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VISION

SUMMER 2020



AMHERST COUNTY
ACSA
SERVICE AUTHORITY

**BOB HOPKINS, DIRECTOR
AMHERST COUNTY SERVICE AUTHORITY**



Bob Hopkins: Enhancing Lives of Amherst County

By Logan Smith, Contributing Writer

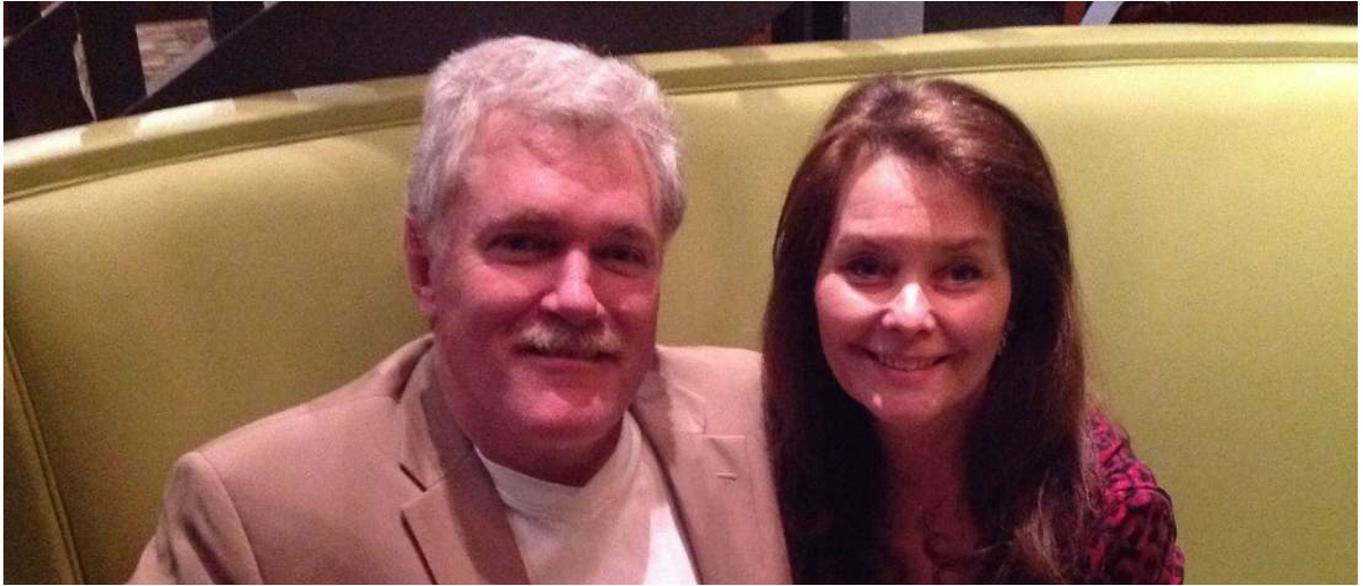
When Robert Hopkins traveled to Virginia Tech for freshman orientation, he hadn't deeply considered which course of study to pursue. He decided on civil engineering, but only because his father wanted him to become an engineer. Now, looking back, it was the best decision he ever made. Even after four decades as a professional civil engineer, he still wakes up each morning excited about going to work. It's more than a job; Hopkins sees it as a rich service opportunity to do what he loves doing, while

enhancing the lives of the public within his community.

"It's been the most fantastic career I can imagine," said Hopkins, who currently serves as Amherst County Service Authority's Director of Public Utilities. "Civil engineering has so many different facets. Almost anything you can do in the profession, I've done."

That includes working with water, wastewater, stormwater, dams, roads and highways, solid waste, reservoirs, airport work, and more, even the nuclear industry. Before

working at Amherst County Service Authority (ACSA), Hopkins worked in Kansas City, New Jersey, northern Virginia, and Louisiana, then worked at Hurt and Proffitt for a decade, where ACSA was one of his main clients. He has been licensed as a professional civil engineer in Virginia, West Virginia, Louisiana, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and the District of Columbia. In 2012, he went to work in Pennsylvania for four (4) years, before coming back to central Virginia to take the ACSA job with the retirement of the previ-



ous Director and longtime friend, Dan French.

