

Henrico hits budget bull's-eye

Preserves services, tax rate

Henrico County's budget belt fits a bit snugger this year, but careful county budget planners have spared residents from the squeeze for another year.

The approved \$843.2 million county budget for fiscal year 2004-05 preserves Henrico's long-standing low real estate tax rate of 94 cents per \$100 of assessed value. Planned projects such as the new Tuckahoe Library, various parks projects, and a new Fairfield fire station—all funded by the 2000 bond referendum—remain on track for completion.

The county's Board of Supervisors approved the budget during its April 27 meeting.

Another bond referendum may be on the horizon for Henrico voters, as county officials seek ways to fund needed capital projects, including a number of new school facilities.

Likely to be included in the schools projects on which voters will decide is a new middle school to relieve overcrowding at Fairfield and John Rolfe middle schools.

"The Board of Supervisors has consistently taken a multi-year approach to budgeting in Henrico and this approach assures that both a long-term analysis of needs is

counterbalanced with the short-term year to year fluctuations in revenue that have been experienced," Henrico County Manager Virgil R. Hazelett, P.E., said. "The multi-year approach and the long-term view lead us to believe that a general obligation bond referendum needs to be considered to obtain the best financing for these important projects, thus in the end providing our residents with the best value for their tax dollars."

Funded is the county's planned shift to full-day kindergarten—a \$2.5 million commitment in its first year to pay salaries for more than 50 new teacher positions.

The approved budget beefs up the county's tax relief program for senior and disabled property owners, allowing for the maximum amount of tax relief currently permitted by the state. Qualifying residents may now receive up to \$2,000 in tax relief,

which would mean zero tax obligation on homes assessed at nearly \$213,000.

"We have overcome significant funding reductions from the state and a recession," Hazelett said. "And our residents continue to be offered the same, and in many cases, improved service levels."

Also included are funds to continue all but three current GRTC bus and CARE van routes. While three lines are cut, another line is extended to provide better service to residents of the Virginia School for the Blind on Azalea Avenue.

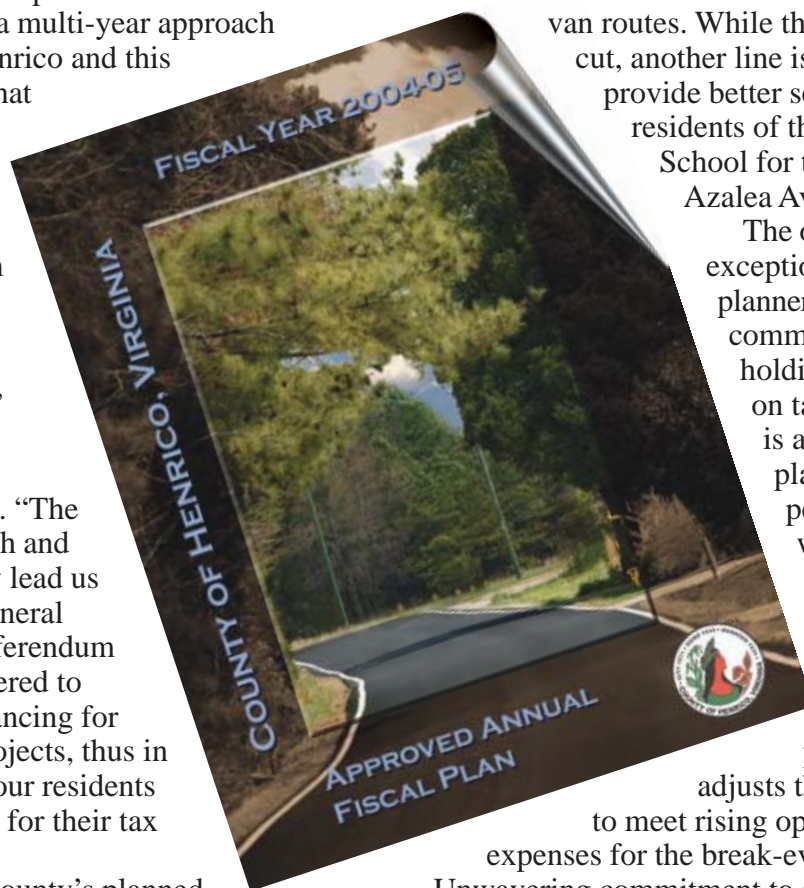
The only exception to county planners' commitment to holding the line on tax increases is a long-planned 3 percent hike to water and sewer rates. The rate hike is part of a phased plan that

adjusts the utility fees to meet rising operational expenses for the break-even utility.

Unwavering commitment to spending limits helped produce a budget that conforms to the needs of residents while also maintaining the county's commitment to fiscal conservatism, Hazelett said.

"The board did what any well-managed household would do," he said. "They only counted on revenues that could reasonably be expected."

During last year's budget process, while many localities were counting on continued



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increases in aid from the state and hoping for a renewed national economy, Henrico planners benefited from their early commitment to conservatively underestimating the state's likely cash contribution.

That commitment has proven invaluable, said Board Chairman Patricia S. O'Bannon.

"Henrico's economy has been robust and resilient over the years, but the county is not an island," O'Bannon said, citing the challenging financial climate. "The county manager and our budget office have presented the board with a budget where we can live within our means and continue our award-winning levels of service."

The 2004-05 budget marks the fourth year that the county has held its total increase for operational expenses under 5 percent. The budget increase, including both capital and operating budgets, is just 2.9 percent above the current fiscal year's budget.

"Four years ago, the Board of Supervisors made the determination that counting on this longest of post-war economic expansions to continue for another year was unwise," Hazelett said. "States and localities that did not take our proactive measures four years ago have found themselves in the position of reducing services and increasing tax rates."

Public safety funding, specifically as it relates to Homeland Security, received special attention from budget planners anxious to ensure this area received adequate funding.

To take up the slack for the federal government—the fed has yet to come through on its promise to fund Homeland Security preparedness initiatives—the county has spent \$7 million to date to bolster emergency preparedness.

This year's budget includes funding to create the county's second hazardous materials team, which will be located in the county's east end. The east end is the site of many of the county's industrial and manufacturing concerns as well as Richmond International Airport.

Though this year's budget again is marked by success in growing community services while adhering to moderate financial goals, plans are already being made to face the challenges of coming years with the same conservative approach, Hazelett said.

"The county finds itself in the enviable position of having not only survived these turbulent times with our finances intact, but actually having improved our finances," Hazelett said.

A sweet sip of success



Henrico made history at 10 a.m. Monday, April 26, when its state-of-the-art water treatment facility began operations, marking the first time the county has cleaned and treated its own water. Celebrating the historic achievement with a taste of Henrico water were, from left, Three Chopt District Supervisor David Kaechele; Brookland District Supervisor Richard Glover; County Manager Virgil Hazelett, P.E.; Board Chairman and Tuckahoe District Supervisor Patricia O'Bannon; Varina District Supervisor James Donati; and Board Vice Chairman and Fairfield District Supervisor Frank Thornton. The \$90 million facility, located near Three Chopt and Gaskins roads, will produce an average of 20 million gallons per day and is capable of producing up to 40 million gallons per day during the high-demand summer months. The new Henrico water will be mixed with water from Richmond—the county's traditional supplier—and distributed to customers throughout the county.

The sting of spring

With the arrival of warm days, one of Mother Nature's most prolific pests, the mosquito, is making its prickly presence known to Henrico residents.

But unwanted seasonal guests need not put an end to summertime outdoor activities.

"These are self-inflicted injuries," said Randy Buchanan. As head of Henrico's Standing Water Initiative and a general in the county's fight to control mosquitoes, Buchanan said that the best defense against mosquitoes is public awareness.

Henrico's mosquito control measures took on new urgency after officials confirmed the state's first human West Nile virus case in summer 2002.

Since then, West Nile has proven a comparatively rare disease. But the specter of this sometimes-debilitating illness, which

spreads through the bite of infected mosquitoes, has also spread fear. Symptoms are often flu-like, but in rare cases the virus can trigger encephalitis or meningitis.

This summer, Buchanan expects his office to be very busy with calls from residents concerned about out-of-control mosquito populations or dead birds they suspect of dying from West Nile infection.

Following up on such calls often reveals that the reason for a neighborhood's soaring mosquito population is as close as the caller's back yard.

"If everyone would go out and take care of their property, the community could easily take care of its mosquito problem," Buchanan said, citing everything from old tires to loose tarps with a little rainwater trapped in a fold as offering perfect breeding environments for mosquitoes.

Because most varieties of mosquitoes only travel within a half-mile to mile radius, eliminating places where mosquitoes breed goes a long way to eliminating mosquitoes in the surrounding area.

“Just going out once a week—take 20 minutes to walk around the yard—can reduce the number of mosquitoes that you have,” Buchanan said, suggesting that encouraging your neighbors to do the same will compound the effectiveness of this simple solution.

It sounds like a simple solution, but it is surprisingly effective in controlling mosquitoes—and more importantly, the spread of West Nile virus, said Rob Suydam, the county’s senior environmental inspector. He spends his days visiting backyards across the county, helping residents understand their enemy.

“The mosquitoes that transmit the West Nile virus are primarily mosquitoes that breed in man-made containers,” Suydam said. In other words, “if we have a wetlands and a house right next to each other, we’re going to find mosquitoes in the wetlands and mosquitoes around the house. But the ones around the house will be more likely to carry West Nile.”

Overturning unused containers and clearing blocked gutters—even checking such unlikely spots as patio umbrella stands for standing water—should become part of every homeowner’s weekly summertime routine, Buchanan said.

Treating areas of standing water in back yards or stagnant ponds is also encouraged. Environmentally friendly larvaecides are available at most gardening stores.

“Remember, mosquitoes need less than a tablespoon of [stagnant] water to breed,” Buchanan said. The time a mosquito takes to go from egg to extreme aggravation is just five to 10 days.

Aggravation caused by these blood-sucking pests is the least of Buchanan’s concerns. West Nile and other mosquito-borne illnesses have raised alarms with health officials that are unlikely to subside anytime soon.

“West Nile virus is here to stay and other mosquito-borne diseases are still around,” Buchanan said, adding that a little caution goes a long way. “This is the recurring theme from all public health professionals:



Skeeter slayer Rob Suydam, the county’s senior environmental inspector, instructs a class of county employees how to treat and eliminate mosquito breeding areas. The classes have helped certify more than 100 county employees in the application of mosquito-specific pesticides on county property.

Mosquitoes are nothing to panic about, but it’s your job to be aware about the mosquitoes around your property.”

The county’s awareness has increased significantly since it began maintaining a West Nile database last spring, which tracks mosquito populations and standing water. County properties and easements are now patrolled regularly and more than 100 county employees from nearly every department are trained to administer pesticides.

Residents who call concerned about mosquitoes or standing water are routed to Buchanan’s office, where their complaints are logged and catalogued along with all other such complaints. The database so far has more than 1,300 entries and can be cross-referenced to discover trends, such as areas of known standing water compared with known areas of mosquito infestation.

As big as the county’s job may be, community cooperation remains essential to the effort to limit mosquitoes. The county has no enforcement authority to enter private property and residents must address mosquito problems on their property.

“All we can do is contact the owner, let them know they have a problem and give suggestions on correcting the problem,” he said.

Fortunately, an ankle full of mosquito bites provides a strong and itchy incentive for most property owners to care for their property once they know that their efforts to control standing water can make a difference.

“Most people want to do something,” Buchanan said.

Race against violence

It’s time to run like someone’s life may depend on it.

The Henrico County Coalition Against Domestic Violence, in partnership with Richmond Road Runners and Safe Harbor domestic violence shelter, is again sponsoring Race Against Violence, a five-kilometer run at Innsbrook.

“The purpose of the race is to raise awareness,” said Laurie Crawford, domestic violence services coordinator for Henrico Police’s special victims unit. “It’s really something done to promote the safety of families—and it’s something we can all do that’s not after-the-fact.”

Awareness includes knowing that nearly a third of U.S. women report having been abused at some time in their lives by a husband or boyfriend. Nearly the same statistic accounts for female murder victims who were killed by a husband or boyfriend.

The run, scheduled for Saturday, May 22, at 9 a.m., charts a five-kilometer course through Innsbrook in Henrico’s west end. Runners may register the day of the race, with \$15 on-site registration beginning at 7:30 a.m.

From I-64, take exit 35. Proceed east on Broad Street for approximately one-half mile, then left on Dominion Boulevard. Parking is located in front of the shops and restaurants on the right.

For information, call Laurie Crawford at 501-5732 or Nicole Mayton at 501-5801.



New agency will boost Henrico's revitalization efforts

Although new development projects often grab the headlines in Henrico, the county's established neighborhoods and commercial areas are no less significant. In fact, the fast-expanding support network for these vital older developments has led the county to make an important change to one of its principal departments.

Henrico County has created a new agency—the Department of Community Revitalization—to administer the county's growing revitalization efforts and community development programs.

The new department represents a reorganization of Henrico's Planning Office and indicates the key role that enhancement of existing residential and commercial development plays in the county's economic future. Over the past several years, the county's Board of Supervisors and administration have recognized and addressed

ongoing changes in Henrico's neighborhoods, said County Manager Virgil R. Hazelett, P.E.

"A new agency is needed now to properly coordinate our expanding community programs and revitalization efforts," Hazelett said. "This change reflects our commitment to the county's older residential communities and commercial corridors."

On May 5, the Planning Office split into two agencies: the Department of Community Revitalization and the Department of Planning. The broad array of programs and services previously housed in the Planning Office are now divided between the new agencies. Community Revitalization administers the Community Maintenance program; Community Development Block Grant/HOME programs; Virginia Enterprise Zone program; Commercial Revitalization

Assistance; Neighborhood Planning; and zoning enforcement for existing developed sites. Responsibilities of the reorganized Department of Planning include comprehensive and long-range planning; rezoning; plan of development and subdivision reviews; small area land-use studies; zoning enforcement of new development; and staff for the Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals.

The reorganization gives Henrico a more comprehensive, coordinated approach to neighborhood and commercial revitalization, said Deputy County Manager for Community Development Harvey Hinson.



The reorganization of the Planning Office further strengthens the county's ongoing efforts to revitalize Henrico's older neighborhoods and commercial corridors. One beneficiary is this stretch of West Broad Street, which has been included in the Virginia Enterprise Zone Program to boost development along the busy thoroughfare.

"This change concentrates our revitalization activities into one office location, under one management," Hinson said. "It allows us to give a sharper focus and daily attention to these programs and streamlines the coordination and efficient use of county resources."

The change further enhances the quality customer service provided to Henrico residents and businesses, Hinson added. The reorganization is the result of recommendations made in the county's Eight Critical Issues initiative, he said.

Current Planning Director John Marlles has been appointed director of Community Revitalization; Randall Silber, currently serving as assistant director of Planning, has been named director of the reorganized Department of Planning. The majority of

personnel for the departments come from the current Planning Office staff; three positions have been created to fill the departments' staffing needs. Community Revitalization has 24 personnel and Planning has a staff of 43.

Community Revitalization is located at the county's Crockett Street facility, which currently houses the Community Maintenance program. The Department of Planning remains in the Government Center Administration Building at Parham and Hungary Spring roads.

The Department of Community Revitalization represents Henrico's first new agency since The Permit Center opened in August 2001.

Straight poop on poop

Nothing is so pleasant as a springtime stroll with man's best friend.

But nothing is so unpleasant as a springtime stroll through a pile of man's best friend's least friendly byproduct.

"There have been a number of complaints from citizens about people not cleaning up after their dogs," said Alice Schulz, Three Chopt advisory member to the county's Parks and Recreation commission. Schulz already has heard her share of complaints about messy lawn hazards in county parks and neighborhoods this season.

Though there are no county ordinances requiring pet owners to clean up after their furry pals, it's as much a part of being a pet owner as keeping the water bowl topped off and the shots updated.

"People need to be reminded that it's the responsibility of owning a pet," Schulz said. "When I talk to people, they absolutely agree. They all say 'I'm tired of dogs leaving messes in my yard.'"

And you don't have to be a cat lover to

Picking up after Fido:

It's a messy job, but someone has to do it. A variety of clean-up products are available at pet stores—from shovel-like pooper-scoopers to special plastic disposable gloves. Some Henrico neighborhoods also provide plastic bag dispensers along sidewalks. For the best and cheapest results, recycle old plastic grocery or newspaper bags to use as gloves.

HCTV—Channel 37 spring schedule

Programs air every day at 7 a.m., 10 a.m., noon, 3 p.m., 5 p.m., 7 p.m., 9 p.m., 10 p.m.

May 21–27 **Impact of State Funding Cuts**
Rising costs and a growing population in Henrico County have increased the need for services at a rapid rate. Explore the complex ramifications of state budget cuts with insights from community leaders.

May 28–June 3 **Step Into the Real World**
Henrico's Blue may want you! Check out this high energy, action-packed look at law enforcement career opportunities within Henrico County's Division of Police (currently accepting applications for police officers through July 18th).

June 4–10 **Building Our Future Together**
Henrico's Department of Building Construction & Inspections helps protect the safety and welfare of our community. Whether building a deck or constructing a shopping mall, all must follow strict code guidelines. Find out how your home is built to withstand the test of time.

June 11–17 **Employer of Choice**
Henrico's Department of Human Resources is assembling a world-class workforce for a world-class community. As an essential part of a countywide team, Human Resources provides innovative and exceptional services for residents.

June 18–24 **The Shadow of Life**
How does Henrico care for the sick? The needy? The handicapped? Where can residents go for help if they become ill and are unable to work? See how Henrico Social Services creates and maintains a stable environment for those unable to care for themselves.

June 25–July 1 **R.I.S.E.**
Learn about Henrico County Jail's innovative substance abuse program. Sheriff Mike Wade has given HCTV 37 total access to the daily lives of inmates. Watch as they struggle to beat the evils of addiction. R.I.S.E. has received state and national attention.

July 2–8 **Drug Court-Transforming Lives**
Features Drug Court participants as they strive to beat addiction. HCTV has captured unprecedented footage of the daily lives of Drug Court participants, counselors and investigators.

Throughout the summer, we will also air the **West Nile program on Sundays and Wednesdays at 9 a.m., 4 p.m. & 8 p.m.**

Stay tuned for current Henrico events, services and public meeting information between scheduled programming.

make a stink over dog droppings.

"I hear it from people who own dogs and people who do not," said Faye Ould, Tuckahoe's parks advisory member. "We should have the freedom to walk freely and not step in droppings. It would be a poor reflection on the human spirit if we had to have a law to be respectful of other people's property—not to leave 'calling cards.'"

Help wanted at Hermitage Enterprises

Shirley Lyons needs a job—make that about 100 jobs.

Not that Lyons is wanting for work. As program manager for Hermitage Enterprises, Henrico County's job training and placement service for mentally and physically disabled area residents, she is faced with the increasingly difficult task of finding job placement opportunities for her clients.

"There seems to have been a shift in Richmond over the past few years from manufacturing to information-technology jobs," said Lyons, who is currently seeking placement for about 100 Hermitage clients.

Over the years, Hermitage Enterprises has carved a successful niche for the disabled, filling the area manufacturing market's need for employees willing to do monotonous, repetitive-task jobs that are otherwise difficult to fill.

But with job market shifts, Lyons has found herself having to change gears, reaching out to area employers looking for new ways to meet their needs.

Last month, Lyons convened Hermitage's first business advisory committee, bringing together area business leaders to discuss possible adjustments to the agency's job training program.

"We had never sat down before with a group to find out what we're doing right—and what we're doing wrong," Lyons said, hoping that more business leaders will find an interest in attending the next advisory meeting in May.

At that and future meetings, Lyons hopes to convince business leaders that she represents some of the most dependable and dedicated workers in Richmond—people who excel despite their limitations.

It was simple economics that first convinced Robert Johnson of the usefulness of employing clients of programs like Hermitage Enterprises.

In addition to the obvious social benefit he offers Hermitage workers, Johnson said, he found it difficult to overlook the tax credits and lower liability concerns—Hermitage workers are technically the county's responsibility.

"It just makes good business sense," said Johnson, who is plant superintendent at Crown Cork & Seal Co. in Sandston. He relates only positive experiences during his more than 15 years of using mentally or physically disabled employees from the community.

"I've used [them] at every company I've worked with," he said, crediting Hermitage workers as some of the most dedicated employees he has ever had.

They're also very capable, said Lyons. Indeed, the most difficult part of placing Hermitage clients is not training them, it's convincing potential employers that Hermitage workers are capable, Lyons said.

"I think there's a lack of understanding of what our folks can do," she said. "Once we get them in the door at a business, [Hermitage clients] tend to stay for a long time—but we're still trying to get them in the door."

Johnson can attest to that. He recalled a tough sell the first time he tried to convince

his bosses of his plan to employ physically and mentally disabled workers.

But they came around, and Johnson says any employer with an open mind would be convinced once they know what Hermitage clients offer.

"Someone just needs to educate [employers]," he said, both of the economic benefits and to the



Robert Johnson, plant superintendent at Crown Cork and Seal Co. in Sandston, knows the value of partnering with Hermitage Enterprises. He has counted on Hermitage workers for many years.

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productivity benefits. “I guarantee you that the [Hermitage] people will outwork the others 10 to one. They take such pride in their work. To them it’s a personal challenge.”

And though nearly all operations at Johnson’s plant are automated, maximizing profit means the human element must eventually be brought in to clean up machine mistakes.

Machines are faster at mass production, he said, “but when they mess up, you’re going to make a lot of bad product real fast.”

He currently relies on Hermitage

Enterprises employees to do the tedious but necessary work of sorting out good product from bad production runs.

In some instances, Hermitage workers are able to salvage 80 percent of production runs that would otherwise have to be discarded as “bad” merchandise.

“If we can automate it, of course we’re going to automate it,” Johnson said. “But there’s some things that you just can’t get the human mind out of.”

Even in the new economy, this will be Hermitage’s strength, Johnson said. “Every business has an Achilles’ heel,” he said. “And if you can find that heel, it’s an opportunity.”



Shirley Lyons, program manager for Hermitage Enterprises, Henrico County’s job training and placement service for mentally and physically disabled area residents.

Energy plan promises big savings

Whether they’re pumping gasoline or adjusting the home thermostat, Henrico residents know the cost of getting around town or just staying comfortable continues to rise. And with a big fleet of vehicles to maintain and nearly 10 million square feet of office, classroom and facility space to heat and cool, Henrico County knows it, too.

That’s why Henrico has undertaken a special effort to reduce both its energy costs and consumption. Since 2002, the county has

seen its bills for electricity, heating oil and natural gas increase by 15 percent—from slightly less than \$11.8 million in 2002 to an estimated \$13.5 million in 2004 (not including anticipated charges for the county’s new water treatment plant, which began operations in April).

Recognizing this problematic trend, county officials have been looking for practical ways to cut and contain costs and to use the county’s energy resources more efficiently. The county created the position of energy manager in 2003 to spearhead the effort.

The result is Henrico’s first Energy Management Plan (EMP). Unveiled and approved earlier this year, the EMP sets goals and establishes concrete measures for significantly reducing the county’s energy bill. It works to make energy management and conservation a regular part of the daily activities of county personnel, planning and policies; and it emphasizes protecting the environment through the use of sound energy technologies and practices. The plan also gives Henrico an opportunity to set an example for energy conservation while further enhancing the customer service it provides residents.

“Henrico County is committed to supporting energy management and conservation initiatives,” said County Manager Virgil R. Hazelett, P.E. “This is a matter of being good stewards of the county’s financial resources as well as its energy resources.”

The new focus has already produced substantial savings. Before designing the EMP, Energy Manager Jerry Walker studied all county facilities—ranging from schools, libraries and office buildings to jails, fire stations and storage facilities—and assessed their energy practices and usage. This initial examination located a number of unnecessary expenditures, improperly billed accounts and similar problems; correcting these errors is currently saving the county \$210,000 annually.

“These are no-cost savings—they don’t require a physical change or investment by the county, just a modification of certain practices and oversights,” Walker said. “A lot of what we do in energy management involves no-cost activities like these, changing attitudes and changing behaviors.

“Energy management is mostly common sense.”

Although the EMP sets no specific annual energy reduction goals, realistic reductions of

2-3 percent can be achieved, resulting in potential savings of \$290,000 to \$435,000 each year. It calls for eliminating waste and conserving resources through the use of energy-efficient and cost-effective technologies. It emphasizes incorporating energy efficiency in the planning process during the design and acquisition of buildings, facilities and transportation systems. The plan also advocates using renewable energy sources where practical, and increasing the average fuel efficiency of county fleet vehicles.

Before the county makes any physical changes or capital investments to boost energy management practices, however, auditors will conduct a comprehensive energy study of key facilities. The auditors will examine everything from office lighting and windows to air conditioning and electrical wiring systems to discover sources of waste and locate opportunities for improved efficiency and conservation.

Accordingly, the EMP places initial responsibility for changing the county’s energy practices on individual agencies, and ultimately, on individual employees. Each county department has been charged with finding ways to reduce its energy use and costs.

Walker cited two straightforward changes involving features common to nearly every office: lights and computers. By turning off the lights when absent from the office during the day, an employee can save up to 13 cents each day. That translates to savings of \$33.80 over the course of a normal work year. On the surface, that amount seems insignificant; but with more than 7,000 employees in Schools and General Government occupying more than 1,000 individual offices, it translates into savings of more than \$30,000 annually.

Even bigger savings accrue when employees make a simple change to their computer monitors. By adjusting a monitor to go off after 10 minutes of non-use, an employee can save about \$8 per year. Chump change? Consider this: Henrico has more than 7,000 computer monitors regularly in use. That translates into potential savings of some \$56,000 annually.

“The first changes we need to make are cultural changes,” Walker said. “We need to change our habits and thought process regarding energy use. Each Henrico County employee has an important role in this effort.”

Questions about energy management in Henrico County? Call 501-5763.

Recreation Roundup

Sat, June 5: Varina Day. Hosted by the Varina Ruritan Club and the Division of Recreation and Parks. Free music and entertainment—display booths, train rides, a petting zoo and moonwalks! 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Dorey Park. Info: 501-5134.

Sat & Sun, June 5 & 6: Civil War Encampment and Battle. Confederate and Union re-enactors portray camp life and re-enact the battle of Slash Church, near Ashcake and Brook roads. Join the re-enactors at Walkerton Tavern for an old-fashioned dance. Sat: noon-4 p.m., dance at 8 p.m. Sun: noon-2:30 p.m. Battle at 2 p.m. each day. Meadow Farm Museum. Free. Info: 501-5520.

Sat, June 12: Sunset Visions. Ages 18+. Enjoy a twilight canoe trip on Four Mile Creek. Look for great blue herons, osprey, beaver, deer and bald eagles. 7 p.m.-twilight. Deep Bottom Park. \$10. Register by May 28. Info: 501-5147.

Sat, June 19: Kayak Touring: Pottery Paddle. Ages 14+. For beginning and intermediate paddlers. Experience the East River headwaters from a local pottery studio—tour included. Watch for bald eagles, kingfishers and river otter. 9:30 a.m.-noon. Mathews County. \$30. Register by June 4. Info: 501-5807.

Sun, June 20: Old-Fashioned Ice Cream Social. Enjoy the Ashland Railway Bluegrass Band and some delicious ice cream. Take part in some old-fashioned games and dances. Great family fun! 4-6 p.m. Historic Deep Run Schoolhouse. Free. Info: 501-5121.

Wed & Thur, June 23 & 24: On-the-Air Radio Players Present *Our Heroes*. The free, hour-long taping features live music and sound effects, old commercials and three authentic “superhero” scripts from the “golden age of radio.” Program will air later on WLEE AM 990. 8 p.m. The Cultural Arts Center at Glen Allen. Info: 501-5138.

Thurs, June 24, July 29, & Aug 26. Henrico Community Band Summer Concert Series. Relax in the park while listening to festive music. *In case of inclement weather, cancelled concerts do not have rain dates.* 7 p.m. Deep Run Park Nature Pavilion. Free. Info: 501-5115.

Sat, June 26: Introduction to Canoeing. Ages 18+. Learn safety equipment, trip planning and basic strokes—draws, sweeps and prys—for paddling tandem and solo. Taught by ACA instructors. 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Four Mile Creek at Deep Bottom Park. \$36. Register by June 11. Info: 501-5147.

Sun, June 27: Meet the Critters. Osabaws, Percherons and Dominques—Oh, my! Find out if a turkey has ears, which animal is a rare breed and where wool comes from. 1-3 p.m. Meadow Farm Museum. Free. Info: 501-5520.

Sun, June 27, July 25, & Aug 29: Henrico Concert Band Summer Series (formerly the Varina Community Band). Three outdoor concerts; bring a blanket or lawn chair and spend a casual evening in the park. Free. *In case of inclement weather, cancelled concerts do not have rain dates.* 6-7 p.m. Dorey Park by the lake. Info: 501-5115.

Wed, June 30: Baillie Players: Life and Music of Maurice Chevalier. Ages 55+. Buren Martin and family will perform their wonderfully entertaining musical. Scenes from “GIGI” and “CAN CAN” are sure to spark a few fond memories. Sing along to “Thank Heaven for Little Girls,” “I Remember it Well” and “I Love Paris.” 2-3 p.m. Belmont Recreation Center. Free. Register by June 15. Info: 501-5114.

Sun, July 4: Old-Fashioned Fourth of July. Free entertainment and activities—music, train rides, pony rides, patriotic arts and crafts, face painting, petting zoo, contests and games for all ages. The entire family can ride the new carousel, see an ice sculpture demonstration, Uncle Sam on stilts, the historic color guard, drum and fife music and a period musket salute by Living History Associates, Ltd. Concessions available. 1-5 p.m. Meadow Farm Museum/Crump Park. Info: 501-5121.

Wed, July 7: Children’s Summertime Treat. Paul Krendl’s “Discovering the Magic,” combines comedy and magic that will leave you buzzing with excitement and rolling with laughter long after the event. 10-11 a.m. at Wilder Middle School & 2-3 p.m. at Pocahontas Middle School. Free. Reservations: 501-5134.

Wed, July 7, 21, & 28: All Work and No Play... School is Out! Ages 5+. Entertain yourself the way children did 140 years ago. Trundle a hoop or play games, pull up a stump or challenge a friend to checkers. 1-3 p.m. Meadow Farm Museum. Free. Info: 501-5520.

Sat, July 10: A Berry Good Time. Watch the cooks as they prepare delicious treats made from seasonal fruit. 12:30-3:30 p.m. Meadow Farm Museum. Free. Info: 501-5520.

Sat, July 17: Intro to Map and Compass. Ages 14+. Covers the features of a topographic map and a compass, and how they work together. We will go in the field, get lost and find our way out! 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Dorey Recreation Center. \$10. Register by July 2. Info: 501-5147.

Sun, July 18: The Cussins Connection. Captain John Cussins was an inventor and owned a printing company. Learn about this eccentric man and make a calendar using his patented ideas. 1-3 p.m. Meadow Farm Museum. Free. Info: 501-5520.

Tue, July 20: 33rd Annual Big Band Concert featuring Bill Zickafoose and the Continentals. Big band music, fun for the entire family. 8-10 p.m. Hermitage High School. Free. Info: 501-5115.

Sat, July 24: Huck Finn Fishing. Ages 3-7 with a parent. Join the fun and fishing at Dorey Park. We will provide the worms, but fishing poles are limited; call early to reserve one. Includes a hot dog lunch. Children are encouraged to dress as Huckleberry Finn or Becky Thatcher. Parents will need a license to drop a line. 10 a.m.-noon. Dorey Park. \$10. Register by July 12. Info: 501-5809.

Sun, July 25: An Afternoon at the Apollo. Senior dance with music provided by DJ Cox Entertainment (R&B and Jazz). 3-6 p.m. Hidden Creek Recreation Center. \$4 per ticket. Register by July 14. Info: 501-5114.

Sun, July 25: Kayak Touring: Blueberries, Boats and Bivalves. Ages 14+. For beginners and intermediate paddlers! Paddle to a waterfront blueberry farm and pick berries until your heart’s content. Watch a demonstration on oyster farming, Mathews County style. 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Mathews County. \$35. Register by July 9. Info: 501-5807.

Sun, July 25: Under the Stars: Summer Family Film Series- *The Rookie*, rated G. Grab your blanket and enjoy an outdoor movie! Prizes and entertainment, provided by Radio Disney, will begin at 6:30 p.m. Free popcorn and lemonade while supplies last. 7:30 p.m. Deep Run Park. Free. Info: 501-5121.

Tue, July 27: Camping with Kids. For all ages. Explore the great outdoors! Cover safety concerns, equipment and skills needed to enjoy family hiking and camping. 7-8 p.m. Gayton Library. Free. Registration: 740-2747, ext. 4.

July 28-31: Henrico Teen Theatre Company presents: *The Twelve Dancing Princesses* by Phyllis McCallum Koch. Where do the twelve princesses disappear to each night and how do they wear out their dancing slippers by morning? A fun play for the entire family! 10 a.m. & 2 p.m. each day. The Cultural Arts Center at Glen Allen. Free. Info & Reservations: 501-5859.

Henrico 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

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



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4301 East Parham Road
501-4000



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652-3600

HENRICO TODAY

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