



Welcome Home Baby | Healthy Steps | Parent Education

We are a non-profit program with three **FREE** and **PRIVATE** services to families of Culpeper.

Welcome Home Baby

A free one-time visit with a Family Resource Specialist, that includes referrals to community resources and a gift bag with baby items!

Healthy Steps

A free ongoing service with a Family Support Specialist focused on child development from pregnancy through kindergarten.

Parenting Education Program

A free parenting class offered to support parents and caregivers of children ages 2 to 12.

Come and join for an interactive and educational look at active parenting.

The classes are held virtually through Zoom 6:00-8:00 pm on the first 3 Tuesday evenings of each month. Contact us to get signed up!


Upcoming Schedule:

February 7th, 14th, 21st

March 7th, 14th, 21st

April 4th, 11th, 18th

May 2nd, 9th, 16th



Are you or someone you know expecting a baby, or have a newborn? Then Families First - Healthy Families Culpeper is perfect!

Contact us for more information!

Call or text us:

540-222-6320

Look for us on Facebook:

Families First - Healthy Families Culpeper


Visit our website:

healthyfamiliesculpeper.org

Email us:

healthyfamiliesculpeper@gmail.com

We are always accepting donations of any kind, including new or slightly used donations to share with families.



NEED A RIDE?



Look for this
NEW sign
around
Culpeper!



Did you know there are many easy to use and affordable Public Transportation options available for everyone to use right here in Culpeper?

We can get you where you need to go. ***Come take a ride with us!***

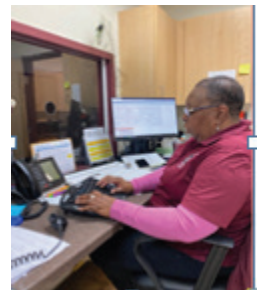
Now Available:

Live Viewing to locate when to expect the Trolley at your stop! Visit VRT's website (<https://vrt.ridesystems.net/routes>) or scan the QR code on new bus signs to locate the Trolleys around Town and know when to expect their arrival.

Updated On-Demand Ride Scheduling: New computer software allows VRT to make real-time changes and updates to stops and services for the On-Demand Culpeper County Connector and Culpeper ADA bus in order to better serve passengers.

Need more information about public transportation in Culpeper?





Call (540) 825-2456



*Meet Carol Hopkins,
Lead Dispatcher for
VRT.*

Transportation for Older Adults *by Ellen Phipps, Executive Director, Aging Together*

FIND THE RIDE THAT MEETS YOUR NEEDS

-  Virginia Regional Transit Fixed In-Town Route
-  Virginia Regional Transit On-Demand County Service
-  Virginia Regional Transit Cross-Locality Route
- VRT
vtrtransit.org
-  MOVIDCARE Medicaid Transportation
- Formally Logisticare
modicare.com
-  Volunteer Transportation Program
 - Care-A-Van
rrcs.org/careavan
 - VolTran
voltran.org
 - LowLinc
lowlinc.org
 - Rapp-at-Home
rappathome.org



MORE CHOICES. MORE MOBILITY · RAPPAHANNOCK-RAPIDAN REGION

Every few years, Aging Together asks the community to let us know about the gaps in services and the needs and preferences of older adults in our community. This process has been referred to as Aging Together "Community Conversations" and these conversations help inform Aging Together's strategic plan.

For example, results from our last Community Conversations indicated the need for better transportation for older adults in the region and for a more coordinated approach.

The Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission (RRRC) responded with the

Regional Transportation Collaborative (RTC) Model which was introduced in the area in late 2019. The RTC concept was created through a multi-agency mitigation process tasked with responding to reductions in funding and losses in mobility services as well as input from community needs assessments.

The new collaborative - The Regional Mobility Center, (formerly FAMS) builds off the existing networking largely information exchange partnership that served as the area's mobility model for several years. The Regional Mobility Center continues working with existing transit agencies, volunteer transportation organizations, and human services transportation providers to address critical transportation needs for the elderly and disabled populations in the Rappahannock-Rapidan region. The RTC has expanded the previous partnerships, solidified exchanges of funding and information, as well as introduced new and non-traditional partners into the mobility model.

The key mobility management factor in service provision and coordination is the Regional Mobility Center (formerly FAMS One-Call Center) 540-829-5300. The call center is the first in the state of Virginia and provides a one-stop central point of access to all available public, private, and volunteer transportation services in the region. Through the utilization of a cloud-based data software, staff collect a wide range of demographic, health, and circumstantial data on transportation needs across the region. In addition to information and referral, the call center staff use the software to coordinate, process, and analyze ride requests and rides given by multiple volunteer ride programs.

