

EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER



MAR

Wellness Screenings Start Tuesday, March 3rd



Daylight Saving Time Begins

Sunday, March 8th



Statewide Tornado Drill

Tuesday, March 17th

- Welcome to the County!
- Retirees
- Achievements
- Printable PDF



Provides a variety of treatment and/or prevention services to clients with a wide range of psychiatric, emotional, relational, substance abuse or social problems on CM&A Teambit.ly/39tqrqc#ApplyHenrico #iobsearch #careers



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#HenricoJobs County Planner

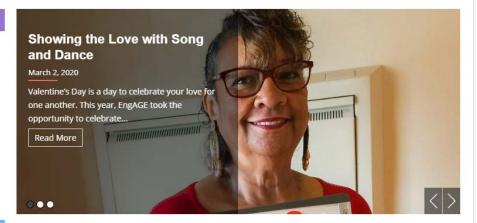
Closes 3/2

Performs difficult and advanced planning work and is assigned responsibility for supervising the activities of a major division of the Development Review and Design Division of the Planning Officebit.ly/2lfbLz3 #ApplyHenrico #lobs



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Announcements

March 17 at 9:45 am is a Statewide Tornado Drill. The Office of Emergency Management and Workplace Safety encourages everyone to listen to the Emergency Weather Broadcast and participate as part of Virginia 2020 Severe Weather Preparedness Week.

* * March County Connection Trivia * *

In February we celebrated Black History Month. What is one of the ways you can engage with black history, literature, and culture at HCPL? Email Christy Nealey a correct answer and you could be selected as March's County Connection Trivia Winner! Read the February 2020 County Connection to review the article.

Congratulations to our February County Connection Trivia Winner! Tammy Revercomb,
Office Assistant for Henrico County Department of Recreation and Parks was the first person to
correctly tell us that the County Manager quoted President Kennedy in his opening statements of the
State of the County. THANK YOU to all who participated!

Its not too late to sign up for the **Monument Ave 10K** with Team Henrico or to participate with the Spirit Team! Visit the Team Henrico page for more information.

Wellness Screenings start Tuesday, March 3. There are several dates and locations. Please go to the Wellness Screenings page to see the full list and to schedule your appointment.

February Articles



Showing the Love with Song and Dance



Café 1611: A County Staple

Valentine's Day is a day to celebrate your love for one another. This year, EngAGE took the opportunity to celebrate

Read more.

If you ever find yourself in the Henrico County
Western Government Center and in need of a

Read more.

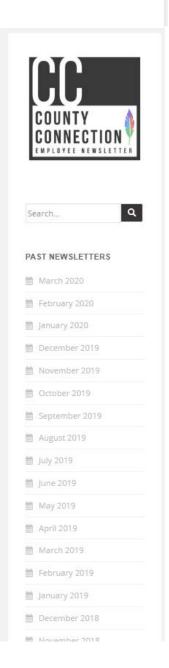


Lighten Up to Live Your Healthiest Life

Research shows that there's a surprising connection between elevating your mood and shedding stubborn pounds. It's difficult to feel calm

Read more.

Events for March 2020 EVENTS IN SEARCH VIEW AS FIND EVENTS Keyword Month Month « February MONDAY TUESDAY SUNDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY Wellness Screenings Start Daylight Saving Time Begins Monument Ave 10K



Welcome to the County!

Name Department

Abbott, Vincent A Alvarado, Alejandro J Anderson, Anthony Recreation Fire Anderson, Ross L

Bailey, Sam General Services/CAM Barron, Michael Information Technology

Bell, Rebecca MH/DS Bowie, Gavin Michael Fire Brewton, Kerry C Fire Briscoe, Keia Shauntelle MH/DS Brown, Nideria Belle Library Burress, Taylor McKenzie Police Burton, Kristen Lee Public Works

Carnohan, Joshua B Fire Carter-Tubbs, Lynda S Finance Cline, Jeffrey D Fire Cook, Nathanael L Fire Cosby, Newman W

