

Henrico responds to the call of duty

County supports activated employees

When Uncle Sam calls, Henrico listens. County residents have a long history of answering the United States' call to arms and military service; their response to the nation's needs following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 has been no different. Hundreds of men and women in the Reserves and National Guard units have been called to active duty to secure America's ports and borders, to provide logistical support for combat units and to serve on the front lines in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Henrico's general government employees have heard their nation's call as well. More than four dozen county staff members have been activated since Sept. 11, some called upon immediately following the New York City attacks to safe-

guard Virginia's airports, others joining the fight to destroy terrorist training grounds in Afghanistan.

The war in Iraq has engaged the vast majority of county employees called to active duty. The locales of their deployments are as varied as their military duties—some have worked as cooks at sites in Virginia; some have provided security at seaports in Baltimore, New York and New Orleans; some have piloted combat helicopters over the deserts of southern Iraq.

Supporting Henrico's citizen-soldiers

Regardless of the nature of their deployments, Henrico's employees have exemplified the American tradition of the citizen-soldier, temporarily suspending their daily lives and routines, leaving families and careers, to heed their nation's call. They have left behind positions as police officers, social workers, sheriff's deputies, firefighters and utility workers.

But they haven't gone to war alone, as their colleagues and co-workers in Henrico general government have kept them close in thought as well as deed. A countywide outpouring of support includes ongoing recognition on bulletin boards, Web pages and Board of Supervisors' meetings; personal letters from co-workers, managers and county leaders; a supplemental pay program; and special care packages paid for and prepared by county employees.

"Our employees work hard every day to meet the needs of the residents of Henrico, and now

many of them are also working hard to serve and defend the citizens of the United States," said County Manager Virgil R. Hazelett, P.E. "They have left their families, friends and careers to selflessly serve their country. We have a heartfelt obligation to thank them and support them in every way we can."



Henrico County staff members Kim Jernigan, Bill Mawyer and Kelly Quinn help prepare care packages for co-workers activated for military service.

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Keeping employees 'whole'

One of the first support measures undertaken by the county was the establishment of a supplemental pay program. Several county staff members were activated to provide airport security immediately following the events of Sept. 11; the county manager and board members were concerned that employees' military service could have an adverse affect on their personal finances.

"Many of our employees were suffering significant pay cuts when they were activated," said Assistant Director of Human Resources Kathy Roach. "County officials simply didn't want that to happen. They didn't want our employees to face the additional burden of worrying about their income while they were away from home, called to duty in the nation's military."

Enacted shortly after Sept. 11, 2001, the supplemental pay program is designed to make employees' salaries "whole" by making up the

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Employees activated for military service*

Steven B. Alford II	Angela L. McPhail
Thomas M. Alphin	Michael R. Meadows
Mark A. Banks	Siegfried W. Mitchell
Samuel L. Barley	Danny A. Ojibway
C. Dean Bossieux	Edward M. Owens
Denise M. Bradley	Govie A. Peebles
Jermaine L. Branch	Michael A. Perkins
Craig J. Bruno	Eric R. Perryman
James E. Carter	Virgil C. Phillips
Phillip M. Childrey	Kelvin C. Preston
Joseph C. Coker	Joseph J. Ritzenthaler
Vernon L. Crumpler III	Jeffrey T. Seal
John J. Cuoghi	Randolph A. Shelton
Carl O. Foster	Roy E. Sprouse Jr.
Kevin E. Foster	Clyde L. Stone Jr.
Floyd E. Greene Jr.	Christine E. Swenson
Andrew N. Harris	Carlos V. Talley
Joseph E. Hart-Bowley	Jefferson Thomas III
Keith N. Johnson Sr.	Wallace E. Townsend
Charles A. Jones	William R. Tucker
Bradley E. Keefer	Ralph J. Whaley
Dennis W. Kerns Jr.	Joshua A. Wharton
Brenda K. Kirby	Stephen D. Whitson
Leo M. Marsh	Marcus K. Winfree
Brett D. McCreight	Marc E. Wright

**Through July 21, 2003; includes employees who are currently serving as well as those who have returned from active duty.*

difference between their military and county pay. Initially established for a three-month period, the program is reviewed every 90 days by the county manager to examine its impact on the county budget before being renewed; it is currently extended through Sept. 30, 2003. Approximately half of the county's 49 activated employees have elected to receive the supplement.

