

Munson Park – 2018 Award Winner, Best New Renovation: Parks, Playgrounds, Blueways, Greenways, or Trails, Population over 200,000





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For daily registration, deduct \$10 for Ea Sunday, 10/4 (includes Educational Sessi Monday, 10/5 (includes Educational Ses Tuesday, 10/6 (includes Educational Ses	ons, Exhibit Hall Reception, Opening sions and Exhibit Hall lunch)	-	\$260 \$285 \$190
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<b>Pay Later</b> ! Don't have the funds immediately available for registration? Register now and select the "Bill Me" option to make payment by August 31, 2020.	VRPS MEMI	NSTITUTE - REGISTER B BER NON-MEMBER rence information comir	CEUs
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By July 31, 2020\$15August 1, 2020 and after\$20Purchase for one or all days.	If received in writing before Sep fee less a \$50 administrative ch eligible for a refund. Substitutio	arge. Cancellations not recei	
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## Parks & Recreation

Official Publication of the Virginia Recreation & Park Society

Volume 81 SPRING 2020

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#### MISSION

The mission of the Virginia Recreation and Park Society is to unite all professionals, students, and interested lay persons engaged in the field of recreation, parks, and other leisure services in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

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#### ABOUT THE COVER

Munson Park, Norfolk Recreation, Parks, & Open Space 2018 Best New Renovation (Parks, Playgrounds, Blueways, Greenways, or Trails) Award Winner Population Category: Over 200,000

Munson Park, one of Norfolk's original parks, is situated in the historic Park Place neighborhood. At just over an acre, the park consists of walking paths, a basketball court, benches, and playground. The park renovation relied heavily on neighborhood input particularly from the children, who helped pick the playground design and contributed to the artwork on the new backboards.

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

## We are Off and Running for 2020

ike many in our profession winter gives me time to catch up on projects and prepare for the year to come. Even with only a month into my term I have been fortunate to be able visit a number of service areas and meet with various resource groups. I am always energized by the passion and hard work of those leaders in our society. I am looking forward to working and visiting with all of our members from around the state throughout this year. Additionally, I am honored to work hand and hand with such a capable and talented board. In late January, the board elected your new Vice-President with Arlana Fauntleroy of James City County and returning as Treasurer, Jane Shelhorse of the City of Fredericksburg. With the President and our new Lay Member Amanda Walker they compose the VRPS Board Executive Committee.

This year we have a number of new initiatives that that the board will tackle for 2020. Three main areas that the board will look at throughout the year are education, mentoring and networking. In late 2019 we tackled one of those initiatives by developing an education task force. Members that represented various areas of our P&R community were brought together to discuss and develop strategies to improve the process of offering educational opportunities at all VRPS conferences (LTI, Management and Annual). With the work of that group and surveys from the membership we were able to create a list of guidelines that can be presented to groups that are developing education sessions for any conferences. In addition, the VRPS Board expanded the duties of the Professional Education Liaison to include guiding those groups for future conferences. Through this year we will be utilizing the same process throughout this year to address mentoring and networking opportunities in the society.



Dan Smith, CPRP President, Virginia Recreation & Park Society

For the spring we will have a number of

exceptional opportunities for professional development including athletic field maintenance, park rangers and the Leadership Training Institute. This year the athletic field training will return back to basics and has been designed for those conducting daily athletic maintenance as well as parks and recreation professionals/ managers that are looking to develop a working knowledge of athletic field maintenance. The one day sessions are offered in four different locations around the state in March. Also in March VRPS will offer a one day workshop for park rangers in central Virginia. This workshop will provide education sessions, roundtable discussions on current trends and networking with other park rangers from around the state. In April, VRPS will offer the Leadership Training Institute at the beautiful Wintergreen Resort. LTI is an excellent opportunity for those in parks and recreation to network and develop as professionals.

> Sincerely, Dan Smith, CPRP VRPS President





## 2020 VRPS BOARDS, KEY LEADERS & STAFF

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President	Dan Smith, CPRP	Hanover County Parks & Recreation	804-365-4693	dcsmith@hanovercounty.gov
Vice President	Arlana Fauntleroy, CPRP	James City Co. Parks & Recreation	757-259-5377	arlana.fauntleroy@jamescitycountyva.gov
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Executive Director	Jim Stutts, CPRP, CAE	Virginia Recreation & Park Society	804-730-9447	jim@vrps.com
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Board Member	Dean Crane, CPRP	Blacksburg Parks & Recreation	540-443-1101	dcrane@blacksburg.gov
Board Member	Kat Fish, CPRP	Prince William County Parks & Recreation	703-792-8203	kfish@pwcgov.org
Board Member	Aaron Reidmiller, CPRP	Hopewell Recreation & Parks	804-541-2353	areidmiller@hopewellva.gov
Board Member	Matt Spruill, CPRP	Colonial Heights Recreation & Parks	804-520-9392	spruillm@colonialheightsva.gov
Board Member	Kim Turner, CPRP, CTRS	New Kent County Parks & Recreation	804-966-8502	kcturner@newkent-va.us

#### **SERVICE AREA CHAIRS**

Central	A.J. McCage, CTRS	Hopewell Recreation & Parks	804-541-2353	amccage@hopewellva.gov
Eastern	DeMece Williams	City of Norfolk Recreation, Parks & Open Spac	e 757-664-7532	demece.williams@norfolk.gov
Northern	Julie Miles, CPRP	Alexandria Rec, Parks & Cultural Activities	703-746-5570	julie.miles@alexandriava.gov
Southwest	Crystal Hylton	Wytheville Parks & Recreation	276-223-3517	crystal@wytheville.org
Western	Jered Hoover	Shenandoah Co. Parks & Recreation	540-459-6777	jhoover@shenandoahcountyva.us

