

# PRESS RELEASE



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## **BEST ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

**PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY** | Park Project | [Read Submission](#)

Utilizing existing middle school campuses, the Pittsylvania County Parks and Recreation Department built the first parks in the 250-year history of the county at each of its four middle schools. Seed funding of \$150,000 was obtained through the county's budget. With that funding secured, an exhaustive fundraising campaign raised an additional \$501,000 over the next 12 months to completely fund the new parks. Parks include picnic shelters, restrooms, paved walking tracks, playgrounds and athletic fields. The park project has received several awards including the Virginia Treasures state designation from the Governor, a regional health award, a Virginia Recreation and Park Society state award for Best New Facility, a Governors Environmental Excellence Award and accolades from regional leaders and the school board. The addition of these parks has also helped improve Pittsylvania County's health ranking from 75 out of 133 in 2017 to 70 out of 133 in 2018 (Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute).

## **BEST SMALL COUNTY ACHIEVEMENT (50,000 or less population)**

**ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY** | Using GIS to Improve Erosion and Sedimentation Control Inspection Program Efficiency | [Read Submission](#)

Working together, the Isle of Wight County Stormwater Management and Geographic Information System (GIS) Offices developed a more accurate and efficient way of determining when erosion and sedimentation inspections are needed at individual construction sites. Using National Weather Service rainfall data and specialized software, staff produced mapping products that pin-pointed

only those sites receiving enough rainfall to require inspection. Additionally, the new process is much less likely to overlook isolated pockets of heavy rainfall that might otherwise go unreported. The new process keeps our operational costs low, has been in place for over a year and takes a technician 15-20 minutes to complete.

## **BEST LARGE COUNTY ACHIEVEMENT**

**CHESTERFIELD COUNTY** | Operationalizing a System of Care and Breaking Down Silos: The Sharing of a Senior Mental Health Clinician Across Juvenile Agencies in Chesterfield County | [Read Submission](#)

Chesterfield County, Virginia juvenile justice agencies, as part of a local System of Care community with other child-serving agencies, knew they needed to be innovative and collaborative when it came to address the many and varying needs of their court-involved youth. It was clear that youth were showing signs of trauma, mental illness and were at high risk to re-offend. The Court Services Unit, the Juvenile Detention Home, and the Adolescent Reporting Program were all targeting the issues, but in silos. Despite best intentions, there was fragmented sharing of information, and often, youth and their families had to re-tell their stories and provide redundant information to strangers, which is not a trauma-informed approach to working with court-involved youth. Therefore, a shared position was created: the Systems of Care Senior Mental Health Clinician.

## **ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNERS**

**ALBEMARLE COUNTY** | Neighborhood Improvement Funding Initiative | [Read Submission](#)

The Neighborhood Improvement Funding Initiative (NIFI) invests year-end budget surplus in our community. Residents were invited to the table to brainstorm with their neighbors, work through project challenges alongside staff, and ultimately select projects for funding. In all, nearly 500 community members participated in the NIFI process, over 400 project ideas were submitted, and nine projects were approved for funding across the County's seven urban development areas. Over \$1.3 million is being invested in quality-of-life projects across the 726 square miles of Albemarle County that will fulfill needs identified and prioritized directly by our community. The funded projects cover projects that enhance walkability, safety, and trail improvements.

**ARLINGTON COUNTY | HERRricane Arlington | [Read Submission](#)**

HERRricane Arlington is a cutting-edge summer camp program designed to give high school-aged girls the knowledge, skills, and abilities to survive disasters and consider careers in emergency management and allied fields. The program focuses on experiential, hands-on learning related to personal preparedness, natural hazards, crisis communications, and public health.

**ARLINGTON COUNTY | Until Help Arrives | [Read Submission](#)**

During incidents such as the Las Vegas shootings or the Boston Marathon bombings, citizens can play an important role in saving lives in the minutes following the attack. When we provide the knowledge and skills necessary, our community members can save lives until our professional responders arrive. IN this class, students learn how to recognize violent activities, respond safely, provide immediate rescue and emergency care to the injured, and report to 9-1-1 efficiently.

**CHARLES CITY COUNTY | LOVEworks Charles City County | [Read Submission](#)**

LOVEworks Charles City County (CCC) was a collaborative effort between the Charles City County Community Development Department and the Charles City Elementary School children. This collaboration produced a “LOVE” sign in the courthouse area, which has become an effective promotional tool for the County.

