# \$hanover review



# Helping spread holiday cheer

Want to make the holidays brighter? Here are a few ways you can share the spirit of the Yuletide season through programs and services offered by Hanover County.

Hanover's Department of Social Services has a holiday assistance coordinator who works with the "Christmas Mother" program. If you would like to donate or help, please call Allison Bass Broaddus at 365-4164.

The Hanover Community Services Board hopes to assist clients who lack families or whose families lack resources. Call Michelle Elliott at 365-4260.

The Hanover Mental Health Association Inc. (Sunrise House) is seeking hats, gloves and toiletries for adult gift baskets: contact Stephanie Hamilton at 798-5902.

The Hanover/Ashland Triad (the Sheriff's Office, Ashland Police Department and others) has an "Adopt-A-Senior" program. Gifts for these seniors can be selected from the "Angel Trees" placed at all locations of Hanover Bank. Call any branch for more information.

For more ways to help others in need, please call the Department of Community Resources at 365-4300.

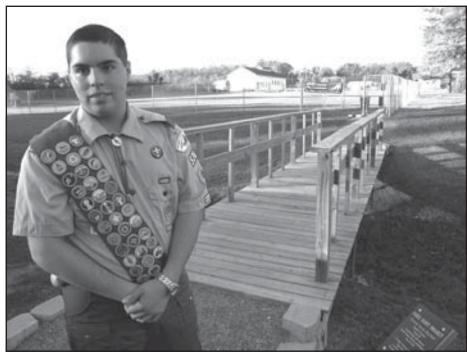
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#### Making the dog park a reality



Dominic Formosa of Boy Scout Troop 534 in Mechanicsville was one of the many volunteers whose work resulted in the opening of Hanover County's first "dog park" this fall. The dog park is open on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Wednesdays from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. It is closed on Sundays. For more information about the dog park, see pg. 4.

# **EMS Subscription alert!**

#### Applications to be accepted beginning Jan. 2

Billing for ambulance transport will begin in March. If you have private insurance or are covered by Medicaid or Medicare, billing probably will not affect you. Hanover Fire/EMS is also offering a subscription program to cover those who are without insurance, or who find the subscription option to be more cost-effective than a copay.

Applications for Hanover County ambulance transport subscriptions will be accepted beginning Jan. 2, 2005. All applications must be received by March 1, 2005, when billing is expected to begin. For \$60 annually, all members of your household can become subscribers. Employees of businesses located in Hanover County

— continued on page 7.

#### **EMS AMBULANCE FEES**

- ◆ Subscription program will begin March 1 and will cover any transports through March 30, 2006
- ♦ Bills can be reduced by 25-100% in cases of financial hardship
- ◆ Subscription forms can be obtained by calling Hanover Fire/ EMS at 365-6195



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

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### ≝hanover review

The Hanover Review is published quarterly by the County of Hanover and is distributed to all addresses in the County.

#### from the Chairman of the Board



John E. Gordon

As the family of communities we call Hanover closes out another successful year, I want to express my admiration for each of you and the things you do to make Hanover

the great place it has become.

We are fast approaching that time of year when resolutions for the New Year are considered. Many of you have experienced the 'gift of giving' to the community. I ask that you consider taking your commitment to the next level. If you have not yet become involved in giving back to your community, I encourage you to do so this year.

There are tremendous opportunities. Imagine yourself, as a first-in-your-family volunteer firefighter, saving the life of the young child caught in the burning building. Make a resolution to join the Fire and Rescue squads.

Imagine the look on the child's face who has been struggling to understand multiplication when, after weeks of one-on-one tutoring, he gets it. Make a resolution to become a Lunch Buddy. Imagine the senior citizen who has been homebound for so long who can now visit the great museums of the Boulevard because you provided transportation. Make a resolution to become a Red Cross driver. Imagine...well, the opportunities are limited only by the amount of time you are willing to give.

Hanover is a very special community. You have made it so. I am honored to be one among you. If you are willing to make a service commitment and just don't know where to start, call the Department of Community Resources at 365-4300 and ask for a Hanover Volunteer Opportunities Directory. I also invite you to contact me at jgordon@co.hanover.va.us or call me at 304-8646.

