



## Unlocking Homeownership

In Petersburg, the number of renters exceeds homeowners by two to one. This imbalance must change to build a stronger community and improve residents' financial stability. While buying a home can be challenging, there are organizations in Petersburg to assist and guide first-time homebuyers through the process.

barriers like high credit scores, large down payments, and closing costs. They've received \$6.1 million from the U.S. Department of Treasury's CDFI Equitable Recovery Program, which they plan to use for down payment assistance grants in their Affordable Homeownership Program. Along with financial counseling, they aim to simplify the home-buying process.

Peoples Advantage Federal Credit Union, a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI), is addressing

For more information:  
[www.peoplesadvfcu.org/](http://www.peoplesadvfcu.org/)  
or call (804) 748-3081.



## REALIZING THE DREAM: A PEOPLES ADVANTAGE MEMBER'S HOMEBUYING JOURNEY

*Jaclyn Sullivan, Director of Real Estate Lending at Peoples Advantage Federal Credit Union, tells the story of a recent new homeowner in Petersburg.*

From Renter to Homeowner  
(Name changed for confidentiality)

Ms. Smith, a Petersburg citizen, recently closed on her first home through Peoples Advantage, beginning her journey to achieve this goal in 2021. It may not have been a speedy process, but thanks to grants, perseverance, financial coaching, and the desire to go from being a renter to an owner, she did it! With grants received and a \$5,000 contribution to closing costs from the seller negotiated by the realtor, the buyer was able to combine these funds with a

Peoples Advantage Home Loan to purchase a \$180,000 home, and only finance \$164,000.

How was Ms. Smith able to do that? With the Advantage Home Loan, mortgages are processed differently. For starters, they do not have a minimum down payment requirement, instead, they have a maximum loan to value (LTV) of 97%. This means they care about the home's appraised value when determining what your down payment will be. With a purchase price of \$180,000 and an appraised value of \$185,000,

the down payment requirement was only \$550! Of course, closing costs are inevitable and average about 3% of the loan amount (and don't forget about the prepaids), but this is where the grants come in.\*

After paying the closing costs and the required down payment, the grants and seller contribution were applied directly to the loan, essentially "buying it down". This brought the loan from \$180,000 (purchase price) down to \$164,000. Her mortgage payment is only \$1,223 monthly.

Her rent before? \$1,150. For an extra \$73 a month, this PAFCU member is now a homeowner. Not only building equity into her own property but taking a step toward creating generational wealth.

\*In this case, the buyer was eligible and qualified for Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta (FHLB), a federally backed grant that provides up to \$12,500 to first-time homebuyers and up to \$15,000 for Community Partners, as well as a Virginia Individual Development Account (VIDA) matching grant. For every \$1 saved, they will match \$8 in grant funds, not to exceed \$4,000 (save \$500 earn \$4,000).

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR HOMEBUYING ASSISTANCE

Virginia Housing: [virginiahousing.com/HomebuyerPrograms](http://virginiahousing.com/HomebuyerPrograms) or (877) 843-2123 | Urban League of Greater Richmond: [urbanleaguerichmond.com](http://urbanleaguerichmond.com) or (804) 451-0980  
Southside Community Development & Housing Corporation (SCDHC): [www.scdhc.com](http://www.scdhc.com) (804) 231-4449 ext.102

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Ensuring Our Children's Success:

3

Virginia Community Resource Center

4

Understanding Jury Duty

6

Petersburg Welcomes New Businesses

8

# Upcoming Events

September 23:

**A Taste of Old Towne**  
2 pm – 5 pm

Calling all foodies!

Stroll around downtown sampling signature dishes from participating restaurants. [www.eventbrite.com/e/taste-of-old-towne-in-petersburg-tickets-650405649807?](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/taste-of-old-towne-in-petersburg-tickets-650405649807?)

September 30: Annual Festival of Grapes and Hops 11 am - 6 pm

This big outdoor festival features many wineries, breweries, food trucks and great music at Old Towne Petersburg Harbor.

Tickets available at <https://grapesandhops-petersburg.com>

October 7: Arttober  
6 pm - 9 pm

Music, Art, Vendors, Food and Beer at the Appomattox Iron Works on W. Old Street. \$10 entrance fee.

