



CCPD Community Engagement Newsletter

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Social Media



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UPCOMING EVENTS

The Next
Citizen's Academy
Begins March 7

[Apply Here](#)



To Serve and Protect Special Victims

Last October, the Community Engagement Unit created a new section staffed by Officer Bellamy and Officer Lewis; these engagement officers specialize in partnering with and educating our community to help prevent human trafficking, internet crimes against children, and domestic violence. Working in collaboration with Special Victims detectives, Officers Bellamy and Lewis work to identify, combat, and prevent the furtherance of these types of crimes by raising public awareness of the signs of human trafficking. To this end, they are working with hotel and motel staff to recognize and notify law enforcement of trafficking. Partnering with the Chesterfield County school system, they present programs on internet safety to juveniles to prevent online predators from exploiting this vulnerable population. Finally, their focus on domestic violence in the county extends to working with victim services, and both government and non-government organizations, to best assist the provision of necessary services to victims of these crimes. In their new unit, Officers Bellamy and Lewis will not only help the public recognize signs of trafficking, online predators, and domestic abuse, but will also assist patrol officers with their initial investigations.



Why We Exist

To Preserve Human Life

To Protect the Vulnerable

To Engage in Problem-Solving Partnerships

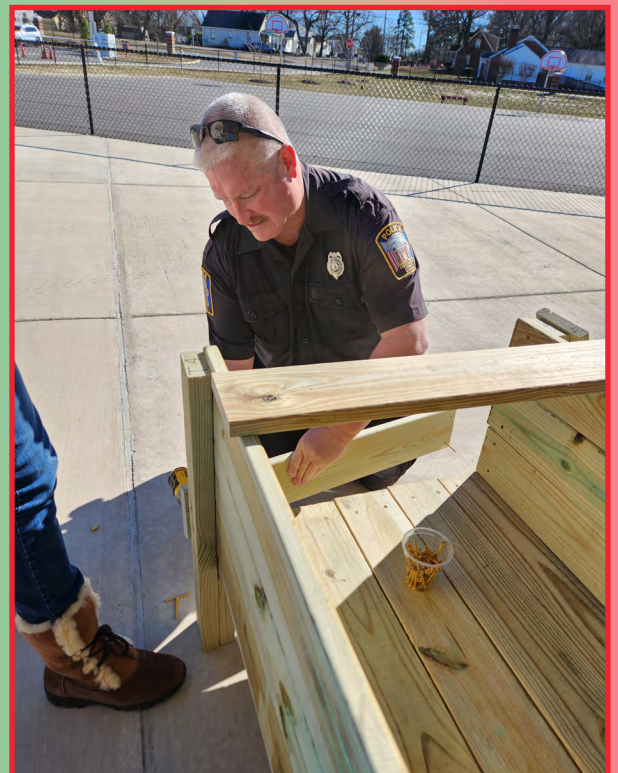
To Attract, Develop, and Retain Top-Tier Talent



Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Giveback

Every year, on Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Chesterfield County partners with Hands On Greater Richmond to provide opportunities for volunteers to serve their community in tangible, meaningful ways, with the goal of supporting and continuing Dr. King's legacy. This year, of 25 different opportunities provided in the Central Virginia region, half were in our own Ettrick/Matoaca area. Opportunities included improving classroom facilities at Ettrick Elementary, cleaning and clearing garden space with VSU, capital improvements to the Childrens Home of Virginia Baptist on Hickory Road and a host of others.

One such opportunity involved working with ToolBank RVA, a non-profit located in Richmond, that provides equipment and support to other non-profits and community partners to construct components for community spaces. On this occasion, ToolBank RVA was facilitating the building of raised planter boxes to be used in organic gardening at Ettrick Elementary, as well as 15 picnic tables to be used in public areas and school spaces in the Ettrick/Matoaca area. Corporal's Tim Morton and Dustin Woolson, under the "supervision" of Matoaca District Supervisor Kevin Carroll, assisted in building these items. In addition to providing the manual labor and logistical support necessary for the construction, Woolson and Morton were also able to tap into their agricultural backgrounds to provide instruction and mentorship to volunteers that were not familiar with construction processes. Along with adding to the functionality of community spaces around Ettrick and Matoaca, this opportunity allowed the Community Engagement unit to collaborate with and build important relationships with the student volunteers of VSU. Additionally, Morton and Woolson were able to connect with ToolBank RVA, learn about their operation and mission, and begin establishing a partnership that will pay dividends for both organizations. Stay tuned for more on that, as exciting things will be coming shortly!



SANTA'S HELPERS WORE UNIFORMS LAST CHRISTMAS

Through his partnership with Broadwater Townhomes, Corporal Jim Evans learned of a single mother of four children who had to be relocated to The Bend at 4800 (formerly Ivy Walk Apartments), another apartment complex within the county. He also learned one of her children wanted only a bed for Christmas so his mattress would not be on the floor. In collaboration with Master Officer David Dietrich, Evans sought help from partners they'd previously worked with as Community Engagement Officers. By Dec. 14, Corporal Evans and Master Officer Dietrich had partnered with Bethia United Methodist Church and Pastor Jacob Sahms, several local businesses, and non-profit organizations, to make the family's holiday season unforgettable.

