



# HENRICO COUNTY VIRGINIA

**APRIL 2018**

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April 25, 2018

CONTACT: Shirley A. Lyons, Program Manager, Employment and Day Services  
Henrico Area Mental Health & Developmental Services  
PHONE: (804) 727-8821

*Henrico Area agency honors businesses for support of individuals with disabilities*

Henrico Area Mental Health & Developmental Services (MH/DS) is recognizing 20 businesses, employers and other groups for providing work and volunteer opportunities to individuals with cognitive and emotional disabilities.

A banquet to recognize the contributions and partnerships that strengthen the community will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 26 at the Eastern Henrico Recreation Center, 1440 N. Laburnum Ave. The keynote speaker will be Ann Happalah, head chef and kitchen manager at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, one of the honorees.

The banquet will recognize: Bonefish Grill, West Broad Street; Bojangles', Staples Mill Road; Charles City County Public Schools; Henrico County Department of Human Resources, Fitness and Wellness Division; CVS, Richmond; Cultural Arts Center at Glen Allen; HandsOn Greater Richmond; Henrico Doctors' Hospital, Food and Nutrition Services; Henrico County Public Schools, School Nutrition Services; Henrico County Public Library's North Park Branch, Glen Allen Branch and Tuckahoe Area libraries; Key Support Services LLC; K2 Awards & Apparel; Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden; Office Pride; Publix, Short Pump; Shady Grove Family YMCA; Sunrise of Richmond; and Walmart #4191, Forest Avenue.

The honorees have hired or provided volunteer opportunities to at least one person with a disability or have provided employment opportunities through contract work completed at MH/DS' Hermitage Enterprises or Cypress Enterprises. MH/DS serves individuals with intellectual disabilities or mental illness from the counties of Henrico, Charles City and New Kent.

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April 23, 2018

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

*Henrico dedicates Elvin Cosby Way to honor employee beginning 73rd year of service*

Henrico County today honored Elvin R. Cosby, its longest-serving employee, with a surprise dedication of Elvin Cosby Way, a road on the Henrico County Government Center campus.

Cosby joined the Department of Public Works on April 23, 1946 — exactly 72 years ago. Now 90, he serves as a maintenance supervisor and routinely checks conditions and clears debris from county roads. He was first hired by Henrico at age 18 to carry water to county work crews. Cosby's earliest salary on record was 55 cents per hour.

Over the years, he rose through the department's ranks, working as a truck driver, equipment operator and labor foreman. He has served all nine of Henrico's directors of Public Works and six of its eight county managers.

"He has watched leaders come and go. He has seen equipment transform from mule teams to high-tech machines. He has faced adversity and personal tragedy, but he has triumphed," Henrico County Manager John A. Vithoulikas said. "That 18-year-old novice is now a steady force, mentoring new employees from a bountiful spring of experience. He has faithfully loved his God, his family, his friends and those he serves each and every day."



Today's ceremony was capped with an unveiling of a street sign for Elvin Cosby Way, a previously unnamed road that connects Prince Henry and Dixon Powers drives. The road's centerline was marked for the occasion in the official green from the Henrico County seal. The event also included recognitions from Virginia's Congressional delegation, its House of Delegates and Senate, and a presentation of a Virginia flag that had flown at the state Capitol. Guests included Cosby's wife, Lottie, as well as members of the Board of Supervisors and other federal, state and local officials and dignitaries.

Elvin and Lottie Cosby have been married nearly 66 years and are members of St. Peter Baptist Church, on Mountain Road. Their extensive family includes two sons, both of whom have died, as well as five daughters.

In 2015, Henrico established the Elvin R. Cosby Award to recognize long-tenured employees for their outstanding service and contributions. In May, Cosby will receive the Judith M. Mueller Local Government Service Award from the American Public Works Association in recognition of service to a single locality for 20 or more continuous years.

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April 23, 2018

CONTACT: Ed Olsen, Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources, Henrico County office of Virginia Cooperative Extension  
PHONE: (804) 501-5160

*Henrico Extension to offer water-testing clinic for residents on private wells*

The Henrico County office of Virginia Cooperative Extension will offer a three-part clinic this summer to help residents test their private wells, springs and cisterns for potentially dangerous levels of contaminants.

