



HENRICO COUNTY VIRGINIA

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sept. 26, 2018

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

Gary R. McLaren, Executive Director, Economic Development Authority, (804) 501-7654

Henrico officials, governor announce major expansion of Facebook data center

Henrico County officials joined Gov. Ralph Northam and representatives from Facebook this afternoon to announce the company's plans to add three buildings to the Henrico Data Center currently under construction in White Oak Technology Park.

With the additional buildings, the data center will expand to five buildings totaling more than 2.4 million square feet, officials said. The project will support approximately 1,500 construction jobs. The Henrico Data Center will support more than 200 full-time positions once completed.

"Henrico County is thrilled to share the news that our friends at Facebook continue to see value and opportunity in our community," said Tyrone E. Nelson, Varina District supervisor and vice chairman of the Henrico County Board of Supervisors. "This expansion is affirmation that Facebook made the right choice last year when it selected Henrico's White Oak Technology Park as the site for its new data center. The infrastructure is here and so is the talent to support it."

Designed for high-tech operations like data centers and advanced manufacturing, White Oak's infrastructure includes high-speed fiber optic cable from multiple providers, high-capacity electric power designed for large-volume loads and water service with a capacity of 10 million gallons per day. Other tenants include Hewlett-Packard and QTS, which currently operates a data center in White Oak. The Facebook site covers about 330 acres in the 2,270-acre industrial park.

"Virginia and Henrico County have been great partners from the beginning, and we are thrilled to be building on the partnership that we established nearly one year ago," said Matt VanderZanden, director of site selection for Facebook. "We are committed to investing in the economic vitality of the communities that host us. This expansion will bring additional investment, jobs and renewable energy resources to the area."

VanderZanden added that he expects the expansion "will keep construction crews busy through at least 2020."

The expansion comes in addition to Facebook's \$750 million investment in 2017. That investment launched construction of the data center's 970,000-square-foot, two-building first phase last year. The first phase is on schedule to open in the first half of 2019, officials said. Facebook's initial investment for the project totaled \$1 billion, including \$250 million for the construction of solar power facilities throughout the state to supply the data center exclusively with renewable energy.

Work on the expansion will begin next month, officials said. The three new buildings each will be 500,000 square feet. When completed, the data center will become Henrico's largest water customer and one of its largest taxpayers, officials said.

County Manager John A. Vithoukas noted the continuing benefit of tax-rate changes, approved by the Board of Supervisors in 2017, that significantly reduced Henrico's business property tax rate for data centers. He also applauded the efforts of more than 60 county staff members —

from Building Construction and Inspections, Planning, Public Utilities, Public Works and the Economic Development Authority — for helping get the massive project off the ground.

“This is truly an exciting time for Henrico,” Vithoukas said. “A year ago, we told our friends at Facebook that we would be with them throughout the course of this project. That commitment is stronger than ever as the company moves ahead with this expansion. Henrico appreciates the vote of confidence from Facebook today and looks forward to continuing this partnership in the years ahead.”

Sept. 21, 2018

CONTACT: Jelisa S. Turner, Advocate for the Aging, Henrico County Department of Human Resources

PHONE: (804) 501-5065

Henrico's 3rd annual Play it Forward

Aging Together event set for Sept. 25

Event invites preschoolers, older adults for games, exercise, fun

Henrico County's third annual Play it Forward ... Aging Together event will be held Tuesday, Sept. 25, and will bring together preschoolers and older adults for games, exercise, prizes, arts and crafts, and fun.

Scheduled in commemoration of Active Aging Week, Play it Forward ... Aging Together is a regional event that promotes healthy aging and active lifestyles and also connects older residents with local resources. The event is organized by Henrico's Advocate for the Aging Office and Division of Recreation and Parks with Senior Connections, Family Lifeline and Anthem CareMore.

Play it Forward ... Aging Together will be held from 10 a.m. to noon at the Deep Run Recreation Center, 9900 Ridgefield Parkway. The event is free and open to the public. Advance registration is not required. So far, 85 preschoolers and 150 older adults are expected to participate.

