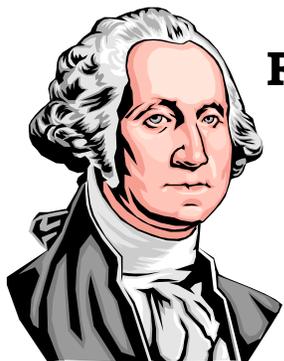


# County Connection

February 2014



Employee Scene  
Employee News  
Parks & Rec  
Technology Tips  
Winter Weather Driving Tips  
Taxes Done Free  
Birthdays



**February 17th**  
**George Washington Day**  
**Holiday**

## Employee Scene

*with David Moore (Purchasing)*



David and Patsy Lake Tahoe Heavenly Ski Resort

### *What do you enjoy most about your job?*

I have worked for Henry County for over 14 years and within those years I have found enjoyment in a number of things. One enjoyment is helping the County departments and School system with all their Bids and Request for Proposals while seeking out the best price and/or vendor to continue to grow our County and School system. In addition, I would like to think that I do a great job managing how the Tax payer's money is spent by always seeking out the competition for all products.

### *Do you have any hobbies/pastimes?*

Hobbies are my middle name! To be honest, I don't believe I can be outside too much. I love to travel, hike, bike, camp, wakeboard, snow ski and well.....anything outside!

### *What is your favorite movie that you could just watch over and over?*

The movie "Pitch Perfect" came out in 2012. I can watch that movie or certain parts of it over and over (I have it saved on my DVR). Why? Because I love music and love to sing myself. This is an amazing/funny movie where these college students literally will make music only with their mouths and sing so well! I have yet to see "Pitch Perfect 2" which came out this past November. Another great movie for music is "Rock of Ages".

See **EMPLOYEE**, page 2

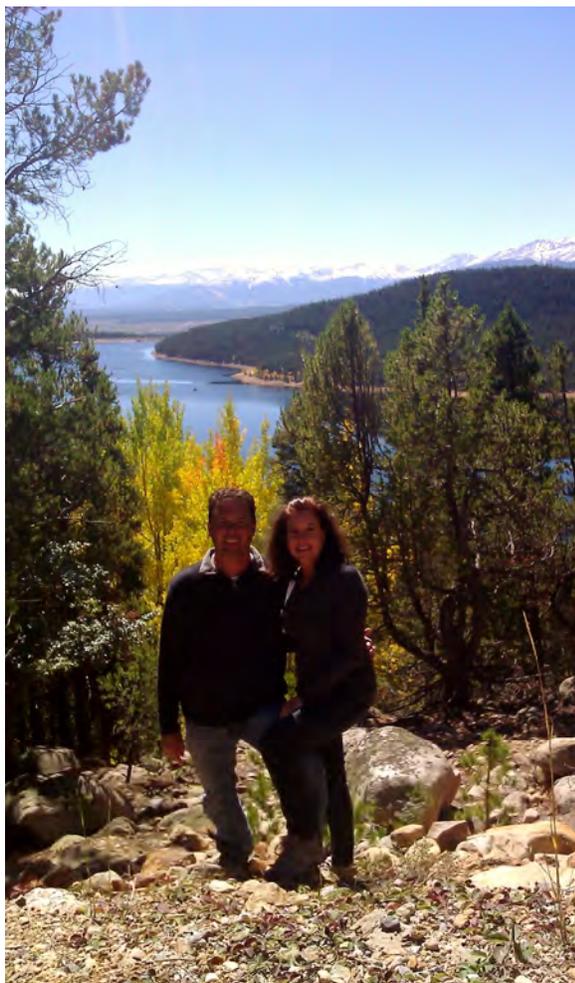
# County Connection

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## EMPLOYEE (continued from page 1)

### *Where is your favorite place to eat?*

My wife, Patsy and I love to go to Outback and eat dinner! I personally love their sirloin and lobster tail! Makes me hungry thinking about it.



David and Patsy Leadville, CO

### *What type of music do you listen to and your favorite song?*

Well as I stated already, I love music so all of it is great to me. My normal channel on the radio is Spirit FM.