A meeting to distribute testing kits and explain the Well Water Testing Clinic will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, June 25 in the Multipurpose Room at the Eastern Government Center, 3820 East Nine Mile Road.

Participants will drop off their water samples between 8 and 11 a.m. Wednesday, June 27 at the Extension office in the Human Services Building, 8600 Dixon Powers Drive.

A meeting to provide residents with a copy of their confidential test results and to share information on water-system care and maintenance will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 24 in the Multipurpose Room at the Eastern Government Center. Staff also will be available to discuss results privately after the meeting or by phone.

The water-sample tests will be conducted at Virginia Tech and will include an analysis of the presence of iron, manganese, nitrate, lead, arsenic, fluoride, sulfate, pH, total dissolved solids, hardness, sodium, copper, total coliform bacteria and E. coli bacteria.

“Wells and other private water supplies are not regulated in Virginia,” said Ed Olsen, Henrico’s Extension agent for agriculture and natural resources. “Homeowners are responsible for testing the water quality, maintaining the water system and addressing any problems that arise. Henrico Extension is pleased to offer affordable, confidential water tests and information to our residents.”

The cost to participate in the clinic is \$55 per water sample, with payment and registration due by Friday, June 15. For more information, call (804) 501-5160. For information on the Virginia Household Water Quality Program and private water systems, go to [wellwater.bse.vt.edu](http://wellwater.bse.vt.edu).

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April 16, 2018

CONTACT: Capt. Robert Rowley, Public Information Officer, Henrico County Division of Fire  
PHONE: (804) 501-5877

### *Henrico to celebrate opening of Short Pump Firehouse 19*

Henrico County will celebrate the opening of Short Pump Firehouse 19 with a public dedication Saturday, April 28 at the station, 12324 Kain Road.

The event, which is free and open to the public, will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., with remarks from county officials, a ribbon cutting and firehose uncoupling, a reception and tours. Satellite parking will be available at Christ Church Episcopal, 5000 Pouncey Tract Road.

The 11,000-square-foot station opened March 3, providing a second firehouse to serve Henrico’s bustling northwestern area. It sits on a 4-acre site northwest of Kain and North Gayton roads and is the 21st firehouse operated by the Division of Fire. Site work started in January 2017.

Firehouse 19 has a staff of 31 firefighters, including a captain, and is home to an engine, a truck and a fire medic unit as well as the Robotics Response Team, which manages and operates the division’s drones and related equipment.

The station was designed and built to meet Silver standards for energy efficiency and sustainability as part of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, program of the U.S. Green Building Council. Once it’s certified, the station will be [Henrico’s 16th county government or school building](#) endorsed through the LEED program.



Firehouse 19 offers individual sleeping quarters for its staff, providing greater privacy and reducing unnecessary interruptions during sleeping hours. It also features three apparatus bays, with bright red doors that fold open from the sides. The doors are designed to last longer than traditional roll-up doors. The \$9 million firehouse is the final project to be completed from Henrico’s 2005 bond referendum.

HCTV has produced a [video](#) overview of Henrico’s newest firehouse.

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April 12, 2018

CONTACT: Carrie Webster, Energy Manager, Henrico County Department of General Services  
PHONE: (804) 501-5763

*Henrico's energy program receives Governor's Environmental Excellence Award*

Henrico County has earned a [2018 Governor's Environmental Excellence Award](#) for its energy management program, which promotes efficiency and sustainability in county operations for the environmental and economic well-being of residents and employees.

Henrico won a silver medal in the statewide awards program, which recognizes government agencies, businesses and nonprofit organizations for work that advances sustainability, environmental projects, land conservation and implementation of the Virginia Outdoors Plan. John H. Neal Jr., director of Henrico's Department of General Services, accepted the award April 5 at the 29th Environment Virginia Symposium in Lexington.

"Henrico is committed to being a local government leader in sustainability and environmental stewardship," Neal said. "The county formalized this commitment 16 years ago with the hiring of its first energy manager and hasn't looked back. Our energy management program has grown and matured, and now filters through everything we do, touching all county government and school facilities and operations."