October 21, 2023

**Faith and Blue National Day**  
12 pm - 4 pm

Hosted by the Petersburg Sheriff's Office, Petersburg Police and the Petersburg Commonwealth Attorney's Office. At the Petersburg Sports Complex.

November 4, 2023

**Oyster Roast & Barbecue**  
1 pm - 4 pm

This beloved annual event at beautiful Battersea sells out every year. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Details: [www.batterseafound.org/new-events](http://www.batterseafound.org/new-events)

## TRIAD

Seniors wishing to join the Sheriff's 2300-strong TRIAD group, please call or stop by the office. They have regular fun activities and keep you informed. (804) 733-2369  
8 Courthouse Ave.

### THE PETERSBURG POLICE APP IS NOW AVAILABLE!

This app offers a convenient and user-friendly option for our community to:

- ✓ Stay updated with the department
- ✓ Complete forms
- ✓ Receive safety notifications in real-time
- ✓ And much more!

Download the app by searching Petersburg PD in the App Store or Google Play Store. You can also scan the QR code located to the right.

## DOWNLOAD OUR MOBILE APP TODAY!

Petersburg Bureau of Police



The Petersburg Bureau of Police is excited to unveil its latest initiative to enhance community engagement and safety with the launch of a mobile app. This user-friendly application, available on both the Google Play Store and the App Store, is designed to provide users with convenient access to vital information and seamless communication with the Police Department. In this rapidly evolving digital age, staying connected and informed is of utmost importance.

Police Chief Travis Christian recognized the need for an alternative means of communication that caters to individuals of all ages and life stages. *"We are consistently researching and implementing innovative methods of protecting and engaging with our City, and this app is a major part of that,"* said Chief Christian. *"My favorite feature of the app is the real-time safety notifications that are instantly delivered to users' phones. This is a critical improvement in keeping our citizens, businesses, and visitors immediately informed of what's happening in their area."*



## Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program River Street Market

**Are you age 60 or above? Moderate to low income? Do you enjoy fresh produce from the Farmers Market?**

Find out if you're eligible for the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program.

Contact Robert Noriega, Healthy Living & Learning Center (804) 451-6077 • [rnoriega@ppls.org](mailto:rnoriega@ppls.org)

Petersburg Public Library • 201 W. Washinton St.

# Ensuring Our Children's Success

The Crucial Role of the Community in School Attendance



*Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today. - Malcolm X*

In the 2021/2022 school year, 21% of Virginia's students were chronically absent from school. In Petersburg, this rate was almost double at 38%. These numbers represent students who miss 18 days or more, which is 10% of the school year.

In Petersburg, the group with the fastest growing rate of absenteeism is elementary school students who are missing the most important stage of learning. Petersburg High School recorded the city's highest chronic absenteeism rate at 51%.

## Why Do Students Skip School?

Reasons vary widely - some find school boring or do not like the food, others feel unsafe or have parents who had negative school experiences themselves. The influence of social media and the need for some students to work to support their families can also contribute. The most common factor in chronic absenteeism is economic disadvantage.

In small school systems like Petersburg's, neighborhood issues can spill over into schools, creating tension and making schools feel less like safe learning spaces and more like extensions of the neighborhood.

Jesse Chavis, Hearing Officer for Petersburg City Public Schools, suggests that parents connecting with a single teacher can improve attendance. He encourages parents to engage with their child's education, as this usually leads to better outcomes.

## The Effects of Missing School

Studies indicate that high absentee rates can have severe consequences for students, affecting their academic progress and future opportunities. Significant impacts include:

**Academic Struggles:** Students with high absenteeism often miss out on fundamental concepts, making it difficult for them to keep up with their peers. They may struggle academically, leading to lower grades and achievement levels.

**Increased Dropout Rates:** Chronic

absenteeism is a strong predictor of dropout rates. Students who regularly miss school are more likely to feel disconnected from their education and eventually drop out.

**Poorer Life Outcomes:** Data shows that high school dropouts face many challenges later in life, including lower income potential, higher rates of unemployment, and increased likelihood of incarceration.

