

the hanover review



Be ready when disaster strikes; class on Oct. 4

Were you ready when Hurricane Irene roared through Hanover County last month? If not, there will be a great learning opportunity for you on Tuesday, October 4.

On that date at 6 p.m., Hanover County will hold a free Community Disaster Emergency Preparedness Training Class at the Mechanicsville Library.

Representatives from the Sheriff's Office, Fire/EMS, the Health Department, Social Services, Public Schools and Public Information will present information during this fast-moving class. The focus will be on how you and your family can become self-reliant for three days by getting a kit, making a plan and staying informed.

The library is located at 7461 Sherwood Crossing Place.

Seating is limited so register right away. To sign up, call 365-4822.

For more information call Sgt. Chris Atkinson of the Sheriff's Office at 365-6110 or e-mail him at rcatkinson@co.hanover.va.us

This will be the final "Are You Ready" class of 2011.

A generous community



The Hanover Youth Service Council (HYSC) and its partners conduct an annual drive to collect donated school supplies. Seventy-one students received needed school supplies at an event at Covenant Woods as a result of the 2011 drive. HYSC members pictured are Sam Hopkins, Maggie Weber, Nico Andrade, Maggie Chenault, Meg Hunt, Alexandra Farnsworth, Sarah Scaplehorn, Thomas Rishcoff, Cody Roane, Logan Hailey and Lana Ferguson.

Vote on November 8! October 17 is deadline to register

This Election Day, November 8, Hanover voters can cast ballots for members of the Board of Supervisors, House of Delegates and State Senate.

Your polling place may have changed since the last election because of the redistrictings that resulted from the 2010 Census. Because the population of each district has to be equalized, the districts of 6,681 Hanoverians were changed by the County redistricting. The General Assembly also divided Hanover into three senatorial districts, affecting about half of the County's voters

If your voting district was changed, you should receive a new voter registration card by mid-October. If you do not receive a new voter registration

card by **October 14**, please contact the General Registrar at 365-6080. (Only voters whose district has been changed will receive a new card.)

October 17 is the deadline to register to vote in the 2011 election.

You can register to vote in the Registrar's Office, located in Room 119 of the Wickham Building at Hanover Courthouse. Voter registration forms also can be downloaded from the web site and are available at branches of the Pamunkey Regional Library.

Call the Registrar's Office at 365-6080 to request that a form be mailed to you. The e-mail address is Hanover-Voting@co.hanover.va.us.

Registration forms returned by mail also must be postmarked no later than October 17.

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Hanover - where a family of communities, inspired by its people, traditions, spirit and history, is the foundation for its future

County of Hanover
Board of Supervisors

Deborah B. Winans
Chairman

Mechanicsville District
746-2272
dwinans@co.hanover.va.us

Aubrey M. Stanley
Vice Chairman

Beaverdam District
449-6606
amstanley@co.hanover.va.us

John E. Gordon Jr.
South Anna District

798-3879
jgordon@co.hanover.va.us

Charles D. McGhee
Henry District

779-2875
cdmcghee@co.hanover.va.us

Robert R. Setliff

Chickahominy District
746-5553
rsetliff@co.hanover.va.us

G. Ed Via III

Ashland District
550-2600
gevia@co.hanover.va.us

Elton J. Wade Sr.

Cold Harbor District
781-0044
ejwade@co.hanover.va.us

Administration

Cecil R. Harris Jr.

County Administrator
365-6005
rharris@co.hanover.va.us

Tom Harris

Public Information Officer
365-6402
thharris@co.hanover.va.us

the hanover review

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Debbie Winans

Two years ago 70% of our foster care children were in group homes or hospitals. That's not ideal because the child's ability to return to the community in many cases can be served within home settings.

In the past year, we have changed the way that we help these young people and their families, while also reducing costs.

The program is called Kids' Intensive Treatment Team ("KITT" for short) and it was formed to provide intensive treatment for children with emotional disturbances and their families or foster parents. The purpose is to serve as many of these young people in their homes as we can - it's more effective for them, it helps keep families together and it's less expensive than placing them in a group home or hospital.

from the Chairman of the Board

We have more kids in our community than you might expect in need of foster care and related group home services.