The RTC works closely with several volunteer driver and village model volunteer driver programs in the region to support the provision of rides for older adults and or people living with disabilities who need transportation to medical appointments or to run essential errands. Partners include VolTran (Fauquier County); Care-A-Van, LOWLINC – Lake of the Woods Village Model (Orange) and Rap at Home Village Model (Rappahannock).

Aging Together is a proud to be a Trusted Community Partner and part of the RTC.

Regional Resource Guide for OLDER ADULTS

FREE

2022/23

sección de español



**AGING
TOGETHER**
five communities creating choices

Connecting Older Adults, Caregivers & Families to Community Resources



Culpeper, Fauquier, Madison, Orange
& Rappahannock Counties, VA

For more information visit:
WWW.AGINGTOGETHER.ORG

The Silver Club

The emptiness of a large meeting room within the Culpeper County Library begins to transform as the Silver Club coordinator sets up tables, makes coffee and arranges sign-in sheets. As the coffee's aroma begins to fill the room, members of the Club begin to arrive. Laughter and conversation begin to emanate from the room. Hugs and hellos are the weekly currency.

This has been the scene each Wednesday for over two decades.

"I was a sportswriter that needed a break when Calvin "Chip" Coleman (then Human Services Director) suggested I take a job with Culpeper Parks and Recreation that focused on senior citizen's club," recalled Marshall Conner. "It was a brand-new endeavor for me, it quickly became a labor of love. I was relatively young then—now I'm a proud member of the club. I signed up when I turned 55 this past summer."

Initially, Conner figured he could be entertaining enough and provide the Silver Club with a fun forum to laugh, build friendships, learn new things, and hear from a variety of speakers from our community and beyond. The power of the Club's membership made it a dynamic vehicle that created and fortified many friendships for Culpeper seniors. The Club became a fixture within the community.

Over two decades there have been many challenges as well as joy, including recession, layoffs, funding, and a pandemic that closed the Silver Club for over a year. Through creativity and dedication, the Club managed to keep growing and evolving.

"I am grateful to Andrew Hardy, director of Culpeper Parks Recreation and his staff for seeing the positive impact the Silver Club has had and has within the community," said Conner. "With the pandemic we had a long period where the Club could have easily disappeared. We wanted to keep it going. Eventually, we emerged from the storm and continued to evolve."

Over the last two decades the Club has continued to have a large membership. At its highest the Club was around 100 members, most years the Club has between 60-80 members.

The membership of the Silver Club has always made the Club a special place---so many characters living and deceased made it a joyous place each Wednesday. Since day-one Conner has had great supporting leadership within the Club. He credits the steady advice, leadership, and calm voice of longtime club president Richard Paape as an essential foundation of the Club's success. In recent years, Rita Nickles has invigorated the Club and enhanced our speaker program with people and topics that promote new learning opportunities, health, cultural enrichment, and mindfulness in maturity.

In addition to the Silver Club, Conner serves as a marketing manager and child-care professional with Kid Central, a before and after school program within Culpeper County. He is also a columnist with the Culpeper Times.

"Many people ask why I enjoy working with senior citizens and children. The simple answer is both groups are honest and straight forward, it's the alleged adults in between that tend to be questionable with the motives. Both groups are so much fun."

Senior citizens are an incredible resource within a community—their knowledge and skills should be recycled and used as foundations to improve all our lives.

Want to join the fun? Membership for the Silver Club is currently \$10-per year (\$15 for non-County residents). One needs to be 55-years old and complete a registration with Culpeper Parks and Recreation. The Club meets each Wednesday from 10am-2pm in the Culpeper Library.





Culpeper County Family Farm Receives District Clean Water Award

Every year the Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors selects one farm per member county to receive a State Clean Water Farm Award based on the farms accomplishments and commitment to the land stewardship and conservation management. James Martin, Soil and Water Conservation Division Director from Department of Conservation and Recreation traveled to Culpeper County to present the award to the Smith family on their farm in between the Town of Culpeper and Stevensburg, along with Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District staff David Massie and intern Lily Smith.

Ashland Farm has a long history of conservation in Culpeper County. The farm has evolved over the years, and within the last decade has transitioned out of the dairy business and is now focused on row crop production and quality cool season forage grown for the local hay market. The farm is comprised of over 800 acres with additional rented acreage nearby. Many of the soil types on the farm are either prime farmland or significant soils of statewide importance.