Supporting colleagues

Significant numbers of Henrico staff were tapped for duty as the buildup for a likely conflict in Iraq began in earnest last fall and early this year. As they watched their co-workers leave for military service, remaining county employees sought ways to demonstrate their support.

Efforts initially began on the departmental level, especially in Henrico's public safety agencies—the divisions of Police and Fire and the Sheriff's Office—which regularly experience emergency situations and are often close groups. Police developed a Web page to honor its activated colleagues. The Department of Social Services posted a bulletin board to recognize its staff and their family members as they were activated.

Individual fire stations prepared care packages and performed household chores, such as lawn maintenance, for family members of fellow firefighters called to duty.

"Each station is doing a good job of looking after its own people," said Division of Fire Community Services Lt. Doug Reynolds. "A station house is a tightly knit group, and some have had people activated for combat duty. It really puts a human face on it when you know somebody who's over there, in harm's way."

After battle commenced in Iraq on March 20, countywide support efforts began taking shape. A bulletin board saluting all activated county workers was posted in the main lobby of the Government Center Administration Building.

A similar list was posted on the Department of Human Resources Web site; the list, which recognizes employees who remain in active service as well as those who have returned to their county positions, is updated every two weeks (access the list at www.co.henrico.va.us/hr/). Prior to each regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors, the county manager announces the names of activated employees as their photos are displayed simultaneously on Board Room screens.

Preparing care packages

With combat under way in late March, county employees felt a keen need to provide more direct support of their colleagues. Personalized care packages became the solution.

"Our employees were looking for ways to actively help their fellow workers who were serving in the military, and care packages were a popular idea," Roach said.

Employees provided the bulk of the funding for the care packages through out-of-pocket donations. They also determined which items to include and put the packages together.

All packages contained personal letters from the county manager and the recipient's departmental supervisor, paper and pens, a copy of Henrico's "Personnel Update" and long-distance phone cards. Packages then varied, depending on whether the recipient served in a stateside unit or in a combat zone. Stateside packages featured non-perishable foods, stamps and playing cards. Combat zone packages were designed to meet the demanding desert environment, including items like sunscreen, eye drops, Blistex, Wet Wipes, throat lozenges and powdered drink mix.

The care packages were shipped in late spring and were warmly received. The county manager received thank-you notes from several activated employees, including one stationed in Kuwait:

I would like to personally thank you for your sincere letter and care package received today. I would also like to thank you for your support of the supplemental pay program. During these difficult times, all service men and women appre-

ciate the support of Henrico County. I am proud to be a part of such a work force.

The list of county employees called to military service continues to fluctuate, as some return to their homes and careers while others remain on active duty. But Henrico's support for them remains steady and unflagging.

"We are fortunate to have so many employees who are willing to serve their country," Hazelett said. "They are sorely missed, but we are grateful for their service and their sacrifice."

Lucky 13 Henrico programs honored for innovation by national association

Whether it's tackling a public-health issue, making long-term budget plans or repairing county roadways, Henrico County government long has been guided by a key goal: delivering top-quality service to residents and taxpayers. But Henrico knows there's more to providing good service than simply making the trains run on time—there's also adapting to change and finding new ways to meet the needs of its residents. Henrico recently was recognized among Virginia's best counties for doing just that.

Henrico County received 13 awards—more than any other Virginia county—from the National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Award Program. The awards were presented at the 2003 NACo annual conference, held July 11-15 in Milwaukee.

The NACo Achievement Award Program recognizes innovative, successful county government programs annually in a broad range of service areas, including arts and historic preservation, parks and recreation, county administration, human services, health and education. The program started in 1970 as part of a nationwide campaign to modernize county government and improve its level of service.

The awards honored 13 Henrico programs developed and implemented in 2002 by six county agencies, including a "Best in Category" award for a program instituted by Henrico County Public Schools (HCPS).

"Henrico County is continuously searching for good ideas and creative new ways to serve our residents, and that effort is reflected in the 2003 NACo awards," said County Manager Virgil R. Hazelett, P.E. "Developing innovative programs is an essential part of our mission to provide the best service possible for Henrico residents."

