

County Connection

February 2016



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Employee Scene

with Helen Martin (Circuit Court Clerk's Office)



Helen with son Dalton and friend Wayne

What do you enjoy most about your job?

There is always an opportunity to help someone. Luckily I have the privilege of working with some of the most hard-working ladies that all possess a servant's heart.

How did you meet your significant other?

I played matchmaker for 2 of my friends and they had the idea to introduce me to Wayne.

Where is your favorite place to eat?

Los Nortenos

See EMPLOYEE, page 2

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EMPLOYEE (continued from page 1)

Do you have any hobbies/pastimes?

I enjoy being out on the water whether it's the lake or the ocean, it doesn't matter. I also enjoy camping and being outdoors with my family and friends.

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

Steel Magnolias

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

Mostly country, my favorite song is "That's Important to Me" by Joey + Rory

What do you enjoy most about winter?

I love playing out in the snow and sledding with my son, Dalton.



Helen and son Dalton

Heroes!



Jason Gardner, Tim Pace and Bryan McAlexander

These guys were heroes to Shelia Scott on February 25th for pushing her out of a snow bank.



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EAC Brunswick Stew 2016



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Valentine's for Vets

Honor and remember our veterans who selflessly served our country with a special Valentine's Day Card. Be creative and brighten a United States veteran's day. Cards are turned in to Parks and Recreation will be delivered to the US Veterans Hospital in Salem, VA. We have a drop box set up in the lobby that you can use at your convenience.

Deadline to turn cards in is February 5th.



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TAXES DONE FREE

Are you ready to get your full tax refund this year for FREE? You can if you earn 54,000 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 and proof of health insurance 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.

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

Many Convenient Locations:

Grace Network

433 Commonwealth Blvd.
Martinsville, VA 24112

Patrick Henry Comm. College

645 Patriots Avenue
Martinsville, VA 24112

Commissioner of the Revenue

55 W Church Street
Martinsville, VA 24112
(276)403-5136

Liberty St. Walk-in Site

10 Liberty Street
Martinsville, VA 24112
(276)403-5976

WALK-IN ONLY

Tues & Weds: 9am - 5pm

Thurs: 9am - 7pm

Fri & Sat: 10am - 2pm

Sites meet accessibility needs. Tax preparation and materials are available in Spanish also!

Plus MORE!

Visit our website at

www.unitedwayofhcm.org
for a complete listing of site locations and hours of operation.

2016 VITA Sponsors



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Can't get to DMV? DMV is coming to you!

Henry County Courthouse

Thursday, Feb. 4th, 10 am to 2 pm

With the latest technology, the wireless office on wheels offers all DMV services:

- ▶ Apply for or renew your ID card – available for adults, children and veterans.
- ▶ Apply for or renew your driver's license – take road and knowledge tests; get your picture taken.
- ▶ Reinstate driving privileges.
- ▶ Get a copy of your driving record.
- ▶ Obtain vehicle titles, license plates, decals, transcripts.
- ▶ Purchase hunting and fishing licenses and temporary boat registrations.
- ▶ Apply for Virginia birth certificates.
- ▶ Obtain E-Z Pass Transponders.
- ▶ Recently moved? Stop in to update your address on your DMV record. At the same time you can update your voter registration address and organ donor status.
- ▶ Order disabled parking placards or plates.
- ▶ Request a Personal Identification Number (PIN) to set up a myDMV account.
- ▶ And more!

Bringing DMV service to **you.**

Department of  Motor Vehicles

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Technology Tips

by Christian Youngblood

Congratulations to me! My Wife and I finally took the plunge into Henry County homeownership. Unfortunately, we might have purchased the draftiest home in all the land. We've just received a preview of our upcoming electricity bill and it is not pretty. Therefore, now seems like a great opportunity to see if technology can be used to save us a few dollars by reducing our power needs.



The most common item of discussion for saving power is changing the light-bulbs, but does it really make sense? The latest and greatest lightbulbs are LED and the prices have dropped substantially in the past year. One store is listing a 6-pack for \$12.98 (\$2.16 / bulb). Replacing an incandescent bulb that burns 8-hours per day with an LED will save \$1.45 / month. Mathematically, this shows that throwing away every old bulb right now and replacing them with new ones will pay for themselves in about 2-months. The new bulbs will also last much longer.