#### **RESOURCE GROUP CHAIRS**

Aquatics	Kendall Evans	City of Norfolk Recreation, Parks & Open Sp	Dace 757-441-2400	kendall.evans@norfolk.gov
Park Operations	Alister Perkinson, CPRP	James City County Parks & Recreation	757-207-0002	alister.perkinson@jamescitycountyva.gov
Seniors	Kim Graves	Chesterfield Co. Parks and Recreation	540-809-4930	gravesk@chesterfield.gov
Therapeutic Recreation	Tracy Newsom , CTRS	James City County Parks & Recreation	757-259-5354	Tracy.newsom@jamescitycountyva.gov

#### **ENTERPRISE GROUP CHAIRS**

	CHAINS			
Annual Conference 2020	l Conference 2020 Darrell Crittendon , CPRP City of Norfolk Recreation, Parks & Open Space 757-823-4291		darrell.crittendon@norfolk.gov	
Annual Conference 2021	Jerry West	Rockingham Co. Parks and Recreation	540-564-3164	jwest@rockinghamcountyva.gov
	Brian Mancini	Harrisonburg Parks & Recreation	540-433-9168	brian.mancini@harrisonburgva.gov
Foundation	Ned Cheely, CPRP	Retired	757-592-3446	ncheely@gmail.com
Awards & Citations	Leslie Bowery, CPSI, CPRP	Winchester Parks & Recreation	540-662-4946 x16	Leslie.Bowery@winchesterva.gov
LTI 2020	Kelley Herbert, CPRP	James City County Parks & Recreation	757-259-5372	kelley.herbert@jamescitycountyva.gov
Management Conference 2021	LaTanya Turner, CPRP	Isle of Wight Co. Parks & Recreation	757-357-5951	lturner@isleofwightus.net
	Mark Furlo, CPRE	Suffolk Parks & Recreation	757-514-7266	mfurlo@suffolkva.us
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	Heather Clement	Henrico Division of Recreation and Parks	804-652-1422	cle066@henrico.us
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	Lori Haislip	Administrative Assistant	804-730-9447	lori@vrps.com
	Nancy Turnage	Member Services Coordinator	804-730-9447	nancy@vrps.com

#### SERVICE AREAS

Central	Aaron Reidmiller
Eastern	Arlana Fauntleroy
Northern	
Southwestern	Dean Crane
Western	Justin Bullock

#### **RESOURCE GROUPS**

Aquatic	Kat Fish
Park Operations	Matt Spruill
Senior	
Special Events & Marketing	
Therapeutic Recreation	

#### **BOARD LIAISONS**

EVENTS	,
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2020 LTI	Matt Spruill
Annual Conference 2020	
Annual Conference 2021	
Management Conference 2021	Matt Spruill. Jim Stutts
VSG 2020	
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#### COMMITTEES

Awards & Citations	Justin Bullock, Matt Spruill
Foundation	Jim Stutts
Legislation	Jim Stutts, Kim Turner
Nominations & Elections	Kim Turner
Professional Education	Jane Shelhorse
Student Initiatives	Aaron Reidmiller, Dean Crane

## VRPS SPRING 2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

	Tue	Mar 3	8:00am Playground Maintenance Course – Newport News
	Wed	Mar 4	All day2020 CPSI – Newport News
			6:00am E-update
			10:00am2021 VRPS Annual Conference Meeting
	Thu	Mar 5	All day2020 CPSI – Newport News
			10:00am2020 VRPS Annual Conference Meeting
	Fri	Mar 6	All day2020 CPSI – Newport News
	Mon	Mar 9	11:00am ARG March GoToMeeting
I	Tue	Mar 10	10:00am2021 Management Conference Meeting
	Wed	Mar 11	6:00am E-update
	Fri	Mar 13	9:00am VSG meeting
			10:00amSRG monthly meeting
	Mon	Mar 16	All dayAthletic Fields – Blacksburg
4	Tue	Mar 17	All dayAthletic Fields – Chesapeake
	Wed	Mar 18	All dayAthletic Fields – Henrico
			6:00am E-update
	Thu	Mar 19	All dayAthletic Fields – Loudoun
			9:00am Park Ranger Training
	Wed	Mar 25	6:00am E-update
	Thu	Mar 26	11:00am Central Area Directors Lunch
	Fri	Mar 27	11:00am Leadership Training Institute Committee meeting - FINAL walk through
	Mon	Mar 30	All daySA/RG P&L Reports Distributed
	Wed	Apr 1	6:00amE-update
	Wed	Apr 1	6:00am E-update 10:00am 2021 VRPS Annual Conference Meeting
		Apr 1 Apr 2	
	Thu		10:00am2021 VRPS Annual Conference Meeting
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APRIL	Thu Wed Fri Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sun	Apr 2 Apr 8 Apr 9 Apr 10 Apr 13 Apr 14 Apr 15 Apr 16 Apr 17	<ul> <li>10:00am</li></ul>
APRIL	Thu Wed Thu Fri Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sun Mon	Apr 2 Apr 8 Apr 9 Apr 10 Apr 13 Apr 14 Apr 15 Apr 16 Apr 17 Apr 19	<ul> <li>10:00am</li></ul>
APRIL	Thu Wed Fri Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sun Mon Tue	Apr 2 Apr 8 Apr 9 Apr 10 Apr 13 Apr 14 Apr 15 Apr 16 Apr 17 Apr 19 Apr 20	<ul> <li>10:00am</li></ul>
APRIL	Thu Wed Thu Fri Mon Tue Ved Thu Fri Sun Mon Tue Wed	Apr 2 Apr 8 Apr 9 Apr 10 Apr 13 Apr 14 Apr 15 Apr 16 Apr 17 Apr 19 Apr 20 Apr 21	<ul> <li>10:00am</li></ul>

Visit www.vrps.com/Calendar for the complete VRPS Calendar of Events.

