



NEWS RELEASE

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ORANGE COUNTY TO POST TOBACCO-FREE SIGNAGE NEAR RECREATIONAL AREAS OF COUNTY-OWNED PARKS

Orange County, VA – As a Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth Grantee, the Orange County Office on Youth is pleased to announce that in partnership with the Orange County Parks and Recreation Office and with the approval of the Orange County Board of Supervisors, it will install tobacco-free signage at county-owned parks in Orange County.

The Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth empowers Virginia's youth to make healthy choices by reducing and preventing youth tobacco use, substance use, and childhood obesity. As a ten year Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth Grantee the Orange County Office on Youth set out to expand its youth tobacco-prevention efforts to include making recreational areas for both youth and adults healthier in Orange County.

On Tuesday, July 9, 2019, the Orange County Board of Supervisors authorized the installation of tobacco-free park signage at various County-owned parks. The signage asks that the public refrain from tobacco product use, including cigarettes, electronic cigarettes, dip, etc. within 50 feet of a recreational area (ball field, playground, pavilion, etc.).

Orange County Office on Youth staff is enthusiastic about the initiative and the possibility of a unified effort in Orange County. Staff will be presenting the option of posting similar signage at town-operated parks to the Town of Orange and the Town of Gordonsville in the coming weeks.

Although the Office on Youth is currently offering its tobacco prevention programs thanks to a three-year grant from the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth, all signage costs are being funded by a generous donation to the Office on Youth for the support of all programming needs.

Alisha Vines, Office on Youth Director, stated “the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth has provided Orange County with tobacco prevention grant funding for the past ten years. The continuation of this funding allows the Orange County Office on Youth to continue to work with our most critical resources, our children, in an effort to prevent tobacco use. The ability to expand on these efforts to provide for a healthier community and environment for these children is something that we are honored to work towards.”

For additional information about the Orange County Office on Youth's tobacco prevention efforts, please contact Ashley Jacobs, Program Coordinator, at (540) 672-5484 or visit www.orangecountyva.gov/officeonyouth. For additional information about the important work of the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth, please visit www.vfhy.org.

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