



Eastern Henrico Recreation Center opening soon

—Unique facility will offer range of indoor, outdoor activities

Henrico is putting the final polish on a big new jewel in its crown of premier recreational facilities — the Eastern Henrico Recreation Center (EHRC), set to open in the fall.

The county’s newest and largest recreation center tentatively is scheduled to begin operations in early October, said Neil Luther, acting director of Henrico’s Division of Recreation and Parks. County voters approved funding for the \$13.3 million project in the 2005 bond referendum.



The energy-efficient Eastern Henrico Recreation Center will feature a regulation high school gym, dance studio, walking trails, football complex and other amenities.

Located on a 24-acre site at 1440 N. Laburnum Ave., between Harvie and Creighton roads, the Eastern Henrico Recreation Center features a 25,773-square-foot facility designed to comply with Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards. It also boasts substantial outdoor resources that include walking trails and a football field with lighting and a press box.

Luther noted that the project has benefited from a favorable construction market, enabling the simultaneous development of the central facility and external fields and grounds.

“We will be able to open the Eastern Henrico Recreation Center as a complete recreation center and athletic complex, which is something we usually can’t do,” he said.

Unique facility

When the EHRC opens, Henrico residents will enter a two-level building with several distinctive characteristics that set it apart from the county’s other recreation facilities.

The center will house a regula-

tion high school gymnasium — the first full-size gym in a Henrico recreation center — and seating for up to 150 spectators. It also will feature a weight and fitness room, a dance studio and group exercise room, children’s activity room, small and large classrooms, administrative offices and more.

“(EHRC) has fitness spaces unlike our other recreation centers,” Luther said. “They are not simply general spaces but have been designed with specific fitness and wellness activities in mind, like the dance room, which is a true dance studio.

“The design will enable us to provide a variety of program opportunities unique to this facility,” he said.

The goal of the county’s recreation centers, Luther noted, is to provide convenient, affordable programming for the public.

“We take a generalist perspective and want to offer a wide slice of rec-

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Lee letter returns to Dabbs House —Civil War document set for display next month

A little piece of history that left Henrico on horseback nearly 150 years ago has traveled back to its place of origin — Dabbs House, the current site of a county museum and tourist information center and the one-time Civil War headquarters of Gen. Robert E. Lee.

The artifact, a letter penned by Lee in June 1862 shortly after he had assumed the reins of the Army of Northern Virginia, could provide historians new insight into the managerial style of the legendary Confederate commander.

The letter returns to Henrico by way of California and a private col-

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reational choices for our residents," he said. "(EHRC) is a great venue to provide this broad range of programs. There is a lot of flexibility in this center."

Residents will have a hand in determining the EHRC's offerings.

"The usage of this facility will evolve," Luther said. "Once we open it we expect to work with the community on deciding what activities will be available here."

'Green' building

Users of the EHRC will enjoy its programs and resources in an environmentally friendly facility designed and constructed to the rigorous standards of the LEED program, a trademark of all new county facilities.

The center will employ energy-efficient heating and air conditioning equipment and an efficient plumbing system that will conserve water. The structure has been built with sustainable materials — such as concrete, steel and dry wall that is being reused or contains high recycled content — and contains carpeting, paint, sealants and other products that promote good indoor air quality.

A "green education" kiosk in the lobby will display the building's gas, electricity and water usage, providing daily updates on energy savings and other performance measures.

Additional LEED features include a recycling program, bike racks and preferred parking for carpooling and fuel-efficient vehicles.

Henrico is pursuing LEED Silver certification for the center.

Outside, too

Recreational opportunities at the EHRC will not be limited to the central facility.

Walking trails ring the landscaped, 24-acre site. A multi-purpose athletic field and restroom shelter sit in front of the center, facing Laburnum Avenue. Behind the center lies a football complex — a regulation field complete with a scoreboard, field lighting, press box, concession shelter, restroom facilities and handicap-accessible seating for nearly 400 spectators. A five-lane, 360-meter

track circles the football field.

"This recreation center will be a vibrantly used facility," Luther said. "That's really exciting."

Additional information about the Eastern Henrico Recreation Center, including computer renderings and floor plans, can be found online at www.henricorecandparks.com.

Lee letter returns — continued —

lector who is loaning the historical document for five years. County officials are preparing the letter for public viewing at the Henrico County Tourist Information Center at Dabbs House Museum, 3812 Nine Mile Road.