Conservation efforts go back farther than the Culpeper Soil and Water District has records. Historical conservation practices include crop rotation, strip cropping, small grain cover crops, cropland riparian buffers, and manure waste storage facilities. Many of these practices are still being implemented today.

Conservation practices funded through state and federal programs began on the farm in the late 1990's and early 2000's. Over the years, the Smith's have implemented stream exclusion fencing to protect Mountain Run, which bisects the farm, and several other tributaries which feed into Mountain Run. At the same time, water troughs were installed to supply clean, fresh water for the cattle. Over 3,000' of Mountain Run streambank has been protected with fencing and several acres of riparian buffers have been established. These buffer help with erosion control, improved water quality and served as wildlife habitat.

On the agronomic side of the operation, the Smiths have been annual participants with the District's cover crop program. Over the years, both harvestable and non-harvestable small grain cover crops have been planted for grain and straw, to absorb excess nutrients, control erosion, and hold moisture in the soil.

The farm has also implemented no-till planting practices, grass filter strips along riparian areas and field drainages, and recently established several sod waterways on some of the steep cropland.



Front: Culpeper Supervisor Susan Gugino; Nancy Smith; Cynthia Smith and Culpeper SWCD Director Tom O'Halloran Back: Culpeper SWCD Director Dennis Verhoff; Scott Smith; Andrew Smith; and Stone Smith

Over the years, crop rotation has been an important practice adopted by most farms to improve the soil, reduce reliance on one set of nutrients, reduce pest and weed pressure, and the probability of developing resistance to pests and weeds. A corn-soybean-alfalfa-small grain rotation achieves these goals and diversifies the crops available for marketing.

Ashland Farm and the Smith family have been exceptional partners in the District's efforts to implement conservation practices over many, many decades, and are a great example of true stewards of the land.

In recognition of their continual efforts to improve conservation and water quality the District Board selected them for this Award.

Culpeper County is represented on the Culpeper SWCD Board of Directors by Elected Directors Tom O'Halloran and Dennis Verhoff as well as Associate Director Bob Williamson.

As always, Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District is available with cost share for agricultural producers, technical assistance for all residents, hands on classroom/Zoom programs and rain barrels! Contact Stephanie DeNicola at stephanied@culpeperswcd.org or 540-825-8591 for more information.



Sheriff Scott Jenkins' 2022 Christmas Parade

Sheriff Scott Jenkins and the Culpeper County Sheriff's Office is pleased to announce the 5th Annual Christmas Parade took place on Sunday, December 4, 2022 on Main Street (downtown Culpeper) at 5:00 p.m.

In 2018, after decades of not having a parade during the holiday season, Sheriff Jenkins and his staff revived this tradition to be a festive event. This great hometown family event included over 150 Christmas themed entries from local businesses, organizations, civic groups, clubs and more. In addition, there were lots of lights, music, nativity scenes and floats, and one special guest from the North Pole.

There was no entry fee to participate in the parade, however, we respectfully asked for \$20 donations to support the "Sheriff's Christmas for Kids" program (parade sponsorship packages were also available). Each year Sheriff's Deputies receive names of students in need from each of the ten Culpeper public schools. The Sheriff's Charitable Fund purchases the gifts from the children's lists and they're wrapped by Sheriff's Cadets, staff, and volunteers.

Please visit our website for registration and sponsorship information:

<https://www.culpepersheriffsoffice.com/christmas-parade>

CULPEPER COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT CLERK - CARSON W. BEARD

To the Citizens of Culpeper County,

I am so honored and humbled to serve the community as the Clerk of Court. Thank you all for everything. If anyone has any questions, please feel free to contact me. The Clerk's Office is open from 8:00AM to 4:00PM, Monday through Friday (540) 727-3438.