I've often talked about the spirit of teamwork that makes Hanover County special. KITT is another example of that - it's a collaborative effort between the Community Services Board, Social Services and Community Resources, who work together to identify the children who could benefit from the service and supply the clinicians and counselors that provide the treatment needed to help these families.

The financial goal of the program is straightforward - our departments wanted to reduce the number of days children spend in group homes or hospitals by 20% in the first year. We've exceeded that goal by reducing the days by 31% in the first 12 months of the program.

I wish that every child could have an ideal childhood, but not everyone is that fortunate. Sometimes families and children need help and I'm glad we can provide the help they need while remaining financial responsible. Thanks again to all of those who provide the services that make Hanover County a better place to live for all.

from the County Administrator

We have all heard a lot recently about the federal government's deficit spending and debt limits. The federal government has used its borrowing power for years now to avoid the basic task of balancing its budget. This is a fundamental responsibility, enforced by the Code of Virginia, that Hanover County faces annually along with you.

For over 25 years, Hanover County's policy has been that **we do not borrow money for operations.** We borrow money only when needed to construct capital assets such as schools, libraries and park improvements. This, among many other factors, is why all three rating agencies have rated Hanover County's debt AAA, which is the highest possible.

To maintain these high ratings, we not only balanced our budget for the last 3+ years of the recession within existing tax rates, but we used savings from these budgets to set up a reserve fund to help us weather the storm. To be the smallest county in

the nation to be rated 'triple AAA' speaks volumes about Hanover County's residents and the government they demand and deserve.



Rhu Harris

Unfortunately, because of the federal government's budget crisis we (and all other AAA rated Virginia localities and the Commonwealth itself) have been placed on a watch list by the rating agency Moody's. This is not because of any actions we have taken or failed to take, but because Moody's believes that no local government should be rated higher than the federal government; especially with the federal government's size of operation in Virginia. Moody's actions were not based on any review of Hanover itself or its reliance upon the federal government, County businesses and their

— continued on page 3.

High-speed Internet

'Town hall' meetings set for Oct. 3, 5

In January, the Board of Supervisors created a High-Speed Internet Committee (HSIC). The committee's adopted vision statement is: "To ensure all Hanover County residents and businesses have access to the high-speed internet service they require at a reasonable cost."

The HSIC has been meeting monthly since February and consists of citizens from each of the County's seven magisterial districts. It has heard presentations from many service providers and members have divided themselves into subcommittees to dig into the details of focused issues.

According to Steve Ellis, chairman of the Marketing subcommittee, the HSIC has learned:

◆ "The issue is complicated and there is not a quick and easy fix that will meet the needs of everyone."

◆ "The vendors who currently provide high-speed Internet services to the County have different strategies for how they are moving forward."

◆ "Hanover County does not

qualify for many of the federal and state grants that other local governments have received to build their high-speed Internet networks."

Rough estimates are that it could cost \$30 million or more (based on costs per square mile and possible future costs of keeping up with technology) for the County to subsidize vendors to provide high-speed Internet service in rural areas. Therefore, the Board has stated that County funding of high-speed internet infrastructure is not a consideration.

Citizen input is important. The County's 2011 Citizens Survey contains a question about high-speed Internet service. Also, the HSIC has scheduled the following town hall-style meetings:

◆ **October 3** at the Montpelier Center for Arts and Education, 17205 Mountain Road in Montpelier.

◆ **October 5** at the Mechanicsville Branch Library, 7461 Sherwood Crossing Place in Mechanicsville.

Both sessions will begin at 6:30 p.m. To learn more call the County Administrator's office at 365-6005.



FOR MORE INFORMATION about the High-Speed Internet Committee and the work they have been doing, please go to www.co.hanover.va.us

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR continued from page 2.

federal contracts or even the number of federal employees residing in Hanover. Because of this initial 'rush to judgment', Moody's has softened its opinion from "possible downgrade" to "negative outlook" and will now go through the appropriate due process of a review.

