



# HENRICO COUNTY VIRGINIA

**JANUARY 2018**

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Jan. 30, 2018

CONTACT: Kim Edmonds, Acting Unit Coordinator, Henrico County office of Virginia Cooperative Extension

PHONE: (804) 501-5160

*Free tax-preparation service to begin Wednesday at Libbie Mill and Fairfield libraries, other sites in metro region*

Families and individuals who earned less than \$54,000 last year can receive free assistance with their 2017 income tax returns at locations in Henrico County and throughout the metropolitan region.

MetroCASH, an IRS-sponsored local Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program operated by United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg, is hosting 15 sites, including two in Henrico: Libbie Mill Library, 2100 Libbie Lake East St., from 4 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays Jan. 31 through April 12; and Fairfield Area Library, 1001 N. Laburnum Ave., from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays Feb. 3 through March 10. A complete list of sites and their operating hours is available at [www.yourunitedway.org/MetroCASH](http://www.yourunitedway.org/MetroCASH).

IRS-certified tax preparers will help qualifying taxpayers complete and file their federal and state returns at each site. To receive assistance, participants should bring photo ID, Social Security or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number cards, copies of tax returns from 2016, W-2 and 1099-R forms, and any other income tax-related documents.

In addition to getting help with their taxes, participants will learn if they are eligible for the Earned Income Credit (EIC), a tax benefit that could boost a federal refund by more than \$6,300 for families with at least three children and nearly \$500 for individuals. EIC eligibility is based on income.

Last year, Metrocash volunteers helped area residents file more than 3,000 tax returns, generating nearly \$795,000 in EIC funds and \$3 million in federal refunds. Metrocash estimates the free service saved its clients more than \$800,000 in preparation fees.

More information is available at [www.yourunitedway.org/MetroCASH](http://www.yourunitedway.org/MetroCASH) and by calling 211.

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Jan. 18, 2018

CONTACT: Nicki Moon, Crisis Intervention Team Coordinator, Henrico Area Mental Health & Developmental Services

PHONE: (804) 727-8413

*Crisis Receiving Center marks five years of service to residents*

Henrico County and Parham Doctors' Hospital are commemorating the fifth anniversary of the opening of the Henrico CIT Crisis Receiving Center, where individuals in psychiatric crisis can receive prompt care from a multidisciplinary team of health professionals.

The center, based in the emergency room at Parham Doctors' Hospital, operates through a partnership between the hospital and Henrico's Crisis Intervention Team (CIT), which includes representatives of the county's Police and Fire divisions, Sheriff's Office and Henrico Area Mental Health & Developmental Services. More than 3,600 people have received assistance through the center since its debut on Dec. 3, 2012.

"Henrico's Crisis Receiving Center helps to ensure that prompt, comprehensive and compassionate psychiatric care is available when it's needed most," said Nicki Moon, coordinator of Henrico's CIT. "In the past, patients often had to endure long wait times to be evaluated by medical and clinical professionals, causing undue stress and prolonging their trauma."

The center is designed to allow a team of medical, clinical, public safety and peer support staff to provide prompt, comprehensive care in a low-stress, safe and respectful setting. The goal is to promote mental health recovery by connecting patients with community resources and avoiding unnecessary hospitalizations and incarcerations.

"After five years of having the Crisis Receiving Center at Parham Doctors' Hospital, we continue to see positive patient outcomes from our partnership with Henrico County, the Henrico Police Division and our clinical team at the Crisis Receiving Center," said Brian Allen, the hospital's chief operating officer. "Our combined focus on caring for patients in crisis has led to improvements in identifying patients in need and providing appropriate treatment faster than ever before. I look forward to continuing the efforts of this program for many years to come."

The center currently operates daily from 8 a.m. to 2 a.m. The CIT hopes to eventually expand to a 24-hour operation. The facility includes two private rooms for patients and office space.

The center is a key initiative of the CIT program, which was established in 2008 to improve Henrico's response and care for residents in psychiatric crisis. The CIT and its staff provide training to public safety personnel, offer outreach services to the community and seek to improve systems of care for residents.

For more information on the CIT Crisis Receiving Center, call (804) 727-8607 or send an email to [cit@henrico.us](mailto:cit@henrico.us). Anyone experiencing a mental health emergency is urged to call 911.

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Jan. 16, 2018

CONTACT: Geleene Goffena, Community Development Block Grant Program Manager, Henrico County Department of Community Revitalization  
PHONE: (804) 501-7613

*Henrico to offer free workshop Feb. 3 on home safety*

The Henrico County Department of Community Revitalization will present a free workshop Saturday, Feb. 3 on improving home safety, particularly when aging in place, and saving money when working with a contractor.

The class will be held from 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. in the Community Room at the Eastern Henrico Government Center, 3820 Nine Mile Road. Exhibits, hands-on demonstrations and refreshments will be included.

The session is part of a workshop series that began in October and will continue through March to help residents maintain and improve their homes.

For information, call (804) 501-7640 or go to [henrico.us/revit](http://henrico.us/revit).