PUBLIC OFFICE STAFF:

Jennifer L. Weakley, Chief Deputy Clerk (Probate, Criminal, & Records)
Stacy S. Putnam, Deputy Clerk (Civil & Jury)
Sylvia Renninger, Administrative Assistant (Criminal, Concealed Handgun Permits, & SRA)
Nicole Richardson Fields, Deputy Clerk (Civil & Land Records)
Kristen E. Shipe, Deputy Clerk (Criminal)
Skyler Herrman, Deputy Clerk (Land Records & Probate)

COURTROOM STAFF:

Stephanie Voss, Deputy Clerk
Courtne Koontz, Deputy Clerk
Helen Casillas, Deputy Clerk
Skyler Sorensen, Deputy Clerk
Teresa Holliday, Deputy Clerk

In this issue of the Culpeper Quarterly, we would like to provide you some information on Fiduciary matters. Unfortunately, at some point in life everyone will experience the loss of a loved one. We often find that on top of the tremendous grief, there is so much uncertainty in the next steps. The Virginia Bar Association offers "A Guide to the Administration of Decedents' Estates in Virginia". This guide answers many commonly asked questions about estates from the funeral to qualifying as a personal representative of the estate. You can find it on the Virginia Bar Website at https://vba.org/page/guide_estates.

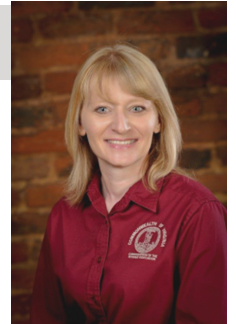
If your loved one is a resident of Culpeper at the time of their death, you may be contacting our office. If there is a will, the executor or successor executor named in the will should be making the call. If there is not a will, then the heirs should try to decide together who should become the Administrator. You will also need to determine the assets of the estate. The assets are what was solely in the decedent's name at the time of their death. They do not include anything with survivorship, beneficiary, or payable upon death. Once you have determined the assets, we will need the original death certificate and original will (if there is one). We will also need you to complete three forms that can be found on-line at <https://vacourts.gov> – Forms, Circuit, Fiduciary – Form #1611: List of Heirs, Form #1650: Probate Information, and Form #1651: Probate Tax Return. Instructions for completing the forms can be found under the form on-line. Upon receiving all the information, we set an appointment for the actual qualification to take place. At the time of qualification, you will find yourself reviewing information and signing documents. If the estate is over \$25,000.00, you will also be filing an inventory and accounting with the Commissioner of Accounts. There are also fees that are associated with the qualification, such as the probate tax, qualification fee, and clerk's recording fees.

One of our common questions is: Is there a need for qualification? Sometimes there is a need and sometimes it is not necessary. Virginia has created a "Small Estate Affidavit", which can sometimes avoid qualification. It can be used when an individual dies without a will and they have personal assets totaling under \$50,000.00. We also find that sometimes we just put the will to record without qualification and we call this a probate only. This is often done when there is real estate with survivorship and one spouse dies. Through the years, we have found that every estate is unique to the decedent. The way one estate is handled may not work for another. We hope this information will assist you, but also suggest if you have questions or concerns in probating an estate that you seek legal guidance.

As we write this, we are in the process of adding an informational fiduciary tab to our page on the Culpeper County website at: <https://web.culpepercounty.gov/circuit>. It is our hope that it will make the process a little easier by offering further information and quick links for you to easily access.



Terry L. Yowell, Commissioner of the Revenue



FILING DEADLINES

There are a number of important filing deadlines for tax year 2023:

| | | |
|--|---|-------|
| Business Personal Property and Machinery & Tools | - | May 1 |
| Military (non-Virginia resident) Leave and Earnings Statement (month of January) | - | May 1 |
| Virginia Income Tax (2022 tax year) | - | May 1 |
| International Fuel Tax Act (IFTA) documentation (all 4 quarters for 2022) | - | May 1 |

Virginia 2023 Estimated Income Tax quarterly payment vouchers:* #1 May 1 #2 June 15 #3 September 15 #4 January 15, 2024

* First payment is payable to the Culpeper County Treasurer but is to be delivered/sent to the Commissioner of the Revenue's Office. Any subsequent payments are payable to the Culpeper County Treasurer and are to be delivered/sent to the Treasurer's Office.

PERSONAL PROPERTY - WHO MUST FILE AND WHEN?

Taxpayers who own motor vehicles, campers, boats, trailers, aircraft or manufactured homes subject to taxation by Culpeper County as of January 1st and who have previously registered such property with the Commissioner's office, are no longer required to file annually.

Taxpayers must file a new or amended personal property registration form within 60 days of when any of the following events occur:

1. New purchases, acquisitions and/or property moved into the Town/County
2. Disposition of property and/or property moved out of the Town/County*
3. Change in name or address of the person(s) owning or leasing property
4. Change in the use of a motor vehicle from personal to business use or vice versa.
5. Any event or occurrence which causes a motor vehicle, camper, boat, trailer, aircraft or manufactured home to acquire or lose situs for taxation.
6. Any other changes affecting the assessment or levy of personal property tax on the motor vehicle, camper, boat, trailer, aircraft or manufactured home for which a return was previously filed

* Residents are reminded that State law requires timely notification of vehicle, camper, boat, trailer, aircraft or manufactured home disposition be made to the proper registration agency. It is your responsibility to take care of these matters as a statutory tax liability may occur if sufficient documentation is not available to give proof of disposition.

