

CIVIL ENGINEERING • SURVEYING • LAND DEVELOPMENT • ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
GEOTECHNICAL • GIS • CONSTRUCTION TESTING & INSPECTION
GRANT WRITING & GRANT ADMINISTRATION

VISION

WINTER 2020

**ANITA MCMILLAN, TOWN PLANNING & ZONING DIRECTOR
TOWN OF VINTON, VIRGINIA**

Anita McMillan: A Major Lifeblood for the Town of Vinton

By Logan Smith, Contributing Writer

Anita McMillan, 57, has been a major lifeblood for the small town of Vinton for 25 years. Serving first as Town Planner and Code Enforcement Officer in 1995. Anita quickly transitioned to the new Town Planning and Zoning Director position in March 1996, where she remains today.

Every day, she ensures that the small urban community bordering Roanoke is developed in an orderly fashion and in accordance to zoning requirements and regulations, as well as multiple other duties.

“This has been an interesting position because I’ve done so much. Every day is something different,” said Anita, originally from Malaysia. “One reason I enjoy working in this job is having the opportunity to witness a project move from the conceptual phase to

actually being constructed.”

Because of Vinton’s small population of just over 8,000, planning and implementing recreational greenways are only possible through grant funding. Anita, in addition to her other duties, is responsible for applying for and receiving these grants—all to beautify the community and enhance its quality of life.

Hurt & Proffitt played a key role in many of these developments. Anita said the organization’s engineers have helped in multiple phases of the projects, from cost estimates to final finish.

“A project is never easy to implement,” she said. “But Hurt & Proffitt has always been very helpful. I’m thankful to always have their support, especially



Anita with Mayor Brad Grose and Liz Belcher, Roanoke Valley Greenway Coordinator



Kiara, Jameel, Anita & David McMillan

Mike Johnson (Project Manager, Blacksburg), because I'm not an engineer. ... I couldn't do this without the people from Hurt & Proffitt."

Anita grew up in Malaysia with nine siblings. In 1980, she received a scholarship to study in the United States, where she earned a degree in Urban Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, and later a Master of Urban and Regional Planning from Virginia Tech.

She met her husband of 32 years, David, while at Virginia Tech. The couple is blessed with two children: Jameel and Kiara—both engineers. In her free time, Anita enjoys cooking, hiking and riding bikes, gardening, and enjoying the fruits of her labor of love.

"It took some time. In 1995, Downtown Vinton was dead," said Anita, contemplating her lengthy, but rewarding career. "Sometimes things will take a long time. But to plan, implement, and see all the people walking and spending time outdoors, it makes me feel good about my effort."



Anita and her husband, David

H&P Employees Give Back Throughout The Year

Being a part of a community is important and H&P employees step up to the plate and volunteer their time in our communities each and every day of the year. Not only do they get to meet and become friends with others throughout their communities, volunteering also provides a sense of purpose and the joy of giving back makes them feel they are making a difference in others lives.



Bif Johnson, President & CEO, volunteers his time for numerous board and committees. He currently serves as President of the Central Virginia Community College Educational Foundation Board (CVCCEF). The CVCCEF works to

assist student scholarships, student emergency assistance, faculty support and equipment purchases. Mr. Johnson also currently sits on the Board for Contractors for the State of Virginia, serving as the Engineer member to the board. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce. He serves the Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance on the Training Center TAG Committee, which is focused on the redevelopment of the Central Virginia Training Center in Amherst County. He also volunteers as a Sunday School teacher and Chairman of the Pastor Advisory Team at his church. Finally, he can be found on the sidelines of his kids sporting and band activities as a volunteer or cheering squad.



Lorraine Curry, Marketing Coordinator, serves as President of Wildwood Area Recreation Association. The non-profit association not only provides recreational facilities including a pool, volleyball court and three lakes for members, but

they also provide safe and fun community events for the public including an Easter Egg Hunt, a Halloween Bicycle Glow Ride and the sale of Luminaries to light on Christmas Eve for a beautiful remembrance of Jesus' birth. Profit from the Luminary sales benefit the local garden club who beautify the Wildwood Area.



Lorraine dressed up as the Easter Bunny



Chris Nixon, Director of Environmental Services, volunteers his time for various organizations. He serves as the Amherst County High School Archery Team Coach and the Liberty University Assistant Archery Coach. He has participated in Habitat for Hu-

manity Builds in Lynchburg and assists the Amherst Habitat for Humanity fund raising efforts by putting on archery tournaments. He also assists the State of Virginia as Hazardous Materials Instructor for Department of Labor conferences.