**Social and Emotional Impact:** Regular attendance helps students develop critical social skills and build relationships. Absenteeism can lead to feelings of isolation, low self-esteem, and a lack of belonging.

**Missed Opportunities for Intervention:** Schools provide resources to help struggling students, such as tutoring and counseling services. Students who are frequently absent may miss out on these supports.

**Long-term Educational Achievement:** Chronic absenteeism in early grades can impact a student's ability to read proficiently by the third grade, a key predictor of long-term educational achievement. High school students who are often absent are less likely to succeed in college.

**Impact on Other Students:** High absentee rates can also affect other students by disrupting learning, causing teachers to repeat material, and reducing overall classroom morale.

## Community Involvement is Essential

Addressing chronic absenteeism requires a comprehensive approach involving schools, families, and the community. Early intervention, supportive school policies, and engagement with families can all play a vital role in improving school attendance.

As community members, we must help. If you know of students skipping school, speak up. Help address neighborhood issues that might discourage students from attending school. Consider volunteering at a school - every bit of help, whether in the classroom or cafeteria, makes a difference.

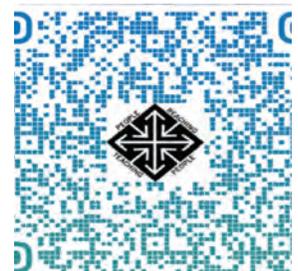


## EVERY DAY COUNTS ATTENDANCE CAMPAIGN "MISSING 2 DAYS IS 2 MUCH"

- The Director of Student Services and Hearing Officer works with three Truancy Officers and five Support Specialists. The team makes phone and house calls and conducts investigations into identifying why students are absent.
- Breakfast and lunch are provided by schools for free, so no student goes hungry.
- Resources for clothing and basic needs of students are available.
- After-school tutoring is provided.
- Parents are encouraged to complete the Engagement Survey, join the PTA, develop lines of communication with teachers, and join or seek assistance from the Parent Advisory Committee.

## PARENT ENGAGEMENT "Parent Engagement Matters"

Parents of Current PCPS students, your feedback is important. If you have not filled out the Parent Engagement Survey, please do so here:



Petersburg City Public Schools: (804) 732-0510  
School Contact Information for individual schools is on the website: <https://www.petersburg.k12.va.us/>

# VIRGINIA COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER



In April, Governor Youngkin presided over the opening of the new Virginia Community Resource Center (VCRC), an initiative through the Partnership for Petersburg. The Center offers a vast array of services from multiple providers, with more partners coming on board soon.

“The VCRC is an outreach resource center for all Virginians. We house veterans’ representatives to help in applying for veteran and family member benefits, as well as assist the community at large by providing access to “one-stop support” for an array of services. Our goal is to point you in the right direction for positive change to include employment, training, education, workforce development, housing, public health awareness, specific veterans benefits and more. We hope to help elevate the community by being a valued resource of information in Petersburg. It is truly an incredible opportunity and honor to be a part of the team building this concept in Petersburg.”

Donna R. Williams, Acting Executive Director  
Virginia Department of Veterans Services Virginia Community Resource Center



## ORGANIZATIONS AND SERVICES CURRENTLY WITHIN THE CENTER:

**Department of Veterans Services (DVS):** Serves as the area’s benefit services office and connects Virginia’s veterans with benefits and services they have earned with information on current federal, state, and local veterans’ programs, entitlement, and referral services.

**Virginia State University Public Health Institute:** Addresses health disparities within underserved groups through outreach, academic endeavors, public health workforce development, and research agendas in preparation of public health professionals for the future.

**Virginia CareerWorks Satellite Office:** Petersburg workforce development, including job fairs, workshops, and general assistance obtaining jobs including resume creation.

**Disabled American Veterans (DAV), Chapter 47:** Helps veterans with filing claims with DVS for compensation, pension, healthcare, and other benefits.

**Department of Social Services (DSS) Satellite Office:** Provides referrals and eligibility checks for DSS services for Petersburg citizens.

