



River City Sportsplex

With 12 synthetic turf fields for soccer, lacrosse, field hockey and many other sports, residents get a kick out of using the sportsplex.

ANNUAL REPORT FY2017

This report is based on fiscal 2017, which ran from July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2017. It highlights Chesterfield County's efforts to achieve the goals outlined in its strategic plan.



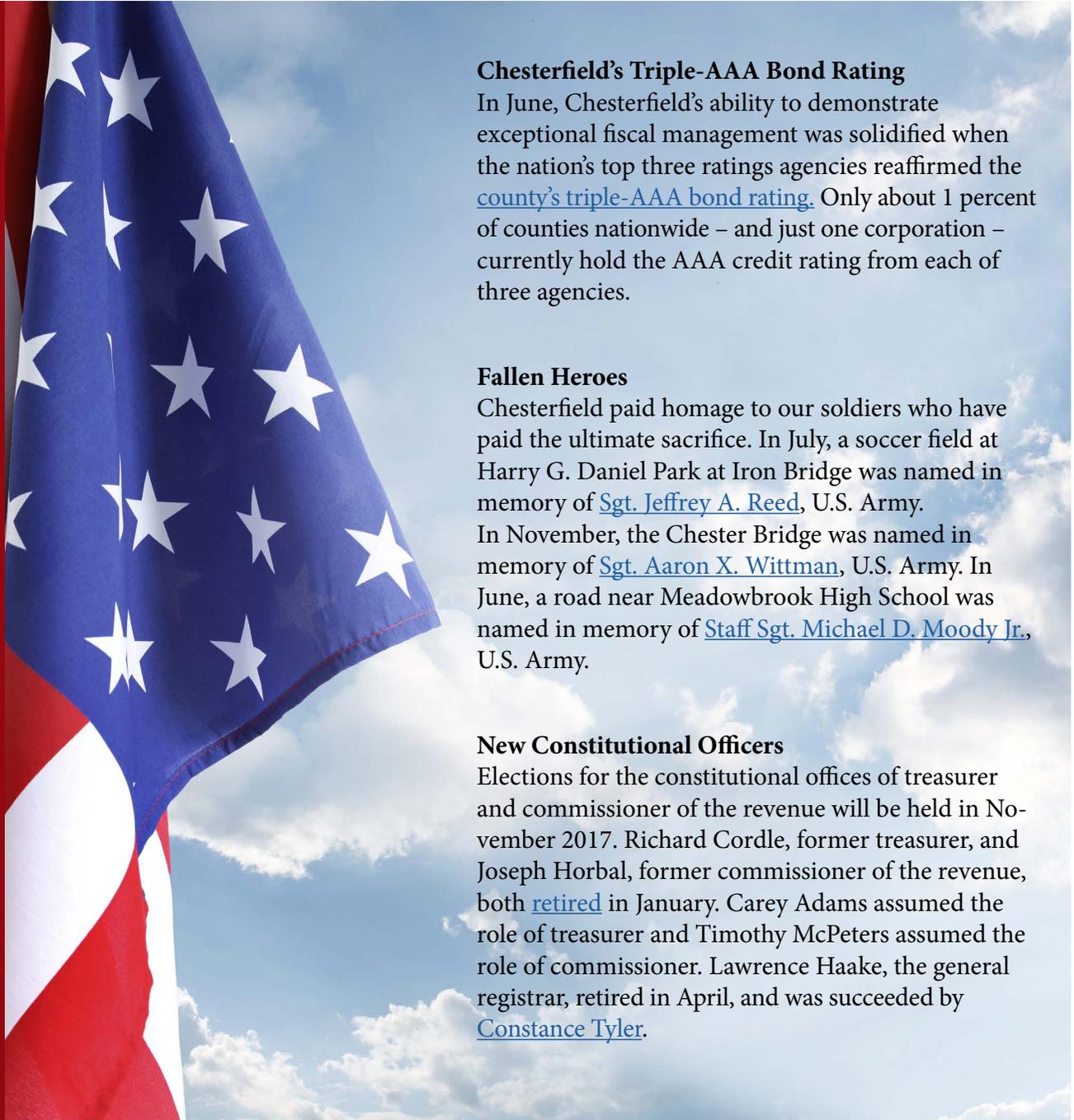
Providing a FIRST CHOICE community
through excellence in public service



Dr. Joseph Casey
County Administrator

Fiscal 2017 saw increased engagement with the community and a renewed focus on Chesterfield's role in making the entire region strong. It also saw many changes, among them a new county administrator at its helm.

