



TOUCHING BASE

Volume 5, Issue 13

September 11, 2020

NEW COUNTY LEADER NAMED

Congratulations



This issue

NACPRO Awards	2
VACo Awards	3
NACo Awards	4
Cooperative Extension Services	5
August Highlights	6-7

Chesterfield County announced James D. Worsley as its new deputy county administrator for Human Services. Worsley has served as the county’s Director of Parks and Recreation since 2016.

In his current role, Worsley leads the county’s Parks and Recreation Department serving as a key advisor to the county administrator and the Board of Supervisors. Responsible for maintaining more than 180 parks, playgrounds, and athletic facilities and leading the county’s sports tourism efforts, the Parks and Recreation Department received state and national recognition during Worsley’s tenure.

In 2017, KABOOM!, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing balanced and active play into the daily lives of all kids, designated Chesterfield as a most Playful City USA. In 2019, the Parks and Recreation Department was the recipient of the Governor’s Environmental Excellence Award – Gold Medal for the Dutch Gap Relic River Trail and Water Access. Recognized for its innovation and significant environmental contributions, the Dutch Gap project won in the implementation of the Virginia Outdoors Plan category. Additionally, Chesterfield became the first Parks and Recreation Department in the Richmond region, and 11th in the state, to earn accreditation from the Commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies, or CAPRA. This designation signifies the county’s Parks and Recreation Department has met all 151 standards of best practices for efficient and effective operations while providing enhanced services to the public.

For his efforts to enhance Chesterfield’s park facilities and programming, Worsley was recently selected to receive the National Distinguished Professional Award by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA).

“Since arriving in 2016, I’ve had the opportunity to build strong relationships with colleagues in human services and community operations divisions, as well as collaborating with many community and regional partners,” said Worsley. “I’m looking forward to working more closely with the human services team as we continue to serve the citizens of Chesterfield County.”

Congratulations James! The Parks and Recreation department will greatly miss you.



NACPRO AWARD WINNERS

NACPRO AWARDS 2020



Removing Barriers Award – Adaptive Archery and Kayaking



Partnering with Sportable, an adaptive sports club for those with physical disabilities, Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation offers kayaking and archery in adaptive settings with great success. Program staff have become a resource for similar programs in the region. Small successes achieved in each class by individuals feed into, and support, the larger goal of physical and emotional independence for participants. That is the ultimate satisfaction!

Parks and Recreation Program Award, Class 1 – Rec-n-Roll Mobile Playground

The Rec-n-Roll Playground brings the fun to the people by providing a recreation experience to underserved communities. Working in partnership with the Chesterfield County Police Athletic League, Rec-n-Roll offers a wide range of activities requiring no prior skills, so that no child feels excluded. Most attendees live in disadvantaged areas far from playgrounds or other safe places to play. Race, ethnicity, language, ability, and socioeconomic standing have no bearing on the quality of this innovative, unstructured play experience.



VACo AWARD WINNERS

Chesterfield Wins Best Large County Achievement Award For Virginia Counties

The Virginia Association of Counties, or VACo, named Chesterfield County as the recipient of three 2020 Achievement Awards, including one of the program's highest recognitions, the "Best Large County Achievement Award." The county leads the VACo all-time achievement list with 35 awards, earning at least one award annually since the program's inception.

The VACo Achievement Awards highlights innovative programs focused on addressing high-priority issues that challenge counties today. This year, the county received three awards recognizing the Access On Demand program, the First Responders and Multicultural CommUNITY Cup and the county's coordinated local implementation of The Basics. These awards come on the heels of Chesterfield receiving the Best Achievement Award in 2019 and Best Large County Achievement Award in 2017 and 2018.

"I'm pleased that our hard work was recognized, particularly the launch of Access On Demand," said Dr. Joe Casey, county administrator. "Chesterfield is constantly striving to serve our citizens even better through innovative programs and initiatives like the ones being recognized. Chesterfield remains committed to building relationships with our community and bettering the lives of our citizens."

"VACo awards represent much more than the services or programs they profile," Board of Supervisors Chair Leslie Haley said. "They symbolize a spirit of teamwork, collaboration and innovation that is continually setting the bar higher for the sake of our community."

Chesterfield's First Responders and Multicultural CommUNITY Cup also was recognized with a VACo Achievement Award. The First Responders and Multicultural CommUNITY Cup was a regional partnership among Chesterfield and Henrico counties, the City of Richmond and the Virginia State Police. The event brought the communities together for a day of soccer, community building, family activities and opportunities to interact with each other. Soccer teams consisted of members from the multicultural community and first responders who played in a tournament. One goal of the CommUNITY Cup was to educate the multicultural community about the roles of public safety officials. Additionally, the event provided an opportunity for the groups to communicate in a relaxed atmosphere.



