THE CITY OF LYNCHBURG

The City Source

Citizens' Newsletter Produced by the City of Lynchburg

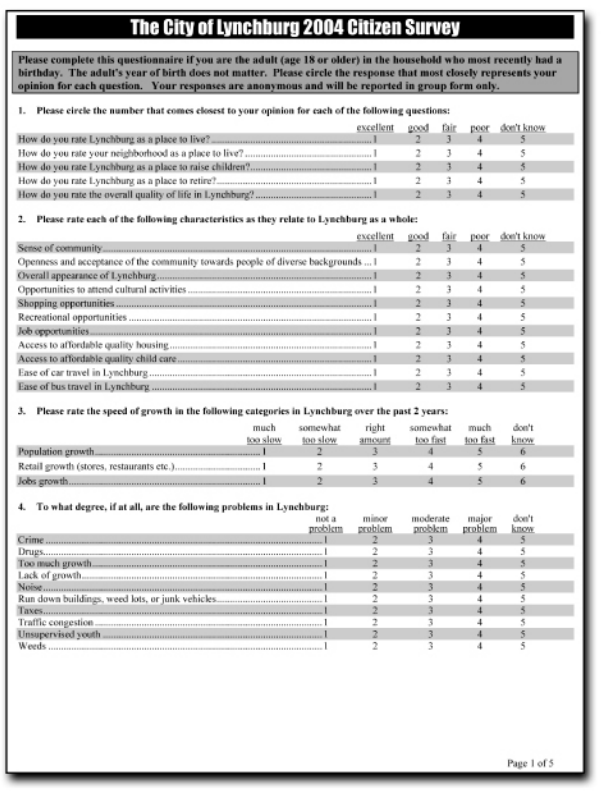
June 2004

City Conducting First Citizen Survey

By now some of you may have received a postcard letting you know that your household has been chosen to participate in the City of Lynchburg Citizen Survey. Approximately 1200 households will be asked to complete the survey.

This is the fist time that Lynchburg will conduct a citizen survey. According to Communications and Marketing Director JoAnn Martin, the results will be used in several ways.

"We expect that City Council will use the results to plan and set priorities during its annual retreat, said Martin. The responses to this statistically valid survey will also provide departments with valuable information to use as a tool to measure service performance, assess community needs, and make long-range, short-range and strategic plans. Citizens have our promise that the results won't just sit on a shelf. We're committed to using the results to improve the services we provide to citizens."



The City of Lynchburg 2004 Citizen Survey

Please complete this questionnaire if you are the adult (age 18 or older) in the household who most recently had a birthday. The adult's year of birth does not matter. Please circle the response that most closely represents your opinion for each question. Your responses are anonymous and will be reported in group form only.

1. Please circle the number that comes closest to your opinion for each of the following questions:

	excellent	good	fair	poor	don't know
How do you rate Lynchburg as a place to live?	1	2	3	4	5
How do you rate your neighborhood as a place to live?	1	2	3	4	5
How do you rate Lynchburg as a place to raise children?	1	2	3	4	5
How do you rate Lynchburg as a place to retire?	1	2	3	4	5
How do you rate the overall quality of life in Lynchburg?	1	2	3	4	5

2. Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Lynchburg as a whole:

	excellent	good	fair	poor	don't know
Sense of community	1	2	3	4	5
Openness and acceptance of the community towards people of diverse backgrounds	1	2	3	4	5
Overall appearance of Lynchburg	1	2	3	4	5
Opportunities to attend cultural activities	1	2	3	4	5
Shopping opportunities	1	2	3	4	5
Recreational opportunities	1	2	3	4	5
Job opportunities	1	2	3	4	5
Access to affordable quality housing	1	2	3	4	5
Access to affordable quality child care	1	2	3	4	5
Ease of car travel in Lynchburg	1	2	3	4	5
Ease of bus travel in Lynchburg	1	2	3	4	5

3. Please rate the speed of growth in the following categories in Lynchburg over the past 2 years:

	much too slow	somewhat too slow	right amount	somewhat too fast	much too fast	don't know
Population growth	1	2	3	4	5	6
Retail growth (stores, restaurants etc.)	1	2	3	4	5	6
Jobs growth	1	2	3	4	5	6

