

County of Dinwiddie

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2018 Recognition and Excellence Awards

Behind the Scenes: Candice Townsend

The behind the scenes award is reserved for an employee who contributes consistent dedication and commitment to the job through their efforts behind the scenes.

While many of our public safety employees are visible on a regular basis, Mrs. Candice Townsend is in the background working diligently to ensure that administrative tasks of the division are complete. Not only does this happen in a timely manner; she routinely volunteers to assist with additional tasks. Candice is known for dedicating her spare time to further promote and support the mission of the Department of Public Safety. The success of the Fire & EMS tent at the County Fair, the displays at Industry Day, and the pending implementation of the Youth of Virginia Speak Out (YOVASO) program, which focuses on saving the lives of teenage drivers, are the results of her initiative, organizational skills, attention to detail, and efficiency.

Distinguished Accomplishment: Morgan Ingram

Our distinguished accomplishment award is designed to recognize a team or individual for contributions toward a notable event or achievement that is significant in scope, effort or impact on County operations, the advancement of the County's mission statement, or service to our citizens.

Although the decision for ALDI Inc. to locate their division headquarters in Dinwiddie County was announced in 2016, one of the County's most distinguished accomplishments in 2017 was the beginning of construction on this project. Without the long hours and extreme effort dedicated to this project by Mrs. Ingram, the project would not exist. She earned the trust of ALDI's corporate leadership, convincing them that Dinwiddie County was the ideal location. Morgan worked diligently and creatively through numerous challenges to ensure the project was a success. Her work on this project was so instrumental, the Governor recognized her by name during his remarks at the groundbreaking ceremony in March 2017. Thanks to effort and dedication of Mrs. Ingram, the ALDI project, upon completion, is expected to provide 145 new jobs and create an additional \$400,000 annually in tax revenue to the County.

Innovation: Charles “Jim” Frashure

The Innovation Award recognizes a team or individual for contributions toward a significant process improvement, removal of barriers or creative use of resources.

Jim Frashure has planned, created, and executed various projects over the years, but his most innovative accomplishments of 2017 are related to the opening of the Ragsdale Community Center. Toward end of the project, the audio visual vender was unable to fulfill their agreement to complete the project. This left Dinwiddie County in a difficult position with rapidly approaching deadlines. Mr. Frashure recognized the issue and was able to take on and complete what was needed. In doing so, the deadline was met and the project completed within budget. Jim consistently has his finger on the pulse of technological trends and provides a constant stream of new ideas on how to make Dinwiddie County a more technologically friendly County.

Outstanding Leadership: Dawn Titmus

The Outstanding Leadership Award recognizes an individual who demonstrates a unique ability to guide and inspire others, which in turn contributes to the efficient and effective functioning of a team or department.

Dawn Titmus has been an outstanding leader since the career EMS department was formed. The level and quality of service our EMS providers deliver on a daily basis is second-to-none. This delivery of service does not happen by chance but is the result of the training, commitment, desire, and passion that our employees possess along with strong leadership. Mrs. Titmus' exemplary character shines daily as she demonstrates honesty and integrity in all that she does. Dawn is passionate and dedicated to the EMS profession, Dinwiddie County, and her staff. This is evident as she works alongside our providers on a daily basis. Dawn fosters an environment where employees are comfortable coming to her with concerns, suggestions, and recommendations. Regardless of the difficulty of the situation, she maintains a calm demeanor while displaying confidence as a provider and as a manager. Dawn recognizes the importance of empowering others to make decisions, all the while supporting them in the background. While Dawn Titmus has been referred to as part of the “legacy crew”, because of her depth of experience, she is building a legacy through her commitment to excellence, her commitment to the citizens of the County, and her commitment as an outstanding leader for our EMS Providers.

Rookie of the Year: Heather Connelly

The Rookie of the Year award recognizes an individual who has been with the County, as a full-time employee, for one year or less. The recipient embraces the mission of the County while consistently demonstrating the core values of integrity, value-added customer service, and teamwork.

