



Henrico's budget for 2017-18 emphasizes schools, public safety

Plan retains 87-cent tax rate, supports bond projects, promotes economic development

Henrico County's budget for the upcoming fiscal year supports its top priorities — schools and public safety — while confronting emerging challenges and strengthening its ability to attract jobs and businesses.

The budget also funds the first capital improvements from the bond referendum approved overwhelmingly by voters last fall. (For details, see article on page 6.)

The Board of Supervisors voted 5-0 on April 25 to approve a \$1.2 billion plan for fiscal 2017-18. The real estate tax rate remains unchanged at 87 cents per \$100 of assessed value — the lowest among Virginia's large, urban counties.

The budget, which takes effect July 1, includes an \$839.7 million general fund to support general government and school operations. That marks an increase of \$28.8 million, or 3.6 percent, over the current year's plan. The increase is supported by modest revenue growth, including from real-estate reassessments and new

construction.

"This budget makes every effort to move Henrico forward in every way possible," County Manager John A. Vithoulkas told the Board of Supervisors in a memo outlining his proposal. "It maintains and expands this community's top priorities in education and public safety; it enhances this county's economic development efforts; it meets this county's biggest challenges head-first, on multiple fronts."

More than 75 cents of every \$1 goes to schools, safety

In keeping with the county's longstanding commitments, the budget channels much of its funding to education and public safety.

Henrico County Public Schools will receive \$469.9 million, or 56 percent of the general fund. An additional \$177.2 million, or 21.1 percent, will support public-safety functions, including the Police and Fire divisions, the Sheriff's Office, juvenile



Henrico's budget for fiscal year 2017-18 will fund the operations of the Short Pump Firehouse. The station is under construction on Kain Road and is expected to open in February.

detention and building inspections.

The allocation for schools represents an increase of \$14.8 million from this year, with \$1.3 million to start the Achievable Dream Academy at Highland Springs Elementary School.

The academy, offered in partnership with the nonprofit An Achievable Dream, will promote academic success, good behavior and citizenship among students from low-income families. It will launch this summer for students in kindergarten through second grade and will expand to upper grade

levels over the next three years.

The academy is part of a comprehensive effort to address the growing number of families living in poverty, Vithoulkas said.

Other initiatives include community maintenance programs that improve substandard housing, increased funding for nonprofits offering health care to uninsured individuals and additional spending on public transportation.

Specifically, the budget dedicates an additional \$628,000 to cover cost increases for GRTC Transit System's

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Brookland looks to Nov. special election

Board taps Hinson as interim supervisor

Brookland District voters are turning their attention this spring to selecting candidates for a special election to complete the final two years of the late Richard W. Glover's term.

Some of the district's 42,390 registered voters participated in a recent Democratic caucus, and others will cast ballots in a Republican primary next month. All will then look toward the Nov. 7 general election,

which will include a special election for the Brookland seat on Henrico's Board of Supervisors.

Hinson succeeds Glover for interim

Mr. Glover, who had represented Brookland on the board since 1988, passed away in February. He was serving as chairman for the sixth time and was in the midst of his eighth term as supervisor.

At its Feb. 14 meeting, Henrico's board voted unanimously to appoint Harvey L. Hinson to serve as interim supervisor for Brookland. The board also called for a special election for the position to be held in conjunction with the general election in

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existing routes as well as a 1.1-mile extension of the Azalea Connector route. Funds also are included for Henrico's portion of the 7.6-mile bus rapid transit system, known as Pulse, which will extend along West Broad Street to Willow Lawn.

New positions for Police, Fire

In terms of public safety, the budget supports the hiring of 10 additional police officers, which fulfills a commitment to expand the division's ranks by 50 officers over five years.

The new positions have helped to reduce Henrico's crime rate to historic lows, Vithoulkas said. The county recorded 26.5 crimes per 1,000 residents in 2016.

For the Division of Fire, the budget devotes an additional \$250,000 for new ambulances, fire trucks and other apparatus. It also funds 27 new firefighters, including 24 to support the opening of the Short Pump Firehouse. The station is expected to open in February on Kain Road and represents the final project funded through the county's 2005 bond referendum.

