



HENRICO COUNTY VIRGINIA

July 2011

July 27, 2011

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, four-week training program for new volunteers from 6-9 p.m. each Monday and Wednesday beginning Monday, Sept. 12 at its office in the Hungary Spring Office Park, 3001 Hungary Spring Road, suite A. Volunteers must first 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 Jeannine Panzera at 501-1673, email pan01@co.henrico.va.us or visit www.henricocasa.org by Thursday, Sept. 1.

CASA volunteers serve as the voice of abused and neglected children in the court system. 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 302 children, donating more than 12,300 hours to their cases.

"The single thing that keeps me coming back is that I feel I truly make a difference in the lives of the children I serve," said Susan Tellier, a CASA volunteer since 1998.

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

July 27, 2011

CONTACT: Lt. Shawn Sears, Animal Protection Supervisor
PHONE: 727-8800

Henrico rabies clinic set for Aug. 6

The Henrico County Division of Police will hold a rabies clinic on Saturday, Aug. 6, 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. Cats must be held in pet carriers. Dog owners may purchase a 2011 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 26, 2011

CONTACT: Teddy Martin, Horticulture Extension Technician
PHONE: 501-5160

Henrico Extension to offer free seminars on reviving lawns Aug. 9-11

The Henrico County Extension Office will continue its free, year-round seminar series Aug. 9-11 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. 9, Sandston Branch Library, 23 E. Williamsburg Road; Wednesday, Aug. 10, Tuckahoe Area Library, 1901 Starling Drive; and Thursday, Aug. 11, 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 19, 2011

CONTACT: Barry Lawrence, Clerk, Board of Supervisors
PHONE: 501-4318

Henrico wins national awards for innovative programs

Henrico County has received 22 Achievement awards from the National Association of Counties (NACo), more than any Virginia county and sixth-most nationally. The awards were announced at the 2011 NACo annual conference, held July 15-19 in Portland, Ore.

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.

Henrico now has led Virginia counties in NACo Achievement awards for six straight years. The county trailed only major metropolitan areas such as Los Angeles, San Diego and Miami Dade counties in the 2011 competition. Henrico programs have received 171 NACo awards since 2000.

NACo honored Henrico programs developed and implemented by 11 county agencies. Programs and agencies receiving awards were:

"Victim Restitution Information Processing System (RIPS)," Community Corrections; an automated tracking system for restitution payments by criminal offenders, RIPS significantly reduced the time needed to deliver payments to victims and helped the agency collect a record amount of restitution last year;

"Homeowners' Enhancement Guide," Community Revitalization; this comprehensive 138-page handbook — also available on disk and online — provides illustrations, diagrams, checklists and other resources to help homeowners modernize their aging homes;

"Enhancing the Business License and Personal Property Audit Program," Finance; this effort streamlined the process for reviewing business tax returns, enabling staff to conduct more audits and increase revenue by 160 percent over the previous year;

"Managing Debt Service Expenditures During an Economic Downturn," Finance; Henrico refinanced existing debt four times over a 15-month period, generating debt-service savings of more than \$17.7 million at the height of the recession;

"Get Connected, Stay Connected," Human Resources; this program assessed the technology skills of all 4,000 general government employees to facilitate implementation of the automated Human Resources Management System;

"The Henrico County Games," Human Resources; part of an ongoing effort to promote wellness among county employees, this interdepartmental competition included a tug-of-war, two-mile run and mental skills challenge with 13 teams of employees participating;

"Supporting Employee Resiliency During Turbulent Times," Human Resources; this initiative offered employees classes and other resources to help manage stress stemming from the recession;

"An Approach for Reducing Telecommunications Costs," Information Technology; staff developed a web-browser based system that created a telecommunications database, enabling detailed analysis of costs and saving more than \$1 million last year;

"Innsbrook Area Study," Planning; combining technology, public input and traditional land-use study methods, this project created a redevelopment plan for the Innsbrook Corporate Center to help it adapt to the recession and changing market conditions;

"P.E.A.K. — Police, Educators and Kids," Police; an educational and crime-prevention program for students grades K-5, this initiative also works to develop positive relationships between police officers and young people;

"The 400th Anniversary Notable Henricoans Database," Public Library; part of the county's quadricentennial commemoration, this online resource provides information about 130 deceased residents who played a key role in Henrico history;

"Tourist Information Center," Recreation and Parks; the opening of this state-accredited facility — Henrico's first — was timed to promote the county's 400th anniversary activities as well as the variety of Henrico attractions;

"Accessing Health Care and Enhancing Education," Schools; designed to boost student attendance by increasing the availability of health care, the Family Access to Medical Insurance Security program provides a variety of health services for up to 3,500 students;

