



HENRICO COUNTY VIRGINIA

March 2012

March 28, 2012

CONTACT: Reginald B. Morris or Kendra Young, Extension Agents, Henrico County office of the Virginia Cooperative Extension
PHONE: (804) 501-5160

Henrico Extension accepting registrations for 4-H State Congress in June

The Henrico County office of the Virginia Cooperative Extension is accepting registrations for teenage participants and volunteer adult leaders to attend the 2012 Virginia 4-H State Congress, which will be held Monday, June 25 through Thursday, June 28 at Virginia Tech.

The 4-H State Congress provides competitive and noncompetitive experiences to help teenagers and young adults develop skills to become contributing members of their community. The 2012 event will feature social activities, a college and career expo and competitions in disciplines including animal science; natural resources and environmental education; leadership; plants, soils and entomology; and communications and expressive arts.

The 4-H State Congress is open to participants ages 14 to 18. Prior involvement in 4-H is not required. The cost of registration is \$190; partial scholarships are available. Volunteer adult leaders attend at no cost, but registration is required. All forms are due by Friday, April 20 and can be brought to the Extension Office at 8600 Dixon Powers Drive or mailed to Virginia Cooperative Extension-Henrico Unit, P.O. Box 90775, Henrico, VA 23273-0775. Henrico Extension will provide transportation to and from the Virginia Tech campus in Blacksburg.

For registration forms, go to www.4-h.ext.vt.edu/programs/congress/2012/index.html. For details, call Henrico Extension at (804) 501-5160 or contact Reginald B. Morris at rbmorris@vt.edu or Kendra Young at kkyoung@vt.edu.

March 27, 2012

CONTACT: Melvin Slough, Community Liaison, Henrico County Department of Public Utilities
PHONE: (804) 501-7540

Henrico to begin countywide effort to clear sediment from water lines

The Henrico County Department of Public Utilities (DPU) on April 9 will start a 10-year program to flush 1,570 miles of water mains, removing accumulations of sediment that can reduce water quality.

DPU's first comprehensive flushing effort will begin near Darbytown and Williamsburg roads and continue for several weeks before moving to other parts of eastern Henrico. That area was prioritized because it has older water mains and has been served by wells, increasing the need for flushing to scour the pipes, DPU Director Arthur D. Petrini, P.E. said. Working from April to November, DPU plans to flush 10 percent of the county's water mains each year, methodically covering all portions of Henrico. The effort will preserve the high quality of water that is provided to more than 92,000 customers.

Flushing will occur from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. Work in an area will be announced with letters sent to homes and businesses, as well as with door hanger notices and signs. A schedule of streets to be flushed will be posted at www.co.henrico.va.us/utility and on Henrico County Television.

When flushing is underway, customers may notice large amounts of water in the street, temporary drops in water pressure, air in the lines and water that is discolored or cloudy.

"The discoloration of water is caused by the presence of sediment and does not create a health concern," Petrini said. "However, residents may want to plan ahead and store enough water for drinking and cooking so they can avoid turning on the tap during flushing. Residents also may want to limit laundry and other activities."

After the water mains are flushed, residents can help return their home's plumbing system to normal by running an outdoor faucet to clear any loose sediment, he said.

For the first time, DPU will use an approach of unidirectional water main flushing, which calls for strategically closing valves and opening hydrants to direct water at high speeds through targeted segments of pipe. The approach uses less water and is more effective in removing sediment than conventional flushing, which involves lower velocity flows and achieves less scouring of pipes.

For information about the program, click the "flushing" link at www.co.henrico.va.us/utility or contact Melvin Slough at (804) 501-7540 or slo09@co.henrico.va.us.

March 22, 2012

CONTACT: Thomas C. Little Real Estate Assessment Director
PHONE: (804) 501-5346

Henrico officials alert homeowners to misleading property-tax mailing

Henrico County officials are alerting homeowners to a mailing from a private company that could mislead homeowners to pay for information to appeal their real estate tax assessment.

Henrico homeowners do not have to pay to appeal a property tax assessment, officials emphasized. Real estate property information is available for free on Henrico's website and by contacting the county's Real Estate division.

The mailing, titled "2012 Property Tax Assessment Analysis," claims the assessment of the homeowner's property is too high and will result in an inflated property tax bill. The mailing suggests the homeowner could reduce the tax by appealing the assessment with the help of information purchased from the company for \$99.

"Henrico homeowners can appeal their tax assessment free of charge," said Thomas C. Little, real estate assessment director. "Homeowners can research the sales prices of comparable homes for free on the county website or they can simply call or email the Real Estate division. We will be glad to provide any information necessary."

