



Check “Yes” to keep your tax dollars in Henrico

Each year thousands of Henrico County residents and businesses inadvertently pay their taxes to the City of Richmond because their mailing address, under the current United States Postal Service system, is listed as “Richmond, Virginia” instead of “Henrico, Virginia.” Because of this confusion, the county currently loses an estimated \$5 million

in annual tax revenue to the City of Richmond.

The lost revenue comes from a blend of misdirected residential and corporate taxes that include: bank franchise taxes, business licenses, business personal property taxes, consumer utility taxes, daily rental taxes, public services corporation taxes, vehicle licenses, individual personal property taxes and sales and use taxes.

What does this mean to Henrico County residents? Most importantly, it means that every year \$5 million of Henrico County taxpayers’ money is being used to provide services in the City of Richmond. Additionally, residences and businesses that are affected may be paying higher taxes since Henrico County’s tax rate is generally lower than the City of Richmond’s.

Henrico County staff has invested considerable time investigating this issue for many years, and in the process has met with staff from the City of Richmond, the Virginia Department of Taxation, the

Virginia Division of Motor Vehicles and the State Corporation Commission. The results of these efforts have been disappointing and the problem of incorrect crediting of tax revenue generated in Henrico

nesses from “Richmond, Virginia” to “Henrico, Virginia.” To enable this change, all county residents and business owners need to support this initiative through a response to a one-question survey, which residents will receive by mail in early May.

“If a majority of our residents and business owners respond in favor of the address change, we believe that the
—CONTINUED, PAGE 2—



remains unresolved. To correct this situation, Henrico is now asking for support from our residents and corporate citizens.

The county has initiated a process with the United States Postal Service to change the mailing addresses of affected Henrico residences and busi-

Free tax help available for Henrico taxpayers —Eligible families, individuals could see bigger refunds

The 2008 tax season is under way, and Henrico County and the Greater Richmond Earned Income Tax Credit Coalition (GREITCC) have kicked off their annual efforts to help working families get the most out of their tax returns with the earned income tax credit.

For the sixth straight year, Henrico and the GREITCC are
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working to ensure that eligible taxpayers know about — and receive — the earned income tax credit. And they're helping qualifying families and individuals prepare and file their taxes and apply for the credit, free of charge.

“We strongly encourage Henrico’s eligible taxpayers to take advantage of our free service and avoid paying high fees to have their taxes prepared,” said Employment Services Supervisor Maureen Goode, who coordinates Henrico’s participation in GREITCC. “All residents who qualify or think they may qualify need to know about the earned income tax credit. It could add hundreds of dollars to their refunds.”

The earned income tax credit is a refundable credit

aimed at lower-income working taxpayers who file a tax return and meet certain income requirements. Designed to reduce their tax burden and supplement their wages, the credit could increase a federal refund by as much as \$4,716 for families and \$428 for individuals.

To qualify for the earned income tax credit, residents must meet the following income requirements for 2007:

- ▶ Adjusted gross income of less than \$39,783 and two or more qualifying children;
- ▶ Adjusted gross income of less than \$35,241 and one qualifying child; or
- ▶ Adjusted gross income of less than \$14,590 and no qualifying children.

Volunteers currently are helping eligible taxpayers prepare and file electronic returns at two GREITCC sites in Henrico:

- ▶ Human Services Building, 8600 Dixon Powers Drive; through April 15, 4-8 p.m. each Tuesday and Thursday;
 - ▶ Fairfield Area Library, 1001 N. Laburnum Ave.; through March 8, 6-8 p.m. each Thursday and 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. each Saturday.
- The GREITCC is an organization of local governments, businesses, nonprofit groups and the IRS working to in-

crease public awareness of the earned income tax credit and to offer qualifying taxpayers a no-cost alternative to paid tax-preparation services. The coalition also coordinates sites in Richmond, Charles City, Petersburg and Chesterfield County.

Last year, GREITCC volunteers helped eligible taxpayers file 1,100 federal returns, generating \$523,786 in earned income tax credit funds and a total of \$1,194,039 in federal refunds. The free service saved area filers an



estimated \$206,200 in preparation fees. The additional funds benefit the local economy as well: more than 80 percent of earned income tax credit refund dollars remain in the community where they are received, according to the coalition.