"Big Nurse, Little Nurse," Schools; this mentoring program connects first-year and more experienced students in the Henrico County-St. Mary's Hospital School of Practical Nursing program to enhance learning opportunities;

"Career Café," Schools; this initiative provides high school and adult GED students access to extensive career information;

"Certification of CTE Students: Ensuring a Competent Workforce," Schools; the Career and Technical Education (CTE) department created Virginia's first credential testing coordinator position to develop a testing process for its students;

"Henrico 21: Training for Teaching in the 21st Century," Schools; teachers submitted more than 600 lesson plans highlighting the use of technology in teaching and learning to an expert review panel; the top lessons were recognized and distributed online systemwide;

"On the Sidelines with Sports Medicine," Schools; students in sports medicine classes gained hands-on experience by working directly with coaches, athletic trainers and activity directors at their high schools;

"Project Homeless Connect," Schools; cosmetology students and teachers from Hermitage and Highland Springs technical centers provided more than 100 free haircuts for the area's homeless residents at this annual support event;

"Teachers for Tomorrow Annual Institute," Schools; this one-day, countywide annual event introduces students in the honors-level Teachers for Tomorrow course to professional development and leadership-building activities;

"Virginia Randolph Knights Give Back," Schools; students learn about community service firsthand by participating in full-day field trips that support projects in the Henrico community;

"Henrico DSS Title IV-E Quality Assurance Team," Social Services; organized to provide oversight and quality-assurance review of federal and state funding of foster care programs for youth, this effort has significantly reduced Social Services' exposure to financial risk.

July 19, 2011

CONTACT: Capt. Chris Buehren, Division of Fire/Community Services
PHONE: 501-5877

System upgrades affecting Henrico Alert System messaging services

Recent system upgrades may be affecting text and email messages sent to subscribers of the Henrico Alert System, the county's free, text-based notification network that delivers bulletins regarding inclement weather and other emergency situations to wireless devices and email addresses.

Subscribers are encouraged to log in to their accounts at www.henricoalert.org to confirm their wireless devices are registered correctly and activated. Users can reactivate devices that have been disabled in error by following instructions under the "Devices" tab.

In addition, the county is working with Internet service providers to ensure that messages sent to subscribers' email addresses are not blocked or treated as spam.

Enhancements made to county computer servers housing the Henrico Alert System may have caused subscribers' wireless devices to be disabled inadvertently. The upgrades also may be causing Internet service providers not to recognize the system and to block its messages.

Anna McRay, deputy coordinator of emergency management for Henrico, said the Henrico Alert System should be operating properly again soon. In the meantime, she advised users to check Henrico County websites www.co.henrico.va.us or www.henricoalert.org, HCTV (Henrico County Television), Twitter accounts HenricoOEM and HenricoNews and NOAA Weather Radio for emergency information.

"We appreciate our subscribers' patience as we make sure we have the most up-to-date technology to help keep them safe during an emergency," she said.

July 19, 2011

CONTACT: Kim Sicola, Assistant Supervisor, Historic Preservation and Museum Services, Recreation and Parks
PHONE: 652-3404

Bus tour Aug. 20 will examine Henrico's African-American heritage

Henrico's 400th anniversary commemoration will offer a firsthand look at the county's African-American history with a daylong bus tour of significant sites on Saturday, Aug. 20.

Coordinated by the Valentine Richmond History Center and the county's Division of Recreation and Parks, "Henrico's African-American Heritage" will run from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and originate at Dabbs House, 3820 Nine Mile Road. The \$30 fee includes a box lunch. Reservations are required; contact the Valentine Richmond History Center at (804) 649-0711, ext. 301.

The bus tour will visit sites highlighting the important role black residents played in the development of Henrico County, which is home to some of the oldest African-American communities in the United States. Stops will include Echo Lake, Spring Park and the newly renovated Virginia E. Randolph Museum, the National Historic Landmark that tells the story of the pioneering educator.

"Henrico's African-American Heritage" is the second in a series of bus tours of historical county locations being held as part of the county's yearlong 400th anniversary celebration. For more information about the tours, visit the Valentine Richmond History Center website at www.richmondhistorycenter.com.

For information about Henrico's 400th anniversary, call (804) 501-1611 or go to www.henrico400th.com.

July 15, 2011

CONTACT: Teddy Martin, Horticulture Extension Technician
PHONE: 501-5160

Henrico Extension's SMART Lawn Field Day set for Aug. 13

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 Field Day on Saturday, Aug. 13, 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 and plant diagnostic services; vendor demonstrations of lawn products and equipment; and consultations with Henrico master gardeners regarding lawn care, weeds, plants, turf, horticultural and other topics. In addition, County Agent Karen Carter will lead a lawn care seminar beginning at 10 a.m. Refreshments will be available as well.

