



HENRICO COUNTY VIRGINIA

MARCH 2016

March 29, 2016

CONTACT: Barbara Herzog, Executive Director, Henrico County Court Appointed Special Advocates

PHONE: (804) 501-1671

*'Superhero' runners needed for April 30 race to benefit child-advocacy programs
Sign up by April 1 to save on registration*

The Henrico County and Chesterfield County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) organizations will hold the seventh-annual Superhero Run on Saturday, April 30 to support local programs for abused and neglected children.

The event, which includes a 5-kilometer race, a Kids' Fun Run and a post-race fair, will be held at St. Joseph's Villa, 8000 Brook Road, in recognition of April as national Child Abuse Prevention Month. All participants are encouraged to run in the costume of a favorite superhero character. Prizes will be awarded for the best costumes and top finishers.

Helped by their "superhero" volunteers, the private, nonprofit CASA organizations work with local courts on behalf of abused and neglected children. In 2015, CASA volunteers served 516 children in Henrico and Chesterfield, donating more than 15,000 hours to their cases.

"Henrico and Chesterfield CASA are excited again to hold the Superhero Run and help increase awareness of the special needs of abused and neglected children in our community," said Barbara Herzog, executive director of Henrico CASA. "We are grateful for the many sponsors who support this special event."

The 5K race is open to all ages. The cost is \$25 for runners 13 and older and \$15 for runners 12 and younger. The Kids' Fun Run is \$10 and open to children 12 and younger. Parents may accompany their child at no cost. All fees will increase by \$5 on Friday, April 1 and an additional \$5 on Friday, April 29, when online registration closes. Anyone who registers by Friday, April 15 will receive a free event T-shirt.

Activities will begin with the Kids' Fun Run at 9 a.m., followed by the 5K race at 9:30 a.m. and a post-race fair. The event was inspired by The Superhero Foundation, a Texas-based organization working to prevent child abuse.

For information, call (804) 501-1671 or send an email to info@casarun.com. To register, go to casarun.com.

March 25, 2016

CONTACT: Linda Leigh, Executive Assistant, Henrico County Board of Supervisors

PHONE: (804) 501-4208

Fairfield meeting April 4 to discuss General Assembly session, senior citizens advocate

Fairfield District Supervisor Frank J. Thornton will hold a constituent meeting Monday, April 4 to discuss the 2016 General Assembly session's impact on Henrico County and the work of the county's advocate for senior citizens.

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

Thornton will be joined by representatives of Henrico's General Assembly delegation and Jelisa Turner, the county's advocate for the aging.

For information, call (804) 501-4208.

March 23, 2016

CONTACT: Karen F. Carter, Extension Agent, Henrico County office of the Virginia Cooperative Extension

PHONE: (804) 501-5160

Henrico Extension to offer free lawn-care seminar in April

The Henrico County office of the Virginia Cooperative Extension will conduct in April a free seminar on natural and conventional methods of lawn care and weed control.

The Spring Lawn Care class will be held Wednesday, April 6 at North Park Branch Library, 8508 Franconia Road; Monday, April 11 at Twin Hickory Area Library, 5001 Twin Hickory Road; and Thursday, April 14 at Sandston Branch Library, 23 E. Williamsburg Road. Each session will start at 6:30 p.m.

To register, call (804) 501-5160. For information, go to henrico.us/extension.

March 17, 2016

CONTACT: Ed Olsen, Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources, Henrico County office of the Virginia Cooperative Extension

PHONE: (804) 501-5160

Henrico Extension to offer free vegetable gardening workshop April 2

The Henrico County office of the Virginia Cooperative Extension will hold a workshop Saturday, April 2 to help residents start or improve a vegetable garden.

The Vegetable Gardening Workshop will be held from 9 a.m. to noon in the Extension Office's demonstration kitchen in the Human Services Building, 8600 Dixon Powers Drive. The workshop is free and open to Henrico residents. The program will include a separate session geared for school-aged children. To register, call (804) 501-5160 by Friday, March 25.

The workshop will show new and experienced gardeners how to grow their own food, prepare dishes from their harvest and expand their diets.

March 15, 2016

CONTACT: Joseph P. Casey, Deputy County Manager for Administration
PHONE: (804) 501-4288

Registration for Henrico Citizens Academy opens March 21

Henrico residents can get a firsthand look at county operations and services at the 2016 Henrico Citizens Academy, scheduled for six sessions in April and May. Registration opens at www.connect.henricorecandparks.com beginning Monday, March 21.

The free, 15-hour program will take place from 6:30 to 9 p.m. each Thursday from April 21 to May 26. The academy is open to 35 residents and participants must be 18 or older.