The International Council on Active Aging is using Active Aging Week Sept. 23-29 to encourage older adults to participate in activities and exercise in a safe, friendly and fun atmosphere. For more information on Active Aging Week events scheduled in the region, go to facebook.com/RVAActiveAgingWeek.

Sept. 20, 2018

CONTACT: John A. Vithoukas, Henrico County Manager

PHONE: (804) 501-4386

CONTACT: Dr. Amy E. Cashwell, Superintendent of Henrico County Public Schools

PHONE: (804) 652-3717

Henrico to build new J.R. Tucker, Highland Springs high schools

Construction slated to begin in fall 2019

VIDEO NEWS RELEASE: <https://youtu.be/9Ew-ef-j2Zw>

Henrico County plans to construct a new J.R. Tucker High School and a new Highland Springs High School, replacing two of its oldest public high schools with modern facilities that will serve the community long term.

Each new school is expected to cost \$80 million and begin construction in fall 2019, with a goal of opening in fall 2021. The schedule will allow students who are currently freshmen to spend their

senior years in the new buildings, according to a plan outlined today by county government and school officials.

“Public schools are the lifeblood of any community,” Henrico County Manager John A. Vithoukas said. “Henrico’s high quality of life depends on having schools that are great — from the quality of instruction and programming to the design and physical condition of the buildings. It’s time to bring a modern facility to the Tucker and Highland Springs communities.”

The new J.R. Tucker will be built on the school’s North Parham Road campus, where the existing 1962 building now stands.

The new Highland Springs is planned on a wooded property along East Beal Street, adjacent to the existing school, and will front South Airport Drive. The existing school building, which opened in 1952 and was renovated in 2008, will be retained.

Funding for the schools’ construction plan is expected to come from several sources. The 2016 bond referendum identified \$55 million to renovate J.R. Tucker and \$42 million to build an east area technical center, or business innovation center, in the Varina District. Henrico plans to use those funds and cover the remaining \$63 million with a combination of other sources, including \$26 million in meals tax reserves, \$4.8 million in other available funds and up to \$32.2 million in Virginia Public School Authority bonds.

“There’s tremendous excitement to go around for everybody,” Henrico County Public Schools Superintendent Amy E. Cashwell said. “To think about what our goals are as a school system, which include preparing students to be life ready, and to then design learning programs around those goals, is a wonderful opportunity. This will take our classrooms to the next level, and it brings great value to see new learning centers serve as the centerpieces of their communities.”

Cashwell added, “I’m proud to work with a School Board and Board of Supervisors that work together to demonstrate that schools are a priority to meet the needs of 21st century, globally competitive students.”

Henrico government and school officials will spend the coming months refining plans for the J.R. Tucker and Highland Springs projects, including completing designs for the new schools, determining how students will be accommodated during construction and exploring future uses for the existing Highland Springs High School building. One potential use expected to be considered is the east area technical center.

“Clearly, we have plenty of work ahead of us, but I’m confident the county administration, working closely with the Board of Supervisors, School Board and school administration, will get the job done,” Vithoukas said. “It’s a bold move to build two high schools simultaneously — something Henrico hasn’t done in more than 60 years. We have the resources and the need to transform two of our oldest high schools as well as the communities around them. It’s an opportunity we heartily embrace.”

Sept. 17, 2018, 5:10 p.m.

Update: The Tuckahoe Town Meeting is canceled due to inclement weather.

Original News Release

CONTACT: Veta Herbaugh, Executive Assistant, Henrico County Board of Supervisors

PHONE: (804) 501-4208

Aug. 29, 2018

Tuckahoe Town Meeting Sept. 17 to discuss GRTC’s expanded transit service

Tuckahoe District Supervisor Patricia S. O'Bannon will host a Tuckahoe Town Meeting on Monday, Sept. 17 to discuss GRTC's expanded transit service in Henrico County as well as its specialized CARE services and new Pulse bus-rapid-transit line.