**CHESTERFIELD COUNTY | Northern Jefferson Davis Special Area Plan Outreach | [Read Submission](#)**

Chesterfield County’s Department of Communications and Media and the Planning Department collaborated for a community outreach effort about the Northern Jefferson Davis Special Area Plan. Community involvement is important in any effort of this scope, but especially in the Northern Jefferson Davis area – 13.5 square miles along Jefferson Davis Highway – one of the county’s oldest and most important highways which has some of the county’s densest population diversity. Outreach focused on meeting people where they were: in their neighborhood Latino-owned business, during their civic group’s meeting, at community centers and schools, and even on school buses. The county laid out a comprehensive communications strategy to increase citizen understanding of the planning process, and ensure maximum citizen participation in the plan.

**CHESTERFIELD COUNTY** | Weight Restricted Bridge Crossing Permit Program | [Read Submission](#)

In a collaborative, multi-agency effort, the Chesterfield County Department of Transportation (CDOT) successfully established a new, replicable, bridge testing process to allow all Emergency Response Vehicles (ERVs) to cross posted bridges during emergencies. The initial bridge tested using this process has a load posting of ten (10) tons which would only permit an ambulance to cross, not the Fire Department's heaviest vehicle an aerial ladder truck, rated at forty (40) tons. After successfully implementing the initial live-load test of the Mt. Hermon Road posted bridge, several other locations in Chesterfield County and other localities in the region were successfully tested and permitted for ERV crossings. This resulted in a significant improvement to the emergency response times for millions of dollars' worth of property and increased safety for those residents.

**CHESTERFIELD COUNTY | HANOVER COUNTY | HENRICO COUNTY** | Revive RVA Regional Opioid Summit | [Read Submission](#)

Facing an opioid addiction overdose crisis in the Richmond community, the leaders of Chesterfield, Hanover, and Henrico counties and the City of Richmond called for a regional summit focused on finding solutions to this epidemic. On October 26, 2017 **Revive RVA: Regional Solutions to the Opioid Crisis** community summit was held at the Greater Richmond Convention Center. Approximately 850 people attended the event to hear keynote speakers Dr. Robert L. DuPont, a national expert in the field and Dr. A. Omar Abubaker, a local dentistry professor who lost his son to the epidemic, share their perspectives and advice. Breakout sessions offered participants the opportunity to further explore areas of interest. After lunch, moderators provided summaries from the morning breakout sessions and a solution-focused community response. A recovery panel of area residents shared their experiences and success stories, proving that recovery is possible. Finally, REVIVE! training was offered to participants to teach them how to save an overdose victim and the prescription (antidote) was provided. More than 25 Exhibitors attended the event, many of them offering treatment resources and information to the community.

**DINWIDDIE COUNTY** | Robert & Betty Ragsdale Community Center | [Read Submission](#)

Dinwiddie County covers a vast 504 miles. While the County has a robust menu of parks and recreation offerings, most are physically located in the northern, more densely populated area of Dinwiddie. County leaders recognized the need to expand offerings to the McKenney area, which is in the southernmost portion of the County. Dinwiddie County received the generous donation of a building in the

Town of McKenney and seized an opportunity to expand Parks, Recreation and Tourism in a facility that would benefit citizens of all ages for many years to come. With the support of local funding, grant funding and donations from the community, the Robert and Betty Ragsdale Community Center opened its doors on May 2, 2017 and quickly became the much-needed hub for recreation in the previously underserved area.

**FAIRFAX COUNTY | Next Generation Security Program | [Read Submission](#)**

As a County Government servicing about 1.5 million citizens, we have the utmost responsibility to protect the well-being of citizens. Fairfax is also home to some Fortune 500 and large Government Contractors. We protect Businesses and Citizen's data with regards to taxes, sensitive personal information, business permits, land, critical infrastructure, health and human services and public safety. The Fairfax County Next Generation Security Program is part of the main Cyber Security program. Its mission is to Protect Citizen's data, develop and enforce Security policies and use technology that best protect data assets that will be on pace with modern and emerging security threats to maintain the County's no data breach, business continuity and service delivery performance record. The program follows a Security Defense-in-Depth architecture approach by deploying NextGen application aware security technologies to detect, block and alert threats where data moves both inside and outside the network.

**FAIRFAX COUNTY | Financial Exploitation Prevention Taskforce | [Read Submission](#)**

The older adult population is steadily increasing with the addition of the Baby Boomer population over the next thirty years. As people age, the ability to complete day to day tasks like grocery shopping, self-care, or money management may be weakened and the need for assistance increases. This dilemma is the perfect storm for scammers to come and exploit older adults for their retirement savings and other valuables. Fairfax County noticed an increase of financial exploitation cases and desired to make a change. The Department of Family Services and Fairfax County Police Department agreed that a collaborative approach was necessary to address financial exploitation and fraud cases. This discussion led to the development of the Financial Exploitation Prevention Taskforce and created a network of professionals. The Financial Exploitation Prevention Taskforce is a multidisciplinary team that is comprised of professionals from private, local, state, and federal agencies with a shared focus. The taskforce is a case review model where Adult Protective Services social workers present cases and receive guidance on how to proceed which ultimately leads to better outcomes for victims. The taskforce has also created an opportunity for agencies and departments that usually do not work together to

have the chance to connect and learn from one another. The taskforce has led to better service delivery for Fairfax County residents and enhanced inter and intra office coordination.

