



Henrico's 'Longest Day:' USS Henrico's history now preserved

She carried the "Big Red One" at Normandy and held her ground during the Cuban Missile Crisis. She survived a crippling kamikaze strike near Okinawa, Japan, and battled on to serve as a flagship during Gen. MacArthur's pivotal amphibious assault at Inchon during the Korean War.

The USS Henrico, APA-45, passed through wars and crises, doing her duty with distinction. In peace, like so many warriors before her, she and her crew passed into history.

That history now is preserved in "Attack Transport: Remembering the USS Henrico," a new, hour-length documentary produced by Henrico County's Public Relations & Media Services that combines with a renewed effort by Recreation and Parks to catalogue and preserve artifacts and personal accounts from the ship.

"This is a fitting tribute for a ship and crew to which the county and its residents owe a debt of gratitude," said Henrico County Manager Virgil R. Hazelett, P.E., at whose behest the documentary and permanent display were assembled. "This ship bore the name Henrico with dignity and honor as she and her crew fought to preserve America's freedom around the world."

With little fanfare, the USS Henrico was commissioned by the Navy at Hoboken, N.J., on Nov. 26, 1943. During three decades of service, she earned 12 battle stars and the Navy Unit Commendation—and the unconditional loyalty of her brave crew.

An attack transport, she was one of hundreds of ships churned

event of the war's European theater of operations. The massive invasion of Normandy was the Allied forces first assault on Hitler's "Fortress Europe."

"That was our first engagement—everybody had a little gut feeling about what was going to happen," said Lester Saunderlin, a radar operator who served on the Henrico from her commissioning until nearly the end of the war.

Feelings couldn't possibly predict the reality Saunderlin and his fellow sailors soon witnessed.

"We look up and all of a sudden everything in the 8th Air Force is heading toward that beach. I think they had everything they could fly," Saunderlin said, recalling the hundreds of U.S. and British planes loaded with

airborne troops and bombs that helped soften the beaches in advance of the troops the Henrico and other transports sent after.

—CONTINUED, NEXT PAGE—



"A combat soldier is a hero. But mentally, he is not a hero. He's a victim...of atrocities beyond human comprehension. He has a mind that takes a picture and leaves a negative. And...if he makes it off the beach, out of the foxhole, and makes it home...he's not a free man." - Jess Weiss, Army 1st Division, pictured right, transported by the USS Henrico to Omaha Beach, June 6, 1944 (from "Attack Transport: Remembering the USS Henrico").



out during those first frantic years of the United States' involvement in World War II.

On June 6, 1944, she sat front and center during the biggest

This Issue

- 2 Public Works helps county keeps its head above water
- 3 U.S. Capitol Holiday Tree stops at Meadow Farm
- 4 Road reunited
- 4 Gaston makes heroes of Henrico's bravest
- 5 HCTV program schedule
- 6 Book donation to literacy program
- 7 Recreation Roundup

The skies above were also filled with the power of the U.S. Navy. Behind them the battleship USS Texas and a destroyer attached to Assault Group O unloaded their big guns on German fortifications at Omaha Beach.

feet at the time. We had maybe 36 men on board; that was our capacity. Every one of them was sick.

“We were scared,” he said. “But we were young and never really thought that anything was

by landing craft crewmen who dropped their cargo of soldiers on stretches of “Bloody Omaha” where the German resistance was at its fiercest.

He recalled one coxswain’s description of watching his ramp fall and then the soldiers fall nearly as quickly as withering machine gun fire cut them down.

“He left his controls and jumped in the water” to look for survivors, Shoemaker wrote. “If a man was breathing, he was carried back to the boat. He rescued several men this way and got them back to the ship. Heroes ... show up as strong hands who don’t need a gun.”

Heroism that day didn’t always end in glory. But the cause was just, say those who were



The USS Henrico, APA-45, served in three wars and earned nine battle stars.

“You could look up and see that old projectile moving in on toward the beach,” Saunderlin said, remembering a sound like a railroad car’s “choo-choo” passing overhead as the shells—some the size of small cars—whizzed above before igniting the Norman horizon.

The USS Henrico’s part in the assault was as pivotal as those crashing shells. The ship carried 20 small landing craft capable of carrying two or three-dozen men each. In preparation for the assault, these boats were lowered about five to 10 miles from the Normandy beach.

In the early hours of dawn, these boats began their run toward the beach.