### from the County Administrator

On Nov. 11, 2004, the Board of Supervisors appointed me County Administrator. This appointment brings with it an incredible opportunity to lead the County staff and work directly with the Board of Supervisors to improve the quality of life for Hanover citizens.

I have been blessed to work in Hanover for the past 20 years, starting as the Assistant Finance Director and moving up through the organization to County Administrator. Along the way I have had the opportunity to work with many residents in numerous ways, from informational meetings with business and civic organizations to directing traffic at the Verdi Lane convenience center the day after Hurricane Isabel. These experiences have shown me that Hanoverians care deeply about their community and take pride in their county. As County employees, our job is to demonstrate the same level of care and pride and to be responsive to the current needs of the citizens, while also helping the Board of Supervisors to



Rhu Harris

assess the challenges that lie ahead and plan for the future.

My two immediate predecessors as County Administrator, Richard Johnson and Jack Berry, have been great mentors for me. Drawing inspiration from their examples, I intend to continue to focus County staff efforts on providing outstanding customer service to County residents. We will work hard to find creative solutions to meet your needs.

## Finding the location of wireless 911 callers

#### Make sure that you have the correct equipment installed

Imagine the scenario: your tire has gone flat on a little-traveled Hanover County road. It's late at night and there are no other lights in sight.

That's the bad news. The good news is, if you have a cell phone that has the needed technology and cellular coverage in your area is sufficient, Hanover Emergency Communications should be able to find your exact location.

Integrating the County's Geographic Information System

(GIS) and Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system has given Hanover communications officers the ability to locate wireless 911 callers on a digitalized mapping system.

However, whether or not your location can be identified depends on the type of cell or PCS phone you use and the capabilities of your cell phone service provider.

Cellular service providers in the Richmond metropolitan area have added GPS (Global Positioning System) chips to their phones.

In order for Hanover Communications to locate your wireless call, you must have this GPS chip installed in your cellular phone. This will require replacement of older phones, most of which don't have the needed GPS chip.

Some cellular service providers use a network approach. However, success of the network approach depends upon at least three cell tower sites being in close proximity to each other to allow the caller's location to be "triangulated".

Verizon Wireless, Sprint Wireless, ALLTELL, Sun Com, Nextel and NTELOS have all successfully tested their technologies in Hanover County, and T-Mobile is scheduled to test in February 2005.

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#### Board honors "Miss Virginia"

Mariah Elizabeth Rice of Mechanicsville was named "Miss Virginia" earlier this year, beating out 28 other contestants. Mariah is from the Henry District and is a graduate of Atlee High School. She is currently a student at VCU, majoring in dance and choreography with a minor in general business. She was recognized for her outstanding accomplishment by the Board of Supervisors, represented by Henry District Supervisor Charles D. McGhee. The Board regularly recognizes citizens who have made great contributions to Hanover County. Photos of those recognized by the Board can be seen at www.co.hanover.va.us/board



#### WHAT YOU NEED

- ♦ In order for the GPS system to work, your cell phone must have a GPS chip; older phones do not
- ◆ Call your service provider to see if their technology enables your call to be located
- ♦ The project is the result of a combined effort by Hanover County departments of Emergency Communications, Information Technology and Geographic Information Systems

# Tax relief available for elderly and disabled

Hanover County tax relief is available for residents who are elderly or permanently disabled and who have an annual family income of less than \$50,000.

A total of 780 households participated in the program this year, saving an average of \$697 per household.

"We invite all residents who think they might qualify to call our office," said Scott Harris, Hanover's Commissioner of the Revenue.

Applications for the program can be filed between Jan. 15 and March 1.

Participants must be 65 years of age. The applicant must live on the property and it must be their permanent home. Income of relatives (other than the spouse) living in the house must be in-

cluded in the gross income.

The Board of Supervisors increased tax relief earlier this year. Previously, the annual family income limit had been \$40,000.

For more information about tax relief programs offered by Hanover County, call the Commissioner at 365-6125 or visit

www.co.hanover.va.us/comrevnu/default.htm.

## Hanover's dogs have new place to play

#### Many helped make Hanover's first "dog park" a reality

Hanover County residents now have a public area to walk and exercise their dogs.

The Hanover County dog park is located four miles east of Ashland off Rt. 54 at the County government's "Taylor Complex". The one-acre park is between the cannery and the animal shelter.

Surrounded by a six-foot fence, the park includes dog agility equipment, a 'time-out pen', waste stations, a water station and benches.

