



HENRICO COUNTY VIRGINIA

MARCH 2018

March 23, 2018

CONTACT: Ed Olsen, Extension Agent for Agriculture & Natural Resources/Horticulture, Henrico County office of Virginia Cooperative Extension

PHONE: (804) 501-5160

Henrico lawn-care seminar set for April 18

The Henrico County office of Virginia Cooperative Extension will hold a seminar Wednesday, April 18 to explain how to create a SMART Lawn.

The SMART Lawns program provides residents with customized plans for growing attractive, healthy lawns based on five steps of care: Soil test, Measure, Aerate, Right fertilizer, and Trouble-free maintenance.

The seminar will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in Extension's demonstration kitchen in the Henrico Human Services Building, 8600 Dixon Powers Drive.

The cost to attend is \$10. Participants will receive a rain gauge, turf ruler, coupons for two free soil tests and a 26-page SMART Lawns booklet.

Registration closes Tuesday, April 17. For more information, go to henrico.us/extension or call (804) 501-5160.

March 20, 2018

CONTACT: Carrie Webster, Energy Manager, Henrico County Department of General Services

PHONE: (804) 501-5763

Henrico Energy Fair set for April 27 at Varina Area Library

Henrico County will hold a free energy fair Friday, April 27 at the Varina Area Library, one of 15 Henrico government and school buildings recognized for sustainable design and construction.

The Spring 2018 Henrico County Energy Fair will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. An organized tour of the library, at 1875 New Market Road, will begin at 4 p.m. and will highlight design elements that support its Silver certification through the U.S. Green Building Council's program for LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design.

The energy fair will feature about 20 vendors that will spotlight efforts promoting sustainability, green building and energy efficiency, including the use of LED lighting, solar power, eco-friendly materials, recycling and electric vehicles. Refreshments and giveaways, including LED lightbulbs and USB port car chargers, will be available.

Representatives of Dominion Energy and Richmond Gas Works will answer questions about home energy use. Attendees also will be able to make s'mores with library staff using a solar-powered oven, weather permitting.

In the event of rain, the fair will be held inside the library. For information, contact Carrie Webster at (804) 501-5763 or web050@henrico.us.

March 15, 2018

CONTACT: Will Jones, Senior Public Relations Specialist, Henrico County Public Relations & Media Services

PHONE: (804) 501-4348

Henrico high school students get close look at county, school operations

Students from Henrico County's high schools got a firsthand look at their local government and public schools administrations Thursday as part of the 61st annual Student Government Day.

The program matched 121 students from all nine high schools and The Academy at Virginia Randolph with elected and appointed officials, including members of the Board of Supervisors and School Board, the county manager, superintendent, judges and department directors. Students spent the day learning how Henrico general government and Henrico County Public Schools work on behalf of residents and others to provide services and to address needs of the community.

"Student Government Day provides an outstanding learning opportunity for some of Henrico's brightest high school students and a great chance for officials to interact with and learn from these important members of the community," County Manager John A. Vithoukas said. "For more than six decades, this vibrant program has reflected Henrico's commitment to its youth and demonstrated the strong partnership that exists between the county government and school system."

Student Government Day began Wednesday with a ceremony at Hermitage High School in which 32 students swore the oaths required for their assigned positions. All students spent Thursday with their designated departments and agencies. Some also toured Henrico's Jail West and registered to vote.

For students who worked at the Henrico Government Center, the day included a student-run, simulated work session and meeting of the Board of Supervisors. The students received updates on the All Henrico Reads program, the Henrico Heroin Task Force's activities and the county's internship program.

The Kiwanis clubs of North Richmond, Tuckahoe and Greater Richmond are sponsors of Student Government Day.



Students from Henrico high schools work alongside county officials during a mock meeting of the Board of Supervisors as part of Henrico's 61st annual Student Government Day.

March 15, 2018

CONTACT: Jelisa S. Turner, Advocate for the Aging, Henrico County Department of Human Resources

PHONE: (804) 501-5065

Henrico's 3rd annual Senior & Caregiver Expo set for April 4

Henrico County's EngAGE initiative will present its third-annual Senior & Caregiver Expo on Wednesday, April 4 at Hermitage High School, 8301 Hungary Spring Road.

