



HENRICO COUNTY VIRGINIA

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Aquatics center receives final approval, construction set to start in March

The Henrico County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday approved a plan of development for an indoor aquatics center that will be built and operated by the YMCA of Greater Richmond in partnership with the county.

With its 5-0 vote, the board gave final approval to the project, clearing the way for construction to begin in March. The one-story, nearly 21,000-square-foot Henrico Aquatics Center is expected to open in early 2020 on a 6-acre site southwest of North Laburnum Avenue and Watts Lane, by the Eastern Henrico Recreation Center. The board also revised the Eastern Henrico Recreation Center Master Plan to incorporate the aquatics center.

“When we opened the Eastern Henrico Recreation Center eight years ago, we dreamed of someday adding an indoor pool for swimming and family fun,” said Fairfield District Supervisor



Frank J. Thornton, who represents the North Laburnum corridor. “I’m thrilled that we found a great partner in the YMCA of Greater Richmond to help us bring that vision to reality. The aquatics center will strengthen our community and help our youth grow in body, mind and spirit, because knowing how to swim and being comfortable in the water are critical to every person’s success in life.”

Officials with Henrico, the YMCA of Greater Richmond and Henrico County Public Schools [announced the project in November](#). Since then, the Board of Supervisors and YMCA have finalized a development agreement and a 20-year lease, which allows use of the county-owned land.





As part of the arrangement, Henrico will contribute \$8 million to the YMCA of Greater Richmond toward construction and other project costs. The nonprofit organization will build, manage and operate the facility, which will be open to the public through means-based memberships as well as daily rates.

The facility will feature an eight-lane, 25-yard pool and a warm-water instructional pool with zero-depth entry, a family spray area and a waterslide. In addition, the center

will include family-friendly locker rooms, retractable spectator seating and parking.

The aquatics center will offer swimming lessons, host practices and meets for Henrico high school swim teams and be available for use by Henrico's youth summer camps and community groups, such as the Henrico Police Athletic League.

In early 2018, the board identified a recreational pool as a priority for the community and asked county staff to identify potential partners. The area along Laburnum near Watts offered a county-owned site as well as complementary public facilities nearby. The Eastern Henrico Recreation Center opened in 2011, followed by the Henrico County Health Department East Clinic in 2014. A new Fairfield Area Library is under construction on a 10-acre site southeast of Laburnum and Watts, with an anticipated opening in October.

The YMCA of Greater Richmond currently has 17 locations throughout the region. The Henrico Aquatics Center will be located roughly 5 miles east of the Northside YMCA and about 9 miles northwest of the Chickahominy YMCA.

Feb. 22, 2019

CONTACT: S. Floyd Mays, Jr., Chair, Henrico County Economic Development Authority
PHONE: (804) 501-7654

Romanello named executive director of Henrico Economic Development Authority



The Henrico County Economic Development Authority has appointed Anthony J. Romanello to be its executive director, effective March 2.

Romanello has served as a deputy county manager for Henrico since 2016, initially overseeing Administration and later Community Services. He worked as county administrator of Stafford County from 2008 to 2016.

Romanello succeeds Gary R. McLaren, who is retiring this month after leading EDA since 2009 and a 41-year career in economic development.

"The EDA is pleased to have Anthony Romanello lead our economic development team following Gary McLaren's retirement," said S. Floyd Mays, Jr., chair of the EDA Board of Directors. "Anthony brings impressive public-sector experience to the job, having served a number of Virginia

localities in management positions. Anthony's solid relationships with Henrico's leadership and his knowledge of Henrico County will clearly serve the EDA well."

EDA is responsible for advancing business growth and investment in Henrico. Since 2009, the authority has helped the county attract or retain 12,000 jobs and amass capital investments totaling more than \$3.5 billion. Recent projects have included the Facebook Data Center, \$1.75 billion, as well as investments by Bank of America, \$166 million; QTS, \$100 million; and Polykon Manufacturing, \$56 million.

Overseen by a 10-member board of directors, EDA has a staff of nine and a budget of \$4.7 million for fiscal 2018-19, excluding Henrico's contribution for the Greater Richmond Convention Center. EDA is independent of Henrico's government, but it receives operating support from the county.

"A robust economic development program is a vital part of Henrico's long record of success," County Manager John A. Vithoukaskas said. "It allows the county to provide excellent schools, safe neighborhoods and other public services while keeping taxes low for our residents and businesses. With Anthony leading the team at EDA, I'm confident that Henrico will remain a place where businesses look to invest, grow and thrive."

