



HENRICO COUNTY VIRGINIA

December 2008

December 29, 2008

CONTACT: Linda Leigh, Executive Assistant, Board of Supervisors

PHONE: 501-4208

The next constituent meeting of Fairfield District Supervisor Frank Thornton will examine Henrico's Draft 2026 Comprehensive Plan and also will provide information about child-mentoring programs. The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 5 at the Eastern Government Center multipurpose room, 3820 Nine Mile Road.

Representatives from the county's Planning Department will explain and answer questions about the 2026 Comprehensive Plan, a key document that will guide the county's growth over the next two decades.

In addition, the meeting will feature a presentation by Deon Intervention, Inc. about its mentoring program for children ages 10-15.

Fairfield constituent meetings are open to the public. Call 501-4208 for more information.

December 18, 2008

CONTACT: Jim Carey, Foster Care Supervisor

PHONE: 501-4029

Henrico residents interested in becoming foster parents can learn about the county's Foster Care program at information sessions offered by Henrico's Department of Social Services (DSS) on Monday, Jan. 12 and again on Monday, Feb. 16. DSS will hold the sessions from 6-8 p.m. both nights on the second floor of the Human Services Building, 8600 Dixon Powers Drive.

Participants will receive information on a variety of topics, including the special needs of foster children; what it takes to be a successful foster parent; working with DSS staff and the biological parents of a foster child; and the application and approval process. They also will have the opportunity to ask questions and sign up for the next foster parent training program, which begins in March.

Henrico DSS currently has a special need for families interested in serving as foster parents for children ages 13 and older.

Pre-registration for the information sessions is encouraged. Participants can register or obtain additional information by calling Georgia Phillips at 501-7496 or Tony Jones at 501-4245.

Foster parents are "professional parents," available around-the-clock to bring children into their homes and provide temporary and potentially long-term care in a safe, stable environment. Parents must be at least 21, have their own source of income and sufficient living space in their house or apartment to care for a child. They can be single or married, with or without children of their own, male or female, and from all backgrounds, races and nationalities.

For more information, log on to www.co.henrico.va.us/dss/foster-parenting/.

December 16, 2008

CONTACT: Barbara Herzog, Executive Director, Henrico CASA

PHONE: 501-1671

The Henrico County Court Appointed Special Advocates program (CASA) will host its third annual benefit art gallery exhibition and silent auction on Friday, Jan. 16, from 6-9 p.m. at The Crossroads Art Center, 2016 Staples Mill Road.

Proceeds from the special event will support Henrico CASA programs serving abused and neglected children in the county's Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court system. CASA trains volunteers to work as child advocates in court. Last year, volunteers served 258 local children, donating nearly 10,000 hours to their cases.

The silent auction will feature a variety of work by local and regional artists and other items valued at more than \$15,000, including paintings, ceramics, jewelry, photography, Air Tran airline tickets and vacation packages. Featured artists include Matt Lively, Morgan McKinney, Jennifer Young, Claiborne Riley and Garry-Lou Upton. For a complete list of auction items, log on to www.henicocasa.org.

A gallery talk will begin at 7:15 p.m., followed by remarks from Richmond School Board member and child advocate Kim Gray.

Admission to the event is free and open to the public. For additional information, call 501-1671 or log on to the CASA Web site.

December 12, 2008

CONTACT: Megan Brown, Executive Coordinator, Keep Henrico Beautiful

PHONE: 501-4502

The Keep Henrico Beautiful Committee will provide Christmas tree recycling for Henrico residents at two county sites from Friday, Dec. 26 through Sunday, Jan. 11.

Residents may bring their trees to the lower parking lot at the Henrico Government Center, 4301 E. Parham Road, and to the front parking lot at the Eastern Government Center, 3820 Nine Mile Road. This free service is offered for residential use, not for commercial tree lots.

