



HENRICO COUNTY VIRGINIA

FEBRUARY 2018

Feb. 28, 2018

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

Henrico lawn-care seminars set for March 14, April 18

The Henrico County office of Virginia Cooperative Extension will hold seminars Wednesday, March 14 and Wednesday, April 18 to explain simple practices for growing an attractive lawn this spring.

The March 14 session will focus on spring weed control. The April 18 session will explain how to create a SMART Lawn. The SMART Lawns program provides residents with customized plans for growing attractive, healthy lawns. Both sessions will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in Extension's demonstration kitchen in the Henrico Human Services Building, 8600 Dixon Powers Drive.

The cost to attend one or both sessions is \$10. Participants will receive a rain gauge, turf ruler, coupons for two free soil tests and a 26-page SMART Lawns booklet.

Registration closes the day before each session. For more information, go to henrico.us/extension or call (804) 501-5160.

Feb. 26, 2018

CONTACT: Kimberly Edmonds, Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Agent
Henrico County office of Virginia Cooperative Extension
PHONE: (804) 501-5160

Henrico Extension to offer free financial workshops in March

The Henrico County office of Virginia Cooperative Extension will present free workshops in March to help residents better understand issues affecting their personal finances.

The What's Your Money Habitude? workshop will be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, March 1 and from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, March 7 in the board room of the Henrico Human Services Building, 8600 Dixon Powers Drive.

The class will explore how habits and attitude can affect saving and spending. Participants also will learn simple strategies for saving money for an emergency, a large purchase, debt payments or other needs. Registration closes the day before each class. To sign up, call (804) 501-5160. Information also is available at henrico.us/extension and americasaves.org/local-campaigns/central-virginia-saves.

The workshops are being offered in recognition of America Saves Week, which is Feb. 26 through March 3.

Feb. 26, 2018

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

Henrico to test its community alert system March 1

Henrico County will test its community alert system Thursday, March 1 by sending a message to more than 182,000 landline phones, wireless devices and email addresses that are registered with the system.

The brief audio or text message from the Division of Fire will explain that a routine test of the CodeRED Community Emergency Notification System is underway and that there is no emergency or cause for alarm.

“One of the primary missions of Henrico County is to ensure the safety and well-being of its community in times of emergency and disaster, and the CodeRED notification system is one method we have to be able to do that,” the message will say in part.

The test is expected to have minimal impact on residents and businesses, and they will not need to answer the call or respond. The test will begin at 10 a.m. The entire process is expected to last about two hours.

Henrico and its system partners will assess the local telephone network’s ability to handle a large number of calls, as could be necessary during a hurricane or other emergency. Officials will then set the system to send out the maximum number of calls per hour without overloading the network. This will reduce the likelihood that calls or messages will be dropped or blocked during an emergency.

Launched in 2012, the Community Emergency Notification System gives designated Henrico emergency personnel the flexibility to send messages countywide or to a selected geography. The system is overseen by the Division of Fire and powered by CodeRED, a high-speed, mass notification system.

Residents and businesses are already equipped to receive voice messages on their landline phones because the system uses Henrico’s 911 emergency dispatch system in reverse. However, individuals must register if they would like to receive messages on their wireless phones, computers and other mobile devices. To sign up, go to henricocalert.org. There is no cost to register; standard messaging fees may apply.

Henrico has more than 172,000 phone numbers in its emergency database and nearly 10,000 phones, wireless devices and email addresses registered voluntarily.

For information, call (804) 501-4900 or go to henrico.us/services/henrico-alert or youtu.be/Y7awrjNfSnA.



Feb. 22, 2018

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

Henrico plant sale underway to support Extension programs

The Henrico County office of Virginia Cooperative Extension is selling varieties of berry and asparagus plants to support its programs.

Blackberry and raspberry plants are available for \$5 each. Blueberry plants and a bundle of 10 asparagus plants are \$6 each. A bundle of 25 strawberry plants is \$8.

Order forms are available at henrico.us/extension. For more information, call (804) 501-5160.

All orders received by Thursday, March 8 will be filled. Those received later will be filled while supplies last.

Plants will be distributed from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, March 20 and from 3 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 21 at the Virginia Randolph Recreation Center, 2175 Mountain Road.

Feb. 22, 2018

CONTACT: Neil Luther, Director, Henrico County Division of Recreation and Parks
PHONE: (804) 501-5119

Greenwood Park to debut for Ultimate Cup Initial phase includes synthetic turf fields, sand volleyball courts

Henrico County will mark the newest addition to its park system Feb. 24-25 when the Richmond Ultimate Cup soccer tournament kicks off at Greenwood Park.

The park, along Greenwood Road in northwestern Henrico, features four lighted, synthetic turf fields for soccer, lacrosse and other sports, plus eight sand volleyball courts that were developed in partnership with the Richmond Volleyball Club.