The budget problems of the federal government are affecting all of us. It was reported recently that the U.S. government debt per capita is now \$47,000. That means that each person in Hanover County's share of the federal debt is \$47,000 - a total of \$4.7 billion for Hanover County alone. As a comparison, our own local debt per capita is \$1,800; which is considered low by the rating agencies and has contributed to our AAA

bond rating.

We must find the courage to manage our federal financial affairs with the same diligence that we use at the local government level.

It's a fact!!!

Of the 34 counties in the United States that have achieved a AAA bond rating from all three ratings agencies, Hanover is the smallest by far. The next smallest is Hamilton, Indiana, which has a population of more than 275,000 people.

LOOKING FOR ANSWERS

The HSIC is asking:

- ◆ What can the County do to ensure all Hanover residents and businesses have access to the high-speed Internet service they require at a reasonable cost?
- ◆ What is the appropriate role for the County to play in facilitating access?
- ◆ What is the actual access level across the County?
- ◆ How do we cover the 'last mile' in the most remote areas of the County?

Some of the challenges:

- ◆ High-speed Internet providers want to achieve a return on investment that is difficult in rural areas where housing density is less and the company's costs are greater
- ◆ Hanover County cannot require providers to serve rural areas or any other areas. (The County has encouraged providers to expand their coverage areas and has offered wireless providers free and "what will it cost the County" deals to access space on any of the new communications towers, with no takers to date)
- ◆ Hanover's topography and high or dense trees create a weaker wireless signal and many citizens prefer to not cut down certain trees on their property to enable a better signal
- ◆ Other local governments that have subsidized providers have fewer customers than they planned, creating new financial challenges in addition to what is already going on with the recession

HSIC Committee members:

- ◆ Chairman John E. Gordon (Board of Supervisors - South Anna District) and Vice Chairman Bucky Stanley (Board of Supervisors - Beaverdam District)
- ◆ Ken Russell and Margie Smith of Ashland District; Caroline Cooke and Steven Ellis of Beaverdam District; Jim Ellis and Angela Kelly-Wiecek of Chickahominy District; Jacob Eshler and Russell Minich of Cold Harbor District; Gordon Silver of Henry District; Randy Armbricht and Mark Creery of Mechanicsville District; Owen Adams and Amy Mendelson-Cheeley of South Anna District

Registrar seeks election officials

Would you like to be a part of history? Want to earn a little extra money for yourself and serve with your neighbors? If so, Hanover County's Registrar invites you to look into becoming an Officer of Elections in the November 8 election!

An Officer of Elections is required to be either a Republican or a Democrat. If selected, you will work in the polling place from 5 a.m. on Election Day until the last vote is counted.

"Elections in our County would not be possible if it weren't for the patriotic citizens serving as Officers of Elections," says Teri Smithson, General Registrar. "Maintaining the integrity of the election process is our mission."

If you are interested in being appointed as an Officer of Elections, please call the General Registrar at 365-6080 or e-mail HanoverVoting@co.hanover.va.us

Getting the word out



Using grant money and private sources, Hanover County has created a low-power AM radio system designed primarily to get out emergency messages. If you drive past one of these signs and the orange lights are flashing, that means an emergency message is being broadcast and please turn to AM 1700 (or call 365-1700 if you can't get the signal.) The newest sign was installed last month in Ashland and resulted from a donation by NextEra Energy Resources. Doing the work are Jonathan C. Passmore and D.J. Doane of Keeton Electrical.

A vision for the future

New vision, mission and value statements

To achieve a future as great as its past and to be a place where all can reach their full potential: these were guiding principles as the Board of Supervisors took on the task of updating the County's Vision, Mission and Value statements this summer.

The original Mission, Vision and Values were adopted by the Board in 2002. Revisiting them was felt to be in order partially because it is a good business practice and also because one of the Board's initiatives this fiscal year is to develop an overall County strategic plan model.

The new mission, vision and value statements build a solid foundation for the strategic planning process and provide clear direction for all departments.