**Community College Workforce Alliance:** The workforce development division of Brightpoint and Reynolds Community Colleges that offers training for individuals for career preparation and connects businesses with skilled workers.

**The Urban League:** Assists African Americans and other underserved urban residents to secure economic self-reliance, parity, power, and civil rights.

**The Mark Matthews Chapter of Buffalo Soldiers:** A non-profit educational, patriotic, military service organization in Petersburg, whose mission is to perpetuate the memory of comrades who have passed, and the history of the accomplishments of the Buffalo Soldiers in the 9th and 11th cavalry, and the 38th, 40th, and 41st infantry regiments.

## ALSO AVAILABLE:

**Education hub:** Digital hub for daycare applications and connections to other education, health, and workforce services that all citizens can easily access. Computers have been donated by Tech for Troops, an organization dedicated to empowering Veterans and their family with computers, skills, and Information Technology work force training.

**Conference Room and Classrooms:** Non-Profit organizations may sign up to use these free of charge. Classrooms accommodate 9 – 12 students.

**COMING SOON:** Website and expansion of offerings. Additional office space is being created to welcome more partners.

Address: 22 W. Washington Street  
Hours: 8 am - 4:30 pm,  
Monday through Friday  
Appointments are recommended  
but walk-ins are accepted.

Central phone number to call for more information  
or to make an appointment: (804) 203-5105.  
Visit [pfp.governor.virginia.gov](http://pfp.governor.virginia.gov) to find digital  
resources for childcare/daycare, education,  
healthcare, housing, jobs and more.

# Food Distribution Locations in Petersburg



## **CARES, Inc.**

118 E. Washington St. • (804) 861-0865  
Tues. & Thurs. from 11 am - 2 pm  
Photo ID & verification of those in the household required.

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## **HOPE Center**

827 Commerce St. • (804) 722-0321  
Hot lunches: Mon. - Fri., 2nd & 3rd Sun. at 12 pm  
Food Pantry: Tues. & Thurs., 10 am - 1 pm

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## **Faith and Hope Temple**

1800 E. Washington St. • (804) 861-3898  
2nd, 3rd & 4th Sat. of the month, 10 am - 12 pm

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## **Petersburg Seventh-Day Adventist Church**

300 Poplar Dr. • (804) 835-9861  
Tuesday, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm  
Photo ID required.

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## **Jesus Way Fellowship Center**

600 S. Crater Rd. • (804) 861-5571  
Saturday, 10 am - 12 pm  
First come, first serve. Photo ID required.

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## **Petersburg Health Department**

301 Halifax St. • (804) 863-1652  
Tues., 1 pm - 2:30 pm  
Food boxes  
Call for an appointment.

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## **St. Joseph's Catholic Church Brown Bag Outreach Program**

Corner of Washington & Market Sts. • (804) 479-2154  
Sat. & Sun., 9:45 am - 10:15 am  
Brown bag lunches.

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## **Good Shepherd Baptist Church Food Distribution**

2223 S. Crater Rd. • (804) 732-5969  
Second Wed. of each month, 12 pm to 2 pm  
Photo ID required.

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# Civic Responsibility: Understanding Jury Duty in Petersburg

Please look for your jury questionnaire that was mailed to you. **It is incredibly important that these are filled out and returned.**

**Please note:**

- Jurors are paid the same day they serve - \$50.
- Questionnaires are used to create a database of potential jurors.
- Filling out a questionnaire does not necessarily mean you will be summoned to serve as a juror immediately. You will receive a separate jury summons when the time comes.

### Why is jury duty important?

- Serving on a jury is the most direct and impactful way for citizens to participate in the process of governing.
  - Jury trials offer the voice of the people to the justice system.
  - Exercise your constitutional right to participate in a process that is a cornerstone of American democracy: the jury trial!
- Jury Manager: (804) 431-5597.**

## Digitization of Records at Circuit Court Clerk's Office

While all original copies of public records are still archived at the Clerk's office, a huge digitization project has been underway since 2020.

- Public records are available online, for free, in-person at kiosks in the Clerk's Office.
- To subscribe to the online records system, the cost is \$50.00 per month, which includes access to deeds, land records, marriage licenses, wills, fiduciaries, financing statements.