Funding for heroin task force

For the first time, Henrico's budget designates funds specifically to address heroin abuse and addiction.

The Sheriff's Office will receive four additional deputies to expand post-arrest screening to keep drugs and other contraband from entering

the jail.

Similarly, the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office will receive an additional assistant commonwealth's attorney to focus on heroin and related cases.

Also, \$200,000 will go to Henrico Area Mental Health & Developmental Services to support the efforts of the Henrico Heroin Task Force. Vithoulkas established the group in May 2016 to provide a comprehensive, coordinated response to the problems associated with heroin and opioids. (For details, see article on page 3.)

Budget promotes economic growth

The budget also seeks to further strengthen Henrico for job growth and business investment.

As proposed, the Board of Supervisors established a new classification of personal property tax for data centers and set the rate at 40 cents per \$100 of assessed value. That amounts to an 89 percent reduction from the \$3.50 general rate for businesses.

Henrico has 18 data centers that will pay taxes on their computer equipment at the new rate, and officials are optimistic they'll be able to recruit more.

"Henrico is well positioned to attract additional data-center companies due to the proximity of a new transatlantic fiber optic cable that will connect North America to Europe through Virginia," Vithoulkas said.

"This new rate ... will allow

Henrico to attract businesses in this high-growth sector that will bring significant and ongoing capital investment along with high-paying jobs to the region."

Additionally, the Board of Supervisors approved a change that exempts more businesses from paying business, professional and occupational license taxes, also known as BPOL taxes.

With the change, companies are required to pay BPOL taxes only if they have annual gross receipts totaling \$200,000 or more, an increase from the previous minimum of \$100,000. As a result, 12,601 businesses will no longer be required to pay BPOL taxes. That's up from 11,041, according to county estimates.

The budget also:

- Funds a 2.5 percent salary increase for eligible government and school employees;
- Strengthens the county's sports tourism initiative by supporting the opening of the first phase of Greenwood Park, which is under development along Greenwood Road;
- Provides \$2.3 million for storm-water improvements and \$2.5 million for sidewalks and other pedestrian amenities; and
- Increases water and sewer rates by 5 percent to support the systems' operating and capital needs. ■

For information on the budget, go to henrico.us/budget.

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November.

In addition, the board voted Tuckahoe District Supervisor Patricia S. O'Bannon to serve as chairman for the remainder of 2017. Frank J. Thornton, supervisor for the Fairfield District, was elected vice chairman.

Hinson, 74, is a retired deputy county manager for Henrico. His 46-year career with the county included service as assistant director of the Planning Department and 15 years as deputy county manager for community development. He retired from the position in 2007.

A U.S. Army veteran and member of the Central Virginia American Softball Association Hall of Fame, Hinson received bachelor's and master's degrees from Virginia Commonwealth University. He has represented Henrico on the Richmond Metropolitan Transportation Authority since 2014.

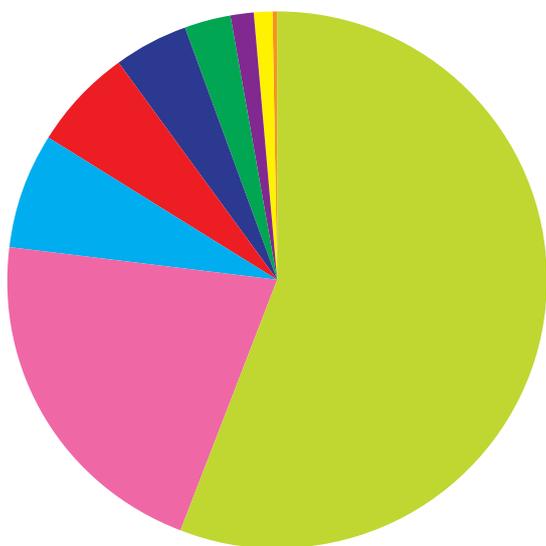
Caucus, primary and independents

Before ballots for the special election can be prepared, however, Brookland voters will choose among several candidates vying to represent them on the Board of Supervisors.