Joe Javaruski was a “motor mack” on landing craft number four.

“It was a rough day, and I mean rough,” Javaruski said. “I think the swells were about six

going to happen to us. When we went into the beach ... I really don’t know, we brought them in pretty close.”

They beached close enough that Javaruski said he believed most of the soldiers on his boat made it onto the beach. “I dropped the ramp. We saw the troops go off and most of them into the water—we could see them up to their waist.”

Others weren’t so lucky: “We could see some of the boats alongside—some of the GIs [on those boats] just disappeared.”

Roger Shoemaker was a pharmacist’s mate on the Henrico, posted on the ship’s bridge during the assault. He watched in awe as the assault unfolded and waited nervously for the wounded to begin returning.

The injuries he treated were heartbreaking, and he documented them in his writings. He also wrote of descriptions given

there.

“I’d seen some of these guys go in on the small boats and I seen them carried back,” said Carmen DiPerro, a radar man second-class on the Henrico during the invasion. “I was their age. You sort of felt ... I celebrate every year. I toast to the guys that were there—the boys that we lost and the boys that are still living.”

His toast will be lifted by many grateful Americans this Veterans Day. Henrico County’s own toast this year—its hour-long feature documentary—airs Nov. 5 through Nov. 11 on the county’s television station, HCTV-37.

The program, which details the ships history from WWII all the way through its participation in the Deckhouse V amphibious landings during the Vietnam War, is also scheduled to air on public television stations in Richmond at 9 p.m. on Nov. 11, and around the state on or near Veterans Day.

Public Works helps county keep its head above water

—Record rainfall leads to vast drainage work for county agency

Henrico residents don’t need The Weather Channel to tell them that it’s been wet in recent months. They’ve been able to see it—and experience it—firsthand, in the stormy skies and on the soggy ground.

In less than two years, residents have encountered precipitation in most every form imaginable: ice storms and snowfalls; deluges and floodwaters from major weather events, especially Hurricane Isabel and Tropical Storm Gaston; and record amounts of “regular” rainfall from seasonal thunderstorms. The liquid assault has taxed man-made drainage systems and even the environment’s inherent capacity to naturally drain water from the ground.

Much like the area’s backyards, parks and roadways have been saturated with precipitation, Henrico’s Department of Public Works—which is responsible for maintaining the county’s drainage system—has been inundated with requests to address drainage problems. Since June 2003, the department has received 12,000 drainage work orders. But despite the ongoing precipitation, Public Works crews have responded rapidly to the high volume of requests. Some 80 percent of the work orders—more than 9,600 in all—have been completed.

“This is an enormous number of drainage-related requests in a small amount of time, but we’ve



The powerful rains produced by Tropical Storm Gaston took a heavy toll on Henrico's roads as well as its neighborhoods.

been able to complete a high percentage of them," said Assistant Director of Public Works Lee Priestas.

The county has experienced a two-pronged assault with regard to drainage over the past several months. In addition to confronting the situations posed by the tremendous amount of rain and other precipitation, Public Works has been challenged by the need to respond to West Nile virus, a disease spread by mosquitoes that can breed in standing water. This means that a broad variety of drainage-related projects have been tackled, ranging from the maintenance of ditches, drop inlets and large underground drain pipes; to emergency repairs to county roadways; and drainage problems resulting from public water on private property.

Drainage issues that directly affect traffic flow and public safety along the county's roads, such as the problems experienced on sections of Mountain Road and Laburnum Avenue following Tropical Storm Gaston, receive priority treatment. Drainage questions from private property owners are more subjective, Priestas said, and are evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

"Unfortunately, in some cases, the county's hands are tied when we examine a drainage problem that a resident is experiencing on his or her property," he said. "Unless the water causing the problem on private property is public water—water coming from a public right-of-way—the county can't help the property owner.

"A wet backyard may or may not be a situation the county can address—we have to look at each case individually," he said.

Some projects involving public water and private property, such as the enclosure of open ditches in front of homes in some of the county's older subdivisions, require the dedication of county easements by multiple property owners. The complexity of this situation can slow the progress of Public Works crews and can lead to a backlog of such projects.

"We're working hard to address each drainage problem and request as rapidly as possible," Priestas said, "and are dedicated to maintaining the safety of our roadways and the public health of Henrico's neighborhoods and communities."