In addition to registering online, residents can sign up at the Division of Recreation and Parks office in the Human Services Building, 8600 Dixon Powers Drive.

Classes are led by Henrico officials and staff and take place at a different county facility each week. Classes typically feature a presentation and discussion, facility tours, equipment demonstrations and other activities. Topics include community and economic development; human services; public safety; libraries, finance and recreation and parks; and schools.

“Local government has a more direct impact on the lives of residents than any other level of government,” said Deputy County Manager for Administration Joseph P. Casey. “The Citizens Academy gives our residents insight into the full scope of operations and services Henrico County provides every day.”

Casey noted that academy alumni will have the opportunity to remain engaged and provide further assistance to the county.

For more information call (804) 501-4370 or email kle@henrico.us.

March 11, 2016

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

Henrico revamps tourism website, launches new app

With thousands of youth soccer players and families set to converge on the metro region this weekend for the start of the 2016 Jefferson Cup, Henrico County has rolled out an updated tourism website and a new app for mobile devices to help visitors plan where to sleep, eat, shop and spend their time during their stay in the county.

VisitHenrico.com, which initially launched three years ago, has been redesigned to be simpler, more visual and more informative for users, said Dawn Miller, tourism supervisor for Henrico’s Division of Recreation and Parks. The Visit Henrico County app, built to help visitors navigate county roads and reach their destination, is free and available at iTunes iTunes and Google Play app stores.

“Henrico is far more than meets the eye,” Miller said. “The site now offers a broader view of the visitor experience within the county — whether they’re here for a sports tournament, historical tour or business meeting.”

The redesigned site is easier to use and search, she said, with a database that spotlights Henrico-based hotels, restaurants, events and attractions. The site highlights Henrico’s extensive history, features upcoming special events and suggests trip ideas for visitors seeking a specific

experience. Users can sign up to receive e-blasts, text messages and push alerts on their phones.

The Visit Henrico app, the county's first native app, uses GPS to help visitors locate a sports facility, hotel, historical site, favorite restaurant or other destination. App users can receive push notifications of events and activities based on their interests.

Tourist and travel spending continue to grow in Henrico County. Domestic travel expenditures have increased by 11 percent since 2012, reaching nearly \$829 million last year — the fifth-most for Virginia localities — according to the Virginia Tourism Corporation.

The economic impact of sports tourism in Henrico has grown at a 20 percent clip over the same period, topping \$40 million in 2014, the most recent year for which data is available.

March 10, 2016

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

Regional transportation, natural resources to be focus of Fairfield meeting March 24

Fairfield District Supervisor Frank J. Thornton will hold a constituent meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 24 to highlight ongoing projects and planning for transportation in the metropolitan region.

The meeting is set for the Eastern Henrico Recreation Center, 1440 N. Laburnum Ave.

Officials from the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation and the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization will discuss current efforts as well as long-term transportation plans for central Virginia.

In addition, a representative from the Henricopolis Soil and Water Conservation District will describe the organization's objectives and efforts to conserve natural resources in Henrico County.

The officials will join Thornton for a question-and-answer period as well.

Call (804) 501-4208 for more information.

March 3, 2016

CONTACT: Will Jones, Senior Public Relations Specialist
PHONE: (804) 501-4348

Student Government Day puts Henrico students in charge

More than 100 students from Henrico County high schools got a firsthand look at their local government and public schools administrations Thursday as part of the 59th annual Student Government Day.

The program matched 112 students from all nine high schools with elected and appointed officials, including members of the Board of Supervisors and School Board, county manager, superintendent, judges and department directors. Students spent the day learning how Henrico

general government and Henrico County Public Schools work on behalf of residents and others to provide services and address needs of the community.

“Student Government Day provides a dynamic, real-world learning experience for our high school students and allows them to see exactly how Henrico government works for our citizenry,” County Manager John A. Vithoukas said. “This unique program is part of a proud tradition that encourages citizens to participate in their local government and shows how our community is strengthened when residents and county officials work together.”

Student Government Day began Wednesday at Hermitage High School with a ceremony in which 33 students swore the oaths required for their assigned positions. All students spent Thursday with their designated departments and agencies. Some also toured Henrico’s Jail West and registered to vote.

For students who worked at the Henrico Government Center, the day ended with a student-run, simulated work session and meeting of the Board of Supervisors, which included discussions of the county’s superior rating for fire protection and its internship program, and a review of plans for a 98-acre park in the Varina District.

The Kiwanis clubs of North Richmond, Tuckahoe and Greater Richmond sponsor Student Government Day.



Students from Henrico’s nine high schools worked alongside county officials during a mock meeting of the Board of Supervisors that capped Henrico’s 59th annual Student Government Day.