### *What is your favorite season?*

As you can already tell I am an outdoors person. I love all the seasons we have. I truly believe that we live in a wonderful County/area of VA. We can go to a beautiful, hidden jewel, at Philpott Lake within 15 minutes. We can be on the Blue Ridge Parkway within 45 minutes. We can be to the east coast beaches in 4.5 hours. I can be at a ski resort within 2 hours!! We live in an area that is protected from major winter storms (which I sometimes wish we would get) etc.... because of the Appalachians Mountains. We are far enough inland that any hurricanes will be weakened before it comes our way. Imagine if you lived in Kansas or anywhere in the middle of the USA away from all those wonderful places.



David and Patsy Smokies

### *What thing about you would people be the most surprised to know?*

I love to sing. Some of you know but most don't that I have been singing in Church since I was about five years old. I still sing solos several times a year at Stone Memorial Christian Church.

# County Connection

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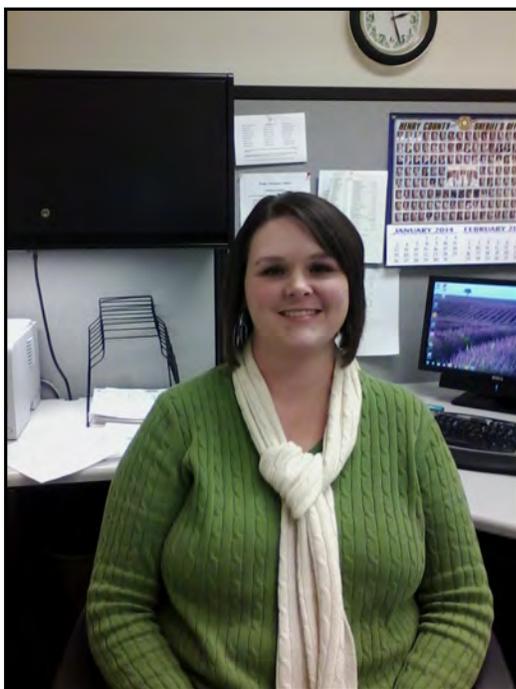
## Congratulations!



**Hannah Helbert** recently made the Conference Carolinas Presidential Honor Roll. She attends North Greenville University, Tigerville, SC. Hannah is the daughter of Randy Helbert, Sheriff's Office and Suzie Helbert, Public Safety.



**Heather Brooke Via** was named to the dean's list for the fall semester at Radford University with a 4.0 grade point average. Via's major is elementary education. She is a member of Phi Sigma Sigma sorority and was recently appointed Philanthropy Committee Head for her sorority. Heather is the daughter of Michelle Via in Administration.



## Welcome!

Henry County welcomes Jennifer Ann Surber to the Commonwealth Attorney's Office. Jennifer began work on December 30, 2013 as Clerical Assistant for the Commonwealth's Attorneys' Office and part-time Program Assistant for the Victim/Witness Program. Jennifer is a 2001 honor graduate from Bassett High School and a 2005 graduate from Patrick Henry Community College. Jennifer and her husband Travis live in Bassett with their two year old daughter, Gemma.

# County Connection

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Celebrate Valentine's Day with



## **VALENTINE'S DAY CRAFT**

Join Henry County Parks and Recreation for a Valentine's Day themed craft class. Participants will create a Valentine's Day card for that special someone. Children must be pre-registered for each class. Class is limited to 12 children. Contact Henry County Parks and Recreation at 634.4640 for registration information.

Date/Time: Wednesday, February 5<sup>th</sup> / 3:00pm - 4:00pm

Cost is \$5.

Location: Henry County Administration Building

## **VALENTINES AT HILLBILLY HIDE-A-WAY**

Join us on Saturday, February 15, 2014, as we travel to the Hillbilly Hide-a-way in Walnut Cove, NC, to enjoy a hillbilly valentine's celebration. You will feast on an all you can eat family style meal, consisting of such things as: fried chicken, meat loaf, country ham, barbeque ribs, pinto beans, potatoes, green beans, corn, slaw, baked apples, a valentine dessert, coffee and tea. After dinner, you will have an opportunity to enjoy a three hour music show of country, bluegrass and gospel music. Prior to the dinner and show, we will stop at Madison Mercantile.