SMART Lawn 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 visit www.co.henrico.va.us/extension for more information.

July 12, 2011

CONTACT: Virgil R. Hazelett, P.E., County Manager
PHONE: 501-4386

Henrico names Reid to lead Human Resources

Henrico County Manager Virgil R. Hazelett, P.E. announces the appointment of Paula G. Reid as director of the Department of Human Resources, effective July 16.

Reid, who currently serves as the department's acting director, is succeeding George H. Cauble, Jr., who retired recently after 25 years in the position.



As director of Human Resources, Reid will head an agency with more than 50 staff and a total budget of \$5.5 million for the 2012 fiscal year. Human Resources is responsible for managing and implementing the county's comprehensive personnel program for more than 4,000 general government employees. Agency responsibilities include administering employment and staffing; classification, compensation and benefits; employee information systems; and employee development, training and health, fitness and wellness services. The department also provides leadership development and succession management programs, helping the county maintain a single-digit turnover rate for 23 consecutive years. Henrico — one of Virginia's leanest local governments — boasts the commonwealth's lowest employee-to-resident population ratio.

Reid, a 13-year veteran of the department, previously served as personnel analyst, human resources manager and division manager before being named assistant director in December 2005. She received a bachelor's degree from the University of Richmond and earned a master's degree from the College of William and Mary.

July 12, 2011

CONTACT: Linda Leigh, Executive Assistant, Board of Supervisors
PHONE: 501-4208

Tuckahoe town meeting July 19 to discuss safety topics

The next town meeting of Tuckahoe District Supervisor Patricia S. O'Bannon will feature safety-related topics such as swimming pool safety and the proper use of automated external defibrillators — AEDs — and also will examine the operations of Henrico County's E-911 call center. The meeting will be held at 2 p.m. and again at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, July 19 at Tuckahoe Area Library, 1901 Starling Drive.

Representatives from Henrico's Division of Fire will be on hand to discuss practical safety measures and to demonstrate emergency equipment. They will join O'Bannon for a question-and-answer period as well. In addition, county emergency vehicles will be on display at the library.

Tuckahoe town meetings are open to the public. For more information, call 501-4208 or log on to www.patobannon.com.

July 5, 2011

CONTACT: Lisa Sanderson, Extension Agent
PHONE: 501-5160

Henrico Extension to open plant clinic at Armour House July 11

The Henrico County Extension Office is launching a new service to help local gardeners with their problematic plants — the Armour House Eastern Diagnostic Clinic, opening 10 a.m. Monday, July 11 in the carriage house at Armour House and Gardens at Meadowview Park, 4001 Clarendon Road.

The clinic will offer free identification and diagnosis of plant disorders and diseases by Henrico master gardeners; laboratory work, if necessary, will be provided at no charge as well. The clinic will operate annually from March 31 to Oct. 31, with services offered 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Friday; appointments are not necessary.

Extension Agent Lisa Sanderson said the diagnostic clinic expands a service that has been available to residents through the Extension Office at the Henrico Government Center complex on Parham Road. The length of the drive often made it difficult for eastern Henrico residents to bring in a plant sample and take advantage of the service, Sanderson noted.

"The additional clinic location at Armour House is designed to better serve folks living in the eastern part of the county," she said.

A key to diagnosing a plant disorder such as disease or insect damage is having a good sample to examine, Sanderson said. Clinic users should provide at least a limb of the distressed plant, preferably a segment showing the transition from the healthy to the damaged portion. A leaf typically is not substantial enough to provide a sample, she said.

Phone service will not be available at the Armour House Eastern Diagnostic Clinic. For more information, contact the Extension Office at 501-5160 or www.co.henrico.va.us/extension.

July 1, 2011

CONTACT: Lisa Sanderson, Extension Agent
PHONE: 501-5160

Henrico Extension to offer vegetable gardening classes in July

Henrico residents interested in learning how to start their own vegetable garden can attend free classes offered by the Henrico County Extension Office throughout July. Classes are scheduled for 6:30-8 p.m.:

"Starting a Fall Garden," Tuesday, July 5 and Tuesday, July 19 at Belmont Recreation Center, 1600 Hilliard Road; and Thursday, July 7 at the Human Services Building, 8600 Dixon Powers Drive

"Organic Controls for Weeds, Insects and Diseases," Tuesday, July 12 at Belmont Recreation Center; and Thursday, July 14 at the Human Services Building

Henrico master gardeners and Extension agents will lead the classes, which are part of the Extension Office's "Gardens Growing Families" community garden program. Participation in the community garden program is not required to attend the classes.

County residents are encouraged to pre-register by calling Henrico Extension at 501-5160. Additional information is available at www.co.henrico.va.us/extension.

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