Cotting, Kelly Hendry Commonwealth's Attorney

Creger, Jon Deyo, William Jawann **Public Utilities** Fire

Dixon, Nicholas M Sr

Community Corrections Eborn, Dominique E

Flowerday, Michael D Jr Fire Hargett, Josh J Fire MH/DS Harris, Alisha Shanna Huddle, Hannah Library Hurst, Joseph S Jr Finance Lindsey, Shaun A Loach, Emily Dunlap Library Mercado, Radamee A (Rad) Fire Miles-Redmond, Andre E Fire

Miller, Evan Lawrence **Public Utilities** Morris, Bradley Michael General Services

Nelson, Marshall V (Van) Fire Okai, Victoria MH/DS

Peluso, Joseph Roy Jr (Jay) Commonwealth's Attorney

Perez Jaramillo, Andrea **Public Utilities**

Pickett, Christopher A Fire

Poynter, Kevin Royce Information Technology Sheriff's Office

Rider, Amanda Jo MH/DS Roberts, Chandrelle R Robinson, Areil Elaine Sheriff's Office Rose, Christopher James Public Works Sheriff's Office Skalleberg, Spencer Serbantes

Smith, Kyle B Fire

Smith-Callahan, Monica L County Manager

Sturman, Kelly L Commonwealth's Attorney

Sutton, Max Henry Sheriff's Office Taylor, Alphonzo Jr Social Services Fire

Trunick, Edward (Dixon) Waters, James C

White, Benjamin McCotter Sheriff's Office

Witmer, Shemane Xedos, Crystal Dean Finance



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Retirees

 Name
 Department

 Vera Adcock
 MH/DS

 Darrel Broughton
 Fire

David Gunn Public Works

Craig Harver Police
Jennifer Patton Police

Albert Rosenau Public Utilities



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Achievements

County of Henrico Service Awards

February 2020

The Semi-Annual Service Awards ceremony was held on Thursday February 20, 2020.

The County recognized 287 employees for their years of service. The number of employees recognized are: 113 employees with five years of service, 35 employees with ten years, 44 employees with 15 years, 28 employees with 20 years, 26 employees with 25 years, 16 with 30 years, 13 with 35 years, 9 with 40 years, and 3 with 45 years of service

Board of Supervisor members Frank Thornton and Patricia O'Bannon were in attendance.

The eleventh Elvin R. Cosby award was presented to Alan W. Eddleton, Department of General Services for 45 years of service.

First Name	MI	Last Name	Suffix	Organization Name	Years Of Service
Charlotte	W	Whitten		Board of Supervisors	15
Michael	C	Wood		Building Inspections	5
David	S	Branson	Sr.	Building Inspections	15
Karen	C	Marsh		Building Inspections	15
Rebecca	L	Cone		Circuit Court Clerk	5
Jaimie	M	Kiracofe		Circuit Court Clerk	5
Linda	C	Uchegbu		Circuit Court Clerk	5
Jeromy	R	Lewis	Esquire	Commonwealth's Attorney	5
Sarah	Е	Ulmer	Esquire	Commonwealth's Attorney	5
Felicia	L	Walker		Commonwealth's Attorney	5
Michelle	M	Dawson		Commonwealth's Attorney	20
Christopher		Jacobs		Community Corrections	5
Sarah	Р	Rowe		Community Corrections	5
Brian	K	Whaley		Community Corrections	5



