SPORTS & TOURISM







A positive economic impact for the eastern Midlothian area will be felt with the construction of a 50,000-square-foot indoor sports facility in the Stonebridge development. This \$7 million facility will be leased primarily by the <u>Richmond Volleyball</u> <u>Club</u>. The county's Parks and Recreation Department also will lease 5,000 square feet, enabling it to provide more programming for older adults, including classes, workshops, fitness programs and special events. In addition to the senior programming, the location will be used for community programs, preschool activities and youth programming.

New and diverse events, such as the Professional Women's Bowling Association, Tour Championships and Colonial Athletic Association, Golf Championships, found their way to the county this year, as well as the return of the Shooting Star Field Hockey Tournament, Brine National Lacrosse Classic and other soccer and swimming events.

All of this contributes to the county's growing sports tourism industry – in fiscal 2017, sports tourism had an economic impact of \$38.6 million and the tax revenue was \$1.4 million.

In 2017, the county marks the 100th anniversary of its Historic 1917 Courthouse. On Oct. 26, 2017, a special event will be held to commemorate the anniversary of the date that the cornerstone was laid. The 1749 bell, which hung in the first courthouse and atop the 1917 Courthouse, <u>was restored during the spring</u> and will be placed on permanent display in the Chesterfield County Museum in the fall. A replacement bell was purchased for the belfry of the courthouse and it will be rung for the first time during the October event. Fort Lee also is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year, and a special exhibit, <u>"Mobilizing for War"</u> is on display in the Historic Jail through November 2018.

Experience Chesterfield.com offers residents and visitors an easy way to find out what's going on in the county. A partnership among county departments, ExperienceChesterfield.com <u>features three-day itineraries</u> on a variety of topics, as well as seasonal events and programs.