



# HENRICO COUNTY VIRGINIA

## February 2012

---

February 29, 2012

CONTACT: Lisa T. Sanderson, Extension Agent, Henrico County office of the Virginia Cooperative Extension  
PHONE: (804) 501-5160

### *Henrico Extension offering gardening workshop April 7*

The Henrico County office of the Virginia Cooperative Extension will hold a workshop Saturday, April 7 to show how residents can start or improve their vegetable gardens.

The workshop will be held from 9 a.m. to noon in the Extension Office's demonstration kitchen in the Human Services Building, 8600 Dixon Powers Drive. Registration in advance is required.

The workshop is free and open to the public and geared for residents who are interested in growing vegetables to reduce their grocery costs and improve their diets. Home gardeners and participants in Henrico's community garden program, Gardens Growing Families, are welcome. The workshop will include programs for children ages 5 to 8 and 9 to 13.

The Extension Office continues to accept applications for Gardens Growing Families. Individuals and families may grow their own vegetables in plots at the Lakeside Garden, at Vale Street and Michael Avenue, near Lakeside Avenue; and at the Alma Avenue Island Garden, near Alma and Laburnum avenues. For the first time, a new garden on West Jerald Street in Highland Springs is available. Fees range from \$5 to \$65 per year, based on household income, the number of gardeners per family and garden plot size.

For information or to register for the workshop, call (804) 501-5160 or go online to [www.co.henrico.va.us/extension](http://www.co.henrico.va.us/extension).

---

February 28, 2012

CONTACT: Lindy Durham, Education Coordinator, Henricopolis Soil and Water Conservation District  
PHONE: (804) 501-5175

### *Henrico offers free tree seedlings to county residents*

The Henricopolis Soil and Water Conservation District will give away tree seedlings March 22-23 to help residents improve their property values, conserve energy and protect local watersheds.

Henrico residents can pick up bare-root tree seedlings from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 22 in shelter 1 at Dorey Park, 7200 Dorey Park Drive; and from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Friday, March 23 in the parking lot of Hermitage High School, 8301 Hungary Spring Road.

Residents may select as many as 10 trees but not more than five of any one species. The seedlings will be available while supplies last and will include sycamore, red maple, red oak, green ash, red osier dogwood, river birch, white pine, red bud, white dogwood, bald cypress, loblolly pine and sourwood.

The Virginia Department of Forestry is providing the seedlings through the Vaughan-Bassett Furniture Co.'s "One for One" tree-replenishment program and the Henricopolis Soil and Water Conservation District.

For information, call (804) 501-5175, send an email to [hsxcd@co.henrico.va.us](mailto:hsxcd@co.henrico.va.us) or go online to [www.co.henrico.va.us/swcd](http://www.co.henrico.va.us/swcd).

---

February 27, 2012

CONTACT: Teddy Martin, Extension Horticulture Technician, Henrico County office of the Virginia Cooperative Extension  
PHONE: (804) 501-5160

### *Henrico Extension to offer free seminars on weed control March 6-8*

The Henrico County office of the Virginia Cooperative Extension will kick off its annual lawn-care seminar series March 6-8 with a program on weed control.

The sessions, which are part of the SMARTLawn series, will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. as follows: Tuesday, March 6, at the Sandston Branch Library, 23 E. Williamsburg Road; Wednesday, March 7, at the Tuckahoe Area Library, 1901 Starling Drive; and Thursday, March 8, Twin Hickory Area Library, 5001 Twin Hickory Road. Each session will include the same presentation.

A Henrico Extension staff member or master gardener will answer questions and discuss such topics as the use of herbicides and application of products to control weeds before and after they appear. Participants are encouraged to bring plant samples for identification and discussion.

The SMARTLawn seminar series will continue in April, August and September with other programs designed to help residents improve their lawns naturally, without relying on artificial pesticides.

