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## Brush fire damages 15 acres

CHARLES CONRAD  
Times Virginian

Tuesday afternoon at around 2 p.m., the Appomattox Volunteer Fire Department was called to a large brush fire behind the property of 2374 Poorhouse Creek Road in Appomattox County.

The Pamplin Volunteer Fire Department joined the crew from Appomattox to battle the rural blaze, at which four hours were spent before the firefighters cleared the scene.

There were no injuries and no structural damage. However, an estimated 15 acres of land on several properties — both wooded and open field — were damaged.

Appomattox Fire Chief Jonathan Garrett said the

cause of the fire is currently unknown, but the Virginia Department of Forestry, which also arrived at the scene, would be conducting an investigation beginning today.

Also assisting was the Appomattox County Sheriff's Office, and the Appomattox County Rescue Squad was called to be on standby.

Garrett said that two other brush fires broke out in the county within the past week — a Tuesday morning field brush fire on Oakville Road and a small Thanksgiving Day field brush fire on Morning Star Road.

Garrett advises county residents to not conduct any outside burning and



Charles Conrad/Times Virginian

Appomattox and Pamplin Volunteer Fire Department vehicles can be seen through brush fire smoke behind the property of 2374 Poorhouse Creek Road on Tuesday afternoon.

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Jenny Deaner/  
Times Virginian

Appomattox officially kicked off the holiday season with the lighting of the Community Christmas Tree in Courtland Festival Park.



## Tree lighting event kicks off the holiday season

JENNY DEANER  
Times Virginian

Appomattox officially kicked off the holiday season with the lighting of the Community Christmas Tree on Sunday in Courtland Festival Park. The event was coordinated to immediately precede the Lighting of the Church and a live 30-foot

tree and community Christmas party at Liberty Baptist Church.

This year's Community Tree Lighting had an anticipated attendance of over two thousand people. Live music was performed by New Beginning Gospel Singers, who set the tone for the event with Christmas Carols. New Hope Baptist Church was on hand with tables

of free freshly baked cookies and steaming vats of hot chocolate.

Don Jones, with Experiencing Appomattox, invited Dr. Rusty Small to open the event with a prayer. Small thanked all of the event volunteers for their contribution to the community and his

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## Town to charge \$10/month for extra trash can

JEFFREY WESTBROOK  
Times Virginian

The Appomattox Town Council voted to update the town's garbage collection policy at its Nov. 23 workshop meeting.

Director of Public Works Jeff Elder explained to the council the background of the garbage collection policy update and the rationale behind it.

"We've been looking at what to do about rising costs of trash collection. The plan is that there will be one can for free per

household, and the second will cost \$10 per month. We can't keep giving trash cans out. Some businesses have 10-12 cans."

The increasing costs of trash collection combined with both families and businesses with extra trash cans is creating a dilemma.

"The elderly and most families have but one can; if we have to go up on taxes or other fees, why should those people pay for a few to have a second or third?" Elder queried.

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## Two Thanksgiving meal events held in county

JENNY DEANER  
Times Virginian

Two different community projects developed this year to help citizens of Appomattox and the surrounding area have a Thanksgiving meal.

ing meal.

Over the summer, Casey Vandergrift said she "felt called by the Lord to serve my community." She started Feeding Appomattox, "a community project that is designed to provide hot

meals to community members on Thanksgiving Day."

This was the project's first year, and Vandergrift said they sent out 131 meals to 37 families this year. They had 30 volunteer to deliver meals, and 18 vol-

unteered prepping meals in the morning.

Meals were for anyone who wasn't able to prepare a whole Thanksgiving meal.

"Mostly, we had individuals sign up via e-mail

and call the church," Vandergrift said. "This year, we have sent out meals to single parents, the elderly, home-bound, new parents and more."

Vandergrift worked with social services to get names

of those in need, and the food was donated by members of the community. They received so many donations that they even had to turn down food.

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Above: Casey Vandergrift/Contributed. Right: Jenny Deaner/Times Virginian

Above are volunteers for Feeding Appomattox at Memorial United Methodist Church. At right are meals being served as part of the Carver Price Center Community Day of Thanks.



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