N. Main Street – remove 2nd story façade and replace due to earthquake damage.
- ❑ St. Stephens Episcopal Church, 115 N. East Street – remove/replace wall and chimney due to earthquake damage.
- ❑ Daniel Price, 109-125 S. East Street – repair entire brick exterior due to earthquake damage.
- ❑ Ronald Frazier, 129 E. Davis Street – construct garage/dumpster area.
- ❑ German Culver, 154 N. Main Street – repair front façade due to earthquake damage.
- ❑ Miranda Ventures, 137 S. Main Street – façade modifications.
- ❑ Robert & Shirley Kinneman, 163-167 E. Davis Street – repair front façade due to earthquake damage.
- ❑ LEAP Partnership, 134/138 N. Main Street – façade renovations.
- ❑ United States Postal Service, 205 S. Main Street – install fence and gates.
- ❑ Peggy & Alton Conley, 318 S. East Street – install new vinyl soffit.

- ❑ Culpeper Partners, LLC, 145 E. Davis Street – replace windows.
- ❑ Joan Byrnes, 123 W. Davis Street – window and door replacements.
- ❑ Ronald Frazier, 129 E. Culpeper Street - construct a new accessory structure.
- ❑ Lerner Building, LLC, 129 E. Davis Street – construct new doorway.
- ❑ Brown Harris Inc., 309 N. Main Street – remove and construct a new building.

Public Transportation Board

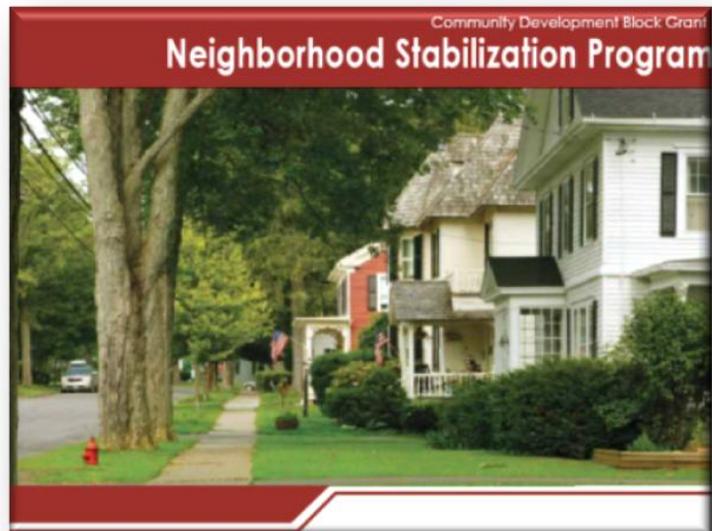
- Culpeper Trolleys cumulative ridership at the end of June 2012 is 69,751 (.002% increase over the previous year).
- ADA (Disabled) Service cumulative ridership at the end of June 2012 is 9,680 (20% decrease over the previous year).
- County Express cumulative ridership at the end of June 2012 is 7,845 (32% increase over the previous year).
- Participated in and sponsored CulpeperFest, by providing trolleys to transport attendees to and from the fields near Terramark to the Germanna Technology Center on McDevitt Drive.
- Agreed to provide trolleys to the Third Thursday Concert Series.
- Approved the budget. VRT officials noted that the Road Transit Assistance Program will pay 100% for approved training/reimbursement; also travel expenses for vehicle reimbursement. VRT can also apply for grants for tuition, travel, airfare, and per diem, etc.



Long-Range/Special Projects

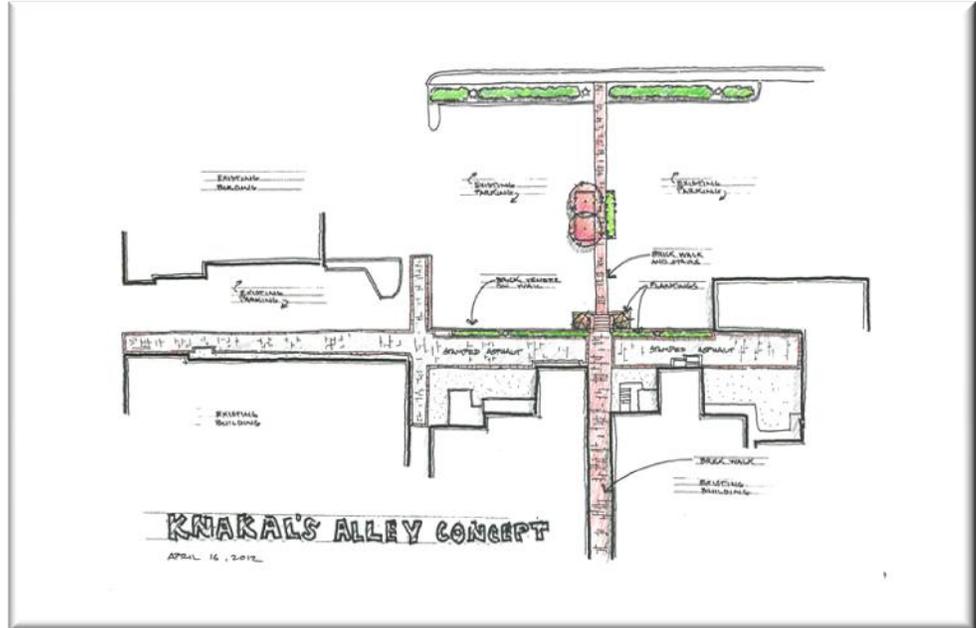
Neighborhood Stabilization Plan

The Town requested additional Program Income Funds to continue the NSP Program. The Town signed a contract with Virginia Housing Authority to arrange for them to be our Partner in the NSP program. Seeking new foreclosures to purchase, renovate and resell.



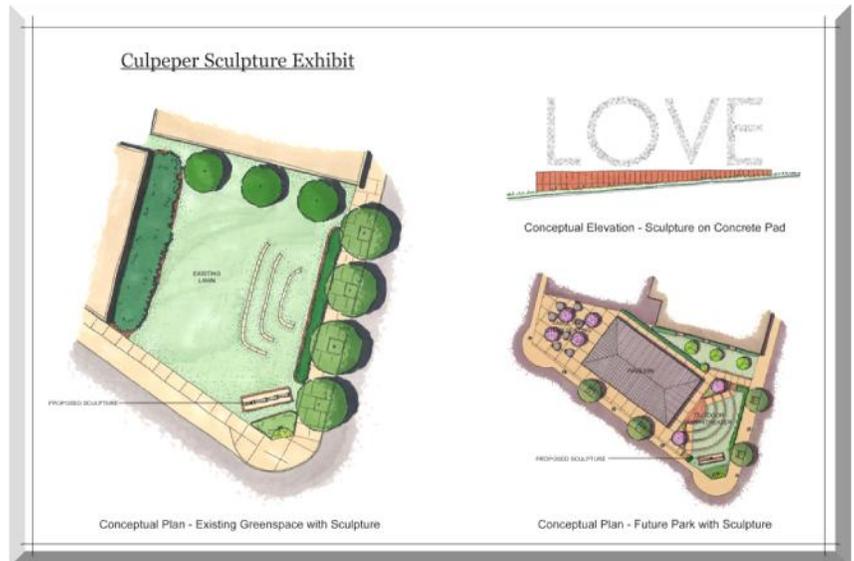
Alleyway Improvement Plan

Staff has redesigned the plans to enhance the alleyways connecting the E. Cameron Street Parking Lot to the Davis Street and Main Street shopping areas. Design work will be finalized, and the project will be bid in the summer of 2012.



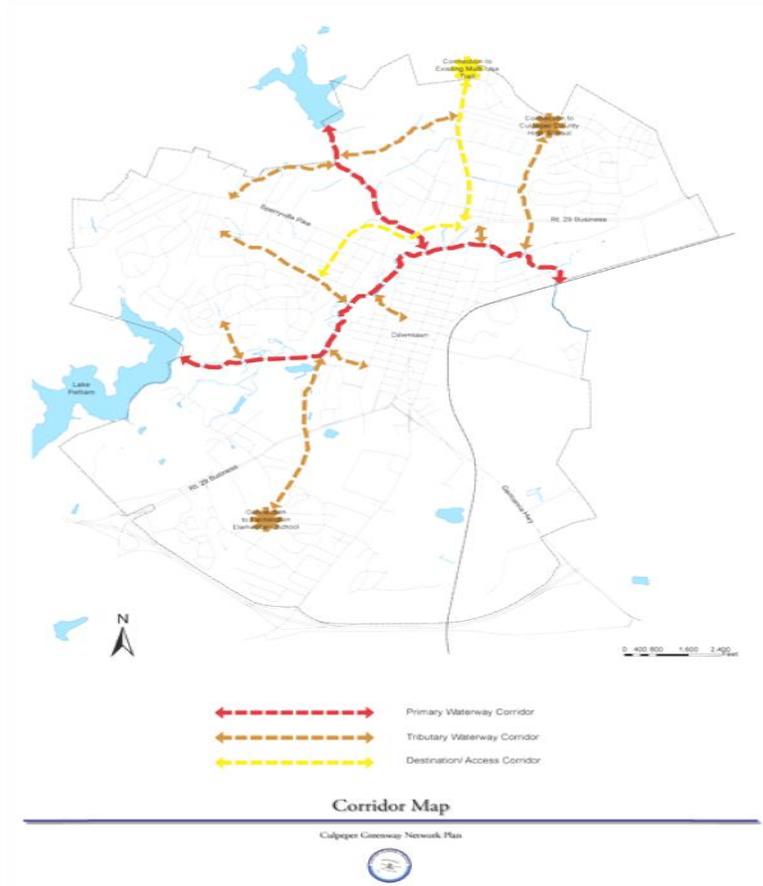
Art Display

Staff began working with the Department of Tourism to prepare a preliminary concept for an art sculpture to be located at the green space on E. Davis/Commerce Street. The sculpture will be designed by a local artist, using grant monies.



Greenway Network Plan

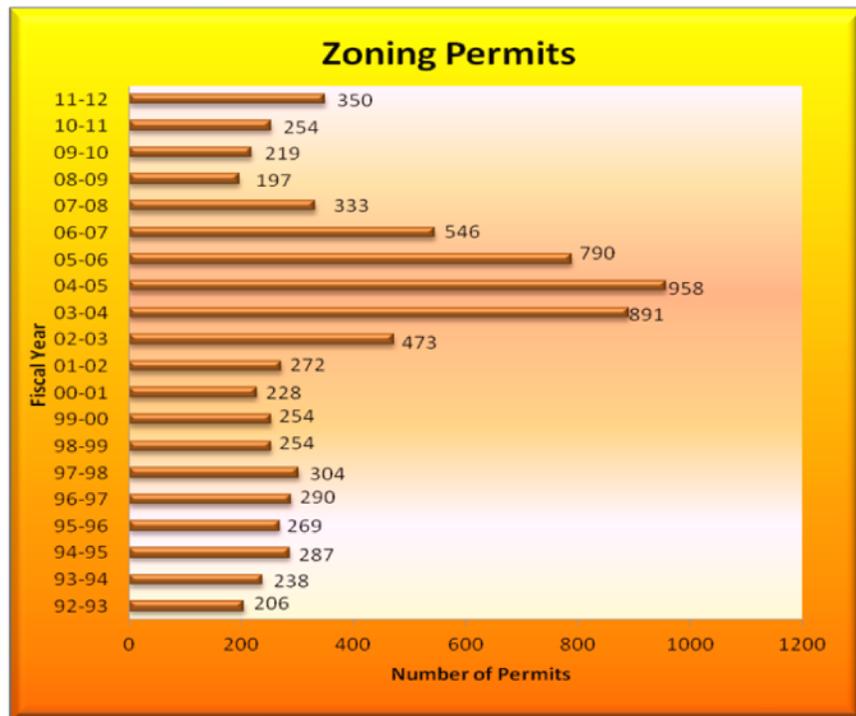
Staff is working with the Parks & Recreation Commission to develop a plan identifying an interconnected network of multi-use trails throughout the Town.



Permitting

Zoning Permits

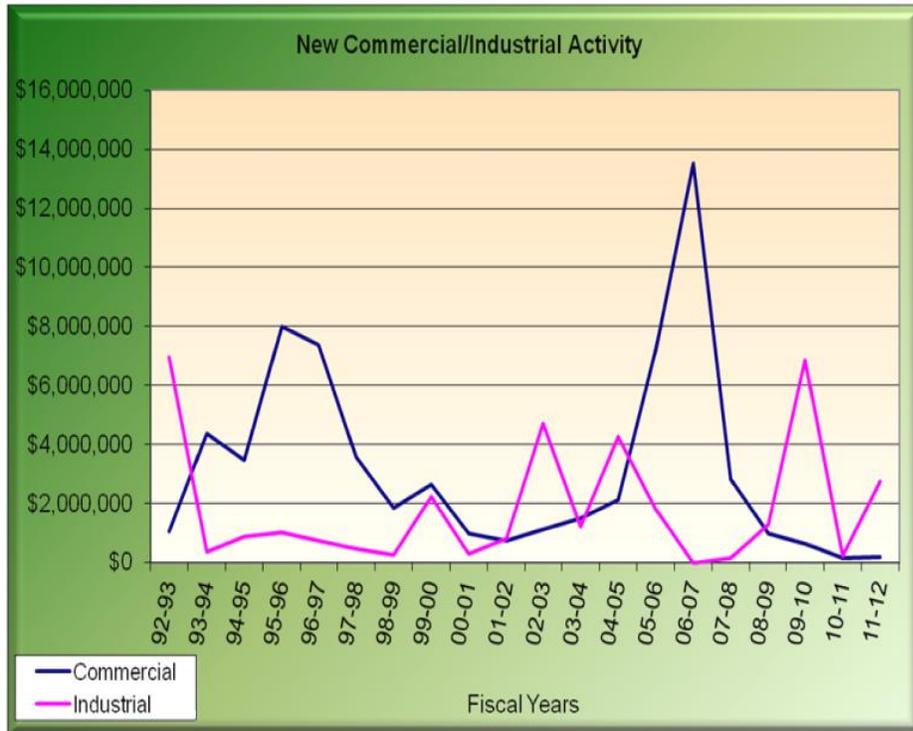
The department issues zoning permits in order to monitor and oversee all construction activity in the Town of Culpeper. Permit issuance was up 44% over the previous year. (See Graph 1)



Graph 1

Commercial/Industrial Construction

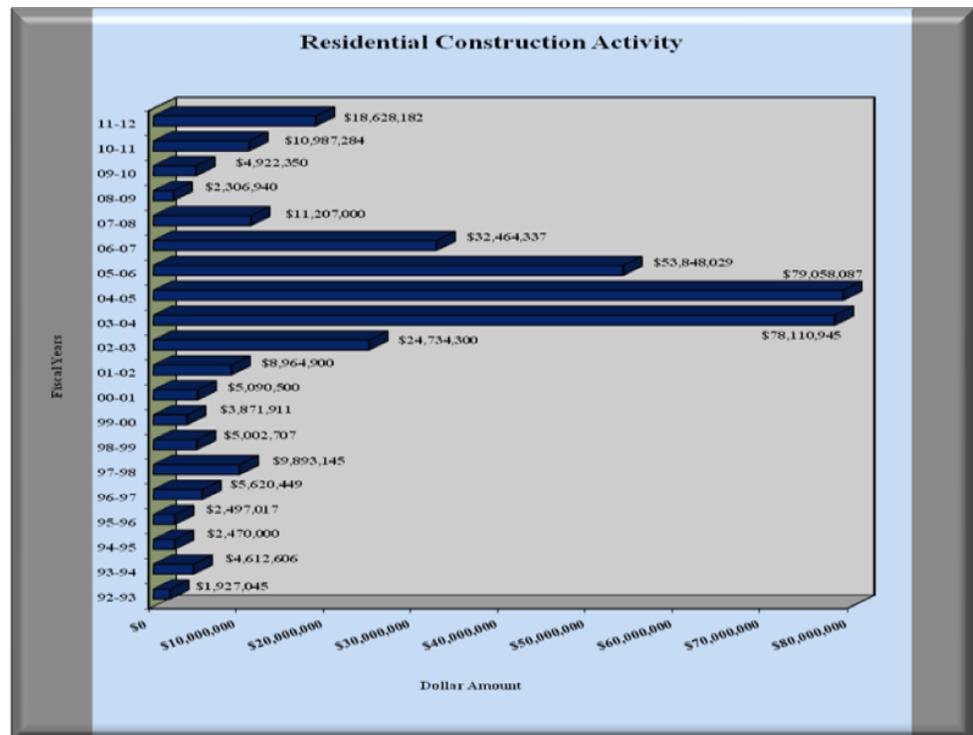
New commercial activity increased only slightly (13%) from the previous fiscal year; and industrial building construction dramatically increased by 91%. (See Graph 2)



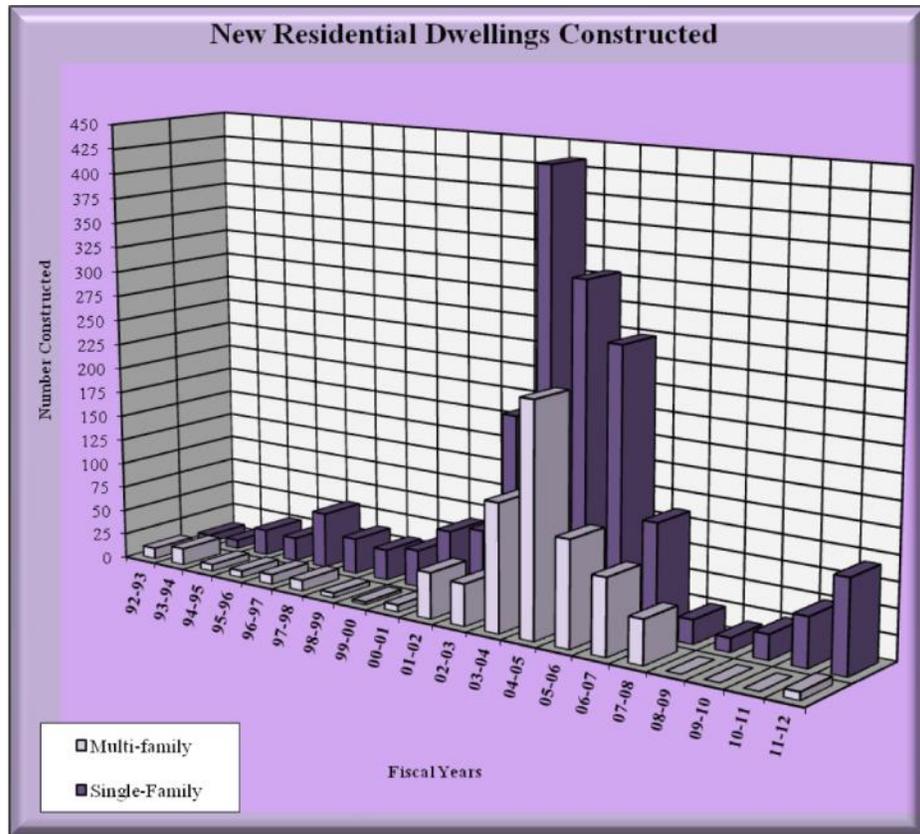
Graph 2

Residential Construction

Residential construction increased by 70% over the previous fiscal year. New single family dwellings increased by 43% (See Graph 3). Eight (8) new multi-family dwellings units were constructed, which increased slightly over the last three years (See Graph 4).



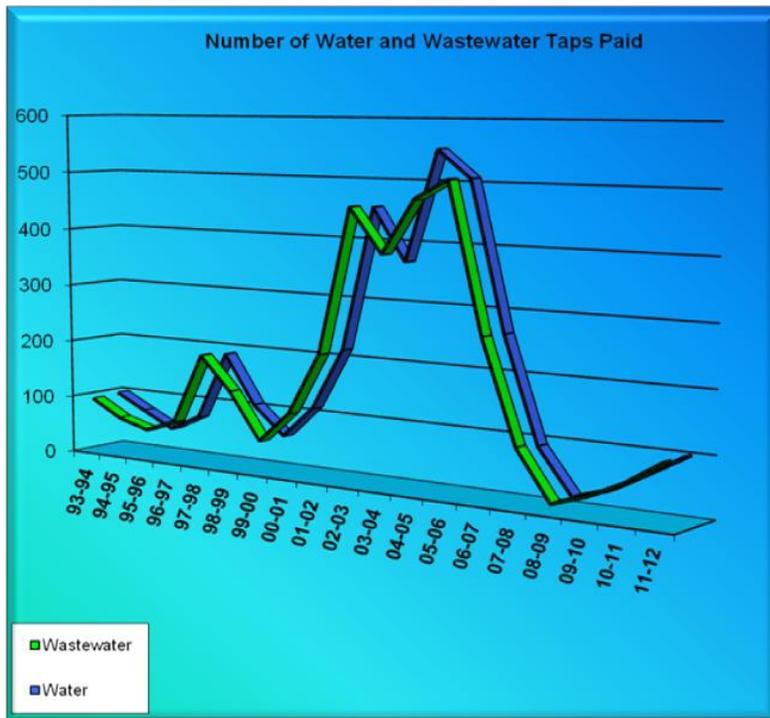
Graph 3



Graph 4

Water & Wastewater Tap Fees

Following the increase in residential construction, tap fees for water and wastewater increased by over 50% from the previous fiscal year, continuing an upward climb. (See Graph 5)



Graph 5

Park Reservations

Both Yowell Meadow Park and Mountain Run Lake Park are well utilized. Yowell Meadow Park saw a slight decrease in rentals from the previous year, but Mountain Run Lake Park had a 20% increase. (see Graph 6)



Mountain Run Lake Park Pavilion



Yowell Meadow Park Pavilion



Graph 6

Home Occupation Permits

The department reviewed and approved seventeen (17) in-home occupation permits.

Property Complaints

Three hundred fourteen property (314) property complaints were investigated, an increase of nineteen percent (19%). The Town is continuing increased enforcement efforts. Most complaints were remedied or resolved; with the exception of thirteen (13) complaints where corrective action was taken.



POLICE

Mission Statement

Our mission is the reduction of the incidence of crime and the improvement of the quality of life in Culpeper by making it a place where all people can live safely and without fear.

The Culpeper Police Department is committed to:

- The impartial enforcement of criminal laws and the intelligent use of discretion in solving problems associated with crime and disorder;
- Providing police service of the highest professional quality grounded in our core values of courage, compassion, duty, and integrity;
- Showing respect for the constitutional rights and personal dignity of all people with whom we come in contact;
- Using problem solving tactics and a community-oriented policing strategy that emphasizes collaboration with other agencies, and builds partnerships with civic and service groups and with business and neighborhood associations;
 - Continuous organizational improvement and receptiveness to the need for constant change in response to the many needs of a dynamic and diverse community;
- Constantly encouraging each member of our staff to assume leadership roles within our organization, to be provide high quality service, to encourage and support others, to build trust, to become agents of change, and to share a vision of an ever improving future.

Values Statement

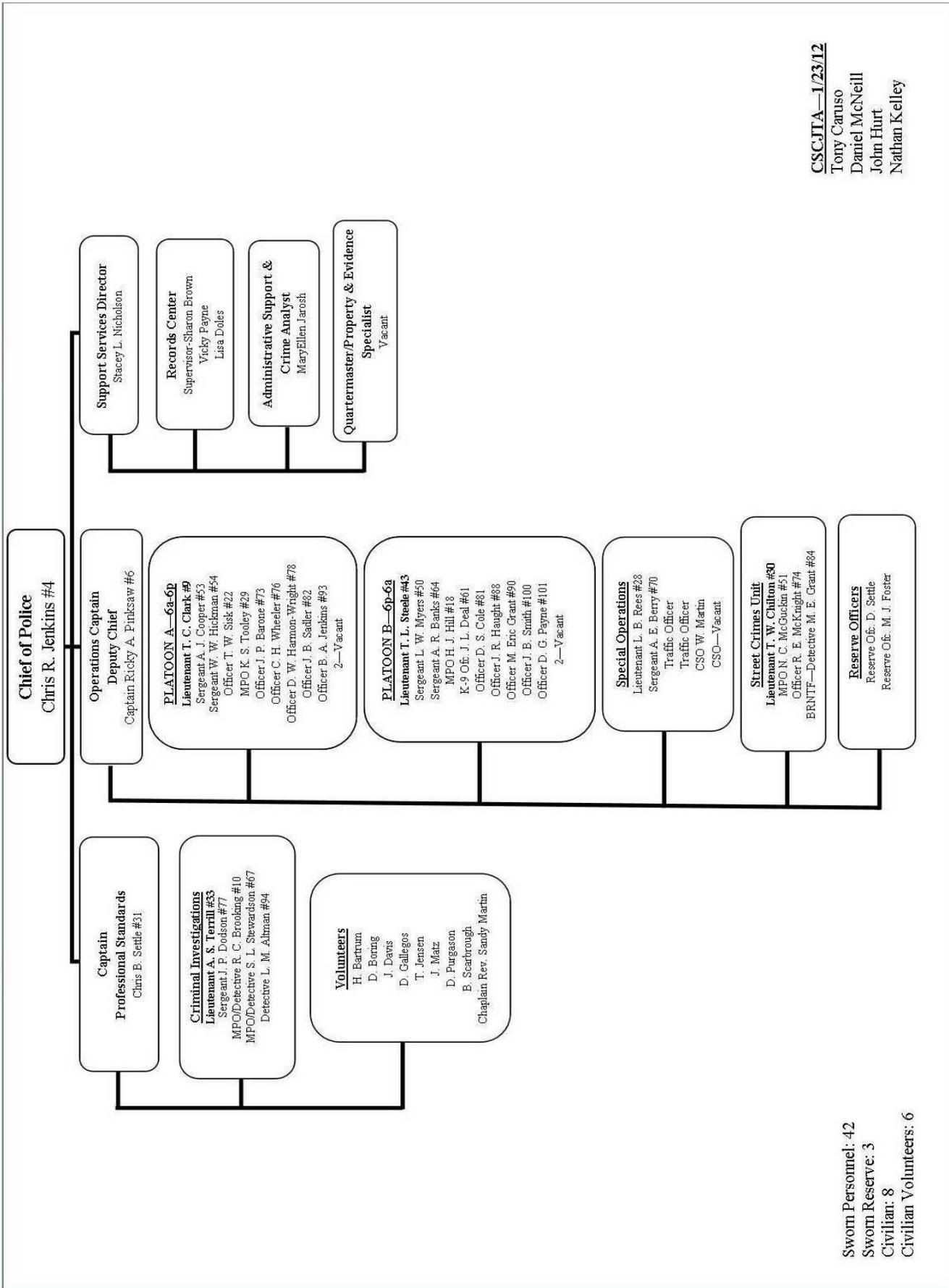
The Culpeper Police Department consists of dedicated professionals who are committed to serving our community, to creativity in solving problems, and to working together as a team. We believe in:

- The value of Human life;
- The courage to do what is right;
- Accountability to ourselves and our community;
- Fairness, compassion, and approachability in the performance of our duties; and
- The continuous improvement of ourselves and our Department.





