

APPLICATION FORM

All applications must include the following information. Separate applications must be submitted for each eligible program. **Deadline: June 1, 2016.** Please include this application form with electronic entry.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

County: Henrico County

Program Title: Home Maintenance Workshops

Program Category: Community & Economic Development

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Cristol Klevinsky

Title: Management Specialist

Department: County Manager's Office

Complete Mailing Address: 4301 E. Parham Rd., Henrico, VA 23228

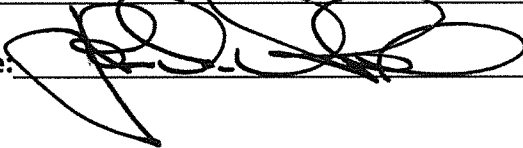
Telephone: 804-501-4370 Website: henrico.us

Email: kle@henrico.us

SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Name: John A. Vithoukas

Title: County Manager

Signature: 

1. Short Overview of the Program

The Henrico County Department of Community Revitalization Home Maintenance Workshops are a series of free instructional workshops targeted to low-income homeowners designed to provide hands on instruction in basic home maintenance and preventive care. Topics covered include regular home maintenance, weatherization, basic plumbing repairs, minor electrical repairs, patching holes in walls and ceilings, landscaping and yard maintenance, strategies to improve curb appeal, advice for how to hire a contractor when necessary, and ways to protect properties against crime. The intent of the program is to provide practical instruction to enable homeowners to save money by undertaking small repairs themselves and understanding how the systems in their homes function so that when contractors are necessary they have a better ability to evaluate the work proposals that are being suggested.

Workshops were held on four Saturday mornings in 2015-16 and feedback based on written comments provided overwhelmingly positive responses. Respondents were appreciative of the information and were able to use the knowledge gained to save money, undertake preventive maintenance tasks themselves, and better maintain their homes. Such knowledge and establishing an increased level of comfort in home maintenance supports the ability to age-in-place and decreases the demand on public and non-profit service providers.

2. Problem/Challenge/Situation

The Department of Community Revitalization (DCR) offers a program to assist low-income homeowners with the maintenance and repair of homes through the Emergency and Minor Home Repair Program. The waiting list for this program is over two and a half years long. Many of the items addressed through this program are tasks that are easy and inexpensive for homeowners to undertake

themselves if they are provided with instruction on how to do so. For example, many residents have toilets that do not flush correctly and they do not realize that replacing the valve assembly costs less than \$10 and takes less than 30 minutes. Low-income residents frequently spend hundreds of dollars on plumbing service calls for clogs and leaks that they can address themselves, or worse, leave these problems unaddressed, rendering facilities unusable or causing greater damage.

Low-income homeowners, in particular, are frequently reluctant to hire contractors to complete repairs due to fear of being swindled through poor workmanship, overcharging, or completion of unnecessary work. By understanding how systems and components of their homes work, what is really involved in the work, and how to hire a contractor when necessary, this places homeowners in a more comfortable position to ensure the maintenance and livability of their homes, and for elderly homeowners better enables aging-in-place.

Finally, many of the homes that are on the waiting list for the Henrico Emergency and Minor Home Repair Program are suffering from deferred maintenance. By offering Home Maintenance Workshops throughout the year and teaching homeowners how to regularly check home systems and why maintenance is important, it is hoped that they can keep their homes safe and functional with limited repairs in the future.

3. How the Program Was Carried Out

The Home Maintenance Workshops are a partnership between the County of Henrico and Richmond Metropolitan Habitat for Humanity (RMHFH). Creation of the program began in 2015. Henrico County funded the workshops by allocating \$10,000 of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to cover program costs and subcontracted with RMHFH to coordinate presenters,

exhibitors, and a portion of the program marketing. Henrico County developed the marketing materials, program logo, coordinated press releases, and arranged for use of a Henrico elementary school to hold the workshops.

The target audience for these workshops was residents of the County's low- and moderate-income neighborhoods. These households are the ones who have less money to spend on housing maintenance and repairs so the goal was to provide education on what is necessary to keep their homes in good condition for years to come as well as a hands-on experience where applicable. Although the workshops were targeted to low- and moderate-income homeowners they were open to anyone in Henrico County or the metropolitan area.

