



Juggling Act —New budget balances spike in fixed costs with need for tax relief

Henrico's budgeting process for the 2006-07 fiscal year often resembled a high-stakes juggling act, the kind in which a person offstage adds to the performer's burden by

On April 25, the board approved an operating budget of nearly \$905.7 million for the 2006-07 fiscal year, which begins July 1. The operating budget, an increase of slightly more than 8 percent over the previous year, successfully balances a significant influx of fixed costs with a need to provide real estate tax relief while further enhancing the level of service provided to residents.

"This is a no-frills budget, but it ensures that all known cost requirements are funded," said County Manager Virgil R. Hazelett, P.E. "It balances the need for real estate tax relief with

the significant increases in fixed costs the county is experiencing."

The board voted to reduce the current real estate tax rate of 92 cents per \$100 of assessed value by 2 cents — to 90 cents per

\$100 value — for the 2006 calendar year, effective retroactively to Jan. 1. In addition, the approved budget assumes another 2 cent reduction, to 88 cents, beginning Jan. 1, 2007.

When combined with a similar reduction from 2005, the board will have lowered the real estate tax rate paid by Henrico residents by 6 cents over the

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Henrico receives national award for its dedication to blood donation efforts

The Henrico County Blood Program (HCBP) has received a national award for its "outstanding commitment" to blood-donation efforts in 2005

America's Blood Centers, the nation's largest network of community-based blood programs, bestowed its highest honor, the Platinum Blood Drive Award in the employer/medium category, to the HCBP. The organization officially recognized Henrico County's hard work on March 6 at its national meeting in Houston, commending the HCBP for its long-term, comprehensive commitment to blood donation



From left are Virginia Blood Services President Robert Carden, Ph.D.; Henrico Blood Program Coordinator Dave Ambrogi; Virginia Blood Services Senior Account Manager Jenny Madden; Henrico County Manager Virgil R. Hazelett, P.E.; and America's Blood Centers President Merlyn Sayers, MBB Ch, Ph.D.

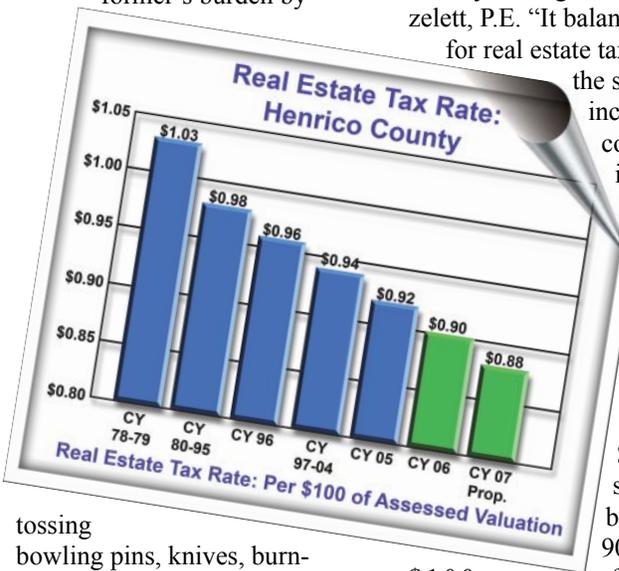
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efforts; strong organizational leadership and involvement; innovative recruitment techniques; frequency of drives; improvement over time; and adoption of new technologies.

"Community service is a top priority for Henrico County, and our blood program plays an important role in that effort," said Henrico County Manager Virgil

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tossing bowling pins, knives, burning torches and other imposing props into the mix.

But with the deftness of a seasoned performer, the Henrico County Board of Supervisors didn't allow a single ball — or other object — to drop. The new budget solidifies Henrico's position as the lowest-tax large locality in Virginia and allocates the majority of new funding to Henrico Public Schools and Public Safety.

Juggling Act

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three-year period.