5/17/12



CSC/JTA—1/23/12
 Tony Caruso
 Daniel McNeill
 John Hurt
 Nathan Kelley

Sworn Personnel: 42
 Sworn Reserve: 3
 Civilian: 8
 Civilian Volunteers: 6

CULPEPER POLICE DEPARTMENT - FY 2011 - SUMMARY

The Culpeper Police Department is a nationally accredited, full service law enforcement agency with an authorized staffing of forty-one (42) sworn police officers; with forty-one (41) currently budgeted, two (2) reserve officers, and eight (8) civilian employees. Through joint agreements with Culpeper County Government and the Culpeper County Sheriff's Office, the Department utilizes the services of the Joint E-911 Communications Center for all emergency communications and dispatch services. Additionally, the Department has partnerships with other jurisdictions in our region, (i.e., the Blue Ridge Narcotics Task Force and a gang task force) with whom we work closely to address criminal issues. The Police Department continues with gang awareness and prevention presentations throughout the community. Our cooperative effort in reducing gang violence by working with the Culpeper County Sheriff's Office and the Culpeper County Commonwealth's Attorney's Office has been a valuable tool in reducing crime in this area.

The Narcotic and Gang task forces and the Street Crimes unit have proven a valuable tool for us in dealing with this regionally increasing problem in gangs, narcotics and robberies. Addressing these issues early, and regionally, is evidence of the pro-active stance this Department has taken toward these types of crimes and those who perpetrate them. Crimes related to illicit drug use, the abuse of alcohol, and domestic violence are the most frequently reported "Part II" offenses.

The Department is a member of the Central Shenandoah Criminal Justice Academy, which provides the Department with police officer recruit training and a majority of the Department's in-service retraining courses. The police department is constantly advertising for police officer positions. During this fiscal year the Department administered approximately 55 pre-employment law enforcement examinations.

The Culpeper Police Department continues to emphasize leadership and problem solving skills and utilizes a wide variety of state-of-the-art crime prevention, investigative, and traffic management equipment such as in-car DVD cameras, laser speed detection equipment, computerized parking citations and a sophisticated traffic measurement and analysis system. The in-car computer program (MDT – Mobile Data Terminal) has dramatically increased the accuracy and efficiency of communications, report writing and processing, and enhanced officer safety. The Department operates a fleet of police vehicles that includes two motorcycles and a number of specialty vehicles. The Department is also responsible for the enforcement of all Town parking ordinances and issues.

The Police Department's most immediate need has been the replacement of its antiquated patrol vehicles. During this fiscal year we were able to order five 2013 Ford Police Interceptors to replace some of the oldest patrol vehicles in the fleet.

While there is always room for improvement and growth, it has been a successful and productive year for the Department.

Chief Chris Jenkins



Review of FY '12 Goals and Objectives

- Maintain the Department's International advanced accreditation status through the Commission for Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies and to ensure compliance with internationally recognized standards of professionalism as set forth in the Commission's 5th Edition Standards Manual.
ON-GOING: The Culpeper Police Department continues to comply with all of CALEA's 479 standards for Advanced Accreditation. All of the time sensitive reports and training requirements have been completed and proofs of compliance have been in its appropriate standard folder.

- The Culpeper Police Department is committed to recruiting the best possible candidates for positions within the agency. To that end the agency desires to develop a workforce that is representative of our community. The Police Department strives to bring the minority and female percentage of sworn personnel more in line with community's demographics.
PARTIALLY ACCOMPLISHED: During the fiscal year the Culpeper Police Department has hired seven entry level police officers. Four of the seven successfully completed the Basic Police Academy at the Central Shenandoah Criminal Justice Training Academy. Since their graduation one officer resigned his position, and the other three are currently going the Department's Field Training Program. Two officers successfully completed the Field Training Program and have been assigned to the Operations Division's Platoon B. One officer is currently going the Field Training Program and it is anticipated that he will successfully complete the Field Training Program during the first month of FY13. The agency is still struggling with recruiting and hiring minority and females candidates.

- The Culpeper Police Department is committed to Community Policing through our Neighborhood Watch Program. In 2011, the Culpeper Police Department developed a new model in managing our Neighborhood Watch Programs by promoting an agency-wide approach to Community Policing, by assigning an individual officer to an individual Neighborhood Watch. We currently have 15 established Neighborhood Watch Programs in the Town of Culpeper. Through feedback from the community, we have experienced some early success in this new model. The Culpeper Police Department strives to grow upon the early success to make this program continue to be a success for the community.
 - The agency desires to continue to provide support and education to our established 15 Neighborhood Watch programs and to expand participation within each Neighborhood Watch.
ACCOMPLISHED: The Culpeper Police Department continues to have Officers assigned to Neighborhood Watch Groups, as well as hosting the Combined Neighborhood Watch Meetings at the Police Department every other month. During these combined watch meetings the Police Department ensured that special guests were in attendance to educate the members in attendance. This ranged from governmental officials, civic leaders, and non-profit organizations. The Police Department supported the neighborhood watches during the annual National Night Out.

 - The agency desires to establish 2 additional Neighborhood Watch Programs in the upcoming year.
ACCOMPLISHED: The Culpeper Police Department exceeded this goal by adding three additional neighborhood watch programs.

- The agency desires to seek and provide Community Policing-based training to our Neighborhood Watch Officers in the upcoming year.
ACCOMPLISHED: MPO Holly Hill and Officer Tim Sisk have continued to maintain their Crime Prevention Specialist Certifications. Lieutenant Andrew Terrill and Officer David Cole attended a 40 hour Basic Crime Prevention School. Lieutenant Andrew Terrill attended an 8 hour training class on Neighborhood Watch Programs.
- The Culpeper Police Department has been authorized to purchase five new police vehicles. This addition will begin to correct a deteriorating fleet of vehicles.
ON-GOING: The Culpeper Police Department has ordered and is awaiting the arrival of five Ford Police Interceptor police vehicles. The arrival of these vehicles should be accomplished during the first month of FY 13.
 - The agency desires to outfit five new vehicles and change the color pattern to a traditional police black and white to be assigned to patrol.
ON-GOING: The agency is still awaiting the arrival of the 2013 Ford Interceptor from Sheehy Ford.
- The Culpeper Police Department has developed a Wellness Program that has been initiated and officers have received a baseline assessment of their physical fitness.
 - The agency desires to see a 5% increase in agency score, as well as a 5% increase in individual officer score during the fall 2011 and spring 2012 assessment.
ACCOMPLISHED: Officers of the Culpeper Police Department scored a total average of 152.52 in the LawFit Course in the spring of 2011. In the spring of 2012 the Officers scored an average of 167.34, which is a 9.7% increase. Only nine officers reached their goal of increasing their score 5% from spring 2011 to spring 2012 LawFit Scores.
 - The agency desires to maintain and continue its partnerships with health professionals by providing each employee with consultation and education in regards to their wellness.
ACCOMPLISHED: During the past fiscal year the agency was fortunate to have a wellness professional become a member of the agency's volunteer program to assist employees in wellness training and education.
- The Culpeper Police Department is on track to match last year's clearance rate of 53%. The national clearance rate for crimes is 25%. The Culpeper Police Department desires to improve that clearance rate by 5% percent in FY12.
NOT ACCOMPLISHED: The Culpeper Police Department had a clearance rate of 50%, which is still twice the national average.
 - By increasing the Department's warrant service by 5%.
NOT ACCOMPLISHED: In FY11 the Police Department served 828 warrants, while only serving 818 in FY12.

- By suppressing the gang activity within the Town of Culpeper by all sworn employees of the agency
ON-GOING: This is a continual goal by the Police Department to utilizing proactive patrol and investigative techniques.
 - By suppressing narcotics activity within the Town of Culpeper by all sworn employees of the agency.
ON-GOING: This is a continual goal by the Police Department by utilizing proactive patrol and investigative techniques and utilize Department resources; such as the K-9's, and technology to assist in suppression of drugs in our community.
- The Culpeper Police Department strives to enhance traffic enforcement and education to the community with an emphasis on residential traffic, school zones, pedestrian crosswalks and selective enforcement locations to reduce the incidence of traffic accidents within the Town of Culpeper by:
- Increase selective enforcement by 5%
ACCOMPLISHED: In FY11 the Police Department conducted 217 hours of selective enforcement, while increasing it to 401 hours in FY12. This was an increase of 85%.
 - Increasing enforcement of seat belts by 5%
NOT ACCOMPLISHED: In FY11 the Police Department issued 280 seat belt violations, while only issuing 116 seat belt violations in FY12
 - Increasing enforcement of speeding by 5%
NOT ACCOMPLISHED: In FY11 the Police Department issued 936 summonses for speeding, while only issuing 645 summonses in FY12.
 - Increasing enforcement of driving under the influence by 5%.
NOT ACCOMPLISHED: In FY11 the Police Department arrested 112 individuals for Driving Under the Influence, while only arresting 87 individuals in FY12.
- Continue to be responsive to, and provide support for, community activities, civic and service organization functions and special events, and neighborhoods to improve the quality of life for the citizens within the Town.
ACCOMPLISHED: The Culpeper Police Department has continued to be a community partner with neighborhood, civic and governmental organizations. The agency participated in the Fourth of July Festivities, the Third Thursday Concerts, Fireman's Parade, Camp Fantastic, Culpeper Day, The Culpeper Fiesta, The Taste of Culpeper, as well as numerous community walks for MS and the Pregnancy Walk. The agency continues to participate with the local TRIAD group, Healthy Culpeper, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Task Force and Culpeper Teen Coalition.

- The Culpeper Police Department strives to provide the most up to date communication and record keeping to that end:
 - The Culpeper Police Department will be undergoing a VCIN audit through the Virginia State Police and strives to achieve 100% compliance level.
ACCOMPLISHED: The Culpeper Police Department's Records Section received a 100% compliance during an audit conducted by the Virginia State Police.
 - The Culpeper Police Department strives to maintain 100% compliance with all property and evidence audits and inspections in accordance with Department Policy and Procedures and CALEA standards.
ACCOMPLISHED: The Culpeper Police Department's Property and Evidence Unit received 100% compliance during all of its quarterly, annual audits and inspections conducted during the past fiscal year.

- The Culpeper Police Department will strive to enhance communication with the community by updating and maintaining the Department's website and Facebook.
NOT ACCOMPLISHED: During the past fiscal year both the department's website and Facebook site have been taken down.

- The Culpeper Police Department recently initiated a Volunteer program to enhance the mission of the agency. The Volunteer Program will enhance the agency's volunteer reserve program, as well as the law enforcement explorer programs.
ACCOMPLISHED: The involvement of citizen volunteers and the expansion the Law Enforcement Explorer program has proven to be beneficial to the Police Department.
 - The agency strives to utilize the Volunteers in a more ancillary position in an attempt to free full-time employees in performing functions that are more police related.
ACCOMPLISHED: The Culpeper Police Department has been fortunate to have several professional volunteer their time, skills and knowledge to the department. The Department's Chaplain continues to be a valuable asset to the department by assisting the department during critical incidents as well as joining officers during notifications. During the past fiscal year the agency was fortunate to have a professional wellness instructor join the volunteer program to lend her expertise to the department regarding its wellness program. This volunteer has provided employees with personalized training and nutritional education in promoting lifelong wellness among police department employees. One volunteer assisted the Criminal Investigations Section with background investigations for police applicants, and several volunteers assisted Police Department Civilian Personnel with setting up and cleaning events hosted at the Police Department.

- To increase the size of the Law Enforcement Explorer program in size and re-develop the program in an attempt to motivate young students in an education and careers in policing. **ACCOMPLISHED:** The Culpeper Police Department recruited for Law Enforcement Explorers in Eastern View and Culpeper High School. As a result of this recruitment the agency increased its Explorer Program by eight kids. The Police Department also increased three Police Advisors. During FY12 the Law Enforcement Explorer Program was re-chartered and new equipment was purchased for the Explorers. During the past fiscal year the Law Enforcement Explorer group participated in a camp/competition in Haymarket, assisted the TRIAD group during their Senior Prom at the Culpeper Christian School and went on a field trip to the Spy Museum in Washington, D.C. In addition to the events that the Explorers participated in they added support to the sworn staff of the Police Department by assisting the department in several special events during year, to include; traffic direction at the Fireman's Parade and Fourth of July. Participating in events dressed as McGruff the Crime Dog and participating in the Brandy Station Fireman's Parade and the Annual National Night Out.

Goals and Objectives for FY 2013

- Maintain the Department's International advanced accreditation status through the Commission for Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies and to ensure compliance with internationally recognized standards of professionalism as set forth in the Commission's 5th Edition Standards Manual in preparation for the Department's Fall 2013 On-Site Assessment.
 - To ensure that all of CALEA's time sensitive reports are completed are per the Department's Written Directives.
 - To ensure that all of CALEA's training requirements are completed.
 - To ensure that all of CALEA's Advanced Accreditation standards file folders are in compliance for years 1 and 2.
- The Culpeper Police Department is committed to recruiting the best possible candidates for positions within the agency. To that end the agency desires to develop a workforce that is representative of our community. The Police Department, in conjunction with the Human Resources Department strives to bring the minority and female percentage of sworn personnel more in line with community's demographics.
- The Culpeper Police Department is committed to Community Policing through our Neighborhood Watch Program. In 2011, the Culpeper Police Department developed a new model in managing our Neighborhood Watch Programs by promoting an agency-wide approach to Community Policing, by assigning an individual officer to an individual Neighborhood Watch. We currently have 18 established Neighborhood Watch Programs in the Town of Culpeper. This new approach to a department wide watch program with officers assigned to their individual neighborhood has proven to be effective in that officers and neighborhood watch group members have developed great working relationships.
 - The agency desires to continue to provide support and education to our established 18 Neighborhood Watch programs and to expand participation within each Neighborhood Watch.
 - The agency desires to establish 2 additional Neighborhood Watch Programs in the upcoming year.
 - The agency desires to seek and provide Community Policing-based training to our Neighborhood Watch Officers in the upcoming year.

- The Culpeper Police Department has been authorized to purchase six new police vehicles. This addition of six vehicles along with five purchased in FY12 is correcting the deteriorating fleet of police vehicles.
 - The agency will continue to maintain the black and white color pattern for vehicle assigned to operations division.
- The Culpeper Police Department's Wellness Program has been in operation for over a year and a half. Officers have received their baseline assessment of their physical fitness and subsequent assessments to document their level of physical fitness.
 - The agency desires to see a 5% increase in agency score, as well as a 5% increase in individual officer score during the fall 2012 and spring 2013 assessment.
 - The agency desires to maintain and continue its partnerships with health professionals by providing each employee with consultation and education in regards to their wellness.
 - To send another officer to LawFit Instructor training to add to the Department's Cadre of LawFit Instructors.
 - To develop a Department LawFit team that can participate on a national level.
- For FY12 the Culpeper Police Department had a clearance rate of 50%, which double the national average of 25%. The Culpeper Police Department desires to improve that clearance rate by 5% percent in FY13.
 - By increasing the Department's warrant service by 5%.
 - By increasing the use of technology to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of police investigations by utilizing resources such as the Virginia Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE) System, the ability to track smart phones in criminal investigations.
 - To contact victims and complainants with 24 hours after the case has been assigned to a Detective/Officer.
 - To continue to have the Department's Street Crimes Section work in cooperation with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies to combat the narcotics and gang problem plaguing our streets.
 - By suppressing the gang activity within the Town of Culpeper by all sworn employees of the agency
 - By suppressing narcotics activity within the Town of Culpeper by all sworn employees of the agency.
- The Culpeper Police Department strives to enhance traffic enforcement and education to the community with an emphasis on residential traffic, school zones pedestrian crosswalks and selective enforcement locations to reduce the incidence of traffic accidents within the Town of Culpeper by:
 - Increase selective enforcement by 5%.
 - Increasing enforcement of seat belts by 5%
 - Increasing enforcement of speeding by 5%.
 - Increasing enforcement of driving under the influence by 5%.
 - Increasing parking enforcement by 5%.
 - To conduct pedestrian crosswalk enforcement.

- Continue to be responsive to, and provide support for, community activities, civic and service organization functions and special events, and neighborhoods to improve the quality of life for the citizens within the Town.

- The Culpeper Police Department strives to provide the most up to date grant opportunities and record keeping to that end:
 - The Culpeper Police Department strives to maintain 100% compliance with all NCIC/VCIN entries on a daily basis in accordance with the requirements set forth by the Virginia State Police.
 - The Culpeper Police Department strives to maintain 100% compliance with all property and evidence audits and inspections in accordance with Department Policy and Procedures and CALEA standards.
 - The Culpeper Police Department continues to strive to look for alternative methods of revenue by researching and applying for grant opportunities to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of operations and administration within the agency.

- The Culpeper Police Department's Volunteer Program is designed to enhance the mission of the agency. The use of volunteer citizens within the community to supplement and alleviate the workload off of the agency's sworn and non-sworn staff and to provide their professional assistance in their volunteer specialty.
 - The agency strives to utilize the Volunteers in a more ancillary position in an attempt to free full-time employees in performing functions that are more police related.
 - To increase the size of the Law Enforcement Explorer program in membership and continue to motivate young students in an education and careers in policing.

- The Culpeper Police Department is committed to continue the highest quality of training for all members of the agency from the Basic Academy, Field Training, In-House, In-Service, Specialized and Advanced Training.
 - For an officer to attend and successfully complete the FBI's National Academy.
 - For an officer to attend and successfully complete the Virginia Forensic Science Academy.
 - For an officer to attend and successfully complete the Professional Executives Leadership School sponsored by the Virginia Chiefs of Police Foundation.
 - For an officer to attend and successfully complete the Institute for Leadership in Changing Times sponsored by the Virginia Chiefs of Police Foundation.
 - For our Officers to successfully complete the Department's Field Training Program and become solo officers and be assigned to a Platoon in the Operations Division.
 - For the Department's Joint Special Operations Team to continue to train twice a month to develop and enhance their skills as a professional SWAT Team.
 - For the Department's Accident Reconstruction Team to train at least once a month to enhance their skills to reconstruct major traffic accidents.

Grant Funding for FY '12

The Police Department continues to actively pursue both state and federal grant funding opportunities in support of local initiatives and equipment needs. Not including the annual 599 Public Safety Funds, the Department received over \$8,680 in grant funding in FY '12. We continue to search for grant funding opportunities through various sources, including the Internet, International Association of Chiefs of Police, and various e-mail notifications from other affiliations.

Public Safety Services 599 (annual)	:	\$245,465
DMV Federal 402/Highway Safety:		\$ 7,680 (\$1,280 In Kind Match)
Wal-Mart:		\$ 1,000
Total:		\$254,145 (\$8,680 without 599)

Financial Matters

Court Fines Collected:	\$112,475.85
Parking Fines Collected – General Fund:	\$ 13,468.92
Parking Fines Collected – Parking Authority	\$ 7,109.92
Total:	\$133,054.69

Drug Seizure Program

Beginning Balance 7/1/11:	\$62,385.99
Funds Received:	\$ 5,334.90
Funds Expended:	\$17,881.01
Closing Balance 6/30/12:	\$49,839.88

Training

Over 4,932.25 hours of training were conducted; which includes In-Service, Specialized, and department training. During FY '12, training was limited to what was required and/or essential to keep expenses within and/or below budget.

The Department continues to emphasize leadership and problem solving skills and has created an excellent training program in support of these initiatives. Among the agency's staff are one graduate of the F.B.I. National Academy, three graduates of the Virginia Forensics Academy, six graduates of the Police Executive Leadership School (PELS) (University of Richmond) and seven graduates of the Institute for Leadership in Changing Times (Virginia Tech.).

Operations Captain



**Ricky A. Pinksaw
Commander**

Patrol Platoon A

There are currently a total of two patrol platoons in the department who are managed by a Lieutenant and two Sergeants. The patrol unit works in rotating twelve hour shifts and patrols the Town of Culpeper twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. These officers are generally the first responders to any type of law enforcement call for service including emergency calls. They are generally responsible for enforcing traffic and criminal laws, conducting criminal investigations and execute proactive patrols throughout the Town of Culpeper. The major events and stats for Platoon A are as follows:

- Officers were able to solve numerous vehicle break-ins on the north end of town within two weeks of it happening in January 2012. Three subjects were arrested with a total of twelve felony warrants and twenty-seven misdemeanor warrants obtained and convictions in court. Some of items stolen were recovered in one offender's house and woods out back of offender's residence. Items not recovered, were reimbursed through court.
- The Law Enforcement Chief's Challenge Book was worked on and completed by members of the department one being assigned to this platoon, which resulted in second place in the state.
- A Platoon A officer continues, after six years, to serve as a board member for the Piedmont Regional Crime Prevention Association.
- Platoon A officers were certified in the following in the fiscal year – General Instructor, Firearm's Instructor, Field Training Officer, Bicycle Officer and a LawFit Instructor.
- Most all members on the platoon participated in the December 2011 Shop-With-A-Cop event.
- Platoon A maintains three active SWAT/Emergency Response Team members as well as three active Accident Reconstruction Team members.

Patrol Platoon B

There are currently a total of two patrol platoons in the department who are managed by a Lieutenant and two Sergeants. The patrol unit works in rotating twelve hour shifts and patrols the Town of Culpeper twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. These officers are generally the first responders to any type of law enforcement call for service including emergency calls. They are generally responsible for enforcing traffic and criminal laws, conducting criminal investigations and execute proactive patrols throughout the Town of Culpeper. The major events for Platoon B are as follows:

- Continuous operations while providing service and security during the Earthquake of 2011. These services were provided not only to the Community but also to various assisting agencies that responded to the area to help out from various organizations.
- Maintained quality of service while performing duties during the 'micro-burst' thunderstorms which went through the area in June 2012. These storms knocked out power throughout the area and Town and created many traffic hazards including trees down, power lines down and traffic lights/signals out.
- Maintained quality of service during personnel shortages which included extended Leave of Absence for both work related and non-worked related injuries and personnel shortages.

- Continuous training of new recruits who have rotated through the Platoon while providing and maintaining a high standard of training and without sacrificing quality of service.
- Continued working relationships with outside agencies. This included maintaining a working relationship with the CCSO Units to assist in the smooth transition from one Sheriff to another following the 2011 election and changeover January 1, 2012.
- During the August 6, 2011 storms which passed through, the area experience a great deal of rain in a short period of time. These storms caused many flooded and impassable roadways. These storms came without notice or preparation time and included several inches of rain in just a couple of hours. This required additional manpower as well as activation of the Town Public Works Department. Agencies worked in conjunction to minimize traffic disruption while maintaining a high level of safety for the community.
- Officers assigned to the Platoon have many additional responsibilities and collateral duties. They have maintained a high standard of service to the community while ensuring that these collateral duties also get the attention that they require.

Street Crimes Unit

The street crimes unit consists of members from the Culpeper Police Department and the Culpeper Sheriff's Office and is managed by the Street Crimes Unit Lieutenant. Their main focus is to concentrate on the quality of life issues that are affecting several neighborhoods within the Town of Culpeper; such as gangs, narcotics, robberies and general disorderly persons. The street crimes unit's primary function is to root out and identify gangs and gang members and investigate their activities.

During the fiscal year, the Street Crimes Unit has successfully shut down numerous marijuana grows located in town. The Street Crimes Unit has also seized approximately \$1,500.00 of counterfeit money and provided the Secret Service with information leading to multiple arrests. The Street Crimes Unit has also assisted with coverage on both day and night shift patrol due to man power issues throughout the year. The following is a list of accomplishments of the Street Crimes Unit within the last fiscal year:

- Narcotics cases - 68
- Narcotics arrests - 86
- Traffic Summons - 62
- Warrant arrests - 168
- Seized money - \$28,667.00
- Seized weapons - 2 Guns, 1 knife
- Seized vehicles - 1
- Search warrants - 9
- Written Consent search's of residence's or hotel rooms - 50
- DUI arrests - 2
- Domestic arrests - 17



Special Operations Section

The Special Operations Section; managed by a Lieutenant and assisted by a Sergeant and consists of two traffic officers; which are motorcycle officers, and two Community Service Officers. The department has one traffic sergeant that is certified in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. He conducts safety inspections on commercial motor vehicles in excess of 26,001 lbs. Over this past fiscal year he has issued 16 citations in this category. This section is an integral part of this department concerning all special events, community events, and traffic enforcement.

Neighborhood Watch

The Department has an active crime prevention and community resource officer program and supports a wide variety of community service and educational functions including; TRIAD, Neighborhood Watch, Healthy Culpeper, Teen Coalition, Certified Child Safety-Seat Inspections, as well as sponsoring the community's Law Enforcement Explorer Scout Program. Culpeper currently has eighteen active Neighborhood Watch groups; an increase of three from last fiscal year and sixteen Neighborhood Watch officers; with a few officers being assigned more than one Neighborhood Watch group. The Department provides staff assistance, logistical support, traffic management, crowd control and security services in support of an ever-increasing number of community festivals and special events. National Night Out is one of many events that the police department participates in every year.



Law Enforcement Explorer Program

Sergeant Jeff Dodson continues to lead the Law Explorer program for the department. The Law Explorer program has increased its numbers during the fiscal year. The program has added about 8 new Law Explorers to the program and therefore the department added 3 additional advisors; Officer Charles Wheeler, Detective Sue Stewardson, and Reserve Officer Mike Foster. The Culpeper Law Explorer post also participated in the first ever National Capital Area Law Explorer regional event in Leesburg, Virginia. The event was co-sponsored by Culpeper, Leesburg, Prince William, and Purciville Explorer Posts. New uniforms and equipment have also been purchased for the programs thru grants that have been received from the Scott Fisher Foundation for the Law Explorer program. Law Explorers also participated in various community events to include Camp Fantastic, National Night Out, Senior Prom, and the Fireman's parade by utilizing the McGruff suit and also participated in the job fairs during the fiscal year. The program goals for the upcoming fiscal year are to continue adding additional Explorers, receive additional funding for the program, increase community service hours for the program, and also to assist with the purchase of a new McGruff suit for special events.

Traffic

The Department investigated 225 reportable accidents, placing 183 charges in FY '12. Total damage cost of vehicles involved in accidents was *estimated* as \$1,093,111. There were 101 persons reported injured and 1 fatality.

UTS & Warnings	FY '12	FY '11	FY '10	FY '09	FY '08
Summons	2,180	3,471	4,085	4,148	3,785
Warnings	424	769	1,006	1,241	1,456
TOTALS	2,604	4,240	5,091	5,389	5,241

Parking Enforcement

Parking Tickets Issued	FY '12	FY '11	FY '10	FY '09	FY '08
Parking Authority Lots	801	889	1,463	1,790	1,486
On Street Parking	638	754	1,067	1,475	1,905
TOTALS	1,439	1,643	2,530	3,265	3,391

Traffic Safety Enforcement Awards

Annually, the Department recognizes officers for outstanding achievement in Traffic Safety Enforcement. Those recognized were:

Traffic Division:

- Sergeant Anthony Berry
Speed Enforcement



- MPO Stephen C. Frazier
Occupant & Pedestrian Safety
Award



Patrol Division:

- Officer David Dorrrough
Impaired Driving Detection
& Apprehension Award

NO PHOTO

- Officer Timothy Sisk
Speed Enforcement & Occupant
Safety Award



The police department also honored Monica Neighbors of Culpeper and her 4-year-old daughter who were involved in a two-car automobile accident on January 24, 2011. The mother and daughter are being recognized with a Saved By the Belt award. The youngster, who was three years old at the time of the crash, was uninjured due to being properly restrained in a child safety seat. The mother also wasn't injured because she was wearing her seatbelt. Neighbors and her daughter are the first recipients of the local award designed to recognize the efforts of people who avoided injuries by following the law and buckling up.



Awards

- Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) awarded Police Officer David Dorrough for his outstanding efforts in DUI Detection.



- On Saturday, May 5, 2012, Officer David Cole received the VFW Police Officer of the Year Award. David was nominated by the Department for his continuing dedication to the department and the community, his exemplary work ethic, professionalism and positive attitude.