Topping Henrico's list of honors was the HCPS program **"K-12 Planet: The Online, Anytime Academic Performance Information Tool,"** which was judged the most innovative program in the "Civics Education and Public Information" category. The program gives parents around-the-clock access, via the Internet, to student academic performance and homework assignments, enhancing parental involvement in their child's academic development and providing an additional way for parents and teachers to communicate and share information. The Web-



-based tool is designed to strengthen the overall educational experience for Henrico's students.

Other innovative programs recognized by NACo were:

- ◆ **"Open Arms? Open Eyes: Power, Control and Abuse in Teen Relationships,"** a multimedia program developed by the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office. The video, which has become part of the eighth grade curriculum, is designed to combat the problem of dating violence among young people.
- ◆ **"A Non-Traditional Approach to Recruitment,"** a unique job fair devised by the Department of Human Resources to improve recruitment of applicants for equipment operator positions.
- ◆ **"Planning for Continued Excellence: Henrico County's Critical Issues Process,"** a long-term planning process developed by the County Manager's Office and the Department of Human Resources.
- ◆ **"Wellness: An Employee Education Program,"** an effort by the Department of Human Resources to increase employee awareness and understanding of health care and related issues.
- ◆ **"SAM: The Smart Solution for Public Library Computers,"** a new system designed by the Public Library to facilitate access to public-use computers while addressing civic

concerns and issues of individual and fiscal responsibility.

- ◆ **"Urban Mixed Use Development Guidelines,"** a new land-use category and zoning district developed by the Planning Office to address growth problems in the county's older, more urban areas.
- ◆ **"Commercial Assistance Team,"** a Planning Office initiative to encourage investment and redevelopment in the county's older commercial, industrial and retail areas.
- ◆ **"Proffer Web Page,"** a Planning Office program that gives electronic access to "proffered" conditions—special terms offered voluntarily by property owners to enhance a rezoning proposal or address the concerns of nearby property owners—in rezoning cases, providing easy access to documents and maps and making it easier for both staff and the general public to conduct research related to the development process.
- ◆ **"Henrico County Public Schools Communication Committee,"** de-

signed by HCPS to provide an effective, reliable means of communicating and delivering information to key community leaders.

- ◆ **"In-House Online Professional Development,"** an HCPS program created by in-house staff that offers 17 online, professional-development courses for HCPS teachers, with content specifically designed for Henrico teachers and students.
- ◆ **"Online Essentials of the Curriculum Cards,"** a new feature of the HCPS Web site that makes it possible for parents to evaluate the course curriculum for each class offered by HCPS, offering comprehensive information to the community about the HCPS course of study.
- ◆ **"Teacher Recruitment Program CD,"** a compact disc developed by HCPS that provides comprehensive information in a multimedia format about the school system, including highlights of leading programs, details regarding teacher-incentive programs and information about living and working in Henrico.

For more information about Henrico's award-winning programs, go to www.co.henrico.va.us/manager/naco03.htm.

Real estate tax relief just got better

Tax relief for Henrico's elderly and disabled residents will be even more generous in the coming year thanks to the Board of Supervisors' unanimous vote to modify the Real Estate Advantage Program (REAP). At a July 22 public hearing, the board simplified the program, changing the criteria and amount of tax relief for the elderly and permanently disabled.

Henrico County initially adopted the REAP program in 1973 in appreciation of its senior residents for their many years of paying taxes. "It is one way we try to give back to our elderly and disabled residents, some of whom may be on fixed incomes," said Finance Director Reta Busher. "From its inception, the program has continuously expanded to the point where we expect to award more than \$2.5 million in tax relief this year alone."

REAP qualifications are based on age or disability, income and net worth. Henrico residents can take advantage of this tax relief by meeting three criteria:

- ◆ Be age 65 or older, OR be permanently and totally disabled;
- ◆ Have a yearly household income of no more than \$45,000; and
- ◆ Have a net worth of no more than \$175,000.

The program saves qualified residents from 50 to 100 percent on their real estate taxes—an average of \$500 each year. The maximum exemption amount is \$1,500 regardless of income or net worth.

When calculating yearly household income, applicants must include the income of relatives living with them; however, the first \$8,500 of each relative's income will be excluded. "The main differences in the program for the 2004 tax year is the increase in the maximum amount of tax relief (from \$1,000 to \$1,500) as well as an increase in the exclusion from each live-in relatives' income (from \$6,500 to \$8,500)," Busher said. In addition, the board voted to simplify the income/net worth matrix to three simple tax relief brackets: 50, 75 and 100 percent (see next page).