Questions about a drainage issue on your property or in your neighborhood? Call 652-3975 (East end) or 261-8300 (West end).

Holidays arrive early in Henrico

—U.S. Capitol Holiday Tree to stop at Meadow Farm Nov. 15

Area residents can jump-start their holiday season—and witness history in the process—when the U.S. Capitol Holiday Tree pays a rare visit to Henrico later this month. The national tree will not pass through the county again for at least another 50 years.

Henrico County and the Glen Allen community will play host to the tree and celebrate its arrival with festivities on Monday, Nov. 15, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Meadow Farm Museum, 3400 Mountain Road. The unique event is free and open to the public.

States from around the country have alternated providing the holiday tree for the U.S. Capitol since 1964, when the custom began. This year marks the first time that Virginia will provide the tree.

A 70-foot Virginia red spruce from the George Washington Na-

tional Forest in Highland County will be cut on Nov. 13 and will begin a monthlong journey throughout the commonwealth. The tree will stop in 34 communities, including Glen Allen, before traveling to Washington, D.C. for the official lighting ceremony on the Capitol lawn on Dec. 9.

"This is an historic opportunity for our residents to participate firsthand in a unique national tradition," said Debbie Cassidy, recreation manager with the Division of Recreation and Parks and event coordinator for the county. "We invite everyone to enjoy some early holiday cheer and take advantage of this rare chance to see the U.S. Capitol Holiday Tree in their own community."

The celebration will begin with a presentation of special ornaments made by Henrico youth

—CONTINUED, NEXT PAGE—



This year, Henrico residents have a rare chance to see the U.S. Capitol Holiday Tree before it takes its place on the Capitol lawn. The tree will be the guest of honor during special festivities at Meadow Farm Museum from 6-8 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 15. The event is free and open to the public.

to promote this year's theme for the Capitol tree, "From Virginia—The Birthplace of Presidents." In all, young people from throughout Virginia will contribute more than 5,000 ornaments to decorate the tree.

Following welcoming remarks from local officials, several community choirs—including the Glen Allen Elementary School Chorus, Henrico Community Chorus, Henrico Community Band and the barbershop chorus Sound Works—will offer holiday music. Participants can enjoy horse-drawn carriage rides and children can learn to make Victorian-era ornaments in a workshop led by historically costumed interpreters.

Meadow Farm will be decked out in full seasonal regalia for the event, including holiday lights and decorations, a bonfire and even a blanketing of snow—guaranteed for the occasion by a snow machine. The Glen Allen Ruritans will be selling refreshments.

For more information, contact Recreation and Parks at 501-5121 or log onto www.co.henrico.va.us/rec.

Road reunited; VDOT reconnects residents

A Varina community split by construction of the Pocahontas Parkway (State Route 895) is together again.

On Aug. 26, a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new Britton Road overpass allowed neighbors to again be neighbors.

"It was a good day that we'd all looked forward to for about a year," said Varina District Supervisor James B. Donati Jr., who

worked with other county officials and residents in persuading the Virginia Department of Transportation to build the overpass.



The Hicks family, pictured here with Varina District Supervisor Jim Donati (far left), was instrumental in reopening Britton Road.

Before it was closed abruptly in the summer of 2001, an overpass had always been part of the plan for the state's Pocahontas Parkway project. The parkway connects the southern terminus of the Chippenham Parkway in Chesterfield with Interstate-295 in Varina and helped complete the loop in the metro-Richmond area's somewhat disjointed beltway.

Because the parkway was largely funded by private investors relying on the road's money-making potential, designers determined that dropping Britton Road's planned overpass would save money. But those planners informed nobody with the county or who lived in that community.

"Our Department of Public Works didn't know what was happening—on every VDOT map and every brochure about 895 coming through Varina, Britton Road was either going over it or under it," Donati said.

Residents and drivers were even more shocked.

"We weren't even notified that it was going to be closed," said Shirley Hicks, a 47-year resident of Britton Road, whose son, Eugene, took an active role in campaigning to return the project

to the books through a petition and by organizing community meetings.

"The major things we were worried about was the rescue squad, the fire department and the police department," said the elder Hicks.

VDOT officials say they had their reasons for deciding to close Britton Road. The traffic volume and the close proximity of other local roads that could carry the traffic, along with wetland impact issues and the Richmond International Airport's master plan, which showed the possibility of a future runway severing Britton Road, all weighed against the overpass, said VDOT spokeswoman Sara Cross.

