

Chesterfield County  
**Connected & Caring**

**Monthly News & Updates**  
from Chesterfield County's Human Services Division  
Volume 1 Issue 5 | May 2021



### **Dr. Worsley's Wise Words**

The Human Services Division is proud to celebrate May as Older Americans Month. The struggles, sacrifices, and many accomplishments of Older Americans are quilted in the fabric of America. Their collective wisdom from lived experiences is a precious commodity that we should not take for granted, rather treasure and use such knowledge to inspire others and ourselves. This month I'm reminded of a very special quote by Alex Haley who stated, "Every

time an older person dies, it's like a library burning down."

As I reminisce during Older Americans month, my mind quickly takes me to memories of my grandparents Jesse and Louise Johnson, farmer and homemaker, respectively. Among the many cherished pieces of wisdom passed down to me, I am particularly fond of "*The Fruit House*." Each summer my grandmother took fruits and vegetables from the vines and trees like grapes, tomatoes, peaches, squash and preserved them, also known as canning. She would also make jams and jellies, and peach jam was my favorite, especially eaten with one of her hot homemade biscuits. I returned to "*The Fruit House*" many times over the years at my grandmother's request. Now, it's extremely tough to write these words because I truly miss the taste of such delicacies, the aromas of jams cooking, and her loving voice that spoiled me with all of my heart's desires. There are many lessons to be learned from "*The Fruit House*." (1) Prepare for unprecedented times; (2) Knowledge of preservation is powerful, even lifesaving; and (3) A supply or source to share with family and community is impactful, yielding a community of strength, hence if one has...we all have. On my family's farm in eastern North Carolina, you can still find the remains of "*The Fruit House*."



## Citizen Information and Resources



### May is Older American Month

Every May, the Administration for Community Living leads the nation's observance of Older American's month. The theme for 2021 is "Communities of Strength." Older adults have built resilience and strength over their lives through successes, failures, joys, and difficulties. Their stories and contributions help to support and inspire others. Virginia and Chesterfield County readily participate in Older

American's Month as it is also a time to celebrate with our Annual Senior Volunteer Hall of Fame. For 39 years, the Senior Volunteer Hall of Fame has recognized and celebrated Chesterfield seniors who have rendered unusual or outstanding service to their community. In 2015, the age was lowered from 65 to 60 years of age. The goal is to recognize and honor the outstanding achievements of these individuals.

The Senior Volunteer Hall of Fame was conceived and founded by Dorothy Charles, who worked passionately to develop and sustain it. It was established in 1982 through her work with the Senior Council and the Board of Supervisors. It is a program that has grown throughout the years and is well respected in the county. The nominees have ranged from 60 to 98 years of age.

Our Older Americans have shown their strengths over the past year as they have navigated uncertainty with COVID and quickly learned technology to stay engaged with family and friends. To learn more about how Citizen Information and Resources supports our older adults please visit [Aging and Disability Services](https://www.chesterfield.gov/188/Aging-Disability-Services) [<https://www.chesterfield.gov/188/Aging-Disability-Services>].

## Court Partners

### Medication Assisted Treatment Expansion

The drug courts are increasing efforts to expand the use of Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) through various initiatives. These initiatives include educating and providing information to staff and stakeholders about the science behind and benefits of MAT in the treatment of opioid use disorder; educating drug court clients on the advantages of MAT in recovery where

warranted; and, enhancing partnerships with the jail and mental health services in ensuring a “warm handoff” that prevents service gaps for drug court clients as they work the process of being identified, assessed, evaluated, and then started on medication to assist with their recovery.

## Juvenile Justice Services

### Juvenile Justice Services Graduations

For many, when the months of May and June are mentioned, thoughts of graduations come to mind, as high-schoolers and college students alike move on to the next chapter in their lives. In Juvenile Justice Services, things are no different. We are proud to announce two young men received their GEDs in the past couple months and it was exciting to celebrate with both them and their families. Not only did both young men receive their GED, both are currently registered to begin courses this summer at John Tyler Community College. Congratulations to you both!

A special thank you goes out to Megan Nance, JJS's Educational and Vocational Connections Coordinator, who not only assisted the young men with their GED studies, but also helped them navigate college admissions and financial aid. Other thanks go out to education staff at the Detention Home, Judge Minton from Chesterfield's Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court for attending one young man's celebration, and Deidre Davis from the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice for attending the other young man's celebration.

Thank you to everyone who helped these young men along the way and who showed up to congratulate them on their hard work!



### CAC Trains and Builds Partnerships

The Davis Child Advocacy Center MDT (Multidisciplinary Team) Leadership Team has been working diligently on continuing to strengthen interagency relationships and communication, providing further education on each agency's role and the importance of their function, and evolving our current protocol as we work towards becoming an Accredited Child Advocacy Center (CAC) and MDT.