Officials are aiming to have the letter on display by Sept. 23, when the Sesquicentennial Civil War Commemoration — a part of Henrico's ongoing 400th anniversary celebration — will get under way.

Sam McKelvey, site manager and visitor center coordinator, said the Lee letter will become the "cornerstone piece" in the Dabbs House exhibit.

"The kickoff (of the Civil War sesquicentennial) is the perfect time to bring this letter into our collection," he said. "This is an exciting piece."

Letter 'comes home'

The letter's return to Dabbs House is a story of good fortune and generous intent. McKelvey received a phone call in January from a California resident seeking information to help plan a visit to the area.

"(The caller) mentioned in passing that he had a letter written by Lee while he was headquartered at Dabbs House," he said. "It was quite a shock."

McKelvey arranged a meeting

in March with the caller, Dr. Paul Whyte, who had learned about Dabbs House through a listing in Civil War Traveler magazine.

"Dr. Whyte brought the letter in a box," he remembered. "When he opened it and I saw 'Headquarters: Dabbs House' in the heading, I could tell immediately it was a very interesting piece."

Whyte had acquired the letter a few years earlier through a historical auction house. He sought neither compensation nor publicity for loaning the document to Henrico County, McKelvey noted.

"Dr. Whyte likes the idea of the history being here," he added. "He said he wanted the letter to come home."

Lee's hand

The letter's body contains six lines of handwritten text on a ruled sheet of light blue-gray paper measuring approximately 5 inches high by 8 inches wide — a paper often used for Confederate correspondence, McKelvey said. It shows signs of having been glued to a backing at some point but remains intact, free of tears and in good condition.

The sheet, with water marks embedded, was made from a sturdy cot-

better and is better quality than modern paper."

Like the paper, the letter's ink has held up well, further enhancing its legibility. Lee's flowing, distinctive script — the general took pride in his penmanship, McKelvey said — features liberal use of abbreviations and totals 82 words, including the date line, salutation and Lee's trademark closing, "your obedient servant." The Museum of the Confederacy has confirmed Lee's authorship.

Lee likely composed the letter in the privacy of his second-floor room at Dabbs House. By writing it himself rather than dictating or delegating it to one of his staff officers, the general indicated a greater level of importance for the correspondence.

Context for communication

Lee dated the letter June 21, 1862, just three weeks following his appointment as commander of the Army of Northern Virginia and the establishment of his headquarters at Dabbs House. The general likely had a lot on his mind when he penned the brief communication.

Lee had inherited a difficult situation. Union forces from the 100,000-man-strong Army of the Potomac, led by Gen. George B. McClellan,

*Hd qrs: Dabbs House
21 June '62*

*Honble G.W. Randolph
Secr of War
Richmond VA:*

Sir

I was informed last eve by Genl Magruder that he understood he was finally relieved from the order assigning him to duty in the transmississippi Dept; If this is the decision of the Dept, I request to be informed that I may make some arrangements in reference to his Command in this Army.

*I have the honor to be
your obed servant*

*R. E. LEE
Genl*

ton fiber product that likely helped it survive the past 150 years.

"This sheet was not made from wood pulp," McKelvey said. "It ages

were arrayed in eastern Henrico. McClellan's Peninsula Campaign, launched in March, was approaching its high point; for more than three months, his

massive army had advanced deliberately up the peninsula formed by the James and York rivers, moving slowly toward the Confederate capital.

By mid-June, Union troops could see the spires of Richmond's churches. Lee's forces, numbering fewer than 90,000, stood between McClellan's army and the potential collapse of the Confederacy.

Lee, Randolph and Magruder

On June 21, Lee wrote to Confederate Secretary of War George W. Randolph regarding the status of Maj. Gen. John B. Magruder, one of his division commanders.