"With the new matrix, the actual tax relief will be greater for every qualified applicant," Busher said, with the exception of those residents who were already receiving 100 percent relief. "In today's economy, with threats of recession and state cutbacks, what better time to offer increased tax relief to our elderly and disabled residents?"

Residents who want to apply to the REAP program may pick up an application from the Henrico County Government Center, the Eastern Government Center or any county library,

Determination of Amount Awarded in Tax Advantage Program

Range of Income	Range of Net Worth	
	\$0—\$100,000	\$100,001—\$150,001 \$150,000—\$175,000
\$0—\$30,000	Tax Exemption 100%	
\$30,001—\$40,000		
\$40,001—\$45,000	Tax Exemption 75%	Tax Exemption 50%

download it from our Web site, www.co.henrico.va.us/finance or call 501-4263 to request one. Along with the completed application, residents must submit documentation of all sources of income (including social security), net worth and age. Disabled applicants must provide a disability certification or sworn affidavits from at least two Virginia licensed medical doctors stating the permanent and total disability; at least one of these affidavits must be based on a physical exam.

REAP applications are due no later than April 1 of each tax year. Once accepted into the program, residents simply follow the normal tax payment cycle, paying the balance of the tax bill—minus the partial exemption—by June 5 (first half) and Dec. 5 (second half).

“We really urge our senior and disabled residents to apply for this program,” Busher said. “Why not get a little tax relief by taking advantage of a program that was designed specifically for them?”

Preparations under way for fall election Registration deadline is Oct. 6

With Labor Day lurking just around the corner, the fall campaign season isn't far behind. As Henrico residents wrap up summer vacations and get ready for a new school year, the county's Voter Registration and Elections Office wants them to know it's also a good time to prepare for the Nov. 4 general election.

The deadline to register to vote is little more than a month away. Absentee voting begins in less than a month. And it's not too soon for voters to make sure their polling place hasn't changed location.

The upcoming election is off-year, so no federal offices or statewide positions will be con-

tested. But the ballot features key local offices, including the Board of Supervisors, school board, sheriff and commonwealth's attorney. All 11 of Henrico's seats in the General Assembly—three in the Senate, eight in the House—are up for election. (View a complete sample ballot at www.co.henrico.va.us/registrar.)

Although the level of voter interest and turnout for off-year elections typically is lower than for presidential or gubernatorial elections, an off-year election is no less important for voters.

“The local offices such as the board of supervisors and school board are actually the level of government that is closest to the voters and has a significant impact on their daily lives,” said Henrico General Registrar Janet Coon.

Register to vote by Oct. 6

Before Henrico residents can participate in the election, they must be registered voters. To register in Henrico, a prospective voter must be 18 years old by election day, a U.S. citizen and a resident of the county. Persons convicted of a felony or declared mentally incapacitated by a circuit court must have their voting rights restored before they can participate.

Henrico residents can register at Voter Registration and Elections offices at the Government Center and the Eastern Government Center, as well as any branch of the Department of Motor Vehicles. Residents also may register by mail—applications are available at county libraries, the Henrico County Credit Union and U.S. Postal Service offices in the county.

To cast a ballot in the upcoming general election, voters must register by Monday, Oct. 6. That date is also the deadline for voters to transfer their registration or to change their address with Voter Registration and Elections. Voters must cast ballots in their assigned precinct, which is determined by their place of residence. Voters whose registration is current do not need to re-register to participate in the upcoming election, Coon said.

Registered voters unable to go to the polls Nov. 4 may apply to vote absentee (for a complete list of qualifications for voting absentee, and to obtain an application form, follow the “Upcoming Election” link at www.co.henrico.va.us/registrar). Voters must submit their applications to vote absentee by 5 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 30. Qualifying absentee voters can vote in-person at Voter Registration and Elections offices weekdays beginning Monday, Sept. 22 (please see sidebar on next page for additional dates and times).

Know where to vote

This election will be just the second since the

2001 redistricting process, which changed or closed a number of polling sites throughout the county. Redistricting also assigned many residents to new precincts and voting locations. Because of the changes, Voter Registration and Elections wants to make sure Henrico voters know where to vote before heading to the polls on Nov. 4.

