



## HENRICO COUNTY VIRGINIA

### July 2007

---

July 25, 2007

CONTACT: Anna McRay, Emergency Manager

PHONE: 501-7183

Henrico County is launching an Emergency Notification System (ENS) that will send severe weather alerts and emergency bulletins directly to residents on their landline telephones, e-mail, cell phones, pagers and other wireless devices. ENS will deliver information by voice and text messages; residents now can register for the system's text-based component by logging on to [www.henriccoalert.org](http://www.henriccoalert.org).

The voice component of ENS uses reverse-911 technology to notify residents of emergency events on their home and work phones. Participation is not voluntary -- numbers in the enhanced-911 database are contacted when the voice service is activated -- but it is free of charge. Registration for the text-message component is free. Subscribers will be charged for messages by their service providers, according to the terms of their individual plans.

"The voice and text-messaging services are two new tools in Henrico's Emergency Alert System," said Emergency Manager Anna McRay. "They aren't replacing any of the traditional ways our residents receive emergency information -- they just give the county additional ways to provide residents emergency notification."

The text-message system is significantly faster -- it can distribute 36,000 messages in one minute, compared to 46 calls per minute by the voice-reverse 911 system - and will be used to respond to immediate life-safety issues, such as a tornado or flash-flood warnings from the National Weather Service. The voice system is better suited for incidents affecting a specific geographic area, such as a hazmat spill near a neighborhood.

Typically, the text system will send a brief life-safety message to subscribers' cell phones and other wireless devices. The message also will direct recipients to a more detailed e-mail message or to local media for additional information. The system only will be activated for an immediate life-safety matter.

"We encourage subscribers to register as many of their wireless communications devices as possible," McRay said. She noted that the text-message system is not restricted to Henrico residents -- anyone interested may register for the service. The voice-reverse 911 component only will contact landline telephones in Henrico County.

ENS will be implemented by Sigma Communications, LLC. The majority of the funding for the \$405,321 contract is being provided through a \$300,000 Urban Area Security Initiative grant.

---

July 24, 2007

CONTACT: Lt. Shawn Sears, Animal Protection Supervisor

PHONE: 652-3385

The Henrico County Division of Police will hold a rabies clinic on Saturday, Aug. 4, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., at gate four of Richmond International Raceway. Shots cost \$6, cash only, and include a rabies tag and certificate of inoculation. Dog owners may purchase a 2007 license for \$10 with proof of rabies inoculation. Cats and dogs ages 4 months and older are required to be vaccinated for rabies. Contact Animal Protection at 652-3360 for more information.

---

July 18, 2007

CONTACT: Barry Lawrence, Clerk, Board of Supervisors

PHONE: 501-4318

Henrico County has received 15 Achievement awards from the National Association of Counties (NACo), honoring innovative programs implemented by county agencies last year. The awards were presented at the 2007 NACo annual conference, held July 13-17 in Richmond.

The NACo Achievement Award Program recognizes groundbreaking county government programs annually in a broad range of service areas, including education, administration, parks and recreation, health and human services. The award program began in 1970 as part of a nationwide campaign to modernize county government and improve its level of service; some 97 counties from 27 states participated this year.

NACo honored Henrico programs developed and implemented in 2006 by nine county agencies. The awards continue the county's tradition of providing cutting-edge programs to residents. Henrico programs have received 90 NACo Achievement awards since 2000 and 345 over the last 20 years.

Programs receiving awards were:

- \* "Breakfast-To-Go," Schools; provides a nutritious boxed breakfast for elementary and middle school students as they enter the building, ensuring that they receive a healthy breakfast that can be eaten in the cafeteria or classroom;
- \* "Community-Based Fast Track GED Partnerships," Schools; helps targeted adults pursue a GED by joining with partner organizations to offer an eight-week instruction program at easy-access community sites;
- \* "HCPS Test Data Web Site," Schools; facilitates the distribution and analysis of state and federal test data at the school level through an internal Web site;
- \* "Online High School Health & Physical Education/Fitness Center Partnerships," Schools; partners with local fitness centers, nonprofit organizations and higher-education institutions to provide a Web-based course for 10th grade students;
- \* "Enterprise Zone Marketing and Promotion Program," Community Revitalization; publicizes expansion of Henrico's Enterprise Zone to business and property owners through a television show, brochure, information packet and special events;
- \* "Juvenile Fire-setter Intervention," Fire; expands a single-agency effort into a multi-agency program that educates youth on fire behavior and the consequences of fire-setting and works to reduce fire-related injury and property loss;
- \* "Holiday Patrol 2006," Police; concentrated police officers at shopping malls, business districts and surrounding areas for high-visibility patrols during the holiday

season;

\* "A.D.M.I.T. Program," Police; Assist Division Members through Interview Training, a three-day program, prepares top officers for promotion by teaching resume' and interview skills and conducting mock panel interviews;

\* "Next Generation Leadership Academy," Schools; this partnership between the University of Richmond and metro region school systems provides intensive educational leadership training for aspiring school leaders, with a focus on improving student achievement;

\* "Art Contest! Celebrating the New Tuckahoe Area Library," Public Library; sponsored a contest for local artists in conjunction with the opening of the library and obtained a permanent collection of nearly 50 pieces for the new facility;

\* "Library Cards to Go! Registration at Middle Schools," Public Library; uses wireless technology to offer library card registration at county middle schools, giving each student the opportunity to obtain a library card;

\* "2005 Operations Event," Public Utilities; this team-building and cross-training exercise brought together Utilities employees for equipment demonstrations and other activities to increase cooperation throughout the department;

\* "Role of the Supervisor: A Blended Learning Approach," Human Resources; prepares new supervisors for management responsibilities with a blended learning approach, varied leadership strategies and ongoing support services;

\* "Fat Busters -- A Weight Loss Program," Human Resources; this 12-week competition for employees promotes healthy weight loss and lifestyle changes -- participants lost more than 3,000 pounds during the program's first two years; and

\* "Identification and Mapping of Special Needs Facilities," Planning; worked with local and state agencies to develop policies providing emergency services to special-needs populations during a catastrophic event.

---

July 9, 2007

CONTACT: Mark J. Levine, M.D., Director, Public Health

PHONE: 501-4522

With severe heat expected today and tomorrow in Henrico and the metropolitan region, the Henrico County Public Health Department advises residents to be aware of the signs of heat-related illness and to take steps to protect themselves.

\* Individuals especially at risk for heat-related illness include small children, seniors and people with chronic medical conditions who are not in an air-conditioned environment; however, anyone can be affected by severe heat.

\* Early signs of heat-related illness can include cramping, fatigue, dizziness and fainting. Heat exhaustion and heat stroke are medical emergencies requiring immediate attention -- call 911.

\* Drink two-to-four glasses of cool fluids each hour; if working outside or exercising, drink fruit juice or sports beverages.

\* If possible, conduct outdoor activities before noon or at night. Limit physical activity and rest frequently. Avoid sunburn; use sunscreen with a high SPF. Wear a hat and light, loose-fitting clothing. If working outside, make sure someone knows.

\* Never leave children or pets in vehicles with closed windows, even momentarily. Temperatures quickly can reach 150 degrees, resulting in heat stroke and death.

\* Keep cool indoors. Spending at least two hours per day in air conditioning significantly reduces the number of heat-related illnesses; be aware that a fan may not prevent illness when temperatures reach the upper 90s.

\* Several Henrico County recreation facilities are available as cooling centers. Contact each site for hours of operation: Confederate Hills, 737-2859; Belmont, 501-5990; Dorey, 795-2334; and Deep Run, 290-0305. Henrico libraries also are available -- call 652-3200 or log on to [www.henricolibrary.org](http://www.henricolibrary.org) for information.

\* Henrico's Department of Social Services offers financial assistance for energy needs through a Cooling Assistance Program. Call 501-4099 for information.

---

[Return to Public Relations & Media Services Page](#)

[Past News Releases](#)