- Detective Sergeant Jeffrey Dodson was recognized by the Salem Ruritan Club on May 22, 2012, for "Outstanding Public Service". He was nominated by the Department to receive this award for his professionalism, contributions to department and community programs especially working with the Law Enforcement Explorers, and his positive attitude. Explorer Mike Mawdsley was also awarded the Explorer of the Year award.



Every year, this Department competes in the Virginia Chief's Association Law Enforcement Challenge. The Department publishes a book that is a comprehensive overview of all of the Safety programs provided by the Department, this book is submitted to the committee and is judged on the appearance of the book and the quality of the programs and statistical data therein.

This year, we earned Second Place Overall in our category (agencies of similar size and structure) in the state. The specialty awards that the department received were announced and awarded at the August 2012 Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police event in Roanoke, VA.

In addition, our department continues to strive for excellence regarding our car seat safety outreach programs. The Department currently has three certified through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration as child safety seat installers. The child safety seat program remains successful and we are currently partnered with the Culpeper Regional Hospital and Blue Ridge OBGYN for monthly training seminars.

The bike safety program has actually grown and more officers have participated in the bike safety classes and presentations than in prior years. The Department continues to conduct security assessments for businesses when requested. These assessments are provided at no cost to the recipient.

Professional Standards

Chris B. Settle
Commander



Criminal Investigations Section

The Criminal Investigations Section consists of a Lieutenant, Sergeant, and three Detectives. During the fiscal year this section has been faced with many changes, new Detectives have been assigned and have left for various reasons. Detective Altman was assigned to this section in September 2011. Detective Taylor retired from the department. Sgt. Hickman transferred to patrol and Sgt. Dodson was assigned to this section in May 2012. Lt. Rees transferred from CIS to Special Operations and Lt. Terrill came from patrol to CIS in June 2012. For FY '13, the goal is to add an additional Detective to the Criminal Investigations Section. Other goals or accomplishments completed in FY '12:

- Since June 2012, Lt. Terrill and Sgt. Dodson have re-established attendance at the Joint Terrorism Task Force, Anti-terrorism Advisory Council, and the Virginia Gang Investigators Association regional meetings. Various intelligence and valuable information has been gathered from attendance at these meetings. The goal for upcoming fiscal year is to continue attendance at these regional intelligence meetings/briefings.
- All Detectives in CIS have been given access to the Virginia Fusion Center reports.
- Contacting victims within 24 hours after cases have been assigned to CIS. This is also a continued goal.
- Detective Stewardson has worked diligently with CPS on various child-sex cases. Detective Stewardson's primary focus in the investigative section is child-sex/domestic violence cases. Detective Stewardson has maintained a 54.17% clearance rate this fiscal year working with these types of cases. Detective Stewardson has spoken to various groups, to include neighborhood watch groups and law explorers, about the Culpeper Police Department's role in domestic violence and child sex case investigations.

The CIS unit investigates crimes that have been assigned to them by the Captain. These crimes are usually ones that the patrol unit has taken the initial report on. During this fiscal year there have been several substantial crimes committed in the Town of Culpeper. Through a joint effort with this Department and other local agencies, we have been able to successfully resolve these crimes and make several arrests.

Carnal Knowledge – Cleared by Arrest

Case 1105-0194 – 500 Culpeper Town Square, Culpeper, VA

Shannon Buckner, adult male, was arrested and charged for having sexual encounters with a 12 year old female. This case originated during FY '11, but was solved during FY '12.



Homicide – Closed by Arrest

Case 1110-0080 – 680 Willis Lane, Culpeper, VA

On October 8, 2011, independent witnesses observed two suspects slamming their bodies into the door of 680 Willis Lane three times before the door broke in. Once they broke the door in the witnesses called 911. The suspects identified as Gary Willie and Roger Davis entered the home and Willie shot Patricia Adams; a former girlfriend of Willie's, killing her instantly. There was another female in the home at the time of the shooting which was a friend of Patricia's. Willie was chasing the female and tried to shoot her, she ducked and the bullet hit Davis in the chest. The female was able to flee the apartment uninjured. Willie then attempted suicide twice with the handgun.

Twenty-four hours before, leading up to these events Willie and Davis were making threats via texting, phone calls, messages and showing up at Adams' home and slashing a tire on her vehicle. Willis and Davis at one time had relationships with Adams. This case is currently pending in court. Detective Altman and Detective Stewardson are conducting weekly meetings with the Commonwealth Attorney's office to prepare for this upcoming trial.



Home Invasion – Active Investigation

Case 1110-0200 – 406 Macoy Avenue, Culpeper, VA

Resident, Mr. Hurt, was attacked in his home and suspects forced their way into his house. The victim was beaten and cash was stolen from the victim. This is an ongoing investigation; no arrests have been made to date on this matter.

Shooting – Closed by Arrest

Case 1202-0200 – First Street/Monticello Avenue, Culpeper, VA

This was the drive by shooting that occurred on Monticello Avenue. The Criminal Investigations Section charged Kenneth Rhudd for this incident, which has been disposed of in court.



Robbery – Closed by Arrest

Case 1205-0185 – 400 Blk. S. Main Street, Culpeper, VA

On May 19, 2012 Jose Jesus Maradiaga-Colindves was robbed and pistol whipped at his residence. An article was run in the Culpeper Star-Exponent asking for the public's help in identifying the suspect involved. A call was received from a confidential informant stating that they knew who robbed Jose. The informant gave us the names of the suspects involved in the robbery, Terell Poteat and Christina Jenkins. The Police department executed a search warrant at 422 Hill St. Evidence from the crime was retrieved. Based on information provided which was verified by Jose, the victim, warrants were obtained for Terell and Christina. Terell was charged with robbery, breaking and entering, malicious wounding, shoot cut stab, use of a firearm in the commission of a felony, conspiracy to commit robbery, abduction, and brandishing. Christina was charged with robbery and breaking and entering. Terell was interviewed when he was arrested and admitted to the crime. The information revealed during the interviewed subsequently lead to an additional search warrant and arrest. Darelle Biddle was charged with possession of a firearm by convicted felon and possession of crack/cocaine. The commonwealth attorney's office is going to direct indict Darelle Biddle on conspiracy to commit robbery and possession of a firearm by convicted felon on term day in August related to the robbery of Jose.



Suspicious Death – Active Investigation

Case 1206-0047 – 1130 Meander Drive, Culpeper, VA

Victim was discovered deceased in his home. Victim was allegedly involved in an altercation the night before at Sleepy Hollow Motel and sustained lacerations to his head. The Criminal Investigations Section is following up on leads in this case. This is an on-going investigation.

The chart below explains the case load of the criminal investigations section along with the patrol unit:

CASE MANAGEMENT

Case Assignment Summary	FY '12	FY '11	FY '10	FY '09	FY '08
C I S	497	356	396	461	475
Town Patrol	1,457	1,514	1,387	1,365	1,600
Department Total	1,954	1,870	1,783	1,826	2,075

Volunteers

During the fiscal year the department has moved forward in creating and maintaining the Volunteer program. The department currently has seven volunteers who can be assigned to a variety of different tasks within the department. Over the last fiscal year, we have had volunteers assist the department in the Promotional Ceremony, Joint Neighborhood Watch meeting preparedness, data entry, filing, assist in hanging no parking signs for special events and health and wellness guidance to continue our wellness program and individual health goals. These individuals have dedicated a number of hours of outstanding volunteer service.

Support Services Division

Records

The Records section is currently staffed with a Supervisor and two Records Clerks. This section is the central repository for all Warrants, Incident reports, Uniform traffic summons, Traffic accidents, case files for court, pawn records and juvenile & adult arrest records. The records section handles all inquiries concerning accident reports & FOIA requests. All data entry is inputted by the records staff into the Records Management System (RMS). They are also responsible for the entries in the VCIN/NCIC system which is maintained by the Virginia State Police and the FBI. The department currently has two VCIN Instructors; therefore conducts all necessary in house training for all patrol officers and civilian personnel at their respective certification levels. They are responsible for greeting citizens in the front lobby area and answering the non-emergency phone lines for the police department. The Records Specialists have attended numerous trainings throughout the fiscal year; FOIA, VCIN Recertifications, UCR/IBR Training. This fiscal year the Records Section underwent a Virginia State Police audit of the entries that were entered into the Virginia Criminal Information Network computer. The Records Section was 100% in compliance; there were no errors found and all rules and regulations were being followed. Great Job, keep up the good work!

Property & Evidence

The property & evidence section serves as department's central repository for all evidence collected by sworn personnel. The chain of custody concerning all evidence is an integral portion of the sworn officer's testimony in court and is tracked by the evidence custodian in the Records Management System (RMS). The evidence custodian is also responsible for transporting evidence to and from the Virginia Department of Forensic Science Laboratory in Northern Virginia for analyzing.

During the fiscal year there have been 1,404 pieces of property collected and submitted as evidence or found property; compared to last fiscal year there were 1,219 pieces of property collected and submitted. This fiscal year the department was able to purchase an evidence drying cabinet to securely dry evidence that will enable us to ensure the preservation of the chain of custody of the evidence while drying. The department has been actively recruiting for the vacant position of Property/Evidence & Quartermaster Specialist position; we hope to have someone in this position the beginning of the new fiscal year.



Crime Analyst

The past fiscal year the position of Crime Analyst has continued to grow and expand. The year allowed further training opportunities, permitting MaryEllen Jarosh, Crime Analyst, to become a Virginia State Police Fusion Liaison Officer. This opportunity trained her to gather intel on various specialized topics (terrorism, gang activity), recognize indicators and warnings of criminal activity, analyze, disseminate and share information on a statewide broadcast, alerting and assisting other agencies. During the fiscal year MaryEllen has attended a Crime Analysis with Crime Mapping course and Exploring Crime Analysis I: Essential Skills course offered through the International Association of Crime Analysts. The knowledge gained from these courses has been integrated into her position. Throughout the year she has also attended Incident Command training, OSINT and Criminal Investigations training, and Introduction to Cell Phone Investigations training. MaryEllen continues to be involved with the Virginia Association of Law Enforcement Planners and attended the Fall 2011 and Spring 2012 Conferences.

MaryEllen has continued to regularly attend the Rappahannock Regional Monthly Crime Meetings as a representative of the Police Department. Information is exchanged and shared with area agencies on crime trends. She also attends the Combined Neighborhood Watch meetings every two months, developing and presenting a short segment of any on-going trends in the Town of Culpeper to citizens and how these trends affect (locality) their respective neighborhoods.

The Crime Analyst also maintains a useful tool using information collected by the Commonwealth Attorney's Office (CA). A list is disseminated by the CA's office of individuals who have waived their Fourth Amendment rights (the subject has agreed, prior to the fact, to waive any objections to being subjected to searches and seizures without the necessity of the law enforcement officer meeting the standard Fourth Amendment requirements of *probable cause* and a *search warrant*) as part of a plea agreement. She took this useful information and created a LookBook, attaching mug shot photographs along with the subject's vital information in a convenient format for officers to use while on patrol. During this fiscal year she has created and maintained a pictorial Culpeper House Bar list; giving the officers a visual representation of the information of individuals who have been barred from the property. This information is obtained from the property agents and on-site property Detective L. Altman.

The Crime Analyst also provided case assistance for a few notable events occurring in the Town. Continuing from the previous fiscal year she was able to develop and disseminate safety tips to local businesses in connection with the numerous counterfeit bills being passed within Town. This information educated local business owners on how to identify counterfeit bills and what they should do if they encounter a similar event. She also assisted investigations in an analysis function for the Residential B&E / Burglary trend from June 2012, Larceny from Motor Vehicle trend from May – June 2012, the Paintball trend from June 2012, Egging trend from June 2012, and the Vandalism (Black Marker to Vehicles) trend in June 2012.

Quartermaster

The Quartermaster is responsible for obtaining quotes, ordering/purchasing of equipment, ensures new equipment is ready for service, maintains the storage of all material, maintains inventory of the Quartermaster room, ensures equipment is in good order, issues out equipment and supplies to all personnel, organizes and oversees the equipment of new vehicles, registers new vehicles and disposes of old vehicles and equipment with proper paperwork in order. This position was combined with the Property/Evidence position this fiscal year. We are actively recruiting for this position and hope to have someone hired in the new fiscal year.

Calls for Service

Activity	FY '12	FY '11	FY '10	FY '09	FY '08
Calls for Service	14,237	15,286	16,946	17,295	17,073
Officer Initiated	10,013	10,717	10,154	9,453	6,266
Patrol – Specialized	9,592	10,074	9,373	7,304	2,846
Administrative	267	267	251	340	356
TOTALS	34,109	36,344	36,724	34,392	26,541

Crime

During FY '12, there were 595 Part I Crimes reported and investigated by the Department. The Department holds an average clearance rate of 50%, well above the national average, compared to FY '11 of a 53% clearance rate.

FY '12 Part I Crimes

Type of Crime	FY '12	FY '11	FY '10	FY '09	FY '08
Aggravated Assaults	26	49	41	30	23
Arson	2	2	2	10	5
B & E /Burglaries	38	33	26	37	43
Forcible Rape	3	5	4	7	5
Homicides	1	0	0	0	0
Larcenies	494	324	387	430	373
Motor Vehicle Thefts	20	18	15	20	23
Robbery	11	15	24	14	20
TOTALS	595	446	499	548	491
Est. Value of Prop. Stolen	\$535,819.05	\$440,103.97	\$428,711.72	\$549,600.89	\$516,281.44
Est. Value of Prop. Recovered	\$61,585.47	\$30,757.55	\$76,285.82	\$63,401.94	\$132,523.26

ADULTS – Arrests (to include assisting other agencies) & Charges

	Total Arrests	Total CPD Charges	Felony	Misdemeanor	Alcohol	Drug
FY' 12	1,337	1,783	536	1,246	269	157
FY '11	1,272	1,823	545	1,278	306	167
FY '10	1,311	1,845	583	1,262	263	140
FY '09	1,565	2,005	526	1,479	359	103
FY '08	1,631	2,109	569	1,540	369	120

JUVENILES – Arrests (to include assisting other agencies) & Charges

	Total Arrests	Total CPD Charges	Felony	Misdemeanor	Alcohol	Drug
FY '12	49	43	10	33	3	1
FY '11	48	64	21	43	7	4
FY '10	70	103	31	72	6	6
FY '09	95	127	37	90	7	5
FY '08	113	167	56	111	6	6

PUBLIC WORKS

The Public Works Department employs forty-four full-time employees and two interns who are distributed among the following twelve departments: Motor Pool, Engineering, Streets, Snow & Ice, Traffic Engineering, Refuse Collection, Recycling, General Properties, Parks & Recreation, Cemetery, Water Distribution and Wastewater Collection. The Engineering and General Properties departments became part of Public Works on December 1st.

Personnel

In-house safety meetings were conducted. Additional seminars and workshops were attended by department personnel on the use of new equipment and technology as well as on safety related issues.

Training sessions were conducted by Human Resources and attended by affected personnel on Hand Signals, Performance Evaluations and the Family Medical Leave Act.

Seven employees attended ICS 300 training at the Police Department.

Two employees attended a backflow certification class at the 911 Center sponsored by the Virginia Rural Water Association in March.

Streets

The milling and resurfacing of North James Madison Highway to Ira Hoffman Lane was completed by Chemung Contracting in June. Additionally, Nottingham Street, E. Fairview Road and Spruce Street were resurfaced by Chemung.

The bus shelter at the E. Davis Street parking lot was relocated to Powell Wellness Center, and a new shelter was installed at the E. Davis St. lot.

The Briscoe Street wall stabilization project was completed by Samuel James Construction in January.

The Town's drainage system was either added to or improved by the installation of 138 l.f. of 12", 130 l.f. of 15" and 24 l.f. of 18" culvert pipe.

The annual VDOT road inspection was performed in May.

Department personnel removed downed trees and debris from streets and provided assistance to Light & Power with the removal of trees from power lines following a severe storm with high winds in late June.

Flower baskets were installed on Main Street and Davis Street and watered as needed.

Engineering

Inspections were performed on concrete replacements and milling, crack sealing and paving operations.

Project updates are as follows:

- 1.) West Street Improvements -Bids have been received with work to begin in August.
- 2.) Western Inner Loop Connector-Project is in the right of way acquisition stage.
- 3.) Route 229 Round About-Utility relocation planning is being done.
- 4.) James Madison Highway Sidewalk-Project is under review by VDOT.

Snow & Ice

Due to a mild winter, Public Works personnel responded to three storms wherein 70 ½ tons of abrasives and 79 tons of salt were applied.

The annual demonstration on the proper use of snow removal equipment was held in December for all operators.

A lease agreement was signed with the County of Culpeper for use of the salt bunker and hangar structure at the DSS facility on Industry Drive in exchange for garbage pickup at seven locations and the waiver of tap fees to the Sports Complex.

Cemetery

In addition to normal maintenance activities, necessary services were provided for eighty-five interments.

Thirty-one linear feet of 12" culvert pipe was installed for the new road extension at Fairview Cemetery, and the ditch line as seeded and mulched.

An inspection was performed on the caretaker's residence, and deteriorated fencing was removed in the rear of the property.

Motor Pool

Maintenance personnel performed the necessary service and repair work on all vehicles and pieces of equipment within the Town fleet. All licensed vehicles were state inspected during June, July, August and September. The motor pool assisted in outfitting and marking, as appropriate, all new vehicles and equipment.

Department personnel met with Virginia State Trooper Bream in March regarding new vehicle state inspection procedures.

The vehicle and equipment replacement schedule was updated.

Bids were received in May for gasoline and diesel fuel for a two year period.

Traffic Engineering

Signs were repaired, and faded signs and broken posts were replaced as needed. Additional signs were installed at various locations.

Neighborhood Watch signs were installed in the High Point and Belle Parc subdivisions as directed by the Police Department.

Pedestrian crosswalk signs were installed on E. Davis Street at Knakal's, Blue Ridge Avenue at Yowell Meadow Park and on Main Street at Culpeper Diner.

Three way stop signs were installed at the intersection of Monticello Avenue and Fourth Street.

West Williams Street was changed from two way to one way traffic which facilitated the need to install a "No Right Turn on Red" sign at the Main Street and Evans Street traffic signal. Additionally, the signal at the Main Street and Evans Street intersection was modified with two new right turn signals and included two new mast arms needed to replace the damaged structure.

Sanitation

Weekly collections for all residences and many businesses were performed on a regular basis by department personnel. In July, customers began paying a sanitation equipment fee per trash cart.

Holiday Trash Collection Schedule stickers for October 2011-September 2012 were ordered and installed on all trash carts.

Four metal waste containers and four additional tops were purchased with monies received from the Litter Control Grant.

Trash carts were delivered to residents in the boundary line adjustment area to start service in July.

Recycling

81,420 pounds of cardboard was collected from Town businesses during the fiscal year.

320 tons of leaves were vacuumed from businesses and residential areas in November and December and are being turned into compost.

Christmas trees were collected on January 4th, 5th, 11th and 12th and chipped for mulch.

Parks & Recreation

In addition to routine maintenance, annual inspections were performed on the dams at Lake Pelham and Mountain Run Lake.

Inspections were made by Recreation Dynamics on playground equipment at Mountain Run Lake, Yowell Meadow Park and Wine Street Park.

The basketball court at Yowell Meadow Park was resurfaced, and new backboards were installed, and the ramps were replaced at the skate park.

Two informational signs were updated and reinstalled at Mountain Run Lake.

The area was prepared, and a new floating dock was installed on Lake Pelham in the Lakeview subdivision. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on November 18th.

Mowing continued on the Country Club side of the dam at Lake Pelham per an ongoing agreement by the County Club to reimburse the Town for labor and equipment.

Water Distribution

Two water taps were made, four services were replaced, and five leaks were repaired.

The Town's backflow and cross connection program is continuing.

Well sites were cleaned, mowed and graded on Spring Street, Lake Pelham, Mountain Brook Estates, Country Club and Lakeview.

Assistance was provided to Environmental Services with the drainage, refilling and inspecting of the rehabilitation of the water storage tanks.

Meter boxes and backflow devices were installed in preparation for the AMR project. At the end of the fiscal year, 2,008-5/8", 61-1", 9-1 1/2", 10-2" and 1-3" meters had been installed.

Automatic flushing devices continue to be inspected at Germanna Technology Center, Inlet, Montanus, Eastern View High School, Enterprise Way and Terramark.

Wastewater Collection

Four sewer taps were made, and one service was replaced.

Inspections were made using a T.V. survey of 36" sewer mains by a private contractor.

A preventive maintenance program for sewer lines was implemented to deter problems and prevent DEQ citations.

Inspections were made on the lining on sanitary sewer at the Library of Congress and storm water on Sunset Lane by a private contractor.

General Properties

The eWorkOrders system was implemented in February to track work requests, labor and material costs on all facilities and building services.

Fire X conducted fire extinguisher inspections for all Town departments.

The interior demolition of the old Police Department was completed in May.

The demolition of the earthquake damaged Levy building on Main Street was completed and closed.

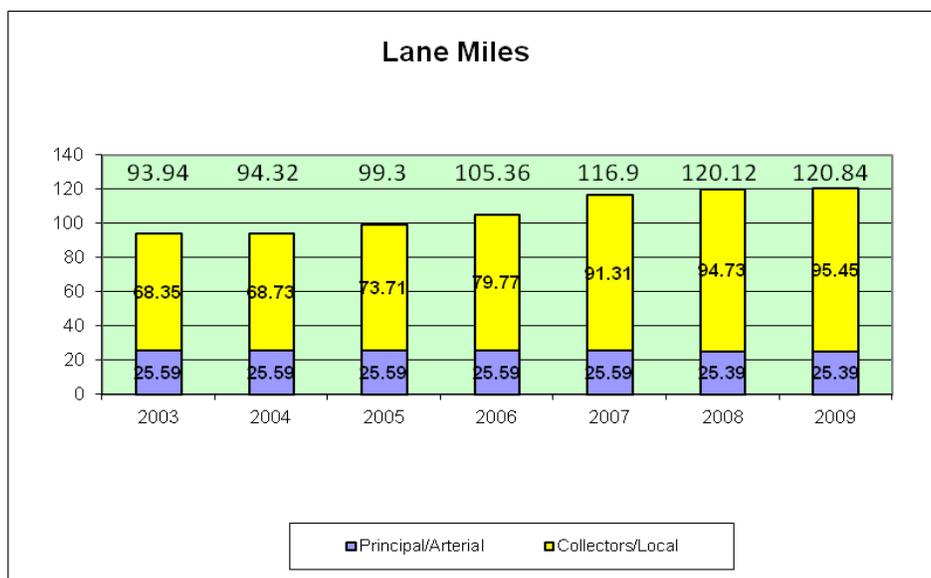
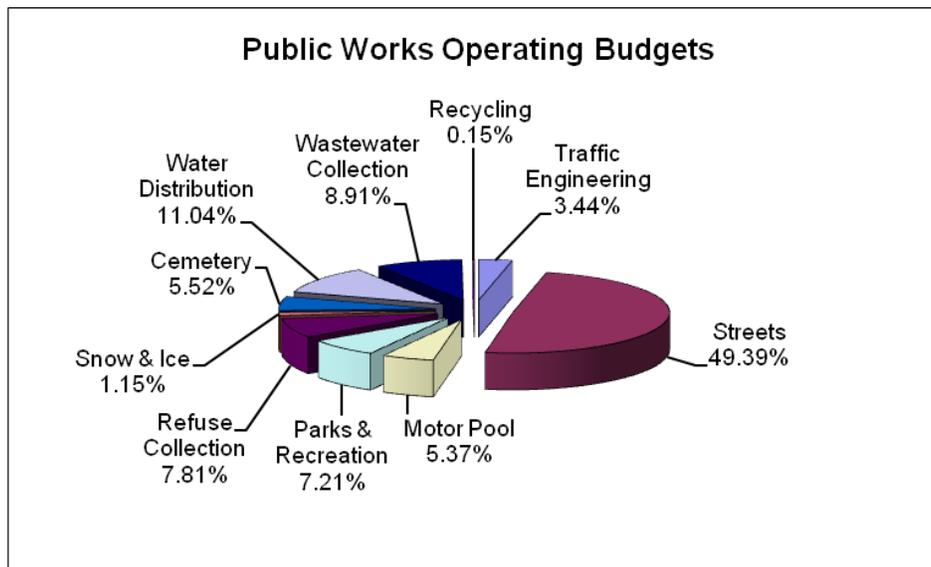
The Human Resources office was permanently relocated to the third floor of the Municipal Building.

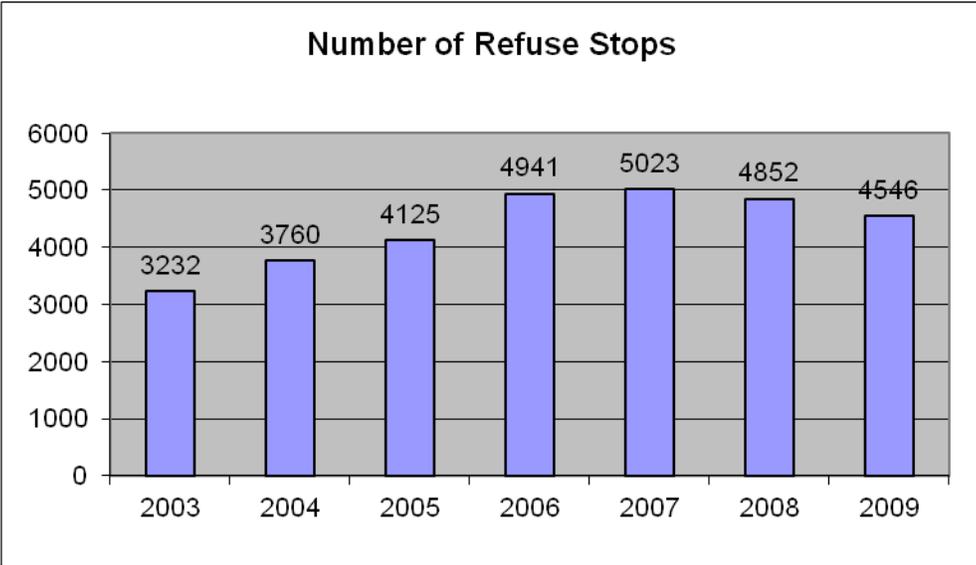
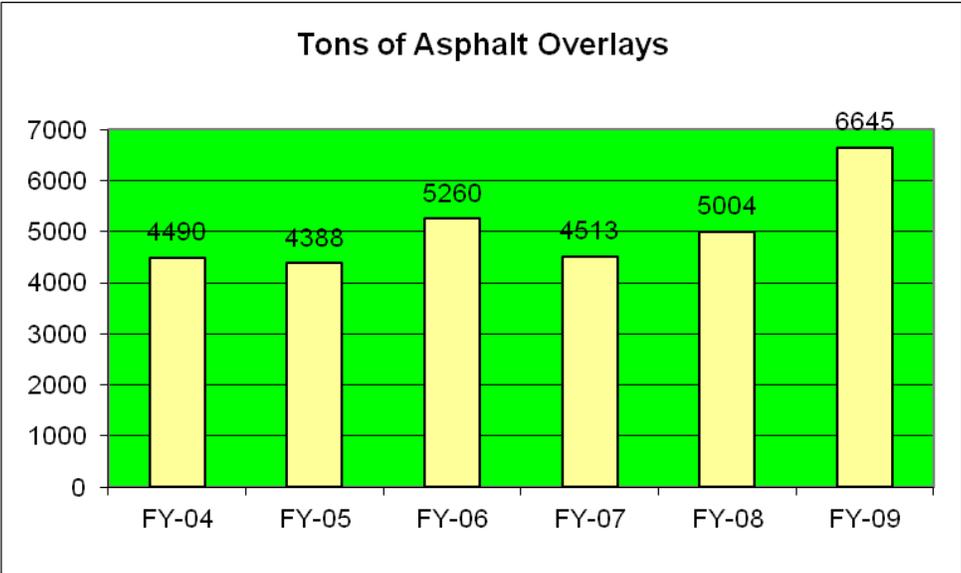
Miscellaneous

Signs and barricades were supplied for road closures, stage and tent were erected, and clean up was provided for the following events: Triathlon Block Party, 3-Third Thursday Concerts, Culpeper Fiesta, Culpeper Day, Firemen’s Parade and Car Show, July 4th Parade and Celebration, Taste of Culpeper. Traffic control materials were provided for the following events: Annual Run for Autism, MS Walk, Smithsonian Display trailer, Art & Garden Expo, CCVFD Annual Banquet. The stage and traffic control materials were provided for the CFA opening ceremonies at the Culpeper Sports Complex.

