



## HENRICO COUNTY VIRGINIA

### December 2006

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December 21, 2006

CONTACT: Barbara Burton, Foster Care Supervisor

PHONE: 501-4056

The Henrico County Department of Social Services (DSS) is seeking additional residents to serve as foster parents. DSS will hold a training program beginning Tuesday, Jan. 16 from 5-8:30 p.m. in the Human Services Building, 8600 Dixon Powers Drive.

The training program will teach parents about meeting the special emotional and behavioral needs of foster children. Classes will take place each Tuesday through March 13. Anyone interested in participating should call 501-4060 by Tuesday, Jan. 9.

Foster Care Supervisor Barbara Burton said Henrico has a significant need for more foster parents -- especially individuals willing to bring siblings and children ages 8 and older into their homes.

"We have had an increasing number of sibling groups referred to our care, and we try to keep them together if at all possible," Burton said. "We also have a need for more parents who can take in older children."

Foster parents are "professional parents," available around-the-clock to bring children into their homes and provide temporary and potentially long-term care in a safe, stable environment. Parents must be at least 21, have their own source of income and sufficient living space in their house or apartment to care for a child. They can be single or married, with or without children of their own, male or female, and from all backgrounds, races and nationalities.

For more information about foster parent training or Henrico's foster care program, call 501-4060 or log on to [www.co.henrico.va.us/fosterparents](http://www.co.henrico.va.us/fosterparents).

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December 20, 2006

CONTACT: Barbara Herzog, Director, Henrico CASA

PHONE: 501-1671

The Henrico County Court Appointed Special Advocates program (CASA) will host a benefit art gallery opening and silent auction -- including a special appearance by First Lady of Virginia Anne Holton -- from 6-10:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 19 at the Crossroads Art Center, 2016 Staples Mill Road.

Proceeds from the special event will support CASA programs that serve abused and neglected children in Henrico's Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court system. CASA trains volunteers to serve as their advocates.

The event will feature remarks by Ms. Holton at approximately 7:15 p.m. Auction items include framed paintings, pottery and other works by national and local artists; vacation packages to the Outer Banks and Wintergreen resort; and gift certificates to area salons and boutiques. For a complete listing of auction items, log on to [www.henricocasa.org](http://www.henricocasa.org) or [www.crossroadsartcenter.com](http://www.crossroadsartcenter.com).

Admission to the event is free and open to the public. For additional information, call 501-1671 or log on to the CASA Web site.

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December 19, 2006

CONTACT: Megan Brown, Executive Coordinator, Keep Henrico Beautiful

PHONE: 501-4502

The Keep Henrico Beautiful Committee will provide Christmas tree recycling for Henrico residents at two county sites from Tuesday, Dec. 26 through Wednesday, Jan. 10.

Residents may bring their trees to the lower parking lot at the Henrico Government Center, 4301 E. Parham Road, and to the front parking lot at the Eastern Government Center, 3820 Nine Mile Road. This free service is offered for residential use, not for commercial tree lots.

Residents may also recycle trees free of charge at the public use areas at Springfield Road Landfill, near Interstate 295 and Nuckols Road, and at Charles City Road Landfill, 2075 Charles City Road. County staff will help residents dispose trees at the landfills from 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily through Wednesday, Jan. 31.

All ornaments, tinsel, screws, nuts and bolts and other items should be removed before trees are brought to the recycling locations. For more information, contact Keep Henrico Beautiful at 501-4502.

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December 18, 2006

CONTACT: Maureen Goode, Employment Services Supervisor, Social Services

PHONE: 501-5828

Eligible taxpayers can receive free help preparing their income taxes next year -- and potentially increase their refunds by claiming the earned income tax credit -- at sites hosted by Henrico County and the Greater Richmond Earned Income Tax Credit Coalition (GREITCC).

The earned income tax credit is a benefit for qualifying workers who file a tax return and meet income requirements -- generally, families with children earning less than \$36,348 and individuals earning less than \$12,120. The benefit could increase a federal refund by as much as \$4,536 for families and \$412 for individuals.

Trained volunteers will help eligible taxpayers prepare and file returns at GREITCC sites throughout the metropolitan area, including two in Henrico:

\* Human Services Building, 8600 Dixon Powers Drive; from Jan. 30 to April 12, 4-8 p.m. each Tuesday and Thursday;

\* Fairfield Area Library, 1001 N. Laburnum Ave.; from Feb. 1 to March 3, 6-8 p.m. each Thursday and 10 a.m.-1 p.m. each Saturday.

The GREITCC works to increase public awareness of the earned income tax credit and to offer qualifying taxpayers a free alternative to paid tax-preparation services. Last year, coalition volunteers helped area residents file 725 federal returns, generating \$451,000 in earned income tax credit funds and a total of \$888,000 in federal returns. The free service saved filers an estimated \$145,000 in preparation fees. Many area residents are missing out, however: the coalition estimates that approximately 20 percent of eligible taxpayers are not claiming the earned income tax credit.

Contact the GREITCC at 649-0330 for more information.

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December 13, 2006

CONTACT: Barry Lawrence, Clerk, Board of Supervisors

PHONE: 501-4318

The Henrico County Board of Supervisors will not hold a second meeting in December. The board will reconvene on Tuesday, Jan. 9.

The Henrico County Board of Supervisors regularly meets at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month in the Government Center Board Room, located at Parham and Hungary Spring roads. Call 501-4318 for more information.

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December 12, 2006

CONTACT: Veta Herbaugh, Executive Assistant, Board of Supervisors

PHONE: 501-4208

The Italian American Business and Professional Society has named Varina District Supervisor Jim Donati the recipient of its Outstanding Italian American in Government/Politics award.



The organization honored Donati at its inaugural Hall of Fame awards ceremony, held recently in Richmond. Italian Americans from throughout the metropolitan area were recognized for their contributions in a number of fields, including the arts, education, business and health sciences.

Donati, a second generation Italian American, was first elected to represent Varina on Henrico's Board of Supervisors in 1991, working as the board's chairman in 1994, 1997 and 2002. He has served on a number of national, regional and local governmental organizations, including the Capital Region Airport Commission, the Henricus Foundation Advisory Board, the James River Advisory Council and steering committees for the Virginia Association of Counties and the National Association of Counties. Donati owns WhiteOak Turf Care, a landscaping company.

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