

CITY SOURCE

A Monthly Publication of the City of Lynchburg | December 2016

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Lynchburg Citizens Academy

Now Accepting Applications

The City of Lynchburg is accepting applications for its 14th Annual Lynchburg Citizens Academy. The deadline for registration is Friday, February 17, and space is limited. The Academy begins on Thursday, March 2.

Citizens Academy is a free interactive program of 12 sessions that provides an opportunity for residents to learn about City government through first-hand experience and gain exposure to the wide range of government functions, services, activities and issues. The two and a half hour sessions are held on consecutive Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

Register online at www.lynchburgva.gov/citizensacademy. For more information, call the Communications & Marketing Department at 455-3800.



Lynchburg Receives National Award

The City of Lynchburg has received Digital Cities' second place award in its population category this year. Given by the Center for Digital Government, the national award recognizes cities that use technology to improve citizen services, enhance transparency, and encourage citizen engagement.



"This year's top digital cities are using technology to ensure citizens can meaningfully interact with city government more easily than in any other time in history," said Todd Sander, Executive Director of the Center for Digital Government. "From open data portals to enhanced connectivity and mobile platforms, this year's top-ranked cities are actively promoting transparency, encouraging citizen participation and making it easier for people to do business with government."

The City of Lynchburg skyrocketed from a sixth-place ranking in 2015 to second place this year. Lynchburg's successes center on an expanded concentration on technology throughout the whole of the local government. From a fully responsive host of websites to mobile-enabled departments, to an emergency notification system, Lynchburg has upped its digital game to be more responsive, both internally and externally. A Citywide policy enables employees to bring their own devices under certain situations and restrictions.

This is important because of the City's roughly 1,250 employees only 330 City-owned smartphones have been deployed. Rather than adopt a mobile-first strategy, officials have tailored the City's mobile undertakings to better capitalize on potential implementations. This approach also reduces the costs associated with mobile application development.

One important upcoming initiative features a collaborative, shared approach to connectivity between the City, Lynchburg City Schools and Lumos Networks to create a fiber-optic municipal network. Additionally, collaboration with the state allowed for Lynchburg's public safety answering point to interface with GIS data and laid the groundwork for a next-generation 911 system.

Watch Lynchburg 360!

Be sure to watch the program, *Lynchburg 360* every month for interesting stories about people, places, and events in and around the Lynchburg area. This month's edition kicks off with a new monthly cooking segment featuring the Culinary Arts Program at Central Virginia Community College. Join Dominick Launi and his students as they show you how to prepare unique and healthy recipes that are both a delight to the senses and easy on your wallet! You can view *Lynchburg 360* on Comcast Cable Channel 15, on the City of Lynchburg's website at www.lynchburgva.gov/ltv, and on YouTube.

Top Ten Favorite Things

From the Department of Emergency Services

10. Check the DES Facebook and Twitter pages for real-time street closings, emergency notices, and departmental information.
9. Teach children how and when to call 9-1-1.
8. Know where you are so responders can be dispatched to the appropriate location.
7. Don't let children play with old/disconnected cell phones.
6. Prepare an emergency kit for your family, including pets. Check www.ready.gov for kit supplies.
5. Keep a list of utility numbers handy in case those services are interrupted (AEP, Comcast, etc.).
4. Check on elderly and disabled neighbors during extreme cold and heat.
3. Utilize Citizen's First for general information pertaining to city government, 856-CITY (856-2489).
2. Create an emergency plan for your entire family and practice emergency drills.
1. Sign up for Lynchburg Alerts Notification Program to receive critical information quickly (www.lynchburgalerts.com).

TOP 10

Avenge the Winter Blues

With Film Screenings at the Lynchburg Public Library

"Avenge" the winter blues with popcorn and superheroes! Movies will be shown in the Community Meeting Room and are free and open to the public.

- Saturday, January 14, 2:00 p.m. – *Avengers*
- Saturday, January 28, 2:00 p.m. – *Avengers: Age of Ultron*
- Saturday, February 11, 2:00 p.m. – *Captain America: Civil War*

Bring your own snacks and drinks. Films will be shown in the Community Meeting Room at the Main Library, 2315 Memorial Avenue. For more info call 455-6300.



