



HENRICO COUNTY VIRGINIA

JUNE 2016

June 30, 2016

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Henrico County Television wins Emmy for program on Police, Fire chaplains

The Henrico County Television program “Ring the Bell: Police and Fire Chaplains of Henrico County” has earned a 2016 Emmy Award from the National Capital Chesapeake Bay Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. The award was announced at the 58th annual Emmy Awards ceremony June 25 in Baltimore.

Produced and directed by Gene Byard, the program won the award in the religion – news single story/news series category. The 17-minute show highlights the volunteer ministers who provide pastoral care and spiritual support to Henrico’s first responders and residents. The Emmy is the first won by Byard and the sixth by Henrico Public Relations & Media Services since launching HCTV in 2003. The department produces original, feature programming focused on Henrico.

Byard, a television producer and director, has been a member of the HCTV staff since 2014. He holds a bachelor’s degree from Virginia Commonwealth University and previously worked as a television producer for Chesterfield County Public Schools and WCVE (PBS 23).

One other HCTV program earned an Emmy nomination in 2016: “A Piece of Our Past: The Old Henrico County Courthouse and Jail,” which was produced and directed by Ryan Eubank.

HCTV programs are available to Comcast subscribers in Henrico on channel 17, on Comcast Video On Demand, and on Verizon FiOS channel 39. Programs also can be viewed online at henrico.us/pr.

June 30, 2016

CONTACTS:

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Henrico launches webpage focused on mosquito prevention, information about Zika virus

Henrico residents now can get tips on eliminating potential mosquito-breeding habitat on their properties and learn about the county's efforts to prevent local transmission of the Zika virus at henrico.us/zika.

The new webpage brings together a range of information from the Henrico County Health Department and the Department of Public Works and highlights the county's multi-agency efforts to raise awareness about the connection between containers of standing water — even small amounts — Zika and other mosquito-borne illnesses. Information is available in Spanish as well as English.

Zika, which is transmitted to people primarily by the bite of an infected mosquito, is prevalent in South and Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean. Current cases in the United States are among individuals who traveled to a Zika-affected region; as of June 29, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that none of the U.S. cases are the result of local transmission.

The county's webpage features simple steps for controlling the Asian tiger mosquito, the most common nuisance mosquito in Henrico. Marked by distinctive black and white striping, the Asian tiger is the only local species potentially capable of spreading the Zika virus, said environmental program specialist Randy Buchanan, who heads Henrico's Standing Water Initiative.

"Asian tiger mosquitoes only lay their eggs in containers of water, such as buckets, corrugated pipe, tarps and old tires," he said. "The majority of these mosquitoes are coming out of containers that are in our own yards."

Buchanan noted that a container holding as little as 2 tablespoons of water for seven days is a sufficient habitat for the Asian tiger mosquito to reproduce.

The webpage describes measures residents can take to reduce the presence of mosquitoes on their properties, such as checking and emptying containers once a week during the May-through-October mosquito season. Residents and business owners can submit a form on the webpage to request a mosquito inspection of their properties. They also can get tips for preventing bites and choosing the appropriate mosquito repellent.

Dr. Susan Fischer Davis, director of the Henrico County Health Department, said that some individuals infected with Zika will have mild, non-specific symptoms such as fever, rash, conjunctivitis and joint pain for about a week. However, most individuals with Zika — about 80 percent — won't have symptoms and won't know they have it.

"Pregnant women are a population we are concerned about if they get Zika virus infection," she said, noting that infection during pregnancy has been determined to be a cause of microcephaly, a serious birth defect.

The webpage provides information from the Virginia Department of Health and CDC describing Zika's symptoms, detailing regions impacted by the virus and offering advice for pregnant women who may have traveled to an affected area.

"Information about Zika virus infection is evolving daily," Davis said. "But the key message is prevention, and that starts with eliminating breeding habitat for Asian tiger mosquitoes and protecting yourself from mosquito bites. Each of us has a role in that effort."

For more information, go to henrico.us/zika.

June 29, 2016

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

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Henrico wins National Association of Counties awards for 28 programs

Two initiatives recognized Best of Category

Henrico County departments and agencies have earned 28 Achievement Awards from the National Association of Counties (NACo), plus two Best of Category honors, for a series of home-maintenance workshops and a firefighter wellness program.

Fairfield District Supervisor Frank J. Thornton will accept the awards July 24 at the 2016 NACo annual conference in Long Beach, Calif. The NACo Achievement Awards Program recognizes groundbreaking programs and initiatives in 21 service categories, including children and youth, county administration and management, libraries, emergency management and response, and human services.

Henrico's 28 awards, which stemmed from 35 entries, are the most of any county in Virginia for the 11th consecutive year and the sixth most nationally, behind Maricopa County, Ariz.; Los Angeles County, Calif.; San Diego County, Calif.; San Bernardino County, Calif.; and Montgomery County, Md. Each of those counties has 1 million to 10 million residents; Henrico has about 325,000 residents, according to U.S. Census Bureau estimates.

"Henrico County's departments and employees provide outstanding service for residents and others in the community every single day," County Manager John A. Vithoukas said. "Our continued success in the NACo awards program affirms the strong work ethic and culture of excellence that has long been a hallmark of Henrico government. Our employees are challenged to identify and solve problems, to innovate and to find better ways to meet the needs of our dynamic community."