Join Dr. Joe Casey as he reflects on his first year and shares his observations about accomplishments made as the community and local government work together to meet challenges and set a course toward future success.



Chesterfield's Triple-AAA Bond Rating

In June, Chesterfield's ability to demonstrate exceptional fiscal management was solidified when the nation's top three ratings agencies reaffirmed the [county's triple-AAA bond rating](#). Only about 1 percent of counties nationwide – and just one corporation – currently hold the AAA credit rating from each of three agencies.

Fallen Heroes

Chesterfield paid homage to our soldiers who have paid the ultimate sacrifice. In July, a soccer field at Harry G. Daniel Park at Iron Bridge was named in memory of [Sgt. Jeffrey A. Reed](#), U.S. Army. In November, the Chester Bridge was named in memory of [Sgt. Aaron X. Wittman](#), U.S. Army. In June, a road near Meadowbrook High School was named in memory of [Staff Sgt. Michael D. Moody Jr.](#), U.S. Army.

New Constitutional Officers

Elections for the constitutional offices of treasurer and commissioner of the revenue will be held in November 2017. Richard Cordle, former treasurer, and Joseph Horbal, former commissioner of the revenue, both [retired](#) in January. Carey Adams assumed the role of treasurer and Timothy McPeters assumed the role of commissioner. Lawrence Haake, the general registrar, retired in April, and was succeeded by [Constance Tyler](#).

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

A five-member Board of Supervisors governs Chesterfield County and is elected to four-year terms in district, non-partisan elections. The Board of Supervisors sets the priorities for the county and approves the budget.



Dorothy Jaeckle
Chair
[Bermuda District](#)



Leslie Haley
Vice Chair
[Midlothian District](#)



Steve A. Elswick
[Matoaca District](#)



James "Jim" Holland
[Dale District](#)



Christopher Winslow
[Clover Hill District](#)



To stay current with what's happening in the county, sign up for [Weekly Update](#). It comes straight to your inbox every Tuesday and contains countywide news and district-specific information.

This map reflects the magisterial district boundaries.

Chesterfield County's [strategic plan](#) demonstrates the county's commitment to deliver services that make it the best community in which to live, learn, work and play.

Mission

Providing a FIRST CHOICE community through excellence in public service

Vision

To be an extraordinary and innovative community in which to live, learn, work and play

Goals

In the operation of the local government, county leaders and employees strive to achieve the following goals:

- ▶ Model for excellence in government
- ▶ Safety and security
- ▶ Economic prosperity and educational excellence
- ▶ Healthy living and well-being
- ▶ Thriving communities and environmental stewardship





The real estate tax rate, at 96 cents per \$100 of assessed value, remained unchanged, as did personal property and other tax rates.



Chesterfield County subscribes to a simple doctrine: We are here to serve the community, and strive to do so efficiently, effectively and transparently. Being a model for excellence is not only about our finances, but also the quality of services we provide and the partnerships we cultivate.

Most county residents think Chesterfield is a great place to live – and it is, according to the [National Citizen Survey](#). The survey rated the county as a “livable community” and one where people want to live. Most residents surveyed rated quality of life as “[excellent or good](#).”

Part of being a livable community means local government understands the residents priorities. This is why strengthening public safety and education were the top priorities of the [FY2017 budget](#), set at \$805.5 million. The [FY2018 budget](#) was adopted in April 2017. The budget aligned with the county’s Five-Year Plan and addressed cleanup of the Chesapeake Bay, accelerated the school referendum projects and promoted revitalization. It supported the successful economic development efforts and provided funding for local roads and other infrastructure, with no increase in per capita cost of service.