Information was submitted to FEMA for reimbursement for expenses incurred as a result of the August 23rd earthquake.

The Sheriff’s Department provided inmate workers to assist with Public Works maintenance activities.





TOWN TREASURER

The mission of the Treasurer's Office of the Town of Culpeper is to fulfill its constitutional and statutory responsibilities, placing priority on prudent management and stewardship of the financial resources of the Town and ensuring fiscal integrity and sound accounting practices and providing customer service through excellence in treasury management. The Treasurer's Office is committed to more efficient services focusing on technology solutions that meet and exceed our service demands.

For the 2012 fiscal year the Town Treasurer's Office operated with a budget of \$766,281 (unaudited), with 85 percent of the total expenditures represented as personnel costs (salaries and benefits) with the remaining portion expended in postage, telephone, printing, bank fees, office supplies and contract services. The department employed ten persons, which includes one part-time employee. In FY12, the Treasurer's Office staffing remained level with the prior year.

In FY12, the Treasurer's Office continued its software enhancements for financials, payroll, accounts payable, utility billing and various tax billing. We enhanced our electronic payment options in FY12 providing credit and debit card online payment options for customers for their tax and utility bills. We also added 'Payment by Phone' options for those customers that prefer not to use the Internet for their payments. The expansion of these two service areas allows the Treasurer's office to have a '24/7' operation for payments. In addition to payment options, we are also enhancing account access options for customers to check their accounts and to utilize a shopping cart payment system allowing them to group all of their payments into one cart and make one payment for all account balances.

We are working with the Information Technology department to improve access to information for Town departments, allowing improved access to financial data, reports and direct entry of invoices. Additionally, we are exploring options for online payment of boating and fishing licenses and payment of other fees. Working with the Information Technology department and the Planning Department, we are exploring options for online reservation and payment of pavilion/shelter reservations at Town parks.

We are in the third year of our contract with our auditing firm, Brown, Edwards & Company (BEC). BEC has provided excellent service and advise on the overall operation of our financial operation and they have provided valuable recommendations for improvements to treasury operations, financial system security and processes.

The Treasurer's office continues its review of all policies, practices and procedures in all segments of our operation and changes/revisions have been and will be made as appropriate.

The effects of the ongoing economic recession continued in FY12 but some easing of the overall effects can be seen in some revenue lines. [*The spreadsheet on the following page shows multi-year history on several local taxes.*] The general reassessment that was completed in January 2009 showed the highest assessment reductions of taxable real estate values at approximately 22% and personal property values at 15%. The general reassessment completed in January 2011 showed a continued reduction in taxable values but at a lower level than 2009. Early information for the general reassessment to be completed in January 2013 indicate the taxable value reduction may be in the neighborhood of 10% for taxable real estate.

The effects of the Boundary Line Adjustment (BLA) that took effect on July 1, 2012 are yet to be determined, although significant work was done on service and revenue impacts. Because of the nature of many of the businesses in the new BLA area, our estimates were often 'best-guess' since the County did not have a BPOL tax or meals tax and the Town Clerk's office played a pivotal role in estimating revenue to be realized from the new commercial area.

Meals tax revenues will be ongoing and we should begin seeing the impact of that one revenue stream early in FY13. We will also do a partial-year real estate and personal property tax billing for the July to December 2012 time period for the BLA area when tax bills are mailed in December 2012. Estimates for all service (expenditure) and revenue streams have been included in the FY13 Town budget.

**Town of Culpeper
Selected Local Taxes History**

	FY00	FY01	FY02	FY03	FY04	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12(unaudited)
GENERAL PROPERTY TAXES													
Real Estate - Current	866,060	724,490	679,957	572,810	545,776	608,272	782,126	765,712	1,065,527	1,387,556	1,311,844	1,379,515	1,537,446
Personal Property - Current	414,972	604,840	491,721	512,318	527,496	594,988	674,002	831,032	1,009,117	988,736	908,782	1,306,269	1,061,534
LOCAL TAXES													
Local Sales and Use Tax	534,325	644,889	643,546	644,569	745,409	872,257	#####	846,295	776,639	934,305	960,483	987,148	1,134,205
BPOL - Contracting	20,001	38,604	44,509	48,714	87,552	137,822	174,678	112,905	148,513	22,617	125,816	39,165	33,936
BPOL - Miscellaneous / Other	6,959	6,095	6,691	7,888	6,994	9,092	12,931	13,317	10,168	9,441	12,854	16,516	15,134
BPOL - Professional	131,531	152,231	179,167	199,518	231,832	278,178	304,777	390,113	328,225	310,938	287,733	298,430	307,359
BPOL - Repair & Personal Bus	96,208	100,935	108,547	111,041	135,048	155,823	180,269	171,993	171,419	169,412	180,685	188,137	164,384
BPOL - Retail	277,374	297,514	316,050	345,997	386,897	407,863	446,617	458,765	469,837	446,130	416,689	433,883	433,275
BPOL - Utilities	45,695	-	17,306	23,109	51,328	62,465	57,383	22,491	24,153	23,630	31,380	15,857	14,473
BPOL - Wholesale	44,806	49,374	47,929	45,180	49,050	50,725	50,276	51,954	54,756	53,135	52,914	53,263	50,803
Admissions Tax	-	4,362	5,887	7,424	7,747	6,053	37,978	38,791	35,301	39,633	36,138	35,492	41,562
Bank Stock Tax	289,263	351,698	396,425	266,255	186,224	218,449	270,124	259,624	209,900	235,807	271,467	329,972	273,240
Cigarette Tax	220,358	193,640	187,373	192,470	195,261	203,219	196,449	193,272	183,449	177,417	148,459	144,010	126,516
Consumption Tax - Electric & Gas	-	9,130	52,377	49,809	52,368	50,321	61,773	61,972	62,565	62,491	61,900	62,496	59,249
Telecommunications Sales-Use Tax								39,092	142,676	153,237	114,835	130,228	91,389
Hotel & Motel Room Tax	169,666	163,892	163,398	157,107	186,091	207,538	222,157	232,552	224,131	221,420	252,575	262,727	293,926
Meals Tax	946,476	963,244	#####	#####	#####	#####	#####	#####	#####	1,913,353	1,771,345	1,732,391	1,775,185

General Financial/Statistical Information

Cash Balance by Fund – June 2012 (unaudited) (audited):

- General Fund: \$9.9 million
 - Water Fund: \$14.8 million
 - Wastewater Fund: \$5.4 million
 - Light & Power Fund: \$2.2 million
 - Other: \$.6 million
- TOTAL: \$32.9 million

Total Existing Outstanding Debt FY11

- General Fund: \$16,857,531
- Water Fund: \$4,172,541
- Wastewater Fund: \$33,714,212
- Electric Fund: \$5,984,092

TOTAL All Funds: \$60,728,376

The Treasurer's office began work with our financial advisors, Davenport & Company in FY11 to develop a financial master plan for the Town of Culpeper. This plan has focused work in the following areas:

- A multi-year Trend Analysis of the Town's cash-flow for operations as well as performance versus budget to determine the Town's historic fiscal strength and vulnerabilities;
- A Peer Review of other similar Virginia towns to include selected key financial data such as debt ratios and fund balance levels, amongst others;
- A series of enhanced and/or new Financial Policy Guidelines for the Town's consideration;
- A Debt Affordability Analysis (i.e. cash flow implications of the proposed capital project financings identified by Staff and the Council Committees and any other possible projects in the future based in part on the above multi-year trending review and any initial/preliminary assumptions of the various project's economics);
- A Debt Capacity Analysis of the Town to provide the Town Council with a range and upper limits of the level of debt which the Town could prudently undertake;
- Preparation of an initial Plan of Finance for meeting the identified capital requirements, as determined by the Town staff and Town Council; and,
- A Review of the Town's outstanding indebtedness for potential refunding (i.e. debt service savings) and/or restructuring (i.e. cash flow) opportunities.

Davenport has assisted the Town with three (3) specific financing/refinancing events since beginning work on the Financial Master Plan:

1. FY11 Refunding & Refinancing: Davenport structured a bond refinancing and refunding in the amount of \$21 million for selected bonds in the General Fund and Enterprise Funds. The overall savings realized in the first year was approximately \$127,000 in the General Fund and \$365,000 for the Enterprise Funds. Overall, the General Fund will have savings of \$1.5 million and the Enterprise Funds nearly \$1 million through fiscal year 2030.
2. FY12 Financing: Davenport worked with Town staff to structure a limited bond financing in July 2011 in the amount of \$900,000. These funds were secured for VDOT and local transportation projects; Police vehicles and equipment; Public Works vehicles and computer equipment for Town departments and operations.
3. FY13 Financing: Davenport has structured two (2) financing options for FY13. The first, Series A, will be for \$10 million and will include funds for Phase One of the Inner Loop project; Electric Fund projects, system improvement and upgrades; Water Fund projects including future water supply sources, dam improvements required by regulatory changes, extension of a force-main to Eastern View high school and adding a water system high pressure zone. Series A will also include funds for various General Fund projects including Police vehicles and equipment; computer system upgrades; several Planning/Community Development projects and upgrades to security systems in the Municipal Building. The Series B borrowing will be a \$5 million Line of Credit that will be used for the VDOT reimbursable portion of the Inner Loop project.

FY12 Accomplishments

- On-going review and updates of policy & procedures.
- Review and streamline processes and duties.
- Completed online payment system for tax bills, utility bills and donations.
- Completed Payment-By-Phone system for payment of tax bills and utility bills.
- Updated utility bills to be more user friendly bill.
- Treasurer's office/Town of Culpeper received Government Finance Officers Association award for Excellence in Financial Reporting. The FY11 GFOA award represents the eighth consecutive year the Town and the Treasurer's office has received this award.
- Worked closely with auditing firm to make changes and improvements to Treasurer's office operations and overall operations of Town departments in relation to financial management.
- Implemented Budget Billing program for Town utility customers. This program allows the customer to make equal monthly payments on their utility bills based on their historical usage.
- Along with utility departments, we began work on the Automated Meter Reading project.
- Based on citizen comments and feedback, we modified boating and fishing licenses so that citizens can purchase a multi-day license. This is a benefit for local citizens and tourists allowing them to make that 'last-minute' decision to go fishing or boating. We are working with the IT department to add purchase of licenses online and this improvement will further enhance the service to the end-user.
- As part of a Town-wide effort, the Treasurer's office implemented segments of the Boundary Line Adjustment with the County of Culpeper. Changes in utility rates, new customer setup and partial-year tax billing are some of the project aspects that were accomplished and/or started in FY12.

FY13 Goals & Objectives

- Continue to work with utility departments on implementation of Automated Meter Reading services.
- Continue review and refinement of policies and procedures.
- Continue to work with auditing firm on improvements in office and Town-wide operations.
- Roll-out enhanced financial system access to departments. This enhancement will allow the departments more control over reports and direct entry of invoices.
- Enhance online payment system to allow citizens more control of account review and payments.
- Submit application to Government Finance Officers Association for consideration of Excellence in Financial Reporting Award for the 2012 fiscal year.
- Concentrate on specific training needs of office staff and setup formal training plan for all employees.
- Continue to work with IT department to expand the purchase and/or payment of licenses, fees and other services online. We are also continuing work with the IT department and the Planning office to develop online payment of pavilion and shelter reservations at the Town parks.
- Along with IT Director, begin research and review of financial management system software replacement. Work with auditors on recommendations and advise on software components.
- Maintain high level of customer service.

FY12 and FY13 Approved Staff Positions

Position	Position Status
Treasurer/Director of Finance	Full Time - Filled
Deputy Treasurer/Accounting Supervisor	Full Time-Filled
Tax Administrator/Collections Supervisor	Full Time-Filled
Utility Billing Administrator	Full Time-Filled
Senior Accounting Associate	Full Time-Filled
Billing & Accounting Clerk	Full Time-Filled
Customer Service Representatives	Three (3), Full Time; One (1) Part-Time - Filled

We are challenging ourselves to improve service and efficiency levels and to look for better ways to provide our mandated services. The focus of the Treasurer's Office will continue to be efficiency of operation, maintaining a high level of customer service to the citizens and departments/agencies of the Town and flexibility in meeting the challenges imposed by an economy still feeling the effects of a severe recession.

The Town of Culpeper budgets for FY09 thru FY13 and Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports for FY08 thru FY11 can be found on the Town website at: www.culpeperva.gov/publications/Budgets.htm

TOURISM

Monthly Visitor Center Numbers Recap (as tallied by the Chamber of Commerce)

Visitors	Amtrak	Total Visitors	Visitor Packets
14470	6179	24133	707

Website

VISITS	UNIQUE VISITS	UNIQUE VISITS TFY vs. LFY	PAGE VIEWS	PAGE VIEWS per VISIT	Top 5 States	Top 5 Countries
396,090	137,558	▲ 23.35%	94,039	7.61	California	US
					Virginia	China
					New Jersey	Canada
					Dist of Col	Sweden
					Georgia	Ukraine

- **Top Ten Brochure Downloads**

visitorsguide/ flippingbook.swf	4,134
documents/ lovetown +usa +application.pdf	2,514
documents/ farm +tour +brochure +complete1.pdf	1,871
documents/ downloadablemap2010.pdf	1,400
flyers/ motorcyclebrochureweb.pdf	999
documents/ minutemenbrochure.pdf	744
flyers/ driving +tour +of +civil +war +culpeper.pdf	729
documents/ oct2011travelandleisure.pdf	712
flyers/ parkinginculpeper.pdf	605
flyers/ museumofculpeperhistory.pdf	495

- **Complete Tourism Website Redesign** – Tourism rolled out an updated website with new features and exciting new imagery. New categories were also added for Event Planners, Agricultural Attractions, Aviation, Horse Shows, and Historical Attractions.

- **Mobile website** – A new mobile website has been completed, and site launch is expected late August 2012.

Advertising

In an effort to streamline Tourism’s print advertising, a goal was set to develop an ad “shell” that could be easily changed out for various publications, without the need to develop entirely new ads, would keep a consistent overall look, and reduce long-term costs of ad production. This ‘shell’ was developed successfully and used beginning August 2012 for the 2012 Virginia Travel Guide, Virginia Living, and Recreation News ads.

Brochure Rack Program

33 Brochure Rack locations are maintained throughout the County with Culpeper visitor info.

Committees Served, Meetings/Training Attended

- VACVB
- Blue Ridge Parkway Assn.
- Shenandoah 75th Anniversary
- Journey Through Hallowed Ground
- Farm Tour Committee
- Chamber, Culpeper Renaissance, Inc., and CEDAC Boards (Ex-Officio)
- Culpeper Sesquicentennial Meetings
- Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission Tourism Committee
- October 2011 – VA1 Annual Virginia Tourism Summit & Conference
- State Chamber of Commerce conference calls on Virginia Tourism - ongoing
- February 2012 – Attended Statewide Tourism Workshop in Arlington hosted by VTC, to develop a 5-Year VA Tourism Plan
- May 2012 – Management Training seminar in Charlottesville

Community Outreach

- Met with Staff at Culpeper Chamber to discuss current issues, ideas on improving services to visitors, attracting visitors, and working together to service our hospitality & lodging partners.
- Met with Jenny Biche of RRRRC to discuss transportation marketing opportunities for Tourism utilizing VRT's new Tri County Connector and RRRRC's Charlottesville Connector buses. Added new transportation options to the Tourism website including the Foothills Express Shuttle, the Culpeper Trolley, and the new Tri County Connector.
- Presentations on Tourism and 2012 Initiatives for the Lignum Ruritans, and the Culpeper Lions Club.
- Taped "It's All Local" show on Tourism and Remembrance Days with Anita Sherman and India Rose, and "Travel Show" with Cheryl Clear for Channel 16.
- Gave Caboose and Depot Tours to 4 classes of AG Richardson Kindergarteners.

Events

Triathlon – The 2011 two-day event was well received by event organizers and participants. Local stores and restaurants reported very good visitation and business Friday and Saturday, July 29 and 30. Final Triathlon registration: Saturday International – 303 (27 local), Sunday Sprint – 460 (34 local).

- Triathlon Downtown Community Block Party, July 29th: Due to oppressively high heat, attendance was lower than anticipated. Triathletes did not attend as well as expected.

2011 Culpeper Harvest Days Farm Tour - Tourism served on the Farm Tour Committee, maintained event Facebook page, assisted with marketing and advertising materials (posters, postcards, and ads), and volunteered the day of event.

2011 Culpeper Fiesta – Serve on Planning Committee. 2012 event was moved from May 2012 to September 2012. Coordinated advance publicity materials, including information for inclusion in the County Culpeper Minute.

Culpeper Carnivale - Worked with Culpeper Renaissance and Downtown merchants on creating a new Downtown Culpeper Carnivale event held in March 2012. Assisted with planning, publicity, and creation/maintenance of Facebook page.

2012 Remembrance Days – Planning for Remembrance Days 2012 began in November 2011, and the event was held April 13-15, 2012. All 2011 participating organizations participated again in 2012. Event was well publicized, through a Schedule of Events for Visitors Center, postcard with map and Schedule of Events, banners for use prior to the event, posters distributed to local hotels and Downtown merchants, a Remembrance Days YouTube video, a dedicated Facebook Page, etc. Events were well attended, and over 160 people attended the new event, the Civil War Lantern & Graveyard Tour.

Culpeper 4th of July - Stuffed, mailed, and stamped sponsor letters for Culpeper 4th of July mailing of 500. Served on Committee and assisted with planning.

Facebook & Social Media

Facebook – facebook.com/culpepervirginia

- Tourism saw a 20% increase in FANS to the Tourism Page “Culpeper Virginia”, to 4,513 FANS in FY12 from 3,568 in FY11.
- Managed Facebook for the following Pages: Culpeper Tourism (4,518 Fans), Culpeper Remembrance Days (227 Fans), Culpeper Carnivale (219 Fans), Marching Through Culpeper (62 Fans), Town of Culpeper (89 Fans), Culpeper Fiesta (164 Fans), Culpeper Farm Tour (455 Fans)

Twitter – “VisitCulpeperVA” – Created Twitter account in February 2012 – 49 followers as of June 2012.

YouTube - “VisitCulpeperVA” - Created YouTube Channel in November 2011, and added videos that promote Culpeper. Created four unique videos of Culpeper and five Playlists to correspond with new website categories: Wine & Moonshine, Unique Shops, Events, Arts & Culture, and Culpeper’s History.

Pinterest – “VisitCulpeper VA” - Created new Tourism *Pinterest* social media Page in May 2012 to promote images and news about Culpeper. Pinterest is one of the fastest growing social media platforms. Page name: pinterest.com/VisitCulpeperVA

- Added new app to Tourism Facebook page called “Join My List”, allowing visitors to sign up for eNews directly from Facebook to our Constant Contact mailing list.
- Earthquake 2011 - Kept Facebook fans apprised of updates the day of and two days after the earthquake. Picked up an additional 37 fans and a dozen friends due to the coverage when Town and County offices were closed and little public information was being disseminated.
- Created a new customizable app for Tourism Facebook page to link directly with Special Events or Initiatives on Tourism website.
- Connected Facebook feeds to Twitter Account, so FB posts are automatically updated on Twitter.
- Set up complete Facebook Page for Culpeper Carnivale, with individual event listings, images, and descriptions.
- Castleton Festival Promotion – Created a social media promotion to encourage Tourism enews registration, and gave away 3 pairs of tickets to the Castleton Festival, received complementary for advertising with Castleton and The Piedmont Virginian magazine.

Partnership

- Conducted Caboose & Depot Tour for 40 Camp Culley kids and Counselors from Culpeper Museum.
- Met with local historian Zann Nelson and reps from VA Regional Transit about establishing a regularly scheduled monthly Trolley Tour in downtown, run by Ms. Nelson.
- Wrote Tourism article for Culpeper Chamber of Commerce 2012 Community Guide
- Planned Culpeper FAM Tour for the Culpeper Chamber LEAD Culpeper group to be held Aug 2012.
- Presented to Chamber of Commerce Young Professionals Group on Tourism and future economic development opportunities.
- Submitted application to Amtrak for possible National Train Day event in May 2013.
- Taped Tourism segment for new State Theatre promotional video.
- Assisted Katharine Brown of the Germanna Foundation with promotion of the Mother's Day/Anna Reeves Jarvis story. Tourism promoted this on Facebook and to the local media promoting the inspiration behind Mother's Day.
- Created new logo for local Sesquicentennial Committee for use in promoting Civil War 150th events.
- Met with local author and historian, Virginia Morton, about promoting Culpeper's 150th Civil War Sesquicentennial. Tourism featured a Sesquicentennial Event Calendar button accessible from the Tourism website home page, to promote the various events during Culpeper's Civil War Sesquicentennial. Support was also provided for publicity and promotion, and a dedicated Marching Through Culpeper on Stage Facebook page was created and maintained by Tourism staff through the events to be held in August 2012.
- Met with Lon Lacey with Friends of Cedar Mountain Battlefield to discuss promotion and publicity of Sesquicentennial events coming up in August. Tourism will be assisting in the creation of a new brochure and postcard to promote attendance at the many Sesquicentennial events.
- Met with Tabitha Riley with Culpeper Co. Parks & Recreation to discuss promotion and publicity of the upcoming Culpeper Cycling Century ride in October.
- Wrote letter of support for Economic Development for IRF grant for the State Theatre.

Press, Publicity & Film

- **July 2011 – The Discovery Channel** – Filming occurred at Stillhouse Distillery for a new series on the Discovery Channel called *Moonshiners*.
- **August 30 - CNN/HLN *Morning Express with Robyn Meade*** - Culpeper was featured on CNN/HLN's Morning Express with Robin Meade in the travel segment. Highlighted Culpeper as "Five Easy Road Trips close to a Big City" and mentioned several restaurants/lodging establishments. Tourism is looking to secure footage to use for future promotion.
 - After repeated attempts at securing footage, footage was finally received of CNN/HLN *Morning Express with Robyn Meade* news show from August 30th. The show interviewed a writer from Travel & Leisure magazine describing a recent T&L article and highlighting Culpeper as "an emerging Napa Valley". The :30 spot featured Suites at 249 and Foti's restaurant on Davis Street.

- **October 2011 - Travel & Leisure magazine** – Culpeper was featured in 2 separate editorials in the October 2011 issue. Tourism responded to media request and assisted with development.
 - *Travel & Leisure Background: Designed for the sophisticated, well-traveled person who has a strong interest in leisure activities, their editorial offers suggestions and resources concerning all aspects of travel, including airlines, hotels, spas and resorts, dining, shopping and entertainment. Written as a source for people who make travel their quest in life, the magazine offers money-saving ideas for national and international getaways, in addition to advice for the first-time traveler. (Circulation: 996,217)*
 - Virginia Tourism calculated the value of editorial and article (Calculations based on T+L ad rate: \$79,770/column inch; Color ad rate: \$117,305; Total words including image placement: 360) **Total ad-value: \$820,491**
- **October 2011 – Belmont Farm in US Airways magazine** – Stillhouse Distillery at Belmont Farm was featured in the US Airways in-flight magazine.
 - *US Airways Magazine is the official in-flight publication of US Airways. US Airways was the first low-cost, full-service nationwide airline and today offers international service to over 200 cities across the U.S., Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and Europe. (avg. Monthly Circulation: 375,000)*
- **October 2011 – APA Great Streets Award** – Through a partner application process submitted between CRI, Town Planning, and Tourism, Culpeper’s Davis Street was awarded the 2011 APA Great Streets award.
- **November 2011 - The TODAY Show** - in a follow-up feature to the Travel & Leisure article of October, the T&L Editor featured Culpeper as “1 of 5 Easy Road Trips” with easy access to a big city. Culpeper was featured as a wine destination, easily accessible from Washington DC, and described as “an emerging Napa Valley”.
 - Additional exposure was received through Virginia Tourism’s blog at <http://prblog.virginia.org/2011/11/02/today-show-travel-leisure-magazine-show-love-for-culpeper/>
- **November 2011 - Lovetown, USA** – Town was contacted by producers at the BBC who were producing a new matchmaking documentary TV show for the Oprah Winfrey Network (OWN). The show was to feature a small town in America around 15-16,000 in size, and the human dynamics of what happens when eligible singles are paired together. The show plans to highlight romantic and fun places in the locality and among participants. Filming was expected to take 30 days in Feb/March 2012. Producers were to occupy selected locality for that period and contribute to the local economy in the form of lodging, supplies, food, and other expenditures. Tourism promoted the Lovetown, USA opportunity with OWN/BBC, arranged a December 2011 mixer at Buffalo Wild Wings to increase applications. Culpeper was in the running with several other Southeast US locations, however was not selected as the final location.
 - Radio, Print, and News media resulting in November 2011 included:
 - USA9 News in Washington DC
 - WTTG Fox 5 News in Washington DC
 - News Channel 19 Newsplex in Charlottesville
 - NBC29 in Charlottesville
 - "The Constitutional" radio show (seen on Culpeper/Orange’s "Virginia Living TV"
 - Culpeper Star Exponent
 - Culpeper Times
 - WJMA/SAM FM Today’s Country Radio

- **December 2011 - Manchester Evening News (UK)** – Print and online article by Chris Jones, “*On track to find historic Virginia*”, resulting from September 2011 VTC Amtrak/UK Travel Writer FAM Tour Tourism conducted.
 - Also picked up by three websites. The ad value for the print and three web versions is **\$40,976 US**.
- **December 2011 (Christmas Day) - Roanoke Times** - Article on Downtown Culpeper by travel writer Gail Tansill Lambert, “*Paved to Perfection*” on front cover of Roanoke Times Travel section.
- **February 2012** – Began working with writer Douglas Rogers for new story on the Library of Congress Packard Campus facility.
- **December 2011 - Scotland Sunday Mail** – Print and online article by Neil Murray, “*Hats off to Virginia*” resulting from September 2011 VTC/Amtrak UK Travel Writer FAM Tour Tourism conducted. Ad value: **\$22,408 US**.
- **December 2011 - Virginia Business** – Print and online article “*Culpeper cultivates a following on Northern Virginia’s edge*”.
- **January 2012 – Civil War Courier** – Article on the Graffiti House and Brandy Station Foundation, “*Read the writing on the wall at Graffiti House*”.
- **April 2012 – London Daily Telegraph** – Print and online articles by Doug Rogers, “*Virginia: Driving through hallowed ground*”, resulting from October 2011 FAM Tour Tourism conducted (media value TBD).
- **April 2012 - Birmingham Post** – Print and online article by Andy Coleman, “*Get on trak for an American history lesson*”, resulting from September 2011 VTC/AMTRAK UK Travel Writer FAM Tour Tourism conducted (media value TBD).
- **May 2012 - The History Channel** filmed Chuck Miller of Stillhouse Distillery of Belmont Farm for a Fall production of “*How the States Got Their Shapes*”.
- Responded to Media Requests:
 - July 2011 *Piedmont Family* magazine - prepared images to accompany an article from the Culpeper C of C for the Oct 2011 issue.
 - Aug 2011 Prepared images and information for the LOC in Washington DC for an internal presentation on the Culpeper NAVCC facility.
 - Aug 2011 *Travel & Leisure* - Provided info and images for *Travel & Leisure* magazine for article including Culpeper in upcoming Oct 2011 issue
 - Sept 2011 Provided images and Culpeper maps for Emerald Media, marketing company for Taste of Culpeper/AirFest weekend.
 - May 2012 *Where to Retire* magazine - Provided photos to editor Kimberly Garza from *Where to Retire* magazine.