## **VRPS SPRING 2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

	Wed May 6	6:00am E-update
		10:00am2021 VRPS Annual Conference Meeting
	Thu May 7	10:00am2020 VRPS Annual Conference Meeting
	Fri May 8	9:00am VSG Meeting
		10:00amSRG Monthly Meeting
	Mon May 11	11:00am ARG May GoToMeeting
	Tue May 12	All day
		10:00am
	Wed May 13	All day
		6:00am E-update
Σ	Thu May 14	All day
	Fri May 15	All day
		All day
	Sat May 16	All day
	Wed May 20	6:00am E-update
	Wed May 27	6:00am E-update
	Sun May 31	All day
		All day
		All day2020 Awards Nomination Early Discount Deadline
	Wed Jun 3	6:00am E-update
		10:00am
	Thu Jun 4	10:00am
	Mon Jun 8	11:00am ARG June GoToMeeting
	Tue Jun 9	10:00am
	Wed Jun 10	6:00am E-update
N	Fri Jun 12	9:00amVSG meeting
		10:00amSRG monthly meeting
	Wed Jun 17	6:00am E-update
	Wed Jun 24	6:00am E-update
	Tue Jun 30	All day
		All dayService Area/Resource Group Profit & Loss Reports Distributed

WHAT'S NEW IN YOUR COUNTY OR TOWN?

Let VRPS spread the word about all your hard work!



Email us at **vrps@vrps.com** and appear in our next magazine.

### NEWS FROM JAMES CITY COUNTY

## BUTTERFLY FESTIVAL IN JAMES CITY COUNTY PROMOTES ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

By Cheryl Sonderman, Administrative Assistant, James City County Parks & Recreation



Who can resist the opportunity to hold and feed a beautiful butterfly? For the past five years, a free family-oriented Butterfly Festival has been offered to the public for two days in August in James City County, thanks to a partnership with the Williamsburg Botanical Garden (WBG), funding from the Green Springs Garden Club Inc. and the Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory, and several organizations and James City County staff.

WBG's location in Freedom Park, a 600-acre park owned and operated by James City County, provides a perfect setting. The Festival is in a convenient location, with adequate infrastructure and supporting facilities, and within easy walking distance to the Garden's 2.5-acre site where the activities are held.

James City County Parks Administrator, Alister Perkinson says "The Festival is a fun, environmental stewardship and education initiative led by some of our community organizations who care about the well-being of our ecosystem." Festival partners include the Historic Rivers Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalist, local Master Gardeners, the Virginia Native Plant Society and a small army of passionate community volunteers.

Leveraging the power of these partnerships (or, for the purpose of this article, "cross-pollination" of like-minded groups and individuals), the Williamsburg Botanical Garden Butterfly Festival has really taken flight, becoming a very popular and anticipated event of the summer that has grown in attendance from 500 people the first year to approximately 3,000 people in 2019.

Bringing together the expertise and energy from these partnerships has been the key to the Festival's success. A diverse offering of activities includes two "walk-through" butterfly tents with over 300 live butterflies that can be held and fed with a Q-tip dipped in Gatorade, eye-catching display areas, and expert speakers providing information on caterpillars, chrysalis, butterfly life cycles, migration, behaviors such as "puddling," the importance of pollinators to our ecosystem, and the various butterfly species in our local area. Butterfly-themed children's crafts are also offered.



The Festival also showcases the WBG's efforts to create habitat for several pollinator species, including bees, birds and other insects. Besides planting native species throughout the Garden that provide nectar and larval food for pollinators, volunteers built a Pollinator Palace, a "house" for insects and bees to nest and reproduce, out of natural and recycled materials. This educational exhibit provides an example of a project people could easily replicate at their own homes.

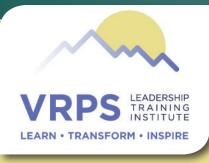
To round out the event and build on interest created by the Festival, the WBG hosts a plant sale where people can purchase plants that will attract butterflies and other pollinators to their yards and increase local habitat.

"The Butterfly Festival provides an upclose-and-personal learning experience about the role and importance of pollinators in our ecosystem and the causes for their declining population," says Judy Jones, Past President of the Historic Rivers Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalist. "By giving people this knowledge and tangible ways in which they can help, we are building support to reducing the threat to their population from environmental factors."

## **NEWS FROM LTI**

# Take it from me. . .

By AJ McCage, CTRS Community Recreation Supervisor Hopewell Recreation & Parks



My time within the field of Parks & Recreation had not been long; I was only into the second year of my career when I was given the opportunity to attend the Leadership Training Institute in 2018. Now, only a few years later, I realize that the experiences and networking opportunities provided to me by **participating in LTI is truly helping to shape my career**.

Initially, I was planning to use the opportunity to gain insight on ways to increase my communication between coworkers and part-time staff. I also thought it would be a good platform to talk about some of the new program initiatives that our department was planning. But, once involved in the actual sessions, I gained much more than a few talking points amongst peers and part-time staff. I was able to **learn new management procedures and tips** when working alongside population different than myself and how to gain and retain staff attention by connecting on things that would interest them. One of my favorite experiences was participating in hands-on ice breakers and teambuilding activities. One of the presenters even covered a session about 'low cost' and/or 'no material' games to play with staff and participants, which proves extremely helpful when coming from smaller departments.

Aside from the education sessions, the social aspect was on a different level than most conference experiences. The group was designed to break communication barriers with all types of people. You were exposed to different careers within recreation and parks as well as interacting with other community partners. I loved being in a house and meeting new people, asking questions about their jobs, making dinner together and attending the group socials. Another favorite of mine was participating in the night of group games. I swear you had every person in the room yelling and cheering each other on. It was neat seeing everyone in somewhat of an awkward place in the beginning and then by the end of it exchanging contact information and setting up meetings to meet in their localities.

**LTI was a great experience** and something that I would love to expose all of my staff to. The connections that you make during that weekend carry over and can be used as a benefit to management and program expansion. While learning about others, you learn about yourself.

#### Take it from me...it's worth it!

There are only a few spots left-don't miss out!

https://www.vrps.com/events/leadership-training-institute/

Follow us on Facebook: //www.facebook.com/Leadership.Training.Institute/

## NEWS FROM THE SPECIAL EVENTS & MARKETING RESOURCE GROUP

## SEMRG...there's a new Resource Group in Town!

By Joy Johnson, M.S. Ed, CPRP, Program Coordinator, James City County Parks & Recreation

The Special Events & Marketing Resource Group (SEMRG) was formed in April 2019. Its mission is to "provide an avenue to unite special event and marketing professionals through networking, education and training opportunities, and VRPS events, while supporting the mission of the Virginia Recreation & Park Society."

