

Foundation Update

October 2009



Virginia Center for Onsite Wastewater Management

Don Alexander and Carrie Schmidt tour SVCC's Virginia Center for Onsite Wastewater Management's demonstration site at Pickett Park. Carrie is Rural Development's Community Programs Director with the United States Department of Agriculture.

Meet our SVCC Honor's Students

In the September issue you met Cassidy Stinson and Heather Moore. This month meet Zachary Talley and Will Hollingsworth.



Zachary Talley

Zachary is from South Hill and graduated from Norlina Christian High School. His future plans include attending college. According to one of his teachers, Zach is a "creative and independent thinker often thinking outside the box".



Meet Will Hollingsworth

Will is from Farmville and graduated from Prince Edward County High School. His major is Information Systems Technology. Will is involved in PTK and many other campus activities and is a second year student at SVCC.

Matthew Tregoning

Mary Jane Elkins recently presented the program for the LaCrosse/Bracey Ruritan Club. She was pleased to see the installation of newest club member Matthew Tregoning, a SVCC student.

SVCC – OUT & ABOUT



Our SVCC Float in the Peanut Festival won first place. Thanks to Gary Cifers and his crew for a job well done!



Jessica Hayes and Stephanie Lewis (SVCC Middle College instructors) participate in the Harvest Festival events in South Boston.



Spotlight on SVCC Alum Steven Williams

By Christie Hales

Have you ever had your car tuned by mail order? It is possible, according to Steven Williams, formerly of Lawrenceville, a graduate of Southside Virginia Community College and the mastermind of TunedByFrost.com

The SVCC alumnus credits much of his career success to great teachers he encountered as a student in the Electronics program on the Christanna Campus in Alberta.

“There is no way I could do what I do without the Electronics courses I took at Southside. The teachers I had there were the best I ever had anywhere,” he said.

He specifically named Tommy Baldwin, who has since retired, and the late Dennis Daniel. The college continues to have a strong offering in this popular program. Williams graduated with an Associate’s of Applied Science degree in Electronics Technology in 1999.

Williams melded his love of muscle cars, computers and electronics into his current occupation.

“I always liked cars, as a hobby, and had [or wanted!] fast cars. I had plenty of time but no money so I worked on the cars by hand”

He left the hobby alone for awhile but picked back up in 2005 when he started tinkering with a 2001 LS1 powered Trans AM.

“I started doing this work in a Car club and the business just kind of happened,” he said.

“Cars are run by computers and when they leave the factory, they are calibrated in a certain way. In order to get more performance out of these Corvettes, Trans Ams, Camaros and other cars of this nature, the factory calibration has to be adjusted once turbo chargers, cam shafts and other items are added,” he said.

Williams’ process reprograms the factory engine to allow the vehicle to operate properly once modifications have been made. The tuning Williams provides is custom tailored to each car, not a type of ‘canned’ tuning system.

The mail order component offered by this entrepreneur is very interesting. These are done with a bench harness, laptop, HPTuners interface, a 12vdc power supply. People ship their car’s or truck’s computer to his house; he does the calibration and usually ships it back the next day.

“People don’t like to be without their cars for too long,” he explained.

He usually ends up working 60+ hours in a week to keep up with demand and his turnaround time, he said.

William’s website explains it best, “Welcome to TunedByFrost.com! This site is your ticket to late model GM tuning that can come to you in Central Virginia, based out of the Richmond area. Stop treating that factory engine computer like your enemy and put it to work for you. There are many tuning solutions available that utilize the factory computer in configurations such as 1, 2, and 3 bar speed density operating systems and Real-Time Tuning (RTT) for certain vehicles. There is a solution for nearly any imaginable combination and your stock engine computer. We make your vehicle drive better at cruise, wide open throttle, and everywhere in between. We are very proud of our mail order calibrations and our cost is extremely competitive.”

Before starting his own business, Williams worked for CTR Systems in Richmond, as a Controls Engineer for Lawrenceville Brick and Tile, and also as a controls engineer in Robotics Packaging.

Williams is a graduate of Brunswick Academy and also attended Craven Community College in North Carolina.

He has been able to accomplish a feat many aspire to, turning his hobby and interests into his life’s work.