Residents may also recycle trees free of charge at the public use areas at Springfield Road Landfill, near Interstate 295 and Nuckols Road, and at Charles City Road Landfill, 2075 Charles City Road. County staff will help residents dispose of trees from 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily through Saturday, Jan. 31.

All ornaments, tinsel, screws, nuts and bolts and other items should be removed before trees are brought to the recycling locations.

For more information, contact Keep Henrico Beautiful at 501-4502.

December 10, 2008

CONTACT: Barry Lawrence, Clerk, Board of Supervisors

PHONE: 501-4318

The Henrico County Board of Supervisors will not hold a second meeting in December. The board will reconvene on Tuesday, Jan. 13, in its regular location -- the Government Center Board Room, 4301 E. Parham Road.

The board has held its past two meetings at an alternate site while equipment is installed to facilitate the Web-streaming broadcast of meetings from the Government Center Board Room, beginning in February.

The Henrico County Board of Supervisors regularly meets at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Call 501-4318 for more information.

December 8, 2008

CONTACT: Maureen Goode, Employment Services Supervisor, Social Services

PHONE: 501-5828

Eligible taxpayers can receive free help preparing their 2008 income tax return -- and potentially increase their refunds by claiming the earned income tax credit -- at sites hosted by Henrico County and the Greater Richmond Earned Income Tax Credit Coalition (GREITCC).

The earned income tax credit is a benefit for qualifying workers who file a tax return and meet income requirements -- generally, families with children earning less than \$41,646 and individuals earning less than \$15,880. The benefit could increase a federal refund by as much as \$4,824 for families and \$438 for individuals.

Trained volunteers will help eligible taxpayers prepare and file returns at coalition sites throughout the metropolitan area. Filers will need to know the payment amount they received from the federal Economic Stimulus Act of 2008.

The GREITCC will operate two sites in Henrico:

* Human Services Building, 8600 Dixon Powers Drive; from Jan. 27 to April 14, 4-8 p.m. each Tuesday and Thursday;

* Fairfield Area Library, 1001 N. Laburnum Ave.; from Feb. 7 to March 14, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. each Saturday.

The GREITCC works to help low-to-moderate income families maximize tax refunds that can help pay bills and reduce debt. The coalition also offers qualifying taxpayers a free alternative to paid tax-preparation services. Last year, coalition volunteers helped area residents file 1,635 federal returns, generating \$838,525 in earned income tax credit funds and a total of \$1,744,289 in federal returns. The free service saved filers an estimated \$330,600 in preparation fees.

For more information, contact the GREITCC at 649-0330 or call the United Way information service at 211.

December 4, 2008

CONTACT: Randall R. Silber, Deputy County Manager, Community Development

PHONE: 501-4270

With the deluge of dark economic news on both the national and state levels this fall, Henrico County officials point to a bright spot in the metro region's economy -- the creation of some 1,146 jobs at the area's newest shopping center, The Shops at White Oak Village.

Since holding ribbon-cutting ceremonies in October, White Oak Village has seen more than 40 national, regional and local retailers and restaurants open their doors. Several more businesses, including JCPenney, a Hyatt Place hotel and national chain restaurants such as Longhorn Steakhouse and Red Lobster, are slated to open by spring.

"White Oak Village is a real success story and is providing a significant boost for our local economy at a challenging time," said County Manager Virgil R. Hazelett, P.E. "We also believe it will have a spillover effect and spur additional economic activity in the area."

Located in eastern Henrico near the intersection of Interstate 64 and East Laburnum Avenue, the \$160-million White Oak Village offers residents of the county's east end a quality, accessible shopping and entertainment location. In addition to providing 900,000 square feet of retail space, the center also serves as a local gathering spot, with a common area that can be closed to vehicles for concerts and community events.

Developers Forest City Enterprises and Pruitt Associates designed White Oak Village in accordance with Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards, using 77,000 tons of recycled concrete and 7,500 tons of recycled aluminum, steel and other metals in the project.

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