County officials didn't buy all of those reasons. Before VDOT closed it, the road carried 1,100 to 1,200 cars per day, according to county traffic counts.

The alternate route that many Britton Road residents were forced to use, Monahan Road, has blind intersections and narrow shoulders. It proved ill equipped to carry Britton Road's traffic volumes.

"By working closely with the Henrico County Board of Supervisors and residents in the area, we realized that the four-mile detour was a hardship," Cross said. "So we worked with the county to finance the project."

The project's funding—\$5.1 million—was restored. Henrico County provided \$500,000 while VDOT funded \$4.6 million.

Construction began in June 2003. The bridge reopened to traffic within days of the August ribbon cutting.

There's more traffic now, said Hicks, who finds a certain satisfaction in the noise of trucks trundling over the new overpass.

"I don't mind it at all," he said. "We are thankful that the county—that they put a lot of effort into getting this thing."

Gaston flood makes heroes of Henrico's bravest

But for the grace of God—and the Henrico Division of Fire—the Rev. Bobby L. Gattison said, he would have fallen victim to the angry rains of Tropical Storm Gaston.

Gattison was one of more than 90 Henrico residents plucked from the storm's raging waters by Henrico firefighters, and among 48 who were in danger of dying had rescuers not arrived.



A portion of Wilkinson Road between Chamberlayne and Azalea roads sat under at least eight feet of water during Gaston's fury.

Betty Ann Richardson, a long-time county employee, died when floodwaters foiled firefighters' repeated attempts to rescue her from her swamped car on Lakeside Avenue.

—CONTINUED, ON PAGE 6—

HCTV-Channel 37 fall schedule

www.co.henrico.va.us/pr/



November 5 —11

Attack Transport: Remembering the USS Henrico—Broadcast airs in honor of Veterans Day. The USS Henrico was a trusty workhorse from the beaches at D-Day through Korea and the Vietnam War. HCTV remembers the crew, their stories and the ship that bears the name of our county.

12 a.m., 2 a.m., 4 a.m., 6 a.m., 8 a.m., 10 a.m., noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m., 8 p.m., 10 p.m.

November 12 —18

Keeping the County Rolling: Central Automotive Maintenance—From compact cars to heavy equipment, Central Automotive Maintenance keeps them rolling. Hear stories about the mechanics and the challenges they face in maintaining and fixing everything from school buses to police motorcycles.

12 a.m., 2 a.m., 4 a.m., 6 a.m., 8 a.m., 10 a.m., noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m., 8 p.m., 10 p.m.

Escaping Abuse—Domestic violence crosses all socio-economic, racial and age boundaries. Tune in to find out how Henrico can help you escape abuse with its many resources.

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.

November 19 —25

Building Our Future Together—Get a behind the scenes look at the Department of Building Construction and Inspections. See what they look for to make sure your house and commercial structures are safe and sound.

12 a.m., 2 a.m., 4 a.m., 6 a.m., 8 a.m., 10 a.m., noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m., 8 p.m., 10 p.m.

Dining Out in Henrico—Watch the Henrico Health Department conduct an actual restaurant health inspection, and find out how you can monitor violations in your favorite eatery.

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.

November 26 —December 2

Working for All of Us: Hermitage

Enterprises—An in-depth look at Mental Health/Mental Retardation's Hermitage Enterprises. See real people with special challenges complete meaningful work for the local businesses who employ them.

The Dawn of Life—Learn what it takes to become a foster parent in Henrico County, and the many personal rewards gained by real-life foster parents and children.

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.

December 3—9

Voices from Mountain Road: The Historic Mountain Road Corridor—The history of Henrico County is filled with stories of dreams, intrigue, ambition and courage—many of which happened in the historic Mountain Road corridor. See these stories come to life, and learn about the remarkable Virginians who changed the course of American history.

12 a.m., 2 a.m., 4 a.m., 6 a.m., 8 a.m., 10 a.m., noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m., 8 p.m., 10 p.m.

Inside the Firehouse—An all-access pass to Henrico's Division of Fire. Find out what it takes to become a firefighter, and experience a day in the life.

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.

December 10—16

Staying Safe from Crime—HCTV talks to a reformed thief still behind bars. His story tells you how to stay safe from crime at home and out around town.