Deeds are recorded in the Circuit Court Clerk's Office for the City of Petersburg.  
Data provided by Maytee E. Parham, Clerk

ONLINE PUBLIC RECORDS	2020	2023
Wills	None online	1973 - present now online
Deeds	None online	1972 - present now online
Plat Books	None online	6 of 7 online by end of summer 2023
State Highway Books	None online	All online by end of summer 2023
Indices for Wills and Deeds	None online	All online by end of summer 2023

### DEEDS RECORDED

YEAR	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
QUANTITY	3189	3291	3463	3552	4532	6968

More Deeds Recorded = Growth

### BLIGHT FACT:

A contributing factor to the issue of blight is not knowing who owns the property.

The Clerk nor the City is automatically aware of when a property owner passes because Vital Records does not communicate with localities about current deaths. Therefore, please be sure to contact the Circuit Court Clerk's Office to probate a deceased person's Will or to qualify as an Executor (if there is a Will) or Administrator (if there is no Will) over an estate. Contact: Circuit Court Clerk's Office (804) 733-2367.

## Student Summer Internship Program

For the second summer, the Petersburg Internship Initiative opened doors for 75 high school and college students by giving them enriching work experiences and educational opportunities. This program has been expanded with the help of Partnership for Petersburg and private businesses.

The paid internships were offered across a variety of sectors. These included Kings Dominion, Virginia Linen, the City Manager's office, Recreation & Special Events, Economic Development, Public Works, Communications & Tourism, Human Resources, and the Commissioner of the Revenue.

Beyond their work roles, the interns also gained crucial life skills. Babette Hammond from the Virginia Employment Commission coached them on effective interviewing techniques, resume building, and customer service. They also learned about the importance of money management through banking, savings accounts, and credit



during sessions with Truist, Peoples Advantage Federal Credit Union, Call Federal Credit Union, and Virginia Credit Union.

The interns were invited for lunch at the Governor's Mansion, toured the Capitol, and took field trips to the Holocaust Museum and Petersburg National Battlefield. Further, interns from the Department of Economic Development organized a College and Job Fair for their peers and the public.

A special thanks to Ken Miller who organized and managed this significant project that gave our students an invaluable and unforgettable experience.

# Petersburg City Council



Left to right

**Annette Smith-Lee** Ward 6,  
alee@petersburg-va.org

**Arnold Westbrook, Jr.** Ward 7  
awestbrook@petersburg-va.org

**Vice Mayor Darrin Hill** Ward 2  
dhill@petersburg-va.org

**Mayor Samuel Parham** Ward 3  
sparham@petersburg-va.org

**W. Howard Myers** Ward 5  
whowardmyers@petersburg-va.org

**Charles Cuthbert** Ward 4  
ccuthbert@petersburg-va.org

**Marlow Jones** Ward 1  
mjones@petersburg-va.org



The Appomattox River is the perfect place to get outside during warm weather in Petersburg! Whether you want to walk, picnic, fish or enjoy nature, the Appomattox River Trail and riverfront parks in the city have something for you. The Friends of the Lower Appomattox River, affectionately known as FOLAR, partners with the city to protect and improve historic and environmentally sensitive places along the river. FOLAR is the only regional nonprofit organization focusing on developing the 25-mile Appomattox River Trail & Park System – a blueway and greenway that will connect all the communities along the river in the Tri Cities Region. With a small staff,



FOLAR relies on volunteers and members to help maintain the parks with the City. Volunteers are improving wildlife and pollinator habitat by removing invasive species and planting native gardens and removing litter. If you want to get involved and meet other people who love the river, consider joining a Stewardship

Saturday event at one of the local parks. Or if you want to explore on your own, use the mobile map to find park and trail locations. FOLAR also raises funds and supports community grant efforts to make park and trail improvements. We encourage you to become a member to support our river and trail.

