



# HENRICO COUNTY VIRGINIA

## January 2013

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Jan. 30, 2013

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 committees*

All five members of the Henrico County Board of Supervisors and three high-ranking administration officials will serve on policy committees of the Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) for 2013.

Members of the Board of Supervisors received the following appointments:

Chairman and Three Chopt District Supervisor David A. Kaechele, Finance Steering Committee;

Vice Chairman and Tuckahoe District Supervisor Patricia S. O'Bannon, Administration of Government, Public Safety and Telecommunications Steering Committee; also represents Region 3 on the VACo Board of Directors;

Brookland District Supervisor Richard W. Glover, Community Development and Planning Steering Committee;

Fairfield District Supervisor Frank J. Thornton, Education Steering Committee; and

Varina District Supervisor Tyrone E. Nelson, Transportation Steering Committee and Nominations Committee.

Other Henrico officials receiving appointments were:

Deputy County Manager for Administration Joseph P. Casey, Compensation and Retirement Steering Committee;

Deputy County Manager for Community Development Randall R. Silber, Environment and Agriculture Steering Committee; and

Deputy County Manager for Community Services Jane D. Crawley, Health and Human Resources 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.

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Jan. 30, 2013

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

*Henrico berry plant sale benefits 4-H youth programs*

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 \$7.

Order forms are available at the Henrico Extension Office, in the Human Services Building at 8600 Dixon Powers Drive, and at any location of the 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 by Friday, March 1 will be filled. Those received later will be filled while supplies last. Plants will be distributed from noon to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, March 20 and from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, March 21 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. 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.

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Jan. 30, 2013

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

*Free tax help available at Fairfield, Dumbarton libraries, beginning Feb. 2*

Eligible taxpayers can receive free help preparing their 2012 income tax return at sites hosted by MetroCASH and Henrico County.

Trained volunteers will help qualifying taxpayers prepare and electronically file returns at 14 sites throughout the metropolitan area, including two in Henrico:

Fairfield Area Library, 1001 N. Laburnum Ave., from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays, Feb. 2 through March 9; and

Dumbarton Area Library, 6800 Staples Mill Road, from 4 to 8 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays, Feb. 6 through April 11.

MetroCASH helps families maximize their tax refunds by determining if they qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). The EITC is a refundable credit designed to help families and individuals who work and earn modest incomes. To qualify, a family with three or more children must have earned less than \$50,270, and an individual with no children must have earned less than \$19,190. The credit could increase a federal refund by as much as \$5,891 for families with three or more children and \$475 for individuals.

MetroCASH also offers eligible taxpayers a free alternative to commercial tax-preparation services. Last year, volunteers helped area residents file 2,133 tax returns, generating \$859,804 in EITC funds and a total of \$2.4 million in federal refunds. The free service saved clients an estimated \$426,000 in tax preparation fees.

For information, go to [www.MetroCash.org](http://www.MetroCash.org) or call 211.

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Jan. 25, 2013

CONTACT: Nicole Gore, Coordinator, Henrico Too Smart 2 Start Coalition, Henrico Area Mental Health & Developmental Services

PHONE: (804) 222-8194, ext. 3006

*Henrico program to recognize Community Champions, Outstanding Youth on Jan. 31*

Henrico Area Mental Health and Developmental Services (MH/DS) and the Henrico Too Smart 2 Start Coalition will recognize six youth and adult leaders and one faith-based organization for their efforts to improve the lives of county youth.

The 17th annual Community Champions and Outstanding Youth Awards ceremony will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 31, in the Strawberry Hill Ballroom of the Eastern Henrico Recreation Center, 1440 N. Laburnum Ave. Ditu Kasuyi, international president of the Urban Financial Services Coalition, will be the keynote speaker.

The Community Champion Award winners will be Raiford Beasley, Faith Landmark Ministries' Love Works outreach program, Amanda Hall and Yvette Hart. The Outstanding Youth Award winners will be Unity Bowling and Rajonne Young, students at Fairfield Middle School; and Anna Wong, a student at J.R. Tucker High School.

The ceremony is co-sponsored by Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Honors College, VCU Division of Community Engagement and Henrico County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

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. For information, log on to [www.toosmart2start.com](http://www.toosmart2start.com).

