



CITY OF PETERSBURG

COMMUNICATIONS

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Week Ahead – March 23, 2014

Students Honored For SOL Scores – March 24

The Petersburg High School PTSA will meet on Monday, March 24, at 6:00pm in the auditorium of Petersburg High, 3101 Johnson Road. PHS students who scored 400 or higher on their SOLs will be recognized. For more information, call 804-861-4688.

150th Commemorative Plaques Available For Buildings Still Standing

Historic building owners in the Old Towne and Downtown areas of Petersburg may be eligible for a 150th commemorative plaque. Petersburg has more documented structures damaged by Union artillery than any other locality in Virginia. It is estimated that more than 800 buildings here were hit by artillery during the nearly ten-month Siege of Petersburg, which began in June 1864. Through a generous grant by the Cameron Foundation, the National Park Service, in partnership with the City of Petersburg and the High Street Association, an effort is underway to complete the marking of Old Towne buildings that survived the war. A contemporary listing, *Report of Houses in Petersburg, Virginia, Struck by Shells During the Siege*, was produced, after the war, by occupying Union soldiers and has served as documentation for those buildings hit by artillery. Historic research has been conducted to verify buildings in Old Towne that were also standing during the campaign but not struck by artillery.



There are two bronze plaques available. One has a Union and a Confederate flag with the dates 1864-1865, while the other has crossed cannons with an artillery shell in the middle and the notation

“Struck by Union Artillery.” “These plaques will be a great way to help visitors imagine Petersburg as it was during the Siege, and it will also get residents and business owners excited about the merits of their buildings. This is another way to further display the authenticity of our unique city, says Kathleen Morgan, Preservation Planner for Petersburg. The goal is for all plaques to be installed by May 12, leading up to many 150th anniversary events. For more information, call 804-733-2312.

Community Economic Development Program – March 25

Petersburg Director of Economic Development, Vandy Jones, will give a presentation on development and business opportunities in the city at Faith and Hope Temple, 1800 E. Washington Street. To register, call 804-861-3898.

“State of the Region” & “Hometown Heroes” – March 26

The Petersburg Chamber of Commerce will present a special breakfast program on Wednesday, March 26, 7:30am to 9:30am, at the Tabernacle Community Life Center, 415 Halifax Street. Delegate Rosalyn Dance will give an overview on the 2014 General Assembly and special session. “Chamber Hometown Heroes” will also be honored. The cost is \$20 per person for Chamber members, \$25 per person for non-members. To register, call 804-733-8131 or email danielle@petersburgvachamber.com.

Petersburg Purchasing Receives National Award

The National Institute of Governmental Purchasing has recognized the City of Petersburg Purchasing Office with the Outstanding Agency Achievement Award. This Award honors QA4 accredited agencies that exemplify a solid procurement program. Congratulations to Tangela Innis, Purchasing Director and her team.



Snow Make-Up Days For Schools Announced

The Petersburg City Public School (PCPS) Board has approved a new calendar for snow make-up days. Here are the following changes to the calendar:

- 1) Spring Break, April 14 – April 21;
- 2) Memorial Day, May 26, restored, and
- 3) In exchange, effective Monday, March 31, the school day will be extended by 10 minutes, for grades K-12, until the end of the school year.

Library Events This Week

All programs are held at the William R. McKenney Central Library, 137 South Sycamore Street. For additional information, call 804-733-2387.

Thursday, March 27

6:00pm – *Tai Chi*

Friday, March 28

Noon – *Yoga*

Pathways YouthBuild

Pathways is now able to offer a high school diploma as part of its YouthBuild program. Students, ages 17-24, can apply now and earn up to \$3,000. For more information, call 804-862-1104. Pathways is located at 1200 West Washington Street.

Petersburg Farmers Market – March 29

Petersburg Farmers Market is every Saturday from 9:00am to noon (Spring hours). The Market is located under the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Bridge. For further information, call 804-733-2352.

“Ordinary Women Doing Extra Ordinary Things” – March 29

Five Petersburg women will be honored on Saturday, March 29, for their many special contributions to the community. This is the 2nd Annual “Ordinary Women Doing Extra Ordinary Things” event headed by Councilwomen Treska Wilson-Smith. There will be a play, tea and crumpets, along with the award ceremony, from 9:00am to noon at Tabernacle Community Life Center, 415 Halifax Street. Tickets are \$5 per person. For information, call 804-720-0684.