The Department of Community Revitalization won an Achievement Award and a Best of Category honor for "Home Maintenance Workshops," a series of free classes that targeted low-income

homeowners and provided money-saving tips for property upkeep. The workshops, held in 2015-16, covered such topics as weatherization, basic plumbing and electrical repairs, patching holes in walls and ceilings, landscaping and yard maintenance, and hiring a contractor. The effort was designed to help homeowners remain in their homes as they age and to decrease the demands on public and nonprofit service providers.

The Department of Human Resources won an Achievement Award and a Best of Category honor for “Fire Fit: An Intensive Focus on Firefighter Wellness.” The program was developed with the Division of Fire to help more firefighters pass an annual evaluation of the physical requirements needed to perform their duties. The number of firefighters who satisfied the benchmark increased 15 percent in 2015, after the wellness program was introduced.

Henrico has earned 576 NACo awards since 1985. The awards in 2016 recognize the efforts of 11 general government departments and Henrico County Public Schools (HCPS). HCPS collected nine awards, while Henrico County Public Library and Human Resources each earned or shared three awards — more than any other Henrico department or agency. Human Resources also earned at least one award for the 30th consecutive year, a feat unmatched by any other human resources agency in the country.

Henrico’s award-winning programs and their submitting agencies are listed below. Detailed descriptions of the programs are available at henrico.us/manager/programs/naco-awards.

- Home Maintenance Workshops, Department of Community Revitalization
- Homeowners’ Association Website and Lookup, Community Revitalization
- Parcel Project & HOPS, County Manager’s Office
- Trash Time Capsule, Department of Public Utilities (DPU) and Keep Henrico Beautiful (KHB)
- Social Media Video Education, DPU and KHB
- Expanding Payment Options for Cash Paying Constituents, Department of Finance
- Entry-Level Firefighter Hiring Process, Division of Fire
- Virtual Operations Support Team Program, Fire
- Energy Saving Projects Initiative, Department of General Services
- Homegrown Diesel Tech: A Partnership of Schools and Central Automotive Maintenance, Henrico County Public Schools (HCPS)
- Instructional Technology Website, HCPS
- ZippSlipping into Libraries, HCPS
- Parchment: The eTranscript and Credential-Management Solution, HCPS
- PowerSchool: An Elementary School Parent-Portal Pilot Program, HCPS
- Teacher Scholars’ Program, HCPS
- The Locker: Developing a School Intranet, HCPS

- Using Zippslip to Improve Pupil Transportation and Parent Communication, HCPS
- Instructional Design Website: Making Instruction Easy for Teachers, HCPS
- Creating a Living Culture of High Performance, Department of Human Resources (HR)
- Fire Fit: An Intensive Focus on Firefighter Wellness, HR
- Summer Camp Staff Orientation: Creating a Culture of Leadership, HR and Division of Recreation and Parks
- Focus and Function Group Initiative — Breaking Down Barriers, Recreation and Parks
- 3 Books 4 Me, Henrico County Public Library (HCPL)
- Literacy and Math Nights at the Library, HCPL
- SuperHero Science, HCPL
- The Danray Home, Henrico Area Mental Health & Developmental Services (MH/DS)
- Moral Reconciliation Therapy Group, MH/DS
- Faith Community Coalition, Police Division

June 17, 2016

Contact: Lt. C.J. Eley, Henrico County Police Division

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Henrico to provide water to residents beginning Saturday

Henrico County will provide water at no cost to residents beginning at 8 a.m. Saturday, June 18 at two county fire stations.

Water will be available at Firehouse 2, 2400 Darbytown Road, and at Firehouse 16, 5831 Shady Grove Road. Residents should bring their own containers.

The free service will continue daily until power has been restored to residents countywide.

June 17, 2016

CONTACT: Steve Yob, Director, Department of Public Works

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Henrico to offer free residential pickup of tree debris from storm; register by June 24

The Henrico County Department of Public Utilities (DPU) is offering free curbside removal of tree debris created by the severe weather on Thursday, June 16.

Residents must register for the service. Orders can be placed by phone at (804) 501-4275 or online at henrico.us/services/storm-debris-pickup. The deadline to sign up is Friday, June 24.

DPU crews will remove only residential tree and vegetative debris, such as storm-damaged branches, limbs and small trees. Debris should be placed at the curb or near the edge of a nearby public road; it should not block drainage outlets or impede the roadway.

To be considered for free pickup:

- Debris should be no longer than 4 feet, with a diameter of 4 inches or less;
- Debris must weigh less than 50 pounds;
- Sticks and other small items should be bundled.

The free removal service will not include root balls, trunks and sections from large trees; bagged yard debris; and storm-related household waste, such as scrap wood, drywall, roofing materials and spoiled food.

A time for pickups cannot be guaranteed due to the large volume of debris created by the storm. Crews are working diligently and will respond to each order as quickly as possible.

Henrico residents also can take storm-related tree and vegetative debris at no cost to the public-use areas at Springfield Road Landfill, 10600 Fords Country Lane, and the Charles City Road Landfill, 2075 Charles City Road. Both areas are open daily from 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.