Personal Property Registration forms may be obtained by contacting the Commissioner of the Revenue's office or online at web.culpepercounty.gov and click on the Commissioner of the Revenue page under Government.

BUSINESS PERSONAL PROPERTY AND MACHINERY & TOOLS WHEN TO FILE?

In order to avoid the late filing penalty of 10% of the tax due, owners of property employed in a trade, business or in manufacturing must report property owned and/or leased as of January 1 to the Commissioner of the Revenue by May 1.

When filing your return, you must include an itemized list of property giving the description, date acquired and the original acquisition cost. A fair and equitable assessment can only be applied if you provide the necessary information to us.

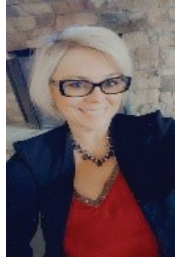
If you need help with this request, please contact me. If you need on-site assistance, please contact me. If you need my help in arriving at a fair market value because you no longer have the original acquisition information OR you converted personal property to use in a trade or business, please contact me. If you are not sure that the good or service you provide is considered acting in a trade or business, please contact me. At any time you have any questions, please contact me.

CULPEPER COUNTY TREASURER, Missy N. White

Dear Culpeper Citizens,

Happy New Year! I hope this issue of the Culpeper Quarterly finds you all well and healthy! As you all know, the 2022 tax due date has passed. Delinquent notices will be mailed out very shortly and will include past due penalty and interest as required by VA Code. Please see below for some frequently asked questions regarding delinquent notices.

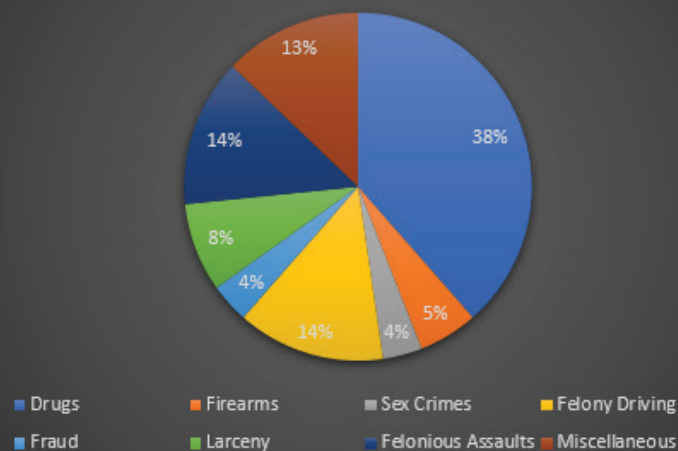
~Missy N. White



- What happens if I pay my taxes after the due date?
 - You will be charged a 10% Late Payment Penalty and interest will begin to accrue at 10% per annum with interest charged on the 1st of each month.
 - You will be subject to further collection actions per the Code of Virginia, to include causing a delay in State Income Tax Refunds and/or Lottery winnings, stops on DMV Registrations, bank liens, wage liens and seizure of property. Any collection/legal costs incurred to collect this bill will be charged to the taxpayer.
- Can the Treasurer waive my late payment penalty or interest?
 - NO...a late payment penalty is required by VA Code for all untimely payments (Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, §§ 58.1-9 and 58.1-3916).
 - Further, penalty and interest cannot be waived because:
 - » the taxpayer did not know the deadline or misread the deadline on the tax bill (1987-88 Report of the Attorney General 559, August 22, 1988);
 - » the taxpayer did not receive a bill (1970-71 Report of the Attorney General 373, Mrch 31, 1971);
 - » the bill was mailed to the wrong address (1981-82 Report of the Attorney General 393, March 25, 1982);
 - » the bill was incorrect (1986-87) Report of the Attorney General 321, July 31, 1986);
 - » the taxpayer received erroneous information from County staff, whether in person or over the telephone (1981-82 Report of the Attorney General 350, May 13, 1982).
- I put my tax payment in the mail on or by the due date but I was still charged penalty and interest. Why?
 - The law specifies that payments made by mail must be postmarked by no later than the due date. Thus, taxpayers use the mail at their peril, and anyone who mails a payment on time that is not postmarked on time is required by law to pay the late penalty. The United States Post Office mark, not a postal meter stamp, is the official and final postmark. If the Post Office postmark conflicts with a postal meter stamp, the Post Office postmark must be used (1985-86 Report of the Attorney general 295, July 9, 1985).
 - » We suggest if you are going to mail your tax payment close to the due date, please go inside your post office and get the postmaster to stamp your envelope before you mail.
- I received a delinquent notice but I already made my payment. Did my payment get posted?
 - The delinquent notices are based on a 'cutoff' date so they can be prepared for printing and mailing. If you made your payment after this date, the delinquent notice will still print and be mailed. If you are unsure or concerned about your account, please contact the Treasurer's Office and staff can confirm the status of your payment.

