

County and Departmental Achievements

Hanover County and several departments were recognized for outstanding achievement in the last year:

- Hanover County was named one of the **“100 Best Communities for Young People”** for the second consecutive year in 2008. The award is given by America’s Promise Alliance, the nation’s largest alliance dedicated to children and youth, in partnership with Capital One. All communities that completed entries in the *“100 Best”* competition were required to submit detailed information to the Alliance on existing community programs and initiatives that help deliver the Five Promises. The Five Promises are defined as the fundamental resources our children and youth need to succeed: caring adults who are actively involved in their lives; safe places in which to learn and grow; a healthy start toward adulthood; an effective education that builds marketable skills; and opportunities to help others. Hanover County has been a designated Community of Promise by America’s Promise since 2003. Hanover was recognized because of the County’s strong partnerships that create a multitude of programs addressing important issues such as making classroom learning more relevant, integrated youth supports for students K-12 and eliminating achievement gaps. The alliance also commended Hanover for actively engaging its youth in leadership roles which provide input to better meet the needs of young people and their families.
- The **National Association of Counties (NACo)** presented two Achievement Awards to Hanover County at the 2007 NACo Annual Conference. Recognized were the “Crime Management Initiative” of the Sheriff’s Office and the Hanover Veterans Memorial. The Crime Management Initiative (C.M.I.) is an information-sharing tactic that involves all command and field level supervisors from Patrol, Investigations and several support units. Rooted heavily in the “Broken Windows” theory of factors that lead to increased criminal activity, the C.M.I. enables the Hanover Sheriff’s Office to respond rapidly to evolving trends in criminal activity. The Hanover Veterans Memorial was the result of the work done by an all-volunteer Hanover Veterans Memorial Committee established by the Board of Supervisors in February 2005. Dedicated on Memorial Day 2007, it is located at Hanover Wayside Park.
- In 2007, Money magazine ranked Mechanicsville #54 on its list of the **Top 100 “Best Places to Live”** (Glen Allen was ranked #66) and Forbes magazine ranked Hanover Public Schools #48 on its **“Best School Districts for the Buck”** nationwide list.
- The **Department of Community Resources** was selected among 75 organizations from across the nation selected to be a Lead Agency for Global Youth Service Day by Youth Service America. The goal of the event is to engage over 750 youth and adult volunteers in projects that amplify and celebrate the contribution of youth in our community. These projects will be conducted simultaneously with projects around the globe on April 25-27, 2008.
- Emergency Communications received a **Certificate of Accreditation from the Virginia Office of EMS**. The Accreditation recognizes the Communications Department’s use of the Priority Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) Program, which enables communications officers to provide critical medical information to paramedics before they arrive at the scene of the emergency call. The EMD program also enables the dispatcher to give callers instructions on how to deal with many emergencies, including heart attacks, bleeding and emergency childbirth. Hanover is only the third Emergency Communications Center in the Richmond Metropolitan area to obtain this Accreditation through the OEMS.
- Fire/EMS received an **Employer of Choice Award** in May 2007 from the Richmond Human Resources Management Association and Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce, reflecting the Department’s approach to recruitment and best hiring practices.

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- The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement (CALEA) confirmed the reaccreditation of the **Hanover County Sheriff's Office** in March 2007. The Hanover Sheriff's Office is one of only 25 law enforcement agencies in Virginia to have earned and maintained this international designation. The Sheriff's Office also remains one of 69 agencies in the Commonwealth to have earned and maintained state accreditation through the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission (VLEPSC). The Sheriff's Office was originally accredited by CALEA in 2003 and by VLEPSC in 1998. The Sheriff's Office is one of only three agencies in the state to hold both designations, joining the Henrico Division of Police and the Herndon Police Department.
- The **Pamunkey Regional Jail** achieved 100% compliance with the Virginia Department of Corrections' annual audit and inspection, the 9th straight year that the Jail has received a perfect rating for an inspection of this type. This annual re-certification effort was unannounced and culminated in an onsite review and inspection by corrections professionals from the Local Facilities Unit of the DOC. Also in 2007, the Virginia State Compensation Board completed a rigorous audit of the Pamunkey Regional Jail's inmate records, and awarded the facility 'Exceptional' ratings across the board. This is the highest rating achieved in nine years of operation.
- **Animal Control** received a 2007 Industry Leader Award from the National Safety Council for achieving the best safety performance in its category. Animal Control was one of 59 companies nationwide honored with the 2007 Industry Leader Award and is the second Hanover County government department in two years to receive the award, following Parks & Recreation. In 2006, Hanover Animal Control lost 0 (zero) work days due to injury or illness. Animal Control, the **Community Services Board**, the **Sheriff's Office** and **Public Utilities** were awarded the National Safety Council's "Occupational Excellence Achievement Award" for their safety records the previous year.
- **Public Utilities** received the Excellence in Waterworks Operations Award from the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) in June 2007. This is the top award given by the VDH, which regulates water quality standards in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Less than one-half percent of all water systems in Virginia received this award last year. The VDH also presented the **Doswell Water Treatment Plant** with an Excellence in Waterworks Performance Award; only 5% of the 136 water plants statewide have been able to match the Doswell plant's performance.
- Also with the Department of Public Utilities, the **Doswell Wastewater Treatment Plant** and the **Ashland Wastewater Treatment Plant** received the National Association of **Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) Peak Performance Award** for five consecutive years of 100% NPDES permit compliance. The Doswell Wastewater Treatment Plant has received the Platinum Award for seven consecutive years and the Ashland Wastewater Treatment Plant has received the Platinum Award for eight consecutive years. The **Totopotomoy Wastewater Treatment Plant** and the **Hanover Courthouse Wastewater Treatment Plant** received the **National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) Gold Award** for 100% compliance with NPDES permit limits for an entire calendar year.
- For the 22nd consecutive year, Hanover County's **Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)** qualified for the **GFOA's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting**. Hanover County has achieved this recognition each year since 1985. Hanover County also received the GFOA's Award for **Distinguished Budget Presentation** for the 18th consecutive year (since 1990). Only 20% of county governments in Virginia received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award this year.