The Democratic nominee was chosen at a district caucus, organized by the Henrico County Democratic Committee and held April 29 at the Cultural Arts Center at Glen Allen.

Brookland voters will select the Republican nominee as part of the primary election on Tuesday, June 13.

Henrico General Registrar Mark Coakley explained that primary voters will choose either a Republican ballot or a Democratic ballot; those selecting the Republican ballot at one of Brookland's 15 polling sites will be able to vote on the party's candidates for supervisor. Both ballots will feature contested races for governor, lieutenant governor and several



seats in the Virginia House of Delegates.

Citizens must register by Monday, May 22 to be able to vote in the June primary.

Securing nomination from a political party isn't the only way to join the race. A prospective candidate can qualify as an independent by filing a petition with signatures from 125 registered voters from the Brookland District and by submitting campaign finance and other forms with the Henrico Voter Registration and Elections Office. The deadline for these requirements is 7 p.m. June 13.

Absentee voting underway

In-person absentee voting for the primary election is underway at the county's two Voter Registration and Elections offices during regular business hours through Friday, June 9. In addition, the offices will open for extended hours on Saturday, June 10. Offices are located at the Henrico Government Center, 4301 E. Parham Road, and the Eastern Government Center, 3820 Nine Mile Road.

Voters must apply for an absentee ballot and provide one of 19 accepted reasons for not being able to vote in person at their designated polling place, Coakley said, noting that voting absentee is not the same as early voting. Possible reasons include business travel, pregnancy, being the primary caregiver for a disabled family member and being on active duty in the U.S. military.

Coakley anticipates higher-than-average turnout in Henrico for the primary, citing interest in the Brookland race and statewide contests. He encouraged voters who qualify to consider casting an absentee ballot.

"If you have a qualifying reason and can vote absentee, please do it," he said. ■

For more information about voting, contact Henrico's Voter Registration and Elections Office at (804) 501-4347 or go to henrico.us/registrar.



Henrico County Board of Supervisors, 2017.



Dr. Susan Fischer Davis (center) meets with other members of the Henrico Heroin Task Force, which was established to ensure that the county has a comprehensive and coordinated response to the opioid epidemic.

Henrico confronts heroin, opioid epidemic

Task force focusing on prevention, awareness of resources

With heroin and opioid overdoses and deaths surging across the United States, Henrico County has started candid conversations about the dangers of drug use, expanded local treatment efforts and reserved funds to address the problem head-on.

"The safety of our residents is absolutely paramount," County Manager John A. Vithoulkas said. "Heroin and opioid abuse is an epidemic that threatens each part of our community. We cannot simply look the other way as lives are destroyed and families are torn apart."

Fatal overdoses from heroin and other opioids — including prescription painkillers such as OxyContin and Vicodin — have continued to rise at alarming rates across the region, state and country.

In Henrico alone, overdose deaths from the drugs increased from 24 in 2013 to 37 in 2015. The county recorded 36 such overdose deaths during the first nine months of 2016, according to the Virginia Department of Health.

Heroin is becoming increasingly dangerous, according to health officials, because it's often mixed with fentanyl, a synthetic opioid that's 50 times more potent than morphine.

Vithoulkas established the Henrico Heroin Task Force last May to ensure the county had a comprehensive and coordinated response to the crisis. Last November, State Health Commissioner Marissa J. Levine declared opioid addiction a public health emergency in Virginia.

Henrico's task force meets monthly and was comprised initially of top officials from Henrico Area Mental Health & Developmental Services

(MH/DS), the Henrico Health District, the Police and Fire divisions, and the Sheriff's and Commonwealth's Attorney's offices. The group has since expanded to include representatives of Henrico County Public Schools, Community Corrections and the Circuit Court.

"We recognized early on that schools were a big partner and a missing partner," said Laura S. Totty, executive director of MH/DS and coordinator of the task force. "If you're going to sharpen your focus and deal with drug-use prevention, you've got to reach the students and their families."

