



HENRICO COUNTY VIRGINIA

September 2013

September 23, 2013

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

Tuckahoe town meeting Oct. 9 to focus on meals tax referendum

The next town meeting of Tuckahoe District Supervisor Patricia S. O'Bannon will feature a discussion of Henrico County's meals tax referendum, which will be part of the general election ballot Tuesday, Nov. 5.

The meeting will be held Wednesday, Oct. 9, with sessions at 1 and 7 p.m., at the Tuckahoe Area Library, 1901 Starling Drive.

County Manager John A. Vithoulkas will join O'Bannon to give a presentation and answer questions about the referendum.

The referendum question will ask whether Henrico should be authorized to charge a 4 percent tax on meals and beverages, like those available in a restaurant. All revenue generated by the meals tax — an estimated \$18 million annually — would support Henrico County Public Schools. About 40 percent of the revenue would be paid by nonresidents, who come to Henrico for business or pleasure, according to officials.

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

September 17, 2013

CONTACT: Kendra Young, Extension Agent, Henrico County office of the Virginia Cooperative Extension
PHONE: (804) 501-5160

Henrico 4-H sale of apples, peanuts, honey, cookbooks under way; orders due Oct. 31

The Henrico County office of the Virginia Cooperative Extension has launched its fall sale of apples, peanuts, honey and cookbooks to benefit the 4-H Youth Development program.

The sale features Virginia-grown produce and six different cookbooks, each with more than 140 recipes. The items and their prices are:

- Winesap and York apples, \$19 per half bushel, which equates to about 80 cents per pound;
- Raw peanuts, with recipes, \$9 per two-pound sack;
- Salted or unsalted deluxe cocktail peanuts, \$12 per two-pound sack;
- Honey, \$8 per one-pound jar; and

- Cookbooks, \$8 apiece. The titles are “Quick Fix,” “5 Ingredients or Less,” “Kids in the Kitchen,” “One Dish Dinners,” “Best of the Holidays” and “On the Grill.” Each spiral-bound cookbook measures 5½ by 4¼ inches, with a soft cover and 150 pages.

Order forms are available at www.co.henrico.va.us/extension; the Extension Office in the Human Services Building, at 8600 Dixon Powers Drive; any Henrico library; or by calling (804) 501-5160 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. A check or money order payable to Henrico 4-H Fund must accompany each order.

Because supplies are limited, orders received after Thursday, Oct. 31 will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Orders will be available for pickup from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 20 and from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 21 at the loading dock of the Human Services Building. For information, call (804) 501-5160.

Sept. 16, 2013

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

Henrico Master Gardener training program accepting applications

The Henrico County Office of the Virginia Cooperative Extension is accepting applications for its 2014 Master Gardener training program, which will provide instruction in all aspects of horticulture.

Applications will be accepted through **Friday, Oct. 25**. The training program costs \$135 for materials.

Participants will learn about lawn care, tree and shrub maintenance, vegetable gardening, soils, pest management and other topics. After completing classroom training, participants will serve a 50-hour internship with the Extension Office and will help conduct educational programs for the public.

Classes will be held from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays from Jan. 21 through March 20 in the demonstration kitchen of the Human Services Building, 8600 Dixon Powers Drive.

To request an application or other information, call the Extension Office at (804) 501-5160 or go to the “Agriculture & Natural Resources” at www.co.henrico.va.us/departments/extension/.

September 16, 2013

CONTACT: John A. Vithoukas, County Manager, Henrico County
PHONE: (804) 501-4386

Henrico to hold public meeting Sept. 18 on meals tax referendum

Henrico County will conduct the first in a series of public meetings at **7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 18 at Deep Run High School** to provide information on the meals tax referendum, which will be part of the general election ballot on Tuesday, Nov. 5.

County Manager John A. Vithoukias will lead the meeting, which will include a presentation by county staff and an opportunity to ask questions. Deep Run High School is at 4801 Twin Hickory Road in western Henrico.

Henrico will hold similar public meetings at other high schools and at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden before Nov. 5.

The referendum question will ask whether Henrico should be authorized to charge a 4 percent tax on meals and beverages, like those available in a restaurant. All revenue generated by the meals tax — an estimated \$18 million annually — would support Henrico County Public Schools. About 40 percent of the revenue would be paid by nonresidents, who come to Henrico for business or pleasure, according to officials.

Information on the referendum and a complete schedule of meetings is available at www.Henrico.us/mealstax.

September 11, 2013

CONTACT: Donald R. Stern, M.D., M.P.H., Acting Director, Henrico County Health Department
PHONE: (804) 205-3722

Avoid stray or wild animals to protect against rabies

In recognition of Rabies Awareness Week from Sept. 23 to 29, the Henrico County Health Department reminds residents to stay away from stray or wild animals and to report them to authorities to avoid possible exposure to rabies.

Rabies, a virus that travels through the nervous system to the brain, is almost always fatal to humans and unvaccinated pets if it goes untreated. Rabies is carried by mammals and is transmitted to humans most frequently through bites, scratches or body fluids of infected raccoons, skunks, bats, foxes, dogs and cats.

The Henrico Health Department has confirmed six cases of animals infected with rabies in 2013. Those cases, which involve three raccoons and three bats, followed an average of about 12 cases in each of the past three years.