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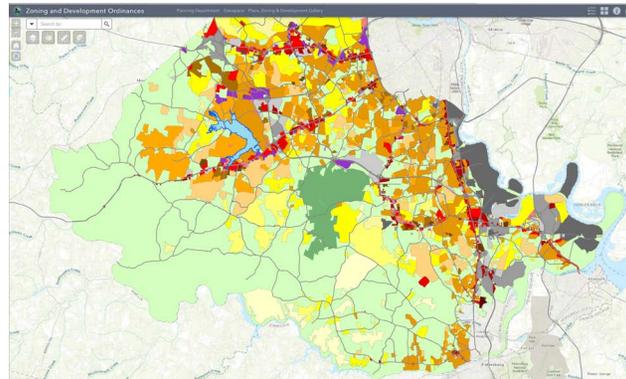
Adherence to financial integrity in reporting and to industry best practices brought recognition to Chesterfield for the 36th consecutive year, when it received the [Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting](#) by the Government Finance Officers Association for its fiscal 2016 annual financial report.



Delivering new and renovated schools sooner than anticipated was one of the focuses of the [FY2017-2021 Capital Improvement Program](#), or CIP. It also continued to fund the Revenue Sharing program with the state, which provides \$20 million in annual transportation improvements. Chesterfield County has made it possible for anyone with access to the internet to [view any of the county's CIPs](#). In March, residents and businesses were able to download location-based data when 65 more data layers were added to [Open Geo-Space](#), a mobile-friendly companion site to GeoSpace, which is used to view and download for map creation and data analysis.

Beyond the role of being a good financial steward of the residents' tax dollars is the county's responsibility to engage in open dialogue and inform residents about county programs and services. One way of providing this engagement, and to provide better customer service, was through the county's first [Government Citizens Academy](#). For six weeks last spring, a group of citizens participated in the academy to learn more about their local government. They [met with local government leaders](#) at fire stations, libraries and school facilities, and toured other locations county-wide. They also offered valuable feedback about how the county is serving them and how to better allocate the county budget. The academy is offered twice each year, in the spring and fall.

Chesterfield remains a leader in providing strong, innovative services that strengthen communities. This year, it was recognized with [17 Achievement Awards](#) from the National Association of Counties. The Virginia Association of Counties also awarded Chesterfield [two Achievement Awards](#), one for Chesterfield County Public Libraries and one for Mental Health Support Services.





As drug abuse and overdose deaths from opioids and Fentanyl rise nationally, Chesterfield has ramped up its efforts to break the vicious cycle. A [public service announcement](#) was created through a partnership between Chesterfield County Police, Fire and EMS, the Sheriff's Office, Mental Health Support Services and Chesterfield Substance Abuse Free Environment Inc. The Sheriff's Office's Heroin Addiction Recovery Program, or HARP, helps recovering heroin addicts who are incarcerated at the county jail, and has seen great success. And, another [partnership between Chesterfield, Powhatan and Colonial Heights](#) resulted in free drug-deactivation pouches to help people safely dispose of tablets, liquid or patch medications.



Opioid public service announcement

In March 2017, the Chesterfield County Police Department earned accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies Inc. This designation is the result of four years of efforts to achieve CALEA best practices, including service delivery, crime prevention and personnel practices.

To help build trust between the community and police department, body cameras were issued in March 2017 to some patrol officers, school resource officers, detectives and others. Community policing, a priority in Chesterfield, was center stage in FY2017 with a video segment highlighting the everyday interaction police have with businesses and residents. Hear from officers in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).





Chesterfield Fire and EMS [improved its Insurance Services Office rating](#) in FY2017, rising from the top 10 percent to the top 3 percent nationwide. This is good news for Chesterfield, as [it could mean a lower insurance cost](#) for homeowners.

Firefighting personnel are constantly improving their training. In June 2017, a new fire training tower was dedicated in Enon. The seven-story, 9,000-square-foot tower simulates live fire and emergencies in various settings. The new facility will enable firefighters to practice fighting real fires in a controlled environment, as well as provide space for public safety officials to practice emergency evacuations.

In October 2016, Chesterfield County’s public safety departments and schools conducted an active threat exercise at Carver Middle School that involved over 150 public safety, emergency management and school personnel, and over 200 community volunteers. The training exercise enabled agencies to practice a coordinated response, execute action plans, and manage resources for an incident of this size and scope.

In April 2017, Chesterfield held a National Disaster Medical System exercise to train for a disaster scenario. The exercise staged many patients needing to be flown out of the area due to stress on local resources. Emergency Management hosted the exercise, partnering with Fire and EMS as well as the U.S. Department of Veteran’s Affairs and local hospitals. And, as always, Emergency Management trained and [prepared for hurricanes](#) and other disasters. The county’s Emergency Communications Center continued efforts to overhaul and enhance its emergency communications systems, which are in need of an update.