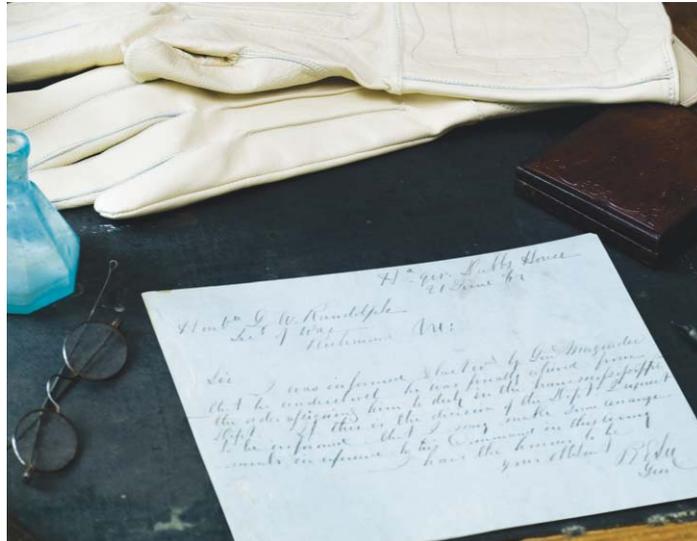
Magruder had gained acclaim earlier in the Peninsula Campaign for his resourceful defense of Yorktown, where he bluffed and deceived McClellan into believing his small force was much larger. His action delayed the tentative Union general for nearly a month, buying time for Confederate reinforcements to move into the peninsula. By June Magruder's division had been incorporated into the Army of Northern Virginia and positioned near the Chickahominy River.

On the surface, the letter appears to describe a misunderstanding between the generals and the War Department. Lee seeks clarification from Secretary Randolph regarding orders given to Magruder under the previous command earlier that year. Magruder had been set to transfer to Texas and the Department of the Trans-Mississippi but requested the order be delayed until the fighting in Virginia had subsided. Evidently Randolph and the War Department had granted Magruder's request.

In the letter, Lee seems surprised to learn that Magruder has received orders to remain in Virginia. He also seems dismayed that he learned about these orders from Magruder himself, instead of from the War Department.

Lee asks Randolph to confirm the orders and indicates that subsequent orders for Magruder — and, by implication, for his other commanding officers in the Army of Northern Virginia — should be communicated directly to Lee.

Within a few days of the letter, Lee seized the initiative by launching a series of aggressive strikes against



Lee composed the letter a few weeks after establishing his headquarters at Dabbs House.

the Army of the Potomac. The resulting Seven Days Battles dislodged Union forces from Henrico soil, driving them back down the peninsula. By July 1, their backs were pressed against the James River at Berkeley Plantation, near the Henrico-Charles City County line.

With the immediate threat to Richmond eliminated, Magruder's previous transfer order was reinstated and on July 2 he was reassigned to command the District of Texas, New Mexico and Arizona. He traveled west under a cloud, however.

Lee was chagrined with Magruder's performance during the Seven Days Battles, especially after he incurred heavy losses in an attack at Malvern Hill. Dogged by rumors of drunkenness in the field, Magruder was summoned to Richmond to defend his actions before his transfer to the Department of the Trans-Mississippi.

Potential implications

Many Civil War historians have pointed to Magruder's case as one piece of evidence in a long-held school of thought regarding Lee — that he transferred poorly performing officers out of the Army of Northern Virginia, often at the expense of other Confederate units.

The Dabbs House letter of June 21 may offer new insight, however.

"Lee certainly had a reputation for punishing commanders by transferring them," McKelvey said. "But this letter seems to show that Magruder's transfer order was already in place, prior to the Seven Days Battles."

The letter hints that the "Magruder as scapegoat" explanation for his transfer out of Lee's command may require reexamination, McKelvey noted.

"This letter could suggest that the prevailing thought about Lee — that he used transfer as punishment — is overblown," he said. "It shows that more research is needed."

Dabbs House Museum and the Henrico County Tourist Information Center are located at 3812 Nine Mile Road, next to the Eastern Government Center. The museum is open for tours 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday, and by appointment on Monday and Tuesday. The Tourist Information Center is open 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday. For more information, call (804) 652-3406 or search keyword "Dabbs House Museum" at www.henricorecandparks.com.

Incubator for good government —Henrico recognized for innovative programs by national association

Henrico employees have made a habit of hatching innovative programs, and a national association again has shelled out the awards in recognition of their efforts.

Henrico County has received 22 awards from the National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Award program, more than any Virginia county and sixth-most nationally. The awards, honoring programs implemented in 2010, were presented at the 2011 NACo annual conference, held July 15-19 in Portland, Ore.

Henrico now has topped Virginia counties in NACo awards for six consecutive years. The county trailed only major metropolitan areas such as Los Angeles, San Diego and Miami Dade counties in the 2011 awards competition.

The NACo Achievement Award Program recognizes groundbreaking government programs annually in a broad range of service areas, including education, administration, parks and recreation, health and human services. The award program began in 1970 as part of a nationwide effort to modernize county government and improve its level of service.

County Manager Virgil R. Hazelett, P.E. said that staff remained resourceful in the face of a slow-to-recover economy, an ongoing hiring freeze and reduced departmental budgets. But county residents and businesses were not confronted with any service reductions or a tax increase, Hazelett noted — in large part due to the efforts and innovations of county staff.