To Find Out More About Park & Trail Locations, Visit FOLAR - Friends of the Lower Appomattox River | [folar-va.org](http://folar-va.org)



## IMPORTANT SAFETY TIPS

- Wear lifejackets if boating • DO NOT SWIM – strong current
- Fishing License is required • Check weather
- Avoid poison ivy • Check for ticks

**FOLAR ENCOURAGES THOSE WHO USE THE RIVER TO "LEAVE NO TRACE" AND TAKE ALL TRASH AND FISHING LINE WITH THEM.**

# Petersburg Welcomes New Businesses!



**Resolution Winery**  
2214 W. Washington St.  
(804) 504-1027



**Lifestyle Realty Group**  
257 E. Bank St. B,  
(804) 245-5545



**Beauty N Ink**  
15 W. Old St.  
(804) 895-5683

Photo by Kaleigh Brayboy



**Ollie's Bargain Outlet**  
3333 S. Crater Rd.  
(804) 203-2296



**Treasures and Trinkets**  
36 Rives Rd.  
(804) 892-7461



**Maria's Gelato Shop**  
21 W. Old St.  
(804) 862-7461



**S & R Boutique & Beauty**  
2006 S. Sycamore St.  
(804) 894-8180



**Seafood Palace**  
302 Halifax St.  
(804) 720-6433



**Heavenly Hands Soulfood Restaurant**  
100 W. Washington St.  
(inside Station)  
(804) 835-2520



**Lady JJ's Boutique**  
27 W. Bank St.  
(804) 704-7065



**The SPOT Event Center**  
133-A N. Sycamore St.  
(804) 420-2171



**The Mad House**  
1945 S. Sycamore St.  
(804) 678-8304

## Congratulations to the Petersburg Founders Fund Recipients

Twenty local businesses celebrated with Governor Youngkin after receiving \$25,000 grants from the Petersburg Founders Fund. This new competitive grant fund, established by the Virginia Innovation Partnership Corporation, in collaboration with Virginia's Secretary of Commerce & Trade and local stakeholders, supports the launch and growth of scalable companies in Petersburg. Learn more at [www.VIPC.org](http://www.VIPC.org).

### Grant Recipients:

I'm a Genius Montessori Academy, LLC • Euterra, LLC  
Readers 2 Leaders Academy, LLC • Escape Old Towne • Resist Booksellers  
Appomattox Tile Art, Co. • Shoe Crazy Wine, LLC • Mr. Q's BBQ, LLC  
Appomattox Event Center • Old Towne's Alibi • Trapezium Brewing, LLC  
Another Level Barbering and Cosmetology School, LLC  
Strawberry Hill Mansion, LLC • Tri-Cities Enrichment Center • LNN USA, LLC  
Community Counseling Group • A3 Fabricators • Petersburg Company, LLC  
Virginia Auto Glass • See Her Evolve, LLC



*The vision for economic growth in Petersburg begins with small businesses empowered to grow, create jobs and inspire this great community to a brighter future.*

Governor Glenn Youngkin

*Receiving a Petersburg Founders Fund grant has helped accelerate the expansion of my business capacity, already resulting in increased sales, and has allowed me to collaborate more with other local businesses to bring more exposure to our city. This has a ripple effect in our business community that is facilitating the expansion of the footprint of downtown.*

Senithia H. Martin, Appomattox Event Center

*This year, we have ushered our 24-year-old business into a new chapter by moving our manufacturing facility to a new location in the city, a move that allows us to streamline and grow. We are incredibly grateful to have received a Petersburg Founders Fund grant as it has been invaluable in assisting us through this big transition. While we ship our mosaic tile art to homes, businesses and showrooms all over the world, we remain a small family-run business that we are proud to have established and operated here in the city, since 1999.*

Cynthia Haynie, Appomattox Tile Art

# Petersburg Public Library It's Not Just For Books!



**Check It Out:  
YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE  
At The Library -  
Tuesdays 1 pm - 3 pm**

**Yoga with Hope Helton**  
every Tuesday & Thursday at 4 pm

**Caldwell's Chair Dance**  
Thursdays at 12:00 pm

**A Fine Time with Dime**  
Strength, Cardio, Yoga - Mondays at 6 pm

Petersburg Public Library is now FINE FREE! That's right! If you have any overdue fines on your account that may be keeping you away, come on in and we will waive those fines! If you have any library materials that are long overdue, simply return those items!