Another great tip for reducing electricity is by reducing the cold air that is coming into the house. This Old House magazine suggests inspecting each window to ensure that it is tightly locked, installing and latching all storm windows properly, and tightening all unused fireplace dampers. Doing so will not only reduce the amount of power needed to warm your house but also make the room feel warmer. Light switches and outlets may also be the source of drafts and can be resolved by installing an insulated cover for about a dollar each.

I did get some great news from our recent snow storm when I observed that the snow stayed on our roof much longer than our neighbors. This is a sign that we have sufficient insulation in our attic that is keeping our heat inside rather than floating through the shingles. If your house melted the snow more quickly, you should investigate some of the new insulation materials that can be rolled or blown into your attic. Consumer Reports states that homeowners can save between 10 and 50 percent on their heating bill by installing proper insulation



Finally, the Nest thermostat has proven highly successful at reducing utility fees by automatically adjusting home temperature based on your daily habits. This Internet connected device will lower heat during the day when nobody is there and increase it while you drive home. Another version is available for the hot-water tank, which is another hefty-user of electricity.

It will take some initial money to purchase the items that I need to lower my utility bill, but the money will be returned in savings. It's just a matter of deciding, would we rather invest in ourselves or in AEP?

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Just to be clear.....the above is not a desired result when driving in winter conditions. And to be honest, I cannot for the life of me, figure out exactly how this happened...but I'm pretty sure someone was not following the safe driving procedures needed for driving in winter weather conditions.

Now that we have gotten our first major winter storm behind us, hopefully we remembered the basics of what is needed to keep ourselves as safe as possible when having to drive in winter weather.

Below are some important reminders about safe winter driving from our friends at VML that highlight many of the things we need to be aware of when behind the wheel during winter weather conditions.

The overriding thing to remember is that even though you may be doing "all the right things....you will encounter many other people who have no idea what "all the right things" are so make sure to drive defensively to give you the time and distance to react to their craziness and carelessness!

"Safety !.....Smart !.....Get It !.....Got It?.....Good!"

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TIPS ON WINTER DRIVING

As we enter the winter season, it is necessary for all drivers to increase their awareness of the seasonal hazards. The best strategy in bad winter weather is not to drive at all, if you can avoid it. That is not always the case so if you must drive in wintry conditions remember to alter your driving habits accordingly.

Perhaps the most significant hazard you will encounter is the driver who makes little or no adjustment for the increased hazardous conditions. Remember that a 4-wheel drive vehicle may be fine for mud, rain, or even snow, but is no better on ice than any other vehicle.

When you are driving in winter weather remember the following tips:

Winterize

- To prevent freezing and corrosion, maintain engine coolant at proper levels and change coolant as per manufacturer's recommendations.
- Worn brakes require more stopping distance and may pull left or right when stopping. Get a mechanic to check your brakes and make necessary repairs.
- Make sure the wiper blades are up to par. It's suggested that you replace your windshield wipers every six to 12 months. Keeping your wiper fluid filled up is also a plus, as fluid can assist in breaking up snow and ice on the windshield.
- Cold and constantly shifting temperatures can cause condensation to form on the walls of a gas tank that is nearly empty, eventually causing water to drip down into the gas. If water finds its way into the fuel lines it will freeze up blocking any flow of gas to the [engine](#).
- Switch to winter grade oil for easier starting.
- Have your battery checked to make sure it will provide ample power for cold weather starts.
- Make sure your tires are properly inflated and have sufficient tread. "All season" tires are better than conventional tires; snow tires are even better. Chains are very effective on snow but are little or no help on solid ice.
- Reservoir should be kept full. Antifreeze should be added to prevent freezing.
- Unless you go off-roading all year long, chances are if you own an SUV you don't use your [four-wheel drive \(4WD\)](#) during the summer. That's why it's important to make sure everything is working correctly before the winter starts.
- At a minimum, you should equip your vehicle with a flashlight, ice melt or kitty litter, cell phone and a scraper. You should also consider jumper cables, blanket, tools, a small shovel, flares or reflective markers.

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TIPS ON WINTER DRIVING

Before you begin

- Consider if the trip is necessary or can it be done later after conditions have improved?
- Make sure the wipers are in good condition and are not stuck to the windshield.
- Your headlights should be properly cleaned for nighttime visibility and to ensure that other drivers can see you both day and night.
- Remove snow and ice from the entire windshield, as well as side and rear windows. Don't forget that mirrors should be cleared of ice and readjusted after cleaning.
- Run heater/defroster while you are clearing snow or ice from windows/lights.
- Fill the fuel tank to prevent running out and to reduce moisture in the fuel lines.