"I'm extremely proud of Henrico employees," Hazelett said. "Despite budgetary limitations and other chal-

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allenges, they continue to work hard each day and seek out new and better ways to serve our residents. Henrico is considered one of the best-run counties in America because of the high quality and extraordinary professionalism of our staff.”

NACo honored Henrico programs created and implemented by 11 county agencies. Henrico programs have received 171 NACo Achievement awards since 2000. For more information, log on to www.co.henrico.va.us or www.naco.org.

Programs and agencies receiving awards were:

- **“Victim Restitution Information Processing System (RIPS),”** Community Corrections; an automated database, case management and payment-tracking system, RIPS significantly improved Community Corrections’ ability to track restitution payments by offenders and reduced the time needed to deliver payments to victims, enabling the agency to collect a record amount of restitution last year;



- **“Homeowners’ Enhancement Guide,”** Community Revitalization; part of Henrico’s ongoing effort to preserve its mature neighborhoods, this comprehensive, 138-page handbook — also made available on disk and online — provides illustrations, diagrams,

checklists and other resources to help homeowners modernize their aging homes;

- **“Enhancing the Business License and Personal Property Audit Program,”** Finance; this effort streamlined the process for reviewing business tax returns, enabling an increased number of audits and reviews by staff, which in turn generated a 160 percent increase in revenue over the previous year;
- **“Managing Debt Service Expenditures During an Economic Downturn,”** Finance; Henrico refinanced its existing debt four times over a 15-month period in 2009-10, capitalizing on its triple-A bond rating to obtain exemplary municipal bond rates; the aggressive approach yielded debt-service savings of more than \$17.7 million during a time of significantly reduced general fund revenues;
- **“Get Connected, Stay Connected,”** Human Resources; this program assessed the technology

skills of all 4,000 general government employees to facilitate implementation of the automated Human Resources Management System;

- **“The Henrico County Games,”** Human Resources; part of an ongoing effort to encourage healthy lifestyles among county employees, the first Henrico County Games featured 13 departmental teams competing in a tug-of-war, mental skills challenge and two-mile cross-country race; the fitness- and morale-boosting event

increased employee participation in wellness programming by nearly 25 percent;

- **“Supporting Employee Resiliency During Turbulent Times,”** Human Resources; this initiative offered employees classes and other resources to help them man-

age stress stemming from the economic downturn;

- **“An Approach for Reducing Telecommunications Costs,”** Information Technology; staff developed a customized web-browser based system that created a telecommunications database, enabled detailed analysis of costs and saved more than \$1 million last year;
- **“Innsbrook Area Study,”** Planning; this project combined technology, public input and traditional land-use study methods to create a redevelopment plan for the Innsbrook Corporate Center, proposing the suburban office park adapt to changing market conditions by pursuing a mixed-use development strategy;
- **“P.E.A.K. — Police, Educators and Kids,”** Police; an educational and crime-prevention program for students grades K-5, this initiative aims to develop positive relationships between police officers and young people while also teaching substance-abuse prevention, decision-making skills and other topics;
- **“The 400th Anniversary Notable Henricoans Database,”** Public Library; part of the county’s quadricentennial commemoration, this online resource provides information about 130 deceased residents who played a key role in Henrico history;
- **“Tourist Information Center,”** Recreation and Parks; the opening of this state-accredited facility — the first of its kind for Henrico — was timed to promote the county’s 400th anniversary activities as well as the variety of Henrico attractions;
- **“Accessing Health Care and Enhancing Education,”** Schools; designed to boost student attendance by increasing the availability of health care, the Family Access to Medical Insurance Security program provides a variety of services including doctor and hospital visits and dental care for up to 3,500 students;
- **“Big Nurse, Little Nurse,”** Schools; this mentoring program

connects first-year students in the Henrico County-St. Mary’s Hospital School of Practical Nursing program with more experienced students to enhance communication and learning opportunities;