PRICE INCLUDES: Roundtrip motor coach transportation, a visit to Madison Mercantile, an all you can eat meal, family style meal at Hillbilly Hide-a-way, a three hour music show and a tour host.

Time/Days: February 15, 2014

Location: Hillbilly Hide-A-Way in Walnut Cove, NC

Cost: \$69 per person

# County Connection

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## VALENTINES WITH ELVIS

Join us on Saturday, February 8, 2014, as we travel to the show "Valentines with Elvis" at the Liberty Theatre, Liberty, NC. Elvis Tribute Artist Stephen Freeman electrifies audiences with his special Valentines show. Come see the most talked about Valentines show around! Stephen will perform all your favorite Elvis ballads and of course will do Elvis Rock and Roll.

Prior to the show, the group will have dinner at K&W Cafeteria (on your own)

PRICE INCLUDES: Roundtrip motor coach transportation, ticket to "Valentines with Elvis" and a tour host.

Time/Days: February 8, 2014

Location: Liberty Theatre, Liberty, N.C.

Cost: \$79 per person

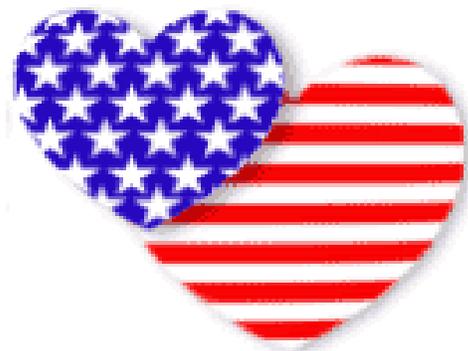
## VALENTINES FOR VETERANS

Join Henry County Parks and Recreation as we honor our military veterans with the Valentines For Vets program. We are encouraging everyone to recognize our Veterans by making a special Valentine's Day Card. The National Valentines for Vets program during the National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week (February 10-16) encourages all Americans to send a card to their local Department of Veterans Affairs Hospital.

A card is a very small gesture of appreciation for our Veterans that have fought to keep our country free and safe from enemies. Cards do not have to be fancy, veterans will appreciate a simple note of support in their cards. Please place your cards in our Valentines for Vets box located on the front desk in the Henry County Administration Building lobby or deliver your cards personally to the Henry County Parks and Recreation office. These cards will be delivered by local High School JROTC Programs to the US Veterans Hospital in Salem, VA in time for Valentine's Day. Thank you for taking the time to make a card for a veteran that has given so much for us.

Click the link below to learn how the Valentine's for Vets Program started and how it's affecting veterans across the country.

<http://www.click2houston.com/news/valentines-for-veterans/-/1735978/24122996/-/ec3vis/-/index.html>



# County Connection

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## Congratulations



Congratulations to Andy Mabe, the Henry County Parks and Recreation Programmer, for successfully completing his requirements and passing his national exam to become a Certified Parks and Recreation Professional.



