



# HENRICO COUNTY VIRGINIA

## July 2013

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July 30, 2013

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

### *Henrico rabies vaccination clinic set for Aug. 17*

The Henrico County Division of Police will offer rabies vaccinations for dogs and cats from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Aug. 17 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.

The 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.

In addition, Henrico dog owners can obtain a one-year license for \$10 or a three-year license for \$15.

Under Virginia law, dogs and cats 4 months and older must be vaccinated for rabies. Henrico officers will be available to discuss vaccination requirements as well as dog-license options.

For information, call the Animal Protection Unit at (804) 727-8801 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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July 23, 2013

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

### *Henrico Extension to offer classes for home gardeners*

The Henrico County office of the Virginia Cooperative Extension and the Henrico Master Gardeners will offer a series of 10 classes this fall to teach the basics of home gardening using environmentally sound and sustainable practices.

The Homeowner Horticulture Series will be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Tuesdays, Sept. 3, 10, 17; Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; and Nov. 12 and 19. The classes will be held in the demonstration kitchen in the Human Services Building, 8600 Dixon Powers Drive. The \$25 registration fee covers the cost of class materials and can be paid at the first session.

The classes will cover a range of topics, including soil, compost and lawns; annuals, perennials, trees and shrubs; growing fruits and vegetables, managing insects and diseases; and plant installation and maintenance.

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

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July 19, 2013

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

*Henrico receives National Association of Counties awards for 17 programs;  
Operation Innkeeper, Prevention Project also recognized Best in Category*

Henrico County departments and agencies have earned 17 Achievement awards from the National Association of Counties (NACo), plus two Best in Category honors for programs focusing on crime involving local hotels and the international problem of human trafficking.

The awards will be presented July 21 during the 2013 NACo annual conference in Fort Worth, Texas. The NACo Achievement Award Program recognizes groundbreaking programs in a variety of service areas, including children and youth, administration, parks and recreation, health and human services.

“The NACo awards are truly noteworthy achievements in which all of us can take great pride,” County Manager John A. Vitoulkas said. “The awards continue the county’s tradition of providing cutting-edge programs to our residents and businesses.”

Henrico has earned 479 NACo awards since 1987, including 209 since 2000. The 17 awards in 2013 gave Henrico more than any other county in Virginia and the sixth-highest total nationally, trailing Los Angeles; San Diego; Maricopa, Ariz.; San Bernardino, Calif.; and Montgomery, Md. Each of those counties has between 1 million and 10 million residents, compared with Henrico’s population of about 318,000.

Henrico’s awards for 2013 recognize the efforts of eight departments and agencies to modernize county government and to better serve the needs of residents. Henrico County Public Schools received awards for seven programs, which was the most of any county department or agency. The Department of Human Resources earned an award for the 27th consecutive year, a feat unmatched by any other human resources agency in the country.

**The Henrico programs and agencies recognized by NACo are:**

- **Operation Innkeeper, Division of Police**  
A cooperative effort with the FBI, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, other law-enforcement agencies and the Richmond Retail Merchants Association, the initiative aims to identify people and organizations that are engaged in crimes that negatively impact area lodging establishments. The operation educates hotel owners and employees on how hotels and their guests can be targets of crime. The program was selected Best in Category in the criminal justice and public safety group.
- **The Prevention Project, Henrico County Public Schools**  
A summer project at The Center for Humanities at Hermitage High School taught students about the international problem of human trafficking. During their studies, students heard from FBI agents, victims of human trafficking, members of the Richmond Justice Initiative and other educators. The effort led to a movie night and panel discussion, presentations to three middle schools and a trip to the Virginia General Assembly to discuss with lawmakers pending legislation related to the issue. The program was selected Best in Category in the children and youth group.
- **iRae — Internet Real Estate Assessment Express, Department of Finance**  
The Internet application provides easy access to public data on real estate assessments, photos of parcels and mapping information. Henrico has more than 111,000 taxable parcels with a combined value of \$30.8 billion. As a result, the county receives hundreds of requests for information each day. The iRae application replaced a telephone-based system that could be difficult and time-consuming to use. The Department of Information Technology and Finance’s Real Estate Assessment Division performed all programming and training for the application.