- **“Career Café,”** Schools; this effort provides access to extensive career information for high school and adult GED students;
- **“Certification of CTE Students: Ensuring a Competent Workforce,”** Schools; the Career and Technical Education (CTE) department created Virginia’s first credential testing coordinator position to develop a testing process for its students;
- **“Henrico 21: Training for Teaching in the 21st Century,”** Schools; this project encouraged teachers to submit lessons highlighting the use of technology in support of teaching and learning to an expert review panel; the top lessons of more than 600 received were recognized in an award ceremony and made available online to teachers systemwide;
- **“On the Sidelines with Sports Medicine,”** Schools; this effort enabled students in sports medicine classes to gain hands-on experience by working directly with the coaches, athletic trainers and activity directors at their high schools;
- **“Project Homeless Connect,”** Schools; cosmetology students and teachers from the Hermitage and Highland Springs technical centers provided more than 100 free haircuts for the area’s homeless residents at this annual support event;
- **“Teachers for Tomorrow Annual Institute,”** Schools; high school students enrolled countywide in the honors-level Teachers for Tomorrow course participate in this one-day annual event, enjoying a broad range of professional development and leadership-building activities;
- **“Virginia Randolph Knights Give Back,”** Schools; students learn about community service firsthand by participating in full-

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HCTV-Channel 17 schedule

For program descriptions or more information, tune to the Comcast TV Guide channels 20 or 100 or go to www.co.henrico.va.us/pr.



| | | Even Hours 12 a.m., 2 a.m., 4 a.m., 6 a.m., 8 a.m., 10 a.m., Noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m., 8 p.m., 10 p.m. | Odd Hours 1 a.m., 3 a.m., 5 a.m., 7 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m., 5 p.m., 7 p.m., 9 p.m., 11 p.m. |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|--|--|
| Aug 8 through Aug 14 | Mon Wed Fri Sun | From the Garbage to the Grid: A Powerful By-Product of Henrico's Trash — 22 mins | Taking Flight: Stories of Modern Virginia Aviation — 51 mins |
| | Tue Thu Sat | Native Fish Species of the James River — 39 mins | Soaring Free: Bird Watching in Henrico — 24 mins |
| Aug 15 through Aug 21 | Mon Wed Fri Sun | Inside Henrico: Summer 2011 — mins TBA | Foundations in Time II: More of Henrico's Architectural Treasures — 32 mins |
| | Tue Thu Sat | More than Skin Deep: Our Most Common Skin Cancers — 20 mins | A Gift from the Heart: Fostering Our Children — 25 mins |
| Aug 22 through Aug 28 | Mon Wed Fri Sun | Elizabeth Adam Crump Biography — mins TBA | Douglas Southall Freeman: Voice of the Confederate Soldier — 38 mins |
| | Tue Thu Sat | When Seconds Count: Henrico's Emergency 911 Operations — 18 mins | Pandemic 1918: A Diary of the Flu — 28 mins |
| Aug 29 through Sep 4 | Mon Wed Fri Sun | Robert Lee Cox, Jr. Homicide — mins TBA | Inside Henrico: Summer 2011 — mins TBA |
| | Tue Thu Sat | Historic Henrico Churches: Windows to Our Past — 28 mins | Virginia Estelle Randolph: Pioneer Educator — 29 mins |
| Sep 5 through Sep 11 | Mon Wed Fri Sun | Henrico's Legacy: Commemorating 400 Years — 53 mins | Henrico's View of the James River and Kanawha Canal — 21 mins |
| | Tue Thu Sat | A State of Mind: The History of the Glen Allen Community — 29 mins | Southern Man of Mystery: Edgar Allan Poe — 37 mins |
| Sep 12 through Sep 18 | Mon Wed Fri Sun | Office of Building Inspections — mins TBA | Hidden Beauty: The Wildflowers of Virginia — 29 mins |
| | Tue Thu Sat | Turning Point: Inside Henrico's Drug Court — 37 mins | On Air: Early Radio in Central Virginia — 33 mins |

day field trips that support projects in the Henrico community;

- **“Henrico DSS Title IV-E Quality Assurance Team,”** Social Services; organized to provide oversight, administration and quality assurance review of federal and state funding of foster care programs for youth, this effort has significantly reduced the agency’s exposure to financial risk.

Civil War symposium, Harvest Festival headline Henrico’s 400th anniversary events for fall

Henrico’s yearlong commemoration of its 400th anniversary is entering the homestretch, but several great events are on tap for the end of the summer and fall. So far some 56,300 area residents and visitors have enjoyed anniversary activities such as the Old Fashioned Fourth of July celebration and an exhibit exploring the many means of transportation used by county inhabitants throughout Henrico’s history. If you haven’t joined the 400th birthday party yet, don’t delay!

Following is a list of upcoming county-hosted events. Admission is free unless noted. Information also is available at www.henrico400th.com and (804) 501-1611.