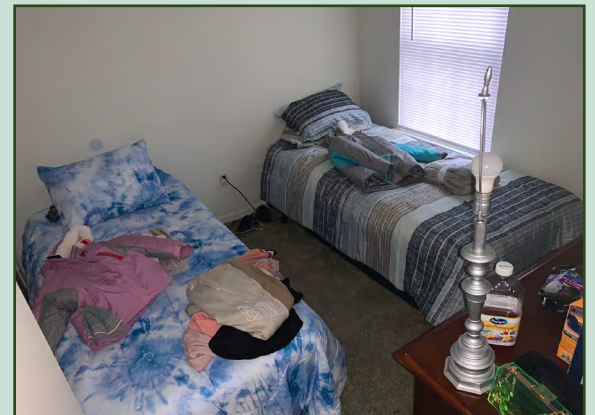
Prior to living in Chesterfield, the family lived in Florida, so Evans and Dietrich got new winter coats for all five family members, plus warm clothes for each of them. Further collaborative efforts resulted in care packages containing various toiletries for each family member. Like two Santas, Evans and Dietrich provided additional gifts, including new towels, washcloths, an air fryer/Instant pot, a new set of pots and pans, a Keurig coffee maker, new plates, cups, mugs, silverware, a coffee table, pictures for the walls, plants, and toys for the children.



As they used to say on TV, but wait, there's more! Through the kindness of the management of Haynes Furniture, the officers were able to obtain four brand-new bed frames with box springs for the family's mattresses. Additionally, new sheets and comforter sets were donated for each bed, plus a NY Giants blanket for the young boy, who loves the NY Giants. From 10 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. on Dec. 15, Evans and Dietrich gathered, assembled, and had everything in place by the time the children returned home from school. Dietrich and Evans had still one more surprise: Through their partnership with a mentorship group called Boys to Men, Evans reached out to a private donor who provided brand-new Nike shoes for the children.

Also, the mom was wearing glasses so damaged that she needed to hold them onto her face as she spoke. A phone call to a local vision care center was made so she could have a free eye exam and a brand-new pair of glasses.

Last and certainly not least, the Dietrich family graciously donated a Christmas tree to the family. Businesses and non-profits that made this Christmas miracle happen include: Haverty's Furniture, Haynes Furniture, Target, Bethia United Methodist Church, Boys to Men Mentoring Virginia, and America's Best Contacts and Eyeglasses in Richmond City. It was truly a collaborative effort between two exceptional Community Engagement Officers and the community.



Meet our Professional Staff

Community Engagement Unit



Lori Comstock, who previously taught art for 16 years, has been with the Chesterfield County Police Department for eight years. She started out as a Child Safety Officer but switched positions to her current role as a graphic designer five years ago. She enjoys the variety in her position as she creates layouts and designs that are used to promote events and communicate with the public, as well as taking care of office needs for the Community Services Division.

Originally from Henry County, Va., Lori has lived in Chesterfield for over 21 years. She is married with three grown children and a labradoodle. In her free time, Lori enjoys traveling, hiking, reading, and tending to an extensive number of houseplants.

Jim Eicher, a Richmond native and graduate of Clemson University's Master of City and Regional Planning program, has worked for the Chesterfield County Police Department for the last 19 years. Prior to his employment with the CCPD, he spent seven years with the Henrico County Planning Office. In his current role as the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) Planner, Jim reviews rezoning proposals and site, architectural, landscaping, and lighting plans for new developments. In addition, he presents crime-preventive recommendations to engineers, architects, and property owners. He also provides security assessments for businesses, offices, industrial facilities, houses of worship, apartment communities, and single-family residences.



Police Specialist L. Preston Pinkleton is a lifelong resident of Chesterfield County, originally from the Matoaca District. He held various positions before retiring as a Corporal from the Chesterfield County Police Department in October 2013. After leaving the police department, he was employed as a deputy with the Chesterfield County Sheriff's Office in 2014 and later as a background investigator for the Virginia Department of Corrections. He returned to the police department in 2019, and he currently assists the department's towing coordinator. He is married and the father of a daughter and son. In his free time, he enjoys tackling home improvement projects and spending time with his family.

Georgia Smith has been with the Chesterfield County Police Department for over 20 years. She volunteered as an Auxiliary Officer before she was hired by the county to work in the Crime Analysis Unit. She joined the Crime Prevention Unit about 16 years ago and has been working as the Multi-Family Housing Coordinator ever since. One of her favorite parts of her job is the community outreach component and working with different groups throughout the county, educating them on best safety practices. Georgia and her husband, Allen, have a grown son and enjoy spending time with their friends and family, and doing a little traveling, as well.





Chester Christmas Parade

In December, the Police Activities League (PAL) participated in the Chester Christmas parade for the first time in the program's history. Twenty children joined officers on the float and helped spread holiday cheer throughout the heart of Chester. Some sang, some waved, and some passed out candy, but at the end of the day, fun was had by all. We thank the Chester Kiwanis club for hosting this annual event.



CRIME SOLVERS



To anonymously report a crime and/or fugitive in Chesterfield County or Colonial Heights, call Crime Solvers at [\(804\) 748-0660](tel:8047480660) or use the P3 Tips mobile app. Your tip could make you eligible for a cash reward up to \$5,000.

GREAT BIG GREENHOUSE KIDS' DAY IN THE GARDEN

On January 21, the Chesterfield County Police Department's Community Engagement Unit was invited to attend The Great Big Greenhouse "Kids' Day in the Garden" — an amazing event that hosted approximately 700 families this year. For the fifth year in a row, our Community Engagement Officers interacted with visitors of all ages, sharing information about crime prevention techniques.

Children were provided with coloring books, slap bracelets, and stickers. Officer Washington and his therapy dog, Magic, were a big hit, as well. The event also included juggler Jonathan Austin, the River City 3 Railers Train Club, Virginia Naturalists, a wildlife scavenger hunt, and the Flat Creek Farm Petting Zoo.

The success of this program was made possible by our ongoing community partnerships and the efforts of our Community Engagement Officers — David Dietrich, Jim Evans, Tommy Mitchell, Dell Oxendine, and Jose Uribe — who attended this event.



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