In December 2020, Bon Secours Forensic Nursing Program and VCU's Children's Hospital of Richmond Child Protection Team provided a collaborative, robust and comprehensive training on Forensic Medical Exams to our Department of Social Services. Chesterfield County's Learning and Performance Center assisted us in recording it, creating the page for it, and providing technical assistance along with uploading it to the county's training system so the entire MDT could access it. This is the first in a series of

trainings that will offer interagency cross trainings and will become an onboarding curriculum for new MDT members and a refresher for current MDT partners. This undertaking requires dedication from all stakeholders and emphasizes how important technology has become to bridge the gap between in-person learning and communication to a virtual one. In late May, two Detectives from CCPD's SVU Section will be providing a comprehensive presentation on Investigating Child Abuse to the entire MDT.

In addition to this, the CAC would like to recognize Lisa Johnston, our dedicated Forensic Interviewer, who has been credentialed through the National Association of Certified Child Forensic Interviewers (NACCFI) and is now certified to practice as a Diplomate Child Forensic Interviewer (DCFI). This requires a Forensic Interviewer to have performed a certain number of forensic interviews, have extended training in Forensic Interviewing, and pass a lengthy exam.

Recently, the MDT has added two new additional Chesterfield County agencies to our MDT and Leadership Team: the DSVRC (Domestic and Sexual Violence Resource Center) and Emily Russell from the County Attorney's Office. We are excited the CAC continues to evolve and partner with county agencies.

## Mental Health Support Services

### May is Early Intervention Awareness Month- Let's Celebrate!

From our team to yours, Happy Early Intervention month! What is early intervention? "Early Intervention" is the term used to describe the services and supports that are available to children from birth to 3 years of age, who demonstrate a 25% delay in any area of their development, atypical development, or have a diagnosed disability or condition. When appropriate, services may include speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, or developmental therapy in combination with service coordination. Research shows that early intervention services have a significant impact on a child's ability to learn new skills and overcome challenges, as well as providing support for lifelong success in school and in life. Programs are available in every state and territory and are available free or at reduced cost for any child that is determined eligible. Initial intake and evaluation appointments are always free of charge, regardless of a family's income.

The [Chesterfield Infant Program](https://www.chesterfield.gov/2470/Chesterfield-County-MHSS---Infant-Program) [https://www.chesterfield.gov/2470/Chesterfield-County-MHSS---Infant-Program] consists of a team of 19 team members. We have 10 service coordinators that are here to guide parents through the process as well as find resources for families. We have two speech therapists, one occupational therapist and three developmental specialists all available to help you with your child's development. We also have two administrative staff to help keep us running smoothly. In addition, we work with other therapists in the community to meet the need in Chesterfield. If you have any concerns about your child's development, we are here to listen!

Please call [804-768-7205](http://tel:804-768-7205) [http://tel:804-768-7205] if you have any questions.



## Wellness Corner

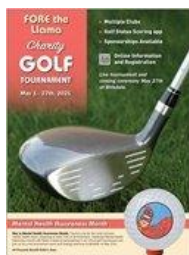


### Drink Up!

Keeping hydrated is crucial for health and well-being, but many people do not consume enough fluids each day. Around 60 percent of the body is made up of water, and around 71 percent of the planet's surface is covered by water. Perhaps it is the ubiquitous nature of water that means drinking enough each day is not at the top of many people's list of priorities. Do you think that you drink enough water every day? Do you know how much you should be drinking?

Test your knowledge with a [water and hydration quiz](#).

## Nonprofit Corner



### Robin's Hope Fore the Llama

Robin's Hope, a nonprofit that aims to help adults overcome traumatic life events and toxic stress through building hope, resilience and social connection, is holding the Fore the Llama charity golf tournament May 1 - 27. Visit [Robins Hope \[http://robinshope.com/events/\]](http://robinshope.com/events/) for more information.

### SAFE and Bon Secours Webinar

Chesterfield Substance Abuse Free Environment (SAFE), in partnership with Bon Secours, is hosting a free educational webinar on stimulants and methamphetamines. The keynote speaker will be Roneet Lev, MD, FACEP, former Chief Medical Officer, White House Office of National Drug Control Policy.

[Register for the May 13 webinar.](#)

[\[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_hNIBOcXfQfG7M5zqEJ2hAg\]](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_hNIBOcXfQfG7M5zqEJ2hAg)





## For More Information


### Caring & Connected Newsletter Team

- **Citizen Information and Resources:** [Ellen Costlow](#), community engagement coordinator - youth services
- **Community Corrections Services:** [JoAnn McLaurin-Carpenter](#), assistant director

- **Drug Courts:** [Melanie Meadows](#), administrator
- **Juvenile Justice Services:** [Justin Crostic](#), program administrator for treatment programs & detention alternatives
- **Mental Health Support Services:** [Jaroslaw Muchowski](#), assistant director of administration and planning
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