Any VRPS professional that oversees, manages or has an interest in special event planning and marketing is welcome to join!

SEMRG has four key goals:

- 1) Provide diverse trainings and meetings.
- 2) Increase membership and member participation.

- 3) Establish a greater presence within VRPS.
- 4) Provide informational and educational resources to members.

During the June 2019 statewide kick-off meeting held at Belmont Recreation Center (Henrico, VA), over 15 attendees gave ideas on what type of topics and trainings they'd like to see SEMRG provide. From this input, the SEMRG hosted their Quarterly Meeting & Marketing Roundtable on January 23, 2020. Nearly 30 professionals engaged in a presentation from Jason Shriner, former Marketing Manager, Manassas Park Department of P&R, titled "Marketing Across Generations," and roundtable group discussions around current trends such as marketing successes and failures, best special event ideas, volunteers, SWAG ideas and sponsorships.

The next quarterly meeting date is May 7, 2020 in Fredericksburg, VA, more details to come. To be added to the SEMRG distribution list for upcoming meetings & events, email Joy Johnson, Marketing & Communications Chair at joy.johnson@jamescitycountyva.gov. Visit the SEMRG web page at www.vrps.com (Regional & Specialty Groups).





### NEWS FROM CENTRAL SERVICE AREA



## **SPECIAL EVENTS LEADERS WORKSHOP**

The Central Service Area held a Special Events Leaders workshop on Wednesday, Nov. 6 at Meadow Event Park in Doswell.

44 professionals from 16 agencies attended the workshop. Speakers from Richmond Raceway, RMC Events, Meadow Event Park and the Richmond Flying Squirrels shared their expertise with the attendees.

Carousel Signs and Designs was the sponsor.

## A great place. A great place to play.

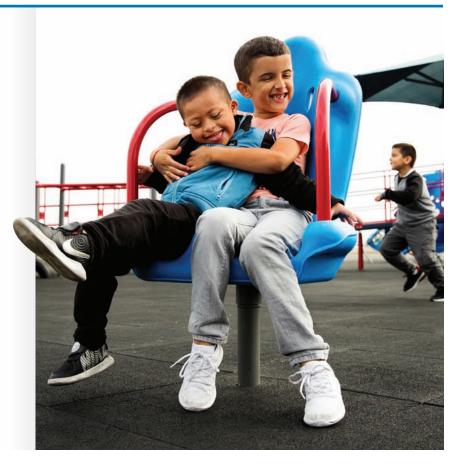
#### Play is a fundamental human right.

With initiatives like Play4All and Healing Communities Through Play<sup>™</sup>, Cunningham Recreation is bringing people together, using communities and creating a brighter future one great place at a time.

Join our mission at play4allcampaign.com.







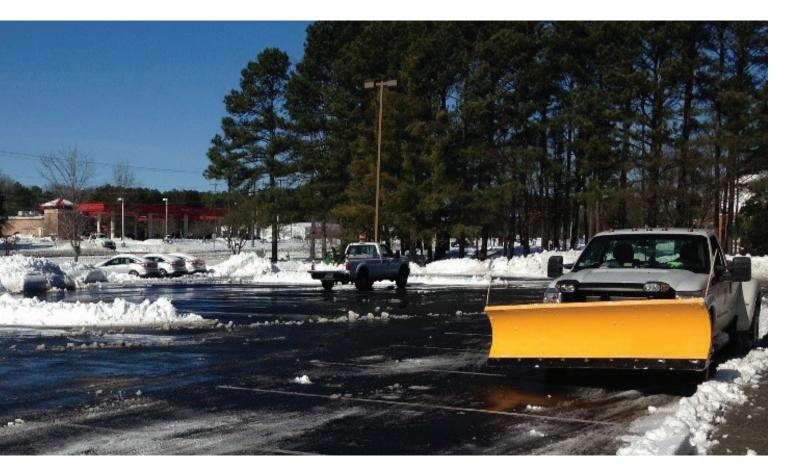
## **NEWS FROM HANOVER COUNTY**

## Develop a Smart Snow Removal Plan

#### By Dan Smith, Deputy Director - Hanover County Parks and Recreation

As I am writing this we have yet to have a serious winter storm in my area and of course, writing this makes me think that I have now seriously jinxed myself. Even tough, we are well past the point of preparing for the snow removal season however, winter is here and it is on everyone's mind. Before going too far, it needs to be stated that we are in no way experts on snow removal and deal with much less winter weather than our members to the west typically. However, most parks and recreation agencies do snow removal to some degree whether large or small. Some agencies do snow removal for other departments in their localities as well. In Hanover, we are responsible for a majority of the government sites and all park sites. With an all hands on deck approach and a limited time frame to accomplish our task, having a solid plan to remove snow is essential to limit operational down time and overtime of our staff. In developing our snow removal plan in Hanover County we had to look at a number factors: our assets, human and machine; prioritization of sites; special needs at each site; hierarchy of staff and communication; and pre and post operation plan. For the purposes of this article we will tackle each area one by one.

Assets – The first aspect of developing your plan is knowing what you have both staff and equipment for snow removal. For our staffing, we have two geographic crews, one athletic crew and one trades' crew, 17 staff in all. We decided to keep that staff in their work units as they had leadership with each crew with their crew chief. We then inventoried all equipment that we had from snow blowers, push spreaders, plows, tractors/loaders, truck spreaders and shovels. After we were able to determine what we had we assigned that equipment



### **NEWS FROM HANOVER COUNTY**

to the crews based on their staffing and site needs. Each crew needed mixture of those working on the ground with shovels, blowers and push spreaders and those in trucks or tractors pushing and removing large amounts of snow.

**Prioritization of sites** – In order to assign staff work areas we had to know from the county's perspective what areas needed to have attention first. We did this by utilizing past requests from county administration and having the Parks and Recreation Director, work with county administration to determine what the greatest priority is for removal. Then with each site we needed to determine the priorities for that particular site. After determining what our priorities were we had to develop a plan that not only fit our staffing levels but allowed us to be efficient within the geography of the county.