The Mission is the County's purpose; the Vision is the desired future; and the Values are the ethics all em-

ployees are expected to embody every day.

Board members wanted the statements to reflect the County's core beliefs and character. They also wanted them to be as inclusive as possible.

The Board also wanted them to be memorable, as in easier to remember by being shorter. Hence, four one-word values were chosen, though each of those one words conveys a variety of meanings.

For example, inclusiveness speaks to engagement with citizens and businesses as well as teamwork.

The Board did not change the County's tagline: "People, Tradition and Spirit."

The next step will be to define mission focus areas - such as "education" and "safety" - and goals so that key strategic plans can be developed.

NEW MISSION, VISION AND VALUE STATEMENTS

The Board of Supervisors recently updated the County's Vision, Mission and Value Statements. They are:

Vision

Hanover County - A place inspired by its people, tradition and spirit, which will be the premier community for people and businesses to achieve their full potential

Mission

To be a premier community by providing superior service through creativity, innovation and sound financial practices

Values

- ◆ Integrity
- ◆ Accountability
- ◆ Respect
- ◆ Inclusiveness

Nuisance animal ordinance

New regulations designed to protect residents from aggressive animals

Responding to complaints from citizens who felt threatened and harassed in their own neighborhoods, the Board of Supervisors has adopted an ordinance identifying specific nuisance behaviors by animals that could result in its owner being taken to court. This ordinance went into effect September 1.

These behaviors on the part of an animal could result in a civil summons being issued to the owner if there are two or more occurrences:

- ◆ Chasing, threatening or harassing vehicles, bicycles or pedestrians on any right-of-way;

- ◆ Chasing, threatening, harassing or being aggressive towards people not on the property of the animal's owner;

- ◆ Biting a person causing physical injury without substantiated provocation, unless in response to an actual threat to the person or property of its owner or the owner's family;

- ◆ Chasing, threatening, harassing or injuring livestock, poultry or other domestic, companion, wild or exotic animals;

This ordinance does not change the County's leash laws. Residents of suburban areas are required to keep their dogs leashed or on their property throughout the year; the leash law also applies in the rural areas between April 1 and June 30 each year.

- ◆ Trespassing upon school grounds or public parks or playgrounds;

- ◆ Damaging real or personal property.

Acts deemed public nuisances if they occur three or more times include overturning trash containers and habitually running at large.

Animal 'hoarders' could also be prosecuted under this ordinance.

Lawful hunting with a dog or dogs during open season; formally sanctioned field trials; bona fide

hunting or field trial dog training; law enforcement or search or rescue activity; and supervised formal obedience training classes or shows are exempt from the ordinance.

If Animal Control (365-6485) receives a complaint, it will investigate. A warning will be given for first-time offenses. On the second offense, a civil summons would be issued. If the Court determines that a nuisance as defined in this ordinance has taken place, the Court can order the animal to be confined or take other action to abate the nuisance. The Court may also impose a civil penalty of up to \$250.

Ten residents spoke in favor of the ordinance at the public hearing. All told stories of being threatened by roaming dogs which intimidated them or attacked their own pets, horses or other animals.

"I've given up walking my dogs many years ago," said one resident of South Anna District at the public hearing. "Dogs are considered property: we should be responsible for keeping our property on our property."



Bell Creek offices opened for DSS, CSB

The Department of Social Services (DSS) and the Community Services Board (CSB) now have new offices in Mechanicsville. The offices are located at 8475 Bell Creek Road and the hours are 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Cutting the ceremonial ribbon were, from left to right: Ron Lucas, Sharon Bunger, Tim Slaven and Florence Watt of the CSB; Steve Ellis of the Hanover Association of Businesses and Chamber of Commerce (HABCC); Board of Supervisors Chairman Debbie Winans; Lynn Saunders and Sheila Crossen-Powell of the DSS; and Lisa Beitz of the CSB.

The other man on the County's seal

He's the 'other name' on the County seal. And he earned it. While not as famous today as Patrick Henry, Henry Clay was one of the most important Americans in the first half of the 19th century.