Romanello earned a bachelor's degree in history and American government from the University of Virginia and a master's degree in public administration from Virginia Commonwealth University. As part of his 26-year career in public service, Romanello also served as a deputy county administrator of Stafford and town manager of West Point. In addition, he held several positions with the city of Richmond, including deputy director of human services administration, deputy director of administration of public health and assistant to the city manager.

For more information about investing in Henrico or to contact EDA, call (804) 501-7654 or go to henrico.com.

Feb. 8, 2019

CONTACT: Charlotte Whitten, Executive Assistant, Henrico County Board of Supervisors
PHONE: (804) 501-4208

Fairfield meeting Feb. 20 to feature State of the County address

Fairfield District Supervisor Frank J. Thornton will hold a constituent meeting Wednesday, Feb. 20 to share Henrico County's State of the County address and provide updates for the district.

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 County Manager John A. Vithoukaskas, who first presented the State of the County address in December.

For information, call (804) 501-4208.

Feb. 8, 2019

CONTACT: Veta Herbaugh, Executive Assistant, Henrico County Board of Supervisors
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Tuckahoe Town Meeting on Feb. 28 to discuss proper waste disposal, recycling

Tuckahoe District Supervisor Patricia S. O'Bannon will host a Tuckahoe Town Meeting on Thursday, Feb. 28 to discuss the proper disposal of household waste, recycling programs and other ways to conserve natural resources.

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, [youtube.com/c/henricocountygovernment](https://www.youtube.com/c/henricocountygovernment).

For more information, call (804) 501-4208 or go to [patobannon.com](https://www.patobannon.com).

Feb. 7, 2019

Region launches Opioid Solutions RVA website, media campaign

Localities unite to address opioid crisis, offer hope to those battling addiction

The counties of Chesterfield, Hanover and Henrico and the city of Richmond today launched a website and a yearlong media campaign under the name Opioid Solutions RVA to highlight the dangers of opioid use and to connect those struggling with addiction to information, treatment and resources.

The website — [OpioidSolutionsRVA.com](https://www.OpioidSolutionsRVA.com) — provides a comprehensive, regionally-focused clearinghouse of information about opioids as well as services available for treatment, recovery and prevention. It directs those needing immediate help or recovery support to resources, and it offers practical guidance, for example, on discussing pain-relieving alternatives with a doctor as well as what parents can do if their child is suspected of using drugs.

The website also will highlight special programs and initiatives, such as drug take-back drives and classes on the administration of naloxone, which can be used to revive someone following a suspected opioid overdose. The website is being maintained by the localities and is funded through the Opioid State Targeted Response Grant received by the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services.

“Opioid use and addiction are major problems for the entire RVA region,” said Tyrone E. Nelson, chairman of the Henrico Board of Supervisors. “These powerful drugs are destroying lives and affecting every group and demographic. To reverse these devastating trends, our community must elevate its collective understanding of the crisis and offer hope to those challenged with the disease of addiction.”

A yearlong media campaign for Opioid Solutions RVA is kicking off immediately to raise awareness of the epidemic and to promote [OpioidSolutionsRVA.com](https://www.OpioidSolutionsRVA.com). The campaign is expected to use a variety of media platforms, including billboards, traditional broadcast and internet radio, social media, television and print. The campaign’s \$100,000 cost is being shared by the four localities.

“Our country’s opioid problem has been years in the making, and it won’t be solved overnight,” said Leslie Haley, chair of the Chesterfield Board of Supervisors. “Locally, we are committed to action and long-term success. We want to reach everyone — from teens and preteens to adults, parents and seniors. Opioids threaten everyone because they’re not just street drugs, like heroin. They’re often in our medicine cabinets at home and available from doctors by prescription. One of the goals of Opioid Solutions RVA is to create better-informed patients who participate fully in their health care decisions.”

The campaign’s first [public service announcement](#) underscores the addictive and potentially deadly nature of opioids and explains that they are often known by other names, including Codeine, Vicodin, Percocet, painkillers and pills. A second [announcement](#) offers hope to those struggling with addiction and encourages them to seek help in their recovery.



Additional announcements are planned throughout the campaign.

“RVA cares deeply about its residents and knows their health and happiness are essential to our region’s prosperity and success,” Richmond Mayor Levar M. Stoney said. “By uniting in Opioid Solutions RVA, Chesterfield, Hanover, Henrico and Richmond are harnessing their collective talents and resources to save and repair lives.”