Henrico's program tracks energy use and costs in county buildings and pursues projects to improve efficiency. To date, the county has completed hundreds of efficiency projects and has reduced its overall energy consumption and costs despite increases in the number and square footage of buildings. Among other program highlights:

- Henrico has designed and constructed [15 government and school buildings](#) that have been certified as meeting sustainability standards under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program of the U.S. Green Building Council. The county's [LEED-certified buildings](#) are using 35 percent less energy per square foot on average than the buildings they replaced.
- Henrico installed LED luminaires in traffic signals to improve reliability and reduce energy costs. In general, LEDs use half as much energy as traditional bulbs.
- Henrico constructed a 4-megawatt generator at the now-closed Springfield Road Landfill that converts methane gas into electricity.
- Henrico has sponsored energy fairs each spring and fall that are free and open to the public. [The Spring 2018 Henrico County Energy Fair](#) — scheduled to complement celebrations of Earth Day — will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. Friday, April 27 at the Varina Area Library, 1875 New Market Road.



Photo: John H. Neal Jr., director of the Henrico County Department of General Services, holds a silver medal from the Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards program in recognition of Henrico's energy management program. Appearing with Neal from left to right are Clyde Cristman, director of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation; Matthew J. Strickler, Virginia secretary of natural resources; and David K. Paylor, director of the Virginia Department of Environmental

Quality.

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April 12, 2018

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

*Varina meetings April 23 and 26 to provide updates on police recruitment, parks*

Henrico County Board of Supervisors Vice Chairman and Varina District Supervisor Tyrone E. Nelson will hold three Community Conversations meetings in April to provide updates on the state of the county, police recruitment efforts and plans for Dorey and Taylor parks.

The first two meetings will be held Monday, April 23, beginning at 11:30 a.m. at the Henrico Theatre, 305 E. Nine Mile Road; and 6:30 p.m. at the Elko Community Center, 6216 White Oak Road. The final session will be held at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 26 at the Varina Area Library, 1875 New Market Road.

For information, call (804) 501-4208.

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April 6, 2018

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

*Henrico supervisors to hold April 10 public hearing on proposed fiscal 2018-19 budget*

The Henrico County Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing Tuesday, April 10 on the proposed budget for fiscal year 2018-19.

The meeting will begin at 6 p.m., one hour earlier than usual, in the Board Room of the Henrico Government Center's Administration Building, 4301 E. Parham Road.

Residents may provide oral or written comments on the \$1.3 billion plan, which would guide operating and capital spending for the year beginning July 1. The general fund, which supports the operations of Henrico's general government, including the Police and Fire divisions and Henrico County Public Schools, would total \$871.9 million, an increase of 3.8 percent over the current year's plan.

The proposal recommends no change to the real estate tax rate of 87 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

Residents are encouraged to register in advance to speak at the public hearing. To sign up, call Board of Supervisors Clerk Barry R. Lawrence at (804) 501-4318. For information on the proposed budget, call Director of Finance Edward N. "Ned" Smither Jr. at (804) 501-4266 or Budget Director Justin D. Crawford at (804) 501-5089.

Copies of the proposed budget are available at Henrico libraries, the Office of Management and Budget in the Henrico Government Center and at [henrico.us](http://henrico.us). A [video](#) overview also is available on the Henrico County Government channel on YouTube.

The Board of Supervisors is scheduled to vote Tuesday, April 24 to adopt a budget for fiscal year 2018-19. The board typically meets at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month in the Board Room of the Henrico Government Center.

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April 6, 2018

CONTACT:

Chip England, Director, Henrico County Department of Public Utilities  
(804) 501-4516

Paul Cody, Reuter Hanney, Inc.  
(513) 729-6267

*Investigation underway in death of contract worker at Henrico Water Reclamation Facility*

An employee of electrical contractor Reuter Hanney, Inc. was found unresponsive while working at the Henrico County Water Reclamation Facility at approximately noon on Tuesday, April 3. The employee was transported to a local hospital and did not survive.

Detectives with the Henrico Police Division responded to the scene Tuesday and are conducting a death investigation. Staff members with Virginia Occupational Safety and Health also were onsite Tuesday; their investigation is ongoing. Henrico's Department of Public Utilities (DPU) is assisting with the investigations.