Greenwood's synthetic turf fields represent a first for Henrico's parks system, allowing year-round play by providing greater durability and reliability than typical grass fields. Greenwood's fields use an organic infill material that is comparable to fine mulch and is mixed with sand to give the fields weight.

"We're pleased to add Greenwood Park to Henrico's family of parks, sports complexes and recreation sites," said Neil Luther, director of Henrico's Division of Recreation and Parks. "Greenwood will support Henrico's high quality of life, by promoting good health and wholesome, family fun for our residents. It also will strengthen our sports tourism program, which generates more than \$47 million in annual spending by visitors."

Greenwood will be one of the area's four primary field sites for the Ultimate Cup, which begins Feb. 24-25 with girls teams and continues March 3-4 with boys teams. Both weekends will feature play in the under-10 through under-19 age divisions. Greenwood also will host matches for the Richmond Strikers Jefferson Cup soccer tournament, which will be held over four weekends, beginning March 10-11. Additional tournaments and events are scheduled through late summer.

Greenwood's \$11 million first phase of development began construction in September 2016 and encompasses about 40 acres of a nearly 200-acre property. In addition to its multipurpose fields and volleyball courts, the project included road improvements, parking for nearly 400 vehicles and restroom facilities. Henrico voters approved funding for a \$20 million second phase as part of the county's 2016 bond referendum.

For more information on Henrico's parks and recreation sites, go to henrico.us/parks. Information on Greenwood Park also is available on the Henrico County Government YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/JMfeGmTKDK0>.



Volleyball courts



Organic infill material for turf fields



Fields



Restroom facilities

Feb. 14, 2018

CONTACT: Barry R. Lawrence, Assistant to the County Manager for Board Affairs

PHONE: (804) 501-4318

Henrico supervisors, deputy county managers appointed to VACo committees

All five members of Henrico County's Board of Supervisors and two of its deputy county managers will serve on committees of the Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) during 2018.

Board members received the following appointments:

- Chairman and Fairfield District Supervisor Frank J. Thornton, Education Steering Committee;
- Vice Chairman and Varina District Supervisor Tyrone E. Nelson, Transportation Steering Committee;
- Brookland District Supervisor Courtney D. Lynch, Economic Development and Planning Steering Committee;
- Three Chopt District Supervisor Thomas M. Branin, Finance Steering Committee; and
- Tuckahoe District Supervisor Patricia S. O'Bannon, General Government Steering Committee.

Administration officials who received appointments are:

- Deputy County Manager for Administration W. Brandon Hinton, Health and Human Resources Steering Committee; and

- Deputy County Manager for Community Development Randall R. Silber, Environment and Agriculture Steering Committee.

VACo's seven steering committees review legislative requests from member counties, recommend an annual legislative program and provide policy guidance to VACo staff. The association represents local governments at the state and federal levels and provides a resource network for planning and implementing ideas and technologies.

Feb. 13, 2018

CONTACT: Ed Olsen, Extension Agent for Agriculture & Natural Resources/Horticulture, Henrico County office of Virginia Cooperative Extension
PHONE: (804) 501-5171

Henrico to hold Feb. 20 meeting on new 4-H Horticulture Club

The Henrico County office of Virginia Cooperative Extension will hold a meeting Tuesday, Feb. 20 to provide information about a new 4-H club focused on horticulture.

The Henrico 4-H Horticulture Club will offer programs and activities on various horticulture-related topics, including growing vegetables, the water cycle, pollinator gardening and gardening with herbs.

4-H is a national youth development and youth mentoring program that empowers 6 million young people across the United States. 4-H and its clubs are open at no cost to youths ages 9 through 13, although fees for some programs may be required.

The Feb. 20 meeting will begin at 4 p.m. in the demonstration kitchen of the Extension office in the Human Services Building, 8600 Dixon Powers Drive. Meetings of the 4-H Horticulture Club will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month, beginning March 20, at the Extension office.

For more information, contact Ed Olsen, agriculture and natural resources/horticulture Extension agent, at (804) 501-5171 or edo@vt.edu.

Feb. 12, 2018

CONTACT: Sue Sparks Karyshyn, Foster Home Coordinator, Henrico County Department of Social Services
PHONE: (804) 501-4011

Henrico to hold March 7 meeting on foster parenting

The Henrico County Department of Social Services will hold a meeting Wednesday, March 7 for individuals and couples who would like to learn more about providing foster care to county youth.

The meeting will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Board Room of the Henrico Human Services Building, 8600 Dixon Powers Drive.

Participants will learn about the needs of foster children, traits of successful foster parents, ways to work with foster program staff and the child's biological parents as well as details of the application and approval process. Henrico has a significant need for foster parents, with 92 children currently placed in foster care. A 10-week training program for new foster parents will begin Tuesday, March 13.

