



## Hurt Newsletter: Spring Quarter, 2017

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**New Council Welcomes New Year:** Your new council members are settling in, and the entire council is diligently working together to better serve citizens in the 2017-18 term. Contact information and committee appointments are posted on the town website.

**Celebrating Our Semicentennial:** Our Golden Anniversary year has arrived! With 50 years of history made and a growing sense of aspiration for the future, 2017 is an ideal time to reflect on our past, celebrate accomplishments, and gear up for a leap forward. A citizen committee was formed in January to plan and coordinate a series of events for the commemoration of our town's anniversary. Currently, the ideas being considered include: (1) a local history program in the spring recognizing our most senior citizen and exhibiting a collection of memorabilia (if you believe you are or know who the eldest citizen of town is, or if you have historical photos you would like to share for this event, please contact the town hall); (2) a "jubilee" event in the fall, featuring music, crafts, food, and fireworks; (3) December holiday events such as a tree lighting and Christmas parade. Committee members include: Kathy Keesee, Mike Hudson, Jason Lovelace, Ralph Woods, Brande' Arthur, Rainy Clay, and Dixie Poindexter (chair).

Updates will be posted periodically at: <https://townofhurtva.gov/semicentennial/>

**Our Fire Department:** At its recent annual awards dinner, the torch of leadership was passed from 16-year veteran chief Brian Dudley to Eric Colbert. Outgoing Chief Dudley was recognized for his many years of dedication. Chief Colbert will be assisted by Jason Colbert, who is serving as Deputy Chief. Congratulations to each of these men and to the entire department and their families for serving our community. When you see any of our volunteer firemen, be sure to tell them how much you appreciate all they do.

**Fire Department's Annual 5K Run/Walk:** The fire department will hold its second annual 5K on May 27. If you would like to help with or participate in this event, please contact Jason Lovelace at 434-941-5296. Be sure to support these men and women in this project. Please let our town clerk know whether you would like the Mayor to begin the runners on their way, be at the finish line to welcome them, or actually participate in the walk itself. Whichever preference gets the most votes, the Mayor plans to do!

**SRRIFA:** "Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success." Henry Ford spoke these words long ago, but they still ring true today. Over the last year, we have seriously realized the need for a regional approach to economic development. In a similar spirit to Mr. Ford's words, Hurt has been working in collaboration with Altavista, Danville, Pittsylvania County, and Samet Corporation to establish a regional partnership for this purpose, with emphasis on development of the Southern Virginia Multimodal Park (SVMP). We are delighted to announce that on February 23, officials from all member localities plan to meet at The Willows for a public ceremonial signing of a Letter Of Intent (LOI) to create the Staunton River Regional Industrial Facilities Authority (SRRIFA). This new consortium of local governments and private enterprise will have as its main function the pooling of ideas and resources to attract industrial developments that will rejuvenate the region's economy.

**Prospective Intermodal Facility at SVMP:** Efforts are ongoing toward securing an official state designation of SVMP as the site for Virginia's second inland port. Last month, we signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with other stakeholders to conduct a feasibility study -- one of the first requirements before such a project begins. Visit <https://townofhurtva.gov/edannouncements/> to read the MOU and press release.

\* \* \* \* **Spring Almanac** \* \* \* \*

Daylight Saving (Turn Clocks Up) – March 12  
 Vernal Equinox (Spring Begins) – March 20  
 Jefferson's Birthday – April 13  
 Easter – April 16  
 Tax Day – April 18  
 Earth Day – April 22  
 National Day of Prayer – May 4  
 Mother's Day – May 14  
 Memorial Day -- May 29

**Council Meeting Dates\***

March 7  
 April 4  
 May 2  
 June 6

*\*7:00 p.m., monthly on  
 first Tuesdays, unless  
 otherwise announced*

**Announcement from VA Department of Forestry**

**Burning Law In Effect February 15 -- April 30  
 No Outdoor Burning Except 4:00 P.M. to Midnight**

\* \* \* \* **Quotes** \* \* \* \*

*"In the spring, I have counted 136 kinds of weather inside of 24 hours." -- Mark Twain*

*"Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every new year find you a better man." -- Ben Franklin*

*"Associate with men of good quality if you esteem your own reputation; for it is better to be alone than in bad company." -- George Washington (in honor of Presidents' Day)*

*"Never be limited by other people's limited imaginations." -- Dr. Mae Jemison, first African-American female astronaut (in honor of Black history month)*

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