Henrico History Bus Tour: Henrico’s African-American Heritage.

Saturday, Aug. 20, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; meet at Dabbs House, 3820 Nine Mile Road. Henrico County is home to some of the nation’s oldest African-American communities, and the second 400th anniversary bus tour, “Henrico’s African-American Heritage,” focuses on that legacy. The tour will visit sites highlighting the key role African-Americans played in the county’s development, including

the Virginia E. Randolph Museum. Cost is \$30 and includes a box lunch. Reservations are required; contact the Valentine Richmond History Center at (804) 649-0711, ext. 301. More information is available at www.richmondhistorycenter.com. (Coordinated by Valentine Richmond History Center and Henrico Recreation and Parks.)

Civil War Commemoration, Sept. 23-25.

Henrico was home to significant combat during the Civil War, as county battlefields witnessed more than 50,000 casualties and produced 77 recipients of the Medal of Honor. This commemoration takes place over three days:

Henrico County: Gateway to Richmond, 1861-1865. Friday, Sept. 23, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Henrico Theatre, 305 E. Nine Mile Road.

Marking the sesquicentennial anniversary of the Civil War, this symposium also will serve as the kickoff event for the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission. Nationally renowned authors, historians and Civil War experts will discuss the crucial role Henrico played as the buffer and thoroughway for the capital city of the Confederacy. Registration is required; call (804) 328-4491.

Encampment and Exhibits at Tree Hill. Saturday, Sept. 24, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; Tree Hill Farm, 6404 Osborne Turnpike.

Tree Hill — which overlooks Richmond, was the muster site for early troop recruitment efforts and was the location of Mayor Mayo’s surrender of the city — underscores the critical strategic position Henrico occupied during the war. This event will feature exhibits and living-history demonstrations by leading Civil War organizations as well as a ceremony to honor the troops who earned the Medal of Honor for acts of valor on Henrico soil.

Tours and Demonstrations with the National Park Service at Fort Harrison. Sunday, Sept. 25, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; Fort Harrison, 8621 Battlefield Park Road.

Henrico’s Fort Harrison, a key point in the Confederate line of defenses, represented an important target for Union forces in September 1864 as they closed on

Richmond. National Park Service (NPS) rangers from Richmond National Battlefield Park will present living history programs to commemorate the 147th anniversary of the battle for Fort Harrison. Re-enactors portraying Union and Confederate infantry and artillery units will perform rifle- and cannon-firing demonstrations. Historians from the NPS and Henrico County will lead tours of battlefields involved in the nearby Battle of Chaffin’s Farm as well.

2011 Harvest Festival. Saturday, Oct. 15, noon-4 p.m.; Meadow Farm at Crump Park, 3400 Mountain Road.

Henrico’s 400th anniversary commemoration comes full circle as the focus returns to the site that launched the quadricentennial celebration a year earlier. This always-popular event at the county’s living-history farm museum — which contains a farmhouse, barn, kitchen, doctor’s office and blacksmith shop and gives visitors a sense of 19th-century farm life — will feature live music and a variety of traditional, hands-on farming and harvest-time activities and demonstrations for the entire family.

Henrico History Bus Tour: Henrico’s 400th Anniversary. Saturday, Oct. 22, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; meet at Dabbs House, 3820 Nine Mile Road.

The last of the series of historical bus tours, “Henrico’s 400th Anniversary Tour” will take a big-picture look at

four centuries of county history. With stops at several well-known landmarks, the tour will tell the story of the county’s development from a tenuous English outpost in 1611 into one of Virginia’s leading localities today. Cost is \$30 and includes a box lunch. Reservations are required; contact the Valentine Richmond History Center at (804) 649-0711, ext. 301. More information is available at www.richmondhistorycenter.com. (Coordinated by Valentine Richmond History Center and Henrico Recreation and Parks.)

Hunt for Henrico History. Saturday, Nov. 5, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; Eastern Henrico Recreation Center, 1440 N. Laburnum Ave.

Living history presentations and unique historical displays will highlight Henrico neighborhoods, schools, churches and civic organizations. Share your part in Henrico’s story by bringing a family photo, historical document or other memento for the show-and-tell project and have your personal piece of history photographed or scanned for inclusion in a public archive. Experts will offer advice for the proper care and storage of family artifacts. Special activities for kids are planned as well.

Check www.henrico400th.com or call (804) 501-1611 for all the details about Henrico’s 400th anniversary celebration.



