



Volume 13, No. 4 Henrico's 400th anniversary activities are just around the corner

So you had a blast at the quadricentennial kickoff and 2010 Harvest Festival last month and now you're wondering what comes next. No problem! When you commemorate your 400th anniversary, it takes an entire year to complete the celebration.

The 2011 Commemoration Commission has planned a full slate of activities for all ages

1611 - 2011

HENRICO COUNTY

Fall 2010

The party is on! —Record crowds attend kickoff festivities at 2010 Harvest Festival

The party four centuries in the making is officially under way, if a few months early.

Henrico kicked off its yearlong commemoration of the county's 400th anniversary last month with a record-setting pre-birthday bash at the 2010 "A'maize'ing" Harvest Festival at Meadow Farm. The popular 19th century living-farm museum provided the setting as the county looks toward its quadricentennial in 2011 with a busy slate of events, activities and exhibits.

Some 14,000 visitors attended the festival, the most ever for the 27-year-old event held annually by the county's Division of Recreation and Parks. They enjoyed live music, a variety of hands-on activities for kids and demonstrations of traditional 19th-century harvest-time tasks. The record-breaking crowd also had the chance to learn everything about corn that they ever wanted to know.

The A'maize'ing Harvest Festival highlighted corn and its many uses throughout history

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A pair of youngsters get a firsthand view of 19th-century farm life at the 2010 "A'maize'ing" Harvest Festival at Meadow Farm. A record-setting crowd attended the festival, which also served as the kickoff event for Henrico's 400th anniversary celebration.

designed to highlight Henrico's extensive history and honor the diverse people and cultures that have swept across the county's stage over the past four centuries. Their legacy laid the foundation for today's thriving community of more than 300,000 residents, some 25,000 businesses and nearly 70 public schools.

Following is a list of official, county-hosted 400th anniversary events. Admission is free for each event. Information also is available at www.henrico400th.com

or call 501-1611.

► **Hunt for Henrico History.** Saturday, Jan. 29, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; Deep Run Recreation Center, 9910 Ridgefield Parkway. Living history presentations and unique historic 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, then 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.

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► **African-American History of Henrico County in Music and Stories.** *Friday, Feb. 11, 6-9:30 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 12, 2-5:30 p.m.; Henrico Theatre, 305 E. Nine Mile Road.* Learn about the county's African-American community through dramatic music, stories and photographs presented by

to make your reservation and please note that the same event is offered at two different times.

► **Kite Festival and The Tastes and Sounds of Henrico.** *Saturday, March 5, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Dorey Park, 2999 Darbytown Road.* Will March blow in like a lion?

► **Virginia Indian Cultural Program.** *Saturday, March 19, 3-8 p.m.; The Cultural Arts Center at Glen Allen, 2880 Mountain Road.* The history and contemporary culture of Virginia Indian tribes will be presented through art, dance and exhibits. Indian artisans will display their pottery,



Members of the Virginia Indian Intertribal Drum and Dancers perform a traditional tribal dance at the 2010 Harvest Festival at Meadow Farm. The group also will participate in the Virginia Indian Cultural Program — one of the events of the 2011 commemoration — at The Cultural Arts Center at Glen Allen in March.

historical interpreters, choirs and performing groups. Be sure to check out the exhibit, “Remembering Our Legacy: African-American Trailblazers of Henrico County,” displayed on the theatre’s second floor. Due to limited seating in the theatre, reservations are strongly recommended. Beginning January 10, call 328-4491

Henrico’s kite aficionados certainly hope so. Enjoy kite flying and demonstrations, hot-air balloon rides, exhibits, contests, games and live music in the pastoral setting of Dorey Park. Be sure to try the culinary creations from some of Henrico’s favorite vendors. (Hosted by Henrico Recreation and Parks and Richmond Air Force Kite Club.)

beadwork, leatherwork and painting, demonstrate their creative processes and discuss their work with the public. The Virginia Indian Intertribal Drum and Dancers will tell the story of native history and culture through a unique performance of traditional and contemporary tribal dances; the dancers will explain the

regalia they wear as well as the meaning and significance of each dance they perform. Don’t miss the photo exhibit of Virginia Indians from the early 20th century.