NACO AWARD WINNERS

Several Chesterfield County department programs and initiatives recently received national recognition by the country's leading association for counties.

The National Association of Counties (NACo) presented Chesterfield with 14 awards during its 2020 Achievement Awards Program.

For 50 years, NACo's annual awards program is designed to recognize the ways local governments are providing better, more innovative services to their residents, and strengthening communities across the country. Each nominee is judged on its own merits and not against other applications received.

NACo recognized 540 entries from counties and state associations in 30 states during the 2020 awards cycle. Chesterfield received recognition in nine of the 15 categories that include children and youth, information technology, parks and recreation, planning and many more. The CommUNITY Cup received one of the NACo awards. Thanks to the Athletics staff, Parks District 5 staff, and Juan Santacoloma for coordinating and executing this unique event.

First Responders and Multicultural CommUNITY Cup

Chesterfield County facilitated a unique event to engage the multicultural community with first responders in the region. The First Responders and Multicultural Community Cup was a regional partnership between Chesterfield and Henrico counties, the City of Richmond and the Virginia State Police. The event brought the communities together for a day of soccer, community building, family activities and opportunities to interact with each other. Soccer teams consisted of members from the multicultural community and first responders who played in a tournament. Attendees enjoyed competitive soccer action, children's activities, first responders' vehicles and booths, food, and music. This first event was held in September 2019 with plans to host the event annually. One goal of the Community Cup was to educate the multicultural community about the roles of public safety officials. In addition, the event provided an opportunity for the groups to communicate in a relaxed atmosphere. The first responders were educated on the cultural norms of the groups represented and were able to gain a greater understanding of the concerns and needs of this community. The Community Cup was a great demonstration that the people from the region, many from different backgrounds and cultures, can live, work and play together, respecting and appreciating both our differences and our similarities.



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICES

Parks and Recreation now manages the county's Cooperative Extension Office

Chesterfield's Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) Department falls within the county's Parks and Recreation Department.

Headquartered next door to Central Library at 9501 Lori Road, the Chesterfield Cooperative Extension Office provides research-based educational programming in three key areas: agricultural and natural resources, 4-H youth development, and family and consumer resources.

Cooperative Extension staff are able to significantly expand services to the community by utilizing a large volunteer base to provide additional outreach. These volunteers serve as Master Gardeners, 4-H camp and club leaders, and Master Food Volunteers to carry forth the work of Extension into the Chesterfield community. The agency also operates a laboratory, where staff assists residents with their plant disease, insect or weed inquiries and problems for free.

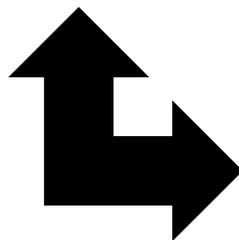
Cooperative Extension's move under Parks and Recreation came after long-time Chesterfield VCE Director T. Michael Likins retired June 30 after 18 years with the county.

Prior to Likins' retirement, both entities began working to streamline programs to better serve residents and enhance their experience.

"We wish Mike Likins well in his retirement. As Director, he provided stellar leadership to the Cooperative Extension Service," said Director of Chesterfield Parks and Recreation Dr. James Worsley. "Our department is excited about the opportunity to continue his vision and enhance services to the community."

Cooperative Extension will continue offering the same services, camps, seminars and programming from its Lori Road offices and laboratory, with plans to maintain and enhance gardening, nutrition and financial wellness programs as part of its transition into Parks and Recreation.

"Both the Cooperative Extension and the Parks and Recreation Department share some similar goals including maintaining and improving the quality of the environment," said Deputy County Administrator for Community Operations Scott Zaremba. "This is a great opportunity for the services in both areas to collaborate and grow to provide even greater benefit to our citizens."



AUGUST HIGHLIGHTS



Champions Cup 2020



Henricus Civil War Event (top)
Henricus lecture (bottom)



James River Camp at Henricus (top and bottom)



Summer Rumble



AUGUST HIGHLIGHTS



Heritage Crafts and Games camp (right)
Tier One Camp (below)



Pop-up Summer Activity at Ettrick Recreation Center (above)

Space Science Day - Pop-up Summer Activity at Bensley Recreation Center (left)

SOCIAL MEDIA



www.facebook.com/chesterfieldvaparksrec

Chesterfield.gov/parks



www.twitter.com/CCPRVA

AS THINGS ARE STARTING TO SETTLE INTO THE “NEW” NORMAL, TOUCHING BASE WILL BEGIN TO GET BACK INTO THE SWING OF THINGS. LOOK FORWARD TO A NEW EDITION EACH WEEK.