# County Connection

## Technology Tips

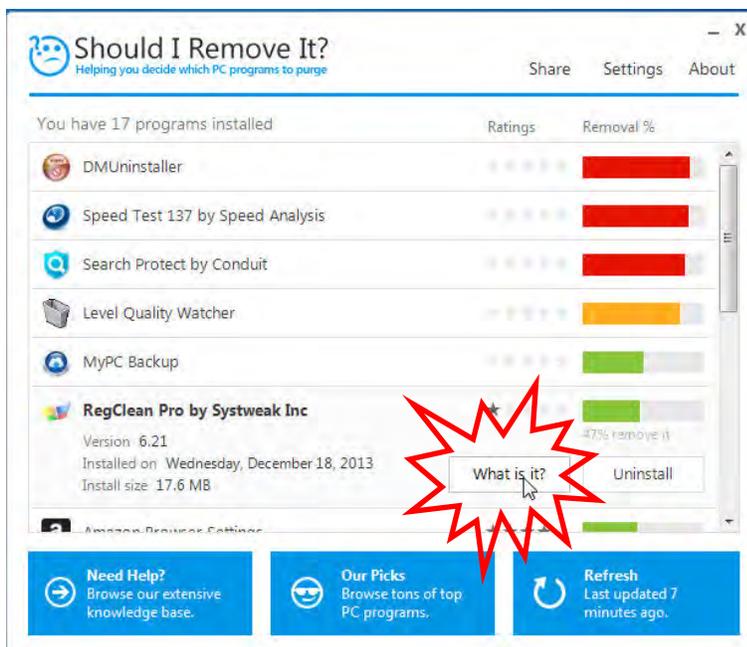
By Christian Youngblood

“My computer is so slow... it seems like it used to be much faster but I guess it has gotten old. What should I do? Do I need to replace it?” This is far and above the most common question that comes into the Technology Department. Most of us think back to when we got our new computer and how happy we were with the drastic increase in speed. So what did happen?

The answer is that you have most likely added many new pieces of software to the computer, both intentionally and otherwise. I like to think of a computer as being like an attic. If you don't clean it out some time, you are going to run out of room and never be able to find the things that you need. Additionally, you will likely find things they have no discernible use at all.

My favorite new tool for Spring Cleaning my computer is a program named “Should I Remove It?” The file may be downloaded from <http://www.shouldiremoveit.com/download.aspx> and it is free. Once you run the utility, it will list all the programs installed on your computer and give you a rating as to whether or not it should be uninstalled.

In the following example, this PC has 3 programs that are shown in red. These programs are known to be trouble and should come off right away. They cause numerous popups and slow computers to a crawl.



Click on any of the titles and see that a “What is it?” button and an “Uninstall” button will be shown below. If you are unsure what the program is, click “What is it” and you will be taken to a website that gives a description of the program and statistics on how often others have removed it. Hint: Just because a program is listed in green doesn't mean that you should keep it. If you are certain that it is not a program that you need, get rid of it!

**ShouldIRemoveIt** is one of many utilities that desktop technicians use to remove viruses, spyware, and overall junk. Be very mindful where you download software and carefully examine each step of the installation process. Many programs will automatically install extra toolbars or useless utilities in the process. The best method to make sure your computer stays clean and runs fast is to avoid installing harmful software in the first place.

# County Connection

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## Winter Weather Safe Driving Tips

By Tim Byrd

With snowflakes falling as I write this and with a certain groundhog probably getting ready to let us know that at least 6 more weeks of winter weather is on the way.....

I thought it may be appropriate to share some reminders about driving safely in winter weather conditions. Here are some guidelines to keep us safe as we deal with driving in winter weather:



### Reduce Your Speed:

- When it snows, use your head in controlling your feet! Slow down for wet, snowy, or icy conditions; when visibility is poor or when conditions are changing or unpredictable..... no matter what type of vehicle you are driving. Even an SUV with four wheel drive may not be able to stop any faster or maintain control any better if you lose traction.
- Slow down when approaching intersections, off ramps, bridges or shady spots. These are all candidates for developing black ice—that thin coating of clear ice that can form on the pavement that may be difficult to see.
- Avoid excessive actions while steering, braking or accelerating to lessen the chances of losing control of your vehicle.
- Space Out!.....Leave plenty of room between your vehicle and others. It takes more time and distance to stop your vehicle in adverse weather conditions, so use your brakes carefully. Brake early....brake correctly... and never slam on the brakes.
- No Cruising! Avoid using cruise control in winter driving conditions. You need to be in control of your speed based on the road conditions, so don't let the cruise control get you in to a bad situation.
- Remember.....Winter conditions call for different driving tactics.....Slower Speed.....Slower Acceleration.....Smooth Steering....Smooth Braking!