► **Celebrating Henrico Author David Baldacci: All Henrico Reads.** *Tuesday, April 5, 7-9:30 p.m.; Glen Allen High School auditorium, 10700 Staples Mill Road.* Henrico High School and Virginia

Commonwealth University graduate David Baldacci has gone on to international acclaim as the author of 19 best-selling novels. He will return to Henrico in April as the honored author of All Henrico Reads, the annual program sponsored by Henrico County Public Schools (HCPS) and Henrico County Public Libraries (HCPL). His books “Wish You Well” and “The Camel Club” are the featured works for the 2011 program. Baldacci will give remarks, answer questions and sign books as part of this special event. (Sponsored by HCPS, HCPL and the Friends of the Henrico County Public Library.)

► **Earth Day at Three Lakes Park.** *Saturday, April 16, 1-4 p.m.; Three Lakes Park, 400 Sausiluta Drive.* A wealth of natural resources has helped draw inhabitants to Henrico for hundreds of years, and now it’s time to give a little back and celebrate the environment as part of the quadricentennial commemoration. Enjoy live music, educational booths and displays, arts and crafts promoting litter removal, recycling games, a puppet show, face painting and more. The Wildlife Center of Virginia will give live-animal demonstrations and will discuss animal rescue. And all of the regular exhibits and hands-on activities of Three Lakes Nature Center — one of Henrico’s most popular tourist attractions — will be open as usual. (Sponsored by Henrico Recreation and Parks, Virginia Department of Conservation

and Recreation, James River Advisory Commission, Henrico County Energy Management Plan and Keep Henrico Beautiful.)

► **Moving Henrico Forward: Air, Road, Rail and Water.**

Sunday, May 29, 1-5 p.m. (exhibit continues through Aug. 31); Virginia Aviation Museum, 5701 Huntsman Road (just inside the entrance of Richmond International Airport). Henrico residents employed a variety of ways to travel the county over the past four centuries, and this exhibit will take a look at each of them. Explore modes of transportation ranging from dirt and wooden wagon trails and plank turnpikes to trolley cars powered by electric rail lines and commercial air lines — everything from the area's original Indian paths through the establishment of Byrd Airfield in 1928 and the beginning of public bus service in 1930. The exhibit will open May 29 with live entertainment, an airplane and antique car show, games, arts and crafts and a family cookout.

► **Old Fashioned Fourth of July.** *Monday, July 4, 1-5 p.m.; Meadow Farm at Crump Park, 3400 Mountain Road.* To put 400 years of history in perspective, think about this — Henrico's beginnings predate the Declaration of Independence by more than 150 years, and hundreds of county residents were on hand when the document was first read aloud at the county courthouse in August 1776. So Henrico knows how to celebrate Independence Day! This popular event boasts

an array of family entertainment, including sky-diving shows with Uncle Sam; a patriotic performance featuring a historical color guard, drum and fife music and a musket salute by Living History Associates; a period baseball game; performances by juggler Jonathan Austin; and live music, dance and storytelling. Don't forget the watermelon feast and kids' activities such as face painting and a petting zoo.

► **Civil War Commemoration, Sept. 23-25.** Henrico was home to significant combat during the Civil War, as county battlefields produced more than 50,000 casualties and 77 recipients of the Medal of Honor. This special 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 throughway for the capital city of the Confederacy.