Interested in avoiding breakfast at the jail? This year’s Super Bowl provided the perfect opportunity for the [Sheriff’s Office](#) to run a [video reminder](#) not to drink and drive.

Public safety officials, partnering with Chesterfield County Public Schools, participate in a training exercise.



Business continues to be good in Chesterfield County, benefiting business owners, employees and residents, alike. From 2012-2016, the number of businesses in the county grew by 13 percent, and during that time, the county saw an announced investment of more than \$2.8 billion.

That growth means you can buy water bottled right here in Chesterfield – Niagara Bottling LLC invested \$95 million to build a water-bottling operation in the county at Meadowville Technology Park. Niagara is the largest private-label beverage supplier in the country, and this facility will significantly increase its capacity to meet a growing demand.

Chesterfield is investing in small businesses, too – the Jumpstart Program provided a new, dedicated staff resource to Economic Development, additional resources for the county’s Business Expansion Incentive Fund and business license tax relief. And [Bizworks Enterprise Center](#) helped more than 7,000 small businesses in Chesterfield County since its founding in 2001.





Dr. James Lane took the helm as superintendent of [Chesterfield County Public Schools](#) in FY2017, championing the creation of CodeRVA, a regional high school with 13 partnering school divisions. This initiative will increase the number of computer science professionals in the Greater Richmond region. Lane has begun work to implement Early College Academies in Chesterfield through partnerships with local community colleges that enable students to earn high school diplomas and two-year associate degrees while in high school.

Another priority for FY2017 was working to complete projects to improve facilities at county schools. Renovations were completed at [Monacan High School](#). Renovations are underway at [Providence Middle School](#), [Enon Elementary School](#) and [Beulah Elementary School](#), paid for by the 2013 bond referendum. These projects were part of the adopted Capital Improvement Plan that accelerated the delivery of new and renovated facilities to numerous neighborhoods.

The FY2017 school budget added 28 teacher positions as part of an ongoing effort to reduce class sizes, increase teacher pay by 2 percent and continue the replacement of the division's bus fleet.





Michaele White, Governor's Office

Mental and physical health is encompassed in healthy living, and Chesterfield offers many programs that help residents keep active, and also engage their minds to improve the quality of their lives.

Chesterfield's Mental Health Support Services implemented [“Same-Day Access”](#) that enables people in need of mental health services to be screened the first day they ask for help. This was a significant improvement in customer service since they no longer had to wait weeks for appointments. Chesterfield has been the leader in creating this model, which has been in place for almost two years. Recognizing the county for its leadership in this area, Gov. Terry McAuliffe visited the county in June to sign new bills in support of recovery. Chesterfield will be among the first eight public mental health providers in the state to get additional funding to improve these services.

Too many times children in the foster care system face the harsh realities of life and feel a lack of support. To help these kids know that they're important and worthy,

Social Services partners with [Worthdays](#), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, to ensure that they are recognized and celebrated on the important days in their lives, such as birthdays and graduations.



Social Services continues to offer a broad array of programs. One of these is Families First, a home-visiting program that helps mothers improve their children's health, nutrition and developmental outcomes. In fiscal 2017, Chesterfield's [Families First program was accredited](#) by Healthy Families America as a provider of high-quality home-visiting services. Its annual March diaper drive at local library branches collected more than 10,000 diapers, pull-ups and wipes.



Chesterfield is proud of its high-quality park system that offers many programs and facilities to engage the mind and body. It currently is working to make improvements that will benefit residents and businesses. This is outlined in [The Parks and Recreation Master Plan update](#), which is part of the county's Comprehensive Plan and will include a variety of cultural, recreational, educational, historical, nature and sports tourism programs designed to improve quality of life in the county.

Chesterfield is a great place to play! In May 2017, Chesterfield, along with other regional localities, was honored with a [2017 Playful City USA designation](#) by KaBOOM! Some of the county's initiatives included increasing pedestrian and bicycling access to playgrounds, offering free Learn-to-Swim programs at SwimRVA, emphasizing play in historical sites, including Henricus Historical Park, and offering new specialized athletic facilities. Chesterfield also is a great place to take a hike. The [Appomattox River Trail](#) fronts one mile of the lower Appomattox River, which is designated in the Virginia Scenic Rivers System. The trail was dedicated in October 2016 at the Ettrick/VSU Trailhead. The trail and the surrounding property include the riverfront portion of the 416-acre VSU Randolph Farm property, an agricultural research/education center.