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Jan. 17, 2013

CONTACT: Linda Leigh, Executive Assistant, Board of Supervisors

PHONE: (804) 501-4208

*Fairfield constituent meeting Jan. 30 to feature new county manager, deputy managers*

The next constituent meeting of Fairfield District Supervisor Frank J. Thornton will feature new County Manager John A. Vithoulkas and his deputy county managers for a discussion of opportunities and challenges facing Henrico County.

The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 30 at the Eastern Henrico Recreation Center, 1440 N. Laburnum Ave.

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

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Jan. 16, 2013

CONTACT: David A. Kaechele, Chairman and Three Chopt District Supervisor, Henrico County Board of Supervisors

PHONE: (804) 501-4208

*Vithoulkas sworn in as county manager of Henrico*

John A. Vithoulkas was installed Wednesday as county manager of Henrico County during a ceremony before family, friends and county leaders at the Henrico County Government Center.

Vithoulkas, 45, was sworn in by Chief Judge L.A. Harris Jr. of the Henrico Circuit Court to become the eighth county manager since Henrico adopted the form of government in 1934.

The Board of Supervisors voted unanimously Aug. 14 to appoint Vithoulkas to the county's top executive position effective Jan. 17. Previously serving as deputy county manager for administration, Vithoulkas succeeds Virgil R. Hazelett, P.E., who is retiring after 21 years as county manager.

"This Board of Supervisors has deep respect for the position of county manager," Kaechele said. "We are really proud, John, to have you take the helm and we fully anticipate a seamless transition. Our citizens can certainly take considerable comfort in the fact that the county will be in strong and capable hands under your leadership. Henrico County's long tradition of good government and sound management will proceed unabated."

Board Chairman and Three Chopt District Supervisor David A. Kaechele recalled Vithoulkas' steady rise through the ranks of the Department of Finance and expressed confidence in his abilities to lead Henrico's general government.

"This Board of Supervisors has deep respect for the position of county manager," Kaechele said. "We are really proud, John, to have you take the helm and we fully anticipate a seamless transition. Our citizens can certainly take considerable comfort in the fact that the county will be in strong and capable hands under your leadership. Henrico County's long tradition of good government and sound management will proceed unabated."

As county manager, Vithoulkas will serve as Henrico's chief administrative officer and be responsible for implementing policies of the Board of Supervisors and for overseeing the daily operations of the county and more than 35 agencies with approximately 4,000 employees. Duties include preparation and oversight of the county's annual budget, which exceeds \$1 billion in operating and capital expenditures for the 2012-13 fiscal year, and preparation of the county's annual legislative program before the Virginia General Assembly.

A Henrico employee since 1997, Vithoulkas served as a budget analyst and budget director before becoming director of Finance in 2008. In September 2009, Hazelett assigned Vithoulkas to the additional position of special economic advisor as Henrico confronted unprecedented revenue declines and other challenges stemming from the Great Recession. He was elevated to deputy county manager for administration in December 2011.

Hazelett recalled how Vithoulkas' abilities were evident even as a young budget analyst and said he truly understands how government must serve taxpayers as its customers. Hazelett also said that Henrico's response to the ongoing fiscal challenges have prepared him to become county manager.

"The dark cloud that continues to linger over our nation's economy hasn't revealed much of a silver lining, but it may have illuminated John's abilities and prepared him to lead," Hazelett said.

Under the leadership of Vithoulkas and others, Henrico has balanced its past three budgets by cutting expenses and absorbing additional costs that combine to total \$96 million. At the same time, the county has avoided cuts in services, employee layoffs and tax increases. Vithoulkas also was the architect of a series of bond sales during the recession that yielded more than \$20 million in debt-service savings for the county.

In August 2011, Henrico was the first locality nationwide to have its debt reaffirmed as triple-AAA — the highest available for a governmental entity — by the three international credit-rating agencies following the historic downgrade of U.S. government debt by Standard and Poor's.

Vithoulkas, a naturalized citizen, is a native of Greece who immigrated to the United States as an infant with his parents. A product of Henrico County Public Schools, he is a graduate of J.R. Tucker High School. He earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Virginia Commonwealth University in 1989 and a master's degree in public administration from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in 1992. Before joining the Henrico staff, he worked as a police planner and assistant budget director for Gaston County, N.C. and as a budget analyst for Chesterfield County.

