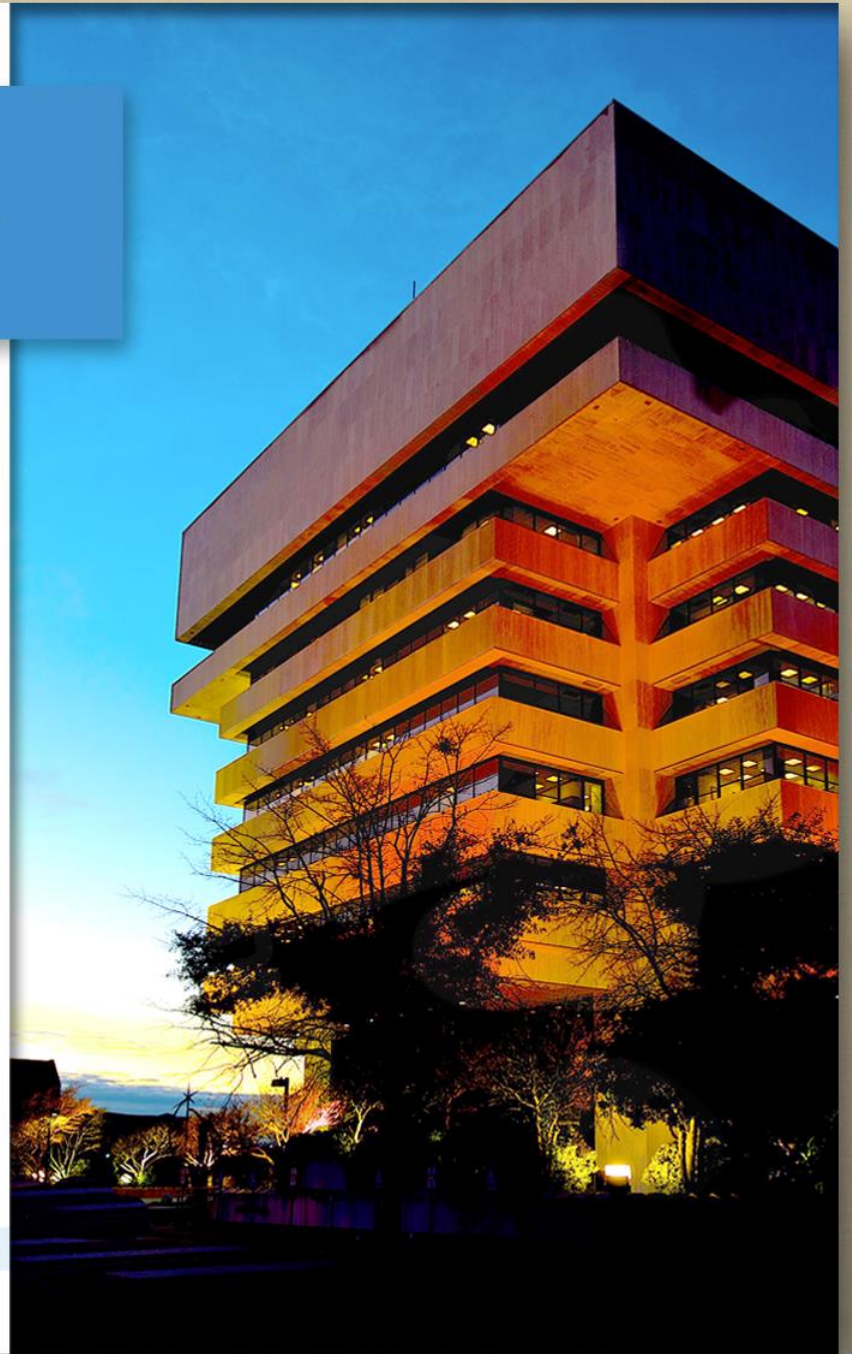


HAMPTON VA

For the Record:

**Putting the answers to
your questions in one
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WHY ARE THERE SO MANY PEOPLE PANHANDLING?

Asking for handouts is the way some people make a living. Human Services estimates that fewer than a quarter of panhandlers in the city are actually homeless.

What can the city do about panhandling? For the record, very little. Courts have ruled that asking for money is free speech, a basic Constitutional right. The city

money. It's natural to want to help the homeless, so give your money to organizations that will use it to help those truly in need.

Hampton is part of a regional consortium that has helped reduce homelessness by 35% since 2011. Hampton's Human Services has a team of people who look for homeless people, evaluate



WHAT IS HAMPTON DOING ABOUT CRIME?

More uniformed police officers patrolling the streets. Increased community outreach. Tougher prosecution. A new high-tech crime center. These are just some of the tools in use now – or planned for the near future – to combat crime in Hampton.

Any crime is too much, but for the record, Hampton's crime rate is below the region's average. The odds of someone being a victim of a violent crime in Hampton in 2016 were less than 1/3 of 1%. The property crime rate is a little higher – but under 4% and right at the regional average.

In reality, however, those odds aren't spread evenly around the city. Because much of the crime is between people engaged in illegal activities, the risk for average law-abiding residents is much lower.

Crime has risen for the past three years, as it has in much of the country. That's a big concern. Still, Hampton is still much safer than it was a decade ago. Violent crimes are down 20% compared with 2006, and property crimes are down 5%.

Read more at hampton.gov/ForTheRecord

HAMPTON VA

Website

#1 source of information about city

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Panhandling

Why are there so many people panhandling?

Asking for handouts is the way some people make a living. Human Services estimates that more than a quarter of panhandlers in the city are actually homeless. What can the city do to reduce panhandling? For the record, very little. Courts have ruled that asking for money is a basic Constitutional right. The city is putting up signs in areas frequented by panhandlers to ensure they know how to get services if they are truly homeless. What can you do to reduce panhandling? Don't reward the behavior by giving money. It's natural to want to give your money to organizations that will use it to help those truly in need. The regional consortium that has helped reduce homelessness by 35% since 2011 is the Hampton Area Homeless Services. They have a team of people who look for homeless people, evaluate their needs, and provide them with resources. They also hand out "comfort kits," which contain necessities.

Video



Video

For the Record: Mosquito spraying



FAQ

Q: How many different mosquitoes do we have in Hampton?

A: We have about 35 different species – and many of them require different types of controls. The different varieties breed in different areas:

- Artificial containers. About half of all calls are from mosquitoes, such as the Asian tiger mosquito, that breed in even small amounts of water. Residents are urged to dump even small amounts of standing water weekly to prevent breeding.
- Freshwater storm systems. Ditches are cleaned periodically to ensure the water can flow, but mosquitoes can become a mosquito habitat if water sits still.
- Salt marshes. Hampton has more than 1,700 acres of salt marsh, which produce almost half of the city's mosquitoes.
- Temporary woodland pools. Heavy and frequent rains can create pools in woodland areas, such as the large lot behind Thomas Nelson Community College.

Q: What kinds of diseases do mosquitoes carry?

A: While Zika captures the public attention, there have been no cases of "local" Zika in Hampton. However, we do see cases of Eastern equine encephalomyelitis (EEE) and heartworm.

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