Commonwealth's Attorney - Paul Walther

August & October Felony Grand Jury



Jury Trials: A Citizens Guide

Trials by jury have long been part of the American legal system. First established in England by the Magna Carta in 1215 and then reaffirmed in the Virginia Declaration of Rights of 1788 and the Virginia Constitution, in every case in which a person could be punished with a jail or prison sentence, they have the right to a trial by jury.

In order to be eligible to be a juror, one must be over the age of 18, a resident of both the county and state, and not be under any legal impediment, such as being a felon who has not had their civil rights restored. Several months prior to the actual trial date, a questionnaire is sent out by the Circuit Court Clerk's Office. Following the return of the questionnaire, the Culpeper Sheriff's Office will deliver jury duty summons to those who are selected for each trial. Those summonses will give each potential juror the date in which they will need to appear for jury duty. Due to the number of juries in any given term of Court, a potential juror may receive several dates to appear. It is very important to follow the instructions on the summons, including calling the jury hotline (540-727-3419) prior to the jury date, to verify whether you still need to appear.

On the day of trial, approximately 35 individuals will be summoned to Court. The proceedings start at 9:00 with a video introduction of what people may expect. Once the video is complete, the parties will enter the courtroom and the selection process, called the 'voir dire' will begin. The Circuit Court Judge begins by asking initial eligibility questions, followed by questions by the prosecutor and the defense attorney. After all of the questions have been asked, the attorneys are permitted to strike jurors for cause. This is often due to possible bias, for or against the parties. Following those strikes, the attorneys will alternatively strike the jurors until the necessary numbers are left. In a felony case, the jury is made up of twelve members of the general public, while in misdemeanors, seven individuals are selected. From that point in time until the trial is concluded, there can be no interaction between the parties and the jurors.

The length of the trial, and therefore the length of jury duty, will vary case by case. Most trials will conclude in a day, while some may take several days. Following the conclusion of the evidence, the jury is read their instructions and given the finding documents. They are then sent back to the jury room to deliberate on the evidence and the wait for the verdict begins. Once there is a unanimous decision by the jury, the Court is notified and the jurors are brought back into the Courtroom. From there, the verdict form is passed to the Judge, where it is read aloud in Court. Unless, the defendant has requested jury sentencing, the jurors are then thanked for their service and discharged.

Noteworthy Cases:

On April 15, 2022, Michael Minified was sentenced to serve 17 years in prison. A jury had previously found the defendant guilty of involuntary manslaughter, hit and run resulting in death and injury and driving on a revoked license. The charges stemmed from a motor vehicle crash on Route 15 where the defendant drove at speeds over 120 mph before attempting to pass a vehicle when he crashed into its rear bumper causing it to spin into on-coming traffic. This tragic chain of events caused the death of the driver of the on-coming vehicle and serious injury to the passenger as well as the driver of the vehicle he struck in the rear. The defendant fled the scene before being arrested in Fredericksburg.

On September 15, 2022, Torron Frieson, was convicted following a jury trial for felony abduction, destruction of property, two counts of assault on law enforcement and two counts of misdemeanor brandishing of a firearm in reference to a several hour standoff near the Culpeper National Cemetery. He is currently being held without bond and set for sentencing on December 13, 2022.

In February 2022, a jury convicted Paul Myers of Rape and Object Sexual Penetration. On September 19, Paul Myers, was sentenced to 67 years, with 50 years suspended. Following his release from prison, he will be placed on 5 years of supervised probation and 25 years of good behavior. He will also be required to register as a sex offender with the Virginia State Police.

