



CITY OF COLONIAL HEIGHTS

P.O. Box 3401
COLONIAL HEIGHTS, VA 23834-9001
www.colonial-heights.com

MEDIA RELEASE

Deputy Fire Marshal J. E. Boisseau
Colonial Heights Fire and EMS
P. O. Box 3401
100-B Highland Ave
Colonial Heights, VA 23834
(O) 804-520-9376 (F) 804-520-9302 (C) 804-479-7355
boisseauj@colonial-heights.com

DROWNING

Update September 13, 2008

The rescue teams recovered a body from the Appomattox River today. The body was located just prior to 3:00 PM in the river near the I-95 overpass. The body is believed to be William Shields. The body was taken to the State Medical Examiners for a positive identification. Rescue teams have been searching the river every day in the hopes of finding the victim. The Red Cross has been providing support to the rescuers and the family while the search was being conducted.

DROWNING

Update September 10, 2008

The Colonial Heights Fire & EMS, Chesterfield Fire Department, Virginia State Police, and Virginia Game and Inland Fisheries continue today to search for the teenager William "Will" Shields in the Appomattox River. Even with a small drop in the water level, rescue divers continued today to deal with the low visibility and fast moving currents. After several hours above and below the waters surface, the victim has not been located. Efforts will be cut back tomorrow to only a few personnel and boats conducting a search of the river. Rescuers will continue tomorrow at 09:00 AM.

DROWNING

Update September 9, 2008

The Colonial Heights Fire & EMS, Chesterfield Fire Department Dive Team, joined by Virginia State Police, and Virginia Game and Inland Fisheries continue today to search for the teenager William "Will" Shields in the Appomattox River. The victim was swimming when he went under and never came back up. Chesterfield divers continued today to deal with the high water levels, low visibility, and fast moving currents because of the rain from Tropical Storm Hanna. Virginia State Police provided side sonar and Chesterfield deployed an underwater camera in the hopes of being able to locate the victim. Search and Rescue team brought in dogs to search the water's surface to locate the victim. However, all the equipment and rescue efforts could not locate the victim. Search efforts will continue tomorrow at 09:00 AM. Red Cross has continued to provide support.

DROWNING

Update September 9, 2008

The Colonial Heights Fire & EMS were dispatched to the Archer Avenue Park off Archer Avenue on September 8 at 3:58 PM for a drowning. When police and fire units arrived on scene, they got a report that a 16-year-old male was swimming in the Appomattox River when he went under and never came back up. The victim has been identified as William "Will" Shields from Colonial Heights. William Shield attended Colonial Heights High School. It appears at this time that the victim and others swimming with him were not using any floatation devices. The Appomattox River water level was high and fast moving because of the rain from Tropical Storm Hanna. Because of the river conditions and lack of natural light rescue effort have been suspended last night. Colonial Heights and Chesterfield Fire Department Dive Rescue Team will be back at the site at 09:00 AM to resume the search. Red Cross has come to the scene to provide food and drinks to the emergency responders and the family.

DROWNING

The Colonial Heights Fire & EMS were dispatched to the Archer Avenue Park off Archer Avenue in Colonial Heights for a possible drowning. When police and fire units arrived on scene, they got a report that a 16-year-old male was swimming in the Appomattox River when he went under and never came back up. The river is located between Colonial Heights and Petersburg. The fire department immediately began searching the river by boat and the riverbank by foot. Chesterfield Fire Department Dive Rescue Team was contacted to respond as well. Ariel search was conducted by Chesterfield Police and Petersburg searched their side of the riverbank. Search and Rescue efforts continued until sunset, but the victim has not been located. The Appomattox River water level was high and fast moving because of the rain from Tropical Storm Hanna. Because of the river conditions and lack of natural light rescue effort have been suspended until morning. Rescue worker will be back at the site tomorrow by 09:00 AM to continue. Colonial Heights Police have confirmed the identity of the victim, but the name is not being release out of respect for the family and pending notification of other family members.