



# HENRICO COUNTY VIRGINIA

**NOVEMBER 2016**

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Nov. 28, 2016

CONTACT: Ed Olsen, Associate Extension Agent, Agriculture & Natural Resources, Horticulture, Henrico County office of Virginia Cooperative Extension  
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*Extension offers tips for protecting boxwoods from disease during holidays*

The Henrico County office of Virginia Cooperative Extension is encouraging residents to take steps to protect their boxwood plantings from a potentially damaging pathogen that could be introduced through decorative holiday greenery.

An accidental exposure to the boxwood blight pathogen could destroy a home's boxwood plantings and crops as well as spread to neighboring properties. Signs of the disease include brown spots on leaves, black streaks on stems and defoliation.

A Williamsburg resident had to destroy dozens of 60-year-old English boxwoods this year after they became infected through decorative greenery that had been left by a trashcan after a holiday party.

To protect boxwoods from potential infection, Extension officials recommend:

- Using nonboxwood plant materials for fresh-cut greenery decorations;
- If boxwood greenery is used, make sure it is not infected with the boxwood blight pathogen. The greenery should come from a vendor's own production facility or from producers who operate in areas free of boxwood blight or who participate in the boxwood blight cleanliness program;
- Disposing of greenery decorations by double bagging them after the holidays and immediately taking them to a landfill;
- Using 70 percent Isopropyl alcohol or Lysol spray brand III with 58 percent alcohol to sanitize all materials that come into contact with holiday greenery and other decorations.

For more information about avoiding boxwood blight, go to [ext.vt.edu/agriculture](http://ext.vt.edu/agriculture) and follow links to the Virginia Boxwood Blight Task Force. Information also is available at (804) 501-5160 or [henrico.us/extension](http://henrico.us/extension).

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Nov. 17, 2016

CONTACT: Barry R. Lawrence, Assistant to the County Manager for Board Affairs  
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*Thornton appointed to Virginia Association of Counties board of directors*

Fairfield District Supervisor Frank J. Thornton has been appointed to the Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) board of directors.



Thornton, who has served on the Henrico County Board of Supervisors since 1996, was elected to a two-year term on the VACo board Tuesday at the organization's 82nd Annual Conference in Bath County.

He is one of three directors for Region 3, which covers Henrico, Charles City, Chesterfield, Hanover and New Kent counties. Tuckahoe District Supervisor Patricia S. O'Bannon had represented Region 3 since 2008. VACo's bylaws allow directors to serve no more than four consecutive two-year terms.

The VACo board of directors consists of its executive committee and past presidents as well as 24 supervisors representing 13 regions. The number of directors allocated for each region is based on the population.

VACo represents Virginia counties at the state and federal levels and provides a resource network for planning and implementing ideas and technologies.

Nov. 10, 2016

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

PHONE: (804) 501-1671

*Kovacs honored for service to children through Henrico CASA*

David Kovacs has been named Volunteer of the Year by the Central Virginia Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals in recognition of his service to local youth through Henrico County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA).

Kovacs will accept the award Thursday, Nov. 17 at the Greater Richmond Convention Center as part of a recognition of National Philanthropy Day. He was nominated by Henrico CASA, a nonprofit organization that works on behalf of abused and neglected children before the Henrico Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court. CASA's volunteers served 367 children in fiscal 2015-16, donating nearly 20,000 hours to their cases.



*David Kovacs (right), a longtime volunteer with Henrico County Court Appointed Special Advocates, meets with Jeannine Panzera, the organization's program manager.*

Kovacs has advocated for 63 abused and neglected children in Henrico since his volunteer service began in 1996. He often has served multiple children at a time, devoting more than 2,450 hours to their cases and making more 3,400 contacts with family members and case professionals.

Kovacs, who is retired after a career in urban planning and community organizing, has served longer than any of the 521 volunteers who have supported Henrico CASA since its inception in 1994. He said his decision to volunteer was inspired by his experiences following his father's death when Kovacs was 15.

"I just remember I would have liked some help and direction," he said. "When I see situations with

children who have a need, I try to help them out so they don't get lost in the cracks. So much of what CASA is about is looking out for what's in the best interest of the child."

In addition to his work with Henrico CASA, Kovacs serves as a volunteer usher for Richmond CenterStage and provides free income tax preparation to elderly residents through AARP. He also has worked through First Unitarian Universalist Church of Richmond to resettle refugee families from Serbia and Bosnia and has coordinated food drives through FeedMore. He is a blood donor to Virginia Blood Services, has assisted cleanup efforts in the James River Park System, helped to clear an early portion of the Richmond Slave Trail and has participated in activities to combat racism.

For information on Henrico CASA, including volunteer opportunities, call (804) 501-1671 or go to [henricocasa.org](http://henricocasa.org).

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Nov. 2, 2016

CONTACT: Barry R. Lawrence, Clerk, Henrico County Board of Supervisors  
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*Henrico Board of Supervisors to meet Nov. 9 to avoid conflict with election*

The Henrico County Board of Supervisors will hold its regular meeting at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 9 to avoid a conflict with the general election on Tuesday, Nov. 8.

The board typically meets at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month in the Board Room at the Henrico County Government Center, 4301 E. Parham Road. The board adjusts its schedule when the second Tuesday in November coincides with a general election.

For information, call (804) 501-4318 or go to [henrico.us/supervisors](http://henrico.us/supervisors).

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Nov. 2, 2016

CONTACT: John A. Vithoulikas, Henrico County Manager  
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*Henrico bond referendum up to voters Nov. 8*

*Officials have attended about 110 meetings to inform residents, answer questions*

Henrico County's general-election ballot on Tuesday, Nov. 8 will include a bond referendum that would provide \$419.8 million for new and renovated schools, park and road improvements, new fire stations and a new Fairfield Area Library.

Voters will be asked to indicate "yes" or "no" on each of the five referendum questions, which will appear on the back of the ballot.

If approved by a majority of voters, each question would authorize Henrico to sell general-obligation bonds to fund capital projects for a given category, specifically \$272.6 million for public schools, \$87.1 million for parks, \$24 million for libraries, \$22.1 million for fire stations and facilities, and \$14 million for roads.

Henrico would use the bonds to fund a total of 26 projects countywide. The school projects would be funded over five years. All others would be funded over six years. For project details or to review a sample ballot, go to [henrico.us/bonds](http://henrico.us/bonds) or call (804) 501-4257.

Officials have determined that Henrico would be able to manage the new debt within its current tax-rate structure. The real estate tax rate would remain at 87 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

Since August, Henrico officials have attended about 110 meetings with neighborhood, civic and community groups to provide information and to answer questions about the bond referendum.

On Election Day, the polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Voters are reminded that Virginia law requires them to show an official photo identification before casting their ballot. For information on voting, go to [henrico.us/registrar](https://henrico.us/registrar) or call (804) 501-4347.

The final day to vote absentee in person is Saturday, Nov. 5. Henrico's voter registration offices will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Henrico Government Center, 4301 E. Parham Road, and the Eastern Government Center, 3820 Nine Mile Road.

"Given the length of the ballot and the expected turnout, Henrico voters are strongly encouraged to review a sample ballot before they arrive at their polling place," Henrico General Registrar Mark J. Coakley said. "Be prepared. That will help keep lines moving on Election Day."

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