Homeowners are not required to complete paperwork to appeal an assessment, Little said, noting that a phone call or email is sufficient to initiate an appeal.

Real estate property information is available on the homepage of the county website, www.co.henrico.va.us, under "online services." Information also is available by calling the Real Estate division at (804) 501-5346 or by sending an email to lit@co.henrico.va.us.

The mailing has led a handful of residents to file their own appeals of their tax assessments, Little said.

"Our biggest concern is the fear factor," he said. "We don't want homeowners to be scared into paying for something that's available to them for free."

March 20, 2012

CONTACT: Rupa Singh, Case Manager, Henrico County Court Appointed Special Advocates
PHONE: (804) 501-1670

'Superhero' runners needed for April 28 race benefitting child-advocacy programs

A 5-kilometer race and children's fun run will be held Saturday, April 28 at St. Joseph's Villa, 8000 Brook Road, to support programs assisting abused and neglected children in Henrico and Chesterfield counties.

The Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) organizations of Henrico and Chesterfield are hosting the third-annual Superhero Run to mark April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Aided by their "superhero" volunteers, the private, nonprofit CASA organizations work with local courts on behalf of children who have been abused and neglected.

The 5-kilometer race is open to all ages, and participants are encouraged to dress in their favorite superhero costumes. Medals will be awarded to the top finishers in all age groups. Other prizes will be given to runners wearing the "most heroic" costumes.

The cost of registration is \$25 for runners ages 13 and older and \$15 for runners ages 6 to 12. The Kids' Run is open to participants 12 and younger at a cost of \$5. All fees will increase by \$5 after April 1 and by an additional \$5 on race day. To register, go to www.casarun.com or call Rupa Singh at (804) 501-1670.

The Superhero Run will begin with the Kids' Run at 9 a.m., followed by the 5-kilometer race at 9:30 a.m. and a post-race fair, with moon bounces, face painting, games and other entertainment. The event and others were inspired by The Superhero Foundation, an Austin, Texas-based organization working to prevent child abuse.

March 16, 2012

CONTACT: Kimberly Edmonds, Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Agent, Henrico County office of the Virginia Cooperative Extension
PHONE: (804) 501-5160

Henrico Extension to offer financial literacy program April 17-18

The Henrico County office of the Virginia Cooperative Extension will mark April as National Financial Literacy Month with a program to help people manage their money.

The program, Tips to Keep You Financially Fit, will be offered from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 17 and again from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, April 18 in the Extension Office of the Human Services Building, 8600 Dixon Powers Drive. Participants will learn how to track expenses, create and maintain a spending plan, boost savings and manage credit.

The program is free and open to the public. Participants are encouraged to register by April 12. For information, call Henrico Extension at (804) 501-5160 or go to www.co.henrico.va.us/extension.

March 15, 2012

CONTACT: Teddy Martin, Extension Horticulture Technician, Henrico County office of the Virginia Cooperative Extension
PHONE: (804) 501-5160

Henrico Extension to offer free lawn-care seminar April 11

The Henrico County office of the Virginia Cooperative Extension will conduct a seminar Wednesday, April 11 to help residents care for their lawns naturally.

The session, which is part of the SMART Lawns series, will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Extension Office of the Human Services Building, 8600 Dixon Powers Drive. An Extension staff member or master gardener will answer questions and offer tips on maintaining healthy lawns without relying on artificial pesticides. Topics will include irrigation, fertilization, soil acidity and weed control. Participants will also learn about the SMART Lawns program, which gives residents step-by-step, customized guidance to improve their lawns.

The SMART Lawns seminars will continue in August and September. The sessions are free and open to the public. Participants are encouraged to register in advance by calling Henrico Extension at (804) 501-5160. For more information, go to www.co.henrico.va.us/extension.

March 12, 2012

CONTACT: Lisa T. Sanderson, Extension Agent, Henrico County office of the Virginia Cooperative Extension
PHONE: (804) 501-5160

Extension Office offers gardening nutrition class for youth

The Henrico County office of the Virginia Cooperative Extension is offering a seven-week class to show children how eating vegetables can be fun and tasty.

The Health and Nutrition from the Garden class will be held from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. on Thursdays, from April 5 through May 17 at the Armour House and Gardens, 4001 Clarendon Road. The cost of registration is \$30. The class is geared for students in third, fourth and fifth grades and will be limited to about 12 students.

Master gardeners and Extension agents will incorporate science, math, literature and social studies in group and individual activities that are fun and creative. Part of the Junior Master Gardener program, the class will include lessons on basic gardening, growing techniques, thrifty gardens, food safety and healthy snacks.