“Several recent incidents have underscored how common sense and caution can help people avoid possible exposure to rabies and the associated treatment, which can be painful and expensive,” said Dr. Donald R. Stern, acting director of the Henrico Health Department. “One such case involved a person who picked up an injured fox and was bitten before the animal ran off. Another case involved a person who was bitten while attempting to help a stray dog that was having a seizure.

“The best response is to stay away and call the Animal Protection Unit if you see a stray or wild animal, particularly if it is behaving aggressively or unusually.”

The Henrico Health Department offers the following tips to avoid a rabies infection or treatment for possible exposure:

- Make sure pets, including dogs, cats and ferrets, have current vaccinations. The Henrico Division of Police’s Animal Protection Unit conducts rabies vaccination clinics several times per year. The next clinic will be from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 19 in the parking deck at the Henrico County Government Center, 4301 E. Parham Road.
- Avoid and do not feed stray or wild animals. Enjoy them from a distance.

- Make sure your home and yard do not attract stray or wild animals. Keep garbage cans securely covered. Cap chimneys. Seal places where animals may hide. Bring containers of pet food inside.
- If you are scratched or bitten by an animal, wash the wound thoroughly with soap and water and call your doctor immediately.

To report a stray or wild animal, call the Henrico Animal Protection Unit at (804) 501-5000.

September 9, 2013

CONTACT: John A. Vithoukas, County Manager, Henrico County
PHONE: (804) 501-4386

Henrico to hold public meetings on meals tax referendum

Henrico County will conduct a series of public meetings to provide information on the meals tax referendum, which will be part of the general election ballot on Tuesday, Nov. 5.

County Manager John A. Vithoukas will lead the meetings, which will be held at high schools throughout the county and at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden from Wednesday, Sept. 18 through Wednesday, Oct. 30. The meetings will include a presentation by county staff and an opportunity to ask questions.

“We want residents to be fully aware of the meals tax referendum before they cast their vote on November 5th,” Vithoukas said. “To that end, we are committed to meeting with residents face to face to explain the proposal and answer their questions.”

The referendum question will ask whether Henrico should be authorized to charge a 4 percent tax on meals and beverages, like those available in a restaurant. All revenue generated by the meals tax — an estimated \$18 million annually — would support Henrico County Public Schools. About 40 percent of the revenue would be paid by nonresidents, who come to Henrico for business or pleasure, according to officials.

Information on the referendum also is available at www.Henrico.us/mealstax.

September 5, 2013

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

Henrico attracts \$746.5 million in tourist spending in 2012 County total grows 4.7 percent, ranks fifth highest in Virginia

Henrico County captured \$746.5 million in spending by domestic travelers during 2012, the fifth highest total of any Virginia locality, according to newly released data from the U.S. Travel Association.

Henrico's total marks a 4.7 percent increase from 2011, exceeding Virginia's statewide increase of 4 percent. In tourist spending, Henrico topped all localities in central Virginia and trailed only the counties of Arlington, Fairfax and Loudoun and the city of Virginia Beach. Tourist spending in Henrico has increased in each of the past three years, by a total of \$143 million.

“Like Virginia as a whole, Henrico County is poised for continued growth in spending by tourists and other visitors,” County Manager John A. Vithoukaskas said. “We have become a premier destination for a variety of travelers. We have historical sites, cultural amenities and top-notch recreational facilities that continue to attract youth and adult sports tournaments and events.

“This economic activity is critical to Henrico’s success because it supports jobs, enriches our quality of life and provides revenue to pay for our schools, public safety and other services.”

Henrico’s expenditure total reflects spending on food, lodging, transportation, entertainment, retail and other services by travelers from within the United States who had taken day or overnight trips at least 50 miles from home.

Visitor spending in Henrico supported more than 7,400 jobs with a combined payroll of \$171.7 million and generated tax receipts of \$22.3 million for the county and \$27.1 million for the state. Overall, Virginia attracted \$21.2 billion in visitor spending in 2012, which supported 210,000 jobs and provided \$1.36 billion in state and local taxes.

The U.S. Travel Association compiled the data for the Virginia Tourism Corp. Its report, The Economic Impact of Domestic Travel On Virginia Counties 2012, is available at www.vatc.org/research/economicimpact/.

Under the direction of the Board of Supervisors, Henrico has taken steps to boost tourism in the county. In March, officials launched the Visit Henrico County campaign to promote Henrico as a destination for tourists and youth and adult recreational sports tournaments. A website, www.VisitHenrico.com, and a smartphone app help travelers plan where to stay, shop and eat, and what they will do while in Henrico.

This summer, Henrico hosted nearly two dozen sports tournaments and events that combined to attract more than 400 local and out-of-town teams and 17,000 spectators to the county. The effort resulted in an estimated \$10.5 million in local economic activity over two months.

In addition to a variety of sports complexes, Henrico’s attractions include Richmond International Raceway, Civil War battlefields, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Three Lakes Park and Nature Center, and the Dabbs House and Meadow Farm museums.

“It makes great sense to boost tourism in Henrico because visitors generate significant economic activity for the county while having a minimal impact on public services,” Vithoukaskas said. “Given our strategic location on the eastern seaboard and access to major highways, Henrico must continue to roll out its welcome mat.”