The park's facilities are largely due to the efforts of volunteers, such as Dominic Formosa, an Eagle Scout from Mechanicsville. As his "Eagle Scout" project, Dominic built a six-foot wide, 27-foot long wooden bridge at the entrance to the park. That job accounted for about 50 of the 68 total hours he personally spent making the dog

park a reality.

"It was a lot bigger job than I thought it was going to be," said Dominiic. "But I'm happy with the way it turned out."

Dominic became involved in the dog park project in the summer of 2003 at the urging of his 4-H club leader, the late Rita Troxell. A sign at the bridge dedicates the project in Troxell's memory.

In addition to building the bridge, Dominic raised more than \$2,800 and supplied several other pieces of equipment, including the time-out pen.

Dominic had help from fellow members of Troop 534 and his dad Ron, the Troop's Scoutmaster. The 4-H Club of Hanover donated the agility equipment.

Other sponsors and supporters included the Hanover Moose Lodge, members of Fairfield Presbyterian Church and Hanover Parks & Recreation. Sponsoring businesses in-

cluded Home Depot, Southern States, Lowe's and The Tool Shop.

Another key volunteer was Tom Foster of Ashland, a Hanover Humane Society member who put up the six-foot fence that encircles the property.

The dog park was initiated by Sgt. Kevin M. Kilgore, Hanover's Animal Control Chief, who was inspired by an American Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (A.S.P.C.A.) presentation four years ago.

Kilgore was able to obtain an A.S.P.C.A. grant which paid for the fencing materials, and despite various interruptions including hurricanes the opening of the park was celebrated in October.

The park is being used as a dog obedience training area and will be the site of special events focused on helping find homes for unwanted animals and educating the public on important animal care and control issues, such as pet overpopulation, animal welfare and responsible ownership.

For more information, call Hanover County Animal Control at 365-6485.



A colorful "Sensory Garden" that will provide horticultural therapy and vocational skillbuilding opportunities for people with disabilities has brought beauty to the Hanover Community Services Board 's Dow-Gil Road location in Ashland. Many businesses helped the CSB make the garden possible, including the Ashland Berry Farm. James River Maintenance. White Oak, Stockner's Rockville Nursery, Martin Marietta and L.L. Carter. The second phase of the project will include a greenhouse. Leadership Metro Richmond is helping to develop a business plan for the project. Hanover Recycling, Hanover Industries and Logomotion are businesses operated by the CSB for adults with mental retardation.



# "Heritage Day" Exhibit Committee seeks members

The "Hanover Heritage Day" Exhibits Committee needs "new ideas, new brains and new people," according to Audrey Reynolds, chairwoman.

The 3rd annual event will be held at Hanover Courthouse on Saturday, May 28, 2005. The Exhibits Committee is seeking people who are willing to make calls to potential exhibitors, distribute programs and in general help "Heritage Day" continue to grow and improve.

If you can help, please call Audrey at 798-6542.

# Social Services helps with tax filing, credits

The Hanover County Department of Social Services has joined forces with the Greater Richmond Earned Income Tax Credit Coalition to reduce taxes owed by lower-income citizens and increase their refunds.

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a federal income tax credit for working citizens based on the level of their adjusted gross income. To qualify:

- Families with one child who earn less than \$30,338 in 2004 (or less than \$31,338 for married workers) are eligible for a credit of up to \$2,604.
- Families with two or more children who earn less than \$34,458 in 2004 (or less than \$35,458 for married workers) are eligible for a credit up to \$4,300.
- Workers without a qualifying child who earn less than \$11,490 in 2004 (or less than \$12,490 for married workers) are eligible for a credit of up to \$390.

Volunteers from Hanover Social Services will be available during January and February 2005 to prepare free state and federal taxes by e-file. For more information call 649-1311.

# WIRELESS E911 CALLS continued from page 3.

To determine whether your wireless phone can be located in an emergency situation, please call your cellular provider.

Even with the correct equipment, the system does not work within buildings.

If the exact location of the caller cannot be determined, Hanover Emergency Communications is still able to obtain the location of the cell tower site and the customer's phone number, providing officers with the caller's general location and a means of calling them back if needed.

Call 365-6162 for more details.

