



HENRICO COUNTY VIRGINIA

APRIL 2019

April 24, 2019

CONTACT: Ed Olsen, Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources, Henrico County office of Virginia Cooperative Extension
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Henrico Extension to offer June 13 class on vegetable gardening

The Henrico County office of Virginia Cooperative Extension will offer a vegetable gardening class Thursday, June 13 with tips on weed control, succession planning, harvesting, preservation and fall planting.

The class will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Extension office's demonstration kitchen on the second floor of the [Henrico Human Services Building](#), 8600 Dixon Powers Drive.

The cost to participate is \$10. To register, call (804) 501-5160.

April 23, 2019

CONTACT: John A. Vithoukias, Henrico County Manager
PHONE: (804) 501-4386, vit@henrico.us
CONTACT: Justin D. Crawford, Budget Director, Henrico County Department of Finance
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Henrico Board of Supervisors adopts \$1.3 billion budget for fiscal 2019-20 Plan emphasizes core services and capital projects, adds Sunday hours for 2 libraries

The Henrico County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday approved a budget for the next fiscal year that retains the current real estate tax rate, emphasizes funding for schools and public safety, provides the largest one-year total for capital projects and establishes Sunday hours for two libraries.

The budget for fiscal 2019-20 totals \$1.3 billion across all operating funds, which represents an increase of 5.7% from the current year's plan. The general fund, which supports most governmental operations, totals \$918.7 million, an increase of 5.4%. The plan provides \$322.7 million for capital projects, including a new J.R. Tucker High School and a new Highland Springs High School. The School Board has approved preliminary designs for both schools, which are expected to open in fall 2021.

The Board of Supervisors has spent the past six weeks reviewing and refining the proposed budget offered by County Manager John A. Vithoukaskas. Its amendments include additional funding to begin offering Sunday hours at two libraries. All Henrico County Public Library locations are currently open Mondays through Saturdays.

Beginning July 1, Libbie Mill Library will be open seven days per week, including from 1 to 5 p.m. on Sundays. The new Fairfield Area Library, currently under construction on North Laburnum Avenue, is set to open Oct. 6 on a similar schedule, including from 1 to 5 p.m. on Sundays. The county expects the cost of the Sunday hours to be \$283,864.

“Thanks to the leadership of the Board of Supervisors, Henrico has developed an award-winning library system that serves as a vital resource for the community,” Vithoukaskas said. “We are thrilled to begin offering enhanced access to the library system at locations and times that are convenient to all of our residents.”

He added, “The fiscal 2019-20 budget developed by staff and approved by the Board of Supervisors reflects the core needs and priorities of Henrico. It focuses new resources in the areas of education and public safety, keeps taxes low for residents and businesses and makes strategic investments in schools, parks, roads and other facilities and infrastructure. Quite simply, it’s a plan that will allow Henrico to address the needs of today and tomorrow as well as position the county for continued success for years to come.”

The budget will guide operating and capital spending for the year beginning July 1. Other highlights include:

- No change to the real estate tax rate of 87 cents per \$100 of assessed value. Henrico’s rate has not increased in more than 40 years;
- A \$514 million operating budget for Henrico County Public Schools (HCPS), which represents the largest increase — more than \$29 million — in general fund support for the system in the past 13 years. The budget supports additional positions to allow planning periods for elementary school teachers, boosts special education staffing and provides for smaller class sizes. The budget continues to fund the Achievable Dream Academy and the CodeRVA Regional High School, and sets aside \$4 million for school bus replacement;
- Additional funding for public safety to support 13 new positions for the Division of Fire, Police Division and Emergency Communications Center; a new medic unit focusing on low-urgency calls; expanded professional development and training for first responders; new monitors with cardiac capabilities for enhanced emergency medical services; a program to refresh firehouses with new appliances, carpet and other upgrades; and two additional positions in the Commonwealth’s Attorney’s Office to address the increased workload associated with Police’s use of body-worn cameras;
- A capital budget that continues to fund projects planned as part of the 2016 bond referendum, which include a new Brookland area elementary school, an advanced career education center at Glen Allen High School and a Staples Mill fire station. In addition to those projects and the new Tucker and Highland Springs high schools, the budget provides another \$2 million for the development of the Henrico Aquatics Center, as well as funding for a Police evidence storage facility, classroom resources at the Police range facility and other facility maintenance and improvement projects for general government and HCPS;

