

A new approach to addiction

Hanover County's Adult Recovery Court is now fully operational

PAYTON KIFUS
Staff Writer

Hanover County's first Adult Recovery Court has been put into action.

The program is a locally based effort that serves as an alternative to incarceration for those convicted of felonies who also have a history of substance abuse. The program is a multidisciplinary effort and involves a team, led by Hanover Circuit Court judges, consisting of professionals in the substance abuse disorder treatment, probation supervision and law enforcement fields. Local prosecutors are also involved in the process.

The Recovery Court combines accountability and treatment to support offenders and encourages them to enact positive change. The program seeks to improve the overall community by stopping drug-related crime and recidivism.

"The goal is to address drug addiction through treatment, intensive community supervision, case management, drug testing, court appearances, behavioral sanctions, incentives and mental health ser-



METROCREATIVE PHOTO

Hanover's new Recovery Court combines accountability and treatment to support offenders and encourages them to enact positive change. The program seeks to improve the overall community by stopping drug-related crime and recidivism.

vices," said Maranda Tyler, Director of Hanover Community Corrections. "The program intends to use this evidence-based approach to enhance public health, participant welfare and public safety."

The County in 2017 implemented a pilot program for the Recovery Court, which remained in operation until 2019. The program at the time had no funding. However, Hanover Circuit Court Judges continued to push for support of this program, as they continued to see felony offenders struggling with addiction.

As a result, seven offenders, all under 40-years-old, successfully completed the program and "graduated."

"This pilot program saw lives change and families reunited," said Tyler. "Par-

ticipants paid their fines off, became gainfully employed, and secured housing."

Conversations about re-implementing the Recovery Court Model started in August 2023. After the County was able to secure a team of professionals, organizers began officially moving forward with the program in December 2023.

As of July 1, 2024, the program is now in full operation. The Recovery Court plans to start with a maximum of 12 on-going active participants, with plans to expand the program in the following year.

"Hanover County is dedicated to combating the opioid crisis and the Adult Recovery Court is a major component of the overall opioid response strategy," said Tyler.

Statistics

From 2

Troopers arrested 36 drivers for operating under the influence of alcohol or drugs during the July Fourth

holiday period last year. DRIVE SMART reported that 4,400 people were injured and 293 were killed as the result of alcohol-related traffic crashes in Virginia during all of 2023.

"With just a few drinks

you could be too impaired to safely drive," Tenenbaum noted. "So, designate before you celebrate! Plan to use a rideshare app or designate a sober driver before kicking off the holiday weekend."

LOCALLY OWNED & OPEN ALL YEAR

BIGBLAST
FIREWORKS

8170 ATLEE ROAD
MECHANICSVILLE, VA 23111

OPEN ALL WEEKEND

MONDAY JULY 1ST - FRIDAY JULY 5TH
10AM - 8PM

SATURDAY JULY 6TH
11AM - 8PM

SUNDAY JULY 7TH
12PM - 5PM

www.BIGBLASTFIREWORKS.COM

804-420-2264



Custom Glide-Out Shelves
for your existing cabinets and pantry



50% OFF
INSTALL!

Call for Your FREE Design Consultation
(804) 258-6579 | shelfgenie.com

ShelfGenie
EVERYTHING WITHIN REACH
a neighborly company

*Limit one offer per household. Must purchase 5+ Classic/Designer Glide-Out Shelves. EXP. 9/30/24
Independently owned and operated franchise. © 2024 ShelfGenie SPV LLC. All Rights Reserved.