#### **INTERVIEW: Composting and recycling**

STEVE CHIDSEY is the Solid Waste Services Manager for Hanover County. The Solid Waste Services Division of the Department of Public Works maintains six convenience centers where residents may dispose of solid waste and recyclable items, as well as a transfer station off U.S. Rt. 301. The convenience centers are for household refuse only. The service is free of charge to Hanover County residents, unique in the Richmond area. The centers accommodated more than a million visits last year.

Chidsey came to Hanover from Charlottesville, where he was Director of the Rivanna Solid Waste Authority. He had previously been Director of Operations for the Central Virginia Waste Management Authority and spent six years in Baltimore, Md., in various solid waste and recycling posts.

#### Steve, I understand that Hanover Solid Waste Services is offering many new composting opportunities. What's going on?

We recently received a permit from the Department of Environmental Quality for a yard waste composting facility. This facility will be located adjacent to the Rt. 301 Transfer Station. Leaves and grass will be placed in long rows and turned with a special piece of equipment. This will cause the material to break down into compost.

Also new is our 'vermi-composting' project using many thousands of red wiggler worms. The waste produced by the digestive systems of these worms is considered to be the finest and richest of all soil conditioners. The Community Services Board will screen and market the end product, and we also will use it as a nitrogen

additive in our yard waste composting operation. This project is designed in part to educate the public about creative waste reduction methods.



Steve Chidsey

The County's web site has been expanded to feature methods for backyard composting. It even shows a way to use old pallets to build an effective and nocost unit. A sample of these pallet units can be found at each of the Solid Waste Convenience Centers, along with free pallets. For more information about composting, or to see which center is closest to you, go to <a href="https://www.co.hanover.va.us/works/default.htm">www.co.hanover.va.us/works/default.htm</a>.

We also have a very popular mulch program. Mulch made from brush that residents drop off is typically available free of cost at all centers. Sometimes it goes fast, so be sure to call 365-6181 first so you won't waste a trip. We also recommend that you bring a pitchfork or manure fork.

#### Recycling is a very important service for many citizens. What recycling opportunities does Hanover offer?

Bottles, cans, mixed paper, corrugated paper, used oil, used residential oil filters, antifreeze, car batteries, propane tanks (under 20 pounds), paints, textiles and tires can all be recycled at our six Convenience Centers. Most recently, we began accepting used cell phones. All centers also have re-use areas where materials can be dropped off for the use of others. In April, we are going to be spon-

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### Hanover Happenings

# County office holiday hours

Hanover County government offices will be closed on Dec. 23, 24 and 31 for the holidays. Offices will be open until 4:30 p.m. on Dec. 22 and 30.

The six Hanover branches of the Pamunkey Regional Library will be closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

Hanover's six solid waste convenience centers and U.S. Rt. 301 transfer station will close at noon on Christmas Eve and will be closed all day on Christmas Day as well as New Year's Day.

# Civil War book sold by County

Looking for a Christmas present for the history lover in your family? "A Survey of Civil War Sites in Hanover County" is available at the front desk of the Planning Department in the County Administration Building for \$28.50.

Sold by the Historical Commission, the book is a collection of battlefield assessments produced

as a collaborative effort between the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP), the Richmond National Battlefield Park (RNBP) and Hanover County.

The ABPP provided the County with funding to generate a study of Hanover's lesser-known battlefield sites. RNBP historians provided the necessary historical expertise.

For more information or to place an order, call 365-6171.

# Jan. 1 is deadline to buy dog tags

Hanover County dog licenses must be purchased and on the dog by Jan. 1, 2005.

All dogs four months and older must have a license. The cost of the license is \$6. The fine for not having purchased a license is \$25, plus court costs. Any dog found without a valid Hanover dog license is considered unlicensed until the owner can prove otherwise.

Dogs must be vaccinated for rabies before a license can be purchased. Hanover County has rabies vaccination clinics scheduled on Dec. 11, Jan. 15 and Feb. 5. For locations of these clinics, see www.co.hanover.va.us/anmlctrol/

#### default.htm

Licenses are not required for cats. However, all cats must be vaccinated against rabies.

For more information call 365-6485.

# Parks registration begins in January

On Jan. 31, 2005, Hanover Parks & Recreation will begin accepting requests for those needing Therapeutic Recreation Aides for the popular Youth Summer Program.