“Bishop Payne Divinity School” Dedication – March 29

A state historical marker, issued by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, honoring the Bishop Payne Divinity School will be dedicated on Saturday, March 29. The dedication and unveiling ceremony for the marker will begin at 11am at St. Stephens Episcopal Church, 228 Halifax Street. The Bishop Payne Divinity School was established in Petersburg in 1878 at the St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church Normal and Industrial School. For 71 years, the school prepared black men for the ministry.

Marker Text:

The Bishop Payne Divinity School began here in 1878 at the St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church Normal and Industrial School. For 71 years it prepared black men for the ministry in the church. Giles B. Cooke (1838-1937) headed the vocational school and helped develop the divinity school. In 1884 the school was named after the Rt. Rev. John Payne, the first bishop of Liberia. Prominent students included James Solomon Russell (1857-1935), who founded Saint Paul’s College in Lawrenceville, and George Freeman Bragg Jr. (1853-1940), who became a priest and civil rights advocate. In 1949 the school merged with the Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria.

Senator Warner To Host Fourth Annual Service Academy Day – March 29

Senator Mark R. Warner will host his fourth annual Virginia Service Academy Day on Saturday, March 29, from 10:00am to 1:00pm at the Paramount Theatre in Charlottesville. The event will offer students, parents and guidance counselors a comprehensive overview of the United States Service

Academies and their admission processes. Registration for Academy Day is available at www.warner.senate.gov. For additional information, email academy_noms@warner.senate.gov.

Virginia Organizing Project Meeting – March 29

The meeting will be held at Bland Funeral Home, 137 Harrison Street, from 6:30pm to 8:00pm. For information, call 804-943-4683 or email fgreenwood@virgina-organizing.org.

Summer Work & Health Guide (SWAHG) Expo – March 29

The SWAHG Expo for teens and their parent, guardian or coach is an opportunity to gain insight on summer jobs, job skills training, social media interaction and health/fitness programs. The Expo will be held on Saturday, March 29, 8:00am to 3:00pm, at the YMCA, 120 Madison Street. For additional information, call 804- 733-2394.

Ward 6 Meeting – March 31

Councilman David Coleman will hold a Ward 6 meeting on Monday, March 31 beginning at 6:30pm at A.P. Hill Elementary, 1450 Talley Avenue. The Director of Petersburg Area Transit will be the guest speaker. Other city officials will be in attendance to give updates and answer questions. For additional information, call the Clerk of City Council at (804) 733-2323.

Ward 1 Meetings – April 3, 4, 5

Councilwoman Treska Wilson-Smith will hold a series of Ward 1:

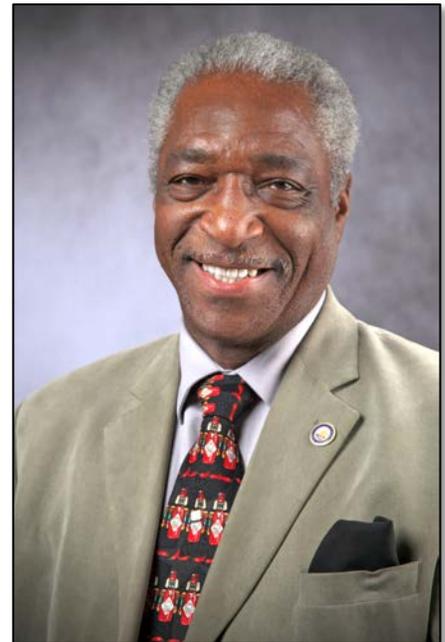
- Thursday, April 3, 6:00pm to 8:00pm - Blandford Academy, 816 East Bank Street;
- Friday, April 4, 6:00pm to 8:00pm – Pin Oaks, 3 Cypress Court, and
- Saturday, April 5, 9:00am to 11:00am – Pinetree Apartments (for Pinetree residents only).

There will be additional meetings in April. The City Manager and representatives from city departments will attend various meetings. For additional information, call (804) 720-9520.