The task force now has subcommittees focused on prevention efforts and awareness of resources offering help to those who need it.

Budget includes funds to expand efforts

For the first time, Henrico is dedicating a portion of its annual budget to addressing the problems of heroin and other opioids. As recommended, the Board of Supervisors designated \$200,000 for the task force's use in fiscal year 2017-18, which begins July 1.

"While there are resources that must go to front-line efforts in this fight, such as utilizing Narcan — a drug that treats opiate overdoses — or detoxing an inmate addicted to heroin, more needs to be done in the prevention area," Vithoulkas wrote in a memo that accompanied his budget proposal.

The funding will give the task force flexibility to expand its efforts. The group expects to spend the next few months discussing possible uses, Totty said.

Residents invited to receive naloxone training

MH/DS will offer a free class Tuesday, June 13 to teach residents how to administer naloxone in its nasal-spray form to someone who is experiencing a

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Chuck Rosenberg (left), acting administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration, and James B. Comey (right), at the time director of the FBI, discuss the dangers associated with increased abuse of heroin and other opioids as part of a community summit held March 1 at Glen Allen High School.

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known or suspected opioid overdose. Narcan is a brand name for naloxone.

The drug, which is available in Virginia without a prescription, temporarily reverses the effects of an overdose, allowing additional time to get emergency medical attention.

The class — called Revive! Opioid Overdose and Naloxone Education for Virginia — will be held from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the MH/DS main office, 10299 Woodman Road.

Participation will be limited to 50 residents. To register, call (804) 757-8574.

Events take conversation to schools

The task force recently introduced itself to the public with events to increase awareness of the dangers of heroin and opioid use.

On March 1, more than 600 people attended a community summit at Glen Allen High School that featured a discussion by then-FBI Director James B. Comey, Drug Enforcement Administration Acting Administra-

tor Chuck Rosenberg and Dr. Susan Fischer Davis, director of the Henrico Health District.

The event, which was streamed live over the internet and attracted local and national media attention, also included a panel discussion and a showing of the documentary “Chasing the Dragon: The Life of an Opioid Addict.”

A recording of the summit is available at: <http://henrico.us/news/2017/03/community-summit-on-heroin-and-opioid-crisis/>.

A second event, held April 3 at Godwin High School, featured a panel discussion led by Virginia Attorney General Mark R. Herring and a showing of the film “Heroin: The Hardest Hit.”

Task force members also have been making presentations at community meetings, and they have discussed meeting with Henrico school principals to help them identify signs of heroin and opioid use.

The fact that the community is so engaged in a conversation about drugs represents a major shift in at-

titudes, Totty said.

“There’s a tremendous amount of shame and stigma that goes with substance abuse,” she said. “It’s been hard for people to see it really does have a biological component. I think [the reluctance to talk] is beginning to change with as many deaths as we’ve had with heroin.”

Students developed website, video

The task force recognized early that families often don’t know where to turn for information and resources when a loved one is treated for an overdose.

The task force will soon provide that direction through a website that’s being developed with help from students at the Advanced Career Education Center at Hermitage High School. The website, bouncebackhc.com, is expected to launch by June.

Refrigerator magnets with the website’s address are being printed so emergency responders can leave them with family members after reviving someone following an overdose.

“If they ever want to get treatment, they can log onto that website,” said Leslie Martin Stephen, a program manager with MH/DS.

The site will include a video produced by students from Deep Run High School that features individuals in recovery as well as participants of the ORBIT Program. The Henrico Sheriff’s Office started the program in 2015 to provide step-by-step guidance to help jail inmates overcome an addiction to opiates. ORBIT stands for Opiate Recovery by Intensive Tracking.

Twelve participants have completed the program, and 113 are active in its various stages.

The entire effort has been eye-

opening for the students, Stephen said.

“They’ve learned so much, from website and video production to the dangers of drug abuse,” she said. “It’s also been inspiring to see them take ownership of a project that has the potential to save lives.”

