



# HENRICO COUNTY VIRGINIA

## Recent News Releases

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### News Releases sent to the media this month.

Feb. 28, 2013

CONTACT: Capt. James E. Mellon, Henrico County Division of Fire  
PHONE: (804) 501-5877, office; (804) 836-9310, cell

#### *Henrico launches new alert system, encourages residents to register wireless devices*

Henrico County has introduced a new emergency alert system that allows public safety officials to send critical voice, text and email messages to residents and others on their landline phones, computers and wireless devices.

The Henrico County Community Emergency Notification System is overseen by the Division of Fire and powered by CodeRED, a high-speed, mass notification system licensed by Emergency Communications Network LLC.

Henrico's system is equipped to distribute messages faster, more efficiently and at a significantly lower cost than the emergency alert system that had been in place since 2007. The new system costs \$53,234 per year, about half the cost of the previous system.

"The new Community Emergency Notification System represents a significant cost savings for the taxpayers of Henrico County," Fire Chief Anthony E. McDowell said. "It also helps the county respond during emergencies, by providing timely, critical information to residents and others wherever they are — at home, at work or out with their mobile devices."

The system gives designated emergency personnel the flexibility to send messages countywide or to a selected geography, which could be preferable in the event of an escaped fugitive, a spill of hazardous material or some other localized incident.

The system is already capable of distributing voice messages to landline phones at homes and businesses using the county's 911 system in reverse. Individuals must register if they would like to receive messages on their wireless phones, computers and other mobile devices. To sign up, go to [www.HenricoAlert.org](http://www.HenricoAlert.org). There is no cost to register. Standard messaging fees may apply.

Users of wireless phones and other mobile devices who register also have the option to receive general notifications of nonemergency situations, such as major road closings.

More than 145,000 landline phones and an estimated 172,000 wireless phones and other mobile devices are in use in Henrico.

The Community Emergency Notification System is designed primarily for Henrico residents, but it also is open to people who work in or drive through the county and others who would like to receive the emergency messages.

A call from the system will appear on a phone's ID display as "Emergency Comm" with the number, 1-866-419-5000. If the call is missed, a person will be able to dial the number to hear the message in its entirety.

Henrico's contract with Emergency Communications Network took effect in July. A few months later, the system was used to avert a potential crisis when an elderly man went missing from his home in western Henrico. Emergency officials sent out a description of the man to about 7,000 phone lines within 1.6 miles of his home. A woman who had received the message was driving in Goochland County when she spotted a man who matched the description walking along the road. She called 911, which allowed emergency responders to reunite the man safely with his family.

As an additional feature to Henrico's emergency notification system, anyone who downloads the CodeRED app on their iPhone or Android device can receive other localized messages if they are traveling in areas covered by CodeRED. In Virginia, 25 other localities, including Goochland and the city of Colonial Heights, use CodeRED.

For information about the emergency notification system, call (804) 501-4900 or go to [www.HenricoAlert.org](http://www.HenricoAlert.org) or [www.co.henrico.va.us/fire](http://www.co.henrico.va.us/fire).

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Feb. 26, 2013

CONTACT: Barbara McGarry, Conservation Specialist and District Manager, Henricopolis Soil and Water Conservation District  
PHONE: (804) 501-5176

#### *Henrico to offer workshops in May on building a rain barrel*

The Henricopolis Soil and Water Conservation District will hold workshops in May to teach water conservation and how to build a rain barrel.

The workshops are open to the public and will be held at 6:30 p.m. on May 1, 9, 15 and 23 in the Human Services Building, 8600 Dixon Powers Drive. The cost is \$50 per session for materials. Participants will take their completed rain barrels home after the workshop.

To register, go to [www.co.henrico.va.us/swcd](http://www.co.henrico.va.us/swcd) and follow the link to the rain barrel workshops. Checks payable to "Henricopolis SWCD" should be sent to Henricopolis Soil and Water Conservation District, P.O. Box 90775, Suite 3024, Henrico, VA 23273-0775.

Payments must be received at least 10 days before the workshop.

For information, call (804) 501-5176 or send an email to [hsxcd@co.henrico.va.us](mailto:hsxcd@co.henrico.va.us).

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Feb. 22, 2013

CONTACT: Nicole Gore, Coordinator, Henrico Too Smart 2 Start Coalition, Henrico Area Mental Health & Developmental Services  
PHONE: (804) 501-5160

#### *Henrico forum to address youth concerns March 12*

Henrico Area Mental Health and Developmental Services and the Henrico Too Smart 2 Start Coalition will host a community forum Tuesday, March 12 to address issues affecting youth in Henrico County.

The forum, called It Takes a Village, will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Strawberry Hill Ballroom of the Eastern Henrico Recreation Center, 1440 N. Laburnum Ave.

The event is open to the public and designed to bring together like-minded people to discuss youth concerns and the mission, activities and direction of the Henrico Too Smart 2 Start Coalition. Attendees are asked to register by Thursday, March 7 by contacting Kathy Johnson, intervention coordinator for Henrico County Public Schools, at [kjohnson@henrico.k12.va.us](mailto:kjohnson@henrico.k12.va.us) or (804) 553-4341.

The Henrico Too Smart 2 Start Coalition is a partnership between county and private agencies, businesses, school resources, law enforcement, community leaders, youth, parents and others. The group promotes health and wellness of Henrico residents and uses education and advocacy to empower the community to reduce at-risk behaviors. For information, go to [www.toosmart2start.com](http://www.toosmart2start.com).

