

## Social Media Chat

City Manager, Mary Bunting

April 8, 2010

07:58 guest798450 hi!

08:00 guest764294 Hi!

08:01 MCorrea Testing

08:01 guest90920 Hello!

08:01 Hampton Man Hi everybody!

08:01 MCorrea Please edit your nickname. Testing

08:01 guest523616 Hi Mike!

08:02 jb Hi there and Goodmorning. Was wondering if you knew the time frame of when the new jettie at Buckroe will be finished? Thanks for putting it up.

08:02 guest90920 Can the city control the pollen? I&apos;m washing my car twice a day!

08:02 Hampton Man This is a great idea!

08:03 CityDude Hi

08:03 Chick1 Second that -- wonderful Idea!

08:04 CityDude I like the Int. Children&apos;s Festival. Is that being funded by the city ?

08:04 Mary Bunting, City Manager Good morning everyone. Thank you for joining me for our first on-line chat. I&apos;m glad to be with you and look forward to discussing issues with you. I&apos;m new at this so please forgive me if I am a little slow!!!

08:05 Mary Bunting, City Manager jb, I do not know the exact timeframe for the completion of the jetty. I am trying to find out for you as we type! Give me a few minutes.

08:05 Copper Does the city offer short or long term disability to its employees?

08:05 CityDude How about all the other festivals during the summer ?

08:06 Them Crooked Vultures I like the pollen question ... :^)

08:06 Chick1 The jetty is suppose to be completed by June 1st.

08:07 Mary Bunting, City Manager guest90920: I really don&apos;t think the City can control the pollen, although I wish we could! Many of us have allergies too. We can do many things but not that!

08:07 Them Crooked Vultures Bummer!

08:07 guest930396 Hampton animal control was a budget cost saving- now that it has been in service for a while- did we actually see a cost savings?

08:07 concerned citizen Is there a restaurant coming to the Buckroe Beach pier anytime soon?

08:07 Mary Bunting, City Manager CityDude: Yes, the City sponsors the International Children&apos;s Festival although it is really supported with the efforts of many volunteers. Glad you enjoy it! It is a great event.

08:08 CityDude Pollen Guys get a life. The city cant do anything about it.

08:16 Mary Bunting, City Manager guest815507: thanks for the feedback... we recently marked bike lanes in downtown...

08:16 jb I use both, and have talked to Hampton police about riding on the sidewalks sometimes. Have had no issues so far at all. I am all for more bike trails though, like the ones out at buckroe

08:17 Copper any closer to knowing if jobs will actually be cut due to the budget?

08:18 guest815507 I would loe to ride the sidewalks and if it is akay with the city poice department that will improve my biking.

08:19 concerned citizen 2 bad no dining options other than hot dog stands with all that money being poured in down there. Is there an ordinance against it? I might need to open one and get that money since the City is passing it up, LOL.

08:21 DD How about the boat tax? Where do you think the City will go on that issue?

08:21 guest851597 How will employees be notified if their position is cut?

08:21 guest815507 BAcK to work I go!

08:23 Mary Bunting, City Manager I am experiencing a technical issue... please bear with me.

08:23 Hampton Man wow, nice to see so many people who car!

08:23 Hampton Man care!

08:24 Mary Bunting, City Manager guest523616: I have to break up my answer because it was too long so this will come in parts

08:24 Mary Bunting, City Manager guest523616: the city budget (like all cities across the state/nation) has challenges because of the economic downturn

08:24 jb Agreed, retail at Buckroe would be AWESOME! Pizza joint, some beach shops, not to turn it into Atlantic City, but SUM would be fantastic. At least a restaurant

08:25 Mary Bunting, City Manager guest523616: that means we will have to reduce and/or eliminate some city services

08:25 Mary Bunting, City Manager guest523616: But I am optimistic that the City will recover faster than others... Peninsula Town Center is already helping us!

08:26 Mary Bunting, City Manager hampton1: Glad to know you enjoy our media services! I will look into your suggestion.

08:26 guest483967 But isn't it true that once those programs are gone the chances of them coming back is very slim?

08:26 delocke



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fxBDsr6T-AE>

08:26 Mary Bunting, City Manager Copper: The budget will be released next week. We will inform impacted employees before the release of the budget.

08:27 Mary Bunting, City Manager DD: I do plan to recommend a boat tax my budget proposal.

08:36 Mary Bunting, City Manager guest764294: I'm not sure I understand your question. Can you please elaborate?

08:36 gardenlady How about a Buy-a-Bikepath plan, where citizens could purchase so many feet of a path of their selection, with the money banked until there is enough to start construction?

08:36 MCorrea Please ask away and the City Manager will answer your questions in turn. Thanks!

08:36 tzoulia greece 4ever!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

08:36 johnmadrid ui

08:36 guest947691 can we talk about woodland skate park and how its not being taking care of?

08:36 Mary Bunting, City Manager gardenlady: great idea on the "Buy-a-Bike Path". Love your creativity!!!

We'll look into it!

08:37 Young Hamptonian why is there no real estate tax increase? assesments are down, so taxes rates should go up to offset some of the cost. we moved here because of the services and the strong neighborhood groups, not because of a lack of taxes.

08:37 Rayiot93 hey any girl wana chat

08:37 johnmadrid yes me

08:37 Mary Bunting, City Manager guest483967: I agree that our diversity programs are important. The polling data is very important but not the only factor we will consider.

08:38 Mary Bunting, City Manager guest947691: Can you please elaborate for me?