Employee Spotlight: Susan Wells



I moved to Culpeper from Manassas four years ago with my husband Jason and two kids, Chris and Madison. We have a chihuahua named Deisel and a cat named Lucky and we wanted to find one more new family member. We found Brandi, our beautiful black lab, here in Culpeper and we were all set to enjoy our peaceful new country home. A year later, Jason and I had our baby boy Jimmie who we named after Jason's father and our party of five was complete!

In our spare time, we enjoy cookouts with family, watching movies together and exploring new places and restaurants.

My husband Jason is a Mechanic for Arlington County and I am a Legal Secretary for the Culpeper Commonwealth Attorney's Office. I enjoy my job and all its aspects and most especially, working with a remarkable group of people. We continually strive to keep our community and families safe.

I'm so glad I moved to Culpeper and can't imagine living anywhere else!



Culpeper County Drug Court

The Culpeper County Circuit Drug Court, more affectionately known as Drug Treatment Court is up and running and is a great option in Culpeper County for members of the community who have criminal charges that relate, in large measure, to their problems with substance abuse. The diligent effort that has gone into having this program available to the participants has been monumental. Drug Treatment Court has been a long time coming in this community, having been discussed for close to thirty years by probation, the Commonwealth Attorney's office, defense attorneys and the community.

Now that we are operational, we would like the community to know a little about us. Our presiding judge is the Honorable Susan L. Whitlock, retired from this Judicial Circuit as a sitting judge, and designated as the Judge of Drug Treatment Court. The Drug Treatment Court team consists of two defense attorneys who are present at the weekly staffing and at all the court hearings to support the participants when they appear before the Court. The participants are able to reach out to the defense attorneys as issues arise from day to day. Our team is comprised of participants from the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office, from the Probation offices, law enforcement, Rappahannock Rapidan Community Services, which includes the S.E.E. Center and offers our participants a place where they can socialize with others in a sober environment. Our participants are mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, brothers and sisters. They each have a story as to how, why and when they got caught up in the addiction cycle, and, most importantly they all share a desire to break that cycle. Those of us who are involved with the Drug Treatment Team share the goal of the participants to break the cycle. We do this by providing opportunities for critical thinking skills, learning coping mechanisms, providing opportunities for increased pro-social peers and activities, and reminders to live life drug free, finding employment and becoming financially stable.

No one intentionally chooses to begin the cycle of addiction. No child ever writes an essay in class indicating that they want to be an addict when asked what they want to be in the future. Addiction is a terrible disease, and it impacts the entire family. Drug Treatment Court is in place to give the participants the tools they need to overcome their addiction and remain in remission for the remainder of their lives. Freedom from addiction

not only directly benefits the participants but benefits their families and the community as a whole.

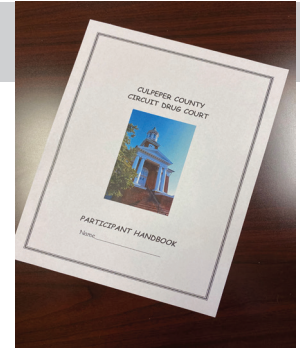
Drug addiction touches so many in this community. Few weeks go by without an obituary of someone who succumbed to their addiction or without a child being born in the area hospitals who has not been exposed to drugs in utero. Drug Treatment Court is a vital part of this community and provides a service above and beyond the traditional court system. Drug Treatment Court offers hope, not just to the participants, but also to their family members. Drug Treatment Court offers support to the participants; often the first support that they have been

given in the years of their addiction. Drug Treatment Court is a place where the participants can share their successes and their failures in a safe space. Many of the participants tell us that this is the first time that they do not feel that they are being judged by their addiction and that they are looking forward to the future. In the short time that we have been in operation, we have shared the loss of a grandparent and a parent with two of our participants. There is strength in numbers and being there as a team to support them in their grief was important to their recovery. We have helped participants with custody issues with their children; we have provided Treatment Team requirements as part of a custody order. By keeping the parent on track, we are helping to insure that their child has a healthier and more positive future than the participant may have had.

Treatment Court participants are 'rewarded' for their accomplishments. Again, for many, this is the first time in their lives that they have received positive reinforcement for improved behaviors. We were gifted a haircut/style by the Culpeper Cosmetology School. We welcome the community to reach out to us with gift cards and small tokens for our members to show that not only does the Treatment Team have their backs, but that the community appreciates their efforts and successes too. This is a community effort.

If we are successful in breaking the cycle of addiction for just one person, there is a trickle-down effect to others in the community. The more cycles that are broken, the stronger the trickle-down effect.