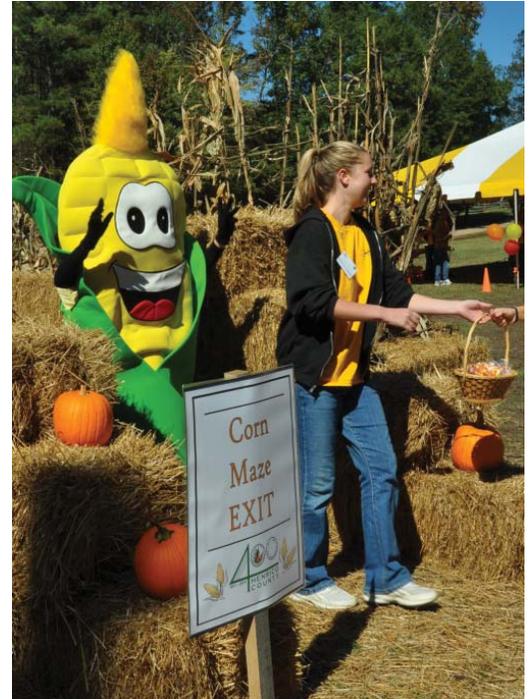
Encampment and Exhibits at Tree Hill. *Saturday, Sept. 24, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; Tree Hill Farm, Route 5.* Tree Hill — which overlooks Richmond, was the muster site for early troop recruitment efforts and was the location of Mayor

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 in on Richmond. Rangers from Richmond National Battlefield Park will present living history programs to commemorate the 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 National Park Service and Henrico County will lead tours of battlefields involved in the nearby Battle of Chaffin's



Maizey, one of the stars of the "A'maize'ing" Harvest Festival, celebrates after successfully navigating the festival's corn maze. Maizey posed for hundreds of photographs at the event.

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

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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.

- ▶ **Hunt for Henrico History.** *Saturday, Nov. 5, 10 a.m. 3 p.m.; Dorey Recreation Center, 7200 Dorey Park Drive.* Living history presentations and unique historic 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.

- ▶ **Henrico History Bus Tours.** In addition to the array of stationary events, Henrico plans to take the 400th anniversary show on the road for a series of historical bus tours of important county sites. There will be a nominal charge for these tours. Dates, destinations, embarkation points and other details to come.

Check www.henrico400th.com or call 501-1611 for more details about Henrico's 400th anniversary commemoration.

Discover the Heritage of Henrico County at Henricus Historical Park

Henricus Historical Park will commemorate the 400th anniversary of the Citie of Henricus with a year-long series of events. Founded in 1611 by Sir Thomas Dale, Henricus became the second successful English settlement in the New World



and was established to replace the unhealthy environment of Jamestown. Leaders of Henricus developed the first English hospital, chartered the first college in North America, established tobacco as the first cash crop in Virginia and created a place where Pocahontas lived and met John Rolfe.

"The Year of Henricus" commemorative events will celebrate the founding of the Citie and share historic milestones which took place at Henricus. The four public

events in 2011 will depict "notable firsts" of this early settlement.

Henricus Colledge – First University Chartered in North America: March 26-27

Discover the beginnings of the American education tradition, through lectures, discussions and exhibits. Topics include Sir Thomas Dale and the religious and political questions of the day, as well as the Indian Attack of 1622, as it postponed the construction of a college until 1693 in Williamsburg.

Mount Malady – America's First Hospital: May 7-8

This event details the science and technology of 17th-century medical care, including procedures and practices. Hear about the influx of a new workforce in Virginia, the challenges these workers faced, and the science behind the medical treatment of their maladies.

Tobacco – First Successful Commercial

Export: July 23-24

Covers early colonial tobacco in the area and John Rolfe, who introduced Spanish tobacco to mainland America. Learn about the lives of indentured servants, the arrival of Africans in the New World who worked the tobacco fields; and how agriculture and trade affected the economics, politics and everyday life of 17th-century Virginians.

Publick Days and the Godspeed: September 17-18

Featuring 100 living history interpreters from around the country

portraying both English colonists and native inhabitants occupying the English city, the Indian village Arrohatock and the *Godspeed* from Jamestown Settlement. Costumed interpreters will demonstrate the commercial, mechanical, agricultural, domestic and military skills of both cultures from 1611-1622.