State grant to treat drug court participants

Henrico’s focus on heroin and opioid abuse is extending to its drug court.

The county is participating in a state study of the use of Vivitrol, an injectable form of naloxone that blocks the body’s cravings for heroin and opioids for 30 days.

Henrico, along with the city of Norfolk, received a \$49,800 pilot grant from the Virginia Supreme Court to determine whether drug court participants have greater success overcoming their addictions if they are treated with Vivitrol in combination with counseling.

“For the opioid addict, they don’t feel that high because their receptors are blocked,” said Gary A. Hughes, director of Community Corrections.

The hope is that, with their cravings muted, the volunteer participants will be able to focus on their recovery, he said.

Drug court staff has completed training for the grant program and begun screening potential participants. The program is expected to treat six to eight volunteers for six months, and it could be extended with additional state funding, Hughes said. ■

SUBSTANCE ABUSE HELP

- Intake (804) 727-8515
- Emergency (804) 727-8484

Henrico Police joins elite company with TRI-ARC Award

Division is one of 16 police agencies in U.S. to earn designation

The Henrico County Police Division (HPD), long recognized as one of the nation’s top police forces, further established its credentials as an elite agency when it received TRI-ARC accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) earlier this spring.

The award signifies that HPD has attained concurrent, independent accreditation in three operational areas: law enforcement, public safety communications and public safety training. Henrico Police is now the 16th law enforcement agency in the United States — out of approximately 18,000 — and the 17th worldwide to earn

this recognition.

CALEA first accredited HPD’s law enforcement section in 1987. At its spring conference in March, CALEA reaccredited this section for the ninth time. The organization also recognized HPD’s emergency communications center and training academy with their first accreditations.

Speaking at a Board of Supervisors meeting last month, Police Chief Humberto I. Cardounel Jr. said the division celebrated the award “for

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Comcast
channel 17

HCTV SCHEDULE

Verizon
channel 39

Watch HCTV programs streamed live at henrico.us. For program descriptions or more information, go to henrico.us/pr.



Even Hours

Midnight, 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.

Date Range	Days	Even Hours	Odd Hours
		Even Hours	Odd Hours
MAY 22 THROUGH MAY 28	Mon Wed Fri Sun	Edward A. Beck: Manager, Leader, Visionary — 22 mins	Starting Over: Refugee Resettlement in Henrico — 17 mins
	Tue Thu Sat	Inside Henrico: Spring 2017 Edition — mins TBD	From Shoe Man to Supervisor: Robert Coleman Longan (1885-1960) — 18 mins
MAY 29 THROUGH JUN 4	Mon Wed Fri Sun	Dr. William C. Boshier, Jr.: The Man Behind the Bow Tie — mins TBD	Pocahontas: The Myth and Mystery of an Icon — 33 mins
	Tue Thu Sat	People in Crisis: Henrico Area Mental Health Crisis Center — 20 mins	Living Among Us: A Closer Look at the Bugs to Beware — 24 mins
JUN 5 THROUGH JUN 11	Mon Wed Fri Sun	Ralisha Alexander & Arianna Davis Cold Case — mins TBD	Signs, Lines and Signals: On the Road with Henrico's Traffic Engineering Division — 15 mins
	Tue Thu Sat	Health Care for the Common Good: Henrico County's Health Department — 20 mins	Birds of the James — 25 mins
JUN 12 THROUGH JUN 18	Mon Wed Fri Sun	The Infant and Toddler Connection — mins TBD	Henrico Statesman: Charles M. Johnson (1919-1981) — 19 mins
	Tue Thu Sat	You Are Not Alone: Breaking the Stigma of Mental Illness — 26 mins	Active Shooter: What Would You Do? — 20 mins
JUN 19 THROUGH JUN 25	Mon Wed Fri Sun	East End Cemetery — mins TBD	Ringing the Bell: Police and Fire Chaplains of Henrico County — 16 mins
	Tue Thu Sat	Curtain Call: A History of the Henrico Theatre — 24 mins	Cashell Donahoe: A Gentleman and a Scholar — 17 mins
JUN 26 THROUGH JUL 2	Mon Wed Fri Sun	From Investigation to Education: Inside the Office of the Fire Marshal — 22 mins	Ralisha Alexander & Arianna Davis Cold Case — mins TBD
	Tue Thu Sat	J.E.B. Stuart: Bold Cavalier — 34 mins	The Open Road: The Interstate Highways in Henrico County — 21 mins

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about two hours” before beginning preparations for the next accreditation cycle.