The Petersburg Public Library Event Center has a website: <https://pplseventcenter.com> • (804) 733-2387 ext. 650  
201 W. Washington St. | (804) 733-2387 | [www.ppls.org](http://www.ppls.org)

## Petersburg Department of Recreation, Events and Volunteerism Upcoming Events

**Upcoming Senior Trips** (Petersburg Residents ONLY and must be registered with the Office of Recreation)

**September 27:** 9 am-4 pm State Fair of Virginia | **October 11:** 9 am-4 pm Carter's Mountain Orchard

For more information, please call (804) 324-4015 or email [recreation@petersburg-va.org](mailto:recreation@petersburg-va.org).



# FALL SOCCER

**First Kicks Ages 4-6**  
**Instructional Ages 7-9**  
**12U Ages 10-12**

**Late Registration**  
September 5 - Until Filled

**Petersburg Resident Fee: \$20**  
**Non-Resident Fee: \$30**  
**Late Fee: \$10**

## Meals on Wheels

Feed More is urgently seeking volunteer drivers to assist with delivering meals to homebound citizens through their Meals on Wheels program. There are 7 routes in Petersburg, that run Monday through Friday, delivering between 11:00 am and 1:30 pm. In June 2023, 87 clients were served a total of 1877 meals.

During COVID-19, a grant through Door Dash helped fill the gap after the once robust volunteer base diminished. This assistance is ending in September so there is a critical need to recruit volunteer drivers so that services are not interrupted.

Volunteer drivers typically drive the same day and the same route every week, but Feed More will gladly accept volunteers who can commit to two shifts a month. This is not just about food; it is about connection and friendship.

**If you are in need of Meals on Wheels, call: (804) 673-5035**

For immediate assistance, call the Hunger Hotline: (804) 521-2500 (Monday-Friday, 8:00 am- 4:00 pm for pantry information and other resources available)



To apply to volunteer,  
please visit:  
[FeedMore.org/volunteer](http://FeedMore.org/volunteer)



Mike and Mary Anne Williams from Chester volunteer every Friday in Petersburg. They have developed close bonds with the recipients on their route.



Mayor Sam Parham and Councilman Arnold Westbrook volunteering.

*Serving as volunteer drivers for Meals on Wheels is a way to help others and to give of our time since retiring. Our purpose on earth is to help each other through the journey.*

*Mary Anne Williams, Volunteer*

# City of Petersburg Welcomes Two New Department Directors



## Director of Planning and Community Development – Naomi Siodmok

Naomi Siodmok is returning to Virginia with nearly a decade of experience in planning, which started in Roanoke County, Virginia, followed by San Diego, California, and most recently Doraville, Georgia in the Atlanta Metropolitan Area.

*“I look forward to working with the community and Petersburg leaders to celebrate what is valued in the City and to address the community’s concerns,”* said Siodmok. *“Petersburg has a lot to offer, and I am excited to be a part of celebrating and enhancing it.”*

Siodmok earned a Masters in Urban and Regional Planning from Virginia Commonwealth University and a Masters of Science in Urban Design from Georgia Tech.

## Director of Public Works and Utilities – Jerry Byerly

Jerry Byerly returns to Petersburg with over 35 years of experience in the utilities and the construction industry including operations and maintenance manager, public works director, assistant director of water resources, and utilities director positions. He previously worked for the City as Director of Utilities.

*“I look forward to returning to Petersburg and leading a department that is vital to serving Petersburg citizens,”* said Byerly. *“Improving the City’s infrastructure is also foundational to growing economic development and increasing the tax base.”*

Byerly comes to Petersburg from Hopewell where he served as Director of Water Renewal. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Business from Catawba College.



### Know When Utility and Tax Bills Are Due

**Personal Property Taxes** - 1st half due February 28 | 2nd half due June 10

**Real Estate Taxes**  
1st Quarter due September 30 | 2nd Quarter due December 31  
3rd Quarter due March 31 | 4th Quarter due June 30

**Water Bills** - Due on the 5th of each month

# CITYWIDE CLEANUP

## Saturday, October 28

## City Council Meetings

Petersburg City Council meets twice a month on the first and third Tuesday in-person. There are no regular meetings in the month of August. All are welcome to attend in person at the Petersburg Public Library, or the meetings can be watched live here: <https://www.petersburgva.gov/1177/Live-Meetings>.

