



HENRICO COUNTY VIRGINIA

April 2013

April 18, 2013

CONTACT: Will Jones, Senior Public Relations Specialist
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High school students oversee Henrico operations on Student Government Day

About 100 high school students from Henrico County traded their classroom lectures for a close look at the county's general government and public schools administrations Thursday during the 56th annual Student Government Day.

The program paired juniors and seniors from nine high schools with various elected and appointed officials, including members of the board of supervisors and school board, county manager, superintendent, department directors and judges. The students assumed the roles of key decision-makers, giving them insight into how their local government works on behalf of residents and others in the community.

"Student Government Day provides an excellent opportunity for high school students in Henrico County to understand how their local government functions," County Manager John A. Vitoulkas said. "The program shows that Henrico's government doesn't operate in a vacuum. It collaborates with the school system, courts and other agencies to provide the absolute best and most efficient services to our residents."

Student Government Day began Wednesday at Hermitage High School with a ceremony in which 30 students took the oaths required for their respective positions. All of the students spent much of Thursday with their designated departments and agencies. Students also had opportunities to tour Henrico's Jail West and register to vote.

For students who worked at the Henrico Government Center on East Parham Road, the day culminated with a student-run, simulated meeting of the board of supervisors, which included debate over proposed ordinances or resolutions related to increased fees for owners of dangerous dogs, a financing plan for improvements at Richmond International Airport and a contract for architectural and engineering services for Short Pump Park.

Student Government Day is sponsored by the Kiwanis clubs of North Richmond, Tuckahoe and Greater Richmond.



Photo: Chief Judge L.A. Harris, Jr. (far right), of the Henrico County Circuit Court, administers the oath of office to high school students representing members of the Board of Supervisors during the 56th annual Student Government Day. Pictured left to right are Cailyn Nikolis, of Varina High School representing the Varina District; Meghan Beck, of Henrico High School representing the Fairfield District; Tyler Berkeley, of Hermitage High School representing the Brookland District; Brice Nicole Martin, of Freeman High School representing the Tuckahoe District; and Emir Guseinov, of Tucker High School representing the Three Chopt District.

April 15, 2013

CONTACT: John R. Cejka, P.E., Traffic Engineer, Henrico County Department of Public Works
PHONE: (804) 501-4393

Henrico prepares for heavy traffic during NASCAR races April 26-27

The Henrico County Department of Public Works will temporarily alter traffic patterns on roads around Richmond International Raceway (RIR) to accommodate fans attending the NASCAR races on Friday, April 26 and Saturday, April 27.

Motorists are advised to expect heavy traffic and delays in the area on both days, especially from 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., before the races, and from 10:15 p.m. to 2:30 a.m., afterward.

Henrico Police officers will direct motorists before and after the races. Race fans and other motorists are encouraged to check traffic updates on message boards along interstates and other roads approaching RIR. WRVA-1140 AM will broadcast traffic reports.

The following traffic patterns will be in effect Saturday, April 27 during peak hours:

Carolina Avenue between Laburnum and Azalea avenues will be one-way inbound before the race and one-way outbound after the race. Access to businesses along Carolina Avenue will be maintained from Laburnum Avenue.

Richmond-Henrico Turnpike/Meadowbridge Road from the Henrico/Hanover county line to Azalea Avenue will be one-way southbound from about 9 a.m. and until the race starts. Sections of Meadowbridge Road farther north in Hanover County will continue to accommodate northbound and southbound traffic at all times.

After the race, Laburnum Avenue from Carolina Avenue to Mechanicsville Turnpike will be one-way eastbound. Eastbound Laburnum Avenue from Richmond-Henrico Turnpike/Meadowbridge Road to Carolina Avenue will be closed until race traffic disperses. Two-way traffic will be maintained on Laburnum Avenue west of Richmond-Henrico Turnpike/Meadowbridge Road.

After the race, beginning at about 10 p.m., Richmond-Henrico Turnpike/Meadowbridge Road north of Azalea Avenue will be one-way northbound to Atlee Road in Hanover County. Richmond-Henrico Turnpike/Meadowbridge Road will be restored to two-way traffic when race traffic disperses.

After the race, three lanes of Azalea Avenue from Richmond-Henrico Turnpike/Meadowbridge Road to Henrico High School will be routed westbound; one lane will be routed eastbound. This change will require all median crossovers on Azalea Avenue from Richmond-Henrico Turnpike/Meadowbridge Road to Henrico High School to be closed from about 10 p.m. until race traffic disperses. Police will assist motorists turning from Azalea Avenue onto Thrush Lane and Pony Farm Drive.

While the traffic modifications are in effect, median crossovers on Laburnum Avenue will be closed from North Avenue to Mechanicsville Turnpike, except at Pilots Lane and Austin Avenue. Only right turns will be permitted to and from Laburnum Avenue. Police will be at these intersections before and after the race to assist motorists turning onto or crossing Laburnum Avenue.