In January of 2017 Heather Connelly transitioned from a volunteer EMS provider to a full-time career provider. Through this transition, Ms. Connelly has consistently displayed a positive attitude while exhibiting the core values of the County. She has displayed growth in her skills as a paramedic, and has proven to be a great fit for our Fire and EMS department. Heather works with patients as if they were her own family members, ensuring they receive the highest level of care and respect. She routinely contacts her supervisors to determine what tasks she and her partner can complete while on shift. Heather is committed to helping Dinwiddie Fire & EMS continue to grow and progress.

Volunteerism: Charles "Trey" Lucy

The Volunteerism Award recognizes an individual whose dedication to public service extends beyond their role as a County employee. The recipient must have demonstrated a high level of volunteer service to a non-profit organization, outside of normal work hours.

On the clock, Trey Lucy dedicates his time to investigating crimes; off the clock, he is well known for his involvement throughout the County. Realizing the important role that father's play in their children's lives, Trey introduced the All Pro Dad's organization in Dinwiddie County. This organization's mission is to help fathers love and lead their families and become heroes to their children. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of Trey, All Pro Dads is present throughout the County. Investigator Lucy first introduced the program at Dinwiddie Middle School, and due to his leadership and initiative, now has established chapters at Sutherland and Dinwiddie Elementary Schools. While the true impact of Trey's leadership in the All Pro Dad's organization is only beginning to emerge; the organization's influence will likely remain with the youth involved for their entire lifetimes.

Astounding Part-timer: Clarence Thomas (Posthumously)

The Astounding Part-timer award recognizes a part-time employee who has made a significant impact.

In July of 2017, the County lost a, truly astounding employee. Clarence Thomas served as the Custodian at Eastside Enhancement Center for more than 11 years. While he was a part-time employee, the quality of his work and the impact of his contributions far exceeded part-time status. Clarence took great pride in his work and his efforts were evident to all who entered the facility. It was not uncommon for Clarence to come in after normal operating hours to ensure that, not only the interior of the facility was clean, but the exterior grounds as well. He embodied and modeled the County's three core values of integrity, value-added customer service, and teamwork on a daily basis. Clarence passed away suddenly and unexpectedly in July 2017. Visitors and staff of Eastside Enhancement Center and the County continue to miss his presence. Clarence Thomas will definitely be remembered as an astounding employee with standards to which all employees aspire.

Department of the Year: Information Technology

This award is presented to the department that embodies the County's core values and is committed, as a department, to the overall mission and vision of Dinwiddie County. Work in this department must consistently be performed with a tremendous amount of professionalism and routinely exceed expectations. Selection of the Department of the Year is at the sole discretion of the County Administrator.

Information Technology is a supporting department that impacts, either directly or indirectly, all other County departments. Each individual in the IT department clearly understands the importance of being a public servant. The department, as a whole, is dedicated, creative, frugal, prudent, extremely efficient and effective. Under the leadership of Mr. Norman Cohen, the Department of Information Technology has consistently proven that they are worthy of this recognition. As a team, they have transformed into one of the most highly performing information technology departments in the region – if not the state. Information technology is more than simply desktop computers, email, copiers, printers and systems administration. It is projects such as Laserfiche implementation, Mobile Data Terminals (MDTs) in public safety vehicles, body-worn cameras for Sheriff's deputies, Interact Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) implementation and maintenance, the Dinwiddie County Sheriff's Office e-ticketing solution, server replacements, website development, fiber projects, phone system replacement and upgrades, building security, and most recently, the development of a Countywide broadband initiative that partners with neighboring Amelia County. Dinwiddie County's Department of Information Technology consists of Norman Cohen, Jim Frashure, Jeremy Hodo, and Danny Upton. Together these four men, not only keep Dinwiddie County working and online, they are propelling all other County departments into the future; and they're doing it with integrity, teamwork and value-added customer service.