“The decision to reduce this rate is not taken lightly,” Hazelett said, “but is the result of many years of sound financial management, strict financial controls and the board’s continuing emphasis on multi-year planning.”

dents are expected to participate in REAP during the next fiscal year, or close to one-third of eligible households.

At nearly \$3.5 million, the county’s REAP is the most aggressive tax relief program in the metropolitan area.

For the past five years, Henrico’s recurring operating expenses have grown at 5 percent or less

Retirement System for employee retirement benefits jumped by more than 21 percent.

And, as anyone operating a motor vehicle knows, the price of fuel has risen sharply this year. The 2006-07 budget accounts for a 72 percent increase in the cost of gasoline and diesel. With 592 school buses, 585 police vehicles and 135 fire vehicles in regular operation — and that’s just a portion of the county vehicle fleet — the impact of fuel cost is significant.

“What all of these cost increases have in common is that Henrico County is not able to control them,” Hazelett said.

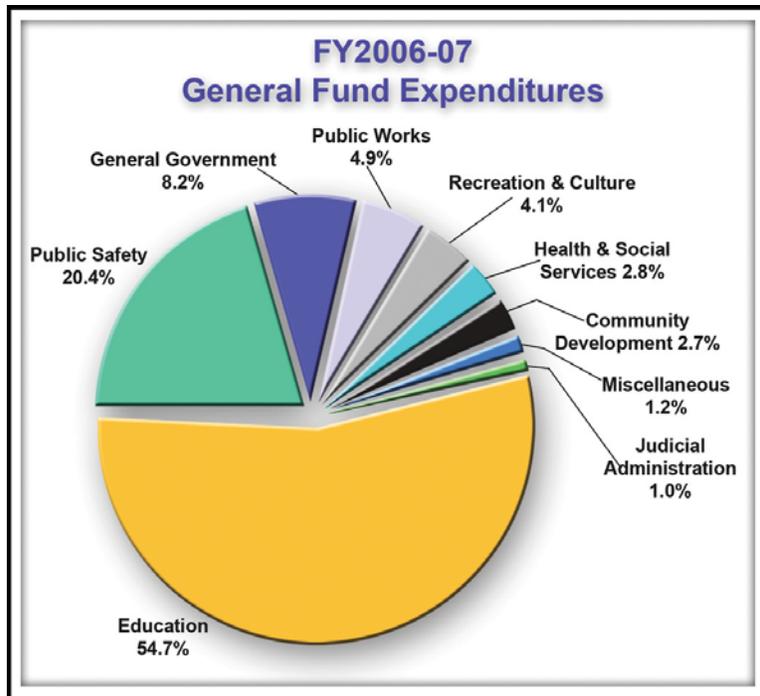
Henrico, of course, is not the only locality facing these fiscal challenges. But a pair of studies indicates that Henrico is handling them better than its fellow large localities.

A benchmark analysis of Virginia’s 15 largest localities, based on the Comparative Cost Report of the State Auditor of Public Accounts, showed that Henrico has the lowest General Fund expenditures per capita. Also, the analysis revealed that Henrico has the lowest percentage of its General Fund revenue going to debt service, about 6.5 percent.

In addition, the City of Chesapeake’s annual “Thirteen City/County Comparison” — which compares taxes levied in the state’s 13 largest metropolitan areas — showed the average amount of real estate tax paid on a single-family dwelling in Henrico was \$1,719, the lowest figure in the study. The average for the other localities was 47 percent higher. The Chesapeake study also indicated that the overall tax burden for a Henrico resident was the lowest among Virginia’s large localities; the average of the other localities was nearly 47 percent higher.

Some additional highlights of the 2006-07 budget:

- Approves the General Fund budget for Henrico Public Schools at nearly \$367.6 million, an increase of 9 percent;
- More than 80 percent of the General Fund budget’s \$55.6 million growth can be found in Schools and Public Safety;
- Establishes a permanent county decal for motor vehicles, effective Jan. 1, 2007;
- Creates 143.9 positions for Henrico Schools, the bulk of which are additional teachers;
- Adds a number of Public Safety positions, including 20 police officers, 12 firefighters for a new Hazmat Unit and three Emergency Medical Service positions;
- Funds a fifth judgeship for Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court; and
- Adds seven positions to increase public service hours at the Sandston and Glen Allen branch libraries.



