

## **VCE James City County Connection**

February 2024

Virginia Cooperative Extension is an educational outreach program of Virginia's land-grant universities: <u>Virginia Tech</u> and <u>Virginia State</u> <u>University</u>, and a part of the <u>National Institute for Food and Agriculture</u>, an agency of the <u>United States Department of Agriculture</u>.

## **Upcoming Events**

<b>4-H</b> Junior Camp Registration Opens	February 1st at 8am (online)
FCS Family Focus Playgroups (York)	Mondays & Tuesdays at 9:30am
FCS Family Focus Playgroups (JCC)	Thursdays at 9:30am in the JCC Center
<b>4-H</b> Horse Club Hippology Contest	February 17th in Virginia Beach
FCS Family Focus Evening Playgroup	Tuesday, February 20th at 6pm
<b>4-H</b> Teen Counselor Application & References Due	Friday, March 1st at 12am (online)
Working With Children Training for <b>Master Gardeners</b>	March 7th at 9:00 am in the Williamsburg Library

4-H Youth





On February 1st, we opened our camp pre-registration for the public to sign up.
We had over 60 families sign their campers up within the first hour, with camper registration filling the James City County quota within one day. This is an impressive accomplishment!
Admission emails were sent on February 8th in the order of submission. Those not admitted are on a waiting list. Thank you for your enthusiasm & continued support of 4-H Camp! We are looking forward to August 5th-9th!

If you are a person with a disability and desire assistance or accommodation, please notify James City County Cooperative Extension at 757-564-2170 or 800-822-1120 during the business hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.



# Virginia Cooperative Extension

Virginia Tech · Virginia State University



www.ext.vt.edu

Virginia Cooperative Extension is a partnership of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments. Its programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, military status, or any other basis protected by law.

### Introducing our new James City County 4-H Agent!









On January 25th, Isaiah Morton, our new 4-H agent, commonly known as Mr. M, began his first day in the office. With prior experience at the Jamestown 4-H Educational Center & as temporary camp coordinator for the City of Richmond in 2022, Mr. M is well-versed in VCE and 4-H. He also served as a teen counselor at 4-H Camp, participated in 4-H Day at the Capitol, and was elected to the 4-H State Cabinet in 2019. We welcome his expertise as he introduces new knowledge and opportunities for youth development in James City County. Mr. M can be reached by email at <a href="mailto:ikmorton@vt.edu">ikmorton@vt.edu</a> or by phone at (757)-564-2179.

#### **Colonial Riders 4-H Horse Club**



Holiday Party & Volunteer Day at Trimbath Farms in Barhamsville



Study session at JCC Rec. Ctr. for upcoming Hippology Contest



4-H Horse Club Officers Ayden (President) & Brettin (Vice-President)

Colonial Riders 4-H Club in James City County is a horse-loving group of kids with juniors & seniors that ride in both English & Western disciplines.

#### **Colonial Riders 4-H Horse Club Fundraiser**



The Paper Clover campaign is a bi-annual fundraiser that generates millions of dollars in scholarships for 4-H youth. Donations from the campaign strengthen 4-H educational programs. Customers purchased a paper clover at checkout in Tractor Supply stores nationwide. Check out our Colonial Riders 4-H Horse Club Fundraiser at Tractor Supply Co. in Norge, VA.

#### Family and Consumer Science: VCE Family Focus

James City County Family Focus just completed a 5 week playgroup program of Twist and Bend (Yoga) sessions. All participants that completed the sessions left with their own yoga mats! Recently, a pilot program was started at JB Blayton Elementary School in the Bright Beginnings classrooms where they are teaching social, emotional, and mindfulness yoga in 7 of the classrooms with 3 and 4 year olds.

# PLAYGROUP!



Parents and/or caregivers and children birth to 5 are invited to come play and learn together in the evening.
Planned activities include: Parachute Games,
Arts & Crafts, Music & Movement, and Storytime!
Enrollment is Required, Space is Limited!
\$5.00 per Family for Evening Playgroup.
Contact Sheree Press for more information.



We are a product of cooperation among local, state, and federal governments in partnership with tens of thousands of citizens, who, through local Extension Leadership Councils, help design, implement, and evaluate our needs-driven programs.

#### **Agriculture and Natural Resources**

#### **New James City County and Williamsburg** Master Gardener Association Leadership Team

The new leadership team took office in January, with a combined 73 years of experience to guide them in leading the organization this year. Most have been gardening since childhood & bring tremendous knowledge & practical experience to their work as Master Gardeners.

President...

President-Elect	Dave Kleppinger
Secretary	Dot Finnegan
Treasurer	Linda Neilson
Vice President, Communications	Marion Guthrie
Vice President, Projects	Gary Griffith
Vice President, Internal Education	Debe Sineath

**Help Wanted: Camp Teen Counselors** & Adult Volunteers!





With all the campers attending 4-H Junior Camp this year, we are recruiting teens and adults for help!

Teen Camp Counselors develop leadership skills by assisting with classes and by being role models who help supervise campers and provide for their safety and well-being. There is a discounted camp fee for all teens this vear.

Adult Volunteers help us provide a safe, supportive, and fun environment for our campers and mostly serve as adult chaperones and role models for all youth at camp.

Adult Volunteers camp for free and volunteers that stay all 4 nights of camp receive a full discount on the camp fee for one camper if they have a related youth attending camp.

You can find information to apply on our website under "4-H Jr. Camp"!

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in any of our activities, please contact our office at 757-564-2170 during business hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event. \*TDD number is (800) 828-1120.



Vice President, Administration...

VMGA Representative...

Past President...

#### **Connect With Us!**

Vickie Rockwell

**Emily Coyner** 

Marilyn Riddle

Deb Bussert

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