The four workshops were held in October and November 2015 and February and March 2016. The intent in designing the workshops was to provide practical instruction, including hands-on learning that would be most applicable and timely particularly for low- and moderate-income homeowners. The selection of the elementary school was based upon its location in Henrico and proximity to neighborhoods with lower income homeowners. The selection of topics and presentation techniques was based on understanding and experience with the community's needs. For instance, many homeowners are not aware that repairing a hole in an interior wall is typically an inexpensive fix that can be done with little experience or investment in expensive tools. All too frequently, not addressing simple problems only leads to greater and more expensive ones. A leaking sink drain not repaired later becomes a floor repair and a missing shingle becomes a much more expensive roof repair.

The scheduling of the workshops was designed to provide a consistent location, a consistent format, and programs that matched the time of the year. Thus, workshop #1 in the late fall included weatherization and winterization of homes and workshop #4 in the early spring covered yard

maintenance and landscaping. Workshops ran from 9:00 a.m. until noon on Saturdays. Doors opened at 8:30 a.m. so that attendees could visit various exhibitors related to the workshop topic. These included both state and local agencies as well as non-profit service providers. Exhibitors were selected based on their relevance to both the target audience and the program for the day. A mid-morning break in the program was provided to enable attendees to visit the exhibitors to discuss their services and programs.

Workshop Topics and Presenters:

Date	Topic	Presenters
Oct. 17, 2015	Weatherization & Seasonal Maintenance	Environmental Green Solutions, LLC
Nov. 14, 2015	Small Home Repairs	Environmental Green Solutions, LLC
Feb. 6, 2016	Home Improvements	Environmental Green Solutions, LLC, Virginia Dept. of Professional and Occupational Regulation
Mar. 5, 2016	Landscaping & Curb Appeal	Virginia Cooperative Extension, Henrico County Community Maintenance Division, Henrico County Police

The first workshop (October) covered weatherization and home maintenance. The presenter was the owner of a local HVAC company that had worked with RMHFH previously and specialized in energy efficiency. The workshop covered ways to reduce heating and cooling costs, how to maintain heating and cooling systems, and steps to prepare homes for the winter. The presenter demonstrated the use of simple products that can be purchased at home supply stores; explained the basic function of heating and cooling systems and the proper use of programmable thermostats; demonstrated caulking techniques; showed products and techniques to prevent frozen pipes; and explained how to identify a variety of roof, siding, electrical and plumbing problems.

The November workshop covered small home repairs. This workshop provided hands-on instruction in plumbing and electrical repair. The speaker showed step by step how to install a toilet and

fix almost any problem that homeowners face relating to toilet and sink leaks and problems. The toilet repair demonstration provided a clear example of the objectives of the workshops. The speaker also provided instruction in basic electrical work and warning signs of electrical problems that require a professional. Too frequently DCR staff has encountered situations where homeowners have unusable bathrooms simply due to leaking toilets. They often turn the water off and do not seek repairs due to the high cost or reluctance to hire a professional. Another frequent occurrence is excessive water bills due to toilet and other plumbing leaks. The small repair workshop demonstrated how to address these problems or, when someone else is doing the work for them, understanding what they are supposed to be doing.

The February workshop covered home improvements. This workshop demonstrated how to fix holes in walls, repair tears in vinyl flooring, how to remove and replace grout, and also covered improvements that add value to homes. The presenters constructed a demonstration wall and allowed participants to undertake the various types of repairs themselves. In addition, the state Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation provided a detailed presentation about how to hire a contractor and provided tips about how to avoid being taken advantage of by unlicensed contractors.

The final workshop (March) covered Landscaping and Curb Appeal. This workshop was presented by the Virginia Cooperative Extension office and provided information on curb appeal; lawn care; and selecting, planting, and pruning trees and bushes. Extension Office staff also provided a hands-on demonstration on pruning techniques. In addition, code enforcement officers spoke about common violations of the community maintenance code and what is required by Henrico. The Henrico Police Division provided examples and spoke about protecting homes from property crimes, including preferred ways for planting and maintaining landscaping to maximize safety.

The direct costs of the program were funded through the County's Community Development Block Grant. Many state, local, and non-profit agencies attended as exhibitors. Presenters represented small businesses as well as county, state, and non-profit agencies. All speakers contributed their time without charge. Some door prizes were donated by local businesses.