12 a.m., 2 a.m., 4 a.m., 6 a.m., 8 a.m., 10 a.m., noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m., 8 p.m., 10 p.m.

R.I.S.E.— Recovery in a Secure Environment—HCTV goes inside Henrico's jail to see this incredible substance abuse recovery program in action. Witness how R.I.S.E. helps current and former inmates beat addiction.

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.

December 17—23

Taking Out the Trash: Solid Waste and Recycling—Someone has to do it. Garbage doesn't just magically disappear. The employees of Public Utilities' Solid Waste Division are out there every morning collecting trash and recycling from more than 6,000 homes. HCTV-37 takes you behind the scenes of this physically demanding job and introduces you to the people who help keep Henrico beautiful.

12 a.m., 2 a.m., 4 a.m., 6 a.m., 8 a.m., 10 a.m., noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m., 8 p.m., 10 p.m.

Henrico: Employer of Choice—See how Henrico's Department of Human Resources attracts and retains a world class workforce for a world class community.

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.

December 24—30

Winter in 1860: Meadow Farm Museum—Bundle up for the winter season with HCTV at Meadow Farm Museum. Learn holiday decorating, baking and woodworking skills from the mid nineteenth century.

Costumed interpreters from middle-class Virginia will take you back to the year 1860 to celebrate the season and teach you the history of some of today's most common traditions.

12 a.m., 2 a.m., 4 a.m., 6 a.m., 8 a.m., 10 a.m., noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m., 8 p.m., 10 p.m.

The Cultural Arts Center at Glen Allen—HCTV visits The Cultural Arts Center at Glen Allen and experiences all that it has to offer. See what lies beyond the art gallery and performances and hear firsthand what the center was like back in 1919 when it was the Glen Allen School.

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.

December 31—January 6

A Friend in need—Featuring Henrico's Animal Protection

Division, and how you can become a parent to a furry little four-legged friend.

12 a.m., 2 a.m., 4 a.m., 6 a.m., 8 a.m., 10 a.m., noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m., 8 p.m., 10 p.m.

Firehouse Flashbacks—Dalmatians, trumpets and wet beards all have something in common. Learn about Henrico's fire history, traditions and legends as HCTV chronicles the evolution of firefighting in the county.

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.

January 7—13

A Road Through History—A documentary of the Henrico County Public Works Department, including vintage film circa 1940 as well as modern-day operations.

12 a.m., 2 a.m., 4 a.m., 6 a.m., 8 a.m., 10 a.m., noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m., 8 p.m., 10 p.m.

Our Changing Libraries—This is not your grandfather's library; take a look inside Henrico's modern, full service public library system.

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.

January 14—20

Taking Care of Business: Economic Development in Henrico County—HCTV takes an in-depth look at how new businesses from around the globe are attracted to our community.

12 a.m., 2 a.m., 4 a.m., 6 a.m., 8 a.m., 10 a.m., noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m., 8 p.m., 10 p.m.

The Shadow of Life—The second feature in this Social Services series highlights what resources are available to Henrico's sick, needy or handicapped residents. See what resources are available and how Social Services creates a stable environment for those unable to work.

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.

The weatherman predicted only mild rainfall for the afternoon and evening of Aug. 30—probably one to four inches—as the remnants of Gaston passed through central Virginia. So Gattison was surprised that afternoon when he received a call for help from his wife.



The ravages of Gaston: This car was tossed like a toy by rushing waters that overcame a number of low-lying roads.

Olivia Gattison had taken her 90-year-old mother, Estelle Fox, for an appointment at VCU Medical Center. By the time the appointment ended, high water made reaching her parked car difficult.

“I called my husband to see if he could come get me to the parking deck,” Olivia said. He did, and as she drove home following her husband’s late-model Ford Ranger, high water frequently blocked their trip.

“We made a right [turn] down to Wilkinson Road—and that was the biggest mistake we’d made in our lives,” she said. At first the two cars slogged through just a few inches of water that had ebbed up over the banks of a stream.

“But that thing overflowed just as we came through,” she said, recalling the sudden rushing torrent that overswept her husband’s truck, washing him off the road and into deep water.

The stream, typically a tranquil, if unlucky, fishing spot for locals, was now a river, swollen

by a dozen inches of rain that fell within just a few hours.

“He can’t swim and I can’t swim,” said Olivia, who somehow drove around her swamped husband in her much smaller Mercury Topaz even as the water came in around her ankles.