“The vast majority of problems our office confronts on Election Day concern eligible voters who have gone to the wrong precinct,” Coon said. “Voters can cast their ballots only in their assigned precinct, so we're doing all we can to get them to the correct polling place.”

Henrico voters have several ways to verify their assigned polling place:

- ◆ **Check your current Virginia Voter Card.** It lists your precinct, voting location and its street address.
- ◆ **Use the polling-place locator at the Voter Registration and Elections Web site.** Go to www.co.henrico.va.us/registrar, click on “Polling Place Locator,” and type in your home address.
- ◆ **Get a map of your precinct.** Go to the Web site and click on “Precinct Maps.”
- ◆ **Has your precinct closed?** Check the list on the Web site.
- ◆ **Call 501-4347 or visit a Voter Registration and Elections office.**

ID or affirmation required

Participants in the Nov. 4 election will need to provide identification or sign a statement of affirmation of identity when they vote. Accepted types of identification include the voter card, valid Virginia driver's license, valid employee photo identification and any identification issued by a federal, state or local government agency. Participants in the upcoming election will cast ballots using the county's long-serving punch-card voting equipment. Although punch-card ballots were a source of well-documented controversy during the 2000 presidential election in Florida, the voting equipment has not produced similar problems in Henrico.

“Henrico voters have always handled the punch-card ballots well,” Coon said, noting that the county has measures in place to avoid the over-voting and related problems encountered by Florida's election officials three years ago. Henrico hopes to have new direct recording equipment—likely touch-screen machines—ready for use in the 2006 U.S. Senate election, in accordance with the Help America Vote Act.

Interested voters can contact the Voter Registration and Elections Office for a demonstration of the punch-card equipment. Call 501-4347 for additional information.

Vote

Henrico County Television hits the air

One of the newest additions to the local cable television lineup is also the only around-the-clock source for news and information dedicated to Henrico: HCTV, Henrico County Television.

Launched by Henrico's Department of Public Relations & Media Services (PR&MS) in May, the new HCTV represents a complete overhaul of the county's government access channel 37. The station is available to Comcast cable subscribers living in Henrico County.



"HCTV is still located on channel 37, but that's about all it has in common with our old government access programming," said PR&MS Director Tamra McKinney. "We have completely modernized and expanded the capabilities of the station and have given it a new identity."

The principal mission of HCTV—providing timely information about county activities for the benefit of our residents—has not changed, but the means of fulfilling that mission has been improved dramatically. The station continues to offer a variety of news that affects residents' daily lives, such as road closings, public meeting times and locations, county services, recreation programs and special events. But HCTV has added cutting-edge broadcast technologies to deliver an array of additional information that is presented in a significantly enhanced format. The new station includes short video clips about Meadow Farm, Dabbs House and other sites of interest in the county. It also features an Associated Press news wire ticker, a Henrico "fast facts" ticker, images of county landmarks and attractions, and local weather, date and time.

Another key addition to the HCTV lineup is full-length programming. Produced entirely by PR&MS staff, programs cover timely topics designed specifically for Henrico residents. A short feature about the West Nile virus, highlighting local experts and detailing steps residents can take to combat the mosquito-borne disease, aired several times each week this summer. Plans for more full-length programming are under way.

HCTV represents a significant step for Henrico's public information efforts, McKinney noted.

"We are really excited about the new HCTV," she said. "It greatly improves our ability to serve our residents and provide important information about Henrico."

To learn more about HCTV, contact the Department of Public Relations & Media Services at 501-4257.

Student volunteers sought for Election Day

Attention high school students: Henrico County wants **you** on Election Day.

Students ages 16-18 can learn about the electoral process and political system while performing a valuable community service by participating in the Voter Registration and Elections Office's new Student Election Page program. The county program got under way last fall.

Pages will work closely with Henrico election officials at various poll sites during the general election on Tuesday, Nov. 4. Pages will be responsible for helping prepare poll sites for voting, distributing voting guide pamphlets and assisting elderly and disabled voters. They also may perform other tasks as assigned by the poll site's chief officer.

Henrico officials hope to recruit 100 student pages for the upcoming election.

