

CITY SOURCE

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It's Time to Get Winter Ready

Winter Ready Your Family

The most valuable asset you have is your family, and it's critical that you have an emergency preparedness plan for them. Be sure to check and update your family's emergency supply kit before winter approaches. Include items like warm clothing and blankets, a flashlight and batteries, a first aid kit, a battery-powered radio and any medications your family needs. To find out more about what you should have in your kit go to www.lynchburgva.gov/get-kit.



Winter Ready Your Home

Here are some important tips to remember to get your home winter ready.

- If you heat with a fireplace or wood stove, have a professional check it, especially if it has been a long time since the last cleaning. Residue can build up and cause fires. Also, consider storing wood to keep you warm if winter weather knocks out your heat.
- Be safe when using generators and space heaters. Generators should not be placed indoors due to carbon monoxide poisoning. Ensure your generator is properly installed by a qualified electrician and placed outside away from air intakes. And never plug space heaters into extension cords—instead plug them into wall outlets. Keep space heaters at least three feet from other objects, and be sure to turn off the heater before going to bed.
- Avoid using candles during power outages. Many home fires in winter are caused by candles. Flashlights are much safer. Be sure to have plenty of extra batteries on hand.

Winter Ready Your Car

When you are getting ready for winter weather, don't forget your vehicle. Don't get stuck in your car when a few simple actions can get you winter ready.

- Have a mechanic check antifreeze, brakes, heater and defroster, tires, and windshield wipers to ensure they are in good shape. Keep your gas tank at least half full.
- Keep an extra emergency kit specifically created for your car. In addition to the basic essentials, consider adding a portable cell phone charger, ice scraper, extra blanket, sand for traction and jumper cables.
- Have some rock salt or more environmentally safe products on hand to melt ice on walkways, and sand helps to improve traction.

YOUR CHANCE TO WIN!

The City is giving away five fully stocked kits with a variety of supplies you can use in an emergency. Just sign up for the City's emergency notification system, Lynchburg Alerts at www.LynchburgAlerts.com between December 21 and January 11 for a chance to win. If you are already signed up, just LIKE US on Facebook for your chance to win. Note: Contest open to Lynchburg residents only.



City of Lynchburg Receives Digital Cities Award

The Center for Digital Government has announced the winners of the 2017 Digital Cities Survey and Lynchburg has placed first in its population category (75,000 – 124,999). Now in its 16th year, the annual survey recognizes cities that use technology to improve citizen services, enhance transparency, and encourage citizen engagement.



Over the years, the City of Lynchburg has consistently been recognized by the Center for Digital Government's survey, placing second in 2016 and sixth in 2015. This year, one of the advances of note is the addition of the interactive portal, "My City Services" to the City's Open Data Portal and the use of citizen engagement efforts and Geographic Information System (GIS) to support the City's "Poverty to Progress" initiative. The GIS team is partnering with the Virginia Extension Service to map areas that lack nearby grocery stores to help non-profits and churches provide food assistance to those in need.

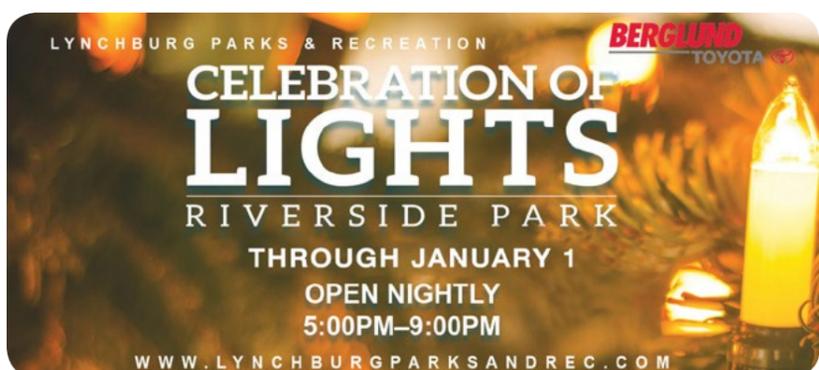
"My City Services" also enables citizens to quickly locate facilities and services available to them in their neighborhood, information about elected officials and other useful community information. Citizens can easily access this information through the City's website. Also of note was the City's extensive use of social media and its collaborative efforts among departments in using shared technologies to improve customer service.