August 2019
 July 2019
 June 2019
 May 2019
 April 2019

Robyn	Е	Puryear		Community Corrections	15		
Keith	В	Sawyer		Community Corrections	15	February 2019	
Lawrence		McNeil		Community Revitalization	5	🛗 January 2019	
Scott	А	Carter		Community Revitalization	15	math December 2018	
Robin	J	D'Amore		Community Revitalization	25	Movember 2018	
Faruk		Bilalagic		Finance	5	MOctober 2018	
Tiffany	L	Cooper		Finance	5	September 2018	
Brian	1	Edwards		Finance	5	E September 2010	
MyDung	T	Nguyen		Finance	5	math August 2018	
Betty	Н	Sanfilippo		Finance	10	M L.L. 2010	
William	Α	Walton	III	Finance	15		
R.	Philip	Matthews	Jr.	Finance	20		
Brian	V	Steele		Finance	20		
Cecelia	Н	Stowe		Finance	25		
Robin	Т	Cecil		Finance	30		
Susan	В	Thompson		Finance	30		
Robert	Н	Flaherty		Finance	35		
Ronald	W	Hubbard		Finance	35		
Janet	C	Woody		Finance	35		
Michael	Т	Brown		Fire	5		
Matthew	Т	Combee		Fire	5		
Jonathan	Α	Crump		Fire	5		
William	C	Garrett		Fire	5		
Joshua	C	Grim		Fire	5		
Elizabeth	M	Guise		Fire	5		
Felix	Α	Hammill	III	Fire	5		
Torin	C	Holmes		Fire	5		
Justin	C	Jacyshyn		Fire	5		
John	Е	Larsen		Fire	5		
Travis	M	Lewis		Fire	5		
Renno	Н	Marchetti	IV	Fire	5		
Forrest	S	Montgomery		Fire	5		
Douglas	W	Pyne		Fire	5		
Andrew	D	Snead		Fire	5		
Russell	C	Traner		Fire	5		
Robert	M	Fermoyle		Fire	25		
Bruce	L	lvey		Fire	25		
Douglas	Α	Renn		Fire	25		
Joseph	Α	Giusto		Fire	30		

Gregory	Α	Nuckols		Fire	30
Henry	D	Rosenbaum		Fire	35
John	M	Shaffer		Fire	40
Jonathan	Α	Balasa		General Services	5
Jason	Α	Jalette		General Services	5
Margaret	M	Pearson		General Services	5
Alton	J	Coleman		General Services	10
Robert	M	Ellis	Jr.	General Services	10
Paul	В	Owens		General Services	10
Charles	L	Sharpe		General Services	10
Martin	В	Strack		General Services	10
Paul	V	Farkas		General Services	15
Louis	R	Blakey	Jr.	General Services	20
Timothy	S	Booth		General Services	20
Lloyd	R	Christian		General Services	20
Mark	D	Cobb		General Services	25
Fred	W	Gibson		General Services	25
Joanne	Т	Oliver		General Services	30
Joyce	G	Fry		General Services	35
Alan	W	Eddleton		General Services	45
Kimberly		Day		Human Resources	5
Karen	M	Isaac		Human Resources	15
Whitney	M	Jarvis		Human Resources	15
Rhonda	R	Majzer		Human Resources	25
Mary	В	Barnett		Information Technology	5
Mary Beth		Danuser		Information Technology	5
Tyson	Т	James		Information Technology	5
David	М	Wetter		Information Technology	5
Frank	Α	Hughes	Ш	Information Technology	35
Shirley	Е	Edwards		Information Technology	40
Joseph	Н	Mitchell		James River Juv Detention	5
Leeshawn		Jackson		James River Juv Detention	10
Maxine	Α	Lambert		Juvenile Detention	10
Jean	L	Abinanti		Library	5
Brian	Р	Grandinetti		Library	5
Debra	S	Hagy		Library	5
Kurt	D	Jegermanis		Library	5

