



CITY CLIPS

March 2010

Recycling Dates: March 4th, 5th, 18th & 19th

www.franklinva.com

City Council

Meeting

Monday, March 8th & 22nd

7:00 p.m.

City Hall Council Chambers
207 West Second Avenue

School Board

Meeting

Thursday, March 18th

7:30 p.m.

City Hall Council Chambers
207 West Second Avenue

Planning Commission

Meeting

Thursday, March 25th

6:00 p.m.

City Hall Council Chambers
207 West Second Avenue

Smart Beginnings Western Tidewater's Parenting Tip for March – Get on the Child's Eye Level Principle – When talking with the child, get down on his/her eye level and look him in the eye while talking softly to him/her. This tip is part of an article written by Katharine C. Kersey, Ed.D. of Old Dominion University's Child Study Center. For more tips, you may log onto her website at www.dl.odu.edu/101s or the Smart Beginnings Western Tidewater website at www.smartbeginningswt.org.

Beginning April 1 & 2, 2010 the City of Franklin will begin providing recycling service through Moody's - All Virginia Environmental Solutions (AVES). This service will mirror the past services provided by SPSA with our intentions focused on improving this service. AVES will remain on the same collection schedule as before and will collect the same items as before. Those collectable items are listed on your current blue 95 gallon can. Please be vigilant when placing items in the recycling can so we can minimize the residual waste stream. The residual waste is items that cannot be recycled and hinder the collection process as well as cost extra to dispose of. Items that are recyclable are, aluminum cans, cardboard-broken down (no wax), catalogues, glass (clear, green and brown), junk mail, metal cans, newspaper, office paper and plastics 1-7.

CLEAN RIVERS DAY – Clean Rivers Day (CRD) will be held on Saturday, April 24th this year. CRD is a combined effort to clean-up our watershed. This is accomplished by teams going out on our rivers, streams and ditches and picking up trash and other junk. It is a great opportunity for groups to contribute to the health of the watershed you live in or have recreational interest in. As always, the Riverkeeper (Jeff Turner) will have litter getters and bags for those who need them. Teams or individuals can pick their own locations or the Riverkeeper can find you one. His advice is to look around at bridge crossings in your area and be scoping out a place for you or your team to go after. That way the teams are more spread out and you will be making a difference close to home. Teams can pick what time of day they want to work and how long. Teams must keep count of bag and participant totals and totals of tires collected, etc. More details will follow when you sign up. Please call the Riverkeeper at 562-5173 to sign up. This is a community event! It is a big event with big rewards and recognition for all that participate!

SPSA - All pertinent information regarding SPSA has been posted to their website at www.SPSA.com.

Effective January 20, 2010, **DMV's** new customer service phone number is 804-497-7100. Customers also have the option of visiting www.dmvNOW.com to find information, conduct transactions and ask questions.

Energy Saving Tips - The combination of frigid temperatures, over such a long period of time, causes customers to use more energy to heat their homes. As a result, their bills are higher than normal. It's difficult to predict the impact to customers' bills because of a number of factors. Bills vary because of different lifestyles, the age and capacity of heating units, condition of duct systems, size and thermal efficiency of the home, "air leaks," thermostat settings, etc. Even a two or three degree difference in the thermostat setting can have a dramatic impact on the amount of energy used.

The efficiency of a heat pump is reduced in severely cold weather, forcing the back-up heat supply to come on more often. This back-up heat could be three times more expensive than the heat pump alone. And, it's not just heating that's affected, but hot water as well. With low temperatures, the water coming into the hot water tank is colder. When the tank sits in the garage, carport or other unheated area, it takes longer to heat up the water and uses more electricity. Also, some people have a tendency to take longer, hotter showers in the winter than they do in the summer.

Steps To Reduce Energy Usage - Outdoor temperatures drive home energy usage more than any other single factor. While none of us can control the weather, we do encourage customers to take steps to reduce energy usage and lower bills as much as possible during the winter months.

- A heating system on average uses 60% of a home's energy. Keep furnace filters clean, and make sure your heating system is operating efficiently.
- If you have an electric heat pump, set the thermostat at 68 degrees or lower and "forget it." For other forms of heat, set the thermostat at 68 degrees (or lower), but if you're gone for several hours or more, set the thermostat at 55 degrees.
- Make sure your home is well insulated.
- Weather strip and caulk windows and doors to seal small cracks.
- Insulate your water heater and set the temperature as reasonably low as possible.

Your comments and suggestions are wanted and needed. Please call us with your question, concerns and ideas or fill in the form and return with your payment:

Name (optional) _____
Phone (optional) _____
Address (optional) _____
Committee/Commission: _____
Ideas/Suggestions/Comments: _____