Sgt. Major Christian A. Fleetwood of the 4th U.S. Colored Troops earned the Medal of Honor for his actions in Henrico on Sept. 29, 1864, depicted here in the Joseph Umble painting, “New Market Heights, Fleetwood Seizing the Flag.”

Recreation Roundup

Thu, Aug 18, Skate Night

Catch some air at Laurel Skate Park, participate in skate contests and win a prize. Take a break and watch a professional BMX demonstration by Jeff Lenosky. Laurel Skate Park. 6-8 p.m. Free. Info: 501-5121.

Sat, Aug 20, Ahoy Matey! It's a Pirate's Paradise!

Enjoy a day of everything pirate, even meet Blackbeard himself. Deep Run Park. 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Free. Info: 290-0305.

Sat, Aug 20, Wash My Ladies' Clothes

Observe and assist the Meadow Farm folks do laundry the old-fashioned way. Meadow Farm Museum. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Free. Info: 501-2130.

Sat & Sun, Sept 3 & 4, The Good Old Days

Was the past really so "good?" Take a tour to find out what it was really like and determine whether or not you still

think it was good. Meadow Farm Museum. 1-3 p.m. Free. Info: 501-2130.

Sat, Sept 10, Under the Stars Summer Family Film Series presents "UP" (PG)

Grab a blanket and bring your family for flicks in the park. Concessions available for purchase. Walkerton Tavern. 8 p.m. Free. Info: 501-5121.

Sat, Sept 17, Glen Allen Day

Hosted by the Glen Allen Ruritan Club in association with Henrico Recreation and Parks. The day begins with a community parade at 9:30 a.m. followed by an arts and crafts fair from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Enjoy live entertainment, good food and a car show. Meadow Farm Museum/ Crump Park. 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Free.

Mon, Sept 26, Concert in the Gardens at Meadowview

Enjoy an evening of fun as the Henrico Concert Band performs a variety of festive music for the entire family.

The Armour House & Gardens. 7-8 p.m. Free. Info: 343-3506.

Sat, Oct 1, Bark in the Park

Bring your furry best friend for a fun day with Recreation and Parks and the Henrico Humane Society. Enjoy live entertainment by Random Play and an expo of local pet products and services vendors. Register for a 2K for Paws Walk (\$25) through the Henrico Humane Society (262-6634). Deep Run Park. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Free Admission. Info: 501-5121.

Sat, Oct 15, Harvest Festival

The Harvest Festival will feature many hands-on activities and demonstrations depicting typical homemaking and farming tasks of the era. Enjoy performances by the Hackensaw Boys, The Runaway String Band and the Mass Gospel Choir of Richmond. Meadow Farm Museum/Crump Park. noon-4 p.m. Free. Info: 501-5121.

Fri, Oct 28, Monster Mash

Get into the Halloween spirit with a creepy trail, hair raising arts and crafts, frighteningly spooky contests and games and rocking monster music. Dorey Recreation Center. 6-9 p.m. Free. Info: 501-5121.

Sat, Nov 5, Hunt for Henrico History

Join us at the last official 400th anniversary event for a unique look at Henrico County's past. Enjoy diverse living history presentations, unique historic displays and special activities for kids. Eastern Henrico Recreation Center. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. Info: 501-1611.

For additional programs, please see a copy of "At Your Leisure," our catalogue of events and classes. Copies are available at your local recreation centers and libraries. To be added to our mailing list, call 501-PARK (7275).

Library Lineup

Mon, Aug 15: Visual Journaling Teen Workshop

Art instructor Jeanne Minnix will show teens how to make a visual journal using art techniques. Registration required online or by phone and must attend both sessions. Dumbarton Library. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Info: 290-9400. Other sessions at www.henricolibrary.org.

Tue, Aug 16: Virginia Peoples

Victoria Sweeney from Henricus Historical Park will present a hands-on program about the Powhatan people. Sponsored by the Varina Friends. Varina Library. 3-3:45 p.m. Info: 290-9800.

Thu, Aug 18: Concert on the Twin Hickory Library Lawn

Join us for The Ululating Mummies' eclectic blend of music and lively shows. Balloon sculptures, face painting and refreshments. Twin Hickory Library. 6:30-9 p.m. Info: 290-9200.

Sat, Sept 10: Meet Author Meg Medina

To celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, author Meg Medina will read her new picture book "Tia Isa Wants a Car" and talk about the writing process. One lucky student will also win a visit from Ms. Medina to his/her classroom and a signed copy of her book. Tuckahoe Library. 2-3 p.m. Info: 290-9100.