“I want to thank all of the men and women of the Henrico Police Division,” he said. “The entire organization had to work as a cog, in tandem with each other, to achieve this milestone.”

To earn TRI-ARC accreditation, HPD had to meet 855 benchmark standards, including 483 for law enforcement, 212 for emergency communications and 160 for training. In November, CALEA assessors spent three days in Henrico to evaluate

the policies, procedures and operations of each section. At CALEA’s spring conference, police personnel testified at a hearing regarding the division’s compliance with the organization’s accreditation standards.

The three sections now enter a four-year reaccreditation cycle during which the standards will have to be continually applied and maintained for HPD to remain a TRI-ARC agency.

Cardounel noted that the award is about more than developing and implementing sound policies and practices.

“This is also about the manner in which we conduct ourselves and carry out our mission on a daily basis, about being the best at serving our community and our profession,” he said. “It is a testament to every one of our employees for what they do every day.”

HPD has more than 840 personnel, including more than 620 sworn officers. The division’s approved budget for the upcoming 2017-18 fiscal year is \$73.5 million and includes funding for 10 new officers. Last year the division responded to more than 215,500 calls for service. ■



Tuckahoe Middle School will undergo a \$28.2 million renovation as part of a \$419.8 million bond package approved by Henrico voters in November. Overall, 26 projects will be funded countywide.

Henrico sells bonds to begin projects approved by voters in November

Initial projects total \$114.6 million, focus on schools

Henrico County has sold the first set of general-obligation bonds to begin school renovations and other capital projects promised through a \$419.8 million bond package approved by voters last fall.

The Board of Supervisors authorized the sale of \$114.6 million in bonds in February. The sale occurred April 18, after the county prepared an official statement and officials met with bond-rating agencies.

The bonds received a AAA rating from the three main rating agencies: Moody’s, Standard & Poor’s and Fitch. The \$114.6 million will provide the largest infusion of funds of any year in the bond referendum’s six-year funding plan.

“Henrico is grateful for the overwhelming support expressed by voters on Nov. 8, and we are eager to get to work on projects to improve our school buildings and other facilities,” County Manager John A. Vithoukaskas said. “Together, these projects will further strengthen Henrico’s core services, provide

a greater spark to its sports tourism program and enhance the quality of life for all residents.”

Henrico sold the 20-year bonds at an interest rate of 2.632 percent. The sale is scheduled to close in late May.

The funds will support renovations to six schools — Pemberton, Crestview, Skipwith, Chamberlayne and Seven Pines elementary and Tuckahoe Middle — plus construction of an eight-classroom addition to Glen Allen Elementary School.

Each of the projects is under design, using funds from the county’s meals tax. Construction contracts are expected to be awarded this fall.

Other projects slated for bond funding are the construction of a new fire training facility at the county’s Woodman Road complex — also currently under design — and the installation of durable, synthetic turf fields at all nine high schools.

The new fields will be installed at each school’s stadium, providing year-round use by the schools and local youth organizations and for

tournaments hosted by the county.

Henrico plans to design all nine field projects together and then complete them in groups of three per year, said Neil Luther, director of the Division of Recreation and Parks.

Henrico County Public Schools has submitted a school-by-school ranking based on its need for field improvements, beginning with Douglas S. Freeman and followed by Hermitage, Varina, Henrico, J.R. Tucker, Highland Springs, Mills E. Godwin, Deep Run and Glen Allen.

The new fields are expected to strengthen Henrico’s sports tourism initiative, which generated an estimated \$42.1 million in local spending in 2016, according to Recreation and Parks.