The meeting will be held at 6 p.m. at Tuckahoe Area Library, 1901 Starling Drive. Residents are welcome to attend or watch via a livestream on the Henrico County Government channel on YouTube, at [youtube.com/c/henricocountygovernment](https://www.youtube.com/c/henricocountygovernment).

O'Bannon will be joined by Carrie Rose Pace, director of communications for GRTC Transit System. For more information, call (804) 501-4208 or go to patobannon.com.

Sept. 17, 2018, 5:13 p.m.

Update: The Fairfield District constituent meeting is canceled due to inclement weather.

Original News Release

Sept. 6, 2018

CONTACT: Charlotte Whitten, Executive Assistant, Henrico County Board of Supervisors

PHONE: (804) 501-4208

Fairfield meeting Sept. 17 to discuss St. Joseph's Villa programs, including autism services

Henrico County Board of Supervisors Chairman and Fairfield District Supervisor Frank J. Thornton will hold a constituent meeting Monday, Sept. 17 on programs and services offered at St. Joseph's Villa, including the Sarah Dooley Center for Autism.

The meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Eastern Henrico Recreation Center, 1440 N. Laburnum Ave. Thornton will be joined by Kathleen Barrett, CEO of St. Joseph's Villa, and Adam Dreyfus, director of the Sarah Dooley Center for Autism.

For information, call (804) 501-4208.

Sept. 17, 2018

CONTACT: Paula G. Reid, Director, Henrico County Department of Human Resources

PHONE: (804) 501-7202

Henrico to host job fair Oct. 6

Fair will highlight opportunities with county government, schools

Henrico County's general government will host a job fair Saturday, Oct. 6 to highlight opportunities to serve the community.

The fair, which is free and open to the public, will be held from 9 a.m. to noon at the Henrico Training Center, 7701 E. Parham Road.

Attending will be representatives of various departments and agencies, including Fire, Police, Recreation and Parks, Public Utilities, Public Works, Finance, Information Technology, Planning, General Services, Social Services, Community Corrections, Community Revitalization, Henrico County Public Schools, Henrico County Public Library, Henrico Area Mental Health & Developmental Services, Juvenile Detention, Voter Registration and Elections, and the Sheriff's Office.

A session at 10 a.m. will detail the county's competitive hiring process, provide application tips and explain how rewarding a career in public service can be.

To review job postings, go to henrico.us/services/jobs or follow the Department of Human Resources on Twitter, at @HenricoHR using #HenricoJobFair, #ApplyHenrico and #HenricoJobs. Information also is available at henrico.us/hr.

Sept. 11, 2018

CONTACT: Anna M. McRay, Deputy Coordinator of Emergency Management, Henrico County Division of Fire

PHONE: (804) 501-7183

Fairfield meeting Sept. 17 to discuss St. Joseph's Villa programs, including autism services

Henrico County is warning residents to expect potential wind damage, flash flooding and power outages caused by Hurricane Florence, a massive storm expected to make landfall in the Carolinas late this week.

"Florence has the strength to cause widespread damage in Henrico, throughout Virginia and across the Mid-Atlantic region," said Anna M. McRay, deputy coordinator of emergency management for the Henrico Division of Fire. "With the storm's outer bands expected to bring heavy rains beginning Thursday, residents should take steps now to protect themselves and their families."

To prepare for the storm, the Division of Fire recommends that residents:

- Make an emergency kit, with enough food and water for each family member to last 48 to 72 hours. Kits also should include batteries, flashlights and bottled water;
- Charge cellphones and other wireless devices;
- Get cash, as banks and ATMs may be closed or inaccessible;
- Fuel vehicles ahead of the storm, as power outages and other effects may limit supplies;
- Register for Henrico's CodeRED emergency notification system, at henricocalert.org;
- Use generators safely. Keep them outdoors and away from windows and doors to avoid exposure to carbon dioxide. To avoid possible electrocution, don't use generators in the rain;
- Ensure enough medicine and supplies to last at least two weeks. Anyone with medical needs requiring access to electricity should consider staying with friends or relatives who have power;
- Protect pets by bringing them indoors before the storm hits and consider their needs when planning a household emergency kit; and
- Make sure gutters and storm drains are clear and that yard furniture and grills are secure.