Chris (center) with the Amherst High School Archery Team

Chris is also on the Central Virginia YoungLife Committee and Board. YoungLife is a Christian organization focused on meeting kids “where they are”, in schools and school activities. The local leaders are college students that mentor kids and have them see Jesus through compassion and fun. “Our committee provides assistance to the regional missionary, who was actually brought to Lynchburg by Charlie Hurt (one of founders of Hurt & Proffitt), 27 years ago,” said Chris. To learn more, visit <https://www.younglife.org>.

Letter From the President



BIF JOHNSON, PE

As 2020 winds down we are all anxiously awaiting 2021 with hopes and dreams that the new year will be better. While everything that happened in 2020 brought changes and challenges most of us would not want to have faced, it also brought about some positive things. Things like being able to slow down and spend more time with the ones we love. Time to reflect on the things that matter the most to us. To be reminded that life is precious and we shouldn't take time for granted. To understand that the things that divide us are few but the things that unite us are many. Years from now we will look back on 2020 as a difficult but very brief time period of our lives. But the things we have learned from our experiences during this will last a life time. Take time to reflect on the things we've learned so 2021 and beyond will be different....better!

We want to send a heartfelt wish for each of you for a Merry Christmas and a very prosperous and happy New Year.

Bif

OUR WHY



Ken Meritt, Vice President & Director of Geotechnical & Materials Testing, recently contacted Fallen Outdoors to assist in providing services to this non-profit group. Fallen Outdoor's mission is to organize outdoor adventures

for veterans past and present, from every generation and all branches of the military. Their aim is to connect Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors and Marines with like-minded individuals along with teaching them a skill and passion they can continue for a lifetime. Ken has a cabin on a mountain in Goode, Virginia and had two veterans join him for an overnight stay and a day of hunting in cooperation with Fallen Outdoors East Coast. One veteran had never hunted before and shot his first deer. The veterans thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity and were truly grateful for the experience.



Brian Cossman, Director of Business Development, has volunteered for years for Mustache for Kids (M4K) in Lynchburg. MK4 improves the quality of life for local children through individual fundraising, partnering with local

charities and businesses, and having a little bit of fun with facial hair. Local charities include The Boys and Girls Club, CASA of Central Virginia, Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Central Virginia and the Jubilee Family Development Center in Lynchburg. The group raised over \$310,000 in 2020 and over \$1,000,000 since the start for these charities.

To learn more, visit www.m4klynchburg.org.





Mike Wilson, Director of Municipal & Government Engineering, is a member of the Knights of Columbus. They support community, family, church, and Veterans. In addition,

to their main goal of supporting the mentally and physically challenged, the Knights of Columbus also:

- Provided chairs for the opening ceremony at the Field of Dreams this summer.
- Supported a diaper drive at Saint Thomas More Catholic Church.
- Collected calendars for the Veterans Home in Salem.
- Sold Christmas Cards to support seminarians.
- Held an annual Essay Contest for 8-12th grade students.

Mike is also an usher at Holy Name of Mary Catholic Church in Bedford and on Parish Council.

H&P Opens Richmond Office



H&P has recently opened an office at 804 Moorefield Park Drive, Suite 104 in Chesterfield, Virginia. “We are excited to expand H&P and have a presence in the Richmond area, said Bif Johnson, CEO/President. “We have numerous contracts with state agencies and this allows us to be closer to service them.”



Chad Hodges Passes PE Exam

Chad Hodges recently passed his PE exam. He has been at H&P for almost 14 years, and has been a great leader in getting plans out for numerous types of projects, including all sorts of utilities and site plans. He now is our liaison within the City of Lynchburg doing their

reviews of cable utility plans. Chad has become a new Professional Engineer by the unconventional (hardest) route. He got his degree at ODU, passed his EIT, and PE all while working at H&P and raising a family. He is married and has children, ages 3 and 1.

H&P's Chad Reeves Saves Two Lives



Chad Reeves, a materials tester in our Lynchburg office, also volunteers on the Red House Volunteer Fire Department as Fire Chief.

Unbeknownst to him, Chad was on his way home on Sunday, December 6 on Red House Road near Richwood Estates when he came upon a vehicle on fire with two (2) occupants trapped in the vehicle. The Appomattox Volunteer Fire Department (AVFD) crews were dispatched

but Chad was able to rescue both occupants from their vehicle saving their lives. The occupants were shaken but otherwise uninjured.

The two occupants were very thankful for Chief Reeves, the AVFD crews Engine 1 and Engine 3, the Appomattox County Rescue Squad, and Appomattox County Sheriff's Office.



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Photo Credit: Appomattox Volunteer Fire Department



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