

Ring in the Holidays: Caroling, Crafts, Community

December Holiday Events

Saturday, December 10

Second Annual Scottsville Holiday Happenings

10:00 am to 8:00 pm

At the Library:

10-4 Family Holiday Winter Crafts and Stories

At Scottsville Supply Company (Bee Store)

10:00 - 4:00 participate in a variety of activities and visit Santa.

SCAN at Victory Hall Theater

10- 5 Holiday Arts Market: Artists, Designers and Crafts

At the Farmers' Market:

10 - 2:00 Crafts, Winter Produce, Food, Organizations.

2:00 Chili and Mulled Wine sales by the Chamber

At the Museum:

10 - 6:00 view their collection of antique toys

Christmas Parade:

Valley Street pre-tree lighting

Town Christmas Tree Lighting:

Canal Basin Square at dusk. Come light the tree and sing with Santa.

Thursday, December 15

3:00 **At the Library:** The Grinch a free movie for the family.

10:00 **At BF Yancey Community Center:** JABA Senior Center Christmas celebration

Saturday, December 17

At BF Yancey Community Center

10 -12:30 Food Pantry distribution

At Saint Annes' Parrish

Christmas Caroling

4:30 pm Esmont: **Meet at St. Stephen's** Esmont Road

6:00 pm Scottsville: **Meet at St. John's** Harrison&Bird

Refreshments to follow in St. John's community room.

Sunday, December 18

Celtic Evensong Service

Sunday, December 18th at 5:00 pm

With harpist Betty Ashton Mayo

St. Johns Episcopal Church: Harrison and Bird

Friday-Sunday December 16-18

At Victory Hall Theater "It's A Wonder Life Radio Show"

Friday, December 16th at 7:30

Saturday, December 17th at 7:30

Sunday, December 18th at 3:00

Online Tickets: <https://m.bpt.me/event/5654396>

Christmas is on Sunday. Check with your local churches for services.

Scottsville News

On Monday, December 12 at 7:00 the Scottsville Town Council will meet in their chambers on the second floor of Victory Hall, 401 Valley Street for their monthly work session. On the agenda is a public hearing for the rezoning/special use permit application by Echelon Resources for 205 apartments. At their regular session on November 21, a motion was made to move the public hearing from the tentatively agreed upon January 23 date to December 12. The motion passed on a 4-2 vote. Councilors Bessette, Hynes, Hyson, and Payne voted in favor. Councilors Bullock and Gritsko voted against citing that this process leads to unfavorable public policy by rushing the decision.

Historically public hearings are held during the public session on the third Monday of the month. This motion potentially shortens the time frame for Council research, discussion, and public awareness. Whether or not a vote will be taken on the 12th is not known. Council can hold a public hearing and defer the vote to a later date.

Currently, the tire plant is zoned light industrial. This zoning allows for a multitude of uses from manufacturing to an industrial park.

According to Charlie Armstrong, Vice President of Southern Development they are retaining ownership of the property and entering into a partnership with Echelon Properties. Should the apartments fail, they are already promoting the site as an Industrial Park with the ability to lease to 30 to 50 construction companies.

In a recent press release, Governor Youngkin announced his "Make Virginia Home" plan which is geared toward affordable housing. At this time, it isn't clear what this may mean for a project like the Echelon Resources proposal. It does stress the lack of housing availability across the Commonwealth.

There is a lack of industrial space as well. It appears that whatever happens with the Echelon vote, something is going to happen at the tire factory.

The James Exchange will be speaking with Edwin Gaskins of Echelon Resources. The episode will air on Wednesday, December 7th.

Links referenced in this article:

<https://thejamesriverexchange.substack.com/p/tire-plant-industrial-or-residential#details>

<https://scottsvilleindustrialpark.com/>

<https://www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/news-releases/2022/november/name-942691-en.html>

Goldmines in Buckingham

Aston Bay, a Canadian company which does exploratory drilling for gold, has been conducting core sampling in abandoned goldmines in Buckingham County. When residents became aware of the drilling, they queried the Board of Supervisors and the BOS suspended the drilling until it was determined that the company could do exploratory drilling. From this came the General Assembly's HB2213 which calls for the creation of a work group to study the issue of industrial gold-mining in Virginia. The report was due to the General Assembly on December 1st.

The bill (HB2213) provides that the work group shall evaluate the impacts of gold mining on public health, safety, and welfare..

There are two organizations in Buckingham that have been forefront on the issue of goldmining and how it does impact public health, safety, and welfare. They are the Friends of Buckingham and the Virginia Community Rights Network.

Through their work, the Board of Supervisors have been asked to pass the Community Rights Ordinance which, in essence, would protect residents from toxic trespass (primarily cyanide which is used in the extracation process). They have also lobbied for zoning ordinaces be put in place that would ban mining.

The BOS has not acted on either initiative. They have been waiting for the December 1st report from the workgroup.

The James Exchange will have more on goldmining in Buckingham County. To date, the following podcasts have been aired on the subject:

June 16: It's Magic When You Show Up
with Mindy Zlotnik and Heidi Dhivya Berthoud

August 28: There's Gold in Buckingham
with Heidi Dhivya Berthoud

October 9: There's Gold in Those Hills
with Jordan Miles

Links to explore:

<https://www.friendsofbuckinghamva.org/>
(There are several links on this website with more information and media coverage)

<https://vacommunityrights.org/projects/communities/>

<https://www.energy.virginia.gov/mineral-mining/mineralmining.shtml>

<https://energy.virginia.gov/mineral-mining/GoldMiningStudy.shtml>

<https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=212&typ=bil&val=hb2213>

Albemarle County Fall 2022 Community Read

Esmont Virginia by Andi Cumbo-Floyd

Dinner Panel Discussion

12/08/2022 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Yancey School Community Center

7625 Porters Rd

Esmont, Virginia 22937

Livestreaming is available.

Link for information:

<https://www.albemarle.org/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/3153/16?curm=12&cury=2022>

<https://www.friendsofesmont.com/esmont-history-book.html>

A Message from Anne Lindberg:

HOLIDAY BOOK DRIVE

Thanks for stopping by the Scottsville Library to take a book donation mitten!

Bring back a new, unwrapped children's book for children ages 4-6 by Wednesday Dec 14th.

All books will be donated to a local, early intervention preschool.

Many thanks, and Happy Holidays!

<https://www.jmrl.org/calendar.html>

Find Us and Subscribe!

You didn't know there is a podcast for our area and want to catch up on topics and issues covered over the past year?

Connect:

www.thejamesriverexchange.substack.com
or scan the QR code:



Who We Are

The James Exchange is a podcast based on conversations that bring issues and community happenings to light. Our first episode was on the 2021 Scottsville parade with Phyliss Johnson. To date, over 100 episodes have aired with subjects from conversations with our younger generation to elected officials.

The name was selected because the James River has been an enduring feature in our area during good times and not so good times. It is everchanging and yet a stabilizing force. This more or less defines the first year of the James Exchange. Our fomatting continues to evolve and will continue to do so.

The overall goal of this podcast is to provide a platform for the exchange of ideas, issues, and stories through conversation.

If you want an event listed here and in the printed part of the podcast, email it to:

*contact@thejamesriverexchange.com
by the 20th of the preceding month. Include name, date, location, fees, and contact information.*