Clay, who was born here in 1777, served in the U.S. Congress for nearly 50 years. He is considered the first great Speaker of the House of Representatives, served as Secretary of State and ran for president five times. He was unsuccessful each time, but Abraham Lincoln called Clay "my beau ideal of a statesman."

Today, Clay is known in history as "the Great Compromiser". Though a Southerner, he was an ardent Unionist and his "Missouri Compromise" and "Compromise of 1850" helped delay the Civil War for a generation.

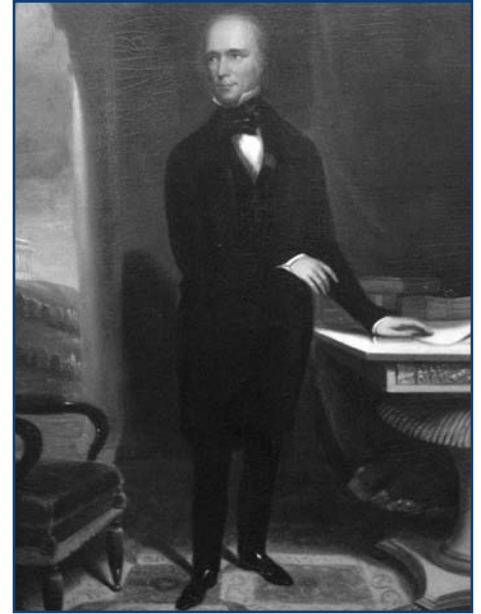
Clay's life started in a mod-

It's a fact!!!

Henry Clay introduced the Hereford cattle breed to the U.S. and owned the first Thoroughbred stallion in American. He is also credited with introducing the Mint Julep drink to Washington D.C.

est frame house that has long been gone. The family farm sat in an area around what is now Mount Hermon Road that was then called "the slashes" because of its' swampy terrain. His father John was a Baptist minister who had a large congregation at Winn's Baptist Church.

Clay lost his father at 4 years old



This portrait of Henry Clay hung in the old jury room of the historic Hanover Courthouse until the Board of Supervisors loaned it to a museum in Columbus, GA last year.

Lessons from the past



Many people visit Hanover's Civil War battlefields each year, but one recent group had a professional interest. Officers from the U.S. Army Combined Arms Center walked the grounds of Beaver Dam Creek and Gaines Mill Battlefield Parks in July and instructors discussed the tactics used by Generals Robert E. Lee and George McClellan during the Seven Days Battles. The 150th anniversary of the Seven Days Battles will be observed next year.

and the family suffered further blows hours later when British cavalymen ransacked their home on their way to Charlottesville in their attempt to capture Gov. Thomas Jefferson.

Growing up so close to Hanover Courthouse, Clay became interested in politics after hearing speeches by Patrick Henry and others on the courthouse green and in neighboring establishments. When Clay's mother remarried and moved to Kentucky, Clay remained behind at first to study under Jefferson's mentor, George Wythe.

In 1797, Clay was admitted to the State Bar. Shortly thereafter he also moved to Kentucky and began his own political career. He seldom returned to Hanover again - in 1840 he wrote of a visit to his old house, but noted "if I had been put there without information I should not have been able to recognize it."

When Clay died in 1852, he was the first American to lie in state at the Capitol building. A century later, a Senate committee chaired by John F. Kennedy named Clay one of the five greatest Senators in U.S. history.

Special waste event to be held Oct. 29 at Verdi Lane center

Do you have an old computer that you would like to recycle? Or perhaps some personal information that you would like to have shredded? If so, and if you are a County resident, you are invited to come out to the Mechanicsville Solid Waste Convenience Center on Saturday, **October 29** for a special waste event.

Between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., any electronic device with a plug will be accepted at no charge (except televisions, for which there is a \$7 charge).

You can also bring up to four boxes of personal information or documents to be shredded. Boxes should be no larger than 10 X 14 X 18 inches.

At the same time and place, the Sheriff's Office will be collecting expired, unwanted or unused prescription drugs.