Henricus Historical Park is located on 32 acres along the James River in Chester, 20 minutes from Richmond. The park is open to the public Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.; general admission is free for members, \$8 for adults and \$6 for children ages 3-12.

For more information about Henricus Historical Park or their 400th anniversary events, call 748-1613 or visit www.henricus.org.

The party is on! — continued —

with cornhusking contests, corn-husk doll-making, corn shelling and popcorn sampling. Maizey, a larger-than-life costumed corncob character, traveled the festival grounds and posed for hundreds of photos. Corn even became a writing implement, as many visitors took home souvenir corn pens.

When festival-goers needed a break from all the corn, they could turn their attention to demonstrations of traditional 19th-century farming activities such as blacksmithing, woodworking, beekeeping, cider making and candle dipping. Many young people visited the Great Pumpkin Patch, where 1,300 pumpkins were given away, as well as booths that provided face painting and air-brush tattoos. Others made their way through

the Corn Maze, constructed in part with an abundance of corn stalks and 500 bales of hay.

The Harvest Festival also featured a range of live musical entertainment, including the Hackensaw Boys, Susan Greenbaum, The Runaway String Band and Mass Gospel Choir of Henrico. The Marching Warriors of Henrico High School got the festivities under way; bands and choirs from other county elementary, middle and high schools performed as well. Crowds also were entertained by the Virginia Indian Intertribal Drum and Dancers.

County officials helped kick off the festival and directed visitors to a dozen booths offering information about the upcoming events and organizations participating in the 400th anniversary celebration.

Ready for more? A complete list of quadricentennial events and activities is available in this special issue of Henrico Today. Information also is available at www.henrico400th.com and by calling 501-1611.

Shopping Advantage —New program boosts local business, rewards shoppers

Area shoppers don't have to wait until 2011 to celebrate Henrico's 400th anniversary — they can start enjoying it now with a variety of special offers available at a number of Henrico retailers.

Henrico County has announced

the launch of the Henrico Advantage Card, a new program that offers discounts, bonuses and other rewards for shoppers making purchases at participating county retailers and businesses. The Henrico Advantage Card is not a debit or credit card — rather, it is a free card that customers present at the time of purchase at a participating business to receive a discount or other reward offer.

An initiative of the Eastern Henrico Business Association, Henrico Business Leaders, Lakeside Business Association and Henrico County, the Henrico Advantage Card is designed to provide incentives for area residents to shop in Henrico. The program, which will continue through Dec. 31, 2011, also coincides with the commemoration of the county's 400th anniversary next year.

Keep it local

"During this difficult economy, we want to encourage residents to keep their dollars in Henrico,"



said Finance Director John A. Vithoukas. "There is no better time to remind local shoppers who their local businesses are."

Tom Lappas, publisher of the *Henrico Citizen* and a member of the Lakeside Business Association, noted that one of the metropoli-

tan region's premier tourist attractions — Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden — is located in Lakeside. The extra traffic doesn't always translate into extra sales for Lakeside retailers, however.

"Lakeside businesses too often get passed by," Lappas said. "We need a program that benefits the 'Mom and Pop' shops here. The Henrico Advantage Card gives residents an additional incentive to do their shopping with a locally owned business."

The free card is available at 22 Henrico-area branches of BB&T, the title sponsor of the program. It also is available in the lobbies of the Henrico Government Center, 4301 E. Parham Road, and



the Eastern Government Center, 3820 Nine Mile Road. Additional county sites may be added. Some 50,000 cards will be available for initial distribution.

Susan Rahe, senior vice president for BB&T, said the bank is taking a lead role in the program because of its belief in the importance of buying locally.

"BB&T has a strong presence in Henrico County and is very committed to supporting the

Henrico business community," she said.

Website is key

A critical component of the Henrico Advantage Card — for retailers as well as residents — is the program's website, www.HenricoAdvantageCard.com.

Henrico businesses can register online and complete an application to join the program. Each participating retailer receives a profile page to describe its business, list its current reward offers for shoppers, and provide locations and contact information.