The seminars are free and open to the public. Participants are encouraged to register in advance by calling Henrico Extension at (804) 501-5160. For more information, go to [www.co.henrico.va.us/extension](http://www.co.henrico.va.us/extension).

---

February 27, 2012

CONTACT: Christopher L. Winstead, P.E., Director, Department of General Services  
PHONE: (804) 501-4957

CONTACT: Joseph P. Rapisarda, Jr., County Attorney  
PHONE: (804) 501-4344

*Henrico to receive public comment on cable television franchise renewal*

The Henrico County Cable Television Advisory Committee will hold public hearings March 20 and March 22 as part of a process to renew the county's cable television franchise with Comcast.

The first hearing is scheduled for 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 20 in the Board Room at the Henrico Government Center, 4301 E. Parham Road. The second hearing will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 22 in the multipurpose room of the Eastern Government Center, 3820 Nine Mile Road.

Residents will be able to provide feedback on Comcast's performance and customer service, and share thoughts on the community's future cable needs and interests. Representatives of the Department of General Services and County Attorney's Office will be present to explain and answer questions about the renewal process.

Henrico's franchise agreement with Comcast of Massachusetts/Virginia, Inc. took effect May 14, 2006, and will expire May 14, 2013. County officials will negotiate a proposed agreement after reviewing the comments received through the public hearings, the county's website and a random survey of residents. Any new franchise agreement would be guided by federal and state laws and county ordinances and would be subject to approval by the Henrico Board of Supervisors after an advertised public hearing.

For information, call (804) 501-5153 or go to [www.co.henrico.va.us/genserv/cablefranchise](http://www.co.henrico.va.us/genserv/cablefranchise). To submit comments online, click the "comments form" link.

---

February 14, 2012

CONTACT: Lisa T. Sanderson, Extension Agent, Henrico County office of the Virginia Cooperative Extension  
PHONE: (804) 501-5160

*Henrico Extension accepting applications for expanded gardens program*

The Henrico County office of the Virginia Cooperative Extension is accepting applications for Gardens Growing Families, a community garden program for county residents.

For a nominal fee, individuals and families will receive expert help as they grow their own vegetables in plots at the Lakeside Garden, at Vale Street and Michael Avenue, near Lakeside Avenue; and at the Alma Avenue Island Garden, near Alma and Laburnum avenues. For the first time, a new garden on West Jerald Street in Highland Springs will be available.

Gardens Growing Families helps residents reduce their grocery bills by giving them a way to grow, prepare and store fresh vegetables. The program, established in 2008, includes free classes on such topics as the importance of fruit and vegetables to a healthy diet, organic insect and disease control, as well as freezing and canning. Henrico master gardeners are on site regularly to offer advice; tools and water for irrigation are provided. Participants must follow organic gardening practices, contribute time to community garden projects and meet other requirements.

Fees for Gardens Growing Families range from \$5 to \$65 per year, based on household income, the number of gardeners per family and garden plot size. A portion of the proceeds helps to establish new community gardens and make improvements to existing gardens. Residents living near the gardens receive priority consideration for plots. Registration fees will be refunded for cancellations before June 30.

Applications are available online at [www.co.henrico.va.us/extension](http://www.co.henrico.va.us/extension) and at the Extension Office, 8600 Dixon Powers Drive. For information, call (804) 501-5160.

---

February 13, 2012

CONTACT: Sam McKelvey, Site Manager and Visitor Center Coordinator, Henrico Tourist Information Center at Dabbs House  
PHONE: (804) 652-3411

*Discussion series to spotlight 'Forgotten Minority: Free Blacks in Henrico'*

The fourth installment in a community-discussion series on Henrico County's heritage will focus on free blacks during the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries.

The Dialogues IV program, titled "The Forgotten Minority: Free Blacks in Henrico County," will be held from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25 at the Eastern Henrico Recreation Center, 1440 N. Laburnum Ave. The event is free and open to the public. A light lunch will be provided.

Lauranett Lee, curator of African-American history at the Virginia Historical Society, will moderate the program, which will feature four panelists giving scholarly presentations to encourage conversation with audience members.