## UPCOMING OBSERVED HOLIDAYS

All Petersburg City government offices will be closed on the listed holidays. This includes Petersburg Area Transit and all bus service operations. Dogwood Trace Golf Course is open on all holidays, except for Christmas Day.

Central Virginia Waste Management Authority (CVWMA) residential recycling and trash collections are usually delayed by one day for the week on holidays. Check times at [www.cvwma.com](http://www.cvwma.com).

**Columbus Day and Yorktown Victory Day** Monday, October 9  
**Election Day** Tuesday, November 7 • **Veterans Day** Friday, November 10



CITY OF PETERSBURG  
135 N. Union Street  
Petersburg, VA 23803  
www.petersburg-va.org

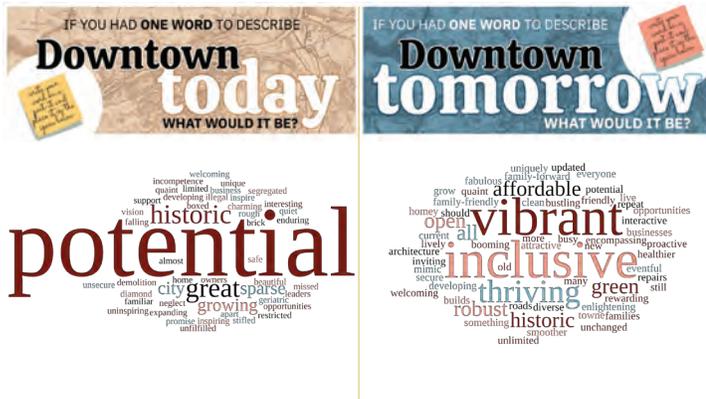
## The Future of Petersburg

**What is the Comprehensive Plan?** PetersburgNEXT, the City’s Comprehensive Plan, is a 20-year, high-level policy guide that will set the general direction for future land use, growth, and development in Petersburg. It will also establish goals and strategies for other elements of life in Petersburg, including economic development, parks and recreation, transportation, and infrastructure.

**What Is Happening Now?** The next Planning Commission worksession will be Tuesday, September 26, 2023 from 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm at the Petersburg Public Library.

**What Can I Do to Be Involved?** There are still many opportunities to participate in the process, including reviewing draft Chapters, listening in on Planning Commission work sessions, and sharing your big ideas and vision for Petersburg’s future on the Idea Wall! Visit [www.petersburgvanext.com](http://www.petersburgvanext.com).

**What if I Have Questions?** Visit [www.petersburgvanext.com](http://www.petersburgvanext.com) or contact the Petersburg Department of Planning and Community Development at (804) 733-2308.



The Downtown Petersburg Plan is moving along! In June, over 100 people stopped by the public visioning event at the Petersburg Area Art League to share their ideas about the future of Downtown. Attendees viewed the planning team’s presentation on existing conditions in Downtown today and had an opportunity to help shape the community’s vision for Downtown going forward.

With the analysis of existing conditions complete, the team’s next step is summarizing all community input collected at the public event and through interviews, the survey, and the Advisory Committee. In the fall, the planning team will be back in Petersburg for the second public open house where everyone is invited to weigh in on the draft recommendations and their priorities for implementation.

For more information contact: Petersburg Department of Economic Development at (804) 733-2300 ext. 4072.

## Sentara Health Launches Sentara Mobile Care



Sentara Mobile Care is offering direct primary and behavioral health care services to Medicaid, Optima Health and Virginia Premier members, as well as uninsured and underinsured members of the Petersburg community. The mobile clinic comes to Petersburg each Thursday. It is parked at The Hope Center from 9 am – 1 pm and at the Petersburg Public Library from 2 pm – 5 pm. To make an appointment, call (804) 613-3940. Walk-ups are also welcome.