

# CHESTERFIELD Observer

2018-05-02 / Announcements

## Helipad named for fallen state trooper

COMPILED BY ANNE DALTON



Left to right: Virginia Deputy Secretary of Public Safety & Homeland Security Ryant Washington, Gov. Ralph Northam, former Gov. Terry McAuliffe, Virginia Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security Brian Moran, and Col. Gary Settle with Trooper-Pilot Bates' wife, Amanda, and their children. PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA STATE POLICE

Two Virginia governors joined more than 200 family members and friends of fallen Trooper-Pilot Berke M.M. Bates on April 18 to dedicate the helipad at the Virginia State Police administrative headquarters in Chesterfield in Bates' honor.

Bates, along with State Police Aviation Unit Commander Lt. H. Jay Cullen III, were killed in a helicopter accident on Aug. 12, 2017, while monitoring violent clashes between white supremacists and protestors in Charlottesville.

Gov. Ralph Northam and former Gov. Terry McAuliffe, along with Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security Brian Moran and the family of Trooper-Pilot Bates, unveiled the new sign that designates the helipad in Bates' memory.

Trooper-Pilot Bates joined Virginia State Police in 2004 and became a trooper-pilot with the Virginia State Police Aviation Unit in July 2017. Bates is survived by his wife, twin 12-year-old son and daughter, parents and siblings. Virginia State Police dedicated its Chesterfield Aviation Base and Headquarters in Lt. Cullen's memory in February 2018.

### Education

The **Chesterfield County Public Schools** Office of Family and Community Engagement will host a **Kindergarten Readiness Fair** on May 17, 5:30-8 p.m. The event will be held at the Chesterfield Career and Technical Center @ Hull, located at 13900 Hull Street Road. Designed for the incoming Class of 2031, the Kindergarten Readiness Fair will allow families to explore resources, and rising kindergartners to engage in hands-on educational activities, and get

acclimated to riding a school bus and getting food at the cafeteria. Community partners presenting include the Children's Museum of Richmond, the Community Idea Stations, the Chesterfield County Police Department and the Greater Richmond YMCA. Free tickets are available, but registration is required through Eventbrite:

[www.eventbrite.com/e/ccps-kindergarten-readiness-fair-tickets-45380712934](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/ccps-kindergarten-readiness-fair-tickets-45380712934). For more information, visit [mychesterfieldschools.com/kindergarten-readiness-fair-scheduled-for-may-17/](http://mychesterfieldschools.com/kindergarten-readiness-fair-scheduled-for-may-17/).



Kerry Christman, of Chesterfield, an owner of The Egg and I on Hull Street Road, recently won a 2018 Chevrolet Equinox from Haley Chevrolet. The prize was part of a Richmond Rotary fundraiser that benefited combat-wounded Americans and their families.



"Off the Beaten Path," an exhibit featuring the work of Chesterfield watercolorist Marti Franks will be featured at Uptown Gallery through June 30. Using an unusual watercolor and pen-and-ink style, Franks paints buildings and street scenes, and her choices are always just a bit off the beaten path, places where locals hang out and where a tourist is unlikely to visit. Uptown Gallery is located at 1305 W. Main St., Richmond.

### Meadowbrook High School's Class of 1968

will hold its 50th class

reunion on Aug. 18 at Meadowbrook Country Club, 3700 Cogbill Road. For details, contact Eddie Moss at [mosstang@juno.com](mailto:mosstang@juno.com) or call 748-6518.

### Achievements

**Mid-Cities Civic Association**, which represents the Bellwood community in the Jeff Davis corridor, selected the **Falling Creek Police Station**, as their 2018 recipients of their annual First Responders Appreciation Dinner. A homemade meal of baked spaghetti, salad, garlic bread and cake was delivered to the officers at the station, which opened in July 2017.

**Penny Roth** is the new executive director for **The Pearl at Watkins Centre**, a Phoenix Senior Living community specializing in 100 percent memory care. Roth, a certified dementia practitioner, has had a 20-year career in nursing, as well as more than 10 years' experience in leadership for other assisted living organizations. The Pearl at Watkins Centre is scheduled to open June 1.

The **2018 Westchester Concert Series** at Westchester Commons returns for a third season on May 4, with proceeds benefitting local nonprofits. In 2017, nonprofits were able to raise \$299,008 at 17 events at Westchester Commons. Events included the Powhatan Rotary Hops & Barley Festival, the Magnificent Midlothian Food Festival, the Westchester Shamrock 5K, the Halloween Carnival Festival, Richmond Animal League's Woofstock, PRAI 5K Run/Walk, Conquer Chiari Walk and the Cinderella Dreams Project.

**Jeff Kretzer** of Chesterfield won the top prize of \$4 million in the Virginia Lottery's "\$100 Million Cash Extravaganza" game. Kretzer bought the winning ticket at MACS Retail LLC, 7041 Commons Plaza in Chesterfield. The lottery generates more than \$1.5 million per day for Virginia's K-12 public schools and Chesterfield County received more than \$17.8 million in lottery funds for K-12 education last fiscal year.

**Announcements** can be emailed to [news@localnewsllc.com](mailto:news@localnewsllc.com), faxed to 744-3269 or mailed to Chesterfield Observer, Attn: Announcements, P.O. Box 1616, Midlothian, VA 23113.

[Return to top](#)