Chesterfield, Hanover, Henrico and Richmond have been working both independently and jointly to address the opioid problem

for several years. Opioid addiction was declared a public health emergency in Virginia in 2016.

In October 2017, the localities joined forces to present Revive RVA: Regional Solutions to the Opioid Crisis, a daylong summit at the Greater Richmond Convention Center that featured keynote speakers, breakout sessions, panel discussions, a resource fair and naloxone training. The localities continued their collaboration through a work group that includes staff in the areas of human services, public health and communications.



The number of fatal opioid overdoses continues to rise sharply locally, across Virginia and throughout the United States. In Chesterfield, Hanover, Henrico and Richmond, the combined number of opioid overdose deaths increased from 51 in 2010 to 79 in 2012 before jumping to 108 in 2014, 189 in 2016 and 238 in 2017, according to the Virginia Department of Health.

“Sadly, as our first responders know, opioids now account for more deaths in Virginia than

automobile accidents and gun violence,” said W. Canova Peterson, chairman of the Hanover Board of Supervisors. “While many people are fortunate enough to survive an overdose, they’re often burdened with a life-crippling addiction. As a community and a region, we can and must do better. Opioid Solutions RVA represents a bold, collective step to truly make a difference for our community.”



Feb. 7, 2019

CONTACT: Lt. Shawn M. Sears, Animal Protection Unit, Henrico County Police Division
PHONE: (804) 727-8801

Henrico to offer rabies vaccinations for pets Feb. 16

The Henrico County Police Division will provide rabies vaccines for dogs and cats from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 16 at the Henrico County Government Center, 4301 E. Parham Road.

Pet owners must register and pay at the cashier's office in the Administration Building before seeing a veterinarian on the first level of the adjacent parking deck.

Each vaccine costs \$10 and must be paid in cash. A rabies tag and a certificate of inoculation are included. Pets from all localities are welcome. Cats must be in carriers.

Under Virginia law, dogs and cats 4 months of age and older must be vaccinated for rabies.

Henrico dog licenses will be available for \$10. Licenses now are valid for the life of the animal while the owner lives in Henrico and its rabies vaccinations are kept current.

Officers will be available to discuss license and vaccination requirements. For information, call the Animal Protection Unit at (804) 727-8801.

Feb. 6, 2019

CONTACT: John A. Vithoukas, Henrico County Manager
PHONE: (804) 501-4386

Johnson named director of Community Corrections



Henrico County has appointed Shelby P. Johnson to serve as director of Community Corrections, effective Feb. 16.

Johnson has worked for the program since 2000 and is currently a unit supervisor. She also has served as acting director following the recent resignation of Gary A. Hughes, the program's director since 2016.

As director, Johnson will be responsible for coordinating a program of local probation, pretrial supervision and related services as a continuum of community-based sanctions and services. Community

Corrections has an approved budget of \$1.6 million and 22 employees in fiscal year 2018-19.

Johnson began her service in Henrico in 1998, when she was hired as an inmate classification officer in the Sheriff's Office. She moved to Community Corrections two years later as a probation officer.

Johnson holds a Bachelor of Science in criminal justice from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and a Master of Public Administration from Strayer University.

Feb. 5, 2019

CONTACT: Barry R. Lawrence, Assistant to the County Manager for Board Affairs

PHONE: (804) 501-4318

Henrico supervisors, deputy county managers appointed to VACo committees

All five members of Henrico County's Board of Supervisors and two of its deputy county managers will serve on committees of the Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) during 2019.

Board members received the following appointments:

- Chairman and Varina District Supervisor Tyrone E. Nelson, Transportation Steering Committee;
- Vice Chairman and Three Chopt District Supervisor Thomas M. Branin, Finance Steering Committee (vice chairman) and Resolutions Operations Committee;
- Brookland District Supervisor Daniel J. Schmitt, Economic Development and Planning Steering Committee;
- Fairfield District Supervisor Frank J. Thornton, Education Steering Committee, Nominating Committee, a Region 3 representative on the VACo Board of Directors; and
- Tuckahoe District Supervisor Patricia S. O'Bannon, General Government Steering Committee.

Administration officials who received appointments are:

- Deputy County Manager for Community Services Anthony J. Romanello, Health and Human Resources Steering Committee; and
- Deputy County Manager for Community Development Randall R. Silber, Environment and Agriculture Steering Committee.

VACo's seven steering committees review legislative requests from member counties, recommend an annual legislative program and provide policy guidance to VACo staff. The association represents local governments at the state and federal levels and provides a resource network for planning and implementing ideas and technologies