



HENRICO COUNTY VIRGINIA

December 2009

December 21, 2009

CONTACT: Rod Gordon, Community Resource Developer, Social Services

PHONE: 501-4091

Free tax help available beginning Feb. 2

Eligible taxpayers can receive free help preparing their 2009 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 refundable credit designed to help families and individuals who work and earn modest incomes -- generally, families with children earning less than \$43,279 and individuals without children earning less than \$13,440. The benefit could increase a federal refund by as much as \$5,657 for families with three or more children and \$457 for individuals.

Trained volunteers will help eligible taxpayers prepare and file returns at coalition sites throughout the metropolitan area. The GREITCC will operate two sites in Henrico:

Human Services Building, 8600 Dixon Powers Drive; from Feb. 2 to April 14, 4-8 p.m. each Tuesday and Thursday;

Fairfield Area Library, 1001 N. Laburnum Ave.; from Feb. 13 to March 13, 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 1,734 federal returns, generating \$804,232 in earned income tax credit funds and a total of \$1,865,398 in federal returns. The free service saved filers an estimated \$346,800 in preparation fees.

For more information, contact the GREITCC at (804) 775-6432 or call the United Way information service at 211.

December 17, 2009

CONTACT: Barbara Herzog Executive Director Henrico CASA

PHONE: 501-1671

Henrico CASA to hold benefit art auction Jan. 15

The Henrico County Court Appointed Special Advocates program (CASA) will host its fourth annual benefit art gallery exhibition and silent auction on Friday, Jan. 15, from 6-9 p.m. at The Crossroads Art Center, 2016 Staples Mill Road.

Proceeds from the 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 295 local children, donating more than 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 \$7,000, including paintings, glassworks, jewelry, sculpture and photography. Featured artists include Matt Lively, Morgan McKinney, Nancy Jacey and Diane Kraudelt. For a complete list of auction items, log on to www.henricocasa.org.

A gallery talk will begin at 7:15 p.m., followed by remarks from Henrico CASA Executive Director Barbara Herzog.

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 11, 2009

CONTACT: Megan Brown, Executive Coordinator, Keep Henrico Beautiful

PHONE: 501-4502

Free Christmas tree recycling available to Henrico residents beginning Dec. 26

The Keep Henrico Beautiful Committee will provide Christmas tree recycling for Henrico residents at two county sites from Saturday, Dec. 26 through Sunday, Jan. 10.

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 Sunday, 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 9, 2009

CONTACT: Barry Lawrence, Clerk, Board of Supervisors

PHONE: 501-4318

Henrico Board of Supervisors sets next meeting for Jan. 12

The Henrico County Board of Supervisors will not hold a second meeting in December. The board will reconvene on Tuesday, Jan. 12.

The Henrico County Board of Supervisors regularly meets at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month in the Government Center Board Room, located at 4301 E. Parham Road. Call 501-4318 for more information.

December 8, 2009

CONTACT: Rod Gordon, Community Resource Developer, Social Services

PHONE: 501-4091

Volunteers sought for income tax-preparation program

Henrico County and the Greater Richmond Earned Income Tax Credit Coalition (GREITCC) are seeking volunteers for a program that provides free income tax-preparation assistance for qualifying residents.

Volunteers are needed to help eligible families and individuals prepare and file income tax returns, serve as interpreters and site coordinators, and greet and screen taxpayers. The GREITCC will operate sites throughout the metropolitan area, including two in Henrico:

Human Services Building, 8600 Dixon Powers Drive; from Feb. 2 to April 14, 4-8 p.m. each Tuesday and Thursday;

Fairfield Area Library, 1001 N. Laburnum Ave.; from Feb. 13 to March 13, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. each Saturday.

Previous experience with income tax preparation is not required, and hours are flexible. Volunteers can attend an IRS-sponsored training session and must complete a certification exam before assisting with income tax preparation. Several training sessions will be offered in January. To register or to obtain additional information, contact Rod Gordon with Henrico Social Services at 501-4091 or e-mail gor02@co.henrico.va.us.

The GREITCC works to help low-to-moderate income families claim tax refunds that can help pay bills and reduce debt. The coalition offers qualifying taxpayers a free alternative to paid tax-preparation services and works to raise awareness of the earned income tax credit -- a benefit for qualifying workers that can increase a federal refund by hundreds of dollars. Last year, coalition volunteers helped area residents file nearly 1,500 tax returns; those returns generated \$827,773 in refunds through the earned income tax credit.

December 7, 2009

CONTACT: Michael K. Magner, Central Region Planner, Virginia Department of Health

PHONE: (804) 432-9987

Henrico Health Department to hold appointment-only H1N1 clinic Wednesday

The Henrico County Public Health Department will hold an appointment-only H1N1 vaccination clinic on Wednesday, Dec. 9, from 2:30-7:00 p.m. in the Expo Building at Richmond International Raceway. Clinic participants should enter the raceway complex at the main gate on Laburnum Avenue.

Vaccine recipients must pre-register and schedule an appointment to receive the vaccine. Vaccine recipients can register online at www.HenricoFlu.com or by calling the Henrico's H1N1 Hotline at 501-4151 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The Wednesday clinic will dispense 1,000 doses of H1N1 vaccine, including 750 by injection and 250 by nasal spray. The principal intent of this clinic is to vaccinate children in private school, home school and daycare, children in public school that missed their opportunity during the in-school clinics, and college-aged adults (18-24 years of age). The Health Department has been vaccinating Henrico County Public Schools students since Nov. 5 and will hold a vaccination clinic at every public school with a projected completion date of Dec. 11, 2009.

In addition to children and adults from 6 months to 24 years of age, Wednesday's H1N1 clinic will focus on vaccinating residents in the following priority groups: individuals who live with or care for infants younger than 6 months; pregnant women; adults 25 to 64 years old with certain health conditions; and health care workers and EMS providers.

For more information, contact Henrico's H1N1 Hotline at 501-4151

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

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