- Permanent Dog Tag and Multiyear License, Department of Finance**

The initiative led to code changes creating a dog tag that is valid for the life of the animal and a multiyear license that runs concurrent with a rabies vaccination. The permanent tag and multiyear license were developed with support from the County Attorney's Office, Department of Information Technology and Animal Control after the 2007 General Assembly required veterinarians to report rabies vaccines to localities. That requirement increased workloads for county staff and revealed a license and renewal process that had become outdated. The permanent tag and multiyear license provides a more manageable workload and cost savings for the county, as well as convenience and cost savings for residents.
- Hose and Nozzle Shop — Sale of Recyclable Metal, Division of Fire**

The internal shop is responsible for maintaining, servicing and repairing more than 20 miles of fire hose and nearly 250 nozzles and related water appliances for all Fire companies. As part of a new initiative, damaged nozzle couplings are sold as recyclable metal.
- Executive Development for Middle Managers: Preparing Tomorrow's Top Leaders, Department of Human Resources**

The initiative promotes smooth transitions in departmental leadership by preparing middle managers for executive roles. Developed as a significant number of county leaders became eligible for retirement, the initiative provides professional development through classroom instruction, facilitated dialogue, group projects and informal conversation. More than 300 middle managers have participated, with 35 percent so far having received promotions or greater responsibilities.
- eBook Classes at Senior Centers, Public Library**

As part of its community outreach efforts, the Mobile Library Service staff provided classes and one-on-one help with eBooks during visits with library patrons at senior centers. The staff had noticed an increasing need to help senior patrons check out eBooks on electronic tablets and other devices. Electronics Recycling at Twin Hickory Area Library, Public Library staff worked with the Department of Public Utilities on an event to accept recyclable electronics from area residents. Initially held in October 2011, the event is now offered each April and October, giving residents a convenient alternative to disposing of outdated electronics at the county landfill.
- Time Travel Programs, Public Library**

Staff commemorated Henrico's 400th anniversary in 2011 by creating interactive and educational family programs exploring the county's history. Using a spray-painted refrigerator box as a time machine, librarians pretended to travel through time and kidnap two figures from Virginia's past: patriot Patrick Henry and aviator Richard Byrd. The historical figures, portrayed by costumed actors, were transported to the present day, allowing audiences to ask questions about their lives and times before they were returned to their respective periods. The program, which uses videos projected on a screen to give the illusion of time travel, was offered three times in 2011 and is now an annual event at the Twin Hickory Area Library.
- Crisis Intervention Team — Mobile Response Team, Henrico Area Mental Health & Developmental Services (MH/DS) and the Division of Fire**

Formed in partnership with the divisions of Police and Fire, the Sheriff's Office and MH/DS, the crisis intervention team (CIT) and mobile response team (MRT) provide assistance to individuals experiencing a mental health crisis. Formed in 2008, the CIT offers targeted assistance with the support of hospitals, consumer advocacy and support groups, state agencies and community stakeholders. The MRT was developed in 2010 to address a significant gap in the availability of services. Since then, the team has provided more than 1,740 hours of assistance to more than 440 individuals.

- **Voices of Recovery, MH/DS**  
Developed in 2011 with the support of a community services board and the nonprofit radio station WRIR 97.3 FM, the project produced a series of public service announcements on mental illness. The one-minute messages sought to break the stigma of mental illness by highlighting notable people who have overcome mental health challenges and found a path to recovery.
- **Discovering Healthy Choices Through Nutrition Education in the Classroom, Henrico County Public Schools**  
The division's School Nutrition Services created the program Food Explorers: Virginia Fresh & Local to provide instruction on nutrition, physical activity and agriculture. In 2011 and 2012, School Nutrition Services, school nurses, the Virginia Department of Health and Field of Dreams Farm partnered to offer the program to second-grade students. Lessons, presented each month November through May, provided hands-on learning and incorporated the Virginia Standards of Learning objectives for math, science, English and health.
- **Entrepreneurship Enrichment for Business and Marketing Students, Henrico County Public Schools**  
The Young Entrepreneurs' Symposium and Marketing Conference was created to promote entrepreneurship education among Career and Technical Education students. A total of 200 marketing students and 86 middle school students attended the second-annual Young Entrepreneurs' Symposium and Marketing Conference at Virginia Center Commons.
- **The Henrico Inclusive Communities Coalition Initiative, Henrico County Public Schools**  
The initiative provides bully-prevention programming and mentoring support for struggling students. Last year, 524 mentors served 1,029 students while more than 48,000 students participated in bully-prevention programming.
- **Stakeholder Engagement in the Budget Process, Henrico County Public Schools**  
A number of indicators were developed to measure and encourage community involvement in the budget process. Several survey tools measure and evaluate staff, parent and student engagement, as well as satisfaction with all facets of the division, including financial planning and stakeholder engagement related to the budget process.
- **The Rain Garden at The Academy at Virginia Randolph, Henrico County Public Schools**  
Students in the horticulture program at The Academy at Virginia Randolph and Virginia Randolph Education Center created a rain garden to mitigate the amount of storm water that flows into the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The project included career and technical education students from the school, exceptional education students from an adjacent school, employees of Henrico County Public Schools Construction and Maintenance Department, and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. The project allowed all stakeholders to take ownership of an environmentally beneficial effort to reduce damage to the local ecosystem.
- **Truancy Reduction in Henrico County, Henrico County Public Schools**  
To counteract habitual absences that often contribute to students struggling academically and dropping out, the school division developed a new approach to resource assignment and truancy prevention. The effort helped to reduce truancy rates across the division.

