



# THE COMMUNITY CONNECTION

HENRICO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION



## A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

ERIC LEABOUGH, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION

The Department of Community Revitalization is pleased to provide the “Community Connection” newsletter. The newsletter allows us to share information about important County programs and initiatives and also provides tips to property owners interested in correcting a code violation or sprucing up their property. As we work together to improve our County and community, I am sure that you agree that our partnership is strengthened by consistent communication and information sharing.

We have recently re-organized our Community Maintenance division to dedicate two inspectors who will focus on hotels/motels and aging apartment communities. In addition, we recently hired a Housing Specialist and three new Community Revitalization Specialists.

This edition of *The Community Connection* will provide important information about our new zoning ordinance and our new customer portal to report potential code violations. This edition will also highlight our new Henrico Investment Program, the recently approved Sandston Historic District and our partnership with Woodland Cemetery.

Thank you for taking the time to review this edition of the Community Connection and we appreciate your efforts to improve your neighborhood and our County.





# DEPARTMENT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**February 15th, 7:00 PM:** [Community Development Needs Public Hearing](#).

**February 21st:** Henrico County Offices Closed for Presidents Day

**March 7th, 11:59 PM:** [2022-2023 Henrico County Entitlement Funds Application Deadline](#)

## ATTEND THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEEDS PUBLIC HEARING



Henrico County will conduct a public hearing at **7:00 pm, Thursday, February 15, 2022**, hosted online through **WebEx**. The public hearing is to provide the public an opportunity to express opinions on community development needs in Henrico County and past performance of community development programs as reported in the 2020-21 CAPER. The County encourages residents to attend, especially those who are low- and moderate-income or reside in low- and moderate-income communities.

A link to the meeting and instructions for participating can be found on the County's website at [henrico.us/revit](https://henrico.us/revit). Comments may also be provided in advance of the public hearing by email to [revitalization@henrico.us](mailto:revitalization@henrico.us) or by phone to **(804) 501-7617**.

## NEED A MEETING TOPIC?

As a way of keeping in close contact with Henrico neighborhoods, the Community Maintenance Division conducts meetings with various congregations, civic associations, and neighborhood watch groups. These gatherings are intended to describe the Community Maintenance Program in detail. We can present a slide show and distribute brochures that explain the zoning issues we handle and the responsibilities of property owners. If your group is interested in having a meeting, or if you would like brochures delivered to you, please contact our office at 501-4757 to make arrangements. We are also available to meet via WebEx to accommodate spacing requirements.



## WHAT'S NEW IN COMMUNITY MAINTENANCE?

**The Division of Community Maintenance is responsible for enforcing the zoning ordinance and other code sections which relate to the condition and maintenance of privately owned residential and commercial properties.**

### **BUILD HENRICO**

Community Maintenance is excited to announce a new and interactive way to share or report a code violation! When you observe a property with tall grass (12 inches or more), inoperable vehicles, trash and debris, overweight vehicles, or other code violations, you can report this to Henrico County using our new Build Henrico customer portal. Within the portal, users are offered a registration option, which will enable them to track the status of their complaint. Check out our new Build Henrico site at <https://henrico.us/build/>.

### **UPDATED ZONING ORDINANCE**

Henrico County implemented a completely revised Chapter 24 Zoning Code, effective September 1, 2021. This is the first major overhaul of the code since 1960 and it comes after a 5 year study of the existing code. The new code offers an improved layout and explanation of the zoning regulations and includes charts, illustrations, and diagrams that help the reader understand the requirements of the code and what is needed for compliance. The new code can be found online at <https://henrico.us/public-data/zoning-ordinance/>.

*For More Information About Community Maintenance, Contact Our Division At:*

*(804) 501-7631*



# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Community Maintenance Division is currently recruiting volunteers to assist low-income, elderly, and/or disabled citizens during the 2022 calendar year. We match groups of volunteers with projects depending upon their skill level and time commitment. Most of our projects are more labor intensive than skill based, such as painting and basic yard maintenance. Scheduling is based on the availability of projects and volunteers.

You will be asked to perform light tasks such as:

1. Yard Maintenance - Grass cutting and/or trimming of shrubbery or hedges.
2. Removal of trash or yard debris from the property.
3. Minor exterior painting.

Most materials for these projects will be provided. Volunteers are required to dress appropriately for exterior yard work and bring their own personal protective equipment (e.g., face mask, gloves, and/or safety vest).