Mary	Е	Pasco		Library	5
Philip	J	Prince		Library	5
David	Α	Rike		Library	5
Kristie	L	Selden		Library	5
Porsche	K	White		Library	5
Susie		Woodring		Library	15
Michael	J	Baker		Library	20
Katherine	S	Cervarich		Library	20
Joanne		Bowman		Library	25
Gay	L	Van Vleck		Library	25
Michael	D	Hatchett		Library	30
Mary	Α	Hare		Library	40
Anna	M	Adams		MH/DS	5
Russell	L	Charity		MH/DS	5
Mechelle	В	Owens		MH/DS	5
Sydney	Α	Steele		MH/DS	5
Michelle	Q	Thompson		MH/DS	5
Briel	S	Wade		MH/DS	5
Judith	J	Henderson		MH/DS	10
Lena	J	Thomas		MH/DS	10
Dawn	M	Wilson		MH/DS	10
Crystal	C	Crews-Brinchfield		MH/DS	15
Katrina	L	Campbell		MH/DS	20
Davette	K	Chamberlain		MH/DS	20
Barbara	Α	Cook		MH/DS	20
Seline	M	Hughes-Nesmith		MH/DS	20
Sharon	В	Sale		MH/DS	20
Todd	M	Schindler		MH/DS	20
Shelley	В	Davis	Jr.	MH/DS	25
Richard	Α	Edelman		MH/DS	25
Joy	M	Holmes		MH/DS	25
John	Е	Schickler		MH/DS	25
Karen	J	Wilson		MH/DS	25
Monica	В	Johnson		MH/DS	30
Denise	J	Patterson		MH/DS	30
Beth	Н	Peacock-Wright		MH/DS	30
James	M	McCabe		MH/DS	40
Cynthia	S	Leigh		Permit Center	10
Seth	D	Humphreys		Planning	20
Michael	F	Kennedy		Planning	20
Jordan	D	Bernacki		Police	5

Cody	R	Bolinger		Police	5
Jonathan	S	Brummitt		Police	5
Thomas	L	Bulifant	Jr.	Police	5
Cindy	Р	Chiles-Smith		Police	5
Emily	E	Edwards		Police	5
Kevin	S	Frank		Police	5
Christopher	J	Garzon		Police	5
Timothy	M	Hartman		Police	5
Bradley	R	Hill		Police	5
Holli	L	Hughes-Garrett		Police	5
Courtney	L	Johnson		Police	5
Amber	L	Malizia		Police	5
Adam	S	Marzullo		Police	5
Shawn	D	Maxwell	Jr.	Police	5
Logan	Т	Miller		Police	5
Benjamin	Т	Newman		Police	5
Lawrence	D	Pacifico	Jr.	Police	5
Greg	S	Petrohovich		Police	5
Todd	Α	Pickens		Police	5
Sara	M	Sizemore		Police	5
Douglas	R	Smart	Jr.	Police	5
Allen	Р	Smith		Police	5
Christopher	D	Spangler		Police	5
Seth	Е	Stephens		Police	5
Kristie	W	Walkuw		Police	5
Nicholas	M	White		Police	5
Jason	W	Wiseman		Police	5
Brandon	J	Witkop		Police	5
Jeffrey	S	Askew		Police	10
Joseph	W	Bartol		Police	10
Cheryl	Α	Besosa		Police	10
Kenneth	Т	Dawson		Police	10
Ninamarie	C	Elliott		Police	10
James	Р	Gray		Police	10
Echo	N	Hagan		Police	10
Richard	W	Mallory		Police	10
Adam	L	Silcox		Police	10
Bradley	J	Thompson		Police	10
Charles	В	Andrews		Police	15
Randy	L	Dailey		Police	15
Randolph	Α	Glascock	Jr.	Police	15
Donald	В	Green		Police	15