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Feb. 21, 2013

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

*Henrico Extension to offer gardening, nutrition class for youths*

The Henrico County office of the Virginia Cooperative Extension is offering an eight-week class to teach children about basic gardening, food safety and healthy snacking.

The class, From Garden to Table, will be held from 4:30 to 6 p.m. on Wednesdays from March 20 through May 8 at the Armour House and Gardens, 4001 Clarendon Road. The class is geared for students in third, fourth and fifth grades and will be limited to about 12 students. The cost is \$30. The deadline for registration is Friday, March 15.

Working with master gardeners and Extension agents, students will grow plants in the Armour House's greenhouse and children's garden. Lessons will incorporate science, math, literature and social studies in group and individual activities that are hands-on and fun.

Part of the Junior Master Gardener program, the class will cover basic gardening, growing techniques, thrifty gardens, food safety, healthy snacks, life skills, career exploration, service learning and leadership development.

For information or a registration form, contact Lisa Sanderson at (804) 501-5160 or [lsanderson@vt.edu](mailto:lsanderson@vt.edu), or go to [www.co.henrico.va.us/extension](http://www.co.henrico.va.us/extension).

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Feb. 19, 2013

CONTACT: Lt. Shawn M. Sears, Animal Protection Unit, Henrico County Division of Police  
PHONE: (804) 727-8801

*Henrico rabies clinic set for March 9*

The Henrico County Division of Police will offer rabies shots for dogs and cats from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 9 at the Henrico County Government Center, 4301 E. Parham Road. The clinic will be on the first level of the parking deck adjacent to the administration building.

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 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 available to discuss license options and vaccination requirements.

For information, call the Animal Protection Unit at (804) 727-8800 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays.

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Feb. 14, 2013

CONTACT: Kimberly Edmonds, Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Agent, Henrico County office of the Virginia Cooperative Extension  
PHONE: (804) 501-5160

*Henrico Extension to offer money-saving tips at free workshop Feb. 26*

The Henrico County office of the Virginia Cooperative Extension will hold a free workshop Tuesday, Feb. 26 to help individuals meet their goals for saving money.

The "Ready, Set, Save" workshop will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the demonstration kitchen of the Human Services Building, 8600 Dixon Powers Drive. Registration is required by Friday, Feb. 22.

The workshop is open to the public and coincides with America Saves Week, from Feb. 25 through March 2. America Saves Week is recognized by government agencies, financial institutions, nonprofit organizations and others as an opportunity to promote financial discipline and to allow individuals to assess their own situations.

The workshop will outline simple strategies that individuals can use to set a goal for saving money for emergencies, a large purchase, debt payments or other needs.

For information or to register, call (804) 501-5160.

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Feb. 13, 2013

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

*Tuckahoe town meeting Feb. 25 to highlight budget process*

The next town meeting of Tuckahoe District Supervisor Patricia S. O'Bannon will focus on the development of Henrico County's budget for fiscal year 2013-14.

The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 25 at the Tuckahoe Area Library, 1901 Starling Drive.

County Manager John A. Vithoukaskas and Director of Finance Gene Walter will join O'Bannon to discuss the budget process and related issues, including the county's debt, a proposed meals tax, real estate taxes and pension liabilities. The meeting will include a question-and-answer period.

The Tuckahoe town meetings are open to the public. For more information, call (804) 501-4208 or go to [www.patobannon.com](http://www.patobannon.com).

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Feb. 13, 2013

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

*Fairfield constituent meeting Feb. 25 to feature commonwealth's attorney*

The next constituent meeting of Fairfield District Supervisor Frank J. Thornton will feature Henrico County Commonwealth's Attorney Shannon L. Taylor for a discussion of the responsibilities of her office.

The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 25 at the Eastern Henrico Recreation Center, 1440 N. Laburnum Ave.

For information, call (804) 501-4208.

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Feb. 7, 2013

CONTACT: Lindy Durham, Administrative Coordinator and Education Technician, 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 28-29 to help residents improve their property values, conserve energy and protect local watersheds.

Henrico County residents can pick up bare-root seedlings from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 28 in shelter 1 at Dorey Park, 7200 Dorey Park Drive; and from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Friday, March 29 in the parking lot of Hermitage High School, 8301 Hungary Spring Road.

Residents may select as many as 10 seedlings 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 seedlings are provided by the Henricopolis Soil and Water Conservation District and by the Virginia Department of Forestry through the Vaughan-Bassett Furniture Co.'s "One for One" tree-replenishment program.

For information, call (804) 501-5175, send an email to [gor04@co.henrico.va.us](mailto:gor04@co.henrico.va.us) or go to [www.co.henrico.va.us/swcd](http://www.co.henrico.va.us/swcd).

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Feb. 1, 2013

CONTACT: Melvin Slough, Community Liaison, Henrico County Department of Public Utilities  
PHONE: (804) 501-7540 office; (804) 201-7362 mobile

*Henrico lifts request for water conservation*

Due to recent rainfall in western Virginia, the Henrico County Department of Public Utilities (DPU) is lifting its request that customers voluntarily limit water use.

DPU on Dec. 13, 2012, asked customers to minimize lawn and landscape irrigation, vehicle washing and other nonessential uses. The Virginia Department of Environment Quality had warned of a significant drought in the area including Henrico.

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