If your congregation, civic group, or business is looking for an opportunity to give back to the community, please contact Ashley Catterton at 501-7632 or email her at [cat016@henrico.us](mailto:cat016@henrico.us)

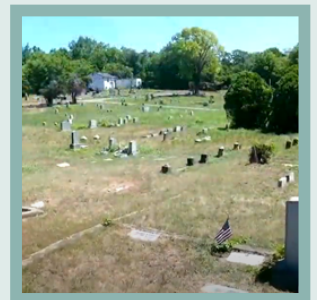
# WOODLAND CEMETERY



Founded in 1917, Woodland Cemetery is the second largest historically African American cemetery in the Richmond, VA area. Located in eastern Henrico County, the cemetery is best known as the final resting place of such notable individuals as Arthur Ashe, a Richmond-born tennis icon and civil rights activist, and Reverend John Jasper, founder of the Sixth Mount Zion Baptist Church in Richmond. Over the years, Woodland fell into substantial disrepair, uncared for and unacknowledged with a handful of families and volunteers struggling to maintain it.

Since 2020, The County has worked alongside the Woodland Restoration Foundation to restore and bring dignity back to the cemetery through volunteerism and grant funding. To date, over 3,600 headstones have been uncovered and restoration efforts are ongoing.

For more information about volunteer opportunities, please visit: <https://www.woodlandrestorationfoundation.org/>.







Pictured: Community Development Division Staff

## WHAT'S NEW IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT?

**The Division of Community Development administers the County's federal block grant programs (CDBG, HOME, and ESG), assists businesses through the Enterprise Zone program and the new Henrico Investment Program, undertakes special revitalization projects, and serves as a resource on housing and community development issues.**

### CARES ACT FUNDING

Community Development has been diligently working throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The Department provided \$4 million in CARES Act CDBG and ESG money in 2020 to help combat the added pressures that the pandemic has put on some of Henrico's most vulnerable populations. Since then, the Department's CDBG and ESG CARES Act funds have gone towards over 25 programs providing a variety of assistance including homeless outreach and shelter, housing stabilization through rent assistance, food assistance, learning assistance for vulnerable school students, workforce support, legal representation, and a wide range of counseling programs.

Henrico County was awarded an additional \$3.2 million of HOME funds through the American Rescue Plan. Division staff will be putting those funds to use to assist homeless populations.

### CURRENT PROJECTS

On January 1st, 2022, the Division saw the launch of the brand new Henrico Investment Program (see page 8). Additionally, the Division continues to be involved in the Sandston Historic District nomination approval process, and has continued serving the County through the grant administration of its entitlement funds that support various programs for persons and communities in need.

*For More Information About Community Development, Contact Our Division At:*

*(804) 501-7617*



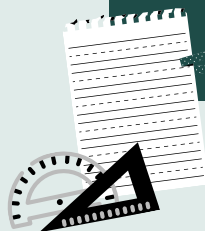
# HENRICO INVESTMENT PROGRAM \$

Maps of specific HIP Zone sites, grant applications, and more information about the Henrico Investment Program can be found on our website: <https://henrico.us/revit/henrico-investment-program>

Effective January 1st, 2022, the Henrico Investment Program (HIP) was introduced as a collaborative effort between the Henrico County Department of Community Revitalization and the Henrico Economic Development Authority (EDA) to refresh the County's older commercial corridors and encourage further redevelopment in these areas. Much like the Enterprise Zone Program that has been in place for almost 20 years, this program offers grants and incentives to properties and businesses that are located within a HIP Zone. These zones were identified by the County as areas that contain businesses and properties that could benefit from additional assistance to spur redevelopment.

- There are five HIP Zones across the County:
- Mechanicsville Tpk: City Line to Henrico Plaza
- Staples Mill Rd: Dumbarton Ave to Parham Rd
- Patterson Ave: Starling Dr to Goochland County Line
- West Broad St: Hungary Spring Rd to Pemberton Rd
- Williamsburg Rd: Laburnum Ave to Nine Mile Rd

Program incentives for properties/businesses in these zones include architectural design assistance, building improvement grants for exterior improvements and interior reconfiguration, demolition grants, landscaping grants, paving grants, off-site improvements grants, existing signage grants, permit and planning fee waivers, sewer connection credits, and more!



For more information about the Henrico Investment Program (HIP), please contact Roy Props at [pro43@henrico.us](mailto:pro43@henrico.us) or (804) 501-7615.