The Department of Public Works received an Achievement Award from the Virginia Association of Counties last month. Taking the top prize in the Environmental category was the department's organic waste program, which recycles leaves, grass and brush into products the County can give away to citizens, use or sell. On the first row are Linda Barker and John Bourret. On the second row are Steve Chidsey, Wayne Wadlington and Mike Flagg.

DMV Select Services offered at Hanover Courthouse

Many Division of Motor Vehicle (DMV) services are available at Hanover Courthouse. "Basically everything related to your vehicle and nothing related to driver's licens-

es, learner's permits or photo ID's - they still have to be done at DMV," says Treasurer Scott Miller.

It's very easy: just record your DMV transaction in the Commis-

sioner of Revenue's office and then step across the hall to pay a cashier in the Treasurer's Office.

For more information call 365-6050.

PUBLIC SERVANT



Charles "C.K." Cheatham is a firefighter-medical professional at Station #10 (Chickahominy) but he's worn a lot of different hats. Before coming to Hanover in 2005, he was a member of the crash/fire rescue team for the Virginia Air National Guard. His unit was responsible for responding to emergencies involving any military planes landing at RIC. His unit also served in a support role for crash/fire rescue teams serving commercial flights. Previously, C.K. had been a trainer for the Virginia Department of Fire Programs, specializing in logistics. He's also been a volunteer at Chesterfield Station #10 for many years. But he really loves working in Hanover because of the diversity of calls he runs and the combination of volunteers and paid staff. "We really have a dynamic system with the different types of people, and how they all get along together," he says. He also loves the support the firefighter/medics get from the community. "I love it and I'll stay here until I retire," he says with a laugh. "C.K. has a calming influence and is very dedicated to premium performance," according to his coworkers. "He is a quiet leader, a hard-working guy and a humble family man." C.K. and his wife Mary have one son, Seth.

News in brief

The Sheriff's Office won a 2011 National Association of Counties (NACo) Award for the newly formed Motorists Assistance Program. The Sheriff's Office has trained 17 Hanover residents. These volunteers work in pairs and drive well-marked Ford Explorers equipped with yellow emergency lights. Their duties include helping stranded motorists, conducting traffic direction, assisting with traffic hazards and providing guidance and assistance to travelers.

Edwin A. Gaskin was hired as the County's new Director of Economic Development. Gaskin has over 15 years of economic development experience in both state and local government as well as the private sector. **Curt Shaffer** was hired as the new Director of Emergency Communications. Shaffer had been Emergency Manager for the City of Hampton.

Deputy County Administrator **Joe Casey** received the Virginia Local Government Management Association's top award for assistant or deputy county administrators. Casey has been with Hanover County for more than 20 years and served as Finance Director before being appointed Deputy County Administrator in 2005.

A **School District Efficiency Report** gave Hanover schools high marks. "I've been in over 250 school districts and divisions in the U.S. and I have not seen a governance system this good," the consultant reported. "Don't lose this." The review is offered through the Virginia Department of Planning and Budget.

Hanover County's **cannery** was featured on a segment of the *Virginia Home Grown* TV show.

About 38,000 people attended the 33rd annual **Hanover Tomato Festival** held at Pole Green Park. It was one of the largest crowds ever at the event.

Making sure it's safe



Matt Westheimer of the Hanover County Building Inspection Department checks out a coaster at Kings Dominion this summer. Hanover County inspects every ride twice a year to make sure all are safe. The inspectors have to undergo Amusement Device training classes and become certified in this specialty.

Youth leaders are needed

Hanover will celebrate its fifth annual Global Youth Service Day (GYSD) on April 20-22, 2012. GYSD is the largest service event in the world, and it takes several months to plan this service-packed weekend.

Youth Planning Coalition members are needed. The Youth Planning Coalition is for students aged 8-25 and the deadline to apply is Tuesday,

October 11.

To download an application form please go to www.hanovervolunteers.org.

If you have questions, you are invited to call Laura Robertson, Youth Service Specialist for the Department of Community Resources, at 365-4180 or e-mail her at larobertson@co.hanover.va.us

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County of Hanover
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