The total reflects expenses, such as for lodging and meals, generated by tournaments and other events that use county fields and facilities.

Henrico also declined additional events worth potentially \$46.1 million in spending last year because

it lacked the fields and facilities to accommodate them, said Dawn Miller, the county’s tourism and sports supervisor.

Henrico’s bond referendum consisted of five questions on the Nov. 8 general election ballot. By approving each question, voters authorized the county to sell bonds in the following amounts: \$272.6 million for public schools, \$87.1 million for parks, \$24 million for libraries, \$22.1 million for fire stations and facilities, and \$14 million for roads. The approval margins ranged from 75 percent for libraries to 86 percent for fire stations and facilities.

Henrico officials identified a total of 26 projects to be funded countywide. The school projects will be funded over five years. All others will be funded over six years.

Officials determined that Henrico will be able to manage the new debt within its current tax-rate structure, which includes a real estate tax rate of 87 cents per \$100 of assessed value. ■

Fiscal 2017-18 Bond Projects

- **Tuckahoe Middle School renovation, \$28.2 million**
- **Pemberton Elementary School renovation, \$14.1 million**
- **Chamberlayne Elementary School renovation, \$14 million**
- **Skipwith Elementary School renovation, \$13 million**
- **Seven Pines Elementary School renovation, \$12.8 million**
- **Crestview Elementary School renovation, \$12 million**
- **Glen Allen Elementary School classroom addition, \$5.5 million**
- **High school field renovations, \$12.5 million**
- **Fire training facility, \$2.5 million**

TOTAL: \$114.6 MILLION

RECREATION ROUNDUP



Henrico Concert Band Patriotic Concert June 26

Sat, May 20:

History Investigators

Find hidden objects, determine the use of strange contraptions, go on a treasure hunt and discover the secrets of historic sites. Ages 6-12; parent must accompany child. Registration required. *Dabbs House Museum. 10-11 a.m. Info: 652-1426.*

Sat, May 20:

Henrico Walking Tour

Tour the park and learn about its history and wildlife. Registration required. *Crump Park. 10-11:30 a.m. Info: 652-1437.*

Sat, Jun 3: Celebrate Varina

Enjoy family activities including live music, games and vendors. Concessions available for purchase. *Dorey Park. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Info: 652-1422.*

Tue, Jun 6:

Container Gardening

Learn to garden anywhere with containers. Get tips on plant selection, care and more. Ages 18 and older. Registration required. *Belmont Recreation Center. 7-8 p.m. Info: 652-1437.*

Tue & Wed, Jun 13 & 14:

On-the-Air Radio Players

Join the studio audience for a live performance of "You Heard It Here First," featuring winners from the seventh-annual scriptwriting competition. *The Cultural Arts Center at Glen Allen. 7:30 p.m. Info: 501-5138.*

Mon, Jun 26: Henrico Concert Band Patriotic Concert

Reservations required.

Henrico Theatre. 7:30 p.m.

Info: 652-1460, 501-5859.

Wed, Jun 28:

Chris Campbell: Be a Kid

The whole family can enjoy the children's music of Chris Campbell. *Henrico Theatre. 10 a.m. & 1 p.m. Info: 652-1460.*

Thu, Jun 29 & Thu, Jul 27:

Henrico Community Band in the Park

Bring blankets and lawn chairs for two outdoor concerts at the Nature Pavilion. *Deep Run Park. 7 p.m. Info: 501-5138.*

Tue, Jul 4:

Red, White and Lights Fourth of July Celebration

Celebrate Independence Day and honor America's veterans at this annual Henrico favorite, featuring food trucks, a performance by the Richmond Symphony and laser light show finale. *Crump Park. 4-10 p.m. Info: 652-1422.*

Wed, Jul 12:

Barefoot Puppets Present: Trickster Tales

Traditional stories from west Africa brought to life with rod puppets, original music, puns and laughs! *Henrico Theatre. 10 a.m. & 1 p.m. Info: 652-1460.*

Sat, Jul 29:

Under the Stars Outdoor Movie

Tour the tavern, play outdoor games, join a live lip-sync battle and enjoy free ice cream before an outdoor viewing of the animated family film "Sing." *Walkerton Tavern. 7:30-10:30 p.m. Info: 652-1422.*

Programs are free and open to everyone except where noted.