**Special Site Needs** – When developing a plan you have to take into consideration any special needs that a site may have. An example would be that we have a large courthouse that requires special access permission to secured areas such as an enclosed judge's lot that has to be addressed. In the parks, traffic counter tubes need to be removed before plowing. Hidden potential issues such as speed bumps or elevated crosswalks require identification before plowing. Areas that require only hand removal such as decorative concrete, new construction or slate should be identified in the plan.

#### Hierarchy of Staffing and

**Communication** – Typically, on site snow plans fail when they don't have specific roles established with their duties clearly outlined. At Hanover County one of our issues was that even though it is all hands on deck, the arrival of higher level



staff (Director, Deputy Director) would undermine the Maintenance Supervisor. Staff typically will go to whoever is available for direction and often time that direction is counterproductive (too many cooks spoil the broth scenario). To combat that issue we developed one person (Maintenance Coordinator) to coordinate all removal operations in the field and all other staff directed communication through that person, affectionately known as "Snow Boss." In order to help the Snow Boss the Director and Deputy Director had other roles such as: update reports to county administration and other departments; communications with other county staff, police, and fire etc...; site inspections; or simply filling in where the snow boss needed them. In this way the snow boss can work with minimal distractions to get the snow removed as fast as possible.

**Pre and Post Operation Plan** – As part of your plan developing a pre removal plan is vital to success. Preparations need to be made in the fall before winter occurs. One that takes into account checking all your equipment, fueling vehicles and equipment, making sure transfer tanks are filled and allocating snow removal chemicals. Staff should be ready should an event occur quickly with all the necessary needs met in advance. Sometimes that means moving equipment to key areas given the forecast days before an event. A post operation plan should include procedures for securing and cleaning equipment used in snow removal. After an event is over coordination of equipment transport and repair may also need to occur. Inventory of chemicals is vital to ensure that have what is necessary in the event of another snow for that season.

When snow arrives staff, department heads and government administration tend to get excited and often start shooting from hip. It helps when you have a good plan and that you stick to it as much as possible. Developing a reasonable plan has a number benefits such as: better communication with administrative managers of your goals and timeframe; giving staff realistic expectations; prioritizing needs for sites; and ensuring that staff are working effectively. To view the Hanover County P&R snow plan please check for the link on the Park Operations Resource Group page of the VRPS website.

### NEWS FROM CITY OF FREDERICKSBURG

## The "Fights" are a Hit in Fredericksburg!

By Jane C. Shelhorse, Director, Fredericksburg Parks, Recreation and Events

You may say there's never a good time to hit a child, but we beg to differ... it is perfectly fine when you're going to hit them with a snowball! On Saturday, February 1st, the Fredericksburg Parks, Recreation and Events Department held the 4th Annual Snow Ball Fight at Hurkamp Park in downtown Fredericksburg.

"I'm going to pummel him!" said Pam Greenfield of Fredericksburg, as she eyed her 7 year old grandson, Travis. This is the second year Ms. Greenfield has brought her grandsons to the event. All ages can and do participate. It is a low cost, family friendly event that all ages can enjoy.

How did the department pull off a snowball fight when it was 69 degrees? "The snowballs are the key!" says Sammy Walker, Coordinator of the event. "Not only can we use them no matter what the weather, but no matter how hard someone throws them, they are soft enough that they don't hurt when they hit." They do get muddy, and can get a little soggy if the ground is wet or muddy. For that reason, the event was actually postponed from a rainy Saturday on January 25th to February 1st, when the weather was much better. Normally the Snowball Fight is held in conjunction with the annual winter "Restaurant Week" in downtown.

Staff sets up a ring using bicycle barricades in a grassy area of the park. Next they

place "forts" and "walls" that staff has made from recycled boxes they have been gathering since Christmas. They are covered with camouflage sheets to make them look more realistic. Then large bins of the snowballs are put in the ring, and balls scattered throughout. All is needed at this point are the fighters.

Participants sign up on site, \$3 per person, \$5 for two for the full hour and a half event. Twenty five people are allowed in the ring for a new "fight" every ten minutes, with a few minutes to clear the ring in between. At the end of the event everyone still playing helps to gather up the snow balls which are then washed and stored for the next year



About 150 people paid to fight, while others came to watch and enjoy the live deejay, jump in the moonbounce, or munch on a funnel cake. Even the staff that supervise the event have fun, often taking the opportunity to chuck a snowball or two at a fellow staff member.

This relatively new event, is becoming a community winter favorite, and we will continue to "fight" for many years!

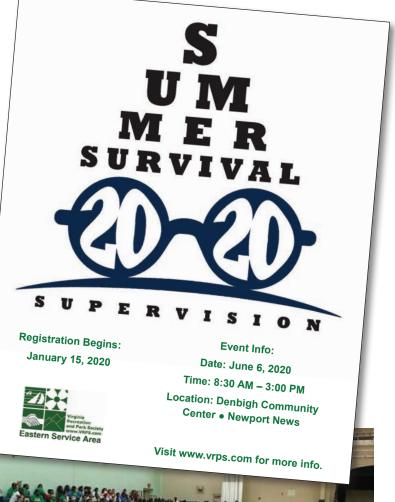


## NEWS FROM EASTERN SERVICE AREA

## Is your vision clear and looking bright for the summer? It will after the 20/20 SUMMER SURVIVAL!

By Angie Sims, CPRP - James City County Parks and Recreation

The Eastern Service Area (ESA) is proud to offer recreation leaders and supervisors the tools to survive summer. Registration is now underway and is \$30 per participant. We look forward to seeing you on June 6, 2020, 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at the Denbigh Community Center (15198 Warwick Blvd. Newport News, VA 23608). Summer Survival, presented by the ESA for over a decade, is a training that gives new camp counselors and staff the tools needed to understand the power of their position, and how to survive the summer AND summer camp. This year's theme -20/20vision — an ode to clearing your vision and knowledge for the summer — will include sessions on therapeutic recreation and inclusion, team building, fitness, customer service for staff, campers and parents, arts and crafts ideas, aquatics, outdoor programming, and more! Dress comfortably - sneakers or shoes that you can run around in are highly suggested. Lunch and T-shirts will be provided to all participants registered. The fun continues all day with a 50/50 and prize raffle (products and tickets). Anyone can participate for just \$1.00 per ticket. Plan for a full day of fun, excitement, and learning!!