While lowering the rate paid by all Henrico homeowners, the budget also provides additional relief to the county’s senior and disabled residents through enhancements to the Real Estate Tax Advantage Program (REAP). The updated program increases the net worth threshold for eligible residents — generally, those who are permanently disabled or 65 and older, with an annual income of \$52,000 or less — from \$200,000 to \$250,000 (net worth excludes the value of the home and up to 10 acres of land). Qualifying residents could receive up to \$2,000 in tax relief.

Approximately 3,750 resi-

per year, due to the county’s strict financial controls and multi-year planning. A significant increase in fixed costs pushed growth in the 2006-07 budget to slightly more than 8 percent — approximately \$55.6 million.

Three key factors were responsible for the bulk of the fixed-cost increase that affected the new budget. The cost of health insurance grew more than 12 percent this year, far exceeding the rate of inflation. Since the 2001-02 fiscal year, Henrico’s health insurance costs have increased by nearly 160 percent. Also, the county’s required contribution to the Virginia

Team effort yields clean stream

—Partnership between county, community groups sets model for future projects

A little teamwork can go a long way, even when Mother Nature is involved. Or, perhaps, especially when Mother Nature is involved.

That’s one of the principal lessons from a unique project this spring that brought together

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home-owners, a nonprofit organization, an educational institution, community volunteers and Henrico County government.

The focus of attention of these divergent groups was a section of the Little Westham Creek — a quiet suburban stream flowing through several neighborhoods in western Henrico — suffering from erosion and other problems. And while the immediate effects of their efforts should set the local waterway on the road to recovery, their work could make an even bigger splash as a model for future environmental restoration projects.

Priority for repair

As part of its stream assessment and watershed management program, Henrico's Department of Public Works had placed Little Westham Creek on its priority list for repair. Chronic bank erosion and fertilizer runoff along a 1.5-mile stretch through the Westham, University Heights and Rollingwood neighborhoods had damaged the creek, leading to an additional flow of sediment and nutrients into Westhampton Lake on the University of Richmond campus. These waters eventually make their way to the James River and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay, contributing to the bay's struggles with oxygen deprivation and dead zones, algae blooms and other pollution-related problems.

Local artist Dan Bartges, a University Heights resident who has donated artwork to support Henrico programs aimed at protecting county waterways, has lived along the creek since 1996. He has witnessed firsthand the Little Westham's problems with pollution and erosion.

"Like all suburban waterways, the creek is under pressure," he said. "I wanted to find a way to help protect it."

The creek meanders along front yards, back yards and property lines as it passes through

these neighborhoods. Over the years, many homeowners had seeded grass to the edge of the creek bank. The well-trimmed lawns proved ineffective at preventing erosion of the bank, however, and also allowed fertilizers to drain easily into the creek.

"I was doing this myself," Bartges said. "The lawns are beautiful, but they have contributed to the creek's problems."

Genesis of a project

During a September 2005 conversation, Bartges and Jeff Perry, the environmental control engineer for Henrico's Department of Public Works, discussed the benefits of using natural buffers — planted strips of native vegetation allowed to grow freely — to help control erosion and fertilizer runoff along stream banks.

That informal talk became the genesis for the Little Westham Creek Community Stream Protection Project. The goal was to recreate the creek's natural buffer by planting native trees, bushes, shrubs and grasses on its banks. Homeowners would be asked to allow property along the creek to return to a natural state, with minimal mowing or landscaping. The project would be undertaken at no expense to homeowners.

Buffer restoration is critical to the repair and ongoing maintenance of any stream or creek, according to Public Works Environmental Engineer John Newton, who has coordinated Henrico's role in the project.