Many area residents miss this opportunity, however. The GREITCC estimates that approximately 20 percent of eligible taxpayers still are not claiming the earned income tax credit.

For more information, contact the GREITCC at 649-0330, log on to www.irs.gov or call 1-800-829-1040 for the nearest volunteer income tax assistance site.

Check “Yes” to keep your tax dollars in Henrico, continued

problem of misdirected tax revenues will be corrected,” said Henrico County Manager Virgil R. Hazelett, P.E. “If less than 51 percent respond favorably to the change, then we will continue to lose millions



Need help with your taxes? Henrico can help. The county, in partnership with the Greater Richmond Earned Income Tax Credit Coalition (GREITCC), again is offering free tax preparation and electronic-filing services to qualifying taxpayers. Henrico is hosting sites at the Human Services Building and Fairfield Area Library; additional GREITCC sites are available throughout the metropolitan area.

of dollars annually that could be spent on much-needed, critical services for Henrico.”

With \$5 million in additional tax revenue the county could:

- ✓ Hire 100 new teachers.
- ✓ Buy 54 new school buses each year.
- ✓ Hire 90 new police officers.
- ✓ Buy and staff four new Emergency Medical Service units.
- ✓ Buy 150 fully equipped police cars.
- ✓ Develop two new community parks.
- ✓ Operate two elementary schools or one middle school for a year.

Henrico County should not continue losing millions in annual tax revenues to the City of Richmond, and should ensure that all taxes paid by county residents are used



for their benefit. Approving the address change will help

eliminate confusion and inconsistencies for Henrico residents, and correct the problem of lost tax revenues.

“Please be assured that Henrico initiated this process not as a result of any ill will toward the City of Richmond,” Hazelett said. “Rather, it is our fiscal responsibility and obligation to the residents of the county to ensure that they receive the benefit of the taxes they pay.”

To keep your tax dollars

where they belong, check “YES” on the survey you will receive in early May. It’s up to you to help us ensure your money is spent for your benefit — right here in Henrico County.

If you have any questions, please call 501-4257 or visit us at www.co.henrico.va.us.

Tip line helps residents join fight against teen drinking

Henrico Police have added another tool to their ongoing campaign against underage drinking, and they need community support. Concerned residents can lend a hand — and push a few buttons — to make it work.

Police have introduced “Too Young to Drink,” an anonymous phone tip line residents can use to report incidents of underage drinking. Anyone can call 614-**2Young-2Drink** (2923) and provide information about minors and alcohol-related activities, such as underage drinking at parties; underage drinking and driving; adults providing alcohol to minors; and retailers selling alcohol to minors.

“This is a vital issue for our community,” said Police Chief Henry W. Stanley, Jr. “We encourage our residents to use the ‘Too Young Too Drink’ tip line. If we can save even one life, the effort is worthwhile.”

The “Too Young to Drink” tip line is based at Henrico

Police’s Fair Oaks sub-station. It operates around the clock — 24 hours per day, seven days per week — and is answered by a police officer or duty officer. All tips are investigated; tips are shared with other localities, when appropriate.

“Too Young to Drink” has generated several dozen calls and resulted in close to 30 arrests since it came on line last year. Underage possession of alcohol is a class one misdemeanor, punishable by up to one year in jail and a \$500 fine. First-time offenders typically have their driver’s licenses suspended for six months, are required to provide 50 hours community service and attend a substance-abuse class. A second offense results in higher fines and jail time.

“Our most frequent calls usually deal with large, loud parties in neighborhoods,” said Sgt. Linda Toney, who has helped organize and spearhead the project. “Calls are helpful even when they don’t lead to an arrest. They allow police to meet and interact with young people on a positive basis, and help us get our message across.”

That message is straightfor-



ward: underage drinking will be treated with zero tolerance, because preventing it saves lives. Information about the tip line has been delivered directly to Henrico Schools’ students and their parents through PTA meetings and newsletters, school resource officers and message boards.