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Jan. 10, 2018

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

*Henrico supervisors elect Thornton chairman, Nelson vice chairman for 2018*

The Henrico County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously at its first regular meeting of the year Tuesday to elect Fairfield District Supervisor Frank J. Thornton chairman and Varina District Supervisor Tyrone E. Nelson vice chairman for 2018.



Thornton is serving as board chairman for the fifth time. He most recently held the position in 2015. He succeeds Tuckahoe District Supervisor Patricia S. O'Bannon as chairman after serving as vice chairman in 2017. He first was elected to represent Fairfield in 1995 and currently is serving his sixth term on the county's board.

In brief remarks, Thornton thanked his colleagues for their support and challenged the board to build on the county's successes and improve service to residents using an approach that he termed "possibility governance."

"Possibility governance seeks to give priority to the citizens and locality needs," he said. "It also means that fiscal responsibility and visionary planning are critical. We must listen more critically and seek greater input from our citizens. Possibility governance seeks solutions to and attempts to eradicate and eliminate the dragons of economic, educational and social disparities which exist in our communities on the local level. We can do it. This is my optimism."

Thornton holds appointed positions with national, statewide and regional governmental organizations, including the National Association of Counties, Virginia Association of Counties and Virginia Transit Association board of directors. He also serves on the Capital Region Airport Commission, Richmond Regional Planning District Commission, Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization Policy Board and the Maymont Foundation board of directors. In addition, Thornton is very proud of the Police Athletic League program, which he was influential in bringing to the county.

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 worked for more than 40 years at Virginia Union, where he was an assistant professor of French and a recipient of the university's Teacher of the Year award. Thornton also received the John Jasper Trailblazer Award from Sixth Mount Zion Baptist Church in Richmond.



Nelson, who first was elected Varina District supervisor in 2011, is in his second term on Henrico's board. He previously served as vice chairman in 2015.

Nelson serves on various governmental and community organizations, including the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission, Virginia Transit Association board of directors, Richmond Region Tourism board of directors, Richmond Metropolitan Transportation Authority board of directors, Richmond Performing Arts Alliance and the Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) board of visitors.

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

Henrico's Board of Supervisors regularly meets at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday each month. Meetings typically are not scheduled for the fourth Tuesday in August and December.

Meetings are held in the Government Center Board Room, 4301 E. Parham Road, and are streamed live at [henrico.us/supervisors](http://henrico.us/supervisors). Archived video of meetings and additional information are available from the website.

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January 8, 2018

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

*Henrico CASA seeks volunteers to serve as child advocates  
Information session set for Jan. 30*

Henrico County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) will hold an information session Tuesday, Jan. 30 for people who may be interested in working in the court system on behalf of abused or neglected children.

The meeting will be held at 6 p.m. in the CASA offices at the Hungary Spring Office Park, 3001 Hungary Spring Road, suite A. To reserve a seat, contact Rebecca Kalman-Winston at (804) 501-1670 or [kal001@henrico.us](mailto:kal001@henrico.us).

Henrico CASA is a private, nonprofit organization that has worked closely with the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court for more than 23 years. CASA volunteers serve as a court-designated advocate for minor children involved in cases before the court. They assist case attorneys and judges by providing information about the children's circumstances.

"Children involved in cases before the court find themselves in frightening, unfamiliar situations. CASA ensures they won't have to face these challenges alone," said Barbara Herzog, director of Henrico CASA. "Volunteers truly make a difference. Children supported by CASA receive more services and are more likely to succeed in school. They also spend significantly less time in foster care. What's that worth to a child? The answer is beyond measure."

A total of 106 Henrico CASA volunteers advocated for 375 children during fiscal year 2016-17. For more information, go to [henricocasa.org](http://henricocasa.org).

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Jan. 5, 2018

CONTACT: Steven J. Yob, Director, Henrico County Department of Public Works  
PHONE: (804) 501-4395

*Henrico crews to begin clearing neighborhood streets*

Henrico crews have cleared snow and ice from all of the county's primary and secondary roads and will now turn their attention to neighborhood and subdivision streets.

County crews and contractors have been working 24 hours per day since before the winter storm dumped several inches of snow across central Virginia late Wednesday and Thursday morning. Henrico, which maintains its own road system, with more than 3,500 lane miles, has already spent \$1.5 million on cleanup efforts. That total is expected to reach \$2.5 million by the end of Saturday.

Crews will work to make neighborhood streets passable by using snow plows. In certain areas, including on hills and at curves, crews also may spread mixtures of sodium chloride (rock salt)

and magnesium chloride, which promote melting. Officials note that the chemicals' effectiveness could be limited if temperatures remain below 25 degrees.

"We appreciate our residents remaining patient as we continue working to make our streets passable," said Steven J. Yob, director of the Henrico Department Public Works (DPW).

"Because air temperatures are forecasted to remain so far below freezing, we expect icy conditions to remain in many places through the weekend into Monday."

DPW encourages motorists to avoid unnecessary trips, drive slowly and watch for icy spots.

For more information, go to [henrico.us/works/road-maintenance/snow-removal](https://henrico.us/works/road-maintenance/snow-removal).