The vast majority of the assistance provided by Henrico to low-income homeowners is funded through the Community Development Block Grant. Although these funds have only declined slightly in recent years, the demand for home repair assistance has substantially increased. Providing a means of self-help and prevention for a portion of the target population was intended to provide some relief from the future demand for home repair assistance.

Information about this program was spread in several ways. Workshop information was posted on the County and RMHFH websites as well as on many community calendars. Notices of the meetings were posted on the County's Facebook and Twitter feeds prior to each workshop and RMHFH used Facebook to target advertising to low- and moderate-income areas of Henrico County. The County's public access cable television station, HCTV, also provided publicity about the workshops.

Workshops were filmed with a live feed to enable the audience to view demonstrations close-up well as to be edited for viewing online at a later date. Workshops presentations were made in PowerPoint and versions of these presentations were posted on the County website for citizens to download.

4. Financing and Staffing

Henrico allocated \$10,000 of CDBG funds towards this activity. Of this, \$600 was used to secure the program site – an elementary school gym and cafeteria. This was a discounted rate from the normal rental fee and covered all four sessions. A significant amount of County staff time was devoted to the project for designing the programs, coordinating with presenters, coordination with the venue, assistance with the development of presentations, assisting with publicity, managing each event, gathering materials, and providing general staff support for the event.

The remaining funds were paid to RMHFH for their time in coordinating the effort, paying for advertising, and covering various program expenses. No speakers were paid for their time but were reimbursed for materials required for their demonstrations.

Development of the program logo and design of marketing materials was handled by the County's Public Relations and Media Services department at no cost to the program. Additionally, this department handled issuing of press releases and coordinated posting of the information on the County's TV station, website, Facebook, and Twitter.

The County spent approximately \$500 on printed materials which included 11" x 17" posters, 8.5" x 11" handouts, and 3.6" x 8.5" brochures. County staff distributed the majority of materials to County recreation facilities, libraries, and other sites visited by the public. Rather than paying for printed advertisements, staff worked with editors of a local bi-weekly newspaper to write an article highlighting the series of workshops. This resulted in greater visibility of the program and was no cost other than about an hour of staff time to answer questions from the reporter. Additional publicity was provided by listing the event on community calendars in print and on-line media.

5. Program Results

Workshop attendance grew from approximately 25 at the first session to a peak of over 70 as word spread and County staff learned the best way to publicize the program. We were able to document a total of 124 unduplicated attendees attended the four sessions. Many attendees participated in more than one workshop, indicating that they found value in the workshops.

Feedback solicited from participants was overwhelmingly positive with many citizens thanking the County for providing this information and the opportunity to speak with subject experts. For this type of program, it is difficult to track and measure specific outcomes. For those attendees who provided contact information, County staff intends to issue a follow-up survey to determine the extent to which they used the knowledge gained and if they felt it saved costs on home repairs or maintenance or benefitted in any other way. This communication will occur once the 2016-17 workshops are scheduled and we can provide enough time for attendees to put the information to use.

6. Brief Summary

The Home Maintenance Workshops provide a new way of assisting Henrico homeowners and helping to maintain Henrico neighborhoods. The workshops bring together state and local agencies as well as non-profit organizations to provide hands-on instruction to residents on how to protect and maintain their properties as well as educate them about community resources that they may be able to utilize.

The more homeowners we are able to reach and instill understanding of the operation of the systems in their homes, the more such homeowners are able to age-in-place and reduce demand on

non-profit and government assistance. Maintaining homes prevents blight, encourages neighborhood investment, increases neighborhood stability, and helps maintain financial stability among low-income homeowners. Citizens also feel reassured that that local government has interest in them as individuals and as County homeowners.

Summary of feedback from 2015-26 workshops. 5 is highest score.

Oct 17 - Weatherization and Seasonal Maintenance

	1	2	3	4	5	total
Workshop Location	0	0	2	2	8	12
Workshop Time	0	0	2	0	10	12
Workshop Content	0	0	0	0	12	12
Speaker	0	0	0	2	10	12

Nov 14 -- Small Home Repairs

	1	2	3	4	5	total
Workshop Location	0	2	4	6	24	36
Workshop Time	0	0	2	7	27	36
Workshop Content	1	0	0	1	34	36
Speaker	0	0	1	0	35	36

Feb 6 - Home Improvements

	1	2	3	4	5	total
Workshop Location	1	1	4	5	23	34
Workshop Time	0	1	2	11	20	34
Workshop Content	0	2	4	2	26	34
Speaker	0	1	2	3	28	34

Mar 5 - Landscaping & Curb Appeal

	1	2	3	4	5	total
Workshop Location	1	0	3	2	20	26
Workshop Time	1	1	1	4	19	26
Workshop Content	0	1	0	3	22	26
Speaker	1	0	0	3	22	26



Date 10-17-15

Do you have comments or suggestions you'd like to share with us about these workshops?
Use this card to let us know and leave it at the registration table.