Support current and emerging leaders in the field of Parks & Recreation...

## ...become a sponsor of the 2020 Leadership Training Institute!

Leadership Training Institute (LTI), part of the Virginia Recreation and Park Society (VRPS), is a semi-annual resident conference targeting leaders in the Parks & Recreation field throughout Virginia.

- LTI has served as an important training for some of the brightest leaders in the Recreation field since 1985!
- VRPS was one of the first state organizations in the country to establish this groundbreaking model leadership program that is often replicated by others in the profession
- Over 90% of Directors and Upper Level Management working in Virginia's Parks & Recreation Departments are graduates of LTI!

Your business/organization can become a part of this innovative institute by becoming a sponsor. Funds donated to LTI will be used to support activities that further the program in order to keep costs to the participants at a minimum, including:

- Securing National speakers and session leaders
- Providing education tools for participants
- Promotional materials such as T-shirts, bags and binders
- Meals and programs
- Other logistical support such as signage and conference materials

Attendees at LTI are often purchasing agents for their departments and have influence on future product and services choices. Sponsors have a unique opportunity to present their products and services to varying levels of recreation professionals from across the state.

#### 2020 LTI Sponsorship Levels

Leadership Training Institute

April 19-21, 2020 Wintergreen Resort

#### Diamond (\$2500)

#### Platinum benefits plus:

- 'Presenting' billing listed below "LTI 2020"
- Video or commercial (:60) on LTI event page of VRPS website (provided by company)
- Opportunity to assist with presenting awards at LTI Luncheon
- Exhibit space at LTI

#### Platinum (\$1500)

Gold benefits plus:

- Sponsor banner displayed at Institute (provided by company)
- Sponsor logo in 3 VRPS e-publications
- 2 tickets to LTI Luncheon

#### Gold (\$1000)

#### Silver benefits plus:

- Sponsor logo placed in institute materials, including LTI e-blasts
- Video or commercial (:60) played at LTI Luncheon (provided by company)
- Contact list of LTI attendees

#### Silver (\$500)

- Sponsor logo included on LTI T-shirts (logo artwork provided by company)
- > 2 T-Shirts
- One promotional item for participant bags (i.e. pen, cup, notepad, etc.)
- One single page marketing piece for participant bags (i.e. flyer, card, brochure, etc.)
- Sponsor recognition on LTI event page of VRPS website
- Sponsor recognition in participant condos and/or notebooks

#### For more information, visit:

http://www.vrps.com/EducationEvents/LTILeadership TrainingInstitute.aspx or contact: James Mickle - (757) 441-1034 or

james.mickle@norfolk.gov

#### LEARN • TRANSFORM • INSPIRE



Leadership Training Institute

April 19-21, 2020 Wintergreen Resort

Benefit	<b>Diamond</b> (Presenting)	Platinum	Gold	Silver
Cost	\$2500	\$1500	\$1000	\$500
Presenting Billing – listed below "LTI 2020"	$\checkmark$			
Video or commercial (:60) on LTI event page of VRPS website	√			
Opportunity to assist with presenting awards at LTI Luncheon	√			
Exhibit space at LTI	~			
Sponsor banner displayed at Institute	~	~		
Sponsor logo in 3 VRPS e-publications	~	~		
2 tickets to LTI Luncheon	~	$\checkmark$		
Sponsor logo placed in all online institute materials, including LTI e- blasts	~	√	$\checkmark$	
Video or commercial (:60) played at LTI Luncheon	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	~	
Contact list of LTI attendees	~	~	$\checkmark$	
Sponsor logo included on LTI T-shirts	~	~	✓	~
2 T-shirts	~	~	$\checkmark$	~
One promotional item for participant bags	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	~	√
One single page marketing piece for participant bags	~	V	~	✓
Sponsor recognition on LTI event page of VRPS website	~	$\checkmark$	~	$\checkmark$
Sponsor recognition in participant condos and/or notebooks	~	$\checkmark$	~	~

#### **LEARN • TRANSFORM • INSPIRE**

## NRPA Playground Maintenance Course Registration



#### Tuesday, March 3, 2020

Check-In: 8:00am Course time: 8:30am-4pm

#### Location:

Denbigh Community Center 15198 Warwick Boulevard Newport News, VA 23608 757-812-7900



#### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Class Size**: Registration is on a first-come, first –serve basis and the class limit is 30. **REGISTER ONLINE HERE! CEU Credit**: You may obtain .6 CEUs credits for participation in this course.

Name:			
<u>Title:</u>			
Agency:			
Address:			
City:	State:	Zip:	
Email:			

REGISTRATION: (NO ON-SITE REGISTRATION WILL BE A	Please Note: A confirmation package,	
Playground Maintenance Course		including lodging information and directions to the site, will be forwarded
		by VRPS following receipt of registration.

<b>Fee Type</b>	Early (by 12/31/2019)	Regular (by 1/31/2020)	Late (2/1/2020 and after)	If you require special accommodations
<b>VRPS MEMBER</b>	A second and second se second second sec	\$165	\$175	or a special diet, please attach a note
NONMEMBER	\$180	\$190	\$200	to this application.

#### PAYMENT INFORMATION

Mail or FAX completed form with payment to:	Payment must be included to complete processing.
MAIL: VRPS 6372 Mechanicsville Tpk., Suite 109	Please make checks payable to <b>VRPS</b> .
Mechanicsville, VA 23111 PHONE:804-730-9447 FAX: 804-730-9455	TO PAY BY CREDIT CARD, please register online at <u>WWW.VRPS.COM</u>

### NRPA Playground Maintenance Course Registration



#### POLICIES & TERMS OF REGISTRATION

All VRPS Policies and Terms of Registration are adopted in consideration of an, in the best interest of conference attendees, VRPS and the conference host facilities.