The free event will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and will include vendors offering services and expertise in a variety of areas, including home health care, Medicare and Medicaid, resources for caregivers and financial planning.

Beginning at 10:30 a.m., the expo also will feature a "seminar nook," where speakers will address such topics as decluttering and caring for the caregiver.

Established in 2015, EngAGE offers information, resources and support for older residents of Henrico. For information, call (804) 501-5065 or go to henrico.us/services/seniors or facebook.com/henricovaaging.

March 14, 2018

CONTACT: Terrell Pollard, Chairperson, Henrico Too Smart 2 Start Coalition

PHONE: (804) 876-2785

'It Takes a Village' forum on reducing youth substance abuse set for March 29

Henrico Too Smart 2 Start Coalition will present a forum on reducing substance abuse by youth in Henrico County on Thursday, March 29 at the Eastern Henrico Recreation Center.

The fifth-annual It Takes a Village forum will be held at 6 p.m. in the Strawberry Hill Ballroom of the recreation center, 1440 N. Laburnum Ave. Vendor displays will be available beginning at 5:30 p.m. The event is being presented with the Prevention Services unit of Henrico Area Mental Health and Developmental Services.

The forum is free, open to the public and intended for youth, parents, professionals and others interested in making a positive impact on the community. The event will include a discussion of a recent assessment of community needs and how individuals can help. Henrico Too Smart 2 Start Coalition promotes health and wellness in Henrico and focuses on reducing substance abuse by youth.

To register for the forum, go to tinyurl.com/y97b2o2w by March 22. Information also is available on the Facebook page for the Henrico Too Smart 2 Start Coalition.

March 14, 2018

CONTACT: John A. Vithoukas, County Manager, Henrico County

PHONE: (804) 501-4386

CONTACT: Justin D. Crawford, Budget Director, Henrico County Department of Finance

PHONE: (804) 501-5089

Henrico proposes \$1.3 billion budget for fiscal 2018-19

Plan retains 87-cent tax rate, supports core services, expands tax relief, fully funds schools

Henrico County Manager John A. Vithoulikas on Tuesday presented to the Board of Supervisors a proposed budget for the next fiscal year that retains an 87-cent real estate tax rate while supporting schools and other core services, expanding GRTC Transit System service and enhancing tax-relief programs for businesses and older residents.

The proposed budget for fiscal 2018-19 totals \$1.3 billion across all operating funds, an increase of 3.6 percent from the current year's plan. The proposed general fund, which supports most governmental operations, totals \$871.9 million, an increase of 3.8 percent.

"The proposed budget moves Henrico forward in every way," Vithoulikas said. "It fully funds the School Board's request and supports our employees with a well-earned salary increase. It also supports public safety operations and expands the ability of residents to move throughout our borders with a strategic expansion of GRTC transit service.

"Further, it makes Henrico more attractive to businesses by increasing the exemption from BPOL taxes, and it establishes a new tool to revitalize distressed areas within our community. Lastly, the budget allows Henrico to continue offering an exceptional quality of life along with the lowest tax burden of any large locality in Virginia."

Highlights of the proposed budget include:

- No change to the real estate tax rate of 87 cents per \$100 of assessed value. Henrico's real estate tax rate has not increased during the past 40 years;
- A \$485.1 million operating budget for Henrico County Public Schools, as requested by the School Board. It also would support the addition of 60 positions to provide planning periods for elementary teachers; the continuation of the Achievable Dream Academy and the CodeRVA regional high school; a new young scholars program at Wilder Middle School and STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) integration at all middle schools; an additional assistant county attorney position for special education cases; and the ongoing school bus replacement program;
- Funding for increased police operations, a five-year replacement program for body-worn cameras and Tasers, three additional firefighters as part of a multiyear plan to ease staffing pressures and reduce overtime costs, and the development of a new response model for nonurgent calls for emergency medical services;
- An expansion of GRTC Transit System service by extending hours for the 7 Seven Pines, 91 Laburnum Connector and 19 Pemberton routes and by extending the 19 Pemberton route to West Broad Marketplace in Short Pump. The changes represent an additional investment of \$1.2 million, the largest locally-funded expansion of transit service in Henrico in the past 25 years;
- Increasing the exemption from BPOL (Business, Professional and Occupational License) taxes to \$300,000 in gross receipts. Currently, businesses do not pay BPOL taxes on the first \$100,000 in gross receipts. With a \$300,000 exemption, more than 13,000 businesses would not pay BPOL taxes;
- An expansion of eligibility for the Real Estate Tax Advantage Program (REAP), which provides tax relief to residents who are at least 65 years old or totally and permanently disabled. To qualify, residents would be able to have a maximum income of \$75,000, an increase from \$67,000; and a maximum net worth of \$400,000, an increase from \$350,000;
- A merit-based raise of 2.4 percent for all employees of Henrico general government and Henrico County Public Schools. Employees with at least six years of tenure would receive an additional 0.6 percent, or 3 percent overall;
- Creation of a community revitalization fund to assist in the redevelopment of older neighborhoods;

- Continued support for Henrico’s sports tourism initiative, with funding for operations at the new Greenwood Park and \$9.3 million toward synthetic turf fields at all county high schools;
- \$53 million for projects promised with the 2016 bond referendum, specifically renovations at Tucker High School, work toward a new Brookland area elementary school, a new Fairfield Area Library; Greenwood Park’s second phase of development; a Staples Mill area fire station; and improvements at Dorey Park;
- A capital budget that sets aside \$4.9 million for an extension of Woodman Road from Greenwood Road to Brook Road, \$2.5 million for sidewalk improvements and \$2.3 million for stormwater pollution reduction; and
- An average increase in water and sewer rates totaling \$6.91 every two months for residential customers to continue to meet service demands.

The Board of Supervisors will begin its review of the proposed budget during legislative work sessions scheduled March 19-22. All meetings will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. except for the session Tuesday, March 20, which will be held from 1 to 5 p.m. The sessions will be in the County Manager’s Conference Room on the second floor of the Administration Building at the Henrico County Government Center, 4301 E. Parham Road.

The board will hold a public hearing on the budget at 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 10 in the Board Room at the Henrico Government Center. A vote to adopt the budget is scheduled for Tuesday, April 24. Once approved, the budget will guide operating and capital spending for the year beginning July 1.

Copies of the proposed budget are available at Henrico libraries, the Office of Management and Budget in the Henrico Government Center and at henrico.us. Information also is available on the Henrico County Government channel on YouTube, at youtube.com/watch?v=iPFF90iYT9Y&t=1148s.

March 14, 2018

CONTACT: Kendra Young, Senior Extension Agent, 4-H Youth Development, Henrico County office of Virginia Cooperative Extension
 PHONE: (804) 501-5160

Extension opens registration for Henrico Junior 4-H summer camp

The Henrico County office of Virginia Cooperative Extension is accepting registrations for the 2018 Henrico 4-H Camp, which will be held Aug. 6-10 at the Jamestown 4-H Educational Center, near Williamsburg.

The residential camp is open to boys and girls ages 9 through 14, and it provides a fun learning environment to make friends and to discover the outdoors through such activities as swimming, archery, sailing, canoeing, marine science, guitar, riflery, fishing and crafts.

Early registration is encouraged because many classes fill quickly. The camp’s \$270 cost includes a T-shirt, lodging, meals, programs, class materials and transportation by chartered bus. Scholarship assistance may be available. Registration forms are available at henrico.us/extension and may be submitted by mail.

Extension will provide an opportunity Friday, March 23 for campers and their families to register in person and to ask questions. The Registration Day event will be held from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Extension office in the Henrico Human Services Building, 8600 Dixon Powers Drive.

The Jamestown 4-H Educational Center occupies 16 acres of woods and open spaces along the James River. Amenities include air-conditioned lodges and cabins, archery and rifle ranges, a swimming pool, a river pier and an aquatic science lab.

Accredited by the American Camp Association, the camp is supervised by adult and teen counselors and a staff that includes lifeguards, recreational leaders, a dietician and a medical attendant. Parent volunteers are needed. For information, call (804) 501-5160 or go to henrico.us/extension.