Sat, Sept 17: Get Technology Smart with Teen Tutors: Games

Northside Teen Advisory Board will help seniors improve their computer skills with one-on-one assistance, playing computer games to help motor skills, memory and just have fun. Registration required. North Park Library. 10-11 a.m. Info: 290-9700. Other sessions at www.henricolibrary.org.

Thu, Sept 22: The Civil War Overland Campaign of 1864

In the spring of 1864, Lee's army fought to halt Union advances toward

Richmond. Join John Mountcastle for a multimedia program of the war's impact on soldiers and their families. Glen Allen Library. 7-8:30 p.m. Info: 290-9500.

Wed, Oct 5: Spanish/Bilingual Story Time to Celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month

In recognition of the culture, contributions and heritage of Hispanic Americans, fun stories and songs in English and Spanish will be shared. Speakers of all languages are welcome! Fairfield Library. 6-7 p.m. Info: 290-9300.

Mon, Oct 17: Stranger than Fiction: Great Art Heists in History

Discover what Japanese gangsters, bear spray, and daring boat getaways have in common with noteworthy art thefts. Anne Kenny-Urban from VMFA shares why museums from Amsterdam to Zimbabwe have been targets for thieves. Twin Hickory Library. 7-8 p.m. Info: 290-9200.

Thu, Oct 20: Haunted Henrico

Local paranormal author Beth Brown presents the history and haunts of several of the county's most notable battlefields, taverns, homes and more. Fairfield Library. 7-8 p.m. Info: 290-9300.

Thu & Fri, Nov 3 & 4: AARP Driver Safety

Brush up on your driving skills with this two-day class. Must attend both days. Though geared for drivers age 50 and older, the course is open to people of any age. \$12 for AARP members, \$14 for non-AARP members. Registration required. Sandston Library. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Info: 290-9900.

All events are free and open to the public. For more information go to www.henricolibrary.org; e-mail: library@henrico.lib.va.us; or call (804) 652-3200.

Henrico County Board of Supervisors

Chairman
Fairfield
Frank J. Thornton
501-4208
fairfield@co.henrico.va.us



Three Chopt
David A. Kaechele
501-4208
threechopt@co.henrico.va.us



Tuckahoe
Patricia S. O'Bannon
501-4208
tuckahoe@co.henrico.va.us



Vice Chairman
Brookland
Richard W. Glover
501-5292
office@dickglover.com



Varina
James B. Donati, Jr.
501-4208
varina@co.henrico.va.us

Quick Reference Telephone Numbers

| | |
|--|----------|
| Adult Protective Services..... | 501-7346 |
| Board of Supervisors..... | 501-4207 |
| Building Permits & Inspections..... | 501-4360 |
| Business Licenses/Personal Property..... | 501-4310 |
| Child Protective Services..... | 501-5437 |
| Community Maintenance..... | 501-4757 |
| Community Revitalization..... | 501-7640 |
| Fire, Non-emergency..... | 501-4900 |
| Food Stamps..... | 501-4002 |
| Health Clinic - East..... | 652-3190 |
| Health Clinic - West..... | 501-4651 |
| History/Historic Preservation..... | 501-5736 |
| Human Resources..... | 501-4628 |
| Human Resources 24-hour Jobline..... | 501-5674 |
| Libraries..... | 290-9000 |
| Magistrates..... | 501-5285 |
| Marriage Licenses..... | 501-5055 |
| Mental Health Emergency Services..... | 727-8484 |
| Permit Center, The..... | 501-7280 |
| Planning & Zoning..... | 501-4602 |
| Police, Non-emergency..... | 501-5000 |
| Real Estate Assessment..... | 501-4300 |
| Recreation & Parks..... | 501-7275 |
| Recycling Collection (CVWMA)..... | 340-0900 |
| Schools..... | 652-3600 |
| Sheriff..... | 501-4571 |
| Traffic Ticket Court..... | 501-4723 |
| Trash/Bulky Waste/Leaf Collection..... | 501-4275 |
| Vehicle Licenses/Personal Property..... | 501-4263 |
| Volunteer Program..... | 501-5231 |
| Voter Registration..... | 501-4347 |
| Water and Sewer Service..... | 501-4275 |



Government Center
4301 East Parham Road
501-4000



Eastern Government Center
3820 Nine Mile Road
652-3600

HENRICO TODAY

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County of Henrico
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(804) 501-4257
www.co.henrico.va.us/departments/pr



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