DPU Director Chip England said that an employee at the Water Reclamation Facility joined a second employee from Reuter Hanney and performed CPR in an attempt to revive the unresponsive worker until emergency medical technicians with the Henrico Division of Fire arrived at the scene.

"Henrico County Public Utilities is deeply saddened by the loss of life," England said. "Our thoughts are with the worker's family and friends at this difficult time, and with his coworkers at Reuter Hanney."

England noted that grief counselors have been available at the Water Reclamation Facility to meet with employees.

Additional information will be available pending completion of the investigations.

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April 5, 2018

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

*Fairfield meeting April 14 to discuss financial literacy*

Henrico County Board of Supervisors Chairman and Fairfield District Supervisor Frank J. Thornton will hold a constituent meeting Saturday, April 14 to discuss financial literacy.

The Henrico Branch of the NAACP will host the discussion and help address questions related to personal finances and entrepreneurship.

The meeting will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Eastern Henrico Recreation Center, 1440 N. Laburnum Ave. For information, call (804) 501-4208.

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April 4, 2018

CONTACT: Megan Brown, Executive Coordinator, Keep Henrico Beautiful  
PHONE: (804) 501-7277

*Keep Henrico Beautiful seeks nominations for top residential, business properties*

The Keep Henrico Beautiful Committee is looking for exceptional residential and commercial properties for its 2018 Land Lover and Clean Business awards.

The awards, presented annually since 1995, recognize home and business properties that are attractively landscaped, well-maintained and litter-free. To be eligible for a Land Lover Award, residents must perform their own landscaping and lawn care. Nominees for a Land Lover or Clean Business award must participate in an ongoing recycling program, such as composting, curbside pickup or drop-off service.

The Keep Henrico Beautiful Committee, which is appointed by the Henrico Board of Supervisors, will vote in May to select a residential and commercial winner from each of the five magisterial districts. The winners will have signs placed at their properties in June and will be recognized at the June 26 meeting of the Board of Supervisors.

Nominations will be accepted through Monday, April 30. Residents and business owners may nominate their own properties as well as others. Forms are available by calling Megan Brown at (804) 501-4502 or by going to [henrico.us/utility/keep-henrico-beautiful/awards](http://henrico.us/utility/keep-henrico-beautiful/awards). Tips on sustainable yard practices and links to local organizations that support them also are available on the website.

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April 3, 2018

CONTACT: Ed Olsen, Associate Extension Agent, Agriculture & Natural Resources/Horticulture, Henrico County office of Virginia Cooperative Extension  
PHONE: (804) 501-5160

*Stumped by your spring garden? Call Henrico's horticulture helpline*

The Henrico County office of Virginia Cooperative Extension has established a helpline to provide expert advice and guidance on a variety of gardening topics.

The Henrico Master Gardener Horticulture Helpline launched this week at (804) 501-5160, which also serves as the main number for the Extension office. The helpline will be staffed from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Mondays and Fridays and from 9 a.m. to noon Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays through October.

In addition, the public may call from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays to leave a message. A Master Gardener will respond during the next shift.

For the helpline, a team of volunteer Master Gardeners will have access to a vast library of Extension publications and information on horticulture topics. Henrico's Master Gardener program provides education and promotes research-based information on horticulture to the gardening public. For more information, go to [henrico.us/extension](http://henrico.us/extension).

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April 3, 2018

CONTACT: Ed Olsen, Associate Extension Agent, Agriculture & Natural Resources/Horticulture, Henrico County office of Virginia Cooperative Extension  
PHONE: (804) 501-5160

*Henrico Extension opens enrollment for SMART Lawns program*

The Henrico County office of Virginia Cooperative Extension is enrolling residents in SMART Lawns, a program that provides customized plans for growing attractive, healthy lawns.

For a \$25 fee, Master Gardener volunteers will visit a home, analyze the lawn and prepare a plan for improving its condition, appearance and health. 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, which emphasize basic steps for lawn care.

Extension encourages enrollment now to ensure plans will be in place for the fall, the most critical season for lawn care. The deadline to sign up is Friday, Aug. 10. Go to [henrico.us/extension/services](http://henrico.us/extension/services) to download an application or call (804) 501-5160.