The early registration only applies to those children who will be requesting a Therapeutic Recreation Aide. When the Department receives a family's completed request packet (which includes the child's registration form), it will be reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis.

April 15, 2005, is the deadline to submit a request for a Therapeutic Recreation Aide. However, the available slots are often filled before that, so don't delay!

# "Storytimes" begin Jan. 10

The Winter-Spring session of "Storytimes" at the branches of the Pamunkey Regional Library will begin on Monday, Jan. 10.

Storytimes will not be held if the schools are closed.

For more information, call 365-6211.

# Extended hours for decal purchase

Hanover's Treasurer and Commissioner of the Revenue are extending their office hours for the purchase of County decals, which must be on display March 1, 2005.

Both offices will be open on Saturday, Feb. 26, from 9 a.m.-12 noon. Decals will also be available

#### **PUBLIC SERVANT**

Randy Abernathy, Deputy Fire/EMS Chief, has been recognized as Outstanding EMS Administrator by the Old Dominion Emergency Services Alliance (ODEMSA). ODEMSA includes members from 22 counties and six cities, including metro Richmond and Petersburg. A veteran of the Marine Corps and a Vietnam veteran, Randy has risen to leadership positions not only in ODEMSA, where he serves as chairman of the Medical **Evacuation Committee and** on the Manpower and Training Committee, but on



the Metro Richmond EMS Council, Virginia Association of Governmental EMS Administrators and Richmond Fire Chiefs Association. He was recently named to the Governor's State EMS Advisory Board. For more about Abernathy, see <a href="https://www.co.hanover.va.us/pio/outstanding/outstanding.htm">www.co.hanover.va.us/pio/outstanding/outstanding.htm</a>

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## EMS SUBSCRIPTION continued from page 1.

and served by Hanover Fire/EMS also can subscribe.

If you subscribe, your insurance company will be billed, but your subscription will cover the deductible. The subscription fee covers all out-of-pocket transportation costs, regardless of how many times you use the ambulance service during the year.

Individual insurance policies vary. Hanover Fire/EMS recommends that you review your insurance policy to determine if this subscription program is right for you.

Hanover County estimates that the revenue recovery program will generate about \$1.5 million annually, which can be used to help meet escalating Fire/EMS needs. Hanover Fire/EMS responded to 20,000 calls last year, a 74% increase in five years.

This program will not change the ambulance service provided to anyone in Hanover County.

"Our goal will always be to provide the highest possible level of service to all in need," said Fred Crosby, Chief.

For more information, see the FAQ at <a href="https://www.co.hanover.va.us/pubsafety/default.htm">www.co.hanover.va.us/pubsafety/default.htm</a>

# COUNTY DECALS, continued from page 6.

for purchase at the Atlee and Ashland libraries from 10 a.m.-noon that day.

There will also be extended office hours on Monday, Feb. 28 and Tuesday, March 1, 2005.

During February, decals also can be purchased at Goodway Store in Beaverdam, Southern States in Montpelier and the Mechanicsville Fire Station.

Personal property taxes must be paid in full before the decal can be purchased. Every vehicle garaged in Hanover County and operated on a public road must display a valid Hanover decal.

For more information call 365-6050 or 365-6129.

### Chidsey

continued from p. 5

soring an 'e-waste collection day'. Most material will be accepted at no charge, but there will be a nominal fee for computer monitors and televisions. We'll be publicizing the date and time in the spring. For dates available prior to that in other jurisdictions, call the Central Virginia Waste Management Authority at 359-8413.

Brush, grass and leaves are accepted for recycling at two locations (Verdi Lane and Rt. 301). We also pull materials from the waste stream at the Transfer Station that can be recycled, such as aluminum, pallets, clean wood, food waste, road materials and reusable items. We recovered 300 tons in October, our highest total yet.

Last year the County started a cooperative recycling program with a number of waste haulers. Under this initiative, haulers collect newspaper, magazines and catalogs and deliver them to the County for recycling. Homeowners should check with their haulers to see if they participate in this program.

# What's changed about Hanover's solid waste operation in the last couple of years?

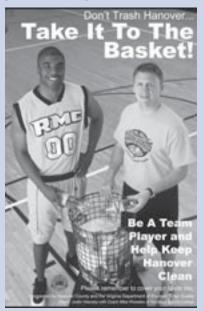
Hanover County closed its landfill at the end of 2002. Solid waste is now taken to a Countyoperated transfer station where it is consolidated for shipment to a private landfill in Chesterfield County.