ACSA provides public water and wastewater services to over 18,000 people in southern Amherst County. Hopkins administrates the day-to-day operations at the organization, manages a staff of 20, and provides the information the ACSA Board of Directors needs to make proper, informed decisions.

“My main job is protecting the Service Authority and its customers,” said Hopkins, 63. “I wear a lot of different hats, but if you roll them all together, that’s what the job is all about.”

While working at Hurt and Proffitt from 2002-2012, Hopkins tackled numerous projects, even managing a wastewater treatment plant rehabilitation project on an island in the middle of the Chesapeake Bay (he made numerous trips by boat to and from the island, getting seasick every time). He was also H&P’s Civil Engineering Department Head for two (2) years.

“I consider Hurt and Proffitt one of the best private consulting firm I’ve ever worked for and with,” he said. “I had the expertise to do things on my own, and Bif Johnson, CEO/President, and the board had the confidence in me to allow me to go outside my engineering comfort level and try new

things. Like other places I worked before there, they gave me the confidence and tools, and it translated into a great career.”

Hopkins has been recognized for civic accomplishments. In Louisiana, he received certificates of appreciation from the American Society of Civil Engineers and Louisiana Preservation Alliance for starting an organization to preserve Shreveport’s 1887 waterworks, getting it named by ASCE as a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark, and converting it into a museum. He started another non-profit organization to convert a 62-mile-long railroad corridor into a bike trail. He was also Chairman of the ASCE History & Heritage Committee in Shreveport, was President of ASCE’s Lynchburg Branch for 5 years, and recently again became an officer.

Hopkins is married, lives in Madison Heights, and has one daughter and three grandchildren and a stepson.

“I can’t imagine anyone having a better career than I’ve had,” he said. “For the vast majority of my career, I’ve had to tear myself away from work to go home at night. And first thing in the morning, I can’t wait to go to work.”



Wytheville's E. Main Street Gateway Project

"It's good to see a lot of new businesses coming in and opening."

"It's going to make a great initial impression for visitors to our town and community."

The above comments are just a few the Town of Wytheville has received upon completion of the East Main Street Gateway project. The corridor, from I77/I81 to 11th Street is a primary connector along this major transportation route to Wytheville's downtown parks and the Town's nationally recognized Historic District where the Town has promoted preservation and provided awareness of the Town's rich heritage.

H&P has been instrumental in the work that has resulted in dramatic aesthetic and safety improvements on the nearly one-mile section of the entrance corridor to the Town. The improvements created a pedestrian connection from the commercial develop-

ments adjacent to the interstate and the downtown businesses of Wytheville while improving aesthetics for visitors .

"Many have commented on how much safer the corridor feels now that lane alignments and turning movements have been improved," said John Woods, Public Utilities Director for the Town. "The community has really noticed the new gateway landscaping along with the new street lighting. Together it has transformed a dull drive into Town into something that is pleasant and beautiful. The project has contributed to a new commercial vitality in the area," said Woods.

The project, which converted a two-way left turn lane to a center island with isolated turn lanes, added a sidewalk with curb and gutter, improved drainage, provided heavy landscaping and lighting and dramatically improved commercial entrances, intersections and the entrance gateway, addresses multiple trans-

portation goals in the Town's comprehensive plan. The project was funded primarily through the VDOT Revenue Sharing program.

As an added value service, the H&P team was able to combine VDOT state funds and maintenance funds to allow the contractor to perform a final overlay of the entire corridor once curb and gutter improvements were in place to realize the complete gateway concept.



Letter From the President



BIF JOHNSON, PE

The last four months have been unprecedented times. How many times have we all heard that since the beginning of March? I know many who are reading this have been through some very difficult experiences related to the COVID-19 issue. Our hearts go out to those who have been affected by this virus, either directly or indirectly. Our hope and prayer is that all of this will come to an end, sooner rather than later.