#### Statement of Liability

VRPS and Sponsors of the Playground Maintenance Course claim no liability for the acts of any supplier at or for this meeting, or for the safety of any attendee while in transit to or from this event. VRPS and sponsors of this function shall not be liable for any delays or failure in performance of interruptions of services resulting directly or indirectly from any cause or circumstance beyond the reasonable control of the organization including but not limited to, acts of God, acts of public enemy, war, accidents, fires, electrical failures, strikes, labor disputes, postal delays, explosions, governmental order or regulations.

VRPS and Sponsors reserve the rights to cancel this function without penalty. Attendees who purchase non-refundable airline tickets do so at their own risk. The total amount of any liability of VRPS and/or Sponsors will be limited to a refund of the attendance fee.

Recognizing the nature of receptions and the potential for alcohol abuse at conferences, all VRPS sponsored events will offer non-alcoholic beverages. No alcohol will be served to anyone under the age of 21. Conference participants are responsible for their own wellbeing and neither VRPS and/or sponsors will be held accountable for any events or occurrences resulting from excessive drinking, recklessness or negligence on the part of any conference participant.

VRPS and attendees of this function, under the terms of registration, agree to defend, indemnify and hold harmless each other, to include officers, employees and agents from and against any and all liabilities, loss, claims, expense, actions, or causes of action, arising out of or resulting from any act taken or committed by the attendees or organizers of this function or any third party except for the willful misconduct or gross negligence of the other party.

#### Refunds

Cancellations must be submitted in writing by 12/31/2019 and will incur a \$50 cancellation fee. No refunds will be issued if after 12/31/2019.

Submit cancellation requests to:

 Mail:
 VRPS

 6372 Mechanicsville Tpk., Suite 109

 Mechanicsville, VA 23111

 Fax:
 804-730-9455

 Email:
 vrps@vrps.com

#### Payment Methods

Registrants not providing VRPS with a method of payment will be considered an incomplete registration and will not be able to attend VRPS conferences until payment has been made. VRPS accepts Checks, VISA, MasterCard, Discover, and American Express as methods of payments.

#### Smoking

For the comfort and health of all attendees, smoking is not permitted at any VRPS sponsored functions. Attendees should adhere to any signage preventing or authorizing smoking in certain locations.

#### Course Accessibility

VRPS is dedicated to providing access and reasonable accommodations to people of all abilities that meet ADA guidelines.

#### Age Requirement

Individuals attending the Playground Maintenance Course must be 18 or older.







From Irrigation to Aeration, Mowing to Management, What Works and What Doesn't

<u>Date</u>	Host	Location/Address
Monday, March 16, 2020	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University Mike Goatley (Virginia Tech), Matt Anderson (Toro)	Virginia Polytechnical Institute and State University Blacksburg, VA 24061 540-231-2951
Tuesday, March 17, 2020	Chesapeake Parks & Recreation Mike Goatley (Virginia Tech), Matt Anderson (Toro)	Western Branch Community Center 4437 Portsmouth Blvd., Chesapeake, VA 23321 757-465-0211
Wednesday. March 18, 2020	) Henrico Division of Recreation & Parks Mike Goatley (Virginia Tech), Matt Anderson (Toro)	<b>Dorey Park Recreation Center</b> 2999 Darbytown Rd,, Henrico, VA 23231 804-795-2334
Thursday, March 19, 2020	Loudoun Co. Parks, Recreation, & Community Svc. Mike Goatley (Virginia Tech), Matt Anderson (Toro)	<b>Claude Moore Recreation Center</b> 46105 Loudoun Park Ln., Sterling, VA 20164 571-258-3600

Lunch Included



 8 - 8:30 am
 Check-in

 8:30 - 9:45 am
 Topics

 9:45 - 10:00 am
 Break

 10 - 11:15 am
 Topics

 11:15 - 11:45 am
 Questions & Answers

 11:45am - 12:30pm
 Lunch

 12:30 - 2pm
 Hands-On/Facility Tour

CEUs included (.2 CEUs pending approval)

#### **ABOUT THE SPEAKERS**

**Dr. Mike Goatley, Jr.** is Professor and Extension Turfgrass Specialist in the Department of Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences of Virginia Tech. Goatley has B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Kentucky and the PhD from Virginia Tech. Following 15 years on the faculty of Mississippi State University, Goatley returned to Blacksburg where his primary responsibilities are statewide development and implementation of educational outreach programs for all areas of turfgrass management. Mike has co-authored four books on sports turf management, was elected to the STMA Board of Directors in 2008, and is served as STMA President in 2012—2013.

Mike will provide the basics of turf management, including detailing the strengths and weaknesses of grassing options in Virginia, how to conduct and interpret soil tests, and how to use those soil test reports in developing a fertility program for your situation.

**Matt Anderson CSFM, CSE** is currently a District Sales Manager for the Toro Company, focusing on Sports Fields and Grounds business for the western US. Prior to his time at Toro, he was a sports turf manager for 15 years with stops including university grounds and athletics, minor league baseball and the 2004 Summer Olympics. He is currently a Certified Sports Field Manager with a bachelors and masters degree in Crop and Soil Science from Michigan State University.

Matt will discuss how mowing and cultivation inputs change as turf use and demands increase. He will touch on best mowing practices and various equipment options for mowing based on your organizations budget. Aeration will also be discussed regarding compaction relief and best aeration strategy to utilize based on your budget.