08:39 johnmadrid ei

08:39 guest947691 we have tons of kids and adults that use this park, its free and with that manner its destroyed. we need to improve it and take care of it. hire someone to watch it or something. this park means a lot to are kids in hampton

08:39 Mary Bunting, City Manager Young Hamptonian: The challenge is not all properties assessments are down. So, if we go up on the rate, some properties will pay more. In this stressed economic environment, we are trying to be sensitive to our residents' needs

08:39 Chick1 The Woodland Skate Park; just this week has been totally revamped, new surfaces, new skating elements and all existing elements have been painted and fixed. Check it out!

08:40 guest483967 In my opinion the building of a new courthouse and parking garage should not be a big priority on the city's list when there are employees who may lose their jobs. Can you tell me your opinion of that situation?

08:40 guest947691 i was there that is not revamped.

08:40 Mary Bunting, City Manager guest947691: I agree it is an asset. My kids go there a lot. Hope you will like the recent improvements!

08:40 Mary Bunting, City Manager P.S. Please forgive my spelling errors!!! I am typing too fast (and have no automatic spell-check!)

08:46 Copper why not use the idea about citizen's paying for sections of the skatepark, encourage ownership and pride

08:46 Mary Bunting, City Manager Tamibee: we have various incentive programs that we use in working with both new businesses and existing businesses to get them to expand

08:46 Poolguy Will any of the events be cut due to budget shortfalls?

08:47 Mary Bunting, City Manager Poolguy: I don't yet know if we will have to scale back on special events

08:47 guest851597 Are there plans to entice an electronics store back to Hampton?

08:48 tamibee What is the difference between the CIP funding & the Operating budget?

08:48 Hampton Man What is the result of the effort for increased community input?

08:48 Mary Bunting, City Manager guest851597: I can't comment on specific plans but we agree that there are many missing retailers in our community -- electronics is one; furniture is another (as an example)

08:49 Mary Bunting, City Manager tamibee: the operating budget is recurring annual revenue... the capital budget is one-time expenditures to build or maintain capital assets

08:49 Mary Bunting, City Manager HamptonMan: First off, let me say community input response has been AWESOME! Today we have 48 people in the chat room. Thanks!

08:50 guest851597 Are there any plans at Peninsula Center to shuttle seniors from the parking areas?

08:50 Them Crooked Vultures So ... how did Hampton fare with Google Fiber?

08:50 Mary Bunting, City Manager HamptonMan: I am sending all the input to Council each week. I am using the information to help make budget decisions. Council will use it to help evaluate my recommendations.

08:51 MCorrea Google will choose the lucky winners later this year

08:51 Poolguy When will the budget be available to the public?

08:51 MCorrea Go Hampton!!!

08:51 Mary Bunting, City Manager HamptonMan: There will not be a 100% correlation though because there are certain mandates and other fiduciary responsibilities I have to take care of

08:51 Mary Bunting, City Manager guest851597: I don't know if there are shuttle plans but I'll ask the PTC folks

08:52 Poolguy Translate please? Where is Angela Leary when I need common people speak?

08:52 Mary Bunting, City Manager ThemCrookedVultures: We don't know the status of the Google Fiber applications. We won't know until later this year.

08:52 Mary Bunting, City Manager Poolguy: The budget will be available to the public starting April 15th

08:53 Mary Bunting, City Manager Poolguy: Which question do you need "common people speak" answer to? I'll try harder.

08:54 Mary Bunting, City Manager We are up to 51 people now:)

08:54 Chris another great forum idea!

08:54 Hampton Man Can I get a copy of this?

08:54 hampton hello

09:01 hampton Hello Ms. Bunting

09:01 hampton1 will the tv service be scaled back?

09:01 regularguy Your doing an excellent job Mrs. Bunting

09:01 regularguy Your doing a great job Mrs.Bunting

09:02 Poolguy Can i just mention I love this concept and it should be something done on a regular basis. Just like chatting with you Mary.

09:02 Mary Bunting, City Manager Hampton1: Any service can be scaled back. We have not made all our final decisions yet. Tune in next week for actual answers.

09:03 hampton Can you do anything about the nighttime edging?

09:03 Young Hamptonian what about preventitive services like youth development, diversity, and community building? these "fringe" services have greater impacts then many of the immediate treatment or intervention programs.

09:03 Mary Bunting, City Manager Strategic: Yes, developing or expanding partnerships is part of the answer!

09:04 hampton1 thanks for your time

09:04 Mary Bunting, City Manager Hampton: I will look into the questions you are asking. Nighttime edging is important for safety and other considerations but I will look into the 3 hour versus day off issue.

09:04 Young Hamptonian healthy families is another great service as well

09:04 Mary Bunting, City Manager We are getting close to the end. I will answer all questions in queue but then I have to go to a budget meeting to make these final decisions...

09:05 hampton it happens alot, they do the same thing on sunday nights.

09:05 Mary Bunting, City Manager I loved this chat. We can do another one April 22nd at 4 p.m. How does that sound?

09:05 hampton thank you for all you do, your job is not an easy one.

09:05 Copper Wonderful job Mary! Keep up the great work. I enjoy you weekly memo's also!

09:05 Chris Hampton has been making great efforts in giving citizens opportunities to get involved. Thanks! Another chat would be welcome!

09:05 Mary Bunting, City Manager Young Hamptonian: I plan to preserve prevention programs as much as possible since we have documented evidence of the savings they bring in reactive services. But, everything is being examined.

09:06 tamibee Yes, another chat! I'll be back here on April 22 at 4PM!

09:06 strategic I agree Healthy Families is a great service but there are other organizations out there that are doing some of the same programs as Healthy Families that the city could partner with to reduce the funding they give to HF.

09:06 Hampton Man I will be back too Tamibee!

09:06 raegan dewitt Thank you for your time and service, Ms. Bunting. We all appreciate the work you do to make Hampton the best place to live in Hampton Roads.