"The Election Page program is a great way for Henrico students to familiarize themselves with the polls and get comfortable with the electoral process as they prepare to become voters themselves," said General Registrar Janet Coon. "They'll also be providing an important service for their community."

To participate in the program, students must be 16 years old by Nov. 4. Parental consent and government teacher recommendation are also required. Participants must complete a two-hour training seminar and take an election page oath as well. Pages will receive a certificate of appreciation upon completion of the program.

To apply for the program, or to obtain more information, students should contact their high school government teacher or call Henrico Voter Registration and Elections at 501-4347.

General Election Contact information

Voter Registration and Elections offices:

- ❖ Government Center
Administration Annex, Room 105
4301 E. Parham Road
501-4347
- ❖ Eastern Government Center
Room 100
3820 Nine Mile Road
652-3140

Mailing address:

P.O. Box 27032, Richmond, VA 23273-7032

General information:

501-4347 or www.co.henrico.va.us/registrar

Register to vote:

- ❖ Henrico Voter Registration and Elections offices; applications also available at county libraries, Henrico County Credit Union, Department of Motor Vehicles, U.S. Postal Service offices
- ❖ Download forms online at www.co.henrico.va.us/registrar

Apply for an absentee ballot:

- ❖ Call 501-4347
- ❖ Download forms online at www.co.henrico.va.us/registrar

View a sample ballot:

Log on to www.co.henrico.va.us/registrar and follow the "Upcoming Election" link.

Find a polling site:

Log on to www.co.henrico.va.us/registrar, click on the "Polling Place Locator" link and follow the instructions.

Important dates and times

Election day: Tuesday, Nov. 4

Poll times: 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Deadline to register to vote, transfer registration or change address:

5 p.m., Monday, Oct. 6

Deadline to file an application for absentee ballot:

5 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 30

In-person absentee voting at Voter Registration and Elections offices:

- ❖ Weekdays, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Sept. 22 to Oct. 31
- ❖ Special Saturday voting: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Oct. 25 and Nov. 1

Extended hours of operation at Voter Registration and Elections offices:

- ❖ Weekdays: 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Sept. 22 through Oct. 31
- ❖ Saturdays: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Oct. 25 and Nov. 1

Making friends while preventing crime *Henrico neighborhoods observe National Night Out*

Henrico residents turned out in force to help eradicate crime from their neighborhoods on Aug. 5 when they joined the nationwide observance of the 20th annual National Night Out (NNO).

A grassroots effort to prevent crime and substance abuse in communities across the country, NNO is spearheaded by local law enforcement agencies and Neighborhood Watch groups. More

neighborhoods attended dozens of events held in each of the county's five magisterial districts. They were joined by members of the Board of Supervisors, county officials, businesses and representatives of Henrico's public safety and law enforcement agencies.

"Henrico's strength lies with its people and neighborhoods, and that was again evident at the many outstanding National Night Out activities across the county," Kaechele said. "The willingness of residents to work closely with their neighbors and our law enforcement personnel does more than make National Night Out a successful event—it also makes our neighborhoods safer year-round."

Designed to decrease crime and substance abuse and boost neighborhood pride, NNO works to heighten awareness at the community level by helping neighbors get to know each other and become more familiar with their residential surroundings. Henrico neighborhoods held a variety of events—cookouts, block parties, potluck dinners and "light the night" marches—that focused on the goal of bringing neighbors together.

This year, the neighborhood events also incorporated crime-

prevention education programs, led by local Neighborhood Watch coordinators. Programs featured helpful techniques on a variety of topics, including home security, personal safety and home disaster-kit preparation, and provided informational brochures and other handout items for participants.

"The National Night Out events help increase awareness in our neighborhoods, and that is essential for our officers as they work to provide quality service to our citizens," said Chief of Police H. W. Stanley, Jr. "We

can't do our job alone—the more eyes and ears we have, the better. National Night Out is an invaluable partnership between our residents and the Division of Police."

Interested in planning a NNO event or organizing a Neighborhood Watch in your community? Call 501-4856, send an e-mail to nhwatch@henricopolice.org or log on to www.henricopolice.org.

Help needed for Henrico children *Foster parent training program begins Sept. 9*

In Henrico, the need for foster parents has never been greater. With a record number of foster children—160 total, ranging from infants to teenagers—currently in its care, Henrico's Department of Social Services has launched an effort to enlist the support of more Henrico residents in its foster parents program.