- Increasing to \$400,000 the threshold for exemption from BPOL (Business, Professional and Occupational License) taxes. Currently, businesses do not pay BPOL taxes on the first \$300,000 in gross receipts. With a \$400,000 exemption, more than 14,000 businesses will not pay BPOL taxes;
- Additional funding of \$302,450 for the Real Estate Tax Advantage Program (REAP), which provides tax relief to residents who are at least 65 years old or totally and permanently disabled. To qualify, residents can have a maximum income of \$75,000 and a maximum net worth of \$400,000;
- A 3% merit-based raise for all general government and HCPS employees. In addition, \$5.7 million will be set aside to reduce salary compression within general government and schools, and support will be provided to HCPS to establish a career development track for teachers;
- A consolidation of the internal audit functions of general government and HCPS;
- Various initiatives to strengthen the county's "fiscal structure," which include additional support for the technology and risk management funds, minimized use of reserves for Central Automotive Maintenance operations and an additional \$1 million for a reserve fund to offset potential losses in revenues provided by the state;
- Transportation improvements, including \$5.2 million for Oakley's Lane, \$1.8 million for an extension of Woodman Road, \$2.5 million for sidewalks, \$2.3 million for storm water pollution reduction initiatives and full-year funding for the GRTC Transit System route enhancements that were initiated last year;
- Continued support for sports tourism, including \$10 million for a second phase of development at Glover Park, \$4.2 million for renovations at Dorey Park and operating funds associated with the installation of synthetic turf fields at county high schools;
- A new Housing Advisory Committee, which will provide expertise and advice on a variety of housing issues; and
- An average increase in water and sewer rates totaling \$2.88 per month for residential customers to continue to meet service demands.

April 22, 2019

CONTACT: Ed Olsen, Associate Extension Agent, Agriculture and Natural Resources – Horticulture, Henrico County Office of Virginia Cooperative Extension
PHONE: (804) 501-5160, edo@vt.edu

Henrico Extension Office to host free workshop on emerald ash borer and urban wood

The Henrico County Office of Virginia Cooperative Extension and the Virginia Department of Forestry are hosting a workshop Tuesday, May 7 on the hazards of the emerald ash borer.

Larvae from the exotic beetle feed on the inner bark of ash trees, disrupting the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients. Since its discovery in 2002, emerald ash borers have destroyed millions of ash trees across North America.

The workshop will be held from 2 to 4:30 p.m. at the Henrico County Cooperative Extension Office in the Human Services Building, 8600 Dixon Powers Drive.

Attendees will learn more about the beetle, how to manage ash trees and what to do with wood from ash trees.

The workshop is free and open to the public. For more information or to RSVP call (804) 501-5160.

April 15, 2019

CONTACT: Michael Harris, Clinician, Henrico Area Mental Health & Developmental Services
PHONE: (804) 727-8035, har42@henrico.us

Henrico Area Prevention Services to present a Hip-Hop Poetry Slam on April 24

Youth are encouraged to submit poems about preventing substance abuse

Henrico Area Prevention Services and its youth ambassadors will present a Hip-Hop Poetry Slam on Wednesday, April 24 to promote self-expression and to discourage substance abuse.

The event will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Eastern Henrico Recreation Center, 1440 N. Laburnum Ave.

Entries should be based on a theme of substance abuse and misuse prevention. Participants may register at henricoprevention.org or by contacting Michael Harris at har42@henrico.us. Please include "Hip-Hop Poetry Slam" in the subject line. Entries must be submitted by Monday, April 22 and will be reviewed for appropriate language and content.

The Hip-Hop Poetry Slam is open to all ages. Participants ages 11 to 18 will receive a gift card for their involvement and be eligible to win prizes.

For more information, call (804) 727-8035 or go to henricoprevention.org.