Toney noted that the tip line complements other teen-drinking initiatives, such as Operation Party Crashers and Operation Brew Through.

“‘Too Young to Drink’ gives us one more way to combat underage drinking,” she said. “Every effort plays a part.”

A donation by Brown Distributing Co. is helping fund the project.

Is someone ‘Too Young to Drink’? Call 614-2Y2D (2923). For more information about the tip line, contact Henrico Police at 501-5000 or log on to www.co.henrico.va.us/police.

Four and counting



When its members took the oath of office at the county investiture ceremony Dec. 20, the Board of Supervisors became the longest continuously serving such body in Virginia — Henrico’s supervisors are now embarking on their fourth term together as a board. Waiting to take the oath on the stage of the Cultural Arts Center at Glen Allen were, from left, Varina District Supervisor James B. Donati, Jr.; Vice Chairman and Tuckahoe District Supervisor Patricia S. O’Bannon; Chairman and Three Chopt District Supervisor David A. Kaechele; Fairfield District Supervisor Frank J. Thornton; and Brookland District Supervisor Richard W. Glover. Henrico’s constitutional officers — the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Commonwealth’s Attorney and Sheriff — and the members of the School Board also took their oaths of office at the investiture ceremony. Henrico voters elected the officials during the Nov. 6 general election.

Making the holidays happy for many



The 2007 Christmas Mother program was a huge success, in large part due to the generous contributions from Henrico County employees. On Dec. 12, the county board room was packed with hundreds of toys, 100 bikes, clothing and canned goods — all items donated to the Christmas Mother program. Employees held numerous fund-raising events, which helped bring in a total of \$12,000 — money that was used to purchase additional items for families and individuals in need. The generosity of many helped make the holidays brighter for countless residents.



Police clean up teen drinking with ‘Operation SUDS’

The “Too Young to Drink” tip line fits neatly into the Henrico Police toolbox that’s helping the ongoing effort to dismantle underage drinking in the county — Operation SUDS (Stop Underage Drinking and Sales).

Other tools in the SUDS box include Operation Brew Through, which targets businesses selling alcohol to minors; Operation Party Crashers, which has gained notoriety for its success in targeting residential parties and the teenage drinking associated with them; special measures addressing drinking during the high school prom season and beach week; saturation DUI patrols; and other efforts.

“The guiding focus of this comprehensive effort is to never have to notify a family about the loss of a loved one as a result of underage drinking,” said Maj. Jim Fitzgerald, who headed the Underage Alcohol Use Work Group. “The ‘Too Young to Drink’ tip line is working well in combination with our other initiatives and demonstrates the commitment of Henrico Police to this effort.”

The campaign that has become Operation SUDS began coalescing more than a year ago, prompted by a fatal car crash in the early hours of New Year’s Day 2007 involving an underage drinker. Police reexamined its various programs targeting minors and alcohol and coordinated them through the Underage Alcohol Use Work Group. The multi-faceted approach features prevention, education and enforcement components.

“We had to have all of these pieces working together,” Fitzgerald said, noting that Henrico has suffered no alcohol-related fatalities resulting from underage drinking since the January 2007 accident.

“That’s a clear indicator of the success of this initiative,” he said. “By maintaining our comprehensive, zero-tolerance approach, we will continue to save lives.”

HCTV-Channel 17 winter schedule

For program descriptions or more information, tune to the TV Guide channel 20 or go to www.co.henrico.va.us/pr.



