



HENRICO COUNTY VIRGINIA

July 2010

July 28, 2010

CONTACT: Barbara Herzog, Executive Director, Henrico CASA

PHONE: 501-1671

Henrico CASA seeks volunteers for child-advocacy training program

Henrico County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) is seeking volunteers to serve as advocates for abused and neglected children in the court system.

Henrico CASA will conduct a free, six-week training program for volunteers from 6-9 p.m. each Monday and Wednesday beginning Monday, Sept. 13 at its office in the Hungary Spring Office Park, 3001 Hungary Spring Road, suite A. Potential volunteers must apply for the program; applicants will undergo interviews, background and reference checks as well as fingerprinting and local criminal checks.

To apply or obtain additional information, contact Dayle Goldberg at 501-1675, e-mail gol@co.henrico.va.us or log on to www.henicocasa.org by Friday, Sept. 3.

CASA volunteers serve as the voice of abused and neglected children in the court system. They come from a variety of educational and professional backgrounds; legal experience is not required. Participants receive training to conduct interviews, research and investigate cases, provide written reports for Juvenile Court judges and assist child welfare professionals and case attorneys.

Last year, volunteers served as advocates for 277 children, donating nearly 10,650 hours to their cases.

Henrico CASA is a private, nonprofit organization that works closely with the county's Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. For more information, log on to the CASA website.

July 27, 2010

CONTACT: Teddy Martin, Horticulture Extension Technician

PHONE: 501-5160

Henrico SMART Lawn Care Field Day set for Aug. 14

The Henrico County Extension Office will offer expert lawn care advice and hands-on demonstrations of lawn products and equipment at the free SMART Lawn Care Field Day on Saturday, Aug. 14, from 8:30 a.m. to noon at the Human Services Building, 8600 Dixon Powers Drive.

The event will feature a variety of activities, including free soil pH testing from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.; vendor demonstrations of lawn products and services; and consultations with Henrico Master Gardeners regarding lawn care, weeds, plants and other topics. In addition, County Agent Karen Carter will lead a lawn care seminar from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Refreshments will be available as well.

SMART Lawn Care Field Day is open to the public; registration is required. The first 50 registrants will receive a rain gauge and voucher for a soil test. Call 501-5160 to register.

SMART Lawns is a seasonal, comprehensive program that teaches a step-by-step approach to building healthy lawns. Contact the Extension Office or log on to www.co.henrico.va.us/extension for more information.

July 23, 2010

CONTACT: Lt. Shawn Sears, Animal Protection Supervisor

PHONE: 727-8800

Henrico rabies clinic set for Aug. 7

The Henrico County Division of Police will hold a rabies clinic on Saturday, Aug. 7, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., at gate four of Richmond International Raceway. Shots cost \$8, cash only, and include a rabies tag and certificate of inoculation. Dog owners may purchase a 2010 license for \$10 with proof of rabies inoculation.

Lt. Shawn Sears, supervisor of Henrico Police's Animal Protection unit, encourages residents to vaccinate their pets.

"(Vaccination) will ensure the safety of our residents' pets and will help protect the community as well," Sears said.

Cats and dogs ages 4 months and older are required to be vaccinated for rabies. Contact Animal Protection at 727-8800 for more information.

July 22, 2010

CONTACT: Teddy Martin, Horticulture Extension Technician

PHONE: 501-5160

Henrico Extension lawn care seminars set for Aug. 10-12

The Henrico County Extension Office will continue its free, year-round seminar series Aug. 10-12 with a program on summer lawn care. The seminars are scheduled for 7 to 8:30 p.m. each night at the following locations (each seminar will feature the same program): Tuesday, Aug. 10, Sandston Branch Library, 23 E. Williamsburg Road; Wednesday, Aug. 11, Tuckahoe Area Library, 1901 Starling Drive; and Thursday, Aug. 12, Twin Hickory Area Library, 5001 Twin Hickory Road.

"Establishing a New Lawn – Renovating an Old One" will explain how to build a lawn from scratch and rejuvenate an old lawn in preparation for next spring. Participants will learn about tilling, using pre-emergence weed killers and incorporating essentials into poor soil.

"Establishing a New Lawn" is open to the public. Each seminar will be led by an Extension staff member or a Henrico Master Gardener. Pre-registration is encouraged. Call 501-5160 to register or to obtain additional information.

July 7, 2010

CONTACT: Barry Lawrence, Clerk, Board of Supervisors

PHONE: 501-4318

Henrico wins national awards for innovative programs

Henrico County has received 18 Achievement awards from the National Association of Counties (NACo), more than any Virginia county and seventh-most nationally. The awards will be presented at the 2010 NACo annual conference, set for July 16-20 in Reno, Nev.

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.

NACo honored Henrico programs developed and implemented by eight county agencies. The awards continue the county's tradition of providing cutting-edge programs to residents. Henrico programs have received 149 NACo Achievement awards since 2000.