“I was in my car screaming,” she said. “It was a murky...terrible. I’d never seen anything like it in my life. The water was just moving the whole time. I was just praying asking the Lord to get me out of there so I could get some help for him.”

Once to safety, she called emergency dispatch on her cell phone.

Meanwhile, the Rev. Gattison had climbed onto the roof of his truck.

“The water just kept getting higher and stronger,” he said. He soon stood in water up around his shoulders. “I had basically given up.”

It was this disturbing and uncertain scene that firefighter Lt. Mike Woods found as he and two other firemen pulled up on scene. In the dark, they could not see Gattison—or the more than a dozen other motorists on Wilkinson Road trapped and threatened by the high waters that had swamped their cars.

“We had very limited resources,” said Woods, whose fire-truck had little useful gear for dealing with a river rescue. They had few options; the clock was ticking and the waters were rising as they considered their next step.

Woods decided to take a chance by moving his truck into the water as far as it could go without stalling or being swept away themselves. Throwing a rope with a flotation on the end to Gattison, they told him to grab on as they winched him to their truck.

“They took a tremendous risk—I don’t know if I would have done it,” Gattison said. “That risk was the only thing that saved me.”

Within hours, a water rescue team that had responded to assist Woods and his overtaxed crew had found and rescued more than a dozen stranded motorists along Wilkinson Road. Within a few more hours, the waters had subsided, leaving only the cars strewn like toys along the streambed as witness to the night’s near tragedy.

“God was just good,” Olivia Gattison said.

Lt. Woods may be among firefighters to be honored at an awards ceremony on Nov. 22 at 7 p.m. at Deep Run High School.

“They all did an excellent job,” Henrico Fire Chief Ron Mastin said, expecting awards committee members to face no shortage of nominees as they select commendation recipients.

“We had a lot of personnel involved in making rescues that will be considered for awards or recognition,” he said, “and while some were involved with hands-on rescue, the team effort was vital.”

Congressman announces book donation to Henrico literacy program

U.S. Rep. Eric Cantor entertained the young and the old alike recently when he gave a special reading of Dr. Seuss’ “The Cat in the Hat” at the Henrico County Health Department.

Cantor visited Henrico to participate in the Health Department’s Reach Out and Read program, a nationwide effort that strives to make early literacy a standard part of pediatric care and counsels parents on the importance of reading aloud to their children. The Reach Out and Read program provides age-appropriate books for participants between the ages of 6 months and 5 years; the Health Department program serves close to 200 children each year.

The 7th District congressman did more than share a good story during his visit, however—he also announced the donation of 1,000 books to Henrico’s Reach Out and Read program from Scholastic, Inc., the world’s largest publisher of children’s books.



Recreation Roundup

Sat, Nov 6: 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. Meadow Farm Museum. Free. Information: 501-5520.

Sat, Nov 13: Applause Unlimited presents *Aesop's Fables*.

A solo puppeteer/storyteller brings to the stage the tales of 'The Ant and The Grasshopper,' 'The Country Mouse and The City Mouse' and 'The Tortoise and The Hare.' Each fable illustrates a lesson and highlights a different style of puppetry. Fun for the whole family! 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. The Cultural Arts Center at Glen Allen. Free. Reservations are required. Call 501-5859, beginning Oct 25.

Sun, Nov 14: Fall into Jazz.

Join other jazz enthusiasts and music lovers for an evening with Robert Jospe—drummer, bandleader, composer and educator. Jospe's high-energy instrumental ensemble meshes elements of jazz, swing, Latin and R&B, producing original compositions and jazz classics. 4 p.m. The Cultural Arts Center at Glen Allen. Free. Information: 501-5121.

Mon, Nov 15: The Nation's Capitol Holiday Tree is Coming to Glen Allen!

Glen Allen is one of 34 communities chosen to host the beautiful 70-foot evergreen. Cut from the George Washington and

Jefferson National Forest area, it will travel to Washington D.C., to be decorated, lit and placed on the U.S. Capitol Lawn. Festivities include holiday music, ornament making, carriage rides and much more! Celebrate the holiday season and be a part of our nation's history. 6-8 p.m. Meadow Farm Museum/Crump Park. Free. Information: 501-5113.

Sun, Nov 28: Decorating the Christmas Tree.