On-street parking on major routes to RIR will be prohibited each day. Parking will be available for \$6 on Saturday, April 27 at the Richmond Coliseum parking deck at 501 N. Seventh St. in downtown Richmond. Free shuttle bus service to and from RIR will begin at 1 p.m.

Parking also will be available for \$10 per car and \$25 per recreational vehicle at The Showplace at 3000 Mechanicsville Turnpike in Henrico, beginning at 11 a.m. Free shuttle bus service to RIR will begin at noon.

The Henrico Division of Police recommends the following routes for traffic approaching the raceway:

From the east (Hampton Roads area) - Follow Interstate 64 west to Interstate 295 north (Exit 200). Follow Interstate 295 north and exit onto Mechanicsville Turnpike west (Exit 37B). Follow Mechanicsville Turnpike to Laburnum Avenue. Turn right and proceed to the raceway.

From the east (Route 360) - Follow Route 360 west (Mechanicsville Turnpike), cross Interstate 295 and continue west to Laburnum Avenue. Turn right and proceed to the raceway.

From the east (local traffic) - Follow Interstate 64 west and take the Laburnum Avenue exit (Exit 195). Turn right and proceed to the raceway.

From the north - Follow Interstate 95 south to the Interstate 295 east interchange (marked "To Norfolk-Williamsburg"). Follow Interstate 295 east and exit onto Meadowbridge Road west (Exit 38B). Follow Meadowbridge Road (Richmond-Henrico Turnpike) and proceed to the raceway.

From the north (local traffic) - Follow Route 1 (Brook Road) to Azalea Avenue. Turn left onto Azalea Avenue and proceed to the raceway.

From the west - Follow Interstate 64 east to the Interstate 295 south interchange (Exit 177). Follow Interstate 295 south and exit onto Meadowbridge Road west (Exit 38B). Follow Meadowbridge Road (Richmond-Henrico Turnpike) and proceed to the raceway.

From the west (local traffic) - Follow Interstate 64 east to the Laburnum Avenue/Powhite Parkway exit. Take the Laburnum Avenue exit, turn left and proceed to the raceway.

From the south - Follow Interstate 95 north to the Interstate 295 interchange south of Petersburg. Follow Interstate 295 north and exit onto Mechanicsville Turnpike (Exit 37B). Follow Mechanicsville Turnpike to Laburnum Avenue. Turn right and proceed to the raceway.

From the south (local traffic) - Follow Interstate 95 north to the Interstate 64 east interchange (Exit 75). Follow Interstate 64 to Route 360 east (Mechanicsville Turnpike). Follow Route 360 east to Laburnum Avenue. Turn left and proceed to the raceway.

April 15, 2013

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

Henrico Extension to offer free vegetable gardening workshop May 4

The Henrico County office of the Virginia Cooperative Extension will hold a workshop Saturday, May 4 to show residents how they can start or improve a vegetable garden.

The Vegetable Gardening Jumpstart 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. The workshop is free and open to the public. To register, call (804) 501-5160 by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, May 3.

The workshop is intended for new and experienced gardeners who would like to reduce their grocery costs or eat a healthier diet. Home gardeners and participants in Henrico's community garden program, Gardens Growing Families, are welcome.

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 Highland Springs Garden, on West Jerald Street at South Cedar Avenue. Fees range \$10 to \$65 per year based on household size and income.

For information on the workshop or community garden program, call (804) 501-5160 or go to www.co.henrico.va.us/extension.

April 10, 2013

CONTACT: Michael L. Harris, Prevention Specialist, Henrico Area Mental Health & Developmental Services
PHONE:(804) 222-8194, ext. 3001

Henrico Too Smart 2 Start Coalition, Safe Harbor to host forum April 20 on teen relationships

The Henrico Too Smart 2 Start Coalition's youth ambassadors and Safe Harbor will present a forum Saturday, April 20 to educate youth and parents on healthy relationships and how to identify and prevent teen dating abuse.

The Healthy Teen Dating Relationships forum will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Georgiadis Hall at the Parham Road Campus of J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College, 1651 E. Parham Road.

Special guests will include spoken word artist Roscoe Burnems and Tonya Turner, director of legal services for Break the Cycle, a national organization that provides comprehensive dating abuse prevention programs to young people. One of every three teenagers and young adults experiences some sort of dating abuse, according to Break the Cycle.

The forum is free and open to the public, with prize giveaways and a light breakfast included. Registration is not required.

The forum is sponsored by the prevention services unit of Henrico Area Mental Health & Developmental Services, Safe Harbor, the Upsilon Nu Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and Richmond Lodge #45 of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. The Henrico Too Smart 2 Start Coalition works to strengthen the community by using education and advocacy to reduce at-risk behaviors.

For information, go to www.toosmart2start.com or contact Michael L. Harris at (804) 222-8194, ext. 3001, or har42@co.henrico.va.us.