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July 18, 2013

CONTACT: Dawn Miller, Tourism Supervisor, Henrico Division of Recreation & Parks  
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*Babe Ruth tournaments underway in Henrico; significant economic impact anticipated*

More than 800 boys and girls from states throughout the Southeast are competing on Henrico fields this weekend as the county hosts the Babe Ruth League, Inc. Southeast Regional baseball and softball tournaments. Play is underway at RF&P Park and Dorey Park and will continue through Sunday. Fifty-five teams, with players ranging in age from 8 to 16, are participating. Teams have traveled from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and other states in the region to play in the tournaments. Teams from Virginia and Henrico are competing as well.

The Babe Ruth League tournaments are part of an 11-day run of regional and national youth baseball and softball tournaments in Henrico. The Triple Crown U.S. Baseball Championships, which also begin today, will continue through July 28.

Over that period, the Babe Ruth and Triple Crown tournaments will combine to bring approximately 2,300 youth athletes and close to 10,000 visitors to Henrico and the metro region. The events are expected to inject nearly \$5 million into the local economy.

"These visitors will stay in our hotels, eat in our restaurants and look for other ways to enjoy their time here," said County Manager John A. Vithoukas. "Events like these represent a great opportunity for Henrico to highlight all that it has to offer in terms of sports tourism and tourism in general. They also are a great way to create more income for our businesses."

Additional information is available at [www.VisitHenrico.com](http://www.VisitHenrico.com).

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July 17, 2013

CONTACT: Dawn Miller, Tourism Supervisor, Henrico Division of Recreation & Parks  
PHONE: (804) 501-5137

*U.S. Baseball Championships to bring national broadcast, thousands of visitors to Henrico and region*

Henrico County will welcome close to 1,500 top high school baseball players from around the country — as well as college coaches and a nationwide television audience — when the Triple Crown U.S. Baseball Championships take place July 18-28.

This year marks the fourth consecutive year Henrico and the metro region have hosted the Triple Crown tournament. This year's event is expected to bring at least 5,500 visitors to the area and provide a \$3.95 million boost to the local economy, according to Richmond Region Tourism.

Seventy-five teams from 21 states — ranging from California and Washington to Minnesota, Missouri, Connecticut, New York, Texas and Virginia — will compete at 16-under, 17-under and 18-under age divisions. A number of teams from the metro area are included in the field as well. Games will be played at several county facilities, including Glen Allen Stadium at RF&P Park, Dorey Park and Tuckahoe Park, as well as The Diamond and other sites in the metro area, beginning Thursday (a complete schedule is available at [www.triplecrownsports.com](http://www.triplecrownsports.com)). All games are open to the public.

The CBS Sports Network will broadcast live nationwide the "North vs. South" 16-under/17-under all-star game from Glen Allen Stadium at RF&P Park at 6:30 p.m. Monday, July 22. Admission is free. The game will feature a tribute to the late Paul Keyes, the longtime head baseball coach at Virginia Commonwealth University who passed away in November. Keyes helped bring the Triple Crown U.S. Baseball Championships to the area for the first time in 2010.

Neil Luther, director of Henrico's Division of Recreation and Parks, said the event showcases prospective college athletes and attracts coaches from college programs including Richmond, Maryland and Butler to scout players. He also said the event is another highlight for Henrico's growing sports-tourism program.

"The Triple Crown U.S. Baseball Championships makes a significant impact on our community," Luther said. "We are able to showcase our facilities and our hospitality, and they bring dollars to our hotels, restaurants and retailers."

Additional information is available at [www.VisitHenrico.com](http://www.VisitHenrico.com).

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July 17, 2013

CONTACT: Karen F. Carter, Horticulture Extension Agent, Henrico County office of the Virginia Cooperative Extension  
PHONE: (804) 501-5160

*Henrico Extension accepting participants in SMART Lawns program*

The Henrico County office of the Virginia Cooperative Extension has begun accepting participants in its SMART Lawns program, which provides soil analysis and customized plans to help individuals grow attractive, healthy lawns.

For a \$20 enrollment fee, specially trained Master Gardener volunteers will visit a home, analyze the lawn and prepare a plan for improving its condition. Participants will receive recommendations for fertilizer and lime, as well as suggestions for environmentally friendly weed control, mowing and watering practices.

The SMART Lawns program follows the concepts of SMART — Soil test, Measure, Aerate, Right fertilizer and Trouble-free maintenance.

The deadline to enroll is Friday, Sept. 6. To sign up, go to [www.co.henrico.va.us/extension](http://www.co.henrico.va.us/extension) or call (804) 501-5160.

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