For information or a registration form, contact Lisa Sanderson at (804) 501-5160 or lsanderson@vt.edu, or go online to www.co.henrico.va.us/extension.

March 8, 2012

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

Fairfield constituent meeting March 19 to feature police chief

The next constituent meeting of Fairfield District Supervisor Frank J. Thornton will feature Col. Douglas A. Middleton, chief of the Henrico County Division of Police.

The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, March 19 in the ballroom of the Eastern Henrico Recreation Center, 1440 N. Laburnum Ave. Middleton will join Thornton for a presentation and discussion of police goals for the county and Fairfield District.

For information about the meeting or to join the Fairfield District mailing list, call (804) 501-4208.

March 7, 2012

CONTACT: Barbara Herzog, Director, Henrico County Court Appointed Special Advocates
PHONE: (804) 501-1671

Henrico CASA seeks volunteers for child-advocacy training

Henrico County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) is seeking volunteers to work in the court system on behalf of abused and neglected children.

A free, six-week training program for volunteers will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, beginning April 16, at the Henrico CASA office in suite A of the Hungary Spring Office Park, 3001 Hungary Spring Road.

Anyone interested in volunteering must first apply, be at least 21 years old and have regular access to a computer. Applications will be accepted through Wednesday, April 11. Applicants will be interviewed, fingerprinted and undergo criminal background and reference checks. Henrico CASA has a particular need for Spanish-speaking volunteers. To apply, contact Lorrie Moore at (804) 501-1674 or moo71@co.henrico.va.us. Information also is available at www.henricocasa.org.

Henrico CASA is a private, nonprofit organization that works closely with the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. Working typically 10 to 15 hours per month, volunteer advocates serve as the voice of children who have been abused or neglected. The training program prepares volunteers to interview children and others involved in their case, submit reports to judges and assist case attorneys. Henrico CASA volunteers worked 12,317 hours and served 302 children during fiscal 2010-11. The caseload in fiscal 2011-12 is on pace to exceed last year's total by 33 percent.

March 5, 2012

CONTACT: Veta Herbaugh, Executive Assistant, Board of Supervisors
PHONE: (804) 501-4208

Varina meetings to introduce Supervisor Nelson, highlight district issues

Varina District Supervisor Tyrone E. Nelson will hold his first Community Conversations meetings March 12 and 15 to interact with constituents and spotlight various programs and district concerns.

The meetings will be held at 1 p.m. Monday, March 12 at the Henrico Theatre, 305 E. Nine Mile Road, and at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 15 at Varina High School, 7053 Messer Road. Both sessions are open to the public.

Nelson took office in January and is serving his first term on the board of supervisors. The first sessions will allow residents to ask questions and learn about a variety of topics, including real-estate assessments, public safety, Henrico's financial outlook and Henrico County Public Schools. The meetings also will provide updates on the East End Landfill and the Route 5 Corridor Study, as well as an overview of two tax-saving programs, the Real Estate Advantage Program, known as REAP, and the Residential Investment Tax Abatement Program, known as Reinvest.

For information, call (804) 501-4208.

March 2, 2012

CONTACT: Will Jones, Senior Public Relations Specialist
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Henrico students seize county reins on Student Government Day

Dozens of high school students from Henrico County got a firsthand look at the county's general government and public schools administrations Thursday when they shadowed elected and appointed officials for the 55th annual Student Government Day.

Student Government Day matched 93 students from nine high schools with such leaders as members of the board of supervisors and school board, county manager, superintendent of schools, department directors and judges. The students, most of whom are seniors, spent the day learning the responsibilities of various departments and gaining insight into how local government works with and on behalf of the public in a democracy.

"It is the very best government on the face of the Earth," County Manager Virgil R. Hazelett, P.E. told the students. "It does work because of the people we elect. We may not always agree, but it does work."

Student Government Day started Wednesday at Hermitage High School with a ceremony in which many of the students took the oath for their respective positions. All of the students reported to work early Thursday and spent the day asking questions and interacting with various officials. Students also had opportunities to tour the county jail and register to vote.

For students who worked at the Henrico Government Center on East Parham Road, the day culminated with a student-run meeting of the board of supervisors, which included rigorous questioning and debate over such issues as regulations on the discharge of air-powered guns, a contract for renovation and expansion of Fire Station 13 and a stream restoration project near Skipwith Elementary School.

Student Government Day is sponsored by the Kiwanis clubs of North Richmond, Tuckahoe and Greater Richmond.





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