Florence's sustained rains have potential to leave roads throughout Henrico flooded and inaccessible.

"The greatest threat from the storm will be water, not wind," said Capt. Rob Rowley, public information officer for the Division of Fire. "Never drive on a flooded road, no matter how shallow the water may seem. Turn around, don't drown."

Henrico's departments and agencies have been monitoring Florence's track and mobilizing resources. The county expects to activate its emergency operations center early Friday and has a plan to activate emergency shelters if they are needed. Water levels in four lakes with county-owned dams will be lowered 12 inches over two days beginning Wednesday in anticipation of Florence's heavy rains. Water levels also will be lowered at Echo Lake.

Henrico will provide updates on the storm's effects on henrico.us, HCTV and social media, using the hashtags #FlorenceVA and #ReadyHenrico

Sept. 6, 2018

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

Fairfield meeting Sept. 17 to discuss St. Joseph's Villa programs, including autism services

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For information, call (804) 501-4208.

Sept. 5, 2018

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

*Tourist spending in Henrico surpasses \$915 million
County's total leads central Virginia, remains fifth highest in state*

Henrico County captured \$915.9 million in spending by domestic travelers during 2017, the most of any locality in central Virginia and the fifth-highest total in Virginia, according to a study for the Virginia Tourism Corp.

Tourist spending in Henrico increased by 4.1 percent over its total for 2016, tracking with the statewide increase of 4.4 percent. Among Virginia localities, tourism spending in Henrico trailed only the totals for the counties of Arlington, Fairfax and Loudoun and the city of Virginia Beach.

The total reflects spending on food, lodging, transportation, entertainment, retail and other services by travelers from the United States who had stayed overnight in paid accommodations or had taken day or overnight trips at least 50 miles from home.

In 2017, tourism in Henrico supported nearly 8,600 jobs with a combined payroll income of \$223.7 million. It also generated tax receipts of \$28.2 million for the county and \$34.0 million for the state.

Overall, Virginia attracted \$24.8 billion in visitor spending, which supported 232,223 jobs and provided \$1.7 billion in state and local taxes. Regionally, Henrico and seven neighboring localities combined to attract nearly \$2.5 billion in visitor spending, supporting 24,400 jobs with a payroll of \$574 million.

"Travelers continue to visit Henrico to take advantage of the many qualities and amenities that make the county a great place to live and work," County Manager John A. Vithoukas said.

"Tourism is steadily becoming a billion-dollar industry for Henrico. Whether they're here for recreation, sports, history, shopping or other entertainment, visitors contribute to Henrico's high quality of life by staying in our hotels, eating in our restaurants and supporting other businesses. Every dollar spent sends ripples through the local economy and helps to fund our schools, parks, public safety and other local services."

Henrico launched the Visit Henrico County initiative in 2013 to attract leisure travelers as well as national and regional tournaments to its athletic fields and complexes. The visithenrico.com website and a smartphone app help visitors plan where to stay, shop and eat, and what to do.

In 2017, Henrico's parks and sports complexes hosted 150 tournaments and other events, which generated an estimated \$47.3 million in local spending, according to the Division of Recreation and Parks.

In addition to its many historic sites and sports complexes, the county's attractions include Richmond Raceway, the site of NASCAR's Go Bowling 250 on Friday, Sept. 21 and the Federated Auto Parts 400 on Saturday, Sept. 22. Other visitor-friendly sites include Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Three Lakes Park and Nature Center, and the Dabbs House and Meadow Farm museums.

The U.S. Travel Association compiled the tourism data for the Virginia Tourism Corp. Its report, The Economic Impact of Domestic Travel On Virginia Counties 2017, is available at vatc.org.