

Chesterfield named one of nation's best 100 communities for young people

America's Promise Alliance, the nation's largest alliance dedicated to children and youth, in partnership with Capital One, has once again named **Chesterfield County** as one of its 100 Best Communities for Young People for 2008. The 100 Best competition recognizes 100 outstanding communities across America — large and small, rural and urban — that are the best places for young people to live and grow up.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

More than 300 communities in all 50 states applied for the honor this year. The 100 winning communities span 37 states. This is Chesterfield's third time on the list.

SAFE, the county's substance abuse prevention coalition, was cited as one reason for Chesterfield being selected. Last year, SAFE conducted a community youth needs assessment that resulted in a community-wide substance abuse prevention initiative. The county's **Partnership for Youth** was also mentioned. That group assessed suspended and expelled youths, helping keep young people in school and developing fundamental educational components to impact success.

Families First, another program in the county, provides regular home visitation to new parents to help them develop the skills they need to care for their newborns.

The Health Department's **Women, Infants and Children Program** provides vital nutrition, with an average monthly caseload of approximately 4,000. Another initiative, the **Coalition for Active Children (COACH)** provides assistance with education, activities



Photo courtesy of the Dickerson family

Kimberly Johnson and William Dickerson will marry in Nags Head in May.

and programs designed to reduce childhood obesity. In a typical year, the program serves approximately 750-800 children.

In other announcements:

Sharon and Raymond Carver of Wake, Va. and James T. Yacobi Sr. of Poquoson, Va. announce the engagement of their daughter, **Kimberly Yacobi Johnson to William Brian Dickerson**, son of Jerry and Susan Dickerson of Chesterfield. Johnson is a graduate of Gloucester High School and is employed by the West Point Police Department. Dickerson

is a graduate of Manchester High School and is employed by the Richmond Police Department. A May wedding in Nags Head is planned.

The owners and employees of **Old Dominion Insulation Corporation** have donated \$20,000 in services and materials to improve the Chesterfield Senior Center at the Episcopal Church of Our Savior.

Chesterfield County has accepted an **Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant** of \$97,194 for the Community Corrections Services Day Reporting Center.

SouthPeak Interactive, LLC and Global Services Partners Acquisition Corp. have merged to form **SouthPeak Interactive Corporation**. SouthPeak in Midlothian is a fast-growing video game publisher that utilizes independent studios to source and produce innovative video games.

Shamin Hotels has kicked off a food drive to benefit the Central Virginia Foodbank (CVFB). Through Mar. 20, boxes will be placed in the lobbies of all 17 Richmond area Shamin Hotels plus a box at the company's corporate headquarters in Chester. Shamin Hotels employees will also volunteer their time to the CVFB during the month of February.

Jeff Bowman of Commonwealth Photography in Chester has earned a master's of photography degree from the Professional Photographers of America. The degree was presented earlier this month in Tampa. The master's program exists to recognize photographic excellence in imagery and print for more than 20,000 members.

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What if most of them were being caused by brain damage triggered by government-mandated, one-size-fits-all childhood vaccinations (currently 48 doses of 14 vaccines by age 6 and rising)? What if the drug companies are manufacturing prescriptions that are exacerbating these problems, causing psychopathic, suicidal tendencies in people, particularly young people?

What if these same vaccinations could also be causing most mental health deficiencies/learning disabilities, as well as catastrophic childhood illnesses and autoimmune problems (ADD, ADHD, arthritis, asthma, autism, cancer, cerebral palsy, Crohn's, diabetes, fibromyalgia, SIDS, etc.)? What if the stories of vaccines having eliminated illness are either exaggerated or untrue? What if autism is never seen in unvaccinated children (e.g., the Amish)?

What if most communicable disease outbreaks in our country are currently with the vaccinated? What if the U.S. government is ultimately responsible for most of our health care woes by mandating increasing numbers of vaccines (sometimes now at gunpoint) and (FDA) approving the drugs that worsen the mental health issues (and other illnesses caused by drug side effects)? What if the drug companies and the government are aware of all this but refuse to admit it or do anything about it?

What if this is all true? What if American citizens start educating themselves to the facts, after which they stop allowing all this to occur?

Ruth J. Mills
Chesterfield

Letters to the editor can be e-mailed to letters@chesterfieldobserver.com, mailed to P.O. Box 1616, Midlothian, VA 23113, or faxed to 744-3269. Letters should include the writer's phone number and home address, but neither will be printed.

Best trainer



Lisa Billings/Chesterfield Observer

Oprah Winfrey's personal trainer and best-selling author Bob Greene visited Ukrop's near Chesterfield Towne Center last Friday to recruit participants for the "Best Life Challenge." Greene hopes to inspire one million people nationwide to sign a contract to live healthier and lose weight. Be sure to pick up the Chesterfield Observer's Feb. 6 issue for more details on the challenge.

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Pick up locations: McDonalds at 5925 Hopkins Rd • Rite Aid Drug at 360 West Shopping Center • Shoney's at Bermuda Square Shopping Center • John Tyler Community College at 13101 Jeff Davis Hwy. • Chesterfield County Administration Building • Chesterfield County Airport • Robious Sports at 10800 Center View Dr. • CVS at Breckenridge Shopping Center in Chester • Flagstaff Car Wash at 11031 Ironbridge Rd. • Aunt Sarah's at 6737 Southshore Dr. • La Siesta Mexican Rest. at 9900 Midlothian Tpke. • Uno Chicago Bar & Grill at 12211 Jeff Davis & Deer Run Village Shopping Center • IHOP at Bermuda Crossings Shopping Center • Iron Bridge Medical Park at 11601 Iron Bridge Pkwy • Chick-fil-A, Chattanooga Plaza on Route 360 & Rt. 10 Chester • Midlothian and Chester YMCAs at 737 Coalfield Road and 3011 West Hundred Rd. • Midlothian Apothecary at 13502 Midlothian Tpke. • Burger King at 4000 River Rd. • People's Bank at 14441 Sommerville Ct. • Napier Realtors ERA at 14361 Sommerville Ct. • Long & Foster kiosk at Chesterfield Towne Center • Post Offices - Amthill, Bon Air, Chester, Chesterfield, Genito & Midlothian • Chesterfield Libraries - Bon Air, Central, Chester, Clover Hill, LaPrade, Matoaca, Meadowdale & Midlothian • Beef 'O' Brady's, 13606 Hull Street Road • Dunkin' Donuts, 4417 W. Hundred Rd. • C & F Bank at 4820 W. Hundred Rd. • Brock's Barbecue at Water Tower Shopping Center • Pleasants Hardware at Chesterfield Meadows Shopping Center • Lucy Corr Village at 6800 Lucy Corr Blvd. • Tops China at Chattanooga Plaza • Franchesca's Hair Salon at 6511 Woodlake Village Pkwy. • Haley Toyota at 8301 Midlothian Tpke. • Belle Kuisine at Stoney Point Shopping Center • Ukrops at Bermuda Square & 11361 Midlothian Tpke. & Stoney Point Shopping Center • Kroger at Breckenridge Shopping Center & Swift Creek Village • Food Lion at Rt. 10/Beach Rd. • WalMart at Rt. 10/Chalkley Rd. & Rt. 301