An eight-week foster parent training program gets under way at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 9, in the Human Services Building, 8600 Dixon Powers Drive. Anyone interested in attending should call 501-4060 by Monday, Sept. 8.

"Henrico has a significant need for more foster parents," said Foster Care Supervisor Barbara Burton. "We now have the largest foster child population we've ever had, and we also need a wider base of foster families to choose from."

Foster parents are considered "professional parents" who are available around the clock to take children into their homes and provide them temporary and potentially long-term care in a safe, stable environment. They must be at least 21 years old, have their own source of income and have enough 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 come from all races and nationalities.

Although foster parents hail from a diverse set of backgrounds, they do have a few things in common, especially the unique ability to help a child who comes from a troubled situation. Foster children have been removed by court order from their biological families and are usually the victims of neglect or abuse; they need a person or family who is able to deal with the emotions and behaviors they often develop in response to the neglect or abuse.

"Becoming a foster parent is a major decision for an individual or a family," Burton acknowledged. "But it can be tremendously rewarding. A child needs a significant, meaningful relationship with an adult to properly develop and survive—that relationship often is with a foster parent."

Henrico foster parents receive thorough training and have access to an extensive support network. For more information about the parent training program or Henrico's foster care program, call 501-4060 or log on to www.co.henrico.va.us/fosterparents.



Board Chairman and Three Chopt District Supervisor David A. Kaechele joins crime dog McGruff to take a bite out of crime at the National Night Out opening ceremony.

than 30 million people participated in the event nationwide.

The event got under way in Henrico Aug. 4 with a kickoff ceremony that was led by Board Chairman and Three Chopt District Supervisor David A. Kaechele and featured a special appearance by the crime dog McGruff. The following night, hundreds of residents from more than 60

Recreation Roundup

Summer may be winding down, but don't worry—Henrico County's Division of Recreation and Parks has a full slate of activities scheduled for fall. A small sampling follows. For a complete list, pick up Henrico's "At Your Leisure" guide at county libraries and government centers, visit the Rec and Parks Web site at www.co.henrico.va.us/rec or call 501-PARK (7275).

Saturday, Aug. 23: They Were Here First: American Indians in Henrico County.

The Sheppard family was not the first to inhabit the land that would become known as Meadow Farm. Eight thousand years ago, the Woodland Indians lived on Meadow Farm property. What do we know of them and the later Chickahominy? Throw an atlatl, make a clay pot and start a fire without matches. Noon-3:30 p.m. Free. Meadow Farm Museum. Information: 501-5520.

Wednesday, Aug. 27: A Day on the Farm.

Ages 8-13. Would you like to go back to 1860? Participants will dress in period clothing, do farm and household chores, cook a meal and play mid-19th-century games as they portray guests of the Sheppard family at Meadow Farm. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Pre-registration required. Fee: \$10. Meadow Farm Museum. Information: 501-5520.

Thursday, Aug. 28: Henrico Community Band Concert.

7-8 p.m. Deep Run Nature Pavilion. Information: 501-5115.

Saturday, Aug. 30: Lets Play Ball!

Football, Bandy ball, Catchball and Stoolball—*The Boy's Own Book* describes many ball games from the past. Bring your friends and you will learn some new ball games. 1-3 p.m. Free. Meadow Farm Museum. Information: 501-5520.

Sunday, Aug. 31: Varina Community Band Concert.

6-7 p.m. Dorey Park, by the lake. Information: 501-5115.

Sunday, Aug. 31: Pharaoh Speaks.

Dylan Pritchett, a nationally known storyteller and historian, portrays the former slave Pharaoh. Pharaoh and Tom made their mark in history when they informed Mosby Sheppard of the planned uprising that became Gabriel's Rebellion. What motivated them to approach Mosby with the information? How were they treated following their "betrayal" or "courage?" 1, 2, and 3 p.m. Free. Meadow Farm Museum. Information: 501-5520.

Saturday, Sept. 6: The Doctor Is In.

What was it like to be a doctor in 1860? What was it like to be a patient? Were there hospitals or house calls? Pull up a chair and find out more about how ailments were cured in the mid-1800s. 1-3 p.m. Free. Meadow Farm Museum. Information: 501-5520.