Marian	1	Jones		Police	15
Leah	N	Lacaria		Police	15
Jonathan	M	Lowery		Police	15
Michael	M	Murray		Police	15
Haokiet	Н	Nguyen		Police	15
Marc	Α	Vath		Police	15
Mathew	W	Gipson		Police	20
Linwood	C	Jones		Police	20
Todd	J	Pugh		Police	25
Russell	Е	Hockaday		Police	30
Michelle	J	Johnson		Police	30
Pierre	D	Tremblay		Police	30
Allen	W	Wilson		Police	30
Julie	Α	Bookheimer		Police	35
Curtis	L	Logan		Police	35
Katherine	Е	Perry		Police	35
Francis	J	Curran	III	Police	45
Lawrence	Е	Byard		Pub Relations/Media Services	5
Ibrahim		Bangura		Public Utilities	5
Robert	F	Davis	II	Public Utilities	5
Zuzanna	M	Lesniak-Dandridge		Public Utilities	5
Frederick	Α	Spain	Jr.	Public Utilities	5
Baird	L	Beasley		Public Utilities	15
Darrell	L	Harris		Public Utilities	15
James	J	Herring	Jr.	Public Utilities	15
Kalina	M	Ross		Public Utilities	15
Carl	Α	Savage		Public Utilities	15
Odell		Burton		Public Utilities	20
Joseph	L	James	Jr.	Public Utilities	20
Chad	L	Jones		Public Utilities	20
Kenneth	D	Farmer		Public Utilities	25
Leavell	R	Jones		Public Utilities	30
Harriette	G	Perry		Public Utilities	30
Larry	D	Jones		Public Utilities	35
John	F	Graves	Jr.	Public Works	5
Tommy	Α	Johnson		Public Works	5
Joseph	Α	Madison		Public Works	5
Tarah	Е	Rhine		Public Works	5
James		Watkins	IV	Public Works	5
Anthony	D	Burrell		Public Works	10
Phillip	R	Graves		Public Works	10

Steven	W	Jinnett		Public Works	10
Paul	В	Johnson		Public Works	10
Robert	В	Jones	Jr.	Public Works	10
Franklin	Т	Jackson		Public Works	15
Mario	D	Simms		Public Works	15
Sharon		Smidler		Public Works	15
Tony	Α	Carter		Public Works	20
Robin	V	Wilder		Public Works	20
Timothy	S	Jackson		Public Works	25
Christopher	S	Johnson		Public Works	25
Karen	G	Mazza		Public Works	25
John	C	Newton		Public Works	25
Mark	S	Thorpe		Public Works	25
Raymond	L	Brown		Public Works	40
Roy	M	Sheets		Public Works	40
Rae	M	Willis		Real Property	25
Christopher	J	Adams		Recreation	5
Steven	W	Cheadle		Recreation	5
Jared	J	Struck		Recreation	5
Larry	Е	Yates	Jr.	Recreation	5
Todd	L	Fowler		Recreation	15
William	D	Motley	Jr.	Recreation	15
Vida	Е	Payne		Recreation	15
Tammy	Н	Revercomb		Recreation	15
Michael	J	Turgeon		Recreation	15
Savette	F	Banks		Recreation	20
Rebecca	Α	Branch		Recreation	30
Carole	L	Otto		Recreation	35
Paul	Α	Burke	Sr.	Recreation	40
Mary	Α	Soldano		Recreation	40
Marvin	L	Terry	Jr.	Recreation	40
Charles	E	Woodson		Recreation	45
Alice	P	Collins		Sheriff's Office	5
Crystal	Α	Cooke		Sheriff's Office	5
Rahma	M	Jacobs		Sheriff's Office	5
Nathan	C	Jenkins		Sheriff's Office	5
Darryl	J	Lee		Sheriff's Office	5
Teri	S	Maiden		Sheriff's Office	5
Austin	Е	Norwood		Sheriff's Office	5
Christopher	R	Paroskie		Sheriff's Office	5
Michael	Т	Smithers		Sheriff's Office	5
Lyndsay	M	Trotman		Sheriff's Office	5
Shanna		Yuen-Beens		Sheriff's Office	5