### Safe Travel Around Snow Plows:

- Don't crowd the plow! Snowplows need extra space because of their width and length. Plows may sometime extend over to both the shoulder of the road and over the centerline.
- Don't tailgate or stop too close behind snowplows. They are usually spreading de-icing materials from the back of the truck and those materials can damage our vehicle. Plows may also need to stop or take evasive action to avoid stranding vehicles or other obstacles in the roadway.
- On multiple lane road, watch for snowplows operating in either lane
- Snowplows will typically travel much slower than the posted speed limits while removing snow and ice from the road. Be patient and use caution when passing.
- Be aware the snowplow operator's field of vision may be restricted by his equipment which may make it difficult to see you. Just because you see them does not mean they can see you.

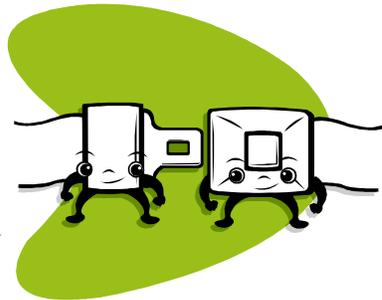


# County Connection

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## Be Prepared!

- Before leaving home, get as much information as possible about driving conditions on your route.
- Before venturing out onto snowy roadways, make sure you've cleared the snow off of all your vehicles windows and lights...including brake lights and turn signals. Make sure you can see and can be seen. Always...let me say that again...Always Buckle Up!
- Give yourself extra time to reach your destination safely. It's not worth putting yourself and others in a dangerous situation, just to be on time.
- Winter conditions can be taxing on your vehicle. Check your tires, brakes, fluids, wiper blades, lights, belts, and hoses to make sure they are in safe operating condition.



## Driving Maneuvers:

- Stopping on snow and ice without skidding requires extra time and distance. If you have anti-lock brakes, press the pedal down firmly and hold it. If you don't have anti-lock brakes, gently pump the brake pedal. Either way, give yourself that extra distance to get safely stopped.
- Accelerate gradually to prevent an unexpected loss of traction.
- Avoid "jerky" steering maneuvers and sudden directional changes which can lead to loss of vehicle control on adverse road conditions.
- Look farther ahead in traffic than you normally do...to be alert to other vehicle actions that you may need to react to.



**Safety: Think about it.....Act on it ....Benefit from it ...every day!**

# County Connection

## TAXES DONE FREE

Are you ready to get your full tax refund this year for FREE? You can if you earn 52,000 or less!

United Way of Henry County and Martinsville is proud to sponsor the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program again this year. There are several locations for your convenience.



**For more information, please call the United Way of HCM at (276) 403-5976.**

Make sure you have a valid government issued photo ID, Social Security card for yourself and all dependents, and of course don't forget your W2's or 1099s and all other tax forms you may have. Also, if you are filing a joint tax return please bring your spouse along with you. Additional requirements can be found on our website.

2014 VITA Sponsors



To schedule an appointment, call  
**(276)403-5976**

**Many Convenient Locations:**

**Grace Network**  
433 Commonwealth Blvd.  
Martinsville, VA 24112

**Stanleytown United  
Methodist Church**  
24 Maplewood Avenue  
Stanleytown, VA

**New College Institute**  
30 Franklin St  
Martinsville, VA 24112

**Commissioner of the Revenue**  
55 W Church Street  
Martinsville, VA 24112  
(276)403-5136

**2A Liberty St.  
(beside Lester  
Home Center)**  
Martinsville, VA 24112  
(276)403-5976

**WALK-IN ONLY**

Tues-Thurs: 10am-7pm  
Fri & Sat: 10am – 2pm

# County Connection

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## February Birthdays

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Valerie Harper
2 Shannon Collins	3	4 Donna Belcher Curtis Spence Brian Lawson	5	6 Sheila Hundley Sharon Harold Chris McCulloch James Foley	7 Maria Lemons	8
9	10 Richard Smith	11	12	13 Rik Keaton Jennifer Surber	14	15
16 Susan Parnell	17	18	19 Darrell Jones Greg Lowery Jeff Turton	20 Mark Tilley	21 Joe Miles Wade Nester	22
23	24 Lisa Garrett	25	26 Priscilla Spencer	27	28 Sandy Woodall	