4. To what degree, if at all, are the following problems in Lynchburg:

	not a problem	minor problem	moderate problem	major problem	don't know
Crime	1	2	3	4	5
Drugs	1	2	3	4	5
Too much growth	1	2	3	4	5
Lack of growth	1	2	3	4	5
Noise	1	2	3	4	5
Run down buildings, weed lots, or junk vehicles	1	2	3	4	5
Taxes	1	2	3	4	5
Traffic congestion	1	2	3	4	5
Unsupervised youth	1	2	3	4	5
Weeds	1	2	3	4	5

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The National Research Center, Inc. is conducting the survey and tabulating the results. The firm has extensive experience in conducting citizen surveys for local governments.

Lynchburg is featured in Southern Living!

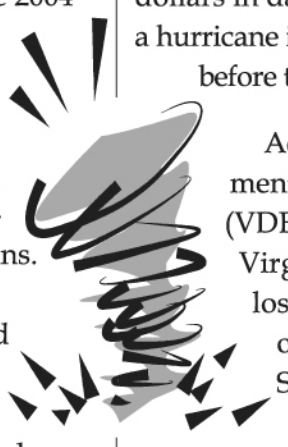
Soon everyone will understand why Lynchburg is a great place to live, work, and play. The City is featured in this month's issue of Southern Living in the Weekend Virginia section of the magazine. Southern Living's Weekend Section is a regular travel feature about interesting trips and activities that can be done in a weekend.

The feature article takes the reader through a typical June weekend in Lynchburg. The weekend starts off with Friday Cheers at the Market, followed by dinner at Meriwether's Market, and ends with a stay at the Norvell-Otey House Bed & Breakfast. Saturday morning begins with a jaunt to Percival's Island to see the annual Batteau Festival, lunch at Main Street Eatery follows and in the afternoon, it's off to Amazement Square, the Stonewall Vineyards & Winery in Concord, and a canoe excursion on the James. The day concludes with a romantic dinner at the Bull Branch Restaurant in downtown Lynchburg. A peaceful stroll through the historic Old City Cemetery is suggested for Sunday.

Pick up a copy at your local newsstand and you might even find some ideas for this weekend.

Virginians Getting Ready for 2004 Storm Season

Last September, Hurricane Isabel caused 36 deaths and approximately $1.9 billion in damage to homes, businesses, and public facilities in 100 Virginia jurisdictions. With her destruction still evident in many communities, residents are using lessons learned from Isabel to prepare for the 2004 hurricane season, which extends from June 1 through November 30.



Hurricane Isabel was one of the state's costliest disasters, causing widespread devastation and disrupting the lives of thousands of Virginians. Yet, this deadly storm was only a Category 1 hurricane when it reached Virginia. Everyone needs to be prepared for the possibility that a hurricane stronger than Isabel will make landfall in the Commonwealth.

History has shown that Gulf Coast hurricanes can cause flooding in Virginia just as easily as an East Coast hurricane. That's why it is important to stay tuned to weather reports even if it seems that a hurricane will hit the Gulf. Be prepared to evacuate, especially if you live in an area prone to flooding.

Historically, August and September are the prime hurricane season months in Virginia. However, it's possible to have a hurricane earlier in the season. In fact, in June 1972, Hurricane Agnes tore through Virginia causing 13 deaths and millions of dollars in damage. The best way to survive a hurricane is to prepare for them well before they turn up on your local news.

According to the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM), no matter where you live in Virginia, you should plan for the loss of power, telephone, water or other utilities for at least a week. Stock up now on foods that don't require refrigeration or cooking, such as canned goods, as well as bottled water, flashlights with extra batteries, a first-aid kit and battery-powered radio.

For more information about Hurricane Preparedness visit the VDEM website at **http://www.vaemergency.com/**

Lynchburg Escapes Insect Invasion

By Donald J. Davis, Lynchburg Extension Office, 434-847-1585

Reports in the media about this year's extraordinary abundance of locusts are enough to make you stay indoors. We are warned about these insects, also called periodical cicadas, crawling out of the ground by the billions and causing a major nuisance. Their omnipresent drone, made by male cicadas in search of mates, is said to be louder than a lawn mower.