April 3, 2013

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

Fairfield constituent meeting April 15 to provide tours of historic Brook Hill

The next constituent meeting of Fairfield District Supervisor Frank J. Thornton will feature a discussion and tours of historic Brook Hill.

The privately owned home, near Brook Road and Interstate 95 in Henrico County, dates to the 18th century and features architecture in the Gothic Revival and Italianate styles.

The meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. Monday, April 15 at Brook Hill, 5301 Brook Road. After entering the gates, attendees should proceed to the right and park on the side of the driveway.

For information, call (804) 501-4208.

April 2, 2013

CONTACT: Barry R. Lawrence, Clerk, Henrico County Board of Supervisors
PHONE: (804) 501-4318

Henrico supervisors to hold public hearing April 9 on proposed budget

The Henrico County Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing Tuesday, April 9 on the proposed Annual Fiscal Plan for Fiscal Year 2013-14.

The meeting will begin at 6 p.m., one hour earlier than usual, in the Board Room of the Henrico Government Center, 4301 E. Parham Road.

Residents may provide oral or written comments on the proposed \$1.1 billion plan, which will guide operating and capital spending for the year beginning July 1. The plan represents a 9 percent reduction in overall spending from fiscal year 2012-13.

The proposed budget recommends a general fund of \$747 million for operations of Henrico's general government, including the divisions of Police and Fire, and its school system. The general fund represents an increase of \$11.9 million, or 1.6 percent, from the current year plan, with the additional revenue allocated entirely to schools and public safety agencies. Schools and public safety account for 76 percent of all general fund expenditures.

The proposed budget recommends no change to the real estate tax rate of 87 cents per \$100 of assessed value. Henrico has cut more than \$115 million in expenses during the past four years after closing an \$18.5 million budget gap for fiscal year 2013-14.

Residents are encouraged to sign up in advance to speak at the public hearing. To sign up or for more information about the meeting, call Board of Supervisors Clerk Barry R. Lawrence at (804) 501-4318. For information on the proposed budget, call Budget Director Brandon Hinton at (804) 501-5089.

Copies of the proposed budget, which includes an overview message by County Manager John A. Vitoulkas, are available for public inspection at Henrico libraries, the Office of Management and Budget in the Henrico Government Center and at www.co.henrico.va.us.

The Board of Supervisors on April 23 will vote to adopt a budget for fiscal year 2013-14. The board typically meets at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month in the Board Room of the Henrico Government Center.

April 1, 2013

CONTACT: Joseph P. Casey, Deputy County Manager for Administration
PHONE: (804) 501-4288

Henrico County to launch Citizens Academy in May

Henrico residents can learn the nuts and bolts of county operations, programs and services at the inaugural Henrico Citizens Academy, set to get under way in May.

The free, 10-hour program will take place from 7-9 p.m. each Thursday of the month beginning May 2. Classes will be led by Henrico officials and staff and will be held at a different county facility weekly in each of Henrico's five magisterial districts. The academy is open to the first 30 residents — six from each magisterial district — who register at www.connect.henricorecandparks.com. Residents also can sign up from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Recreation and Parks office in the Human Services Building, 8600 Dixon Powers Drive. Participants must be age 18 or older.

The academy is designed to give Henrico residents insight into the full range of county operations — from maintaining a fleet of school buses and producing millions of gallons of drinking water to running a youth sports league, providing emergency rescue services and recruiting a Fortune 1000 corporation. Classes will feature presentations and discussions on community and economic development; schools and human services; public safety; libraries, parks and recreation facilities; county history; and other topics. Classes will include facility tours as well.

Henrico's divisions of Police and Fire have been holding academies for residents since 1995 and 2000, respectively. The Henrico Citizens Academy is the first such effort to offer a comprehensive look at county operations.

"We want to provide an opportunity for our citizens to learn more about their local government, which has a more direct impact on their lives than any other level of government," said Joseph P. Casey, deputy county manager for administration. "Engaged and informed citizens can further support their community. We want to offer an opportunity and a way for that to happen."

Casey said the county hopes to offer the academy twice annually, in the spring and fall.

For more information, call (804) 501-4206.

April 1, 2013

CONTACT: Veta Herbaugh, Executive Assistant, Henrico County Board of Supervisors
PHONE: (804) 501-4208

Varina meeting April 11 to highlight plans for Varina Area Library

Varina District Supervisor Tyrone E. Nelson will hold a Community Conversations meeting Thursday, April 11 to provide an update on plans for the Varina Area Library.

Henrico County has purchased a 22-acre site on New Market Road for the 40,000-square-foot library, which will be built to replace the 5,600-square-foot Varina Branch Library on Library Road. That library opened in 1970 and was expanded in 1992.

Nelson will discuss plans for the new library with representatives of the Department of General Services, Henrico County Public Library and the project's architectural design team.

The meeting, which is open to the public, will begin at 6:30 p.m. at John Rolfe Middle School, 6901 Messer Road.

For information, call (804) 501-4208.

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