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Monday, March 16 2020 –	Virginia Tech			Wednesd	ay, March 18,	2020 — Henrico County	
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Early — received by 1/31/2020			\$49		\$74		
Regular — received 2/1/2020 - 2/2	29/2020		\$64		\$89		
Late — received after 2/29/2020			\$74		\$99		
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Playground Safety Inspector			y Inspector C – Newport No			
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IRCLE REGISTRATION	On or befor	re 12/31/19 1/1/20-		1/31/20	2/1/20	or after
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<b>PSI Course &amp; Exam</b> Includes Lunches & Site Visit	VRPS Member	Non-Member	VRPS Member	Non-Member	VRPS Member	Non-Membe
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PSI Course Only	VRPS Member	Non-Member	VRPS Member	Non-Member	VRPS Member	Non-Membe
Includes Lunches & Site Visit						
	\$450	\$525	\$500	\$575	\$520	\$595
	VRPS Member	Non-Member	VRPS Member	Non-Member	VRPS Member	Non-Membe
PSI EXAM Only	\$145	\$195	\$155	\$205	\$165	\$215
5 CEUs are included in the co		\$195	\$122	\$205	\$105	3213
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#### **Course Details**

- Resource materials developed especially for this course are included in the registration fee and will be mailed to all participants who pre-register.
- If you have previously attended the course and wish to take only the exam, you may . register for that portion of the program only. Exam only participants can purchase the resource/study material at www.nrpa.org.
- All participants who pass the exam will be issued a Certified Playground Safety Inspector's "CPSI" Certificate.
- Hotel reservations must be made separately information is available at the bottom of this page.
- Total registration is limited to 80.
- No walk-ins are allowed for the course or exam.
- The exam is administered on the third and final day of the course.



#### About the Course

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, it is estimated that each year over 200,000 injuries occur on playgrounds and 70% of these occurred at public parks and schoolyards.

Sponsored by the National Recreation and Park Association this CPSI course is the most comprehensive training program on playground hazard identification and risk management methods offered anywhere. Advanced reading and fifteen hours of training from nationally known playground safety experts will prepare participants to sit for the Certified Playground Safety Inspector examination offered at the culmination of the certification course.

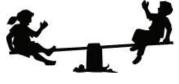
**Program Highlights:** 

- Hazard Identification •
- Safety Surfacing Materials
- **Playground Equipment Accessibility**
- Safety Management
- Audit Objectives & Procedures
- **Maintenance Procedures & Standards**
- **Off-site Park Visit**

Plan your registration and payment accordingly: A minimum of 3 weeks of study time is recommended; NRPA advises not to take the exam if materials have not been thoroughly read.

#### Who Should Attend

- Administrators
- **Supervisors**
- **Risk Managers**
- **Public Works Departments** •
- **Building & Grounds Maintenance Staff**
- Engineers
- Architects
- **Playground Equip. Representatives** •
- **Operators & Caretakers of Playgrounds In:** 
  - Parks
  - 0 Schools
  - 0 Camps
  - **Homeowner Associations**
  - 0 Hotels/Resorts
  - **Day Care Centers** 0
  - Agencies such as:
    - YMCA's/YWCA's 0
    - **Boys & Girls Clubs** 0





Schedule					
Day One- Wednesday	y	Day 2-Thursday		Day 3- Exam Fri	day
7:30- 8:00 AM	Registration	8:00 – 9:15 AM	CPSI Program	8:00-9:00 AM	Check in
8:00- 8:45 AM	Welcome & Introduction	9:15 – 9:30 AM	Break	9:00-11:00 AM	Exam
8:45 – 9:15 AM	CPSI Program	9:30 – 11:45 AM	CPSI Program		
9:15 – 9:30 AM 9:30 – 12:00 PM	Break CPSI Program	11:45 – 12:00 PM	Questions & Answers		
12:00-1:00 PM	Lunch	12:00 - 1:00 PM	Lunch		
1:00 -2:45 PM	CPSI Program	1:00 – 3:15 PM	Site Investigation		
2:45 - 3:00 PM	Break	3:15 – 3:30 PM	Break		
3:00 - 4:45 PM	CPSI Program	3:30 - 4:30 PM	Site Investigation Wrap Up		
4:45- 5:00 PM	Exam Preparation	4:30 - 5:00 PM	Questions & Answers Period		

#### **Hotel Information:**

Deadline is 2/17/2020 or until the block is filled. Comfort Inn – Patrick Henry \$70 + Tax/night, includes breakfast 12330 Jefferson Ave. Newport News, VA 23602 (757) 249-0200 Mention Virginia Recreation and Park Society



Many thanks to VRPS CPSI sponsors!



# Park Ranger Training

Training for Park Rangers, park enforcement professionals or other interested park & recreation professionals. A one day training and networking opportunity. Free for VRPS members and \$25 for non-members.

- Sessions on: SCOP Pros and Cons, Animal Interactions Wild and Domestic; Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design .
- Networking with Other Agencies.
- Roundtable discussions on trends .

Date: 3/19/20, 9:00am-3pm

Sessions start at 9:30am

At Taylor Park Complex 13017 Taylor Complex Ln., Ashland, VA 23005



#### Virginia Recreation & Park Society

An Affiliate of the National Recreation and Park Association

## **VRPS Preferred Vendors**

#### ACTIVITIES

Commonwealth Fairs and Events, Inc. Innova Disc Golf USTA Mid-Atlantic Zambelli Fireworks Zava Zone

#### AQUATICS

Jeff Ellis & Associates National Pools of Roanoke, LLC

#### APPAREL

**Image First Outfitters** 

#### DESIGN/CONSULTING

Austin Brockenbrough Engineering & Consulting BerryDunn Gale Associates Gay and Neel, Inc. LSG Landscape Architecture Mosca Design Timmons Group

#### EDUCATION/ SERVICES

AARP Virginia Earth Networks Play-Well Virginia Outdoors Foundation

#### FACILITY AMENITIES

Bliss Products Glasdon JJM Associates Mateflex Musco Sports Lighting, LLC Pioneer Athletics Pure Play Sports Turf Rock Haven Turf Specialties SealMaster \*2019 Exhibitor Shoco, Inc. Smith-Midland Corporation Stageline Mobile Stage Sternberg Lighting



#### PLAYGROUND/PARK

All Recreation Carolina Recreation and Design

Cunningham Recreation/ GameTime

MaxPlayFit, LLC

Metro Recreation, Inc.

Mid-Atlantic Products, Inc.

Sparks@Play

**VPS Recreation** 

#### SOFTWARE

ACTIVE Network CivicRec MyRec.com RecPro Software

## 2020 Annual Conference Exhibitors