April 12, 2019

CONTACT: George Jones, Marketing & Public Relations Manager, Henrico County Health Department
PHONE: (804) 205-3735, george.jones@vdh.virginia.gov

Henrico Health Department's East Clinic to remain closed through Wednesday

The Henrico County Health Department's [East Clinic](#) will remain closed through Wednesday, April 17 for cleaning and repairs following flooding from a broken pipe.

The clinic, at 1400 N. Laburnum Ave., is tentatively expected to open at 10 a.m. Thursday, April 18.

The Health Department has been providing services at other locations or rescheduling appointments since Wednesday, when the flooding occurred.

For more information, call (804) 501-1620 for the WIC (Women, Infants and Children) office and (804) 501-4651 for the clinic.

April 11, 2019

CONTACT: Veta Herbaugh, Executive Assistant, Henrico County Board of Supervisors
PHONE: (804) 501-4208, her@henrico.us

Tuckahoe meeting to feature GRTC's transit services, Henrico's advocate for the aging

Tuckahoe District Supervisor Patricia S. O'Bannon will host a Tuckahoe Town Meeting on Thursday, April 25 to discuss GRTC Transit System's paratransit, taxi and bus services as well as the work of Henrico County's advocate for the aging.

O'Bannon will be joined by Tim Barham, GRTC's chief of transit operations, and Sara Morris, Henrico's advocate for the aging.

The meeting will be held with sessions at 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. at Tuckahoe Area Library, 1901 Starling Drive. Residents who are unable to attend may participate via a livestream on the Henrico County Government YouTube channel ([1 p.m. session](#) and [6:30 p.m. session](#)).

For more information, call (804) 501-4208 or go to patobannon.com.

April 10, 2019

CONTACT: George Jones, Marketing & Public Relations Manager, Henrico County Health Department
PHONE: (804) 205-3735, george.jones@vdh.virginia.gov

Henrico Health Department's East Clinic closed through Friday due to flooding

The Henrico County Health Department's East Clinic, 1400 N. Laburnum Ave., will be closed for the rest of this week due to flooding from a broken pipe.

All appointments scheduled through Friday, April 12 are canceled. The Health Department is attempting to relocate temporarily some services and will either reschedule appointments or refer patients to other locations while the East Clinic is undergoing repairs and cleanup.

For more information, call (804) 501-1620 for the WIC (Women, Infants and Children) office and (804) 501-4651 for the clinic.

April 9, 2019

CONTACT: Charlotte Whitten, Executive Assistant, Henrico County Board of Supervisors
PHONE: (804) 501-4208, whi15@henrico.us

Fairfield meeting to feature Sarah Dooley Center for Autism, update on library construction

Fairfield District Supervisor Frank J. Thornton will hold a constituent meeting Monday, April 15 to discuss the impact of autism on the community and to provide an update on construction of a new Fairfield Area Library.

The meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Eastern Henrico Recreation Center, 1440 N. Laburnum Ave.

Thornton will be joined by Adam Dreyfus, director of the Sarah Dooley Center for Autism at St. Joseph's Villa, and Barbara Weedman, director of Henrico County Public Library.

For information, call (804) 501-4208.

April 8, 2019

CONTACT: Sara Morris, Henrico County Advocate for the Aging
PHONE: (804) 501-5065, mor141@henrico.us

Henrico's EngAGE initiative to hold focus groups on needs of older residents

Henrico County's EngAGE initiative will conduct two focus groups in May to explore a variety of needs and concerns for older residents.

The focus groups will meet from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 22 at the Varina Area Library, 1875 New Market Road; and from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Friday, May 31 at the Tuckahoe Area Library, 1901 Starling Drive. The sessions are open to the public, but registration is required.

The focus groups will be asked to discuss neighborhood concerns, opportunities and questions, programs to pursue and local resources that may enhance or expand programming.

Henrico established the Advocate for the Aging's Office and the EngAGE initiative in 2015 to promote wellness, independence and social engagement among residents age 60 and older, as well as to serve as a resource for family members and other caregivers.

To register for the focus groups or for more information, contact Sara Morris at (804) 501-5065 or mor141@henrico.us.