Publications

- Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission - Coordinating the County partner updates for the Virginia Piedmont brochure.
- *In & Around Walking Tour* brochure - Tourism selected this publication for the first integration with new media and QR (quick response) code integration. We are working with Culpeper Media Network to develop these smartphone audio tours for this publication. Completed work with Culpeper Media Network to develop smartphone audio tours from the original printed walking tour booklet. The brochure is printed, and links to downloadable audio tours have been embedded in the new Tourism website.
- Reprinted large tear-off Visitor Map, and Civil War Driving Tour brochure

Sales & Marketing

- FAM Tours –
 - **September 2011 - VTC Amtrak/UK Travel Writer FAM Tour** – Tourism hosted 6 travel writers from the UK for ½ day tour of Culpeper, including lunch at Foti's, a walking tour of Downtown, tour of Culpeper Museum, tea and desserts at Miss Minerva's Tea Room. Three articles resulted from that FAM Tour: **Manchester Evening News** on Dec 10, picked up by three websites (ad value for the print and three web versions was \$40,976 US), **Scotland Sunday Mail** on Dec 18 (ad value \$22,408 US), **Birmingham Post** in April 2012 (media value TBD).
 - **October 28 – Travel Writer Doug Writer and Journey Through Hallowed Ground** - Tourism hosted a FAM Tour sponsored by The Journey Through Hallowed Ground with travel writer Doug Rogers of the Daily Telegraph in London, and the Editor of FOX News Online Travel and Food division. The tour included stops at the Graffiti House, the Museum of Culpeper History, a walking tour, and lunch at the Hazel River Inn. *Results: April 2012 print and online article to 1.2 million readers of London Daily Telegraph.*
- Worked with Travel Editor Sharon Cavileer to update Culpeper information for the next printing of her book "*Virginia Curiosities: Quirky Characters, Roadside Oddities & Other Offbeat Stuff*"
- Virginia Tourism released their 2010 Annual Economic Data for Tourism Spending. In 2010, tourism:
 - generated \$30,870,000 in visitor spending
 - supported 340 jobs
 - generated \$730,000 in local taxes for Culpeper
 - The figures represent a 6.4% increase over 2009
- Brochure Rack Program – regularly stocked brochure racks at locations around the County
- Developed monthly event brochure for Visitor Center to distribute, promoting upcoming events.
- Completed a brochure for Friends of Cedar Mountain Battlefield to promote Sesquicentennial events.
- Created special fulfillment packets for direct Southern Living reader response advertising leads, designed to make a stronger impression and enticement to visit Culpeper.
- Participated in a Summer "Road Trippin" promotion through FOX TV in Richmond. A 2:00 minute promotional video was produced with interviews by Tourism, CRI, Old House Vineyards, Suites at 249, and Foti's restaurant designed to draw road trippers from around the state. The video was to be aired on FOX TV for 2 weeks in late July.
- Sherri Azais, Tourism Marketing Specialist attended Adobe Photoshop Elements class @ Germanna Community College.
- Created new Google Analytics account to track Tourism website visitation.
- Attended Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet and distributed Lovetown materials.
- Submitted info and images to Journey Through Hallowed Ground for newsletter and Spring Travel issue in Piedmont Virginian magazine.
- Created a brochure for Friends of Cedar Mountain Battlefield to promote Sesquicentennial events.
- E Newsletters sent :
 - Nov/Dec 2011 – Holiday Happenings
 - December 2011 – Holiday Shopping
 - February 2012 - Save the Date postcard "Remembrance Days 2012"
 - April 2012 – Marketing postcard "Remembrance Days 2012"
 - Early May 2012 – Save the Date/Call for volunteers postcard "Culpeper 4th of July"
 - Late May 2012 – Spring Events & Happenings

Spring Street Arts Committee

- The first meeting of the Spring Street Arts Committee was held on October 25 at 6pm at the Depot. A Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson were nominated and voted in – with Pranas Rimiekis and Laura Bynum being selected respectively. The group will be taking a tour of the Spring Street facility on November 22, prior to the second meeting. On December 28, 5 members of the Committee took a field trip to the Torpedo Factory in Alexandria for the day to learn about their renovation and fundraising process.
- Committee recommended to Council to dissolve Spring Street Committee and create new Culpeper Arts Committee.

Miscellaneous

- Participated in the Chamber's BIE (Business in Education) Day at Culpeper High School. Distributed several boxes of information including brochures, info on upcoming events and Visitor Guides.
- Interviewed 6 candidates for Tourism Marketing position. Selected Sherri Azais for part-time (30 hr) Tourism Marketing position. Sherri started on October 17th during the VA1 Virginia Tourism Annual Conference.
- Tourism office was reworked to make better use of the small office. Existing cubicle walls for two spaces were reconfigured to open up the confined areas and create space for three work spaces.
- Tourism Staff attended a Geospatial Workshop at Germanna Community College to learn about creating/maintaining GPS location-based information services and business listings online.
- April 2012 - LOVE artwork – Tourism is working with a local artist to produce an original applied for and received a \$1200 reimbursement to create a LOVE artwork to continue the media promotion started by Virginia Tourism – "Love is at the heart of every Virginia vacation". He will use steel film reels donated by the Library of Congress and turn them into a permanent artwork installation promoting the emerging arts in Culpeper and Culpeper Tourism.
- June 2012 - Culpeper Sports Complex Historic markers – Worked with local historian Zann Nelson to develop text for interpretive panels on Culpeper Baseball Hall of Famers Preston "Pete" Hill and Eppa Rixey, for installation at the Community Sports Complex. The County Buildings and Grounds Committee approved text at their June 14 meeting but amended the recommended Acknowledgement to make it a generic credit with no names of contributors.
- Interviewed and hired new Tourism Office Assistant – Lacey Wilkerson.



FY12 Tourism Special Projects



REDESIGNED Tourism Website: www.visitculpeperva.com

Our popular website got a complete facelift, updating it with an emphasis on eye-catching imagery and easy access to major Tourism assets— Dining, Shopping, Wine & Moonshine, Arts & Culture, History, and Train Transportation. In addition, new pages were added for Agricultural Attractions, Event Planners, Historical Attractions, Trails & Tours, and Tour Guides. Finally, new features were added such as image links to recent awards and press, Google Translator, button links to Tourism Social Media Pages, and links to downloadable audio files.



VIRGINIA CULPEPER
Still Making History
www.visitculpeper.com

Home | Attractions | Outdoors | Lodging | Dining | Shopping | Events | Group Tours | Transportation | Visitors Guide | Contact Us

Nature & Outdoors

Historical Sites

Events & Happenings

Lodging and B&Bs

Welcome

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FOODIES DELIGHT

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SHOPPING

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WINE & MOONSHINE

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ARTS & CULTURE

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HISTORY BUFFS

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TAKE THE TRAIN

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Take Our Photo Tour

Sign Up for E-news

Enter Your Email

f **t** **YouTube**

Powered by **Google**



For questions, comments or problems regarding this website, please e-mail the Culpeper Department of Tourism.
[Home](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Press Room](#) | [Weather](#) | [Maps](#) | [Links](#)

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 Website designed and developed by K&A and Design, Inc.
 Photos/artwork by Culpeper Department of Tourism, Theresa Knight Design, K&A and Design, Inc.

NEW Mobile Website: www.visitculpeperva.mobi (auto redirect to full site)

The Tourism website is being converted for mobile devices such as iPhone, Android, and Blackberry. Final development continues, and final rollout is expected by end of August 2012.



Social Media: REDESIGNED Facebook Page

Facebook has proven to be the most popular social media platform used today, and Tourism's Facebook Page is LIKED by over 4,500 Fans and growing. This communication is free and keeps readers and Fans engaged on a daily basis. Our new Facebook banners uses the same "shell" as our print advertising, and changes seasonally to reflect the current events, seasonal colors, and popular activities happening in Culpeper at any given time.



Social Media: NEW Twitter Page—VisitCulpeperVA

The Tourism Twitter page was developed with a similar background as the new website and reflects the surrounding Blue Ridge mountains. This page is synced with our Facebook page, so Facebook status updates are automatically converted to 140 character Twitter posts.



The screenshot shows the Twitter profile for Visit Culpeper Va (@VisitCulpeperVa). The profile header includes the account name, handle, location (Culpeper, Va), and website (http://www.visitculpeperva.com). It also displays statistics: 183 tweets, 37 following, and 55 followers. The left sidebar contains a 'Follow Visit Culpeper Va' form with fields for full name, email, and password, and a 'Sign up' button. Below the form are links for 'Tweets', 'Following', 'Followers', 'Favorites', 'Lists', and 'Recent images'. The main content area shows a list of tweets from the account, including announcements about weekend events, historical lessons, volunteer opportunities, and local dining spots.

Visit Culpeper Va
@VisitCulpeperVa
Culpeper, Va <http://www.visitculpeperva.com>

Follow
183 TWEETS
37 FOLLOWING
55 FOLLOWERS

Follow Visit Culpeper Va

Full name
Email
Password
Sign up

Tweets

- Visit Culpeper Va @VisitCulpeperVa
Come out this weekend and next in Culpeper, and enjoy the many commemorative, entertaining and educational events... <fb.me/2ongf8iOx>
Expand
- Visit Culpeper Va @VisitCulpeperVa
A HISTORY LESSON, as we head into the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Cedar Mountain right here in Culpeper -... <fb.me/1Byht6wcr>
Expand
- Visit Culpeper Va @VisitCulpeperVa
Here's your chance to show your inner OLYMPIAN! Volunteer Farms of Culpeper is in desperate need of an "olympic"... <fb.me/xoTnsWax>
[View photo](#) [Reply](#) [Retweet](#) [Favorite](#)
- Visit Culpeper Va @VisitCulpeperVa
Congratulation to Virginia Beard Morton and the entire cast and crew of Marching Through Culpeper. It's finally... <fb.me/1v7g623vS>
Expand
- Visit Culpeper Va @VisitCulpeperVa
Saturday, August 4 - Enjoy a Walking Tour of Historic Downtown Culpeper to include locations in the book and... <fb.me/1nJuSGBfz>
Expand
- Visit Culpeper Va @VisitCulpeperVa
The rave reviews on dining in Cpep keep coming. This week, Piedmont Steakhouse gets the shout-out from... <fb.me/1Sh5HAYg>
Expand
- Visit Culpeper Va @VisitCulpeperVa
Looking for a refreshing summer lunch venue? Check out Miss Minerva's - we have one word for it, YUM! <fb.me/1FK33nCHR>
Expand
- Visit Culpeper Va @VisitCulpeperVa
Click Pepperberries and LIKE it (please)! <fb.me/1uU0s2Jf>
Expand

© 2012 Twitter [About](#) [Help](#) [Terms](#) [Privacy](#) [Blog](#) [Status](#) [Apps](#) [Resources](#) [Jobs](#) [Advertisers](#) [Businesses](#) [Media](#) [Developers](#)

Social Media: NEW Pinterest Page—VisitCulpeper Virginia

Pinterest, the popular online pinboard, is the fastest growing form of social media on the market today. Essentially a large collection of images relating to favorite foods, recipes, products, and places, Pinterest is very popular among females aged 24-45. Tourism's Page features fun "boards" like Film & Live Arts (promoting the emerging arts in Culpeper), Makes You Wanna STAY (Lodging), Famous & Infamous (famous people of Culpeper), Tie the Knot (promotes weddings), Shop 'Til You Drop (great shopping), History, Mystery (great historic places to visit), Artsy Fartsy (local art galleries), and more.

The screenshot shows the Pinterest profile for VisitCulpeper Virginia. At the top, there is a search bar, the Pinterest logo, and navigation links for 'Add', 'About', and 'VisitCulpeper'. The profile header includes the 'VIRGINIA CULPEPER' logo, the name 'VisitCulpeper Virginia', a welcome message, and social media icons for Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn. Below the header, statistics show 17 Boards, 72 Pins, 0 Likes, and 9 Followers. The main content area is a grid of 14 boards, each with a cover image and an 'Edit' button. The boards are: Film & Live Arts (6 pins), Makes You Wanna STAY! (10 pins), Famous and Infamous (10 pins), Equestrian (5 pins), Tie the Knot (8 pins), Shop 'til You Drop (14 pins), History, Mystery (13 pins), Artsy Fartsy (5 pins), Reel LOVE (6 pins), Wine & 'Shine! (10 pins), Cpep Foodies! (9 pins), The Sign Marks the Spot! (9 pins), Cpep i-Phone Photos (2 pins), and Culpeper Gargoyles (3 pins).

Social Media: NEW YouTube Channel—Visit Culpeper VA

Visitors engage with tourism videos as a way to check out a new destination. So a new Tourism YouTube Channel was created and reflects similar “playlists” of videos as the categories you’d find on the Tourism website—Arts & Culture, Dining, Unique Shops, Wine & Moonshine, Events and more.

The image shows a screenshot of the YouTube channel page for "Visit Culpeper VA". The channel has 9 subscribers and 2,521 video views. The main video is titled "Now THAT'S some unique talent!" by 22701CpepTourism, uploaded 1 month ago, with 52 views. The channel features several playlists: "Uploaded videos" (6 videos), "Wine & Moonshine" (7 videos), "Unique Shops" (1 video), and "Events" (9 videos). The channel description states: "The Official YouTube channel celebrating the unique beauty of Culpeper, Virginia! It's the perfect getaway destination with world-class restaurants, unique shopping, rich history, wineries, and the only legal moonshine in Virginia!" The channel was created by 22701CpepTourism on Jul 17, 2012, and is located in the United States.

Visit Culpeper VA 9 subscribers 2,521 video views

Featured Feed Videos Search Channel

Now THAT'S some unique talent! 52 views
by 22701CpepTourism 1 month ago

About Visit Culpeper VA
The Official YouTube channel celebrating the unique beauty of Culpeper, Virginia! It's the perfect getaway destination with world-class restaurants, unique shopping, rich history, wineries, and the only legal moonshine in Virginia!

[VisitCulpeperVA - Official website](#)

by 22701CpepTourism

Latest Activity	Jul 17, 2012
Date Joined	Nov 10, 2011
Country	United States

Favorite videos

- Uploaded videos 6 videos
- Wine & Moonshine 7 videos
- Unique Shops 1 video
- Events 9 videos

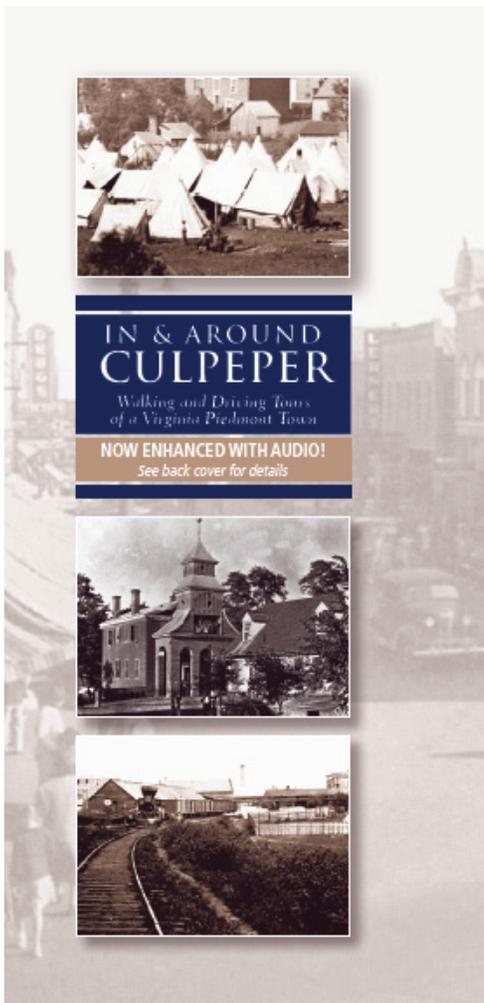
Social Media: NEW Postcard

This fun postcard was designed to promote the various ways tourism information is available to visitors and will be distributed to visitors and residents alike.



Brochures: REDESIGNED *In & Around Culpeper* Walking Tour brochure reprinted with the addition of Downloadable QR Code audio MP3 files

When the time came to reprint an existing brochure, we took the opportunity to introduce new technology in an attempt to appeal to a wider audience. The four walking tours featured in the brochure were converted in Audio Tours with the help of Culpeper Media Network, and QR (Quick Response) codes were generated to make each audio file accessible by smartphone devices. Visitors can quickly scan the QR codes and are automatically redirected to open the downloaded audio file on their phone.



Above: Brochure Front



Right: Brochure Back

Advertising: NEW Print Advertising Shell

A new print ad “shell” was designed and used with all FY12 print ads ordered as of July 2011. This shell creates a more consistent and recognizable look and feel for Culpeper’s print ads, and allows Staff to easily develop targeted ads to each audience and publication. Appealing imagery, and colors, logos, and taglines that follow our brand are at the heart of each ad.

Come visit
CULPEPER
Perfect. Unexpected. Getaway.
VIRGINIA
CULPEPER
Still Making History

History WINERIES Luxury Inns
Amtrak arrives in the heart of Historic Downtown Culpeper, on Davis Street – a 2011 Top Ten American Great Street. Walk to boutique inns, shopping and world-class dining!
Legal Moonshine *Old War Tours* PRESERVED BATTLEFIELDS

888-CULPEPER *hiking*
www.visitculpeperva.com

Come visit
CULPEPER
Luxury Inns & World Class Dining
VIRGINIA
CULPEPER
Still Making History

History WINERIES Luxury Inns *hiking*
A 2012 Great American Main Street Award® Winner
is just a 15 minute scenic drive from Castleton!
888-CULPEPER
www.visitculpeperva.com

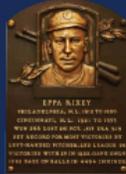
Come visit
CULPEPER
Perfect. Unexpected. Getaway.
VIRGINIA
CULPEPER
Still Making History

2011 APA designated Top 10 “Great Streets” in America

888-CULPEPER | www.visitculpeperva.com

Interpretive Historic Markers—Culpeper’s Baseball Hall of Famers Cooperative Project with Culpeper County

Tourism was asked by the County to develop two interpretive markers honoring Culpeper’s two Baseball Hall of Famers, Preston “Pete” Hill and Eppa Rixey. Working with local historian Zann Nelson and Baseball Analyst Gary Ashwill, the markers were developed and were in production as of August 2012.



EPPA RIXEY
PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES (1912-1917), 1919-1920,
CINCINNATI REDS (1921-1933)
BORN: MAY 3, 1891, CULPEPER, VA.
DIED: FEBRUARY 28, 1963, CINCINNATI, OHIO
BATS: RIGHT THROWS: LEFT

Eppa Rixey

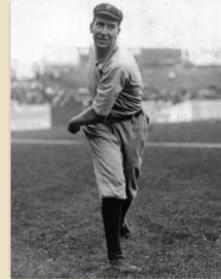
Born: May 3, 1891, Culpeper, Virginia
Died: February 28, 1963, Cincinnati, Ohio
Bats: Right Throws: Left

Played For: Philadelphia Phillies (1912-1917, 1919-1920),
Cincinnati Reds (1921-1933)

Eppa Rixey, Jr. was born on May 3, 1891 in Culpeper, Virginia and later moved with his banker father and family to Charlottesville, VA. A career in baseball was not so popular with a family that had produced a Congressman, a U.S.N. Admiral and Surgeon General, a village and the USS Rixey. But the family would soon recognize his unique talent and powerful love for the game.

Rixey starred in both basketball and baseball at the University of Virginia. He was signed directly out of college by the Philadelphia Phillies in 1912, and never played in the minor leagues. At 6'5" and over 200 pounds, the left-handed Rixey was surprisingly not a power pitcher, relying instead on control, guile, and an unusual pitching motion.

His first few seasons in Philadelphia were marked by inconsistency, though a 0-5 record in 1913 showed promise. His 11 wins and 2.37 ERA helped the Phillies to the 1915 National League pennant. A few weeks he blossomed into one of the best pitchers in baseball, going 22-10 with a 1.85 ERA in 1916, following up with a 2.27 ERA in 1917.

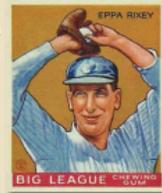


Having studied chemistry in college, Rixey served with the Chemical Warfare Division during World War I. He returned from the war to find the Phillies in decline. Low-key away from the diamond, on the field Rixey was an intense competitor who did not take well to losing. After enduring two straight last-place finishes, Rixey was traded to the Cincinnati Reds.

Rixey reeled off eight consecutive winning seasons. In 1921 he allowed only one home run in 301 innings. He paced the 1922 National League with 25 wins, leading the Reds to second place. The next season he contributed another 20 victories as Cincinnati again fell just short of the pennant. In 1924, he came within four outs of a perfect game.

He retired in 1933 at the age of 42, having pitched more seasons than any other National League left-hander until Steve Carlton. Rixey's 266 victories remained the career record for National League left-handers until Warren Spahn broke it in 1959. In 1969 the Cincinnati Reds named Rixey the greatest left-handed pitcher in the club's history.

Eppa Rixey was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1963, but died before the induction ceremony.



TOWN AND COUNTY OF CULPEPER, VIRGINIA

The Town and County wish to thank all of the individuals involved with the development of this historic marker.



JOHN PRESTON HILL
DETROIT STARS (1909-1910),
BALTIMORE APRO-AMERICAN (1926-1927),
BALTIMORE BLACK SOX (1928-1929),
BALTIMORE BLACK SOX (1930-1931),
BALTIMORE BLACK SOX (1932-1933),
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BALTIMORE BLACK SOX (2012-2013),
BALTIMORE BLACK SOX (2014-2015),
BALTIMORE BLACK SOX (2016-2017),
BALTIMORE BLACK SOX (2018-2019),
BALTIMORE BLACK SOX (2020-2021),
BALTIMORE BLACK SOX (2022-2023),
BALTIMORE BLACK SOX (2024-2025)

John Preston “Pete” Hill

Born: early 1880s, Buena, Culpeper County, Virginia
Died: 1951, Buffalo, New York
Bats: Left Throws: Right

Played for: Pittsburgh Keystones, Leland Giants, Chicago American Giants, Cuban X Giants, Philadelphia Giants, Detroit Stars

John Preston “Pete” Hill, the son of former slaves, was born October 12, during the early 1880s, near the village of Buena, Cedar Mountain District of Culpeper County. Though several of his Seals and Hill family members remained in the region, at an early age young Pete, his two brothers and their mother moved to Pittsburgh, PA where he would begin a long and successful career in the Pre Negro and Negro Baseball Leagues.

Hill first learned baseball on the sandlots of Pittsburgh. He began playing semi-professionally as a 17-year-old third baseman for the Pittsburgh Keystones in 1899. He signed with the powerhouse Philadelphia Giants in 1904 and moved to the outfield. Hill won praise as a heavy hitter, crafty base runner, and great outfielder with a strong arm.



From 1903 to 1912, Hill spent most winters playing baseball in Cuba. His teams twice won the Cuban League pennant, and Hill was the Cuban batting champion for the 1910/11 winter season. He also hit .351 against major league teams in exhibition series played in Havana. In 1909, Pete Hill and teammate Bruce Perway became the first African Americans to appear on baseball cards.

Hill followed his teammate Rube Foster to the Leland Giants of Chicago in 1908, where he batted well over .400 against top black teams in the next three years. From 1911 to 1915 Hill



captained and played center field for Foster's new Chicago American Giants, generally recognized as the premier African American professional baseball club in the country.

In 1919 Hill became the founding player-manager of the Detroit Stars. In his first season he hit 28 home runs in 80 games, just one less than Babe Ruth's 29 the same year in many more games. He guided the Stars to a second-place finish in the Negro National League's inaugural campaign in 1920 while leading the league in walks.

After managing the Milwaukee Bears through their only season in 1923, Hill joined the Baltimore Black Sox, where he served as field manager, business manager, part-time outfielder, and pinch-hitter, while also writing a baseball column for the *Baltimore Afro-American*. In 1926 he moved to Buffalo, where he continued to organize semi-professional baseball teams for many years. He died in Buffalo in 1951.

In 2006, “Pete” Hill was posthumously inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame.



TOWN AND COUNTY OF CULPEPER, VIRGINIA

The Town and County wish to thank all of the individuals involved with the development of this historic marker.



Great American Main Street Awards
NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
2012 WINNER



FY12 Tourism Press & Publicity



40TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE: COLLECTOR'S EDITION

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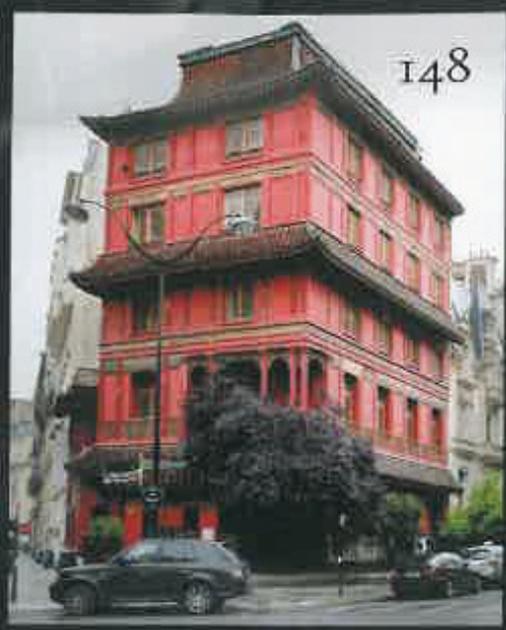
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238 CAN THIS BE PARADISE? Returning to Thailand's Ko Samui nearly 20 years after his first visit, PETER JON LINDBERG encounters all the trappings of a newly anointed island of the moment. PHOTOGRAPHED BY ANDREA FAZZARI. GUIDE AND MAP 246

ON THE COVER The Eiffel Tower, as seen from the Trocadéro Esplanade. Photographed by Matthew Hranek. **THIS PAGE** The infinity pool at the Banyan Tree Samui, in Thailand.

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THE NEXT GREAT ESCAPES

FIVE UNDER-THE-RADAR DESTINATIONS THAT ARE AN EASY ROAD TRIP FROM MAJOR CITIES (NOTE: ESTIMATED TRAVEL TIMES DO NOT INCLUDE STOPS FOR COFFEE AND PIE). **BY COLLEEN CLARK**



FARM FRESH From top: Free-range chickens roam the grounds at Kinderhook Farm; the barn's sitting room.

► A CULINARY RETREAT

Columbia County, New York
(2½ HOURS FROM NEW YORK CITY)



Everyone knows the Catskills, but neighboring Columbia County is the latest *Green Acres* idyll: Think picture-perfect hamlets and a decidedly citified food scene. **STAY** On 1,200 acres of rolling pasture outside the bucolic town of Ghent, **Kinderhook Farm** (1958 Co.