"The buffer creates a natural area that can trap and filter excess nutrients before they reach the water," Newton said. "It also improves water quality and provides shade that lowers the water temperature, which benefits aquatic wildlife."

Teamwork

Bartges spearheaded the effort to locate volunteers, contacting the University of Richmond's Center for Civic Engagement



Volunteers from the University of Richmond's Center for Civic Engagement get a quick lesson on the best way to plant a sapling as part of the Little Westham Creek Community Stream Protection Project.

and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. He also worked with the Westham Civic Association, University Heights Neighborhood Association and Rollingwood Homeowners Association to bring on board the 60 homeowners whose property bordered the creek and whose approval was necessary for the project to proceed.

Each group was more than willing to join the effort, Bartges said.

"The biggest surprise for me was how easy it was to sell this project to the different groups," he said. "We've received a tremendous level of cooperation from everyone."

Meanwhile, Tuckahoe District Supervisor Patricia S. O'Bannon, whose district includes the section of Little Westham Creek, organized a public meeting to provide information and answer questions for affected property owners. Public Works agreed to fund the purchase of plants — an investment of approximately \$20,000 — and to provide technical support and expertise in the construction of the buffer. The Extension Office's Master Gardener program worked closely with homeowners to help select plants appropriate for their

properties — a variety of Virginia species including blueberry, winterberry and wax myrtle shrubs; red and silver maple trees; and a number of native grasses.

By mid-March, with the legwork and background preparations completed, physical labor on the Little Westham Creek Community Stream Protection Project was set to begin. Dozens of students from the University of Richmond and members of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation volunteered several weekends planting the banks of the creek, filling in the holes that Public Works crews had drilled earlier in the week. Neighborhood residents participated as well.

A unique collaboration

Volunteers concluded their work earlier this month, planting more than 3,300 trees, shrubs and grasses. Homeowners will be encouraged to "leave the plants alone," according to Newton, to maintain the plants in a natural state, refraining from mowing and other lawn care activities. Once established and growing, the plants will provide a protective buffer that promises to reduce erosion and nutrient runoff.

The process that placed the

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Henrico's Department of Public Works joined forces this spring with a variety of community groups and volunteers to plant a new buffer along the Little Westham Creek. The special effort will reduce erosion and pollution in the western Henrico creek.

plants along this section of Little Westham Creek seems to offer a promise of its own. Henrico contains 440 miles of streams; the county's stream assessment and watershed management program has identified 47 segments of those streams as needing repair.

"The Little Westham Creek effort has been a great pilot project," Newton said. "It gives us an example to show other community groups that this kind of effort can be successful."

Newton said the speed of the project — approximately nine months — was remarkable. He noted that Bartges' efforts as a catalyst were key.

"Of course, each project is different, and they all can't be addressed like this one," he said. "But [the Little Westham Creek project] gives us momentum. The ball is starting to roll now."

Bartges agreed that the partnership has been "a really happy, good experience."

"I learned a lesson — a lot of people really are concerned about the environment and want to do something to help. They just need a way to direct their energy,"

he said. "This project offered a way."

For more information about Henrico's stream assessment program, contact Public Works Environmental Division at 501-4393 or log on to www.co.henrico.va.us/works/enviro.htm.

Seeking volunteers —Operation Paintbrush helps maintain county's older homes

Are you looking for a special project this summer, a way to help your neighbors and community? Look no further than Henrico's Operation Paintbrush.

The county program locates homes that need painting or minor repairs whose owners — whether due to age, disability or financial hardship — can't do the work themselves. The program also recruits volunteers — church youth groups, civic organizations,

school groups, individuals and others — to do the work.

Since its inception in April 2000, Operation Paintbrush has scraped, scrubbed, primed and painted some 83 Henrico homes, enlisting the support of 1,400 volunteers who have performed nearly 14,700 hours of labor. The program is administered by Community Maintenance, a division of the county's Department of Community Revitalization.

"Operation Paintbrush is designed to help rehabilitate and maintain Henrico's older areas, to prevent homes and neighborhoods from deteriorating," said Community Planner Melvin Slough, who oversees the program. "It also gives us a chance to lend a hand to some of our needy residents, whose homes may fall into further disrepair without our assistance."

The program aims to refurbish 20 homes per year, Slough said, depending on the availability of homes and volunteers; the goal for the upcoming summer work season is 12 to 15. Community Maintenance personnel, building inspectors, police officers and other county staff identify potential houses; they are also referred by neighbors, friends and family members. Slough then reviews prospective homes to make sure they qualify for the program.

The work season runs from April through October, weather permitting. The typical project doesn't call for professional home-building skills — generally, rotten boards are replaced and homes may be power-washed before they are scraped, primed and painted; if needed, yards are cleaned and mowed as well. The county supplies all necessary materials except for ladders.

"Most of the homes can be completed in a day or less," Slough said. "When we have a large group of volunteers, we can take advantage of the power of



Operation Paintbrush works to maintain older Henrico homes with the help of the local community. Volunteers from Three Chopt Church of Christ put a fresh coat of paint on this home last summer.

numbers."

For more information about Operation Paintbrush, log on to www.co.henrico.va.us/maint/operationpaintbrush.html.

Is your group or organization interested in volunteering for Operation Paintbrush? Do you know a qualified home that could benefit from the program? Contact Melvin Slough at 501-7628.

Looking for a few good homes

Looking for a new addition to your household this spring? Look no further than Henrico County's animal shelter, which has a number of animals in need of a good home.

Whether you're a cat or a dog person, the shelter has a variety of both available for adoption each week. According to Lt. Shawn Sears, animal protection supervisor for Henrico Police, the spring traditionally brings an increase in the number of cats the shelter has on hand.

"In a given week, we have 20 healthy cats and dogs available

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HCTV-Channel 17 spring schedule

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



		Even Hours 12 a.m., 2 a.m., 4 a.m., 6 a.m., 8 a.m., 10 a.m., Noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m., 8 p.m., 10 p.m.	Odd Hours 1 a.m., 3 a.m., 5 a.m., 7 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m., 5 p.m., 7 p.m., 9 p.m., 11 p.m.
May 22 through May 28	Mon Wed Fri Sun	Best of Magazine 17: Spring 2006 Edition	Inside the Firehouse - 25 mins
	Tue Thu Sat	Shape Up Henrico! - 15 mins	The Cultural Arts Center at Glen Allen - 12 mins
May 29 through June 4	Mon Wed Fri Sun	Henrico's Enterprise Zones	Battlefield Henrico: Savage Station 1862 - 42 mins
	Tue Thu Sat	Attack Transport: Remembering the USS Henrico - 57 mins	An Officer's Duty: The History of Henrico Police - 34 mins
June 5 through June 11	Mon Wed Fri Sun	Hunger to Be Alive: Transplanting Life	A Road Through History - 32 mins
	Tue Thu Sat	Tough Choices: The County Manager Form of Government - 36 mins	R.I.S.E.: Recovery in a Secure Environment - 30 mins
June 12 through June 18	Mon Wed Fri Sun	Dining Out in Henrico - 30 mins	Best of Magazine 17: Spring 2006 Edition
	Tue Thu Sat	A Helping Hand: Henrico's Community Corrections Program - 13 mins	Beyond the Palisade: Life in 17th Century Henrico
June 19 through June 25	Mon Wed Fri Sun	Garden Retreats: Stopping to Smell the Roses	Emergency! Henrico's 911 Operations - 19 mins
	Tue Thu Sat	Going to Work: The Capital Area Training Consortium - 16 mins	Building Our Future Together - 17 mins
June 26 through July 2	Mon Wed Fri Sun	Breaking the Cycle of Abuse - 19 mins	The Dawn of Life - 29 mins
	Tue Thu Sat	Henrico: Employer of Choice - 12 mins	When Disaster Strikes: Are You Prepared? - 21 mins

Looking for a few good homes

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for adoption,” Sears said, noting that on average, approximately half of the available animals are adopted.

The shelter does everything it can to get as many animals adopted as possible. In January 2005, HCTV Channel 17 — the county’s government access station — began broadcasting daily pet photos and their vital information like color, sex and breed (if known). Since that time, more than 954 pets have been adopted.

Cats and small mixed-breed dogs are usually adopted quickly, Sears said, while rescue groups often take pure breeds. The larger mixed-breed dogs pose more of a challenge.

“These dogs have great dispositions and are some of the best animals that we have, but they’re not usually the type people are looking for and are harder for us to get adopted,” Sears said.

Residents may see the available pets firsthand at the shelter located at 420 Dabbs House Road, behind the Eastern Government Center, from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, and from noon to 4:30 p.m. each Tuesday.

If you’ve been wanting a pet, why not stop by the animal shelter and provide a happy home to a dog or cat in need? Animals are available on a first-come, first-served basis only; specific animals cannot be reserved prior to becoming available for adoption. You must be 18 or older and sign an agreement to spay or neuter the animal within 30 days. The adoption fee is \$10.

For more information, contact the shelter at 652-3360.

Blood Donation

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Hazelett. “This award is a tribute to the employees who volunteer their time and talents to make the program such a success.”

Virginia Blood Services (VBS), a member of America’s Blood Centers, nominated Henrico’s program for the award. Since 1982, VBS has been conducting blood drives with county agencies to provide a reliable blood supply to hospitals and dialysis centers throughout central Virginia.

The county reorganized its blood program in 1992 to meet the growing demands for blood in our region — currently 400 pints of blood are needed every day. During that time, there has been a dramatic increase in the frequency of blood drives from just three a year at one location to six blood drives at 10 different county locations. Remarkably, from 2001 to 2003, HCBP donations grew an



Donating one pint of blood can save three lives.

astonishing 91 percent. In 2005, VBS collected a total of 1,225 pints from county staff and the public (who are always welcome to participate).

These accomplishments are a direct result of the leadership provided by Henrico County employees who serve on the Blood Drive Committee, the employee donor recruiters and the donors themselves. According to HCBP coordinator David Ambrogio, committee members often dig into

their own pockets to boost recruitment and blood drive efforts.

“It’s a great experience to be a part of such a dedicated group of people,” Ambrogio said. “The donation of one pint of blood saves the lives of three people — what else can you do to have such an impact on our community?”

For more information about the county’s blood program, call 501-5375 or log on to <http://ns1.co.henrico.va.us/manager/hcbp-give.htm>.

Student Government Day



The 49th annual Student Government Day was a record-breaker, with more students participating — 146 total — than ever before. Seniors from Henrico high schools spent the day paired with elected officials and key staff from the county’s general government and public schools administrations, getting a behind-the-scenes glimpse of their county at work. Before grabbing the reins of local government, students took the oath of office. Sworn in as members of the Board of Supervisors were, from left, Andy Cruickshanks of Freeman High School; John Thorpe of Deep Run High School; Sharita Downey of Henrico High School; Matthew Mawyer of Highland Springs High School; and Logan Kirkland of Hermitage High School. Circuit Court Chief Judge Catherine C. Hammond, far right, administered the oaths.

Recreation Roundup

Sat, June 3: Letterboxing.

For ages 8+. Learn about letterboxing, an intriguing mix of treasure hunting, art and navigation while exploring interesting, scenic and sometimes remote places. 10 a.m.-noon. Walkerton Tavern. Free. Info: 261-6898.

Sat, June 3: Varina Day.

The Varina Ruritan Club, in cooperation with the Division of Recreation and Parks, is hosting its 11th Annual Varina Community Day. Entertainment for the entire family. Enjoy music, display booths, a petting zoo and a children's moonwalk. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Dorey Park. Free. Info: 501-5121.

Sat & Sun, June 3 & 4: Civil War Battle and Re-enactment of Gaines Mill and Malvern Hill.

Meet Confederate and Union soldiers as they portray camp life and re-enact battles. Enjoy military, civilian and medical impressions and children's activities throughout each day. Hear lectures on the battles and in the evening, join the re-enactors for an old-fashioned dance under the stars. Sat: 10 a.m.-5 p.m., dance at 8 p.m. Sun: noon-2 p.m. Battle at 2 p.m. each day. Dorey Park. Free. Info: 501-5520.

Sat, June 10: New Volunteer Training.

For ages 10+. Meadow Farm is looking for eager and energetic volunteers. Whether you are interested in house tours, historic trades, domestic activities or greeting visitors in our gift shop, we have a place for you. No experience necessary. Pre-registration required. Scholastic volunteer interest: 10 a.m.-noon. All other volunteers: 1-3 p.m. Meadow Farm Museum. Free. Info: 501-5520.

Tue, June 13: Growing Roses in the Richmond Area.

For ages 18+. Program covers all facets of selecting, planting and maintaining roses. 7-8 p.m. Belmont Recreation Center. \$6, register by June 6. Info: 501-5147.

Tue & Wed, June 13 & 14: Don't Touch That Dial!

The On-the-Air Radio Players present an old-time radio show taped before a live audience. Be a part of the studio audience for this hour-long taping featuring live music and sound effects, old commercials and authentic scripts from the "golden

age of radio." 8 p.m. The Cultural Arts Center at Glen Allen. Free. Info: 501-5138.

Sat, June 17, July 15 & Aug 19: Under the Stars Summer Family Film Series.

Bring your blanket and enjoy family flicks in the park. Free popcorn and lemonade while supplies last. Shows begin at 8 p.m. June 17: "Hoosiers" at Deep Run Park. July 15: "Old Yeller" at Dorey Park. Aug 19: "October Sky" at Deep Run Park. Free. Info: 501-5121.

Sun, June 18: Old-Fashioned Ice Cream Social.

Enjoy tunes by Copper Ridge, one of the area's finest bluegrass bands. Treat your taste buds to delicious ice cream and try some old-fashioned games and dances. 4-6 p.m. Walkerton Tavern. (Aug 13 at Antioch School Community Center.) Free. Info: 501-5134.

Thur, June 22: Henrico Community Band presents "Summer Fun."

This family-friendly concert will feature a variety of music including classical, Broadway, movie themes and big band tunes. 7:30 p.m. The Cultural Arts Center at Glen Allen. Free, reservations required. Info: 501-5859 or 501-5115.

Sat, June 24: Medicine from the Garden.

Medicines did not always come in pill or liquid form. Visit Meadow Farm's garden and learn which plants and herbs may have been used to help cure mid-19th-century ailments. 1-3 p.m. Meadow Farm Museum. Free. Info: 501-5520.

Sun, June 25, July 30 & Aug 27: Henrico Concert Band Summer Concert Series.

Bring a blanket or lawn chair on the last Sunday in each month for a casual evening in the park listening to music. In case of inclement weather, concerts may be cancelled. No rain dates. 6 p.m. Dorey Park by the lake. Free. Info: 501-5138.

Thur, June 29, July 27 & Aug 31: Henrico Community Band Summer Concert Series.

Spend the last Thursday evening of each month relaxing in the park and listening to a variety of festive music. In case of inclement weather, the concerts may be cancelled. No rain dates. 7 p.m. Deep Run Park Nature

Pavilion. Free. Info: 501-5138.

Fri, June 30: Campfire Cuisine.

For ages 6+. Learn how to make a tasty and easy-to-recreate dinner, while getting pointers on how to keep your campfire safe. The meal will be topped off with a scrumptious dessert — an alternative to s'mores! After dinner, participate in games and skits around the glowing embers. 7-9 p.m. Dorey Park. \$6 per person, register by June 16. Info: 501-5807.

Tue, July 4: Old-Fashioned Fourth of July Celebration.

Join us for our spectacular event in celebration of America. Activities will include musical entertainment, patriotic arts and crafts, face painting, a petting zoo for children, contests and games for all ages and the new Little Patriot's Play Pavilion. Highlights include tethered hot air balloon rides, a watermelon feast, Uncle Sam on stilts, Jonathan Austin the juggler, a patriotic performance featuring a historic color guard, drum and fife music and a period musket salute by Living History Associates, Ltd. Concessions can be purchased 1-5 p.m. Meadow Farm/ Crump Park. Free. Info: 501-5134.

Wed, July 12: Hop Scotch and Jump Rope Contests.

Bring your own rope and challenge a friend or Meadow Farm staff to these old-fashioned activities. Pre-registered participants are eligible for a prize. 1-3 p.m. Meadow Farm Museum. Free. Info: 501-5520.

Sat, July 15: Canoeing-Morning Paddle.

For ages 18+. Join us for a morning paddle along the calm waters of Four Mile Creek. We'll paddle leisurely, watching for herons, eagles, beaver, turkey and osprey. 8-11 a.m. Four Mile Creek at Deep Bottom Park. \$12, register by June 30. Info: 501-5147.

Tue, July 18: 35th Annual Big Band Concert featuring Bill Zickafosse and the Continentals.

Enjoy the best of the big band sound as we present the 35th annual summer concert. Join us for great music and fun for the entire family. 7-9 p.m. Hermitage High School. Free. Info: 501-5138.

Sat, July 22: Cooking with Herbs.

For ages 18+. Learn how to add a culinary flair to meals using herbs grown in your garden and how to grow your harvest and preserve your crop. Focus will be on herbs that grow best in our area, many tried and true herb combinations, and new and unusual suggestions. 10-11 a.m. Lavender Field Farm. \$6, register by July 14. Info: 501-5147.

Sun, July 23: Soap Making.

For ages 18+. Learn to make your own soap. Not only is it a valuable skill that comes in handy at home, but it's a lot of fun too! Using natural ingredients, including herbs from our own Walkerton garden, you'll go home with some very nice suds! 2-4 p.m. Walkerton Tavern. \$10, register by July 10. Info: 261-6898.

Sat, July 29: Intro to Map and Compass.

For ages 14+. During classroom instruction, we will cover the features of a topographic map, the parts and function of a compass and how the two work together. Then, we will go in the field, get lost and find our way out. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Dorey Recreation Center. \$25, register by July 14. Info: 501-5807.

Wed, Aug 2 & 16: Meet the Critters.

Join us for a special up close and personal look at our farm animals. Find out if a turkey has ears, which animal is a rare breed, where wool comes from and much more. 1-3 p.m. Meadow Farm Museum. Free. Info: 501-5520.

Sat, Aug 12: X-Festival.

Bring your friends and catch some air at Laurel Skate Park. Activities include a climbing wall, professional skate demonstrations, a DJ, free pizza and t-shirts while supplies last. 4-7 p.m. Laurel Skate Park. Free. Info: 501-5134.

Recreation & 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



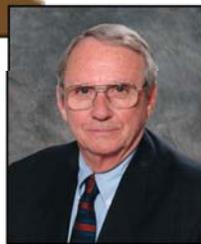
Fairfield
Frank J. Thornton
501-4207



Tuckahoe
Patricia S. O'Bannon
501-4207



Brookland
Richard W. Glover
Chairman
501-5292



Varina
James B. Donati, Jr.
Vice Chairman
501-4207



Important County Telephone Numbers

Adult Protective Services.....	501-7346
Board of Supervisors.....	501-4207
Building Permits & Inspections.....	501-4360
Business Licenses/Personal Property.....	501-4310
Child Protective Services.....	501-5437
Community Maintenance.....	501-4757
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
Leaf/Bulky Waste Collection.....	261-8770
Library Answer Line.....	652-3258
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

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Public Relations & Media Services

County of Henrico

P.O. Box 27032

Richmond, VA 23273-7032

(804) 501-4257

www.co.henrico.va.us



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