“A foster parent can truly make a positive difference in the life of a child,” said Shawn Rozier, assistant director of Social Services. “Children who need foster care have the same talents, gifts, hopes and dreams of other children. They need a stable, loving home to live in while we work with their families to address the problems that brought them into foster care.”

Foster parents are asked to bring a child into their home and be available to provide short- and potentially long-term care in a safe, stable environment. Henrico has a particular need for foster homes for teenagers, children with special needs and sibling groups. Foster parents must be at least 21 years old, have their own source of income and sufficient space to care for a child. Foster parents may be single or married, male or female, with or without children of their own. Foster parents receive monthly stipends to offset their costs of care.

For more information, contact Kasey Lumpkins at (804) 501-5163 or lum28@henrico.us, or Sue Sparks Karyshyn at (804) 501-4011 or kar019@henrico.us. Information also is available at henricocares.com.

Feb. 8, 2018

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

Fairfield meeting Feb. 21 to feature Police recruiting, RideFinders

Henrico County Board of Supervisors Chairman and Fairfield District Supervisor Frank J. Thornton will hold a constituent meeting Wednesday, Feb. 21 to highlight Henrico’s police officer recruiting efforts and GRTC Transit System’s RideFinders program.

Thornton will be joined by representatives of the Henrico Police Division and Von Tisdale, executive director of RideFinders.

The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. at the Eastern Henrico Recreation Center, 1440 N. Laburnum Ave. For information, call (804) 501-4208.

Feb. 7, 2018

CONTACT: Lt. Shawn M. Sears, Animal Protection Unit, Henrico County Police Division
PHONE: (804) 727-8801

Henrico to offer rabies vaccinations for pets Feb. 17

The Henrico County Police Division will provide rabies vaccines for dogs and cats from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 17 at the Henrico County Government Center, 4301 E. Parham Road.

Pet owners must register and pay at the cashier’s office in the Administration Building before seeing a veterinarian on the first level of the adjacent parking deck.

Each vaccine costs \$10 and must be paid in cash. A rabies tag and certificate of inoculation are included. Pets from all localities are welcome. Cats must be in carriers.

Under Virginia law, dogs and cats 4 months of age and older must be vaccinated for rabies.

Henrico dog licenses will be available for \$10. Under an ordinance approved by the Board of Supervisors in November, dog licenses now are valid for the life of the animal as long as the owner lives in Henrico and its rabies vaccinations are kept current. Henrico previously offered one- and three-year licenses.

Officers will be available to discuss license and vaccination requirements. For information, call the Animal Protection Unit at (804) 727-8801.

Feb. 5, 2018

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

Sparrow named director of Information Technology

Henrico County has appointed Travis M. Sparrow to serve as director of the Department of Information Technology, effective Feb. 17.



Sparrow has worked for Henrico since 2012, serving first as an information technology systems engineer and more recently as the information technology manager. He also served as network administrator for Richmond Public Schools from 2005 to 2011.

Sparrow will succeed Thomas L. Owdom, who is retiring after 41 years of service to Henrico, including seven years as director of Information Technology.

Sparrow holds an associate degree in applied science in microcomputer technical support with a network specialization from J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College. He is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in professional studies in information technology at the University of Richmond.

As director of Information Technology, Sparrow will oversee a department responsible for serving the computer-oriented information-processing needs of county agencies, including equipment selection, application development, software and hardware maintenance and data and telecommunications network development and support. Information Technology operates the county's computer center and its IT Help Desk. It also oversees the county's security cameras, telephone systems, mobile devices and E-911 system as well as its Geographic Information System. The Department of Information Technology has a 97-position staff and a budget of \$14.5 million in fiscal 2017-18.

Feb. 5, 2018

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

Registration opens for Richmond Area Vegetable Conference on Feb. 21

The 2018 Richmond Area Vegetable Conference will be held Wednesday, Feb. 21 in Henrico County to provide updates and information on topics related to vegetable farming.

The conference, which is open at no cost to attendees, will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Strawberry Room of the Eastern Henrico Recreation Center, 1440 N. Laburnum Ave.

Experts from Virginia Tech and local agents of the Virginia Cooperative Extension will discuss such issues as food safety rules, pesticide use, disease controls, pest management and using insects to promote pollination.

The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will offer free certifications of produce scales, which are used at farmers' markets and roadside stands. Attendees also will receive a sponsored lunch and be eligible to earn 91 Private Pesticide Certification credits.

Registration is encouraged by Friday, Feb. 16 by calling the Hanover Extension office at (804) 752-4307 or by sending an email to imaxey-nay@vt.edu. Anyone with a disability may request an assistive device by calling (804) 752-4310 by Wednesday, Feb. 14.