Exercise and enrichment of the mind is also important, and programs and services offered by the Chesterfield County Public Library and Virginia Cooperative Extension help engage the brain as well as the body. During the height of the recent economic downturn, it became necessary to cut Thursday library hours in order to reduce costs, but in September 2016, the library was able to restore Thursday library hours, providing patrons additional access to its facilities. The FY2017 budget also included funds to continue a multiyear effort to enhance the library materials collection. Extension hosted the Bumblebee Jamboree, a family event celebrating pollinators, and helped residents improve and maintain their landscapes. It also is partnering with other states on strategies and educational efforts to alert homeowners to a fungus, called [boxwood blight](#), that is affecting these popular evergreens.





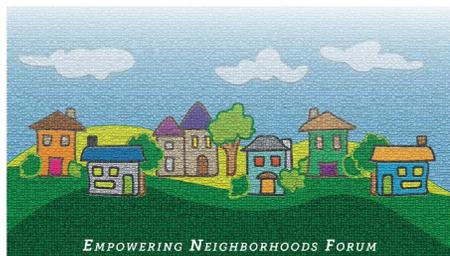
Rendering of proposed superstreet Route 10 at Meadowville Road

From improving roadways to encouraging the rehabilitation of older neighborhoods, to providing more opportunities at local libraries, Chesterfield is dedicated to ensuring communities thrive, while responsibly caring for the environment.

Part of a thriving community is planning for the future. Chesterfield County will have the [first “superstreet” in Virginia](#) when Route 10 is widened between Bermuda Triangle Road and Meadowville Road, which will help people get to work and school more quickly and safely. The Transportation Department has begun the process, and construction will begin in 2018. The Capital Improvement Plan continued to fund the Revenue Sharing program with the state that provided \$20 million in annual transportation improvements. [See ongoing projects.](#)



Plans for a new department focused on the care of the county’s aging communities coalesced in FY2017, leading to the creation of the Department of Community Enhancement in July 2017. A change to allow homeowners and businesses to save money while renovating their older properties was approved in FY2017, and the Revitalize Our Communities Committee held its annual [Empowering Neighborhoods Forum](#), which focused on home and community revitalization in February 2017.



Revitalizing Chesterfield County by Improving Homes and Neighborhoods

Engaging and informing residents about the updates to the [Comprehensive Plan](#) has been a major focus of the Planning Department this year, and numerous community meetings related to the [Northern Jefferson Davis](#) and the [Midlothian](#) Special Area Plans were held. Watch to learn more about [Special Area Plans](#) and the [Comprehensive Plan](#).



4,000 VOLUNTEERS



Equates to \$3.3 MILLION OF WORK IN FY2016

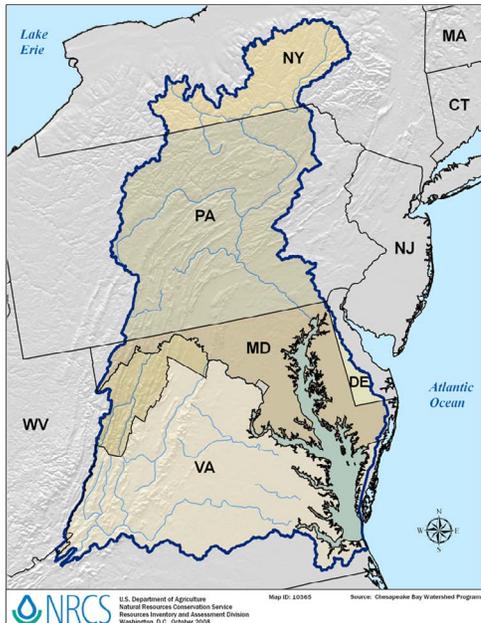


The county is grateful for its more than 4,000 volunteers who contributed 139,000 work hours valued at \$3.3 million in FY2016. Gaynor Baker, who volunteers with Virginia Cooperative Extension, was recognized as the county's 2017 Treasured Volunteer. Three were inducted into the Office of the Senior Advocate's Senior Volunteer Hall of Fame.