I want thank all of our clients, partners, and employees who have shown remarkable resilience through all of this. Hurt & Proffitt has been blessed and fortunate to have avoided having any of our employees test positive for the virus. I have only heard of a very few of our clients and partners who have experienced a direct positive test result. This is a testament to everyone's diligence in staying safe and healthy through social distancing, hand washing, disinfecting, and wearing masks. I know not all of it has been pleasant, but it has paid off impressively. Keep up the good work and let's all continue to safe and healthy!

God bless!

Bif



Remembering Keith Adams

Whether in the lab or in the field, Keith Adams was always as eager to teach as he was to discover. He generously gave his time and expertise to public history students, encouraging their love for archaeology and for history.

Keith passed away on May 15, 2020 of a rare form of leukemia.

Born in Georgia, Keith grew up in Severna Park, Maryland and proudly served in the U.S. Air Force, stationed in Izmir, Turkey. While there, he traveled the country on local buses, exploring its heritage and culture.

He graduated from the University of Maryland-Baltimore County spending his junior year at the College Year of Athens, where he fell in love with archaeology, gaining experience at the excavations at Franchi Cave. He went on to receive his master's degree at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in geography, writing about land fragmentation and reconsolidation in Didyma, Greece, which he later published.

After studying archaeology at Boston University, he engaged in archaeological work around the

world. He performed work at Woodlands and historical sites in New England, contact period work in the Midwest, Iron Age sites in Botswana and Bronze Age in Turkey.

After moving to Lynchburg, Virginia with his wife, Deborah, he did a survey of prehistoric sites at Poplar Forest where he then became a Senior Staff Archaeologist working on historical periods. Keith also directed fieldwork at Point of Honor and more recently, worked on projects in Amherst, Fincastle and New London, in-



cluding Mead's Tavern and the Bedford Alum Springs Hotel.

He participated in archaeological projects in Botswana and in the Kaymakç, Archaeological Project and the Central Lydia Archaeological Survey in Turkey. He taught archaeology classes at Sweet Briar College and at the University of Lynchburg from the 1990's-2000's.

Keith was the Director of Hurt & Proffitt's Archaeology and Material Conservation Laboratories, where he was particularly proud of building conservation equipment and artifact photography.

Beyond archaeology, he especially loved to travel with his wife, cross-country skiing, golf, cooking and enjoying good company. We will miss Keith's knowledge of archaeology, his passion working on the projects, his expertise in our lab, and most of all, his friendship.



Staff Announcements

As H&P continues to grow, we recognize the commitment and sacrifice our employees make to the success of our company. H&P's mission has been to provide opportunities for our employees to not only succeed in their professional career but to grow personally.

Recently, Chad Hodges and Mike Bryant, both Engineers-in-Training, were promoted to Assistant Project Managers.



Chad's engineering and design experience includes sanitary sewer projects, stormwater management, erosion and sediment control, utilities and secondary roadways. He is a graduate of Old Dominion University with a B.S. in Civil Engineering and a Minor in Engineering Management.



Mike has a diversified array of experience. He not only has experience in designing a project but also under-

stands the construction management side including construction estimating, field inspections, traffic control and utility relocation coordination efforts and project administration. Mike is a graduate of Old Dominion University and Central Virginia Community College.



Brian Cossman, PE, was recently appointed to the University of Richmond's Certificate Programs Advisory Board as part of the school's Professional & Continuing Studies. He will serve on the board for the Customer Experience Certificate Program.

Brian is H&P's Director of Business Development for the Lynchburg office.



Bryan Powell, Director of GIS Services, was recently certified as a GIS Professional (GISP) through GISCI.

The GIS Certification Institute (GISCI) is a non-profit organization that promotes the advancement

of proficient GIS professionals through its international GISP® (Certified GIS Professional) certification program. The Institute fosters rigorous professional and ethical standards, community engagement, and professional mentoring within the GIS industry.



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