April 2, 2019

CONTACT: Barry R. Lawrence, Clerk, Henrico County Board of Supervisors
PHONE: (804) 501-4318, law03@henrico.us

The Henrico Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing Tuesday, April 9 on the county's [proposed budget](#) for fiscal year 2019-20.

The meeting will begin at 6 p.m., one hour earlier than usual, in the Board Room of the Henrico Government Center's Administration Building, 4301 E. Parham Road.

Residents may provide oral or written comments on the \$1.3 billion plan, which would guide operating and capital spending for the year beginning July 1. The general fund, which supports the operations of Henrico's general government, including the Police and Fire divisions and Henrico County Public Schools, would total \$918.7 million, an increase of 5.4% over the current year's plan.

The budget would provide \$322.7 million for capital projects — Henrico's largest ever one-year total for capital spending — including a new J.R. Tucker High School and a new Highland Springs High School.

The proposal recommends no change to the real estate tax rate of 87 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

Residents are encouraged to register in advance to speak at the public hearing. To sign up, call Board of Supervisors Clerk Barry R. Lawrence at (804) 501-4318. For information on the proposed budget, call Director of Finance Edward N. "Ned" Smither Jr. at (804) 501-4266 or Budget Director Justin D. Crawford at (804) 501-5089.

Copies of the proposed budget are available at Henrico libraries, the Office of Management and Budget in the Henrico Government Center and at henrico.us. A [video overview](#) also is available on the Henrico County Government channel on YouTube.

The Board of Supervisors is scheduled to vote Tuesday, April 23 to adopt a budget. The board typically meets at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month in the Board Room of the Henrico Government Center.

April 1, 2019

Contact: Travis Sparrow, Director, Department of Information Technology
Phone: (804) 501-5976, spa62@henrico.us

*Henrico County App provides easy, mobile access to Henrico's government
Free app now available from Google Play, Apple App stores*

Henrico County has developed a free mobile app to help residents and others in the community engage with the county's government.

The Henrico County App is available for both Android and IOS devices and can be downloaded at the Google Play and Apple App stores.

The app, developed by Henrico's Department of Information Technology, allows users to check upcoming events and news about the county, as well as receive important notices, contact departments and find information on parks and government facilities. In addition, users may watch a livestream of meetings of the Board of Supervisors.

"The Henrico County App is a vital tool for civic engagement in the 21st century," County Manager John A. Vithoukias said. "We understand that Henrico residents and others in the community lead busy lives and need a convenient way to interact and engage with the county's government. The app interfaces seamlessly with Henrico's mobile-friendly website — henrico.us — and literally puts important information about the community at your fingertips."

The Department of Information Technology expects to provide enhancements and additional features to the app over time. Users also may provide feedback through the app. Additional information is available at henrico.us/apps/.

April 1, 2019

Contact: Megan Brown, Executive Coordinator, Keep Henrico Beautiful
Phone: (804) 501-7277, bro172@henrico.us

Henrico seeks nominations for attractive, environment-friendly properties

The Keep Henrico Beautiful Committee is looking for exceptional residential and commercial properties for its 2019 Land Lover and Clean Business awards.

The awards, presented annually since 1995, recognize home and business properties that are attractively landscaped, well-maintained and litter-free.

To be eligible for a Land Lover Award, residents must perform their own landscaping and lawn care. Nominees for a Land Lover or Clean Business award must participate in an ongoing recycling program, such as composting, curbside pickup or drop-off service.

All nominees are encouraged to follow best practices for water quality and soil health. These may include the use of rain barrels, rain gardens or solar panels, as well as participation in the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program through the Henricopolis Soil and Water Conservation District and the SMART Lawns program of the Henrico office of Virginia Cooperative Extension.

The Keep Henrico Beautiful Committee will select one residential property from each of the five magisterial districts and one business property to represent the entire county. The winners will have signs placed at their properties in June and will be recognized at the June 25 meeting of the Board of Supervisors.

Nominations will be accepted through Tuesday, April 30. Residents and business owners may nominate their own properties as well as others. Forms are available by calling Megan Brown at

(804) 501-4502 or by going to henrico.us/utility/keep-henrico-beautiful/awards. Tips on sustainable yard practices and links to local organizations that support them also are available on the website.