**CITY CLIPS**

 **AUGUST 2015**

 [www.franklinva.com](http://www.franklinva.com)

**IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:**

 **Recycling Dates –** August 13th, 14th, 27th, & 28th

 *(All meetings below are held in Council Chambers at City Hall)*

 **City Council Meetings –** August 10th & 24th

 **School Board Meeting –** August 20th

 **Planning Commission Meeting -** August 6th

# From the Commissioner of the Revenue’s Office…

# Save on qualifying items during Virginia’s 3-day sales tax holiday Aug. 7-9

Virginia shoppers get a break from local and state sales tax on qualifying back-to-school, emergency preparedness and energy efficient items during the state’s sales tax holiday, **Friday, Aug. 7 through Sunday, Aug. 9, 2015.**
New legislation enacted by the 2015 General Assembly combined Virginia’s three existing sales tax holidays into one, three-day holiday in August. Previously, the August sales tax holiday only applied to qualifying back-to-school items. For detailed information on the combined holiday, refer to the department's [Combined Sales Tax Holiday Guidelines and Rules](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTUwNzIwLjQ3MzQxOTQxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE1MDcyMC40NzM0MTk0MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE2ODY4NDAyJmVtYWlsaWQ9YnJpY2ttYW5AZnJhbmtsaW52YS5jb20mdXNlcmlkPWJyaWNrbWFuQGZyYW5rbGludmEuY29tJmZsPSZleHRyYT1NdWx0aXZhcmlhdGVJZD0mJiY=&&&100&&&http://townhall.virginia.gov/L/GetFile.cfm?File=C%3A%5CTownHall%5Cdocroot%5CGuidanceDocs%5C161%5CGDoc_TAX_5799_v1.pdf&utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=).

**Overview of Exempt Items include:**

* Qualifying school supplies - $20 or less per item
* Qualifying clothing and footwear - $100 or less per item
* Portable generators - $1,000 or less per item
* Gas-powered chainsaws - $350 or less per item
* Chainsaw accessories - $60 or less per item
* Other specified hurricane and emergency preparedness items - $60 or less per item
* Energy Star labeled dishwashers, clothes washers, air conditioners, ceiling fans,  light bulbs, dehumidifiers, and refrigerators - $2,500 or less per item purchased for noncommercial home or personal use
* WaterSense labeled bathroom sink faucets, faucet accessories such as aerators and shower heads, toilets, urinals, and landscape irrigation controllers - $2,500 or less per item purchased for noncommercial home or personal use

Notable additions to the list of qualifying items from previous years include certain computer supplies priced at $20 or less per item, such as computer storage media and printer paper, and all light bulbs affixed with the Energy Star label.
For additional information on the sales tax holiday, including detailed lists of qualifying items, visit the department’s [Sales Tax Holiday web page](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTUwNzIwLjQ3MzQxOTQxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE1MDcyMC40NzM0MTk0MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE2ODY4NDAyJmVtYWlsaWQ9YnJpY2ttYW5AZnJhbmtsaW52YS5jb20mdXNlcmlkPWJyaWNrbWFuQGZyYW5rbGludmEuY29tJmZsPSZleHRyYT1NdWx0aXZhcmlhdGVJZD0mJiY=&&&101&&&http://www.tax.virginia.gov/content/sales-tax-holiday?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=)

The Franklin Department of Public Works is hosting a

Hot Dog Cookout

to benefit the March of Dimes.

It will be held

**Friday, August 21, 2015 from 11AM till 2PM**

at the Public Works Department

1050 Pretlow Street

Cost: $5 per lunch, advance tickets available

Join us for a good cause and a good lunch!

**Fall Amnesty Week**

The City of Franklin Department of Public Works and The Department of Community Development are pleased to announce that they have declared October 5-9, 2015, as **Fall Amnesty Week.** In an effort to assist City residents in a major fall cleaning, these days are set aside by the City to allow resident owners and tenants (current city customers only) a temporary pardon to rid properties of unsightly accumulations of trash, junk and debris without cost to residents for pickup and removal.