**FAIRFAX COUNTY** | Revitalize, Restore, Replant! | [Read Submission](#)

The *Revitalize, Restore, Replant!* (R3) program transforms existing stormwater facilities on Fairfax County Public School (FCPS) campuses into real-world teaching tools. In this free-of-charge program, stream ecologists from the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES) in Fairfax County, Virginia introduce students to stormwater and watershed ecosystems management through hands-on native plant installations in existing bioretention or dry pond facilities. Plant species are chosen to complement existing Commonwealth of Virginia Standards of Learning requirements. The goal of the program is to encourage students and teachers to use their local stormwater management facility as a long-term outdoor learning classroom without leaving their campus.

**GLOUCESTER COUNTY** | Traffic Safety Initiative | [Read Submission](#)

In the five years prior to the establishment of a Traffic Safety Unit and a large public awareness campaign, Gloucester County averaged 8.8 traffic fatalities per year. Since the inception of the campaign and initiative, it has been reduced to an average of 4.8. The program includes, not only enforcement, but also public information and education. The partnership with the local businesses have been successful, placing breath mints and pens during enforcement waves to help motorists remember to buckle up as well as partnering with Chick-fil-A, which provided free chicken sandwiches to students who are buckled in the high school parking lot. We used our local media resource to help get the message out, and Sheriff Darrell Warren is very proactive on spreading this word via different outlets from social media to traditional media.

**HENRICO COUNTY** | Elementary Explorers: STEM Education for Upper Elementary-Aged Students | [Read Submission](#)

Beginning in February 2016, the children's department at Tuckahoe Area Library in Henrico County began offering a recurring program for upper elementary schoolers called Elementary Explorers. This program teaches STEM topics (science, technology, engineering, and math) to third through fifth graders who have aged out of children's storytime and craft programming, but are too young for teen programs. Elementary Explorers aims to engage older elementary students through an innovative approach, providing age-appropriate learning

opportunities at the library with an emphasis on STEM concepts, hands-on learning, and discovery. The program complements school curriculum while also fostering curiosity and excitement for STEM topics. Elementary Explorers has consistently strong attendance and positive feedback from both children and their parents.

**HENRICO COUNTY** | The Academy at Virginia Randolph's 100 Men Challenge | [Read Submission](#)

The 100 Men Challenge at Henrico County Public Schools' Academy at Virginia Randolph (AVR) is an effort to provide strong role models for male students at the school. The goal of the challenge is to invite 100 men from various professions onto campus one day per month to motivate, encourage, and support the school's male student population. The program aims to provide stability and security that will enable students to view life through a different lens and, ultimately, to empower and enhance their lives.

**LOUDOUN COUNTY** | Public Safety Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems | [Read Submission](#)

The Loudoun County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) Search and Rescue Team recently acquired a small Unmanned Aircraft System (sUAS), commonly referred to as a drone. It is the first in Virginia and the sixth in the United States to be equipped with a Project Lifesaver antenna. The Project Lifesaver program is an electronic based locating system for people with medical conditions such as Alzheimer's, Autism, or other conditions, that tend to wander from home and become lost. Project Lifesaver clients are equipped with a wristband transmitter that emits an automatic locating signal. If the client becomes lost, the specially trained deputies with the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue Team will now use the sUAS, equipped with the Project Lifesaver payload, to help locate the client. As of Fall 2017, the LCSO had 107 clients in the Project Lifesaver program. The LCSO fully implemented Project Lifesaver in 2010 and has been 100 percent successful in locating 23 missing clients over the past seven years with many being rescued in under 30 minutes.



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY** | Animal Care and Adoption Programs (Three Programs Combined) | Animal Care and Adoption Center Social Media ([Read Submission](#)) | Caturday ([Read Submission](#)) | Animal Care and Adoption Center Live Release Rate Goal ([Read Submission](#))

The Animal Care and Adoption Center (ACAC) officially opened its doors to the public on April 29, 2017, with a grand opening celebration. The new, publicly owned center has the capacity to house 68 dogs *and* 64 cats. It also provides a community meeting room, office space, surgery facilities, and visiting rooms for prospective pet owners. Since the center's grand opening, Montgomery County has developed several innovative programs that has enhanced the quality of life for residents and animals.