Rte. 21; 505/603-1815; kinderhookfarmstay.com; barn sleeps four, from \$284) recently converted one of its red barns into a cozy guesthouse. **EAT** Start your morning at the **Old Chatham Country Store & Café** (639 Albany Tpk.; Old Chatham; 518/794-6227; breakfast for two \$25), where the pecan sticky buns are house-made. In Pine Plains, the new **Agriturismo Restaurant** (2938 Church St.; 518/398-1000; dinner for two \$89), owned by Fred's at Barneys New York executive chef Mark Strausman, draws crowds for dinner (try the Coach Farms goat-ricotta gnocchi with zucchini blossoms). **SEE AND DO** Stop by **Harvest Spirits Distillery** (3074 U.S. Rte. 9, Valatie; 518/758-7683) to buy a bottle of dry pear brandy; find a repurposed wine rack to hold it in at **3FortySeven** (347 Warren St., Hudson; 518/291-4780), housed in a onetime gas station.

► A SPA GETAWAY

Desert Hot Springs, California
(2 HOURS FROM LOS ANGELES)



Restorative mineral pools and a boho attitude make this an inviting alternative to coiffed Palm Springs. **STAY** Designed by the legendary architect John Lautner, the redwood-and-stone **Hotel Lautner** (67710 San Antonio St.; 323/363-8697; hotellautner.com; doubles from \$250) reopens in the fall with a plunge pool and cactus gardens. **EAT** Ironically, the food scene in this

holistic town is suspended in rib-sticking 1950's style: locals congregate for killer barbecue at the kitschy **Pappy & Harriet's Pioneertown Palace** (53688 Pioneertown Rd.; 760/365-5956; dinner for two \$40); Martha Stewart has stopped in at the **Sidwinder** (66121 Pierson Blvd.; 760/329-7929; lunch for two \$22), known as much for its retro wood-paneled interior as its chicken-fried steak. **SEE AND DO** Test the waters in the spa at **Miracle Manor Retreat** (12589 Reposo Way; 877/329-6641; miraclemanor.com; treatments from \$120), set atop geothermal springs. It's a worthy splurge after a day spent hiking the otherworldly landscape of nearby Joshua Tree National Park (760/367-5500; nps.gov). »



The mineral pools at Miracle Manor Retreat, above. Left: Joshua Tree National Park.

▶ A WINE-TASTING TRIP

Culpeper, Virginia

(1½ HOURS FROM WASHINGTON, D.C.)



Set in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Culpeper is the ideal home base for exploring the surrounding region's ripening vineyard scene.

STAY Call before you arrive; the **Suites at 249** (249 E. Davis St.; 540/827-1100; suitesat249.com; doubles from \$160) will stock your mini fridge with local bubbly. **EAT** The owners of **Foti's Restaurant** (219 E. Davis St.; 540/829-8400; dinner for two \$90) learned their chops behind the stoves of the Inn at Little Washington—you'll find proof in the pan-seared quail on bacon-braised endives or toasted-walnut custard.

SEE AND DO Sip your way from a late-harvest Vidal Blanc at nearby **Gray Ghost Vineyards** (14706 Lee Hwy., Amissville; 540/937-4869; grayghostvineyards.com) to a citrusy Petit Manseng at **Paradise Springs Winery** (13219 Yates Ford Rd., Clifton; 703/830-9463; paradisewinery.com), 40 scenic minutes from town.



DRINK UP Clockwise from left: Two wines from the Culpeper area; Gray Ghost Vineyards; a room at Suites at 249.

▶ A CULTURAL FIND

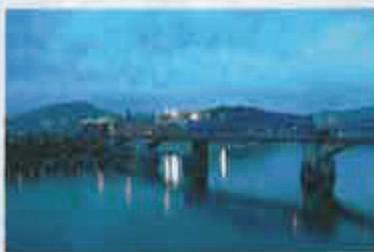
Chattanooga, Tennessee

(2 HOURS FROM ATLANTA)

Appalachia goes urban along the Tennessee River, where bands and art galleries outnumber hiking trails. **STAY** With its terraced spa, fire pit, and views of Lookout Mountain, the **Chattanooga** (1201 Broad St.; 800/619-0018; chattanoogahotel.com; doubles from \$149) has long been the city's hotel of choice. This year, the LEED-certified **Crash Pad** (29 Johnson St.; 423/648-8393; crashpadchattanooga.com; doubles from \$70) came on the scene with significantly simpler offerings but a prime location on the developing Southside. **EAT** Musicians coming

off a late night recharge at the **Bluegrass Grill** (55 E. Main St.; 423/752-4020; breakfast for two \$18), known for its cilantro-lime hash browns. **SEE AND DO** When beloved alt-country singer M. Ward comes to town, he takes the stage at **Track 29** (1400 Market St.; 423/266-4323; track29.co), a skating rink turned club. Friday nights, the vibe is unmistakably old-school at the **Mountain Opry** (2501 Fairmount Pike, Signal Mountain; sigmntn.com), where fiddlers congregate under leafy oak trees. +

Chattanooga's Walnut Street Bridge, with Lookout Mountain on the horizon.



▶ AN ARCHITECTURAL HOTBED

Mason City, Iowa

(2¼ HOURS FROM MINNEAPOLIS)



This small Iowa town (population: 29,000) lures cognoscenti with its design legacy. **STAY** The only remaining Frank Lloyd Wright hotel in the world, the Prairie-style **Historic**

Park Inn Hotel (7 W. State St.; 800/659-2220; wrightonthepark.org; doubles from \$100) is taking reservations for the first time in nearly 40 years, after an \$18 million renovation that restored its stained-glass and terra-cotta exteriors. **EAT** In a striped, shoe-box-size diner, **Susie Q Café** (14 Second St. N.W.; 641/423-5021; lunch for two \$12) serves up Americana in the form of deep-fried pork-loin sandwiches. **SEE AND DO** Pick up a map at the new **Mason City Architectural Interpretive Center** (520 First St. N.E.; 641/423-1923; marchitecture.org) and you'll get an overview of the town's treasures, including Wright's 1908 Stockman House and several private residences by stone master Walter Burley Griffin.



NOW SHOWING From top: Susie Q Café; Frank Lloyd Wright's City National Bank, attached to the Historic Park Inn Hotel; the Stockman House.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: COURTESY OF GRAY GHOST VINEYARDS; COURTESY OF SUITES AT 249; ANTHONY V. THOMPSON; KETH EWING; COURTESY OF VISIT MASON CITY; COURTESY OF CHATTANOOGA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE; COURTESY OF PRINCE MICHEL; PAPER: GRAPHICOLA/ISTOCKPHOTO. CLIP: ROBBIVERT/ISTOCKPHOTO



iPhone America

Armed only with his smart phone on a monthlong drive cross-country, Swiss photographer **Reto Caduff** documents the iconic road trip—and almost instantly, nostalgia sets in.

THINK ROAD TRIP AND THE SENSORY richness of childhood comes to mind: a rush of wind through an open window, the world whizzing by in a blur. It seems almost quaint, doesn't it? Driving from west to east, America unfurling one mile at a time. But now, the journey itself has become inseparable from the photographing of it. With our ever-smaller devices, we record what we see, so that when we return home, we'll remember what moved us, how free we felt.

Whether the snowcapped mountains of Colorado or a kitschy Elvis statue in Nashville, these fleeting images are infused with a sweet wistfulness for the past—a time of innocence, of slowness and ease. What would we do if we had nothing but hours to while away? The highway stretches in front of us; the country is revealed in all its minutiae. God, a wise man once said, is in the details.

The colors of memory itself are oversaturated just in the way of these photographs, captured using the vintage-inspired Hipstamatic iPhone app. But wait: Is this real nostalgia, or an ironic stance? After all, we're seeing the country through the lens of an iPhone. Reto Caduff's photographs look old but not old—the colors are brighter than any Kodachrome—so he seems to be rewriting history, complete with text-message-style captions. Nothing ever really looked this way—but perhaps we wish it did. With smart phones in hand, we can, and do, attempt to capture and communicate everything. Who knows what will matter to us later? Memory becomes bolder, sharper, edging its way into our present lives. *This happened*, we are reminded again. *Once we were here.* —DANI SHAPIRO

LOS ANGELES

Eagle Rock, the start of my four-week road trip.



SANTA FE, NEW

MEXICO The Cowgirl's burger and fries.

i love
S

AUSTIN, TEXAS

Sending this photo to my wife at home.



VALLE, ARIZONA A quick stop at the Flintstone theme park. Only in America.



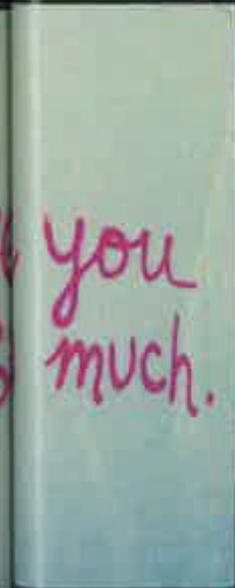
GRAND CANYON, ARIZONA Just in time to catch the sunset.



GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO Uncle Marco's house. Love the rabbit in the backyard.



SAN JUAN NATIONAL FOREST, COLORADO After a week in the sunny Southwest, the open road with snow.



TULSA, OKLAHOMA I only knew of the city from Larry Clark's famous photo book, *Tulsa*. Like the place.



KANSAS Can't wait to make it to Kansas City, Missouri. Never been.



KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI Outside Union Station. So many creative people here. A highlight of the trip.



KENTUCKY On the road again. Flat, flat, flat for miles.



MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA The sand is nearly empty. The beach has a nice sadness to it.



NORTH CAROLINA Heading toward Raleigh. That's the way I want to travel next time—in style, with an Airstream.



WASHINGTON, D.C. I know the city, so just driving through this time. No need to stop at the Washington Monument.



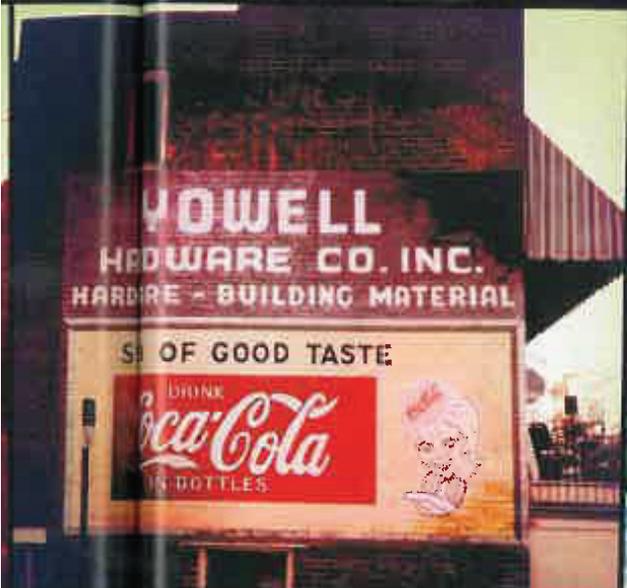
ATLANTIC CITY, NEW JERSEY When I open the curtains in the morning, the boardwalk is right in front of me.



NASHVILLE Meeting Elvis in downtown Nashville.



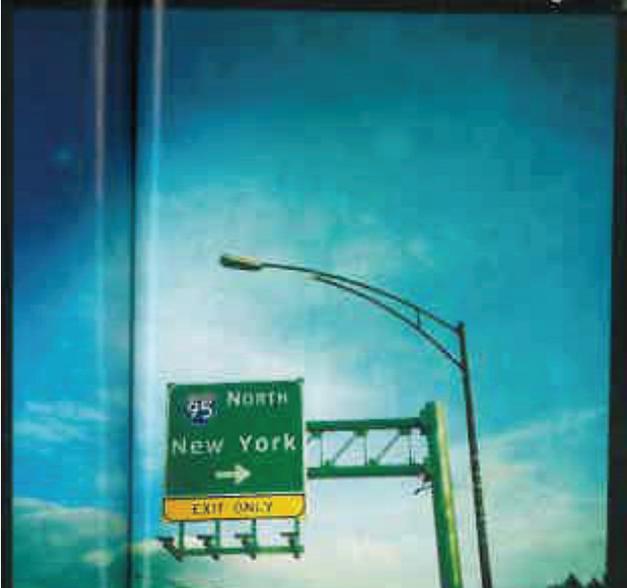
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA It's so different from the other places I've visited. A truly unique corner of the U.S.



CULPEPER, VIRGINIA I love stopping in random small towns. Culpeper has an old-fashioned Americana feeling.



BALTIMORE I get the East Coast feel for the first time. The last stretch of the trip begins.



JERSEY CITY Six thousand-plus miles and four weeks after my departure, I see the sign for New York.



NEW YORK CITY Enjoying the view from my friend Henry's rooftop, before it's back to L.A.



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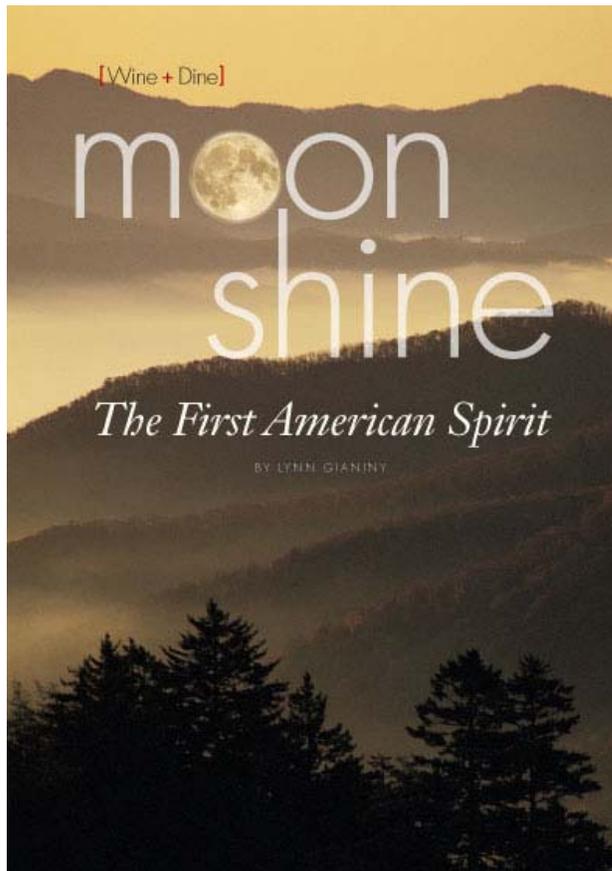
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WINE AND DINE

OCTOBER, 2011

Moonshine: The First American Spirit

Lynn Gianiny



*"Going up to Shooting Creek, going on a run.
Going up to Shooting Creek and have a little fun."*

On a cool Appalachian mountain evening in the 1920s, an old-time banjo picker named Charlie Poole crooned these words while enjoying one of his favorite pastimes — sippin' moonshine. Prohibition was the law of the land, and moonshiners had literally headed for the hills.

Despite Prohibition, or ironically because of it, moonshiners not only continued to make their contraband, they also became experts at hiding their stills among the labyrinths of vine-and-rhododendron-covered hillsides. The revenuers, the government's tax enforcers, had to do some serious legwork to catch the whiskey makers. Nightfall was an ally — and out of this darkness, where bootleggers distilled and delivered their liquor by the light of the moon, the term "moonshine" was born. Although the word itself became popular during Prohibition, the practice is much older.

Corn whiskey was an integral and acceptable part of early American life, used socially, medicinally, and as a commodity for bartering and selling. By the end of the Revolutionary

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War, some elixir entrepreneurs were no longer making whiskey for personal use; they were selling it as a means of survival.

From the Whiskey Rebellion of 1794 to the liquor tax established during the Civil War, and then Prohibition, whiskey making in America was a tug of war that tested the government's ability to regulate the liquor trade. Today the drama of old is gone. You can buy clear corn whiskey by the light of the moon or in broad daylight, lawfully and licitly. Moonshine has gone legit.

Thanks to a new wave of business pioneers, many of them descendants of dyed-in-the-wool distilling daredevils, moonshine is out of the woods, along with the tools of the trade. Copper stills, mason jars, homespun recipes, and stories of moonshiner legends live on in bona fide still houses throughout the Southeast. Armed with a background on the illegal whiskey trade, I determined to go on a mission: to discover the moonshine of today.

I'm at Belmont Farm in Culpeper, Virginia, taking a tour with the first licensed, legal moonshine craft distiller in the U.S. Chuck Miller is a veteran pilot who hung up his flight gear in the early '70s and moved with his wife, Jeanette, to 200 acres of rolling farmland nestled near the Blue Ridge Mountains. They grew corn, raised cows, and started work on a vineyard. About the latter Chuck says, "Those grapes were a lot of work."

That's when he got another idea. A couple of generations back, his grandfather Theodore George Miller II was a notorious and successful moonshiner during Prohibition, running his moonshine up to the secret saloons and speakeasies in Washington, D.C. Chuck recalls that when he was a boy visiting his grandpa, he often wondered about "all those milk tanks and only one cow."

Chuck acquired grandpa's recipe in 1986. He built a still house from the remnants of a nearby church that had burned down years before. And on a mountain near Charlottesville, he found a 2,000-gallon copper pot made in 1933. Chuck's moonshining days had begun.

Just a few years later, Chuck and Jeanette sold their first bottle and word was out: Legal moonshine, made with an original recipe, was for sale. Interest and sales increased over the next decade as the Millers opened the distillery for tours and created a rustic gift shop and information center. Today, autographs and photos of visiting celebrities like Bill Clinton and Patricia Cornwell adorn the walls. And, as you might expect, a portrait of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore George Miller II hangs high, looking down approvingly.

Chuck remains true to his grandfather's tradition. Unlike large whiskey makers that distill grains continuously for more efficient production, he prefers the homemade still. He's determined to use the "antique way" and the "green way" of making fresh, authentic moonshine, loading the copper still in batches by hand with his homegrown corn and emptying the spent mash every few days as cattle feed. Wearing his signature cowboy hat, Chuck shows me the towering silos bursting with harvested corn. He smiles and says, "I have really happy cows."

The Millers' pioneering spirit is infectious. Other legal moonshine distilleries have sprouted up throughout the Southeast. And last year, Adam Perry Lang, chef, restaurateur, and culinary frontiersman, partnered with the Millers to bring a premium clear corn whiskey to bars, restaurants, and retail stores across the country. The result? Stillhouse Original Moonshine, made from freshly picked corn, handcrafted in the Appalachian tradition, and distilled four times in the heart of Virginia. From backwoods to front shelf — and not a revenuer in sight.

Git Yer Own

Find legal moonshine from these distillers online, in stores, and at select bars and restaurants.

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City Profiles



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Get on trak for American history lesson

Andy Coleman lets the train take the strain as he visits Virginia and takes a trip back in time

All aboard for a whistlestop tour of one of America's most historical states. Virginia played a key role in both America's independence from Britain and the American Civil War.

A new rail service, operated by Amtrak, means that many of the important sites in both events can be easily visited – with special events planned to mark this year's 150th anniversary of the Unionist/Confederate conflict.

As I boarded the train for the first time I felt like one of the passengers in the animated film Polar Express as the rail attendant looked and sounded like the Tom Hanks-voiced ticket collector!

My tour began in Fredericksburg, 49 miles south of Washington DC. There were four major Civil War battles in the region between 1862 and 1864, with over 100,000 casualties.

The first, the Battle of Fredericksburg, was a triumph for the southern Confederates and gave hope

for ultimate victory in the war – something that in the end they were denied.

Today, the battle site visitor centre has a museum and audio-visual presentation explaining the reconstructed tactics of opposing Generals Lee and Burnside. More poignant is to stand behind the stone wall, now reconstructed, that protected the Confederate troops from the Union onslaught.

In the town itself a 75-minute trolley bus tour, with the driver also acting as guide, offers a comprehensive snapshot of the attractions, including restored 18th century shops and homes that feature townspeople dressed in period costume.

Fredericksburg also has links to the birth of modern America – the boyhood home of first president George Washington is just across the Rappahannock river, and he later bought his mother, Mary, a house in Charles Street, near the town centre. Both are open to visitors.

A 90-mile Amtrak journey further south brought



George Washington's home, Mount Vernon, and, top right, Monticello, plus the Urban Farmhouse Market & Cafe

me to the state capital, Richmond. I followed in the footsteps of the Queen, Margaret Thatcher, Winston Churchill and Charles Dickens who all visited Richmond's Capitol building, designed by America's third president, Thomas Jefferson, somebody I'd discover a lot more about later in my trip.

In pride of place at the Capitol building are statues of the eight Virginians who became Presidents of the USA, including George Washington whose marble likeness has a copy in Trafalgar Square.

It was in the Capitol that the Bill of Rights was ratified into the US Constitution and Robert E Lee assumed command of the Virginia Civil War forces.

Taking a break from war and Britain's colonial loss, I took a detour to the impressive Virginia Museum of Fine Art where a display of Native American art gave an insight into their intricate craftwork

The next morning I enjoyed breakfast at Urban Farmhouse Market, a coffee shop that reminded me of Central Perk in Friends. The place was put on the map when movie mogul Steven Spielberg tweeted from there that he was enjoying an Urban Farmhouse Market grilled cheese sandwich while working on his film Lincoln, starring Daniel Day Lewis who also visited the cafe.

My next stop took me north to Culpeper, 70 miles

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Band, who also hail from Charlottesville, get many mentions!

The University of Virginia, with over 20,000 students, is a dominant force. Established by Mr Jefferson in 1819, he designed many of the buildings and gardens.

A man of many talents, Jefferson, who drafted the Declaration of Independence, taught himself architecture, designing and building his mountaintop home, Monticello, just outside Charlottesville, and his 'holiday home', Poplar Forest, 90 miles away. I visited both, and was impressed by Jefferson's eye for detail - he selected most of Monticello's furnishings - and imagination and ambition. Poplar Forest was America's first octagonal house and had one of the country's largest skylights when it was built in 1806.

I looked around Poplar Forest during a stop-over at Lynchburg, south of Charlottesville and west of Richmond.

Brimming with history, my hotel, the Craddock Terry, was a former shoe factory with room service breakfasts delivered in shoe-shine boxes.

Lynchburg was important in the Civil War as it was a vital transportation centre for the Confederacy, making it a prime target for the northern troops. It never fell but on April 9 1865 it was 25 miles east of Lynchburg, at the village of Appomattox Court House, that the south's General Lee surrendered to Ulysses S. Grant.

The site is preserved as part of a National Park, with the village, including stores, homes, a tavern, jail and the McLean House where the surrender was signed, restored to how they would have been in 1865.

I also managed to see one of the region's boom industries - wine. The DeVault Family Vineyards markets itself as a fun destination with a heated swimming pool, outdoor cinema and sports, while the 36 acre Paradise Springs Winery boasts a 19th century log cabin.

The end of the line was now in sight but there was just time to see one more Virginia gem, George Washington's Mount Vernon, America's most visited historic home. Around a million people a year view the residence and staff have the task of shepherding them around the home down to a fine art. Groups spend a short time in each room, with a guide pointing out the interesting aspects, before being moved on to make way for the next visitors. Fortunately, there is more time to see the gardens and outbuildings and view a movie that dramatises Washington's role in the War of Independence.

from Washington DC, in the Blue Ridge Mountain foothills, a destination with a real smalltown America feel. It suffered in the August 2011 earthquake and our friendly guide, Mary Jo Browning, confided that the local TV station, so often starved of real news, proudly broadcast round the clock coverage of the demolition of one of the damaged downtown buildings.

It may be small but there were more than 160 Civil War battles and skirmishes in Culpeper County, a fact recalled at the town museum which has a gallery dedicated to the conflict. The train kept a-rolin', with Charlottesville my next stop. Thomas Jefferson is the name that keeps cropping up here, although rockers The Dave Matthews

Travel Facts

● Discover Historic Virginia by Rail with Amtrak - Round-trip Amtrak fares from Washington DC start at \$46 to Richmond and \$59 to Lynchburg. For the lowest published rate, book 14 days in advance. Go to www.AmtrakVirginia.com or check with your local ABTA travel agent.

● Virginia by Rail Tour is offered by Purely America - 0844 80 444 80. Prices from £1,199.00 per person based on two adults sharing a room. Visit www.PurelyCapitalRegionUSA.co.uk. Based on a midweek departure.

● Andy Coleman flew from Heathrow to Washington DC on United Airlines. Visit www.unitedairlines.co.uk or call 0846 8444 777. His trip to the USA and transport and accommodation while there was courtesy of Amtrak and Virginia Tourism.

● Before the flight from London he stayed at Heathrow Central Travelodge 0871 984 6249.

● Places to stay, eat and visit:

Alexandria
Lorien Hotel and Spa, 1600 King Street Alexandria, VA (703) 894 3434. www.lorienhotelandspa.com.
BRABO by Robert Wiedemaier - restaurant attached to the hotel.

Fairfax
Mount Vernon, George Washington's Estate & Gardens (703)780 2000. www.visit.mountvernon.org.

Fredericksburg
The Bavarian Chef restaurant. (540) 656 2101. www.thebavarianchef.com.

Richmond
Omni Richmond Hotel. (804)344 7000. www.omnihotels.com/FindAHotel/Richmond.aspx.
Urban Farmhouse Market (804) 325 3988. www.theurbanfarmhouse.net.
Virginia Capitol (804) 698 1788. www.virginiacapitol.gov.
Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (804)340 1400. www.vmfma.museum.

Culpeper
Foti's Restaurant (540) 829.8400. www.fotisrestaurant.com.
Miss Minerva's Tea Room. www.missminervas.com.

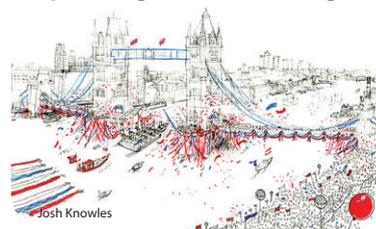
Charlottesville
Hilton Garden Inn (434) 979 4442. www.hiltongardeninn.hilton.com.
Monticello (434) 984.9822. www.monticello.org.

Lynchburg
Craddock Terry (434) 455 1500. www.craddockterryhotel.com.
Appomattox Court House National Historical Park (434)352.8987. www.nps.gov/apco.
Old City Cemetery (434) 847 1465. www.gravegarden.org.
Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest. www.poplarforest.org.
Depot Grille (434) 846 4464. www.depotgrille.com.
DeVault Family Vineyards. www.devaultvineyards.com.
Paradise Springs Winery, Clifton. www.paradisep Springswinery.com.

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On track to find historic United States

Chris Jones travels by Amtrak trains around varied Virginia to discover the essence of America

WE British find it quite easy – not to mention fun – to sneer at America’s lack of history.

While we can proudly trace our origins back thousands of years, the Americans can only muster around four centuries-worth of history.

But they’ve certainly packed a lot into a short space of time, as I discovered during a five-day trip around the state of Virginia on the east coast of America aboard the iconic silver Amtrak railway this autumn.

No less than former eight presidents called Virginia home, including the illustrious George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, while three out of every five battles fought during the American Civil War were fought on the state’s soil. And this being the home of capitalism, it’s all open to the public with a gift shop and glossy film to watch as well.

But visiting Virginia isn’t sim-

ply an extended history lesson, the state boasts a series of quaint towns, a varied dining experience (although the burger chains are there in abundance too), charming independent hotels and a vibrant wine and beer industry.