Charles		Amoah		Sheriff's Office	10
Amber	J	Darlington		Sheriff's Office	10
William	Н	Pugh	II	Sheriff's Office	10
Steve	Α	Simms		Sheriff's Office	10
Ronald	D	Trotman	Sr.	Sheriff's Office	10
Corey	C	Watkins		Sheriff's Office	10
Gail	L	Burrell		Sheriff's Office	15
Veronica	Н	Crawley		Sheriff's Office	15
Pierre	R	Joseph		Sheriff's Office	15
Angeline		Moore-Morman		Sheriff's Office	15
Daryl		Powell	Sr.	Sheriff's Office	15
Reshonda	R	Roane		Sheriff's Office	15
Arika	C	Street		Sheriff's Office	15
William	D	Bullock		Sheriff's Office	20
Terri	L	St John		Sheriff's Office	25
Wanda	Α	Anchrum		Sheriff's Office	35
Melissa	C	Cesar		Social Services	5
Mone't	L	Murray		Social Services	5
Ту	F	Parr		Social Services	5
Rick	Е	Waugh	Jr.	Social Services	5
Michele		Fricke		Social Services	10
Judy		Kraft		Social Services	10
Adelina	M	Proffitt		Social Services	15
Deneen	Υ	Skinner		Social Services	15
Tanya	N	Bledsoe		Social Services	20
Hubert	V	Field		Social Services	20
Denise	R	Yusavage		Social Services	20
Mary	Е	Coleman		Social Services	25
Karen	0	Shelton		Social Services	25
Randy	W	Puryear		Social Services	35

Showing the Love with Song and Dance

March 2020 @ Edit

by Sara Morris, Senior Advocate, Department of Human Resources



Valentine's Day is a day to celebrate your love for one another. This year, EngAGE took the opportunity to celebrate our love for our elders. In partnership with Henrico County Recreation and Parks, Anthem Inc., JenCare and Bremo Pharmacy, EngAGE hosted a Valentine's Day Celebration at the Eastern Henrico Recreation Center on Friday, February 14. It was a sold-out event with almost 50 older adults in attendance! In addition to the games, line dancing, and music, there was also a presentation on Heart Health to celebrate February being American Heart Health month. Everyone had a blast!

One of the most important things gained from relationships with older adults is their advice, garnered from their years of experience. As part of the event, EngAGE asked attendees of the event to share their advice for love and life. Below are some of their responses and they did not disappoint:



Deborah says, "Put God first."

Dee says, "Be happy every day!"

Dorothy says, "Be kind to all!"

Gladys says, "Show love and kindness to everyone!"

Gloria M. says, "Always tell your family and friends that you love them!"



Gloria R. says, "Respect yourself and love God!"

Hazel says, "Respect"

Sandra A. says, "Always put God first and be true to yourself!"

Sandra W. says, "Don't judge a person until you have walked in their shoes!"

Sheila says, "Love and forgive with lots of kisses!"

Shirley says, "Always be kind to one another!"

EngAGE plans to host many more social events and to continue celebrating Henrico's older adult residents. Since this event was incredibly popular and sold out two weeks ahead of time, they will be looking for larger venues too. "We want to continue to celebrate together!"

"Grow old with me! The best is yet to be." - Robert Browning, Poet











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county connection

Café 1611: A County Staple

March 2020 @ Edit

by Christy Nealey, Marketing and Technology Specialist, Department of Human Resources



If you ever find yourself in the Henrico County Western Government Center and in need of a quick bite to eat or a hot meal, Café 1611 is the place to go. Located on the second floor of the Administration building next to the Courthouse and Jail West, it is a little more than a County cafeteria. Thanks to Sharlene Ladd, Café 1611 is a staple.



Since beginning her role as Food Services Manager for the Department of General Services in 2005, Sharlene created a welcoming environment for employees to come, take a load off, and enjoy a sandwich or slice of pizza. "Sharlene was a very caring and kind person. She did a great job and was always there to help you in any way," recounts Shirley Edwards, Administrative Assistant for the Department of Information Technology and frequent café patron. For over 14 years, Sharlene ran the well-oiled machine with a smile on her face until her untimely passing in April of 2019.

The café closed that mournful day, and, in her absence, Michelle Chambers stepped up until a new manager could be hired. "Michelle is a wonderful, dedicated and true team player. It takes a special person to fill that role as a

Café Manager and she survived it. Thanks to the Café 1611 staff we didn't miss a breakfast or lunch," says Shirley.

