WESTMORELAND NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION CELEBRATES SUCCESSFUL RIBBON-CUTTING EVENT FOR NEWLY REDEVELOPED WESTMORELAND PARK

For Immediate Release

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June 27, 2024 – Westmoreland Neighborhood Organization (WNO) proudly announces the successful ribbon-cutting and grand opening celebration for the redevelopment of the former Westmoreland School property into the beautiful and welcoming Westmoreland Park. Nearly 400 people attended the event.

The celebration commenced at noon with speakers discussing the history of the space. Ralph Price, WNO special project committee member, welcomed and thanked all attendees, stating, “Take a look around you. This is going to be a park for all ages!” WNO Secretary and lifelong Westmoreland resident, Carolyn Wilson, spoke about the history of the neighborhood organization and recognized founding members.WNO Special Projects Chair Sharon McCoy presented stories shared by neighbors, and Danville Vice Mayor Dr. Gary Miller shared personal stories from the space and community.

Former NBA player, Johnny Newman, who grew up in the community, stated in a letter shared during the celebration, “Along with my wonderful parents and grandparents, this is the city, the community, the neighborhood, playground, and school system that made me who I am. I learned the importance of education, respect for others, and the importance of community[...].”

Following the ceremony and ribbon-cutting that featured WNO members, city officials, and more, attendees were treated to an afternoon filled with food, fun, and community spirit. The celebration featured free hot dogs and refreshments, courtesy of WNO’s generous sponsors, and entertainment provided by DJ Larry Stamps.

“Westmoreland Park represents the strength, resilience, and unity of our community. Bringing this vision to life was a testament to the dedication and hard work of the WNO, our local residents, and the entire Danville community,” says Clyde A. McCoy, Jr., WNO President.

WNO extends a heartfelt thanks to all residents of the Westmoreland area and the greater Danville community who came out to celebrate, a testament to the collaborative effort that has revitalized this cherished neighborhood. Westmoreland Park provides an inclusive and enjoyable space for all members of our community, with additional amenities planned for 2024 and into 2025.

A special thank you goes out to our generous event sponsors, whose support made this celebration possible: Westside Community Council, Caesars Virginia, River District Consulting Group, Danville Pittsylvania Chamber of Commerce, and others.

For further information, please visit www.wnopark.com.

HISTORY AND VISION:

In 2016, the WNO began working with the City of Danville and Danville Regional Foundation to improve the playground and shelter facilities on the former Westmoreland School property to better accommodate neighborhood recreation needs and special neighborhood events. In January 2017, a professional landscape architect, Site Collaborative, was engaged to work with neighborhood stakeholders to develop a park program, master plan, and preliminary costs for improvements on the property. An inclusive planning process to help determine the improvements and share their ideas for upgrades and facilities was executed.

The WNO continued fundraising efforts and thanks to the generosity of Danville Regional Foundation, the City of Danville, J.T. Minnie Maude Charitable Trust, the Community Foundation of the Dan River Region, the Womack Foundation, and many other foundation, corporate, and individual donors, construction is nearly complete. Fundraising efforts will continue to support future enhancements to the park, including a walking trail, additional seating, and other amenities. Westmoreland Park will be maintained by the City of Danville Parks and Recreation as a neighborhood park, open to all residents of Danville.

ABOUT WESTMORELAND NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION:

The Westmoreland Neighborhood Organization (WNO) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that had its beginning in 1990 as a social club where African American community members gathered for enjoyment and to share ideas for ways to make their neighborhood a better place to live. Under the leadership of Shirley Coles, the social club became an established non-profit in 1994.

Photo attachments. Please credit photos to Danville Pittysylvania Chamber of Commerce.