Christmas trees were an uncommon sight in mid-19th-century homes. Learn about the evolution of Christmas customs as we decorate the Sheppard's Christmas tree. 1-3 p.m. Meadow Farm Museum. Free. Information: 501-5520.

Fri, Dec 3: Holly Jolly Jubilee.

For ages 2-5 with an adult. Celebrate the season with songs, refreshments, seasonal crafts and entertainment. A very special guest will be on hand to greet the children. 10-11:30 a.m. Belmont Recreation Center. Free. Register by Nov 19. call 501-5809.

Sat, Dec 4: Silver Bells and Sugar Plums.

Enjoy carols and songs, holiday crafts and a chili dinner; fun for the whole family! 7-9 p.m. Belmont Recreation Center. \$6 per person. Register by Nov 19. Information: 501-5812.

Sat, Dec 4: Old-Fashioned Christmas and Lamplight Tours.

Costumed interpreters portray the Sheppard family and their neighbors as they welcome you

to Meadow Farm with music and games. Visit with the family as they celebrate Christmas Day 1860. Other activities include an 1848 style St. Nick reading 'Twas the Night Before Christmas and a Victorian ornament workshop conducted by Meadow Farm's Sewing Guild. Take a lamplight tour in the evening or enjoy music in the Orientation Center. 12:30-3 p.m., living history. 6:30-8 p.m., lamplight tours. Meadow Farm Museum. Registration required for lamplight tours, call 501-5520.

Fri, Dec 10: Holly Jolly Jubilee.

For ages 2-5 with an adult. Celebrate the season with songs, refreshments, seasonal crafts and entertainment. A very special guest will be on hand to greet the children. 10-11:30 a.m. Dorey Recreation Center. Free. Register by Nov 26, call 501-5809.

Sat, Dec 11: James River Parade of Lights.

A unique holiday event for the entire family. Henrico's celebration will take place at Osborne Boat Landing. Join us around the bonfire as we enjoy holiday music and activities to celebrate the magic of the season. Bring a flashlight. Purchase concessions from the Battlefield Ruritans. Activities begin at 5 p.m. Osborne Boat Landing. Free. Information: 501-5121.

Sat, Dec 11: Senior Dance—Jingle Bell Rock.

For ages 50+. Big Band Music by Paul Robert's Orchestra. 5-8 p.m. Belmont Recreation Center. \$4 per ticket. Information: 501-5114.

Sun, Dec 12: Big Band Holiday Concert.

Celebrate the holiday season with Bill Zickafoose and the Continentals as they bring you the holidays, swing style. This annual holiday event features 1940s era classics as well as some holiday tunes! 7-9 p.m. Hermitage High School. Free. Information: 501-5115.

Tue & Wed, Dec 14 & 15: Jingle All the Way.

The Henrico Pops Chorus directed by Bobbie Moore, will present a holiday concert for the entire family. Join us for this evening of seasonal classics. 7:30 p.m. The Cultural Arts Center at Glen Allen. Free. Reservation required: beginning Nov 29, call 501-5859 or 501-5115.

Sat, Dec 18: Wintergreen Night Ski Trip.

Wintergreen Night Ski Trip Join us for a fun-filled evening on the slopes of Wintergreen. 3 p.m.-1 a.m. Fees and information: 501-5147.

Sat, Jan 8: Program Registration.

Registration begins for Winter/Spring classes and events. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Dorey Recreation Center and Henrico Training Center. Call 501-7275 to be included on our mailing list.

Recreation and Parks
Community Relations,
Marketing & Publicity
P.O. Box 27032
Richmond, VA 23273-7032
(804) 501-PARK (7275)
www.co.henrico.va.us/rec

Henrico County Board of Supervisors

Three Chopt
David A. Kaechele
501-4207



Fairfield
Frank J. Thornton
Vice Chairman
501-4207



Tuckahoe
Patricia S. O'Bannon
Chairman
501-4207



Brookland
Richard W. Glover
501-5292



Varina
James B. Donati, Jr.
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
Community Revitalization	501-7640
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
The Permit Center	501-7280
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

The award-winning **Henrico Today** is published quarterly on behalf of the Henrico County Board of Supervisors. To comment or make suggestions contact:

Public Relations & Media Services

County of Henrico

P.O. Box 27032

Richmond, VA 23273-7032

(804) 501-4257

www.co.henrico.va.us



**Proud of our progress;
Excited about our future.**