The website enables businesses to manage their own profile pages, allowing them to tailor and edit their own messages, upload company logos and update their reward offers as often as needed. In addition, businesses can select from a variety of sponsorship options that will provide a continuous online advertising presence through the end of the program next year.

Area residents will want to add www.HenricoAdvantageCard.com to their "favorites" list as well, since that's where they can learn which businesses are participating and what bonuses and discounts they are offering. Shoppers can

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register to receive weekly emails that list each retailer's current reward offers.

The Henrico Advantage Card program fits well with the county's quadricentennial commemoration, Lappas noted.

"In addition to promoting the 400th anniversary and boosting local Henrico pride, the program will encourage people to take a second look at our local businesses and consider where their money is going," Lappas said.

Vithoukias agreed.

"This program offers clear benefits for both residents and businesses," he said. "It will generate additional traffic for our businesses. And for our residents — in addition to the discounts they will receive — keeping a strong business presence in Henrico is one of the keys to maintaining the county's low tax rates."

Need more information? Call 501-4995, e-mail advantagecard@co.henrico.va.us or log on to www.HenricoAdvantageCard.com.

Henrico's rich history on display in 2011

To commemorate 400 years, Henrico County will be highlighting its rich history and inviting residents, the region and beyond to take part in this noteworthy occasion. In 2011, Henrico County will host a number of free exhibits throughout the county to encourage community awareness and pride.

Fueling Richmond and Beyond: The Coal Industry of Henrico County

For over 150 years, Henrico County coal fueled the city of Richmond. During the Revolutionary War, it was Henrico coal that powered the weapons foundry at Westham. This exhibit depicts the history of an industry in Henrico second only to agriculture in the 18th and 19th centuries.

On view at Deep Run Nature Pavilion beginning January 2011.

From the Earth – Over Four Centuries of Farming at Meadow Farm

Virginia Indians in the pre-history era farmed the land we know as Meadow Farm. Centuries later the Sheppard family settled the land and continued seven generations of agricultural production. Come learn about the culture and traditions of early agrarian life in Henrico County.

On view at Meadow Farm Museum Orientation Center beginning January 2011.

Out of the Wilderness – A Timeline of Henrico's 400 Year History

The county's history goes back 400 years, when in 1611, Englishmen encountered the tribes of Algonquian Indians living in the area. This timeline reveals the people, places and events that helped shaped the long, rich history of Henrico.

This is currently a permanent exhibit at the Tourist Information Center in the Dabbs House Museum.

On view at the Henrico County Government Center beginning January 2011.

Remembering Our Legacy: African-American Trailblazers of Henrico County

This exhibit profiles African-American Henricoans who brought important change and progress to the county, state and nation.



A trailblazing educator, Virginia Estelle Randolph was born the child of slaves in 1874. She obtained a teaching job with the Henrico County School Board and shortly thereafter opened the Mountain Road School in 1892. A museum, in her name located on Mountain Road, is listed as a National Historic Landmark.

On view at Henrico Theatre beginning February 11, 2011.

The History of Henrico's Dairy Industry

Once termed the "Dairy County of Virginia," Henrico County produced and provided more dairy products across the region than any other county in Virginia. Come learn about this once booming industry in Henrico and the important role it played.

On view at Dorey Recreation Center beginning March 5, 2011.

By Our Hands: Virginia Indian Cultural Forms features the work of contemporary Indian artists and

artisans and includes pottery, beadwork, leatherwork, wood carving and painting

Family Portraits: Virginian Indians at the Turn of the 20th Century is a photography exhibit on Virginia Indians from the early 20th. Photographs feature individuals and groups in social settings, on official tribal business and in formal portraits.

Both exhibits are on view at the Cultural Arts Center at Glen Allen beginning March 19, 2011.

