

# Albemarle County Press Room

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This monthly publication is a product of the Community Relations Division of the County Executive's Office.

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## County Begins Telephone Survey of Citizens

Albemarle County will conduct a telephone survey of randomly selected residents starting next week to measure citizen satisfaction with government services and to obtain input regarding community goals and priorities. The County conducted similar surveys in 2002, 2004 and 2006. Results of the county's surveys play a key role in determining areas of emphasis for the county's strategic planning efforts. The 2008 survey, designed in consultation with the University of Virginia's Center for Survey Research (CSR), will consist of an approximately 18 minute phone call during which respondents will be asked a series of questions about their experiences with county government as well as about how satisfied they are with the county's efforts to achieve its strategic goals. [Read on...](#)

## Updated Police Department Website



The Albemarle County Police Department is pleased to announce the launch of an updated website that includes a departmental recruitment video. The site can be accessed by going through the Albemarle County website at <http://www.albemarle.org/police>. This website will provide citizens with an overview of the department and will promote our agency to a broad audience on the World Wide Web. Other benefits include a direct link to online reporting for criminal activity and general information such as press releases and wanted posters. The department video that can be found on the website is an effort to reach out and recruit candidates for open police officer positions in the agency. We believe that this website and accompanying video is a reflection of the professionalism and dedication of our employees. [Read on...](#)

## Stormwater Education Hits the Silver Screen

As part of an ongoing effort to reduce peoples' contributions to stream pollution, the Rivanna Regional Stormwater Education Partnership has gone Hollywood. The next time you arrive early for a movie, take note of the still ads that precede the trailers which precede the actual movie. You'll see three eye-catching educational ads depicting usual activities -- caring for your lawn, washing your car, and taking your pet out for a bathroom break -- being done in an unusual place: on the water surface of a river or lake. The take-home message of the ads is that -- because driveways and streets are often connected through pipes directly to streams -- whatever you do on the land ... you (effectively) do on the water. [Read on...](#)



While being good to your car, **don't be bad to the river.**

Wash your car on grass or at a carwash to keep dirty, soapy water from entering streams via storm drains.



[www.rivanna-stormwater.org](http://www.rivanna-stormwater.org)

## Back to School Safety Tips

Albemarle County would like to remind area motorists and parents of some important safety tips to protect students.



### BUS SAFETY

Motorists are reminded that state law requires vehicles to stop for school buses loading and unloading children unless the bus is across a divided highway with a median.

Drivers should also remember that children will be gathered at bus stops on the side of the road beginning Wednesday morning and should be alert to kids that may be crossing the road to reach a bus stop.

Parents should insure that children have a safe area to wait for the bus that is off the roadway and visible to oncoming traffic.

### HOME ALONE SAFETY

Teach your "home alone" children:

- to check in with you or a neighbor immediately after arriving home
- how to call 9-1-1 or your area's emergency number
- how to give directions to your home in case of emergency
- how to use the door and window locks and the alarm system if you have one
- to never let someone at the door or on the phone know that they're alone

[Click here for more school safety tips...](#)

## Reservoir Stewardship Task Force Tours Reservoir

The South Fork Reservoir Stewardship Task Force toured the reservoir by boat on Friday morning, August 22, at 7:30 a.m., led by staff from the UVA Athletic Department. The purpose of the tour is to give committee members a first hand look at the upper reaches of the reservoir and to provide an understanding of the recreational uses of the reservoir and the changes that have occurred to the reservoir during recent years. The committee members saw the reservoir in its summer-drought condition, about 2 1/2 feet below normal level. [Read on...](#)

## Well Water Users Urged to Practice Conservation Measures

Albemarle County is urging all well water users to continue using voluntary conservation measures as the abnormally dry conditions continue in our community. About 50% of the county's households are on wells, which draw on underground water reserves which flow into streams and feed drinking water reservoirs. Groundwater levels are critically low and voluntary conservation measures can have a dramatic cumulative effect in reducing demand on local water resources. [Read on...](#)

## Ken Boyd to Host Community Conversation on Proposed Darden Towe Lighting Project

Albemarle County Board of Supervisor Chairman Ken Boyd is hosting a Community Conversation on the issue of providing lights for the softball fields at Darden Towe Park on Thursday, September 11, from 7:00 pm until 9:00 pm at the Elks Lodge at 389 Elks Drive. This event is an opportunity for community members to learn more about the lighting issue and to provide their thoughts and feedback to Mr. Boyd as the Board is considering this proposal. A formal public hearing will be held by the Board on Wednesday, October 8. [Read on...](#)



Fields at Darden Towe Park

## Hollymead Station Dorm Rooms Housing Student Firefighters



Albemarle County's newest fire rescue station, Hollymead, features an innovative new approach intended to support its volunteers and help provide consistent staffing for responding to calls for service - four dormitory rooms were constructed as part of the station and those rooms are now being filled by student volunteers as the new academic year is getting underway. Volunteer live-in programs have been very successful in many parts of the country, and Hollymead is one of the first stations in central Virginia to feature this innovative element.

Under the guidelines of the live-in program, volunteers are provided free housing for the year and free meals when they are on duty for a full shift in exchange for a certain amount of hours committed to working shifts to supplement the career staff at the station. Interested volunteers must go through an application process which includes rigorous written and physical standards. Volunteers accepted into the live-in program also must successfully complete a significant amount of fire and EMS training within one year of being in the program. While construction of the dorm rooms added to the initial cost of building the station, officials expect to recoup that investment in terms of guaranteed volunteer hours provided to the station to meet response times and staff equipment during calls for service. [Read on...](#)

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