When you begin

- Think only about getting there safely, not how long it will take.
- Plan on doubling or tripling your travel time.
- Avoid quick acceleration, fast turns and hard braking.
- Brake gently to avoid skidding. If your wheels start to lock up, ease off the brake. If you start to skid, turn the wheel in the direction of the skid. In other words, if your rear end starts sliding to the right, turn your wheel to the right.
- Don't tailgate when on the road. This is our advice for all driving conditions. However, in winter weather you must pay close attention to your following distance.
- Stay at least 6-10 seconds behind the vehicle in front of you. Under extremely bad conditions, even more than 10-seconds may be required.
- Visibility is a key factor during a winter storm. Turn your headlights on low beam so other drivers can see you. Never use parking lights – this can distort other driver's perception of your speed and distance.
- Ice forms more rapidly on bridges/overpasses than on roads. The warmer ground below the road surface slows down the freezing process. Often ice often forms on bridges well before snow/ice is visible on the road surfaces.
- Avoid staying close behind another vehicle when going uphill. If the vehicle ahead starts spinning its tires, you will have to slow down and may lose traction.
- Use low gears to keep traction, especially on hills.
- Don't pass snow plows and sanding trucks. The drivers have limited visibility, and you're likely to find the road in front of them worse than the road behind.

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TIPS ON WINTER DRIVING

If you become stuck

- If you are stuck, avoid spinning your tires in one spot. In a parking space, try “rocking” the car backward and forward. If you are stuck at a stoplight, the rocking technique may not be advisable - this is where a shovel, burlap bag, kitty litter, etc. may be needed.
- Do not leave your car unless you know exactly where you are, how far it is to possible help, and are certain you will improve your situation.
- To attract attention, light two flares and place one at each end of the car a safe distance away. Hang a brightly colored cloth from your antenna.
- If you are sure the car's exhaust pipe is not blocked, run the engine and heater for about 10 minutes every hour or so depending upon the amount of gas in the tank.
- To protect from frostbite and hypothermia use the woolen items and blankets to keep warm.
- Keep at least one window open slightly. Heavy snow and ice can seal a car shut.
- Eat a hard candy to keep your mouth moist.

In an ideal world no one would have to drive in anything but optimal conditions, but for some of us, this is not the case. The world and our responsibilities do not stop because of winter weather. Using these tips and some common sense can help you avoid a winter driving related accident. Remember that if you don't have time to slow down and adjust your driving, you certainly don't have time for an accident!

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February 2016 Events

- 1, 4, 8, 11, 15, 18, 22, 25, 29 - Texas Hold 'Em Tournament (Dutch Inn)
- 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23, 29 - Pool Tournament at Mtn' Jax
- 2 - Quilt Block Day at The Sewing Studio
- 2 - Genealogy 1 - Genealogy 4 (Bassett Historical Center)
- 2 - Ballroom Dancing at PHCC
- 2, 4 - Bracelet & Necklace Class (Studio 107)
- 2, 9, 16, 23 - Tuesday Trivia at Mtn' Jax
- 3, 10, 17, 24 - Fieldale Trail Ride (Fieldale Trail)
- 4 - Join Spencer Penn's Photography Club (Spencer-Penn Centre)
- 5, 12, 19, 26 - Chair Caning Class (Studio 107)
- 5, 12, 19, 26 - 9 Ball Tournament at Q-Ball Family Arcades & Billiards
- 5, 12, 19, 26 - Ride 'N Dine (Dick & Willie Trail)
- 6 - Big Buffett Breakfast at Spencer Ruritan (Spencer-Penn Centre)
- 6 - Baking with Herbs (Spencer-Penn Centre)
- 6 - SPCA Fur Ball (Chatmoss Country Club)
- 6, 13, 20, 27 - DJ & Cornhole at Mtn' Jax
- 7, 14, 21, 28 - Wine Tasting at Hamlet Vineyards
- 7, 14, 21, 28 - Mountain Bike Ride at Mountain Laurel Trails
- 9, 11 - Illusion Jewelry Class (Studio 107)
- 10 - The Art of Chocolate (Patrick Henry Community College)
- 11 - 2nd Thursday Science Talks (VMNH)
- 11 - Intro to Beaded Jewelry (Patrick Henry Community College)
- 12 - Yo Pros Masquerade Party (Piedmont Arts)
- 13 - Nail the Rail 9 Miler (D&W Rail Trail)
- 14 - Sunday Road Ride (Ridgeway Library)
- 18 - Patrick Henry Rose Society Meeting (Henry County Admin.)
- 18 - Food Safety Class - (Spencer-Penn Centre)
- 18 - Beginner Line Dance (Patrick Henry Community College)
- 18 - Line Dance Level II (Patrick Henry Community College)
- 19 - Art @ Happy Hour at Piedmont Arts
- 20 - Basket Making Class (Spencer-Penn Centre)
- 20 - 3rd Saturday Bike Ride (Bike Barn)
- 22, 23 - Art of the Month with Karen Eggleston (BRR Library)
- 23 - Reynolds Homestead: The Successful Gardener
- 24 - Freedom Now-Arts from the Civil Rights Era (NCI)
- 27 - Africa Family Day at Piedmont Arts
- 29 - Missoula Theatre Tryouts (Martinsville Middle School Auditorium)