		Even Hours 12 a.m., 2 a.m., 4 a.m., 6 a.m., 8 a.m., 10 a.m., Noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m., 8 p.m., 10 p.m.	Odd Hours 1 a.m., 3 a.m., 5 a.m., 7 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m., 5 p.m., 7 p.m., 9 p.m., 11 p.m.
Feb 25 through Mar 2	Mon Wed Fri Sun	Magazine 17: Winter 2008	Under the Lights: Richmond International Raceway - 24 mins
	Tue Thu Sat	The Tech Edge: Henrico's Information Technology Department - 12 mins	Until the Cows Come Home: A History of Dairy Farming in Henrico County, Virginia - 51 mins
Mar 3 through Mar 9	Mon Wed Fri Sun	No Way Back: Coping with Alzheimer's - 29 mins	Working for All of Us: Hermitage Enterprises - 19 mins
	Tue Thu Sat	When the Smoke Clears: Fire Scene Investigators - 24 mins	The History of Short Pump - 30 mins
Mar 10 through Mar 16	Mon Wed Fri Sun	Seven Man-Made Wonders of Virginia: Monticello	A Working Partnership: Canines In The County - 23 mins
	Tue Thu Sat	Pandemic 1918: A Diary of the Flu - 28 mins	At Your Leisure: What's New in Henrico's Parks? - 26 mins
Mar 17 through Mar 23	Mon Wed Fri Sun	The Heart of the Matter: Atrial Fibrillation	Beyond the Palisade: Life in 17th Century Henrico - 34 mins
	Tue Thu Sat	Your Weapon Against Gun Violence: Henrico Exile - 20 mins	Leading The Way: Henrico County Traffic Control - 21 mins
Mar 24 through Mar 30	Mon Wed Fri Sun	Forensics and Crimesolving	The Iron Horse: Stories of Central Virginia Railroading - 32 mins
	Tue Thu Sat	Firehouse Flashbacks - 30 mins	Keeping it Green: Quality Development in Henrico County - 15 mins
Mar 31 through Apr 6	Mon Wed Fri Sun	Biography: Edgar Allan Poe	Tails of Survival: Life in Veterinary Hospitals - 29 mins
	Tue Thu Sat	Angels of Agriculture: The Plight of Henrico's Honeybees - 20 mins	A Calling to Serve: Henrico Police - 16 mins

KEEP YOUR TAX DOLLARS IN HENRICO

By changing our name from “Richmond, VA” to “Henrico, VA” we will keep \$5 million in annual tax revenue.



Henrico County is losing \$5 million every year to the City of Richmond due to confusion over mailing addresses. Thousands of Henrico County residents and businesses mistakenly pay their taxes to the City of Richmond because their mailing address is “Richmond, VA.” We are working with the United States Postal Service to change the mailing address of residences and businesses located in the county from “Richmond, VA” to “Henrico, VA.” In early May, you will receive a one-question survey in the mail. Check “YES” for the name change and keep your tax dollars in Henrico!

For more information on this important issue, call 501-4257 or visit us at www.co.henrico.va.us.



To keep your tax dollars in Henrico, check “YES” on the survey you will receive in early May.



Recreation Roundup

Fri, Feb 29, Mar 28 & Apr 25: Bluegrass Coffeehouse.

For all ages. Bluegrass musicians of all ages and abilities are invited to Walkerton to play and share your music! Acoustic only. Children must be accompanied by an adult. 7-9 p.m. Walkerton Tavern. Free. Info: 261-6898.

Fri, Mar 7: Tales from Edgar Allen Poe.

For ages 16+. Join us in front of the fireplace for refreshments and dramatic readings from period performer Keith Kaufelt as Poe. 7-8:30 p.m. Walkerton Tavern. Free. Info: 261-6898.

Sat, Mar 8: Tenth Annual Kite Festival at Dorey Park.

For the entire family. Join us for a day of kite flying, demonstrations, contests and games hosted by the Richmond Air Force Kite Club in cooperation with the Division of Recreation and Parks. Don't miss this spectacular display of kite flying! 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Dorey Park. Free. Rain date: Sun, Mar 9. Info: 501-5121.

Sun, Mar 9: Saving Daylight.

For all ages. Daylight savings has begun; have you set your clocks ahead? Learn the history of telling time, clocks and standard and daylight savings time. Noon-3 p.m. Meadow Farm Museum. Free. Info: 501-5520.

Sat, Mar 15: Old-Fashioned Egg Hunt.

For ages 1-5 with an adult. Bring your basket and join in the fun. Later, enjoy the park and playground or walk the trails. Space is limited. 11 a.m.-noon. Meadow Farm Museum/Crump Park. Free. Call to register. Info: 501-5809.