Loose Leaf Collection Continues

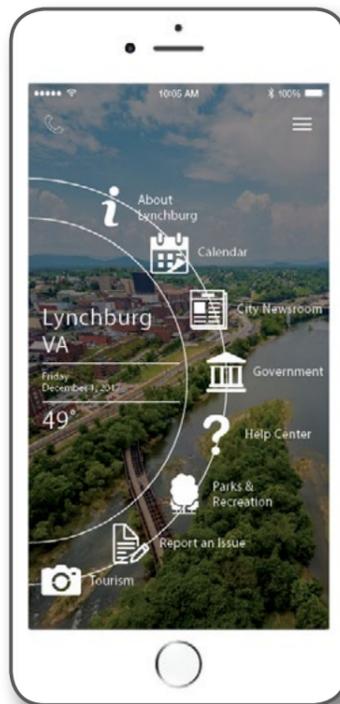
Loose leaf collection continues for all wards. Please rake leaves curbside but do not place in street. Leaf piles should be free of sticks, rocks and pine cones and puppies. City crews will vacuum leaves as promptly as possible. There is no charge for this service and **no phone call is necessary**.



Please Note: Bagged leaves may be placed at curbside for pick up during regular trash collection; however, you must use a prepaid City of Lynchburg Blue Bag.



Your City, Your App! LYNCHBURG VA



Lynchburg VA is the official app of the City of Lynchburg. Its cutting-edge, interactive and user-friendly design enables residents to have City resources at their fingertips. With features like About Lynchburg, Report an Issue, News, Calendar, Government, Parks and Recreation, Tourism and the Help Center, you'll find it easier than ever to stay connected with your City with just a few taps on your mobile device. Several other quick links include:

- Navigate to Parks and Trails
- Find Points of Interest
- Report an Issue
- Pay Your Bills
- Check Your Flight
- Plan Your Weekend
- Read Press Releases
- View City Job Openings

For all City apps, visit: www.lynchburgva.gov/apps

Lynchburg Citizens Academy

Now Accepting Applications

The City of Lynchburg is accepting applications for its 15th Annual Lynchburg Citizens Academy. The deadline for registration is Friday, February 16, and space is limited. The Academy begins on Thursday, March 1.



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/citizens-academy. For more information, call the Communications & Marketing Department at 455-3800.

Main Street Bridge Project Update

The Main Street Bridge replacement project is well underway. The bridge, built in 1954, is being demolished and a new bridge is being built in its place. The estimated time for completion of the new bridge is January 2019. The City worked with residents and area businesses to ensure continued access throughout the project.



CURRENT UPDATE

- The bridge replacement project is on schedule and within budget.
- Work completed to date includes the abandonment of the existing waterline, asbestos removal, the installation of casings for core drilling, and work on new abutments.
- Upcoming work includes completing the abutments and utility work along the ramp leading onto Rt. 29 southbound lanes.
- Demolition of the existing bridge is expected to start the week of December 18. There will be moving lane closures on the Rt. 29 Expressway, typically one lane at a time, for approximately six months.

For more information regarding this project, visit www.lynchburgva.gov/main-street-bridge-replacement.



Lynchburg Municipal Offices will be CLOSED on December 25 & 26 and January 1 in observance of Christmas and New Year's Day.

Monday, December 25 trash will be collected on Friday, December 29. Monday, January 1 trash will be collected Friday, January 5. Tuesday's collection follows the normal schedule.

The Concord Turnpike Convenience Center will be OPEN Tuesday, December 26. Call Citizens First Info Center at 856-CITY(2489) for more information.



Save the Date!

Mayor Joan Foster and Vice Mayor Treney Tweedy ask that you Save the Date to attend the annual State of the City Address, February 26, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.