And it’s all an eight-hour flight from the UK to Washington DC, but don’t think you’re flying into the metropolitan hustle and bustle of New York city and the like, you’re heading into the deep south of America – something I realised as we ventured south from the capital city to Lynchburg, passing through Alexandria, Fredricksberg, Richmond, Culpeper and Charlottesville along the way.

Although the distance travelled was less than 200 miles, the change was dramatic.

Standing on the marina of Alexandria at our starting point you can see the Capitol building in Washington DC across the water – a beacon of modernity and progress.

By the time we got to Lynch-

burg I might as well have been in Maycomb County in Harper Lee’s classic novel *To Kill A Mockingbird* it felt so stereotypically ‘southern’.

Travelling through Virginia like this really leaves the impression you’ve spanned the length and breadth of America.

Perhaps it’s not surprising given the central role Virginia has played in America’s short history.

And a good place to start to explore this past is at the mountain top retreats of Thomas Jefferson and George Washington.

Jefferson’s Monticello home outside Charlottesville has been

beautifully restored and gives you a real sense of the man’s quirks and eye for design.

He liked the state so much he built a second retreat at Poplar forest outside Lynchburg which is currently being restored.

Further upstate is George Washington’s Mount Vernon estate which attracts over one million visitors a year, making it the most visited historic house in



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the States.

While the house is set in astoundingly beautiful surroundings, the sheer number of people mean your time inside is quite short.

It's worth a visit if you are there, but if it's a choice between Washington and Jefferson's pad, I'd plump for Jefferson's place every time.

As well as viewing the grand homes of the former presidents, there is also the chance to explore the less cerebral slaves' quarters in both.

It's a thorny subject but it's an unavoidable truth that the state was built on slavery and the Civil War and the fight to emancipate black slaves was largely fought on its soil.

Virginia is littered with battle sites, none more moving than the tiny hamlet of Appomattox.

It was here that in 1865 General Robert E Lee surrendered his Confederate forces to the Unionists, ending the American

Civil War and emancipating millions of blacks slaves.

A few miles north in Fredricksberg, 8,000 unionist soldiers died in just a few hours at the battle of Marye Heights – the same amount as on D-Day – as they failed to break the Confederate line.

The old battlefield is open to the public and its museum and guides present their story in an understated but informative tone befitting this solemn site.

The town itself has grown up to the battlefield's border and is well worth a visit as well, its historic streets lined with unique boutiques and galleries, including a working apothecary and

traditional tavern. It's not the only town you can hop off the AMTRAK for a look around either, downtown Alexandria once boasted one of America's largest torpedo factories which has been transformed into a vibrant arts centre.

The area also has a thriving dining quarter, all of which can

be explored on an organised dining tour.

A bit further off the beaten track, although still easily accessible by train, is Culpepper. It's a quaint little rural American town where locals still hang corn to every lamppost to celebrate the harvest.

There's a charming high-street with a surprisingly good eatery at Foti's which specialises in turning the local crop into

hearty meals. And for the homesick there's Miss Minerva's, an English style tea room that serves over 50 different types of tea.

Richmond, as the state capital, and the larger city of Lynchburg are more developed and also have plenty to offer.

It's not only tourists that are being drawn in either – Hollywood producer Steven Spielberg is currently filming his latest blockbuster, *The Office Seekers*, in downtown Richmond.

Just outside the humid city of Lynchburg lies one of over 200 wineries currently operating in Virginia. It is one of the state's boom industries, and 50 growers have sprung up in the last 18 months alone.

Bottles routinely cost up to \$120 in restaurants, but a lot of growers sell directly to consumers at a third of that price – and there is very much a 'try before you buy' attitude.

From the state-of-the-art Paradise Springs winery outside Washington to the more rough and ready DeVault Family Vineyards outside Lynchburg, there is a wine, and winery, for all tastes.

As for where to stay, there are the usual chain hotels which offer perfectly pleasant accommodation, but my advice is to try some of the more quirky hotels.

The Craddock Terry Hotel in Lynchburg was once the home of America's fifth largest shoe factory, but has been sympathetically renovated into a five-star hotel.

It's also easy to find as well

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Alexandria boasts the supremely comfortable Lorien

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There's more sophisticated dining on offer at the Virginia Museum of Fine Art in Richmond – which, incidentally, features a scale model of a sperm whale and the world's largest collection of Fabergé eggs – but for a more authentic American experience try the Depot Grille in Lynchburg.

Set next to (and I mean next to) the main railway line you can chomp away on a generous serving of steak and chips as the mile-

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Virginia by train



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On track to find history in the USA

We British find it quite easy – not to mention fun – to sneer at America’s lack of history. While we can proudly trace our origins back thousands of years, the Americans can only muster around four centuries-worth of history.

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Further upstate is George Washington’s Mount Vernon estate which attracts over one million visitors a year, making it the most visited historic house in the States. While the house is set in astoundingly beautiful surroundings, the sheer number of people mean your time inside is quite short.

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Value: 51

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Source: Sunday Mail (Seven Days)
Date: 18 December 2011
Page: 14
Reach: 400106
Size: 701cm2
Value: 14005.98

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Hats off to Virginia

Travel from Washington DC to Virginia by train and soak up the area's fascinating Civil War history and Scots links

BY NEIL MURRAY

Which hat should I go for – a blue, frothy number, an elegant, grey Homburg, or a black bowler? It was decision time in Culpeper. That's the problem I faced in Miss Minerva's Tea Room & Gift Shop in the heart of Virginia.

Tradition in the shop has it that you pick a hat to wear from a selection of about 20 – and then have a harder time deciding which tea to pick from a list of 50 different blends.

For the record, I went with the blue, frothy item and the Spiced Pear Black Flavour tea.

A model of Miss Minerva, incidentally, sits outside her tea room, looking just like the Maggie Thatcher Spitting Image puppet.

Culpeper was one of the stops I made on a trip that showed me just how easy it is to get by rail with Amtrak from Washington DC to various parts of Virginia.

The fact that this year is the 150th anniversary of the start of the American Civil War (more battles took place in Virginia than in any other state) made it more interesting.

A quick look around Washington, taking in glimpses of familiar sites such as the White House, the Capital building, Washington Monument and the National Mall, was followed by a visit to the impressive Union Station, which is HQ of the Amtrak rail company.

Next we headed across the Potomac River for a night in Alexandria.

The town was named after Scot John Alexander and was founded by Scots from Dumfries who wanted to farm tobacco and ship it back to the UK.

At Carlyle House I heard how John Carlyle, born in Dumfriesshire, became a friend of George Washington.

And it was Washington's estate in nearby Mount Vernon that we visited next.

Just before Washington retired from the presidency, he started distilling whisky, which was handled by his Scottish farm manager, James Anderson.

There is no end to the Scottish connections in this area and in Fredericksburg.

Heading south on the Amtrak line towards Richmond, I popped into the Hugh Mercer Apothecary Shop.

I squirmed at tales of leeches and bloodletting and heard how Mercer, an Aberdeen medicine graduate, moved to America after the Battle of Culloden and was appointed Brigadier General in the Continental Army.

Richmond was our next stop and the first sound I heard was a pipe band blasting out Scotland the Brave.

A great town to make a base in for touring, it is the home of the Virginia State Capitol building, the American Civil War Centre and the Museum of the Confederacy.

Not that shoppers are forgotten. With nine blocks to choose from, the Carytown area is known as Richmond's 'Mile of Style'.

Culpeper – and that quirky tea room – was our first stop on the other Amtrak route south out of Washington DC.

There, local historian Mary Jo Browning told us how General Custer had his horse shot from under him during the Civil War.

Equidistant between the rival Civil War capitals, Culpeper was strategically important and three battles took place in the area, one of which, the Battle of Brandy Station, involved 20,000 troops.

Our next stop, the town of Charlottesville, was never attacked but General Custer was involved in a minor skirmish nearby as it was used as a hospital base.

It is also not far from Monticello, the mansion where Thomas Jefferson, the third US president and author of the Declaration of American Independence, lived.

Inside we heard how he was a man of many talents – from plantation owner to founder of the University of Virginia.

Lynchburg was our final destination, where the Old City Cemetery is a surprising top tourist attraction.

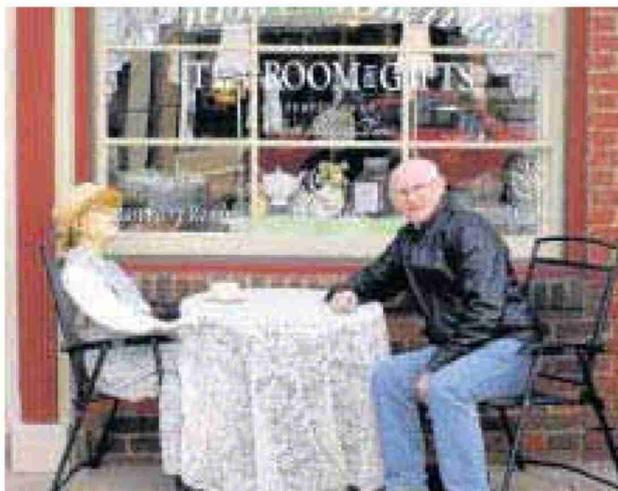
We had the chance to visit the nearby village of Appomattox Court House where, in the parlour of the McLean House, the Civil War effectively came to an end with the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia by General Robert E Lee.

It was moving – and a fitting end to the trip – to be in the room where hostilities ended.



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CHARACTER... Visit Miss Minerva's tea room



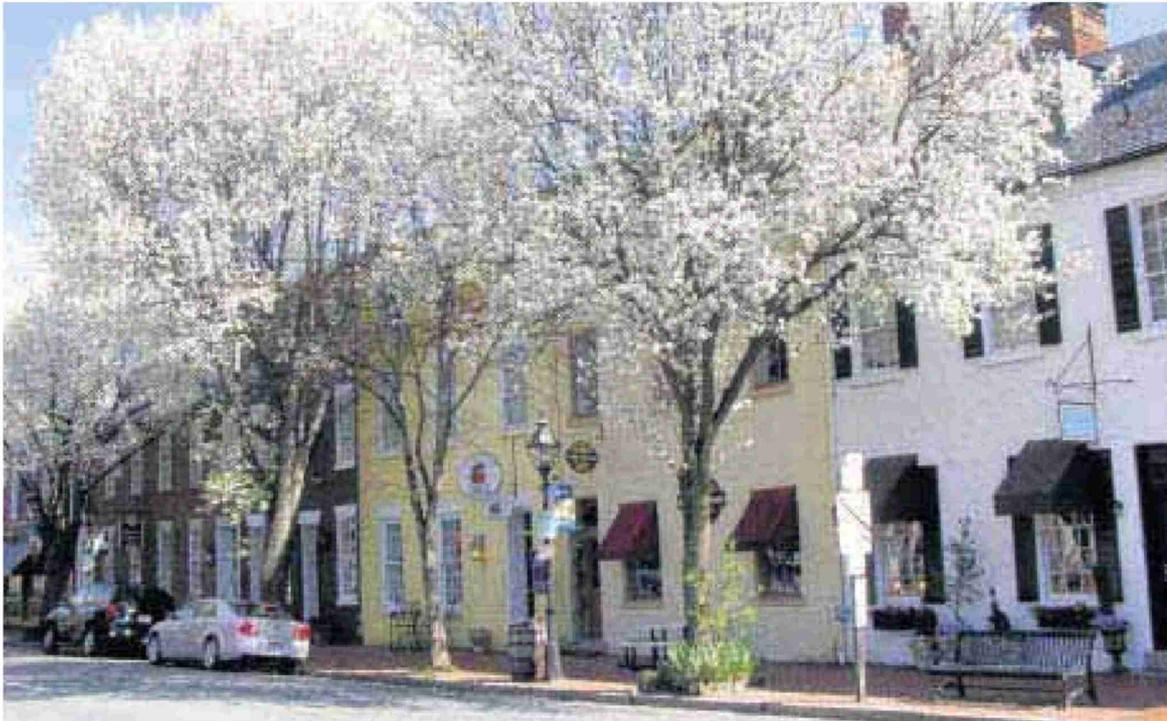
Factfile

- United Airlines (www.unitedairlines.co.uk or 08458 444777) flies daily to Washington, DC, from Glasgow – via Newark, with Continental – from £493.40.
- Amtrak (www.AmtrakVirginia.com) routes run from Washington, DC, to Richmond and Lynchburg.
- Check www.virginia.org or www.capitalregionusa.co.uk for accommodation information.



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IMPRESSIVE...

Virginia is an area steeped in Civil War history, with fascinating sights, quirky streets and many places of historical interest

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News



Culpeper cultivates a following on Northern Virginia's edge

December 29, 2011 6:00 AM

Robert Burke



It would be a stretch to call Culpeper County a suburb of Washington, D.C. The city is about 60 miles away, so Culpeper is more like a suburb of Northern Virginia. But that is just fine for Norm Laudermitch, COO of the Terremark Federal Group. Even though most of the federal and commercial customers that lease space in the Terremark data center campus in Culpeper are in and around the nation's capital, they want their data kept out in the countryside in a safer place.

That's why Terremark, a provider of IT infrastructure services, decided to build in Culpeper. "It met some key security criteria that we had," Laudermitch says. For one, it's outside the "blast zone" area around D.C., something federal clients want. Plus, it's rural enough to make security easier to provide. In the past few years,

Terremark has built three 50,000-square-foot data center buildings and has done site preparation for a fourth building. The project's total cost is an estimated \$500 million. "We'll continue that work and complete it based on customer demand over the next few months," he says. "We're in constant growth mode in Culpeper."

For better or worse, being close to the Washington region, or being just far enough away, is what shapes the Culpeper region's economy. The location has produced rapid growth in the past decade — its 2010 population was more than 46,000, which is 36 percent more than it was 10 years ago. But it's still largely rural, and farming is a big part of the local economy. "I live out in the country, and when I drive into work I pass more cows and farms than I do people," says Carl Sachs, the county's director of economic development.

The town of Culpeper has been a big draw in recent years. Its population has risen 69 percent since 2000 to more than 16,000 people. The town is popular with tourists and day-trippers, who are drawn by the relatively new upscale restaurants and inns and lots of shopping. "That downtown area has just been tremendous," says Greg Yates, who owns a real estate business and has worked in the Culpeper area for more than 30 years.

As is true in other localities on the edge of a metropolitan region, a lot of workers here commute to jobs outside the county — about 46 percent of Culpeper's work force of 23,000 do so, according to a county study. Unemployment lately is 6.4 percent. Sachs says the county markets its proximity to Washington, which isn't that far a drive. The town of Culpeper, close to the center of the county, is the crossroads for a number of major roads, including U.S. 29, which connects to Interstate 66, one of the major highways through neighboring Prince William and Fairfax counties and into the city. "We're close enough to Northern Virginia and Washington, and close enough to do business face-to-face if you need to," he says.

Technology zones

Sachs also pitches the county's commuting work force, which is about 10,500 people, according to 2009 data. A county survey shows that many of them, 81 percent of respondents, would prefer a shorter commute, taking a similar job in Culpeper if one were available.

Sachs says the county has set aside five "technology zones" along its major highways in hopes of attracting employers. Terremark moved into one of those zones just outside the town of Culpeper in 2008 and is eligible for up to \$3 million from the county, Sachs says. The county has paid about \$1 million so far, he says. The incentive program — created by the state — lets localities reimburse selected employers for some taxes they pay. "We think it's a smart approach, because we're never in a situation where we offer incentives to [business expansions] that don't happen," Sachs says.

Terremark's Laudermitch cites a couple of other factors that helped attract his company. Culpeper has plenty of electric power, provided by Rappahannock Electric Cooperative and Virginia Dominion Power. It also has ample fiber-optic infrastructure. "There are very few communities in the country that are rural enough to meet [our] security requirements and have all the communications facilities that we need," he says. "Three of the major telecom providers were already here. For us that's an amazing advantage."

Terremark has about 100 people working at its data center campus now and expects that total to rise as a fourth center is built. Eventually, Laudermitch says, the company's 60-acre campus will have 11 buildings.

He says hiring hasn't been a challenge. "The nice thing about Culpeper is that it's still close enough to the metro area that there are a lot of highly skilled tech people who commute to Northern Virginia," he says. "We find a lot of our employees right in Culpeper and the surrounding area."

Like a lot of suburban/rural counties, the biggest employer here is the public school system, which has nearly 1,200 employees. The county's employment base is relatively diverse and includes companies such as Euro-Composites, based in Luxembourg. A year ago it announced plans for an \$11.25 million expansion of its Culpeper facility, where it produces the honeycomb composite components used in military aircraft built by Lockheed Martin. The expansion will bring about 70 new jobs, increasing the work force to about 150 people.

Manufacturing has a strong foothold here as well, with companies like Continental Automotive, which expanded its operations here in 2010. It now employs about 220 people, making a component of antilock brake systems. The county also has a new location for Hardwood Artisans, a furniture maker that is moving its manufacturing work from Woodbridge and should be in operation in January.

One of the downsides of Culpeper's location is the fallout from the recession, which hurt the housing market here. "We took a pretty big hit with the [real estate] bubble bursting," Sachs says. "We had a lot of foreclosures" in the new developments built to handle the county's rapid growth in the past decade. "It's left a lot of the houses vacant and affected the market for new construction. We're slowly coming out of that; we're starting to see some growth but it's nowhere near what it was."

Downtown with curb appeal

Downtown Culpeper, though, has seen its stock rising lately. There are restaurants such as Foti's, opened in 2005 by chef and owner Foteos "Frank" Maragos, who was a chef at the famed Inn at Little Washington. Another restaurant, It's About Thyme, offers European fare. The owners of that restaurant also opened the Thyme Market next door two years ago, a kind of European bistro with outdoor seating. "It's turned into a little Friday night hotspot," says Lori Sorrentino, the town's tourism director. "It's those types of little places that are popping up here and there and gaining the attention of not only people in the region, but also in D.C. and Northern Virginia."

The town has also benefited from the presence of Amtrak's Northeast Regional line, which runs between Lynchburg and Boston and stops at the restored downtown train station.

Culpeper also was in the running for some national exposure on television. The BBC and the Oprah Winfrey Network named Culpeper as one of the contenders for a new reality series titled "Lovetown, USA." In mid-November producers were in town to recruit participants for the show, which will try to match couples between the ages of 18 and 60. Town officials, however, got word in early December that it would not be included in the series. Because of a tight filming schedule, the producers decided they couldn't take a chance on interruptions caused by snow. Culpeper was the

northernmost locality
being considered for the series.

Despite the loss of "Lovetown," Culpeper's downtown area does have a certain appeal as a TV show setting. Yates' wife, Liz, operates a small "boutique hotel" called Suites at 249, in a restored brick building on Davis Street in the heart of Culpeper's Historic District. The hotel got a load of free publicity recently when it was included in a feature on "easy road trips" in the October issue of Travel and Leisure magazine, which led to mentions on CNN and NBC's "Today Show."

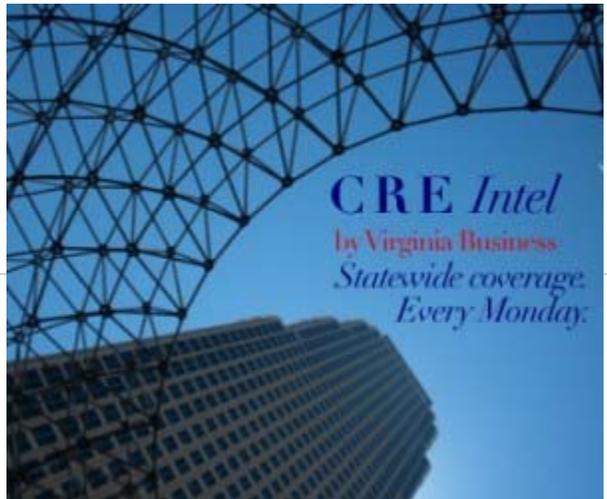
Renovation also is under way at a former Pitts Theatre, which was built in 1938. The building will reopen after an 18-month renovation as the State Theatre, with 550 seats for movies and live performances. Yates bought the building in 2004 and donated it to the State Theatre Foundation, where he is on the board of directors.

Yates believes the town's decision in the mid-1980s to join the Virginia Main Street Program and launch the Culpeper Renaissance group has paid off. "Even through the recession, when a storefront is vacant, there are multiple people who want to be on Davis Street," he says. "People want to be where they can walk to things. You've got this major renaissance of people coming back downtown."

The town might not host many large employers, but it seems to help attract them to the county. Laudermitch of Terremark says the town "is a very culturally diverse community that was perfect for a high-tech work force." Terremark "is a big supporter of this work-where-you-live idea," so the character of the community did matter, he says. "We're proud to be here."

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Davis Street is part of the Culpeper Historic District, which is on the National Register of Historic Places.



Diners eat al fresco in an alley off of Davis Street. The street was part of the town's original 1759 layout.



A sandwich board at the trio of Thyme restaurants advertises roast suckling pig as the specialty of the day.

Paved to perfection

Paved to perfection

A national award only proves what this writer already knew:

Culpeper's Davis Street is a gem.

By Gail Tansill Lambert
Special to The Roanoke Times

The American Planning Association's picks for 2011 were announced in October and include streets with great shopping and dining — from Front Street in Lahaina, Hawaii, to Market Street in Portsmouth, N.H. Virginia's two winners are King Street in Alexandria and Davis Street in Culpeper, where city leaders are happily planning celebrations and great fanfare.

My husband, son and I discovered Davis Street two years ago and had returned to

do some early Christmas shopping on a sunny Saturday that made it impossible to resist going by way of the Skyline Drive.

We entered the Shenandoah National Park at Rockfish Gap on Afton Mountain from Interstate 64 and exited at Thornton Gap onto U.S. 211 through charming Sperryville to Culpeper, 27 miles away and still within view of the mountains.

We parked on Davis Street in front of The Cameleer, one of my favorite stores, where I learned of the "Great Streets" award in conversation with owner Susan Bernhardt. Celebratory events were being planned as we were speaking, and I experienced a rare moment of smug self-satisfaction as I was bursting to shout, "I knew before the award this store and the whole street were amazing!"

But I had shopping to do and lost no

time finding a brilliant blue necklace, hand-blown glass perfume bottles from Egypt and silicon kitchenware from Paris for my daughters-in-law. The shop buzzed with shoppers and salespeople exclaiming over items that seemed to promise brighter days ahead.

We selected Frost Cafe — a Culpeper fixture since the 1920s — for dinner at the corner of Main and Davis streets. We like the breakfast-all-day menu as well as reasonably priced plates of haddock, shrimp, fried chicken and the usual American selection of burgers, sandwiches, soups, salads, beverages and desserts.

I dithered between the breakfast offerings and the haddock or shrimp, while my husband and son resolutely ordered the works from the breakfast menu. I followed suit, ordering two eggs and the most deli-

cious, lightest large yeast biscuit I've ever tasted. Our three clean plates were evidence that we had ordered the right things. The cash-only policy maintains the diner's early 20th-century origins.

Other vintage businesses include the decades-old Cameleer and Knakal's Bakery, while Clarke Hardware has been in business for more than a century. A former ABC liquor store is now Foti's, an upscale restaurant. Throngs came early to the popular trio of fine Thyme restaurants where the specialty of the day was roast suckling pig. The new Raven's Nest Coffee House looked interesting as did Miss Minerva's Tearoom & Gifts.

After dinner we browsed the shops. I made mental notes for when we return



Photos by GAIL TANSILL LAMBERT | Special to The Roanoke Times

The successful effort to save the century-old Culpeper Amtrak depot led to a broader downtown revitalization. In 1993, Culpeper was named one of "America's Top Ten Small Towns."



GAIL TANSILL LAMBERT | Special to The Roanoke Times

Decorative perfume bottles for sale are on display at The Cameleer on Davis Street. The store sells international gifts and aboriginal arts and crafts.

CULPEPER: Investment, volunteer hours spurred transformation

FROM 6

to save time for the Green Nest with vintage clothing and jewelry; also a clothing boutique in the Cline Brothers building, and Pepperberies for all things beautiful. There are also attractive stores that offer antiques, pottery, artwork and home furnishings.

Too late for dessert at Knakal's Bakery, we stopped in at The Frenchman's Corner and came away with sugared citrus slices, chocolate truffles and packaged maple sugar figures after checking out the cheeses, wines, bread, coffees and teas.

At the end of Davis Street is the Culpeper Amtrak depot, where we studied the departure times for Washington, D.C. The ride takes two hours and is thus called "a milk train" by the locals, but someday it would be fun to spend the night in Culpeper,

perhaps choosing Suites at 249, a boutique hotel on Davis Street within steps of the depot.

In fact it was the threat of losing the century-old train station that roused the downtown property owners, merchants and residents to ask in what way such a loss would affect Culpeper.

Like so many town centers bypassed by new highways, Davis Street was declining, but crime was going up. The demolition of the depot might have doomed the premiere street to empty storefronts and low-rent businesses. Fortunately, the successful effort to save the depot led to a broader downtown revitalization, and Culpeper was named one of "America's Top Ten Small Towns" in 1993.

Credit must go to the formation of Culpeper Renaissance Inc., a Virginia Main Street organization, after

Davis Street was listed as part of the Culpeper Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places. And deservedly so as Davis Street was part of the town of Culpeper's original 1759 layout. More than 250 years later, Davis Street not only survives, but thrives.

Foretelling the "Top Ten Great Streets," Davis Street's participation in Culpeper Renaissance Inc. had already resulted in the group's Milestone Award, recognizing the \$40 million in private investment and 25,000 volunteer hours that led to the street's successful transformation.

With purchases stowed in the trunk of the car and satisfied that we had dined well, we were soon on our way south on Main Street/ U.S. 29, and three hours later we were home in bed.

I call that a Saturday made in Virginia, and it was all good.



Photo by Bob Reugsegger

The Graffiti House was used by Union and Confederate troops at various times during the Civil War. During the winter Union encampment of 1863-64, the house served as General Prince's division headquarters.

Read the Writing on the Wall at Graffiti House

BY BOB RUEGSEGGER
Civil War Courier

For 130 years the messages and sketches drawn by Confederate and Union soldiers went undiscovered until 1993 when the Civil War era scribbles were uncovered during efforts to convert the 19th century structure for commercial purposes.

Today, at the Information Center for the Brandy Station Battlefield at Brandy Station, a non-incorporated community in Culpeper County, Virginia, visitors can literally read the writing on the walls of what has come to be known as the Graffiti house.

The building was originally constructed — in 1858 — for use as a general store and the residence of John Stone, the local postmaster. In 2002, it was purchased by the Brandy Station Foundation, an organization that operates the property as a memorial to Civil War soldiers.

During the war, the Graffiti House — as it recently came to be known — was occupied by both Confederate and Union forces. These soldiers — employing bits of charcoal from the building's central fireplace — covered the plaster walls with signatures, sketches, and observations on their lives as soldiers.