Martha Katz-Hyman, an independent curator, will discuss 18th century free blacks through an interpretation of historical artifacts. Dr. William H. Anderson, Jr., a psychologist at the University of Virginia, will address the Pleasants v. Pleasants court case that brought freedom to enslaved blacks as requested in a Henrico landowner's will. Elvatrice Belsches, an independent historian, will highlight free blacks in antebellum Virginia. Vivian Graves, a historical interpreter, will speak on Virginia Randolph and the beginning of new opportunities and challenges.

The Dialogues series is sponsored by the Henrico County Division of Recreation and Parks. For information, call (804) 652-3411 or go online to [www.co.henrico.va.us/rec/](http://www.co.henrico.va.us/rec/).

---

February 10, 2012

CONTACT: Linda Leigh Executive Assistant, Board of Supervisors  
PHONE: (804) 501-4208

*Fairfield constituent meeting Feb. 20 to highlight tax-relief programs*

The next constituent meeting of Fairfield District Supervisor Frank J. Thornton will spotlight programs established by Henrico County to help qualifying homeowners reduce their real-estate tax bills.

The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 20 at the Eastern Henrico Recreation Center, 1440 N. Laburnum Ave. Thornton will be joined by Deputy County Manager for Administration John A. Vithoulkas and Revenue Division Director Edward W. Trice.

The meeting will provide an overview of the Real Estate Advantage Program (REAP) and the Residential Investment Tax Abatement Program, also known as Reinvest.

REAP provides tax relief to homeowners who are at least 65 years old or permanently and totally disabled. The program exempts up to \$3,000 in real-estate taxes per year for homeowners with a taxable income of \$67,000 or less and a net worth of \$350,000 or less. Participants also receive free bulky waste pickup and vacuum leaf services. Applications are due by April 2 this year.

The Reinvest program provides a partial exemption of real-estate taxes for single-family homes that have been rehabilitated, renovated or replaced. To qualify, a property must be at least 40 years old and assessed at no more than \$200,000. Any improvement must boost the assessment by at least 20 percent but not increase the original square footage by more than 100 percent. The program, adopted in 2010, makes the increased value of the home tax-free for seven years. Applications must be submitted before any work starts.

For information on the Fairfield District meeting, call (804) 501-4208.

---

February 9, 2012

CONTACT: Barry R. Lawrence, Assistant to the County Manager for Board Affairs  
PHONE: (804) 501-4318

*Henrico officials receive appointments to Virginia Association of Counties*

All five members of the Henrico County Board of Supervisors and three deputy county managers will serve on policy committees of the Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) for 2012. One supervisor also will complete the final year of a two-year term as a Region 3 representative on the VACo board of directors.

Members of the Board of Supervisors received the following appointments:

Chairman and Brookland District Supervisor Richard W. Glover, Community Development and Planning Steering Committee;  
Vice Chairman and Three Chopt District Supervisor David A. Kaechele, Finance Steering Committee (vice chairman); Resolutions Committee;  
Fairfield District Supervisor Frank J. Thornton, Education Steering Committee;  
Tuckahoe District Supervisor Patricia S. O'Bannon, Administration of Government, Public Safety and Telecommunications Steering Committee; continuing to represent Region 3 on the board of directors; and  
Varina District Supervisor Tyrone E. Nelson, Transportation Steering Committee.

Other Henrico officials receiving appointments were:

Deputy County Manager for Community Services George T. Drumwright, Jr., Health and Human Services Steering Committee;  
Deputy County Manager for Community Development Randall R. Silber, Environment and Agriculture Steering Committee; and  
Deputy County Manager for Administration John A. Vithoulkas, Compensation and Retirement Steering Committee.

VACo committees review legislative requests from counties, recommend an annual legislative program and provide policy guidance to VACo staff. The association represents local governments at the state and federal levels and provides a resource network for planning and implementing ideas and technologies.

