



County employee terminated after DUI crash in county vehicle

JACQUELINE HOUGH
Editor – The Link

A Chesterfield County employee has been terminated following a single-vehicle accident involving a county-owned vehicle early Friday, Feb. 6, according to a press release from Chesterfield County Administrator Michelle Stanley.

The incident occurred at approximately 1 a.m. Feb. 6, when the employee was involved in single-vehicle accident while operating a county vehicle.

Officials said it is suspected the employee was under the influence of alcohol at the time of the accident.

The South Carolina Highway Patrol responded to the scene and criminally charged the employee with driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

SC Highway Patrol Master Trooper Hannah Davidson said SCHP responded to the call that came in at 12:35 a.m. and was on Teals Mill Road.

According to the report, a 2025 Ford F-150, registered to Chesterfield County, went off the roadway and over-

turned.

The driver, a 37-year-old male, was transported to McLeod Hospital.

Davis said the incident report is not fully completed yet.

County officials said there was no property damage beyond damage to county property.

No additional details regarding the crash or the employee's position with the county were released.

County officials said while the matter is under investigation, the name is being withheld.

Short's servant heart leaves a lasting impact on county

IRIS HUNTER
Staff Reporter

The name Karen Short is known by many individuals in Chesterfield County.

The familiarity comes from years of serving the community along with the passion and dedication that she has to serve the residents of the county to provide more and better resources is precisely why she has been nominated by several individuals as a Black History Month honoree.

"I am honored to be nominated but I do not do things for recognition. I enjoy serving others and hope to be a great influence on others when I am giving back to the community," she said.

During December of 2025 and January of this year, The Link solicited nominations for Black History Month on its Facebook page. Each a person is featured each day on Facebook.

The social advocate has held various positions that has allowed her to continue making a huge impact on residents and organizations, including the President of the Greater Chesterfield Chamber of Commerce, a member of the CareFIRST Carolina Foundation Board, Rotary Club of Cheraw, Lioness of Chesterfield Lion's Club, and the Chesterfield Service Club, a founding partner of the "Purple Crusaders," the Pastor's Aide President and Missionary at Rock Springs Missionary Baptist Church, a Chesterfield County School District's Ambassadors for Education team member and the Chesterfield County Opi-



oid Abatement Coalition Director at ALPHA Behavioral Health.

One achievement that Short is overjoyed about is being a cofounder of the "Purple Crusaders," a non-profit 501c3 organization with a mission to advocate for families dealing with Alzheimer's disease by raising funds and awareness for care, support, and research. Short cofounded the organization about five years ago because her mom has Alzheimer's and she wanted to bring awareness to the disease.

"It was important for me to be a part of establishing the "Purple Crusaders" because when my mother was diagnosed with the disease I felt powerless and overwhelmed and I wanted to take some of the power back. I am an action-driven person who likes to be involved in the community and I wanted to honor my mother through the organization," she said.

The organization has made an impact on the community, including sponsoring the tracking device for those who are at risk of wandering that is sold by Project Life Saver, sponsoring lunch and learns every quarter so that individuals can learn about the disease, providing support group meetings to bring



Contributed photo

Karen Short, cofounder of the Purple Crusaders, shares how her passion for Alzheimer's awareness and community service drives her work across numerous organizations, including the Greater Chesterfield Chamber of Commerce, ALPHA Behavioral Health, and multiple civic and service clubs.

awareness about the disease and provide resources, and sponsoring sports teams by providing them with items that contain the organization's logo to spread awareness throughout the community.

Sarah Campbell, Esquire, has known Karen for almost 20 years. She has served on the Chesterfield Chamber of Commerce board with Short for several years and worked with her in a professional capacity when she became the Opioid Abatement Coordinator in Chesterfield County.

"As president of the Greater Chesterfield Chamber of Commerce, Karen has fostered collaboration and supported local businesses,"

Short, Pg. 9



Jacqueline Hough/Editor

The Cheraw Chamber of Commerce recognizes Cheryl Postlewait as Citizen of the Year and Studio Well as Business of the Year during its annual legislative breakfast. From left are Krystin Rivers, chairman of the Cheraw Chamber of Commerce board; Kate Rogerson, Caroline Streater and Maggie Barton, co-owners of Studio Well; Postlewait; and Jenny McLaughlin, president of the chamber.