Fortunately, no one in the Lynchburg area needs to worry about periodical cicadas this year. They are active in certain parts of southwestern and northern Virginia, not anywhere near Lynchburg.

Our billions of periodical cicadas are still in the soil, completing their 17-year life cycle. When the time is right, in 2013, they will emerge from the earth to fly around and create a commotion. Until then, you can enjoy hearing stories about cicadas in other parts of the state.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

National Trails Day

Saturday, June 5
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Peaksview Park

Americans across the country are lacing up their hiking boots in preparation for this year's National Trails Day—a national celebration of trails aimed at raising awareness and appreciation of these natural resources. Organized by the American Hiking Society, the 12th annual National Trails Day is expected to draw more than one million participants to nearly 2,000 trail-related events nationwide.

The City of Lynchburg's Naturalist's Office is sponsoring the National Trails Day event here in Lynchburg on Saturday, June 5, from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at Peaks View Park. A dedication ceremony for the new Mountain Bike and Hiking Trails at Peaks View Park will take place at 10:00 a.m. Day-long activities include bike tune-ups and maintenance demos, children's games, local exhibitors with displays and cool stuff to buy, live animals, skateboard demonstrations by "Skating the 7 Hills," rock wall climbing, food vendors, and much more!

6th Annual Water Quality Reports Available!

Lynchburg water utility customers have received the Sixth Annual Water Quality Report in the May water bills. Copies of the report may also be picked up at one of the following locations: Lynchburg Public Library (both locations: Plaza and Downtown), City Hall at the Information Desk and the Utilities Division's main office located at 525 Taylor Street. The Report may also viewed the report on the City's web site, www.lynchburgva.gov. The City of Lynchburg is proud of the fine drinking water it provides. The annual water quality report shows the source of our water, lists the results of our tests, and contains important information about water. We are happy to show you how we have surpassed water quality standards. Should you have any questions, please contact Leslie Gryder, Utilities, at 455-4263.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS

Waste Collection Day!

For All Lynchburg Residents

Saturday, June 12, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Waste Management Facility (Landfill) on Concord Turnpike

Other HHW Collection Dates for 2004: August 14 & October 9

PLEASE NOTE: You must bring photo identification! Bring household hazardous items in non-returnable containers! Remember, this collection does not count as your one free trip per month to the landfill.

What is a Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Day?

A household hazardous waste collection day is an opportunity for citizens to properly dispose of material which should not be put in landfills (due to their toxicity or potential for pollution of ground water).

What CAN you bring to the collection site?

Acids/Bases
Aerosols
Antifreeze
Auto starter
Brake Fluids
Batteries
Cleaners Solvents
Corrosives
Drain Openers
Flammables
Furniture Stripper
Herbicides
Kerosene
Lighter Fluids
Oven Cleaners
Oxidizers
Oil Base Paint
Pesticides
Photo Chemicals
Polishes
Pool Chemicals
Poisons
Thinners
Used Motor Oil
Weed Killers
Wood Preservatives

What NOT to bring to the collection site!

Agent Orange
Ammunition
Dioxin
Explosives
Garbage
Gas Cylinders
Kepone
Latex Paint
Liquified Asbestos
Medical Waste
Oil Tanks
Pathological Waste
55 Gallon Drums of Anything!
PCBs
PROWL
Prozine
Radioactives (i.e., smoke detectors)
Recyclables
Silvex
Stomp
TCDD

Lynchburg's Comprehensive Plan

Receives VAPA Award!

The Department of Community Planning and Development is pleased to announce that the City's "Comprehensive Plan: 2002-2020" has been awarded Honorable Mention in the 2004 Outstanding Comprehensive Plan Award category from the Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association (VAPA). VAPA presented the award in April to Judith Wiegand, Senior Planner, and Phoebe Kilby, of Sympoetica, member of the consulting team for the plan, during the American Planning Association's national conference in Washington, D.C.

Currently, implementation of the plan is now underway with the revitalization of the Downtown. In addition, preparations are being made to develop a neighborhood plan for Tyreeanna/Pleasant Valley community, as well as a plan for the Fifth Street Corridor.

For more information about Lynchburg City services, visit our web site at www.lynchburgva.gov

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