Live Music

- 2, 9, 16, 23 - Open Mic with E.C. Hundley (Hugo's)
- 2, 9, 16, 23 - Hardee's Tuesday Morning Jamboree (Stanleytown)
- 3, 10, 17, 24 - Karaoke at Wild Magnolia
- 4, 11, 18, 25 - Open Jam at Mtn' Jax
- 5, 12, 19, 26 - Live Music at Mtn' Jax
- 6, 13, 20, 27 - Karaoke at Papa's Pizzeria
- 7, 14, 21, 28 - Billy's Flea Market Music Jamboree
- 12 - February's Music Night at Spencer-Penn Centre
- 13 - Pickers & Fiddlers Songfest (Pocahontas Bassett Baptist)



VisitMartinsville.com | 276.632.8006 | 191 Fayette St. Martinsville

County Connection

Visitor Center

Stop by the state-certified Visitor Center at 191 Fayette Street, Martinsville for maps, coupons and to see our selection of Martinsville-Henry County and Virginia is for Lovers souvenirs including t-shirts, collectible pins, totes and postcards!

Free parking and convenient access is available in the Moss Street parking lot.

Hours:

Tuesday - Saturday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. & 1-5 p.m. * and Sunday 1-5 p.m.

*When tickets for local theater productions are on sale we will remain open through the lunch hour.

Top Events Not to Miss in 2016

16 IN '16



#2 - AFRICA FAMILY DAY AT
PIEDMONT ARTS
VisitMartinsville.com

#2 - Africa Family Day at Piedmont Arts

Learn about African culture and art—from the ancient land of Mali to modern day. All ages welcome. Fun crafts and snacks provided at this event on Feb. 27.

#3 - Live Theater in MHC

Enjoy live performances throughout the year from the Patriot Players, TheatreWorks Community Players and Piedmont Arts On Stage! 2016 shows include: Southern Fried Funeral, TARZAN, Jack's Guitar, The Color Purple and Mary Poppins.

#4 - Spring NASCAR Racing

NASCAR rolls back into town for STP 500 at Martinsville Speedway on Sunday, April 3rd. The STP 500 weekend kicks off with Pole Day on Friday, April 1st with the Kroger 250 to follow on Saturday, April 2nd.

Share the Fun!

Join the conversation and share the ways that you have Fun in Record Time while visiting Martinsville-Henry County, Virginia. #VisitMartinsville



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va_museum_nh



@joannakeyser



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25% OFF 

"Virginia is for Lovers" Items

Offer valid at the MHC Visitor Center from February 1 -24, 2016

Buy One Get One FREE 

MHC Window Decals

Offer valid at the MHC Visitor Center from February 25-29, 2016

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February Birthdays

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Valerie Harper	2 Shannon Collins	3	4 Curtis Spence Brian Lawson	5 Kristen Ross	6 Shiela Hundley Sharon Harold Chris McCulloch James Foley David Wagner
7 Maria Lemons	8	9	10 Charles Curtis Richard Smith	11	12 Jessica Henson	13 Rik Keaton Jennifer Surber Jerry Brown
14	15	16 Susan Parnell	17	18 Sara Ray	19 Darrell Jones Greg Lowery	20 Mark Tilley
21 Joe Miles Wade Nester	22	23 Elmer Hale	24 Lisa Garrett	25	26 Cindy Adams	27
28	29					