Sunday, Sept. 7, 14, 21 & 28: Sunday in the Park with Jazz.

Area jazz musicians perform concerts in the park. 3-4 p.m. Deep Run Nature Pavilion. Information: 501-5115.

Sunday, Sept. 7: Woodworking, Shaving Horses and Draw Knives.

What does a horse have to do with wood? What is a draw knife? Visit with the farmer as he builds and mends equipment used on the farm. 12:30-3:30 p.m. Free. Meadow Farm Museum. Information: 501-5520.

Friday, Sept. 12: Under the Stars-Big Band Dance.

For ages 55 & older. Enjoy good music, dancing and food. 7:30-10:30 p.m. Belmont Recreation Center. This dance will be held outside. Fee: \$6. Tickets go on sale Aug. 12 at 9 a.m. and must be purchased in advance. Information: Jennifer Snead, 501-5114.

Friday, Sept. 12-14, 18-21 and 25-28: Henrico Theatre Company.

Show TBA. The Cultural Arts Center at Glen Allen. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$6 for seniors and students. Reservations are required. Call 501-5115.

Saturday, Sept. 13: Civil War Lantern Tours.

From the passionate rhetoric at the beginning of the Civil War to its hard-fought end, memories were made and not forgotten. Experience a series of vignettes covering the years 1861-1865. Tours are given every 15 minutes. 7:15-9 p.m. Pre-registration required. Free. Meadow Farm Museum. Information: 501-5520.

Sunday, Sept. 14: Civil War Days: The Other Half of the Story.

War is more than battles. The roar of gunfire is heard at great distances. War affects the civilian population as well as the soldier. Visit the women in the farmhouse and the men left behind to run the farm. What shortages did they cope with? Talk to and drill with Confederate soldiers. Find out what they did between battles. Noon-4 p.m. Free. Meadow Farm Museum. Information: 501-5520.

Saturday, Sept. 20: Glen Allen Day.

The Glen Allen Ruritan Club in cooperation with Recreation and Parks is hosting its annual Glen Allen Community Day. Come out and celebrate the community with music and entertainment for the entire family! 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Meadow Farm. Free. Rain date: Sept. 21. Information: Jeannie Murray, 501-5121.

Sunday, Sept. 21: Day of Rest.

Sunday is a day of rest. The family goes to church and then spends the rest of the day with quiet activities. Come visit, play checkers or dominoes. Make a paper hat or boat. Create a paper cutting or basket. 1:30-3:30 p.m. Free. Meadow Farm Museum. Information: 501-5520.

Saturday, Sept. 27: Christmas in September Arts & Crafts Show.

For all ages. Original artwork and handcrafted items will be showcased. 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Dorey Park. Vendors must register in advance. Free. Rain date: Sept. 29. Information: Bill Kelly, 501-5134.

Saturday, Sept. 27: Harvest Dinner.

Adults. Your dinner will be prepared over the fire using period recipes according to the season. Diners will eat in the cozy atmosphere of the warming kitchen. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Pre-registration required. Fee: \$15. Meadow Farm Museum. Information: 501-5520.

Sunday, Sept. 28: Planting Winter Wheat.

It is time to plant the winter wheat. Help the farmer broadcast the seed in Meadow Farm's fields and find out why some crops need to be

Henrico Recreation and Parks
Community Relations,
Marketing & Publicity
P.O. Box 27032
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Vice Chairman
501-4207



Important County 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
Fire - Non-emergency	501-4900
Food Stamps	501-4002
Health Clinic - East	652-3190
Health Clinic - West	501-4651
Human Resources	501-4628
Human Resources 24-hour Jobline	501-5674
Leaf/Bulky Waste Collection	261-8770
Library Answer Line	222-1318
Magistrates	501-5285
Marriage Licenses	501-5055
Mental Health Emergency Services	261-8484
Planning & Zoning	501-4602
Police, Non-emergency	501-5000
Real Estate Assessment	501-4300
Recreation & Parks	501-7275
Schools	652-3600
Sheriff	501-4571
Traffic Ticket Court	501-4723
Vehicle Licenses/Personal Property	501-4263
Volunteer Program	501-5231
Voter Registration	501-4347



Government Center
4301 East Parham Road
501-4000



Eastern Government Center
3820 Nine Mile Road
652-3600

HENRICO TODAY

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