A graduate of Leadership Metro Richmond, Vithoulkas is a member of the Government Finance Officers Association, International City/County Management Association, Virginia Local Government Management Association and Richmond Association for Business Economics. He holds the distinguished budget reviewer designation from the Government Finance Officers Association.

Vithoulkas lives in Glen Allen with his wife, Jenny, and their three children.



John A. Vithoulkas takes the oath of office as he is sworn in as county manager of Henrico County.

(appearing left to right) Jenny Vithoulkas, wife of John Vithoulkas; Georgia Vithoulkas, mother of John Vithoulkas; John Vithoulkas; Peter Vithoulkas, brother of John Vithoulkas; and Chief Judge L.A. Harris Jr. of the Henrico Circuit Court.

#### **Henrico County Managers**

- Willard F. Day: March 6, 1934-Dec. 17, 1940
- Sterry J. Mahaffey: Feb. 1, 1941-Sept. 2, 1943
- Carlton C. Massey: Nov. 20, 1943-Jan. 1, 1952
- Edward A. Beck: March 24, 1952-March 31, 1977
- Frank A. Faison: March 23, 1978-May 15, 1984
- William F. LaVecchia, P.E., AICP: June 13, 1984-Jan. 13, 1992
- Virgil R. Hazelett, P.E.: Jan. 14, 1992-Jan. 16, 2013
- John A. Vithoulkas: Jan. 17, 2013-

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Jan. 14, 2013

CONTACT: Barbara Herzog, Executive Director, Henrico County Court Appointed Special Advocates  
PHONE: (804) 501-1671

*Art in Action exhibition and auction Jan. 18 to benefit Henrico CASA*

Henrico County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) will host its seventh annual benefit art exhibition and silent auction from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 18, at Crossroads Art Center, 2016 Staples Mill Road.

Proceeds from the Art in Action event will support Henrico CASA's efforts to serve abused and neglected children in the county's Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court system. CASA trains volunteers to serve as child advocates in court. Last year, volunteers served 398 local children, donating nearly 20,000 hours to their cases.

Admission to Art in Action is free and open to the public. The silent auction will feature a variety of work by local artists and other items valued at more than \$8,000. Items will include paintings, jewelry, services, gift baskets, sculptures and photography packages. Featured artists will include Matt Lively, Morgan McKinney and Dr. Baxter Perkins.

For the exhibition, guests will be able to stroll through the 25,000-square-foot art center and learn what inspires artists to create their works. Regina Tune will be the featured artist. Also on display will be works by artists participating in a Tuckahoe Artist Association group show, James River Art League group show, Susan Stuller student show, members show and all-media show themed, "Ode to Chihuly."

Art in Action also will feature music by Casey McCue and Steve Duncan, free hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. Art awards and a presentation about CASA will be given at 7:15 p.m. in the Rhoda MacCallum Gallery. For more information, join Art in Action on Facebook, call (804) 501-1671 or go online to [www.henricocasa.org](http://www.henricocasa.org) or [www.crossroadsartcenter.com](http://www.crossroadsartcenter.com).

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Jan. 9, 2013

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

*Henrico supervisors elect Kaechele chairman, O'Bannon vice chairman for 2013*

The Henrico County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, Jan. 8 elected David A. Kaechele chairman and Patricia S. O'Bannon vice chairman for 2013. Each will serve a one-year term as the board's presiding officers.

Kaechele will serve a ninth term as board chairman, an office he held most recently in 2009. First elected as Three Chopt District supervisor in 1979, he is the longest-serving member of the Henrico board.

Kaechele is active in a variety of national, statewide and regional organizations, including the National Association of Counties (NACo), Virginia Association of Counties (VACo), Virginia Municipal League (VML), Capital Region Airport Commission (CRAC), Richmond Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau and Richmond Regional Planning District Commission (RRPDC). A retired senior development engineer for Reynolds Metals Co., he is a graduate of Michigan State University and a veteran of the U.S. Army.

First elected to represent the Tuckahoe District in 1995, O'Bannon is serving her fifth term on Henrico's board. She holds appointed positions with NACo, VACo, VML, CRAC, RRPDC, the Greater Richmond Partnership, Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization and State Building Code Technical Review Board.



She is a graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University and a former English teacher, news editor for a local publication and development associate for public television.



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