The Utilities Department serves more than 304,700 water customers and continues to offer clean, safe and reliable [drinking water](#) to residents. It was recognized by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality for [environmental excellence](#).

The FY2017 budget established a dedicated revenue source to fund the county's Stormwater Management System for compliance with the federally mandated [Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load](#) program. The revenues collected from the stormwater utility fee will be dedicated to services directly related to the control and treatment of stormwater.

Waste and Resource Recovery, a division of the Department of General Services, is committed to helping preserve the environment by providing residents with safe and cost-effective waste disposal and recycling options at two convenience centers. [Residents can now recycle food and beverage containers](#)—plastics numbered 1-7 are now accepted, as well as cardboard. The expanded recycling capacities means residents can now recycle more of their household items than ever, and positions the region as a recycling leader.



Chesapeake Bay Watershed: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Enhancements to Curbside and Drop Off Recycling
Effective JULY 1, 2016

Plastic

NEW Recyclables!!

Plastic Containers (#1-#7), Lids and Caps

- Butter Tubs
- Yogurt Cups
- Sour Cream/Cream Cheese
- Clear Fruit containers
- Clamshells

Cartons

- Milk Cartons
- Juice Cartons
- Soup

Kitchen, Laundry, Bath: Bottles and Containers
empty and replace cap

Cartons

Food and Beverage Cartons
empty and replace cap

C/WMA

Many top college lacrosse, soccer and field hockey players across the nation have one thing in common: They played in Chesterfield County.

In December, the county acquired [River City Sportsplex](#), enabling it to host about 1,700 more teams on Mondays through Thursdays, and have more control over weekend tournaments. The complex has 12 synthetic turf fields, and is one of the largest collections of synthetic turf fields in the U.S. for soccer, lacrosse, field hockey and many other sports, with nine fields lighted for evening play. In March, the county hosted the Jefferson Cup, which is rated as one of the top youth soccer tournaments in the country, and expanded it to four weekends and 1,300 teams this year. The county's [Department of Parks and Recreation manages](#) River City Sportsplex, and revenue from rental fees and tournament charges will be used to pay for operating costs.

Recently, [Corrigan Sports Enterprises](#) contracted with Chesterfield to host major events here through 2020, including the Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Associations Champions Cup and the Capital Cup. These two events are the largest tournaments held in the Richmond Region, each attracting more than 14,000 visitors from across the U.S. and Canada, and using over 10,000 hotel rooms for just one event. The county is the only location in the U.S. to host two Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association National College recruiting events.





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 [Richmond Volleyball Club](#). 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, [was restored during the spring](#) 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, "[Mobilizing for War](#)" 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 [features three-day itineraries](#) on a variety of topics, as well as seasonal events and programs.



Programming

Stay informed on what's going on in the county, learn about Virginia agriculture and NASA on our [cable channels](#) – **Comcast 98 and Verizon 28**. Programming was launched this year, and includes episodes of NASAX, Real Virginia, The Folklorist, as well as original programs produced by the Department of Communications and Media. Many of these videos can be found on the county's social media sites, [YouTube](#) or in the Library's digital collection under [Chesterfield Now](#) or [Special Edition](#).

Learn more about local government by attending the [Government Citizens Academy](#), which began in May 2017.

Sign up for the county's weekly e-newsletter, Weekly Update, at www.chesterfield.gov/enews

Look for the county on Facebook and Twitter

Chesterfield County Government

Facebook: [ChesterfieldVA](#)

Twitter: [@ChesterfieldVA](#)

For a list of all the departments who use social media, visit <http://www.chesterfield.gov/newsroom/socialmedia/>.

Priorities for FY18

On April 26, 2017, the Board of Supervisors adopted the FY18 budget. See [priorities](#) and highlights for the upcoming year, and check out the adopted FY17-FY21 [Capital Improvement Plan](#).

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Chesterfield
NOW

Special Edition



*Government
Citizens Academy*

Open Government

Chesterfield County is committed to being transparent. From purchasing and financial information to building permits and public meetings, the county's [open government page](#) provides access to detailed information about your local government.

The Department of Communications and Media received a **2017 Gold Hermes Creative** award for its electronic [2016 Annual Report](#) from the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals.