



# HENRICO COUNTY VIRGINIA

## July 2002

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July 22, 2002

CONTACT: Jennifer Kraegel Assistant Director of Public Information

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Henrico County received 16 Achievement Awards recognizing 10 agencies from the National Association of Counties (NACo). Additionally, NACo designated Henrico's The Playmakers program as a Best of Category for Parks and Recreation. This special award is limited to exemplary model programs throughout the nation. Henrico Recreation and Parks Therapeutic and Cultural Arts sections collaborated to create The Playmakers, a theater group for adults with physical and mental disabilities that encourages participation in the performing arts. Participants learn choreography, staging, vocal projection and following direction while working on their physical and emotional skills. Making their theatrical debut in April 2000, The Playmakers perform at the Cultural Arts Center in Glen Allen.

The 15 additional NACo awards for innovative and progressive government administration include: Real Estate Advantage Program (REAP) Agency: Department of Finance; Contact: Edward W. Trice, Revenue Division Director;

The Voice of the Administrative Professional  
Agency: Department of Human Resources; Contact: Paula G. Reid, PHR, Human Resources Manager;

Succession Management: An Individualized Learning Plan Approach  
Agency: Department of Human Resources; Contact: Sheryn R. Holinsworth, Senior Human Resources Analyst;

Webtraffic: Active Content Traffic Condition Reports  
Agency: Department of Information Technology; Contact: B.R. Carson, Project Manager;

Four Spokes on a Cooperative Wheel  
Agency: James River Juvenile Detention Commission; Contact: George T. Drumwright, Jr., Chairman;

The Permit Center  
Agency: The Permit Center; Contact: Frederick F. Overmann, III, Director of Community Development;

Henrico County Demographic Report  
Agency: Planning Office; Contact: John R. Marles, Director;

Microwave Communication Path Protection Program  
Agency: Planning Office; Contact: John R. Marles, Director;

Sandston Commercial Area Study  
Agency: Planning Office; Contact: John R. Marles, Director;

Senior Citizen Academy  
Agency: Division of Police; Contact: Col. Henry W. Stanley, Chief;

Police Reading and Education Program  
Agency: Division of Police; Contact: Col. Henry W. Stanley, Chief;

Boundaries Web Site  
Agency: Henrico County Public Schools; Contact: Janet S. Binns, Public Relations Director;

Golden Age Program  
Agency: Henrico County Public Schools; Contact: Janet S. Binns, Public Relations Director;

High Tech Academy  
Agency: Henrico County Public Schools; Contact: Janet S. Binns, Public Relations Director;

Grandparent Support Group  
Agency: Department of Social Services; Contact: Gordon G. Ragland, Jr., Director.

Since its inception in 1970, the annual Achievement Award Program has honored hundreds of county government initiatives that have improved service delivery, achieved greater cost efficiency, provided finer customer service and helped develop a better-trained work force.

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July 11, 2002

CONTACT: George H. Cauble, Jr. Director of Human Resources

PHONE: 501-4625

Henrico County's Human Resources (HR) Department has earned national and local recognition for its outstanding and innovative Succession Management Program. The National Association of Counties (NACo) honored Henrico with an Achievement Award—one of 31 awards that the HR Department has earned from NACo during the past 15 years. The Richmond Human Resources Management Association and Workforce One also presented the county with an All-Star Award for its success last month. This award recognized a state employee who best demonstrated

presented the county with an All Star Award at a ceremony last month. This award recognized a single employer who best demonstrated a commitment to lifelong learning and employee development.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, the number of people between the ages of 16 and 34 will decline over the next decade, while the 55 and over age group will dramatically increase. Retirements in Henrico County government positions continue to climb; HR staff forecasts that 29 percent of upper management positions will be eligible for full retirement by 2005, and as many as 78 percent could retire with reduced benefits.

"Henrico County is working hard to maintain leadership continuity now and in the future to ensure the knowledge acquired by those in key positions in the county will not leave when these individuals do," said Director of Human Resources George H. Cauble, Jr., SPHR (Senior Professional in Human Resources).

Both Cauble and Senior Human Resources Analyst Sheryn R. Holinsworth will be featured speakers at the University of Virginia, Virginia Institute of Government's Succession Management workshop in August.

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July 2, 2002

CONTACT: Virgil R. Hazelett, P.E. County Manager

PHONE: 501-4386

Henrico County Manager Virgil R. Hazelett, P.E. has appointed Gordon G. Ragland, Jr. to the position of Director of Social Services.

Ragland began his career with Henrico County in 1991 with extensive experience. He has served as the department's assistant director and most recently, was the acting director of Social Services. Ragland succeeds former Social Services Director Bettie Kienast who retired April 30.

Hazelett said "I am very pleased to have Gordon on board in this new capacity. I am confident in his ability to lead the Department of Social Services as well as continue to improve the quality of life for Henrico county citizens."

Ragland is a graduate of the University of Richmond and earned a master's degree from Lynchburg College. Ragland has served two terms as state vice president of the Virginia League of Social Service Executives and is a recipient of the Virginia Department of Social Services' Outstanding Service Award and the Virginia League of Social Services' Efficiency and Effectiveness Award.

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July 1, 2002

CONTACT: Curtis W. Thorpe, M.D. Director of Health

PHONE: 501-4522

The Henrico County Health Department has confirmed a dead crow found Wednesday, June 26, near the intersection of Monument Avenue and Willow Lawn Drive has tested positive for the West Nile virus. This is the first positive bird found in Henrico this year and the 15th in Virginia.

"Residents can reduce their risk of infection by eliminating mosquito breeding areas around their home and using protection from mosquito bites," said Henrico County Health Director Curtis W. Thorpe, M.D. Henrico residents should continue to call 501-4530 to report dead birds to the health department; however, only certain crows, blue jays and raptors (hawks, eagles, falcons) will be tested for West Nile virus because they are the best early indicators of virus activity in an area.

West Nile virus is spread to birds, humans, horses and other mammals through the bite of an infected mosquito. Most people bitten by an infected mosquito do not get sick. Those who do usually suffer a mild flu-like illness. People over age 60 are at greatest risk of serious illness, such as encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) or meningitis (inflammation of the lining of the brain and spinal cord).

The Virginia Department of Health recommends the following tips to reduce exposure to mosquitoes:

- ◆ Wear long, loose and light-colored clothing.
- ◆ Use insect repellent products with no more than 35 percent DEET for adults and less than 10 percent for children.
- ◆ Turn over or remove containers in your yard where water collects, such as old tires, potted plant trays, buckets and toys.
- ◆ Eliminate standing water on tarps or flat roofs.
- ◆ Clean birdbaths and wading pools once a week.
- ◆ Clean roof gutters and downspout screens regularly.

In 2001, 215 birds, six horses, one mosquito pool and one chicken in a sentinel flock tested positive for West Nile virus in Virginia. West Nile virus was first detected in Virginia in the fall of 2000. For more information, log onto the Virginia Department of Health's web site at [www.vdh.state.va.us](http://www.vdh.state.va.us), and click onto "West Nile Virus Update."

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