**The following items may be placed at the curb for pickup on October 5,6, 7, 8 and 9 *ON YOUR REGULAR TRASH DAY****.*

* **Unused objects from your yard such as lawnmowers, containers, old tires, etc.**
* **Unused objects from your home such as appliances, furniture, TV’s, etc.**
* **Unused deteriorated building materials and firewood.**

Any items placed at curbside should be left in neat piles adjacent to the street. Please be mindful of obstructions when placing those items to allow for safe collection by our crews. Obstructions can be parked vehicles, power poles, overhead utility lines, mailboxes, fire hydrants, signs, trees or hedges, or any fixed object that interferes with the safe collection of the items placed at curbside.

**Caution: No demolition debris, trees over 6’’ in diameter, lot-clearing materials, paint or other hazardous materials will be collected. Limbs must be cut to ordinance lengths (4’ long) and piled neatly at curbside. Please call 757-562-8564, if you are in doubt about any items before placing them at the curb.**

**Items not available for pickup by the City, may be carried to the SPSA Transfer Station on Route 671 (General Thomas Hwy) Phone Number is 757-420-4700 ext 527.**

***For further information contact Franklin Public Works at 757-562-8564***

Fall Festival is fast approaching. Sponsorship forms and vendor applications, as well as information and on the talent show and photo contest, may be picked up in the DFA office, or you may go to our website - [www.downtownfranklinva.org](http://www.downtownfranklinva.org) and find it all there. If there are questions, please don't hesitate to call the DFA office at 562-6900.

**Monthly Topic from the Safety & Wellness Committee:**

**HEAT ILLNESS CAN BE DEADLY**. Every year, thousands of workers become sick from exposure to heat, and some even die. **Heat illnesses and deaths are preventable.** Employers are responsible for providing workplaces that are safe from excessive heat.

#### ****What is heat illness?****

The body normally cools itself by sweating. During hot weather, especially with high humidity, sweating isn't enough. Body temperature can rise to dangerous levels if precautions are not taken such as drinking water frequently and resting in the shade or air conditioning. Heat illnesses range from heat rash and heat cramps to heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Heat stroke requires **immediate medical attention** and can result in **death**.

#### ****How can heat illness be prevented?****

Employers should establish a complete heat illness prevention program to prevent heat illness. This includes: provide workers with water, rest and shade; gradually increase workloads and allow more frequent breaks for new workers or workers who have been away for a week or more to build a tolerance for working in the heat **(acclimatization)**; modify work schedules as necessary; plan for emergencies and train workers about the symptoms of heat-related illnesses and their prevention; and monitor workers for signs of illness. **Workers new to the heat or those that have been away from work and are returning can be most vulnerable to heat stress and they must be acclimatized (see box).**

To prevent heat related illness and fatalities:

* Drink water every 15 minutes, even if you are not thirsty.
* Rest in the shade to cool down.
* Wear a hat and light-colored clothing.
* Learn the signs of heat illness and what to do in an emergency.
* Keep an eye on fellow workers.
* "Easy does it" on your first days of work in the heat. You need to get used to it.

If workers are new to working in the heat or returning from more than a week off, and for all workers on the first day of a sudden heat wave, implement a work schedule to allow them to get used to the heat gradually. Working in full sunlight can increase heat index values by 15 degrees Fahrenheit. Keep this in mind and plan additional precautions for working in these conditions.

**Remember these three simple words: Water, Rest, Shade.** Taking these precautions can mean the difference between life and death.

#### ****Who is affected****?

Any worker exposed to hot and humid conditions is at risk of heat illness, especially those doing heavy work tasks or using bulky protective clothing and equipment. Some workers might be at greater risk than others if they have not built up a tolerance to hot conditions, ***including new workers, temporary workers, or those returning to work after a week or more off***. This also includes everyone during a heat wave.

Industries most affected by heat-related illness are: construction; trade, transportation and utilities; agriculture; building, grounds maintenance; landscaping services; and support activities for oil and gas operations.