---

February 3, 2012

CONTACT: Lt. Shawn M. Sears, Animal Protection Unit, Henrico County Division of Police  
PHONE: (804) 727-8800

*Henrico rabies clinic set for Feb. 11*

The Henrico County Division of Police will offer rabies shots for dogs and cats from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11 at Richmond International Raceway. The clinic will be held at gate four, at East Laburnum and Carolina avenues.

Vaccination shots cost \$10 and must be paid in cash. A rabies tag and certificate of inoculation are included. Pets from all localities are welcome. Cats must be held in carriers.

Under Virginia law, dogs and cats 4 months of age and older must be vaccinated for rabies.

Henrico dog licenses will be available for \$10, for a one-year license, and \$15, for a three-year license. Officers will be on hand to discuss license options and vaccination requirements.

For information, call the Animal Protection Unit at (804) 727-8800.

---

February 2, 2012

CONTACT: Kendra J.K. Young, Extension Agent, Henrico County 4-H Youth Development  
PHONE: (804) 501-5160

*Henrico berry plant sale supporting 4-H youth programs is under way*

The Henrico County office of the Virginia Cooperative Extension is selling a variety of berry plants to support its 4-H Youth Development program.

Blackberry, raspberry and blueberry plants are available for \$5 each. A bundle of 25 strawberry plants is \$6.50.

Order forms may be picked up at the Henrico Extension Office, in the Human Services Building at 8600 Dixon Powers Drive, and at any Henrico County Public Library. Forms also can be printed from the Extension Office's website, [www.co.henrico.va.us/extension](http://www.co.henrico.va.us/extension). To receive a form by fax, call (804) 501-5160 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

All orders received at the Extension Office by Friday, March 2 will be filled. Those received later will be filled while supplies last.

The plants will be distributed from noon to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, March 21 and from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, March 22 at the Virginia Randolph Recreation Center, 2175 Mountain Road.

The berry plant sale is one of two main fundraisers for the 4-H Youth Development program, which has nearly 1,000 young people enrolled. The 2011 berry plant sale raised \$1,654 to offset the costs of workshops and events, as well as camp scholarships.

Henrico 4-H Youth Development is a diverse, volunteer-led program that provides a safe and nurturing environment for youth to develop confidence, leadership and other life skills.

---

February 1, 2012

CONTACT: Marvis W. Marshall, Supplier Relations Manager, Department of General Services  
PHONE: (804) 501-5689

*Henrico honored for outreach to small, women-owned, minority-owned vendors*

For the second consecutive year, the Henrico County Division of Purchasing and Support Services has been recognized as a local-government leader in promoting supplier diversity.

The Division of Purchasing and Support Services and its supplier relations manager, Marvis W. Marshall, received awards from the Virginia Minority Supplier Development Council for their efforts to help small, women-owned and minority-owned (SWAM) businesses participate in the county's procurement process.



The division, which is part of the Department of General Services, received the Raising the Bar Award in recognition of program enhancements made since the previous year, as well as its ongoing commitment to supplier development. The division established a process for vendors to provide feedback on their dealings with the county and has continued to organize monthly supplier orientation sessions and quarterly training for new procurement staff members. The division had received the Best New Public Program Award from the Virginia Minority Supplier Development Council in 2010.

Marshall received the 2011 Advocate of the Year Award for her work promoting entrepreneurship and assisting SWAM vendors that are seeking to do business with the county. A certified professional public buyer with the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing since 1988, Marshall serves on the board of directors of the Virginia Minority Supplier Development Council and is chairwoman of its certification committee. She also served on the Virginia Purchase and Supply Procurement Appeals Board. Marshall began her work for Henrico in late 2008 after the Board of Supervisors in early 2007 adopted a policy to promote participation with SWAM businesses.

The Virginia Minority Supplier Development Council presented the awards in December during its Minority Input Committee Awards Luncheon at the Jefferson Hotel.

---

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

[Past News Releases](#)