There are certain restrictions on the materials that can be disposed of at the sites and the size of vehicles that can access the sites. Why does Hanover have those restrictions? Regulations are written to comply with State and Federal laws as well as to assist the

County in maximizing its productivity. For instance, long boards tend to create inefficient loads, which costs tax dollars because they require the service containers to be serviced more frequently. We also want to make certain that the users of the centers are eligible for the service. In other words, they need to be County residents who are using the centers for residential uses rather than commercial customers who should be paying for the service.

#### Recently you developed an antilitter poster. Why?

Solid Waste Services, using antilitter grant money we had received from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, had a poster developed that portrayed a basketball player and the head coach at Randolph-Macon College delivering an antilitter message. We are working with the school system and area businesses to distribute the poster. Much of the littering that takes place in Hanover County is due to citizens not properly covering their loads on the way to our convenience centers, so we would like to raise awareness of that issue and and urge people to be mindful of what they can do to keep our County beautiful.



#### **News Briefs**

The Board of Supervisors appointed **Cecil R. "Rhu" Harris Jr.** as County Administrator. Harris is a 20-year veteran of Hanover County government.

80% of Hanover County's registered voters cast ballots in the 2004 election, the highest turnout in more than a decade. A majority of Hanover voters supported Pres. George W. Bush's reelection bid and opposed the proposed Hanover County meals tax.

Hanover's wastewater treatment plant went into operation and immediately met discharge limits established by the State's permit. A Department of Environmental Quality inspector said that she had not previously seen a plant "start up in compliance." Hanover was approaching its contract limit with Henrico County. The plant disinfects with ultraviolet light - "more environmentally friendly and more neighbor-friendly as well," said Frank W. Harksen Jr., Public Utilities Director.

The Virginia Recreation and Park Society selected the 1st annual "Hanover Heritage Day" as the Best New Program for localities with populations between 50,001-100,000.

The Rockville Library is now the **Cochrane-Rockville Library**, renamed in honor of the Cochrane family, whose \$971,750 donation enabled the size of the library to be doubled. The Board of Supervisors appropriated an additional \$275,000. A groundbreaking ceremony was held in November; construction is expected to be completed by August 2005.

More than 5,000 people took advantage of beautiful fall weather to enjoy the 1st annual Hanover Children's Festival held at Pole Green Park.

### Help wanted...

#### Citizens sought for Board committees

The Hanover Board of Supervisors needs your help! Advisory committees and boards are the 'front line' of citizen participation in County government. The following committees have vacancies for which volunteers are sought. To learn more about Board committees and service opportunities, see <a href="https://www.co.hanover.va.us/board/default.htm">www.co.hanover.va.us/board/default.htm</a>

### "Hanover Heritage Day" Citizens Committee

The Board of Supervisors is looking to create a committee consisting of two representatives from each magisterial district to help with tasks related to "Heritage Day", an annual event held each May. For more information, call Marilyn Blake, Assistant County Administrator, at 365-6005.

#### **Council on Aging**

The Hanover County Council on Aging consults and advises the Board of Supervisors and County departments on issues pertaining to the quality of life of the older citizens of Hanover County. The Council on Aging meets once a month. Representatives are needed for the Henry District and Mechanicsville Districts. If you would like to be considered for the Henry District, please call Chuck McGhee at 779-2875. If you would like to be considered for the Mechanicsville District, please call Jack Ward at 746-9126.

#### **Community Services Board**

Hanover's Community Services Board (CSB) seeks to provide community-based care for persons with mental illness, mental retardation, or substance abuse concerns. The CSB meets once a month. Representatives are needed for Mechanicsville District and South Anna Districts. If you would like to be considered for the Mechanicsville District, please call Jack Ward at 746-9126. If you would like to be considered for the South Anna District, please call John E. Gordon Jr. at 798-3879.

### 2007 Homecoming Committee

Hanover County intends to hold "Homecoming" events in 2007, coinciding with the 400th anniversary of the establishment of the first settlement at Jamestown. If you would like to serve on this committee and help plan these events, please call Marilyn Blake, Assistant County Administrator, at 365-6005.

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