How the City Prioritizes Snow Removal

Priority 1 Clearing of all primary streets and heaviest traffic routes.

Priority 2 Clearing of all collector streets and bus routes.

Priority 3 Plowing of all residential streets if more than two inches of snow exists. Then... City crews work around the clock to handle slick spots and other street problems. Chemicals and abrasives are used only on main routes and bridges as needed.

Helpful Tips for Snow Season

- Be prepared. Equip your vehicle in advance; chains or snow tires are required when streets are covered. Plan offstreet parking and alternate routes. Play it safe—avoid unnecessary trips.
- Be patient. Please understand that the City will attempt to clear heavy snow from more than 850 lane miles of streets as soon as possible. Please call only when necessary and be assured that your individual problem will be handled as promptly as possible.
- Be informed. Save work by shoveling driveways AFTER the City plows have passed and toss snow into your yard. Snow removed from driveways and parking lots should not be thrown into the street or onto the sidewalk. According to City Code, it is the duty of the occupant of every house or lot to have all snow removed from sidewalks or footways within four (4) hours after snow has stopped. If snow ends during the night, sidewalks or footways must be cleared by 12:00 p.m. the following day.
- Be helpful. Pool neighborhood resources. Consider helping the elderly with grocery shopping, snow shoveling, and other chores.
- Be cautious. Don't travel unless necessary and exercise extreme caution when doing so.

SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL
434-455-4450

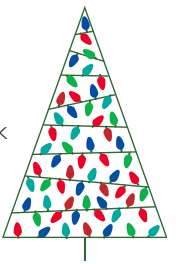
SCHOOL CLOSING INFORMATION
434-515-5080

POLICE, FIRE, OR RESCUE ASSISTANCE
9-1-1

Holiday Safety Tips

As we decorate our homes and businesses for the holidays, the Lynchburg Fire Marshal's Office would like to remind everyone of some very important safety tips.

- Make sure live trees have a fresh cut on the bottom of the trunk and are watered regularly to keep them from drying out.
- Check all lights you put on your house or trees for fraying or pinching wires or anything that doesn't look safe.
- Use lighting at the manufacturer's recommendations. Don't connect too many strands of lights to each other at one time. Make sure you use the appropriate type of lights for your project.
- Turn off all Christmas lights and blow out all candles before leaving home. Never leave them unattended.
- Extension cords are for temporary use only. Don't leave things plugged into inexpensive extension cords for extended amounts of time. If you are going to be home for the rest of the evening and want everyone to enjoy your decorations, use heavy duty extension cords.
- Don't overload outlets.

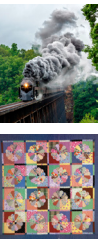


Lynchburg Museum System Holiday Schedule

Don't miss seeing these great exhibits:

- *A Great Change in the Situation of Man: Lynchburg's Railroads*
- *A Feast for the Eyes: Quilts and Textiles From Central Virginia*, closing January 2, 2017

The Lynchburg Museum and Point of Honor are open Mon.-Sat. from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 12 noon to 4:00 p.m. on Sundays—closed only on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, & New Year's Day.



Lynchburg Municipal Offices
will be **CLOSED** on
December 23 & 26 and January 2 in observance of
Christmas & New Year's Day

Monday, December 26 trash will be collected on Friday, December 30 and Monday, January 2 trash will be collected on Friday, January 6.
The Concord Turnpike Convenience Center will be closed on Saturday, December 24.

Call Citizens First Info Center at 856-CITY(2489) for more information.

Christmas Tree Collection

You may drop off your undecorated Christmas tree at any of the following locations through January 31.

- Most City Drop-off Recycling Centers (EXCEPT River Ridge Mall and Village Court Shopping Center)
- Miller Park (left side of the parking lot entering from Park Avenue)
- Riverside Park (back of tennis court parking lot)
- Peaks View Park (entering from Wiggington Road, the grassy area between the parking lot and rest rooms)

Or, if you would like us to pick it up for you, then place your undecorated tree on the curb on the following day:

- City residents with regular MONDAY or TUESDAY trash collection: Christmas Tree Collection Day is Friday, January 13.
- City residents with regular WEDNESDAY or THURSDAY trash collection: Christmas Tree Collection Day is Friday, January 20.