Kiwanis “One Day” Service Event – April 5

The Kiwanis “One Day” youth service event will be held on Saturday, April 5, at Peabody Middle School from 10am to 2pm. The theme, "We like to move it, move it...Kiwanis Style", will promote youth health, wellness and exercise. Activities include:

Mini Basketball Camp;
Mini Boxing Camp;
Mini Double Dutch Camp;
Mini Football Camp;
Group Zumba Class for the adults;



Art projects, and

Project ELIMINATE, a trike/bike (participants must bring their own cycles).

Special speakers include motivational expert, Maurice Bowles and author, Lawrence Bolar (*Extricating the Saggy Pants Syndrome in America*). For additional information, call 804-861-8899 or email bossyda@aol.com.

“Week of Wonder” History Camp – REGISTER NOW

Petersburg Museums and Visitor Services is sponsoring the Second Annual “Week of Wonder” (WOW) History Camp from June 23–27 (9:00am to 3:00pm each day). Twenty Petersburg children (rising fifth and sixth graders) will spend the week learning about City’s rich and diverse history, culture and architecture.

June 23 - “VSU Farm History”

June 24 – “On the Home Front” – Explore the life and struggles of the people of Petersburg before, during, and after the Siege of Petersburg at city museums.

June 25 – “Petersburg National Battlefield: Step Back in Time”

June 26 – “Petersburg’s Role in Early History” at Peter Jones Trading Station

June 27 – “Lee Park Outdoor Classroom”

Registration forms are available at the Siege Museum, 15 West Bank Street. For additional information, contact Anne Thomas at 804-733-2402.

1781 Battle of Petersburg Reenactment Weekend – April 19 & 20

SAVE THE DATE: The City’s Museum and Visitor Services division is sponsoring the 23rd Annual Revolutionary War Reenactment of the 1781 Battle of Petersburg at historic Battersea, one of Petersburg’s premiere architectural treasures. This event will take place on Saturday, April 19 from 10:00am until 6:00pm, and on Sunday, April 20 from 10:00am until 4:00pm.

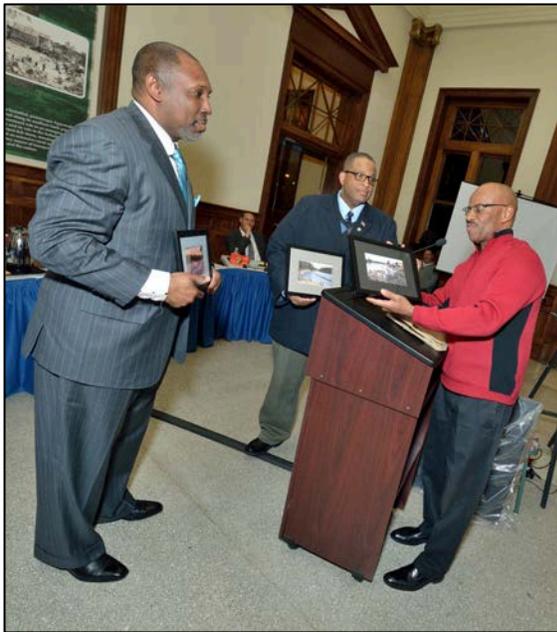
Week in Review

Petersburg City Council Meeting

Four proclamations were presented at the Petersburg City Council meeting on March 18, including special recognition of the Virginia State University Gospel Chorale. The award winning, nationally known group performed three songs for the enjoyment of a packed house at Union Station.



Proclamations were also presented to the Boys and Girls Club, the Girl Scouts and the Purchasing Department. Rev. Robert Diggs also presented the City with several historic photos of Willcox Lake.



Developers Open House

Over 100 people attended the City's first open house for developers, builders and investors on March 20. Petersburg announced the disposition of 200+ city-owned residential and commercial properties. City revitalization plans were presented, followed by a tour of city properties. For property information, call 804-908-8562 or email catinaw@catinawrighthomes.com.

Sports Tourism a “Hit” at the Petersburg Sports Complex

The Softball Nation Softball Association sponsored a Spring Opener, Girls Fast Pitch Tournament, on Saturday, March 22. More than 20 teams participated in the tournament, bringing hundreds of



visitors to Petersburg. Sports tourism is big business. National studies report that the average sports tourism visitor spends over \$200 per day while at tournaments. Upcoming events at the Petersburg Sports Complex, 100 Ballpark Road, include: The Mojo Classic Softball Tournament on March 29, The NSA Softball Tournament on April 5, and the CIAA Women’s Springs Softball Tournament on April 16,17 & 18.