Tue, Mar 18: Crossroads Irish Dance Troupe.

For all ages. This group is an exciting blend of both traditional Irish step and the present-day "Riverdance" and "Lord of the Dance" style of Irish dance. They continue to capture audiences with the gracefulness and complexity of Irish dance. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Henrico Theatre. Free. Call for reservations. Info: 328-4491.

Tue & Wed, Mar 18 & 19: On-the-Air Radio Players present "Radio Detectives."

For all ages. Come and be a part of the studio audience for this hour-long

taping featuring live music and sound effects with authentic scripts from the "golden age of radio." This broadcast will air at a later date on 100.5 FM WZEZ. Directed by Mark Monson. 7:30 p.m. The Cultural Arts Center at Glen Allen. Free. Info: 501-5138.

Thur, Mar 20: Eggstravaganza.

For ages 1-5 with an adult. Celebrate spring by attending this fun-packed morning at Dorey Park. Activities include hopping games, springtime crafts, face painting and more. Bring a basket and join us for the Grand Egg Hunt. 10-11:30 a.m. Dorey Park. Free. Rain date: Fri, Mar 21. Info: 501-5809.

Sat, Mar 22: 19th Annual Henrico 5K Run.

For all ages. This annual race is sponsored by the Henrico Division of Recreation and Parks in cooperation with the Innsbrook Owners Association and the Richmond Road Runners. The first 200 runners will receive a t-shirt and awards will be given. Registration and check-in is 7:30-8:45 a.m. Race begins at 9 a.m. Rain or shine. Innsbrook Corporate Center. \$10 for pre-registration and \$15 on-site. Entry fee must be submitted with an official 5K registration form. Info: 501-5121.

Tue, Mar 25: Gospel with Ginger Jarrells.

For all ages. Gospel singer Ginger Jarrells is committed to making a difference in the lives of those she comes in contact with through her songs. 7-8:15 p.m. Henrico Theatre. Free. Call for reservations. Info: 328-4491.

Sat, Mar 29: Buckets and Broomsticks.

For all ages. It is time for spring cleaning! Wash the windows and scrub the floors. Learn about the tools used long ago to help keep the house free of dirt and clear of bugs. Noon-3:30 p.m. Meadow Farm Museum. Free. Info: 501-5520.

Sat, Apr 5, 12, 19 & 26: Baa, Baa Little Sheep, Have You any Wool?

For all ages. It is shearing time and Meadow Farm is using historic hand shears on their herd of Gulf Coast Native sheep. Watch the process to learn more about this rare breed and how their wool is used. 1-3 p.m. Meadow Farm Museum. Free. Info: 501-5520.

Thur, Apr 10: Henrico Community Band Spring Concert.

For all ages. The Henrico Community Band, under the direction of Archer Johnson, invites you to a night of music the entire family can enjoy. Selections range from Beethoven to the Beatles and beyond. 7:30-9 p.m. Henrico Theatre. Free. Call for reservations. Info: 501-5115.

Fri, Apr 11: Gaming in the Tavern.

For all ages. Enjoy backgammon, checkers, chess, cards, dominos and other games while sipping a root beer float. Children must be accompanied by an adult. 6-9 p.m. Walkerton Tavern. Free. Info: 261-6898.

Sun, Apr 13: Feathered Nests.

For all ages. Have you ever slept on a feather bed or played a game using feathers? Benjamin Franklin used a feather to write. Try out these items and find out why the feather is a most useful object. Noon-3:30 p.m. Meadow Farm Museum. Free. Info: 501-5520.

Fri, Apr 18: Sweetheart Ball for Mother and Son.

For ages 3-5. Let the little man in your life experience his first dance with you! There will be dinner, dancing and entertainment - a real night on the town! 6:30-8:30 p.m. Confederate Hills Recreation Center. \$7.50 per person, registration required. Info: 501-5809.

Sat, Apr 19: Earth Day Celebration.