**PAGE COUNTY** | Page County Sheriff's Office Youth Summer Camp | [Read Submission](#)

Looking for a way to fill a void in Page County, Sheriff Chad Cabbage set out on a mission to provide the "real" summer camp experience to youth in our community, while educating them about law enforcement and familiarizing them with those who protect and serve the County in which they live. Collaborating with Sergeant Stevie Owens, Page Alliance for Community Action (PACA) and Northern Virginia 4-H Educational Center, they applied and were awarded a Virginia Rules Grant. With part of the funding and established curriculum, the team engaged local businesses, organizations and community leaders to raise the remaining funds. Partnering outdoor activities such as canoeing, hiking, and kickball with the Virginia Rules curriculum on bullying, drug and alcohol laws and consequences and law enforcement guideline demonstrations on traffic stops and K-9 searches, the camp was a huge success.

**PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY** | Rural Fiber Broadband Public/Private Partnership | [Read Submission](#)

How to serve the rural community with fiber broadband to the home with a public (Prince George County)/private (Prince George Electric Cooperative) partnership using the oversized fiber of an electric company network between electric substations. County has rural underserved areas with high median income (no grants), no wireless ISPs, and did not want to handle daily operations of the new system. County issued \$1 million taxable bond to act as seed funding for third-party entity created to oversee operations.



**PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY** | Online Historical Marker Storyboard | [Read Submission](#)

The County's Historical Marker Guide has always been available as a printed document, developed and distributed by the County's Historical Commission. The Historical Marker Guide is a fairly expensive, full-color multipage booklet that is updated every couple of years. Between updates, new markers are dedicated but not incorporated into the Guide until the next update. Additionally, the Guide is not organized in a specific manner. In short, the Historical Marker Guide could be improved. As part of the Comprehensive Plan update, Prince William County Planning Office saw this as the perfect opportunity to update the format of the Guide into an interactive user-friendly online format, an interactive online GIS storyboard, which could easily be updated to show newly dedicated markers in real time as well as organize the markers into meaningful ways, such as by battle-type, era or geographic location.

**ROANOKE COUNTY** | Mobile Incident Command Center | [Read Submission](#)

Roanoke County's Public Safety departments desired an application to replace a paper map-focused incident command system to one which could be easily deployed from any mobile device or computer. The Mobile Incident Command Center (MICC) leverages GIS application technology to create a mapbased interface with address and latitude and longitude integration that creates accurate maps and structure data for incident areas and also allows personnel to collect data from the field and share that data with command in near real-time. The MICC allows data sharing within and between public safety entities through a multi-application suite which allows the Police and Fire & Rescue departments to coordinate during emergency incidents, training scenarios and incident pre-plans. The MICC was built in-house, leveraging GIS technologies and systems already deployed by the County at very minimal additional cost. The MICC and associated applications are innovative, effective, proven and cost efficient.

**STAFFORD COUNTY** | Partnering with the Community to Create a Lasting Memorial | [Read Submission](#)

Stafford County wanted to create an Armed Services Memorial to honor those who had made the ultimate sacrifice, those who have served, are serving and their families. This memorial would recognize Stafford's participation in the nine major conflicts since the Revolutionary War. They also wanted young people, the future of Stafford County, to have a hand in its creation. And lastly, they wanted it to be somewhere that would be immune to development, an onerous requirement in a fast-growing county like Stafford. The County appointed a

commission of three members – all veterans with one Marine Corps General, a Virginia House of Delegates member and a Board of Supervisors member – to come up with a concept and plan the memorial. In turn, this group organized a design contest among Stafford’s five high schools, picking winners whose designs were used as the inspiration for the professional firm who designed the program. The commission worked with the design firm to finalize the design, timeline and cost. Next, the Board of Supervisors appointed a group of citizen volunteers to a working group to organize fundraising for the \$835,000 memorial. One year and two months after the fundraising kick-off breakfast, the County held the dedication for the memorial on a beautiful July day. The group collaborated with businesses, individual donors and community organizations to raise the money in just about a year, several years less than initially was planned.

**YORK COUNTY | Significant Event Briefing Dashboard | [Read Submission](#)**

In 2017, the York County Department of Fire and Life Safety/Office of Emergency Management identified the need for a concise significant event situational electronic briefing “dashboard” for major emergencies/disasters that have the potential of or actually impact our locality. In order to meet this need, the electronic significant event briefing dashboard tool was developed. This dashboard incorporates data that has been obtained for authenticated sources, as well as local specific data/information so that the recipients can quickly find the critical information related to the event. Further, this allows them to meet their mission responsibilities related to the major emergency/disaster, ultimately being better prepared for action related to the incident. This comprehensive dashboard is electronically distributed to County staff/allied agencies with York County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) responsibilities and other responsibilities in the County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), as well as external emergency management partners that have a need to know (i.e., military and Federal facilities within the geographic boundaries of the County, etc.). It is also provided to operational public safety management staff and senior County management.

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VACo exists to support county officials and to effectively represent, promote and protect the interests of counties to better serve the people of Virginia.

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