



HENRICO COUNTY VIRGINIA

JANUARY 2015

Jan. 23, 2015

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

Henrico CASA seeks volunteers for training as child advocates

Henrico County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) will offer a training program beginning Saturday, Feb. 28 for volunteers who would work in the court system on behalf of abused or neglected children.

The free, 14-session training course will include classes at the Henrico CASA office in suite A of the Hungary Spring Office Park, 3001 Hungary Spring Road. A swearing-in ceremony will follow Wednesday, April 1 at the Henrico Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court.

Anyone interested in serving as a volunteer advocate must apply by Friday, Feb. 13, be at least 21 years old and have regular access to a computer. Applicants will be interviewed, fingerprinted and undergo criminal background and reference checks. Henrico CASA has a particular need for male volunteers, but all are welcome. For information, contact Jeannine Panzera at (804) 501-1673 or Jeannine.Panzera@henrico.us. Applications are available at www.henricocasa.org.

Henrico CASA is a private, nonprofit organization that has worked closely with the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court for 20 years to serve children in the community. Working typically 10 to 15 hours per month, volunteer advocates gather information on a child's circumstances to supplement information provided to the court.

The training program prepares volunteers to interview children and others involved in their cases, submit reports to judges and assist case attorneys. Henrico CASA volunteers worked 8,000 hours and served 316 children in fiscal year 2013-14.

Jan. 14, 2015

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

Henrico supervisors elect Thornton chairman, Nelson vice chairman for 2015

The Henrico County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday unanimously voted Fairfield District Supervisor Frank J. Thornton chairman and Varina District Supervisor Tyrone E. Nelson vice chairman for 2015.

Their election marks the first time that African-Americans will hold both leadership posts on Henrico's Board of Supervisors.

Thornton is beginning his fourth service as board chairman, a position he held most recently in 2011. He first was elected to represent Fairfield in 1995 and currently is serving his fifth term on the county's board. Thornton, who served as vice chairman last year, succeeds Tuckahoe District Supervisor Patricia S. O'Bannon as chairman.

Thornton said that Henrico's reputation as a premier local government has been "diligently earned" and is the result of an operating principle known as the "Henrico Way."

“The Henrico Way is our way of serving our citizens in which they are receiving optimal and positive results in government service,” he said. “It is my hope and our challenge that we take the Henrico Way to an even higher level during the upcoming year.”

Thornton noted that expectations for the county in 2015 include continued low taxes, improved financial growth, improved accountability in all government agencies, recognition that Henrico has become more urbanized and eradication of the “east versus west syndrome” in the county.

“As Henrico is on the precipice of a new era of renewed growth and expansion, it must also be poised to be a beacon of leadership and hope in the metro area,” he said. “Henrico will be moving forward.”

Thornton holds appointed positions with national, statewide and regional governmental organizations, including the National Association of Counties (NACo), Virginia Association of Counties (VACo), Richmond Regional Planning District Commission, Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Maymont Foundation.

A Richmond native, Thornton is a co-founder and past president of the Henrico County Civic League. He earned a bachelor’s degree from Virginia Union University and a master’s degree from American University. He recently retired from full-time teaching at Virginia Union, where he worked for more than 40 years as an assistant professor of French and received the university’s Teacher of the Year award. Thornton also is a recipient of the John Jasper Trailblazer Award from Richmond’s Sixth Mount Zion Baptist Church.

Nelson, who was elected Varina District supervisor in 2011, is serving his first term on Henrico’s board. He said it has been an honor to represent Varina for the past three years and is “now an even greater honor” to become the second African-American to serve as the board’s vice chairman.

“It was not long ago that persons who look like me were not able to vote in the United States,” he said. “I do not take this lightly that I am able to serve in this leadership capacity in this great county.”

Nelson serves on a number of governmental and community organizations, including the Baptist General Convention of Virginia, the Capital Region Airport Commission, the Richmond Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the board of directors of the Virginia Commonwealth University Health System Authority.

A native of the Varina District, he earned an associate degree from J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College, a bachelor’s degree from VCU and a master’s degree from Virginia Union. Nelson is the pastor of Sixth Mount Zion Baptist Church in Richmond.

Jan. 12, 2015

CONTACT: David M. Sacks, Community Development Manager, Department of Community Revitalization
PHONE: (804) 501-7611

Henrico seeks public input on community development priorities

The Henrico County Department of Community Revitalization will hold a series of public hearings to help guide the county’s use of federal housing and community development funds over the next five years.

The meetings will be held:

- Saturday, Jan. 24, 9:30 a.m. at Eastern Henrico Recreation Center, 1440 N. Laburnum Ave.
- Monday, Jan. 26, 6:30 p.m. at Tuckahoe Area Library, 1901 Starling Drive
- Thursday, Feb. 26, 6:30 p.m. at Belmont Recreation Center, 1600 Hilliard Road

Henrico will use the input of residents and others to prepare the Fiscal Year 2015-2020 Consolidated Plan. The plan will establish priorities for the use of federal Community

Development Block Grant Program, HOME Investment Partnerships Program and Emergency Solutions Grant Program funds. Henrico will submit the plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development this summer, pending approval by the Board of Supervisors.

Henrico receives more than \$2 million in the federal funding annually for services, programs, facilities and other assistance to low- and moderate-income residents, as well as people who are homeless or have other special needs. The funds have supported a variety of initiatives, including housing improvements, home purchase assistance, neighborhood recreation facilities and afterschool programs.

For information, call (804) 501-7617, send an email to revitalization@henrico.us or go online to henrico.us/revit. The webpage includes a link to an online survey. To request a special accommodation at one of the meetings, call (804) 501-7640 at least two days in advance.

Jan. 9, 2015

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

Fairfield meeting Jan. 21 to highlight work of boards, commissions

Fairfield District Supervisor Frank J. Thornton will hold a constituent meeting Wednesday, Jan. 21 to spotlight the work of Henrico County's boards and commissions.

The meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Eastern Henrico Recreation Center, 1440 N. Laburnum Ave.

Fairfield District representatives on Henrico's boards and commissions will join Thornton for the discussion and will answer questions.

For information, call (804) 501-4208