March 9, 2018

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

Fairfield meeting March 19 to highlight parks accreditation, legislative session

Henrico County Board of Supervisors Chairman and Fairfield District Supervisor Frank J. Thornton will hold a constituent meeting Monday, March 19 to discuss the accreditation process of the Henrico Division of Recreation and Parks and the 2018 session of the Virginia General Assembly.

Thornton has invited representatives of Recreation and Parks and members of the General Assembly to make presentations.

The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. at the Eastern Henrico Recreation Center, 1440 N. Laburnum Ave. For information, call (804) 501-4208.

March 7, 2018

CONTACT: Leslie Martin Stephen, Program Manager for Adult Substance Abuse, Outpatient, Court and Jail Services, Henrico Area Mental Health & Developmental Services
PHONE: (804) 727-8949

Henrico to offer classes March 27, April 19 on treating opioid overdoses with naloxone

Henrico Area Mental Health & Developmental Services (MH/DS) will present a free class Tuesday, March 27 and Thursday, April 19 on how to administer naloxone to potentially save the life of someone who has overdosed on opioids.

The Revive! Opioid Overdose and Naloxone Education for Virginia class will be offered from 1:30 to 3 p.m. March 27 at the Varina Area Library, 1875 New Market Road, and from 5 to 6:30 p.m. April 19 in the clubhouse at Oakland Village Apartments, 1400 Old Bronze Drive.

Each session is open to the public, but registration is required at surveymonkey.com/r/Q8HM7CZ for the March 27 session and surveymonkey.com/r/WWKN9SR for the April 19 session.

Naloxone, which is available in Virginia from pharmacists without a prescription, can temporarily reverse the toxic effects of an opioid or heroin overdose, allowing time to seek professional medical attention. Naloxone is available in a generic form and under the brand name Narcan. The Revive! class, developed by the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, will provide hands-on instruction on how to administer the drug in its nasal spray form.

For more information on the Revive! trainings and resources for overcoming addiction, go to bouncebackhc.com.

March 6, 2018

CONTACT: David M. Sacks, Community Development Manager, Henrico County Department of Community Revitalization

PHONE: (804) 501-7611

Henrico seeks public input on community development needs

The Henrico County Department of Community Revitalization will hold a public hearing Thursday, March 8 to help guide the county's use of federal housing and community development funds over the next five years.

The public hearing will be held at 6 p.m. at the Fairfield Area Library, 1001 N. Laburnum Ave.

Henrico will use the input of residents and other community members to prepare the 2018-19 Annual Action Plan, which will propose uses of federal Community Development Block Grant Program, HOME Investment Partnerships Program and Emergency Solutions Grant Program funds. Henrico will submit the plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development this summer, pending approval by the Board of Supervisors. Residents are encouraged to provide feedback on the performance of the county's community development programs and the 2016-17 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER).

In the past, Henrico has received more than \$2 million from the federal grant programs each year for services, programs, facilities and other assistance to low- and moderate-income residents, as well as people who are homeless or have other special needs. The funds have supported a variety of initiatives, including housing improvements, home purchase assistance, neighborhood recreation facilities and afterschool programs.

For information, call (804) 501-7640. To review the 2016-17 CAPER, go to henrico.us/revit/public-data.

March 1, 2018

CONTACT: Ed Olsen, Extension Agent for Agriculture & Natural Resources/Horticulture
Henrico County office of Virginia Cooperative Extension

PHONE: (804) 501-5160

Henrico to offer classes on vegetable gardening

The Henrico County office of Virginia Cooperative Extension will hold a series of three classes to help residents grow vegetable gardens.

The series will begin Monday, April 2 with a session on starting a vegetable garden and working with limited space.

The series will continue Wednesday, June 6 with a class on weed control, succession planning, harvesting and preservation. The final session on Monday, Aug. 13 will cover fall vegetable gardening and preparing for winter.

All three classes will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. in the demonstration kitchen in the Henrico Human Services Building, 8600 Dixon Powers Drive. The cost is \$10 per class, or \$25 for the entire series. Registration closes one week before each class.

For more information, go to henrico.us/extension or call (804) 501-5160.