In October, Jason Smith was hired as the new Food Services Manager for the Department of General Services and came with years of experience as a Regional Culinary Director and industry involvement since he was 14 years old. He is excited to take his knowledge and build on the legacy that Sharlene created. He has big plans to take Café 1611 to the "next level" by getting more fresh and higher quality foods, new menu items, and putting in a smoothie bar. If you have been to the café in recent months, you may have noticed the increased grab and go options and the fresh proteins on the salad bar. Julie Davis, Business Supervisor for the Department of General Services says she thought it was Wegmans. "Today, there's duck on the salad bar, yesterday pesto chicken, artichoke hearts, Quinoa...All kinds of goodness!" "We love it!" exclaimed Regina Hill, Administrative Assistant for the Department of Planning.



Jason's ideas don't end at just the food either. He intends to update the look of the Café with new order stations, fresh paint, TVs and upgraded food packaging. He also says that down the line he wants to add a delivery option for those times employees just can't get away from their desks.

While it will take some time to implement all of his innovations, one thing is for sure: if you haven't been to Café 1611, you are certainly missing out. As Shirley says, "Each day we're excited to see what's new. Keep up the good work Café 1611 staff"



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Lighten Up to Live Your Healthiest Life

March 2020 @ Edit

by Liz Stovall, Fitness and Wellness Division Manager, Department of Human Resources



Research shows that there's a surprising connection between elevating your mood and shedding stubborn pounds. It's difficult to feel calm when you worry about what to eat, when to work out, and whether your effort will pay off – all while keeping up with your everyday obligations. So, someone suggesting you relax during this process is laughable.

Stress, like a roll of fat above your waistband, isn't easy to shed. But by learning a few ways to slow down, put yourself first, and yes, relax, you can get both your stress levels and your weight under control for good.

THE YOU FIRST' EPIDEMIC

We all have times when we fall into a self-neglect rut, but lately that seems to be almost an epidemic. The American Psychological Associated reports that 44 percent of Americans believe the level of stress in their life is increasing, but only 9 percent think they handle it well. In studying the relationship between stress and being overweight, researches have zoned in on a key hormone called cortisol. You've probably heard of it, but it's not necessarily a bad hormone. Our bodies use it to maintain blood pressure, and it plays a key role in the way we metabolize both fats and carbohydrates for energy.

WHAT HAVE I DONE FOR ME LATELY?

Play back the past 24 hours and list every nice thing you've done — for yourself. Can't think of anything? Now's the time to feed your mood. Listen to your favorite music, reconnect with nature by taking a walk in a local park. Food feeds the body but does little to recharge your soul.

The trouble happens when we are under chronic stress and secrete too much cortisol for our bodies to break down properly. A common side effect of extra cortisol is increased appetite. Being constantly hungry is bad enough, but cortisol also tends to direct pounds to accumulate in the abdomen, rather than the hips, and this belly fat is closely linked to heart disease and stroke. Stress has the biggest impact on weight gain in individuals with an already-high body mass index (BMI), making stress and weight gain something of a vicious cycle.

BREATHE YOUR WAY THIN

One of the most effective ways to manage stress is also one of the simplest: Just breathe. You hear this a lot in yoga class, but you don't need a mat to practice it. Simply set a timer for eight minutes and find a comfortable position. Now begin. Inhale for a slow count of eight, hold, and then exhale for a count of eight. The first few times you try this, your mind will likely wander. Be patient – when you notice thoughts creeping in, just return to counting your breaths, and when you lose track, start over.

When the eight minutes are up, stop. Shooting for eight minutes a day is an amazing first step. Health benefits will kick in with repeated practice. Sticking with a deep breathing meditation practice for 8 weeks will change how your brain responds to stress. You may sense that you become less reactive to tension and that you have stress-proofed your body.



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