See **GRAFFITI** page 16

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Graffiti

(Continued from page 14)

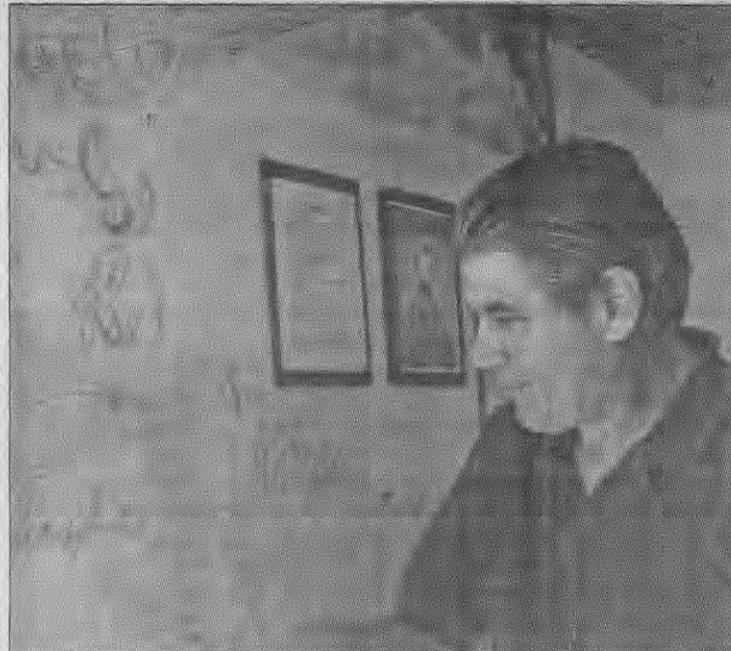
When occupied by military personnel, the two-story building served at various times as a field hospital, the provost Marshall's office, and a general's headquarters.

On June 9, 1863, Union cavalry clashed with Confederate forces under the command of General J. E. B. Stuart at Brandy Station. Charging and counter charging, 20,000 Confederate and Union troopers battled for 12 hours.

The Battle of Brandy Station was an exceptional spectacle. It was the first full scale cavalry engagement of the Civil War. At Brandy Station, Union cavalry demonstrated that they were the equals of their gray-clad counterparts. After the battle the Graffiti House served as a Confederate field hospital.

Joe McKinney examines what he believes to be General J.E.B. Stuart's signature on the wall of the South Room of the Graffiti House. There is no conclusive evidence that General Stuart ever visited the house.

Photo by Bob Reugsegger



During the winter of 1863-64, the Graffiti House was occupied by Union forces with the Army of the Potomac. It served as headquarters for General Henry Prince who commanded the Third Division.

Throughout the war, soldiers of both armies adorned the walls of the building with their ornate signatures, detailed sketches of officers and their ladies, and inscriptions memorializing their military units and battles. When the war was over, the interior walls were papered over and the graffiti forgotten — until 1993.

The house was occupied as a family residence until 1987. It deteriorated rapidly after that. A 1992-93 photograph of the structure depicts a derelict building without windows and doors. Part of the chimney had collapsed and there was a big pile of bricks on the floor. The building had become a candidate for the bulldozer until a local businessman bought the place and fixed it up.

Turning the building into a commercial enterprise that housed a business office and an antique shop saved it from the wrecking ball.

During the 1990's the graffiti was discovered. The Brandy Station Foundation bought the building. More graffiti was soon uncovered and the building was opened to the public. The interior walls were covered with dirty wallpaper, water stained acoustic tile covered the ceiling, and a ragged carpet smothered the floor. A high school senior undertook renovating a room using donated materials and labor.

Author and historian Joseph McKinney serves as president of the Brandy Station Foundation. McKinney seems to relish deciphering the graffiti for visitors. The graffiti requires some interpretation even for those who are fairly well versed in Civil War history. "This looks like Union graffiti. It looks like an eagle. If you examine it more closely, it looks like a buzzard," smiles McKinney as he pointed to faded artwork on the wall. "They had a series of cavalry battles in this area through the summer and early fall. The fields were littered with dead horses. Where you have dead carcasses, you have buzzards," he explained.

The ancient adage — "birds of a feather flock together" — has been written near the drawing of the buzzard. "Maybe this was kind of a criticism of Confederates and Southerners down here flocking together with the turkey buzzards," speculated McKinney. "Somebody wrote it. Probably a Union person."

One of the walls may even have the autograph of General J. E. B. Stuart himself. McKinney pointed out a large inscription on the wall

and compared it to a copy of a letter that General Stuart sent his wife. "It looks very similar," said McKinney. "We brought in handwriting experts, and they said that you can't really tell because the way you'd write with charcoal is different from the way you'd write with a pen," he noted. "It can't be authenticated, but we think it's Stuart's signature. So that's the story and we're sticking to it."

Sgt. Allen Bowman of Company E, 12th Virginia Cavalry, signed the wall twice. His descendants who live in South Carolina read an article about the Graffiti House and came up to see the place. It was the first writing sample that Sgt. Bowman's descendants had ever seen from the ancestor.

Allen Bowman survived the war and was paroled at Winchester on April 17, 1865. He returned to Shenandoah County after the war where he needed an implement — a hoe — to tend his garden. He took a bayonet to the local blacksmith's forge. The blacksmith bent the blade of the bayonet to a right angle, cut off part of the blade and flattened out the rest. "Bowman had a hoe to till his garden instead of a bayonet to stab someone with," explained McKinney.

"That's your original swords to plowshares story right here," said McKinney, pointing to the converted weapon in the display case.

A Civil War era drawing called the Maryland Scroll depicts a scroll with a banner above it and lists the names of 14 Maryland artilleryists and two non-commissioned officers — Sgt. Henry Thomas and Corporal F. Gibson — assigned to rifled gun number one in Breathed's Battery, Stuart's Horse Artillery. The Maryland Scroll was created on March 16, 1863 — the day before those listed on the wall drawing fought with their rifled gun at the Battle of Kelly's Ford.

After the Maryland Scroll was discovered in 2003, a Civil War artifact collector cut the Maryland Scroll drawing out of the wall with a chain saw and removed it. The Brandy Station Foundation has since secured the artifact and returned it to the Graffiti House.

When descendants of soldiers who fought in the Battle of Brandy Station or lived in Culpeper during the winter encampment visit the Graffiti House, they are given a graphite pen and asked to sign in — on another wall in the house.

"Upstairs, we have our 19th century graffiti, and down here, we have our 21st century graffiti," said McKinney. "It's kind of a link between the past and the present."

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Culpeper: Home to the Mother of Mother's Day

Katharine L. Brown, Germanna Foundation

It is a well-kept secret that needs to be let out of the bag: The mother for whom Mother's Day was established was born and raised in Culpeper, and was a Germanna descendant.

Anna Jarvis, the founder of Mother's Day, devoted years to gaining national recognition for a day to honor mothers. Her model for motherhood was her own exceptional mother, Ann Marie Reeves Jarvis, who was born in Culpeper on September 30, 1832, the daughter of Josiah Washington Reeves and his wife, Nancy Kemper Reeves. Her mother's Kemper ancestor, Johannes Kemper, came to Virginia in 1714 as one of the original Germanna colonists settled on the frontier by Lt. Governor Spotswood.

Ann Marie Reeves' father, Josiah Reeves, was a Methodist minister who was transferred from Culpeper to Philippi, Barbour County, now in West Virginia, in 1843 when Ann Marie was eleven. In 1850, Ann Marie Reeves married Granville Jarvis, son of a Baptist minister, who became a successful merchant in nearby Taylor County. Anne Marie Reeves Jarvis was mother to eleven children, but only four reached adulthood.

Mrs. Jarvis was a dynamic woman who saw needs in her community and found ways to meet them. She organized Mothers' Day Work Clubs in the towns of Grafton, Pruntytown, Philippi, Fetterman, and Webster to improve health and sanitary conditions. These clubs raised money to buy medicine and to hire women to work in families where the mother suffered from tuberculosis. They developed programs to inspect milk, long before there were state requirements. Mrs. Jarvis called on her brother, Dr. James Edmund Reeves, who practiced medicine in Philippi and Fairmount, to provide advice and training for the women in her clubs.

During the Civil War, when sentiment in western Virginia was sharply divided, and during which the western part of the state broke away from Virginia and formed the new state of West Virginia, Ann

Marie Jarvis urged her Mothers' Day Work Clubs to declare neutrality and to provide aid to both Confederate and Union soldiers. The clubs fed and clothed soldiers from both sides stationed in the area. When typhoid fever and measles broke out in the military camps, Mrs. Jarvis and her club members provided nursing help to the suffering soldiers, both Blue and Gray.

At the end of the war, public officials, seeking ways to eliminate postwar strife, called on Mrs. Jarvis to help. She and her club members planned a "Mothers Friendship Day" for all soldiers from both sides and their families at the Taylor County Courthouse, with bands playing "Dixie" and the "Star Spangled Banner" and "Auld Lang Syne." The Mothers Friendship Day was an annual event for several years, until tensions had disappeared and it was no longer needed.

Mrs. Jarvis taught Sunday School for a quarter century, and was often invited to lecture on subjects such as "Literature as a Source of Culture and Refinement," "Importance of Supervised Recreational Centers for Boys and Girls, and "Great Mothers of the Bible." After her husband Granville Jarvis died, she moved to Philadelphia to live with her son and two daughters. She died there in 1907.

Her daughter Anna Jarvis (1864-1948) began her campaign for the creation of a Mother's Day on the first anniversary of her mother's death. She secured a resolution favoring such a day from the church in Grafton, West Virginia, where her mother had been active. She then began a letter-writing and speaking campaign, gaining the support of the great Philadelphia merchant and philanthropist, John Wanamaker. By 1909, forty-five states were observing Mother's Day on the second Sunday in May, but the first official proclamation came from the Governor of West Virginia in 1910. President Woodrow Wilson approved a resolution passed by Congress recognizing Mother's Day in 1914. Anna Jarvis wanted carnations to be the symbol for Mother's Day, and hoped that every American would wear one on the second Sunday in May, a white one for a deceased mother, and a red one for a mother still living.

Culpeper has reason to be proud that an exceptional woman who sparked a national recognition of the role of mothers through her own outstanding life of service was born and raised in the local community.

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Virginia: Driving through hallowed ground

Douglas Rogers takes "The Journey Through Hallowed Ground" along Route 15 in Virginia - a highway lined with villages, battlefields, plantation mansions and national parks.



Known as "The Journey Through Hallowed Ground", this section of Route 15 and the geography around it is more than a road

By Douglas Rogers

11:09AM BST 12 Jun 2012



[1 Comment \(http://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/destinations/northamerica/usa/9326116/Virginia-Driving-through-hallowed-ground.html#disqus_thread\)](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/destinations/northamerica/usa/9326116/Virginia-Driving-through-hallowed-ground.html#disqus_thread)

Drive west out of Washington DC into neighbouring Virginia, and for 30 miles you're in a hell-hole of urban sprawl. What was rural farmland only a generation ago is now an ugly stretch of strip malls, townhouse developments, and toll roads. Ten miles past Dulles Airport, though, a strange thing happens. As if you have crossed a border, the sprawl suddenly clears, and you're in glorious countryside: luminous green fields dotted with cows, sheep and horse farms; forests of maple, oak and birch all around; Blue Ridge Mountains shimmering in the distance.

If there's a point marking this sudden change it's a narrow north-south black-top called Route 15, a former Native American Trail, a stretch of which – 180 miles from Gettysburg, Pennsylvania down to Charlottesville, Virginia – was recently declared a National Heritage Area by the US Congress.

Known as "The Journey Through Hallowed Ground", this section of Route 15 and the geography around it – villages, battlefields, plantation mansions, national parks – is more than a road. It's a passage into American history, in the most eventful corner of the United States.

No fewer than nine presidents have lived along it; the greatest battles of the Civil War – Gettysburg, Antietam and dozens of others – took place on it, and documents from the Declaration of Independence to the Marshall Plan were either crafted or inspired by events right here. It's The Place Where America Happened, and British tourists flying into the capital can be travelling it barely an hour after landing.

I must declare a personal interest. After eight years living in New York I recently moved to the Quaker mill town of Waterford (pop: 300), off Route 15 in northern Virginia. Local residents have fought a long campaign to save the town (founded in 1733) from the relentless urban sprawl that was destroying other historic landmarks between the Blue Ridge and DC. (At one point Disney was planning an American History theme park for the area – Ulysses S Mouse, anyone?)

[Do New York hotels charge single supplements? \(http://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/travel-advice/9298143/Do-New-York-hotels-charge-single-supplements.html\)](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/travel-advice/9298143/Do-New-York-hotels-charge-single-supplements.html)

[Michelle Obama: my White House Kitchen Garden \(http://www.telegraph.co.uk/gardening/9267461/Michelle-Obama-my-White-House-Kitchen-Garden.html\)](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/gardening/9267461/Michelle-Obama-my-White-House-Kitchen-Garden.html)

[Volcano Man \(http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/earthpicturegalleries/9297505/Volcano-Man-G-Brad-Lewis-photographs-volcanic-eruptions-in-Hawaii.html\)](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/earthpicturegalleries/9297505/Volcano-Man-G-Brad-Lewis-photographs-volcanic-eruptions-in-Hawaii.html)

[The Palm Dog: a prize for four-legged friends \(http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/film/cannes-film-festival/9290578/Cannes-2012-The-Palm-Dog-a-prize-for-four-legged-friends.html\)](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/film/cannes-film-festival/9290578/Cannes-2012-The-Palm-Dog-a-prize-for-four-legged-friends.html)

[Jackson Hole in summer \(http://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/destinations/northamerica/usa/9290616/Jackson-Hole-in-summer.html\)](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/destinations/northamerica/usa/9290616/Jackson-Hole-in-summer.html)

[Just Back: cowboys and blondes on Route 66 \(http://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/travel-writing-competition/9288123/Just-Back-cowboys-and-blondes-on-Route-66.html\)](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/travel-writing-competition/9288123/Just-Back-cowboys-and-blondes-on-Route-66.html)

In 2005, Cate Magennis Wyatt, a Waterford preservationist, linked up with other preservationists along Route 15, and the movement grew to embrace 350 organisations in 15 counties in four states: Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia and Virginia. The designation of The Journey Through Hallowed Ground as a National Heritage Area has helped them slow the pace of development. So what better way, I thought, to get to know my new patch than to follow the route. I set off on a leisurely five-day drive, starting in Charlottesville, and winding my way up to the battlefields of Maryland and Pennsylvania.

The Journey begins, fittingly, where the United States began: "We hold these truths to be self-evident. All men are created equal..." Thomas Jefferson, Founding Father and third president, may not have written those exact words in his beloved home, Monticello, on a hilltop overlooking Charlottesville, but he was already living there when he drafted the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

The 43-room Italian Renaissance mansion is the only private US residence on the World Heritage List, and it's testament to his genius: not only did he design the house but he also invented the weather vane at the portico entrance, and the dumb waiter in the north-wing dining room – ideal for ferrying the fine wines he so loved from his cellar.

At that stage, not all men were created equal – the house was served by slaves quartered on Mulberry Row, a busy avenue behind it leading to a garden where 330 vegetable varieties grew. Today, archeologists for the Jefferson Foundation, which runs Monticello, are recreating Mulberry Row and the slave dwellings, recording the stories of those who worked here.

But the view is the thing. From this high promontory you can see for miles in every direction – Jefferson's Sea, as it's called – and except for the now thriving university town of Charlottesville, directly below, it's a panorama that has barely changed in 240 years.

Jefferson wasn't the only president on this hill. Five miles away, on its southern slopes, lies Ash Lawn-Highland, the plantation home of his friend James Monroe, the fifth president. With its wooden floors, rustic outhouses and feel of a working farm, it's a down-home shack in comparison with Monticello. Still, the tour guide, an impressive woman in period dress, spoke as reverently of Monroe as those at Monticello had spoken of Jefferson. "Of course the Monroe Doctrine is still relevant today..."

Jefferson famously advocated to Monroe and his other close friend James Madison (the fourth president) the creation of a "society of tastes", and in a way Charlottesville is now exactly that. Famous for the University of Virginia that Jefferson founded (alma mater of Georgia O'Keeffe), it's a stronghold of liberal arts, with a vibrant theatre, music, and dining scene – regularly rated one of the best places to live in the United States.

Residents include Sissy Spacek, John Grisham and the musician Dave Matthews – a keen preservationist whose vineyard, Blenheim, on the outskirts, stands as a buffer against development. But for how long? Sipping a crisp viognier on its deck, I learned that Donald Trump had just bought the vineyard opposite. Perhaps a gold tower will soon rise among the vines.

Madison's home, Montpelier, is 20 miles farther north, and leaving Charlottesville I took Route 20, the Old Carolina Road – the same road Jefferson and Madison would have taken on horseback to visit each other 250 years ago. Green fields gave way to forest as it wound through the foothills of the Blue Ridge mountains, white-tailed deer staring from the roadside.

A handsome two-floor neoclassical mansion on a 2,500-acre estate, Montpelier was built by Madison's father in 1764, and remained in the family until 1840. (Like Jefferson, Madison died in debt.) In 1901 it was bought by the duPonts, who added a garish mural to its façade and a steeplechase track – as you do. But in 2008, after a \$24 million restoration, it was returned to the way it had looked in Madison's day.

From the second-floor library, I looked out on the same peerless Blue Ridge view Madison had surveyed in 1786 as he considered that great question: "How best can we govern ourselves?" A towering intellectual, he read more than 400 books in seven languages while drafting the US Constitution, including, as our guide explained, texts in original Latin, Hebrew and Greek.

"They don't make 'em like that any more," someone next to me drawled.

Not all the duPont additions have gone: I made a note to return for the Montpelier Hunt Races held on the steeplechase track in November, a Virginia society event since 1934.

Rejoining Route 15 and heading north, the Journey now moves from Founding Fathers to Civil War territory. No town saw more action in that war – 160 skirmishes – than Culpeper, a busy railroad stop off Route 15 in central Virginia. According to local lore, "Union and Confederate forces came through so many times you had to look at the courthouse to see which flag was flying to know how to act." The rival Generals Grant and Lee were regulars, and General Custer had his horse shot out from him during the Battle of Culpeper Court House.

The town was laid out in 1749 by one George Washington, then a 17-year-old surveyor. Today, the downtown area, with its restored Italianate and neoclassical brick buildings, is lined with boutiques and restaurants, a hip weekend spot for the DC set. One draw is the Library of Congress's National Audio-Visual Conservation Centre, based since 2007 in a former Federal nuclear bunker. Barely visible from the road, roof covered in trees and soil, it contains a copy of pretty much every film ever made in the US.

My own favourite attraction was a little farther north: the delightfully named Brandy Station. Today it's a dusty no-horse railroad town, but on June 9, 1863 it was the scene of the largest cavalry battle in US history, some 20,000 soldiers on horseback clashing on its open grounds.

In 1993, a house by the tracks was about to be demolished when workers discovered initials and signatures scrawled in charcoal on its walls, under peeling plaster. It turned out the house had served as a field hospital for wounded soldiers on both sides, and they had written their names on the walls. The Graffiti House, as it's now known, is preserved, and a major stop on the Journey.

The word "preserved" is overused, of course, and by no means all of the area incorporated in the National Heritage Area is unspoilt. On the advice of a Waterford neighbour I stopped at Buckland, a tiny settlement near Manassas, unmarked by road signs, and found only on the map of the Journey. It comprised a dozen wood-and-stone cabins dating from 1798 set in woods on a creek. The catch? It lies yards from a strip mall, at a busy intersection of Interstate 66.

Interstate 66 is not to be confused with Route 66, for although this is an American journey, it's not an open-road, wind-in-the hair trip through Americana, as in say, Kerouac's *On the Road*. Indeed, as I edged towards Loudoun Co, my new home county (and the wealthiest in the US), the landscape – green hills, hedgerow, winding lanes – reminded me more of rural England.

I walked haunting Manassas National Battlefield Park, site of the first major battle of the Civil War in August 1861 (expecting a Union rout, DC residents famously arrived with picnic hampers to watch from the hills; four years and 625,000 dead later...), then I returned to the car, took a left on Route 50, and made my way to Middleburg for the night.

I checked into the stone-walled Red Fox Inn (established 1728) – hunt scenes on the walls, logs in the fire. Outside, snow began to fall. This is horse country: JFK and Jackie rode to hounds here, and Liz Taylor shackled up with a local gent, Senator John Warner. They all loved the Red Fox.

If anything, Middleburg has become even more up-market since then. I strolled the main street in the morning, Range Rovers dispensing jodhpur-clad women, the gourmet Farm Deli selling Scotch eggs at \$5 a pop. And I admit I had the best bangers-and- mash in my life at the exquisite Hunter's Head Tavern in Upperville, five miles west, a gastro-pub with a red London phone box outside. Forget New England in the Fall - Loudoun County in October may as well be the Home Counties.

Some 30 towns are incorporated in the Journey, and if Middleburg is the smartest, Leesburg, which is the closest to Waterford, and where I buy my groceries, is one of the most historic. Of the grand buildings downtown, I love the custard-yellow Dodona Manor, home of General George C. Marshall, author of the Marshall Plan.

The most dynamic downtown, though, is Frederick, across the Potomac in Maryland, 18 miles farther north. Consisting of some 20 blocks of perfectly preserved Federal homes, it's lined with bars and farm-to-table restaurants – largely thanks to the success of two local brothers in a television series, *Top Chef* (see panel).

Due west of Frederick, still in Maryland, is Antietam, scene of the single bloodiest day in American history – 23,000 dead and wounded. The lush fields are as hauntingly beautiful today as they were horrifying then. Union victory at Antietam led Lincoln to draft the Emancipation Proclamation that would free the slaves.

From here it's worth visiting Harper's Ferry, West Virginia, back across the Potomac, the farthest point on the Journey from Route 15. The town stands on a high bluff overlooking where the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers meet, mountains and cliffs all around (it's a gorgeous canoeing and hiking area). A raid by the radical abolitionist John Brown on the Federal arsenal here in 1959 led, indirectly, to the outbreak two years later of the Civil War.

At every point on the Journey you find yourself immersed in history. At Monocacy, a battlefield outside Frederick, a park ranger pointed out a red barn to me on a still-working farm where Union soldiers took cover from Confederate gunfire. Rush-hour traffic zipped past it.

And at Gettysburg, the greatest battlefield of all, I stood where Lincoln, on November 19, 1863, gave one of the greatest speeches in human history. "Four score and seven years ago," he began the Gettysburg Address, invoking the principles of equality espoused 87 years earlier by Jefferson in the Declaration of Independence. The Journey had come full circle, and I had seen worlds.

For information on sites, tours, talks, itineraries and events on the Journey Through Hallowed Ground, see www.hallowedground.org (<http://www.hallowedground.org>) or telephone 001 540 882 4929.

Douglas Rogers hired his vehicle through Rhinocarhire.com (<http://Rhinocarhire.com>). With pick-up from and return to Washington Dulles airport, rates start at £23.64 a day.

Where to stay

Charlottesville

Omni Charlottesville (001 434 971 5500; www.omnihotels.com (<http://www.omnihotels.com>)) is an upmarket business hotel ideally located on the lively pedestrianised mall downtown. Double rooms from \$166. More intimate: The Inn at 400 West High (001 434 981-0458, www.400westhigh.com) (<http://www.400westhigh.com>), a new five-room Tuscan-style b&b near the UVA campus. Enjoy the home-baked breads and pancake breakfast. Doubles from US\$175.

Keswick Hall (001 434 979-3440; www.keswick.com) (<http://www.keswick.com>), in lush grounds six miles east of town, is a lavish 48-suite estate spa and golf resort, formerly owned by Laura Ashley's widow, Sir Bernard, and now run by Orient-Express. Bring a jacket.

Montpelier to Leesburg

In wine country north of Montpelier, the 10-suite Inn at Meander Plantation (001 540 672 4912; www.meander.net) (<http://www.meander.net>), part of an 18th-century estate, is famous for its set-menu gourmet dinners and cooking school. Doubles from \$175. Middleburg's historic Red Fox Inn (001 540) 687-6301, www.redfox.com (<http://www.redfox.com>)) has been a favourite of the whip-and-jodhpurs brigade since the early 1900s. Doubles from US\$170.

DC power players and assorted gentry opt for the sprawling rooms and grounds of the Welbourne (001 540 687-3201; welbourneinn.com), a 1770 plantation in the heart of Loudoun County hunt country. Don't miss cocktail hour with the hosts, Nat and Sherry. Waterford has only one hotel, the exquisite Pink House (001 888 828 6777; www.waterfordpinkhouse.com) (<http://www.waterfordpinkhouse.com>), which has two loft-sized, antique-filled French suites (doubles from US\$200) in the heart of the village.

Harpers Ferry to Gettysburg

The aptly-named Ledge House (001 877 468-4236; www.theledgehouse.com) (<http://www.theledgehouse.com>) in Harper's Ferry has spectacular views of the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers, as well as the railway tunnel forging through the cliffs. Doubles from US\$125.

In Frederick, Hill House B&B (001 301 682-4111, www.hillhousefrederick.com) (<http://www.hillhousefrederick.com>) is a four-room 1870 Victorian in the heart of the historic district, within easy walking distance of restaurants. Doubles from US\$125. Gettysburg has several no-frills b&bs close to the major attractions. The Brickhouse Inn (001 800 864-3464 ; www.brickhouseinn.com) (<http://www.brickhouseinn.com>) is two historic downtown buildings, one still bearing bullet marks from the famous battle. Doubles from US\$119.

Where to eat and drink

The C&O (001 434 971-7044, www.candorestaurant.com) (<http://www.candorestaurant.com>), in downtown Charlottesville, is a local gem serving farm fresh fare (sautéed veal liver; charred salmon), usually with a side of live gypsy jazz. Great cocktails, too.

The chef Dean Maupin has made Fossett's at Keswick Hall (www.keswick.com) (<http://www.keswick.com>) the fine dining experience on The Journey. Seasonal dishes include yellow-fin tuna with foie gras and a winter truffle risotto.

Blenheim (001 434 293-5366; blenheimvineyards.com) is great, but the best vineyard in Virginia is the Italian-owned Barboursville Vineyards (barboursvillewine.net) in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, south of Montpelier. Luca Paschina's Bordeaux blend "Octagon" will knock your socks off, as will the fresh pasta at his restaurant, Palladio.

In lively Culpeper, the Hazel River Inn (001 540 825 7148; www.hazelriverinn.com) (<http://www.hazelriverinn.com>) is a down-home American eatery – burgers, steaks – in a landmark 1759 brick building, while the top gourmet table in town is Foti's (001 540 829 8400; www.fotisrestaurant.com) (<http://www.fotisrestaurant.com>) across the street where they serve free-range beef, heirloom tomatoes, and handmade cheeses.

In Leesburg, The Wine Kitchen (001 703 777 9463, www.thewinekitchen.com) (<http://www.thewinekitchen.com>) is a cool urban bistro serving small plates (cured ham, cheeses), locally raised meat, and great wines. Hunter's Head Tavern (001 540 592 9020; huntersheadtavern.com) is an English-style pub

owned by Sandy Lerner, founder of Cisco Systems. Produce for the bangers-and-mash and shepherd's pie come from her nearby organic farm, Ayrshire, and are also sold at her exclusive Home Farm Store (www.homefarmstore.com (<http://www.homefarmstore.com>)) on Middleburg's main street.

For a more down-home experience, the Horseshoe Curve (001 540 5548291), on a bend in the Blue Ridge near Bluemont, is a cult local bar-restaurant popular with hunters and retired CIA agents, often featuring bluegrass bands.

In Frederick, the recently opened Shab Row Bistro (001 301 631 8102; shabrowwine.com) is a wonderful French-American place with a superb cocktail list and an in-house wine shop. The chef, Kevin Longmire, likes to cook with truffle oil and duck fat. For now, though, Volt (001 301 696-8658, www.voltrestaurant.com (<http://www.voltrestaurant.com>)), which is housed in a gorgeous downtown brownstone space and run by Bryan Voltaggio, runner-up in the television show Top Chef, remains the best dining experience between here and Manhattan. Expect delights such as foie gras jelly cubes, yellow-corn ravioli, quail with foraged mushrooms, and numerous delectable foams.

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