For additional activities, events and classes, please see "Program Guide" available at henrico.us/rec, Henrico libraries and by calling (804) 501-PARK (7275).

LIBRARY LINEUP

Wed, May 24:

The History of Comics

Comic book expert Cindy Jackson will discuss historical graphic novels and comic books. *Varina Area Library. 7 p.m. Info: 501-1980.*

MusicFlix Series

Explore films and their soundtracks.

Thu, Jun 8: "Waiting to Exhale."

Thu, Jul 13: "Lady Sings the Blues."

Thu, Aug 10: "The Color Purple." Ages 18 and older.

Fairfield Area Library. 6:30 p.m.

Info: 501-1930.

Interactive Richmond History

Presented by the Valentine, this series brings local history to life.

Tue, Jun 13: "Soul of a Community."

Tue, Jul 11: "Congregating Faith."

Tue, Aug 8: "A Tale of Two Stores."

Sandston Branch Library.

7 p.m. Info: 501-1990.

Summer Reading Club Kickoff with the Amazing Mr. B

Get started on summer reading! **Sat, Jun 17:** *Fairfield Area Library. 3 p.m.*

Tue, Jun 20: *Glen Allen Branch Library. 10:20 a.m.; Tuckahoe Area Library. 2:30 p.m.; and Gayton Branch Library. 6:30 p.m.*

Wed, Jun 21: *North Park Branch Library. 10:30 a.m.; Twin Hickory Area Library. 2:30 p.m.; and Libbie Mill Library. 6:30 p.m.*

Thu, Jun 22: *Sandston Branch Library. 2:30 p.m.; and Varina Area Library. 6:30 p.m.*

Sat, Jun 24: Comic Con

Featuring vendors, presenters, gaming, cosplay, crafts and more.

Varina Area Library. 1 p.m.

Info: 501-1980.

Jun 26-30: Super Saver Teen Money Camp

Middle and high school students can learn to manage money at this

workshop presented by Virginia

Credit Union. Participants commit to attend all five days. *Tuckahoe Area Library. 1 p.m. Info: 501-1910.*

Tue, Jun 27:

Concert on the Lawn

Celebrate the library's 10th anniversary with the Robert Jospe Express Quartet. *Twin Hickory Area Library. 6:30 p.m. Info: 501-1920.*

Pinhole Photography for Teens

Construct and use a pinhole camera at this workshop presented by VMFA. **Sat, Jul 8:** *Twin Hickory Area Library. 1 p.m. Info: 501-1920.*

Wed, Aug 2: *Sandston Branch Library. 1 p.m. Info: 501-1990.*

Sat, Jul 8:

Creative Writing Workshop

Examine ways to connect with the natural world and try your hand at creative writing exercises. Led by

Lauren Miner, James River Parks System artist-in-residence. *Adults of all skill levels. Libbie Mill Library.*

2 p.m. Info: 501-1940.

Activated Story Theater

This professional acting troupe will perform "Hammer, Nail, Tell a Tale."

Ages 4 and older. **Mon, Jul 17:** *Gayton Branch Library. 10:30 a.m.; Libbie Mill Library. 2:30 p.m.; and Tuckahoe Area Library. 6:30 p.m.*

Tue, Jul 18: *North Park Branch Library. 10:30 a.m.; Twin Hickory Area Library. 2:30 p.m.; and Glen Allen Branch Library. 6:30 p.m.*

Wed, July 19: *Sandston Branch Library. 10:30 a.m.; Fairfield Area Library. 2:30 p.m.; and Varina Area Library. 6:30 p.m.*

Events are free and open to everyone except where noted. For more information go to henricolibrary.org; email pconway@henricolibrary.org; or call (804) 501-1900.

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Quick Reference Telephone Numbers

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Henrico TODAY

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