Our court hearings are open to the public, and unless a holiday interferes, are every Tuesday, beginning promptly at 2:30 p.m. The hearings, as are most court hearings, are open to the public. If you want to see what we are doing, and support our efforts, we welcome you to sit in on a session. There are many talents among our first 'class' of participants. One of our current participants is a gifted writer. We leave you with some of her words. They are powerful and express the importance of recovery.



*It's amazing I woke up today.
It amazes me I'm still here.
Night after night, year after year
Demons, fear, pain, loss, and brokenness.
It's a wonder I'm still here.
From the depths of my despair,
I rise! Every day, I will rise!
Turning away from all the lies!
"Demons get behind me!"; I shout.
I fear no more. I'm brave.
The pain is still ever present.
But it's made who I am.
The loss has taught so much.
To live every day to the fullest.
And last, but certainly not least
I'm not broken! I am whole!
Every doubt that comes creeping in,
I make a conscious choice to starve.
I rise up. Every day, I rise.
Ready for battle, thankful and blessed.*

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Culpeper Air Fest 22 in 2022!

Every year, we look forward to Culpeper Air Fest Week and over the past few years it truly has been a wonderful week filled with daily events leading up to the big airshow on Saturday. Our second year back since the pandemic cancelled our show two years ago, the Culpeper Air Fest celebrated show number 22 in 2022.

Culpeper Air Fest Week kicks off officially with our Air Fest STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) program for Culpeper County 5th graders, including private and home school children. Running on Wednesday and Thursday, hundreds of students from the county were able to experience exhibits in seven hangars this year, our largest STEM program to date. Students were exposed to a large variety of aviation related technology, participated in activities and demonstrations by a number of businesses and organizations. They flew drones, folded paper airplanes, welded virtually, learned about solar power, forging, green asphalt components, toured an ambulance and emergency helicopter, and much much more. We are very proud of our commitment to educating the next generation about aviation, aviation related fields, and other careers.

After the two day Air Fest STEM program, the Air Fest Foundation hosts a Sponsor Night Lights event on Friday evening to thank our Silver sponsors and above. Without our sponsorships and donations, the Culpeper Air Fest would not be possible and would not be a free public event for our community to enjoy. It's a chance for our sponsors to mingle with the pilots and performers while enjoying a nice dinner and some beverages. This year we were excited to have our very own Culpeper Technical Education Center involved. Blaze Kitchen, comprised of high school students within the culinary program at CTEC, catered our incredible dinner that evening to rave reviews. The night was capped off with illuminated model aircraft buzzing around, a hot air balloon lighting, and a special night time glider act by Manfred Radius. It was a beautiful Fall night leading into our big show the next morning.

On Saturday our week-long aviation journey culminated with the 22nd Culpeper Air Fest. The weather was absolutely perfect with blue skies and huge puffy clouds. Gates opened at 9 AM with a buddy boxing event hosted by the Culpeper Barnstormers and their fabulous model aircraft. Vintage airplanes and vehicles lined the airport for the public to examine and take photos with, while over two dozen vendors were in attendance to visit. New this year was a Special Warfare Virtual Reality trailer provided by the United States Air Force. There was plenty to do before the main performance at noon.

The show commenced at noon with this year's crop of performers taking to the air to wow the crowd. Performances included Bealeton's Flying Circus, the Jersey Jerks and their T-6 Texans, Chef Pitts and his Pitts Special, Steve Nixon and his R22 Helicopter, RJ Gritter in both his Piper Cub and Decathlon, Louis Horchel in his P-51 Max, Manfred Radius with his aerobic glider act, and two special flights by Art Nalls in the L-39 in his final airshow of his storied career. Art Nalls and his crew have been a familiar face at our Culpeper Air Fest for 15 years with his Harrier and L-39. We thank him for his many appearances and dazzling piloting skills at our little airshow!

Stay tuned to our website at www.culpeperairfest.com and social media outlets for updates on next year's show. We are always looking for support via volunteers, donations, and sponsorships throughout the year while we plan for next October.



About Culpeper Air Fest

The award winning Culpeper Air Fest is one of the most exclusive air shows in the country, and is also the largest annual event in Culpeper. It is 100% free to the public, and we've been able to keep it that way with strong support from you, our local community, and our local business sponsors. Our goal is to Honor, Educate, and Entertain.

Learn more at www.CulpeperAirFest.com and follow us on social media (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram) for the latest news and updates

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