Cheraw Chamber honors Postlewait, Studio Well as Citizen and Business of the Year

JACQUELINE HOUGH
Editor – The Link

The Cheraw Chamber of Commerce recognized two community standouts during its annual awards presentation honoring Cheryl Postlewait as Citizen of the Year and Studio Well as Business of the Year for their impact on the community.

The event took place during the chamber's annual legislative breakfast Friday, Feb. 6, at Cypress Music Hall. Introduced by Kimberly

Vance, she said Postlewait's decades of quiet, consistent work made her a clear choice.

Postlewait has been involved in beautification efforts since the early 1980s and is a driving force behind Cheraw's Four Seasons Garden Club. Her work is especially visible during the holidays, when downtown Cheraw is transformed with wreaths, garlands and seasonal decorations.

"She works with the Parks Department, and she's just been phenomenal," said

Vance. "All the wreaths, all the decorations, Cheryl takes care of all of that. At Christmas time, Cheraw looks so beautiful, and it's because of her."

In her remarks, Postlewait reflected on her years of service and emphasized teamwork.

"I've been working with beautification since the early 1980s, and I have seen tremendous improvement in this area," she said. "But I've

Chamber, Pg. 9

CCSD monitors state measles outbreak

CHERIS HODGES
Staff Reporter

With the measles outbreak in the upstate, the Chesterfield County School District has issued guidance for families in case a student is exposed to measles.

At this time, no cases of the virus have been reported in the local area. CCSD parents can monitor measles cases online at dph.sc.gov.

Last week, in a statement posted on the CCSD's Facebook page, Shirlean Johnson

with Chesterfield County School District Nursing Services said unvaccinated children who are exposed to a measles case may need to be excluded from school, sports and afterschool activities for up to 21 days after their last exposure to the positive case, unless they are vaccinated within 72 hours of exposure.

"Chesterfield County School District will follow SC Department of Health guidelines and recommendations for positive cases," Johnson said in the statement.

"If you have any questions or would like your child to be vaccinated and need assistance finding a provider, please call the school nurse at your child's school."

Since Feb. 3, the S.C. Department of Public Health reported 920 cases of measles centered around the Spartanburg County area.

DPH officials said the majority of cases are close contacts of known cases. However, the number of pub-

Measles, Pg. 9

The Link celebrates 19 years

JACQUELINE HOUGH
Editor – The Link

On Friday, The Link marks a milestone that fills me with equal parts pride and gratitude: 19 years of serving Chesterfield County.

In a world where news is increasingly dominated by national headlines, breaking alerts and global crises, it's easy to overlook the quiet power of community journalism.

The New York Times and CNN can tell you what's happening in Washington or across the world, but they won't tell you who made the honor roll, what your town council decided Monday night or which local business just opened its doors downtown.

This is where The Link comes in.

For 19 years, this newspaper has been committed to telling the stories that matter

most to the people who live here.

We cover the good, the bad and everything in between because local journalism isn't just about reporting facts. It's about connecting neighbors, celebrating milestones, asking hard questions and, at times, grieving together.

We have told stories of academic achievements and athletic victories.

We've reported on ordinances that shape daily life and spotlighted hometown heroes who quietly make a difference.

We have shared moments of joy and moments of loss. All of it with the belief that Chesterfield County deserves to see itself reflected honestly and fully in print.

But The Link has never done this alone.

A strong local newspaper depends on its people. They are the readers, subscribers, advertisers and staff.

Every subscription mat-

ters. Every advertisement helps to keep this office running and the paper printed.

Every phone call, email or story idea strengthens our ability to keep doing this work.

Simply put, without you, The Link would not exist.

Your support allows us to continue covering the stories you won't find anywhere else. The ones that shape this community, not in headlines, but in real life.

At a time when local newspapers across the country are disappearing, your belief in community journalism keeps this one alive. Community journalism is not only important but essential.

As we celebrate 19 years, I thank you for reading, for subscribing, for advertising and for trusting The Link to tell Chesterfield County's stories. With your continued support, we'll keep doing exactly that for years to come.

Thank you for believing in The Link.



Eagles swarm Yellow Jackets,