# SANDSTON HISTORIC DISTRICT

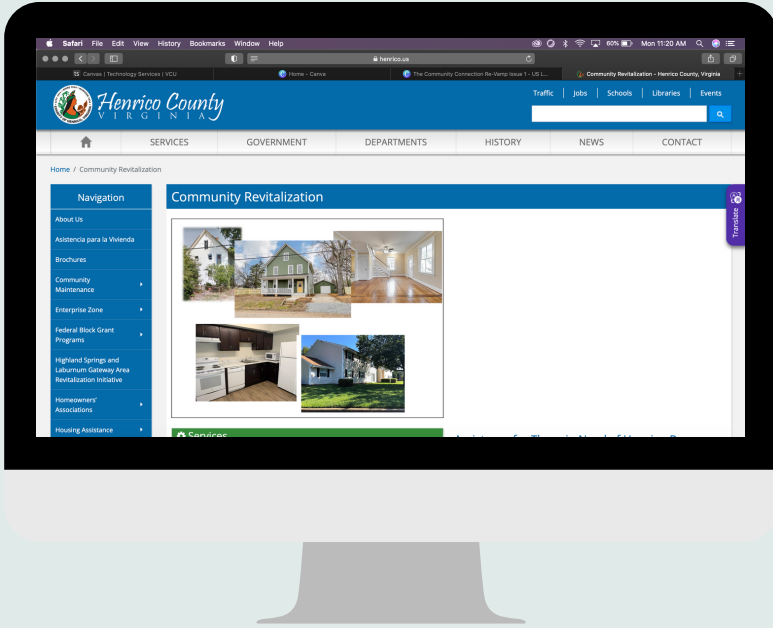
The historic neighborhood of Sandston has recently been recognized with listings in both the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places.

Sandston is one of the oldest neighborhoods within Henrico County, with the development of the Seven Pines Loading Plant #3 by the E.I. DuPont De Nemours Company in 1918. After World War I ended, the Richmond Fairfield Railway Company, under the leadership of Oliver J. Sands, purchased the land that the single-family housing was located on, and continued to market the area as affordable housing for workers commuting into the City of Richmond on the railway line. In 1923, the neighborhood had grown to such a size that allowed them to receive a Post Office, thus spurring the name change from the Village of Fairfield to Sandston. Growth and development in the neighborhood continued on well into the 1960s, to the point where the population had doubled in size requiring the Post Office to move locations in 1966.

Owning a property located within a district listed in the State and National Registers of Historic Places does not place any additional restrictions on what a property owner can do with their land or buildings. Owners remain free to use, alter, improve, and even demolish buildings with no additional approvals or oversight. This is purely honorary and provides access to tax credits for rehabilitation to contributing structures within the district.



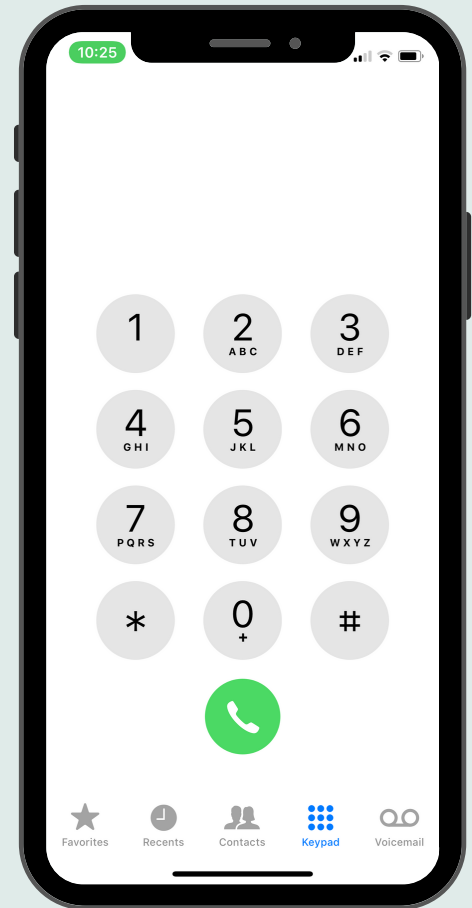
**The Historic District Nomination Report is available on the Virginia Department of Historic Resources website and the National Park Service website. Property owners contributing to the district are now eligible for Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits. For more information, please visit [www.dhr.virginia.gov/tax-credits](http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/tax-credits) or (804) 367-2323.**



Visit our Community Revitalization Website at: <https://henrico.us/revit/>

OR

Give Us a Call at: (804) 501-4757



**We would like to give a special thanks to everyone who has worked so diligently to make our volunteer projects successful!**

**Newsletter Contributors:** Ashley Catterton, Robin D'Amore, Eric Leabough, Rachael Thayer, Jaclyn Wilkens

**If you would like our newsletter to be sent to someone you know, please contact us at [commrevit@henrico.us](mailto:commrevit@henrico.us).**