Moving Henrico Forward, Air, Roads, Rails and Water - Transportation through Ages

This exhibit explores modes of transportation from wagons traveling wooden plank turnpikes to trolley cars powered by electric rail lines. Henrico citizens traveled frequently in and out of Richmond for goods and services, for business and pleasure. Learn about the original American Indian paths, early dirt and wooden wagon trails through the establishment of Byrd Airfield in 1928 and the beginning of bus service in the 1930s.

On view at Virginia Aviation Museum beginning May 29, 2011.

Henrico County Photographs from the Collections of the Valentine Richmond History Center and Henrico County

The exhibit features images of historic homes and buildings; life in Henrico County; institutions, rural to suburbia; and Henrico today. The images come from private and public collections of these two organizations.

On view from October 20, 2011 through March 20, 2012.

Some of these exhibits are available for travel. Please contact county staff at 652-3404 for information and reservations.

Henrico christens first tourist center

Travelers to Henrico have a new tool to help plan their visit — the Henrico County Tourist Information Center at Dabbs House Museum. County general

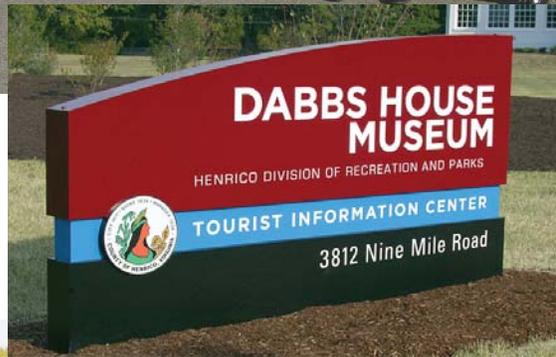
upcoming 400th anniversary commemoration. The Tourist Information Center features multi-media information about the county's history, historical sites, cultural opportunities and local attractions. In addition, a new display highlights four centuries of Henrico history. As one of 61 certified visitor centers statewide, the Tourist Information Center also provides

house, first constructed in 1820, served as field headquarters in June 1862 for the newly appointed commander of the Army of Northern Virginia, Gen. Robert E. Lee. Henrico acquired the home in 1883 and used it in a variety of ways over the years; from 1941 to 2005, it served as headquarters for the county's Division of Police. The building is part of the Eastern



government and school board officials cut a ceremonial ribbon to open the center on September 17.

Henrico's first tourism facility is designed to boost awareness of the county and promote the



Government Center complex on Nine Mile Road.

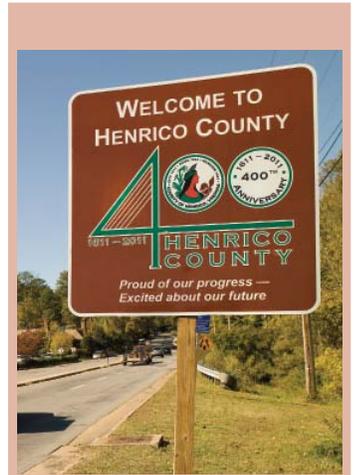
Directing drivers to the Tourist Information Center are a



maps, guides and brochures from the Virginia travel industry and the commonwealth's other visitor centers.

The center is located in Dabbs House, one of Henrico's most historic buildings. The

pair of new road signs. Located on eastbound and westbound Interstate 64 near Nine Mile Road, the signs were raised in September for the grand opening.



Rolling out the red carpet

If only Christopher Newport and John Smith had it this easy. Twenty-first century travelers entering Henrico along a number of local roadways now are being greeted by new welcome signs that also signal the arrival of the county's quadricentennial anniversary. Featuring the official commemoration logo designed by county staff member Joel Archibald, the markers are posted on 28 roads and streets across the county, including Charles City and Shady Grove roads; Laburnum, Monument and Azalea avenues; Richmond-Henrico and New Osborne turnpikes; and Maywill and Westmoreland streets. The sign pictured here greets westbound drivers on River Road.

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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
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



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501-4000



Eastern Government Center
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HENRICO TODAY

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Excited about our future.**