For all ages. Bring the family and enjoy live music, activities and entertainment including educational booths and displays, litter "pick-up" races, recycling games, the Henrico County Bookmobile, arts and crafts, games, face painting and more. The Wildlife Center of Virginia will be on-site with live animals, and Ocean Encounters will give you hands-on fun with ocean critters. Three Lakes Nature Center will also feature hands-on activities and educational displays. 1-4 p.m. Three Lakes Park. Free. Info: 501-5121.

Sat, Apr 19: Sheep to Shawl.

For all ages. Meadow Farm is shearing its sheep and taking the wool through the entire process from sheep to shawl. Spinning, weaving and natural dyes are all part of the process. Try your

hand at some of these activities and sign up to make a rag doll. Noon-4 p.m. Meadow Farm Museum. Free. Info: 501-5520.

Sat, May 3: Letterboxing.

For all ages. Letterboxing is part treasure hunt, art and exploration. Learn the basics of this unique hobby. Weather-permitting, we will search for letterboxes hidden at Walkerton. 10 a.m.-noon. Walkerton Tavern. Free. Info: 261-6898.

Sun, May 4: Archaeologists-Detectives of the Past.

For all ages. Archaeologists unravel mysteries of the past as they sift through the earth. What did they find out about Meadow Farm? Were there Indians? What buildings did they unearth? Take a special tour of Meadow Farm to learn the answers at 1, 2 and 3 p.m. Meadow Farm Museum. Free. Info: 501-5520.

Sat, May 10: KidFest.

Enjoy games, arts and crafts, information booths and more, tailored just for kids! Listen to 13-year-old piano blues and jazz sensation Matt Wigler and 12-year-old guitar prodigy, Grant Austin Taylor. 1-4 p.m. Meadow Farm Museum/Crump Park. Free. Rain date: Sun, May 11. Info: 501-5134.

Sat, May 17: Spring Social at Twin Hickory.

For all ages. Enjoy live music and entertainment for the whole family. Activities include face painting, contests, games, arts and crafts, ice cream and more! 2-4 p.m. Twin Hickory Recreation Center. Free. Call for reservations. Info: 501-5121.

For additional programs, check out a copy of "At Your Leisure," our catalogue of events and classes. Copies are available at your local library, or call the Division of Recreation and Parks. at 501-7275 to be added to our mailing list.

Recreation & Parks
Community Relations,
Marketing and Publicity
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www.co.henrico.va.us/rec

Henrico County Board of Supervisors

Three Chopt
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501-4207



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Tuckahoe
Vice Chairman
Patricia S. O'Bannon
501-4207



Brookland
Richard W. Glover
501-5292



Varina
James B. Donati, Jr.
501-4207



Important County Telephone Numbers

Adult Protective Services.....	501-7346
Board of Supervisors.....	501-4207
Building Permits & Inspections.....	501-4360
Business Licenses/Personal Property.....	501-4310
Child Protective Services.....	501-5437
Community Maintenance.....	501-4757
Community Revitalization.....	501-7640
Fire - Non-emergency.....	501-4900
Food Stamps.....	501-4002
Health Clinic - East.....	652-3190
Health Clinic - West.....	501-4651
History/Historic Preservation.....	501-5736
Human Resources.....	501-4628
Human Resources 24-hour Jobline.....	501-5674
Library Answer Line.....	652-3258
Magistrates.....	501-5285
Marriage Licenses.....	501-5055
Mental Health Emergency Services.....	261-8484
Planning & Zoning.....	501-4602
Police, Non-emergency.....	501-5000
Real Estate Assessment.....	501-4300
Recreation & Parks.....	501-7275
Recycling Collection (CVWMA).....	340-0900
Schools.....	652-3600
Sheriff.....	501-4571
The Permit Center.....	501-7280
Traffic Ticket Court.....	501-4723
Trash/Bulky Waste/Leaf Collection.....	501-4275
Vehicle Licenses/Personal Property.....	501-4263
Volunteer Program.....	501-5231
Voter Registration.....	501-4347
Water and Sewer Service.....	501-4275



Government Center
4301 East Parham Road
501-4000



Eastern Government Center
3820 Nine Mile Road
652-3600

HENRICO TODAY

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Excited about our future.**