Programs receiving awards were:

"Households Facing Economic Crisis: Regional Employment Transition Center," County Manager's Office; when the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression led to unprecedented job losses throughout the metropolitan area, county officials coordinated a regional response in March 2009 with the opening of the Regional Employment Transition Center; the center offers a broad range of employment services, combining the efforts of several agencies into one location, and has received more than 11,000 visits from individuals seeking services;

"Automating Vehicle Registration Withholding," Finance; this project significantly enhanced the county's processing of delinquent vehicle personal property taxes and offers residents more options for paying delinquent taxes;

"Reforming the Business Inspection Process," Finance; Henrico's business inspectors implemented several measures, including the field use of wireless laptop computers and operating within better-defined territories, that improved efficiency and customer service and produced a 30 percent increase in revenues;

"SWAM Outreach Collaborative," General Services; this project to bring more SWAM (small, women-owned and minority-owned) businesses into Henrico's procurement process expanded to include several area localities, nonprofit organizations and the Commonwealth of Virginia in a daylong conference and networking event;

"Fitness and Wellness Certification," Human Resources; a comprehensive effort to encourage employee participation in fitness and wellness activities, this program provides fitness trainers and nutrition classes for employees; in one 17-week session, 72 participants lost a total of 580 pounds;

"Employee Retention and Career Enhancement Program," Planning; this initiative utilizes cross training and career-development principles to help the Planning Department retain employees while providing a process for their advancement within the department;

"Online Development Plan Review System," Planning; this Internet application, created in-house, converts review comments on development plans into instant e-mail notifications that are sent to other county agencies, developers and interested residents, enhancing the monitoring of development projects around the county;

"Senior Outreach Program," Public Library; the Friends of Twin Hickory Area Library and staff collaborate to host monthly programs -- such as musical performances, travelogues and film screenings -- for residents of area assisted living facilities;

"Teacher Cadet Day," Public Library; staff at Twin Hickory Area Library conducted a motivational workshop for more than 150 high school students considering a career in education;

"Collaborative Action Plan to Protect Children with Allergies," Schools; a task force of parents and school administrative staff worked together to develop a comprehensive plan addressing the safety, health and social needs of students with severe allergies;

"Community-Led Approach to Strategic Planning," Schools; a new approach to strategic planning, this initiative brought community stakeholders into the early stages of plan development and maintained their involvement throughout the three-stage process, producing a strategic plan that better reflects community perspectives;

"Biodiesel Production: Going Green in High School," Schools; students at Varina High School convert used cooking oil into biodiesel fuel that powers equipment ranging from lawn mowers to school buses and produces cost savings for the system;

"EL/Civics Program," Schools; this effort provides adult ESOL (English Speakers of Other Languages) students with the academic and civics instruction necessary to help them transition into a traditional GED class and obtain U.S. citizenship;

"Harmony Park," Schools; located at Colonial Trail Elementary School, this outdoor musical classroom -- Virginia's first -- features weatherproof instruments from Indonesian and South African traditions and helps students learn about world cultures;

"Mock Interviews: Preparing Teen for Tomorrow," Schools; nearly 350 juniors and seniors at three high schools have worked with community business leaders to hone their career preparation and job interview skills through this mock interview program;

"Pandemic Influenza: Community Approach to Prevention," Schools; a number of government agencies worked together to ensure access to H1N1 vaccine for every school-aged child in Henrico through school-based clinics and other means;

"CTE Showcase Expo," Schools; this daylong event -- featuring dozens of exhibits, guest speakers and demonstrations -- introduced students to the system's Career and Technical Education programs;

"Web-based Case Management and Appointment Scheduler Systems," Social Services; developed and implemented in partnership with the county's Department of Information Technology, this user-friendly system significantly enhanced Social Services' efficiency in managing clients' cases as well as workers' caseloads.

July 6, 2010

CONTACT: Juston Manville, Coordinator, Geographic Information Systems

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Henrico GIS program chosen for international award

The Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) has named Henrico County's GIS program a winner of the Special Achievement in GIS Award for its innovative use of geographic information system technology. The award will be presented at the 30th annual ESRI International User Conference, set for July 12-16 in San Diego.

The Henrico program is being recognized for integrating GIS throughout the county's information technology systems, enabling Henrico to enhance its management of billions of dollars of county infrastructure and other assets. Henrico is the first locality in Virginia to adopt a policy requiring integration of the technology countywide. To support this comprehensive approach, Henrico GIS has implemented an extensive training program for the more than 200 county employees who use the technology on a regular basis.

"This effort has enhanced our ability to manage county assets and has produced a more efficient workplace," said GIS Coordinator Juston Manville.

Special Achievement in GIS Award recipients must be nominated by an ESRI staff member to be considered for the award. The Henrico program was selected from more than 300,000 organizations and industries worldwide -- ranging from defense, intelligence and telecommunications to agriculture, education and economic development -- that use geographic information system technology.

Henrico is just the fourth Virginia locality to receive the award since 2002.

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