Please rate the following aspects of this workshop, with 5 being the best:

Workshop Location	1	2	3	4	5
Workshop Time	1	2	3	4	5
Workshop Content	1	2	3	4	5
Speaker	1	2	3	4	5

Please provide any other suggestions or comments, including future topics that you would like to see covered (use the back if necessary):

Looking forward to next presentation.



Date 10-17-15

Do you have comments or suggestions you'd like to share with us about these workshops?
Use this card to let us know and leave it at the registration table.

Please rate the following aspects of this workshop, with 5 being the best:

Workshop Location	1	2	3	4	5
Workshop Time	1	2	3	4	5
Workshop Content	1	2	3	4	5
Speaker	1	2	3	4	5

Please provide any other suggestions or comments, including future topics that you would like to see covered (use the back if necessary):

Great Presentation!

Date 11-14-15Do you have comments or suggestions you'd like to share with us about these workshops?
Use this card to let us know and leave it at the registration table.

Please rate the following aspects of this workshop, with 5 being the best:

Workshop Location	1	2	3	4	5
Workshop Time	1	2	3	4	5
Workshop Content	1	2	3	4	5
Speaker	1	2	3	4	5

Please provide any other suggestions or comments, including future topics that you would like to see covered (use the back if necessary):

I enjoy this presentation, very ~~informative~~ ^{informative} ~~informative~~Date 11-14-15Do you have comments or suggestions you'd like to share with us about these workshops?
Use this card to let us know and leave it at the registration table.

Please rate the following aspects of this workshop, with 5 being the best:

Workshop Location	1	2	3	4	5
Workshop Time	1	2	3	4	5
Workshop Content	1	2	3	4	5
Speaker	1	2	3	4	5 → SD

Please provide any other suggestions or comments, including future topics that you would like to see covered (use the back if necessary):

This workshop is so useful, have been looking for this.Date 11/14/15Do you have comments or suggestions you'd like to share with us about these workshops?
Use this card to let us know and leave it at the registration table.

Please rate the following aspects of this workshop, with 5 being the best:

Workshop Location	1	2	3	4	5
Workshop Time	1	2	3	4	5
Workshop Content	1	2	3	4	5
Speaker	1	2	3	4	5

Please provide any other suggestions or comments, including future topics that you would like to see covered (use the back if necessary):

Excellent job!!Date 11/14/15Do you have comments or suggestions you'd like to share with us about these workshops?
Use this card to let us know and leave it at the registration table.

Please rate the following aspects of this workshop, with 5 being the best:

Workshop Location	1	2	3	4	5
Workshop Time	1	2	3	4	5
Workshop Content	1	2	3	4	5
Speaker	1	2	3	4	5

Please provide any other suggestions or comments, including future topics that you would like to see covered (use the back if necessary):

*Thank you for a great workshop!
It's like live "Ask This Old House". Having the camera projected up was good & helpful.*



Date

11/14/15

Do you have comments or suggestions you'd like to share with us about these workshops? Use this card to let us know and leave it at the registration table.

Please rate the following aspects of this workshop, with 5 being the best:

Workshop Location	1	2	3	4	5
Workshop Time	1	2	3	4	5
Workshop Content	1	2	3	4	5
Speaker	1	2	3	4	5

Please provide any other suggestions or comments, including future topics that you would like to see covered (use the back if necessary):

Great Scope of Information covered



Date

11/14/2015

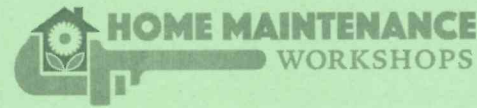
Do you have comments or suggestions you'd like to share with us about these workshops? Use this card to let us know and leave it at the registration table.

Please rate the following aspects of this workshop, with 5 being the best:

Workshop Location	1	2	3	4	5
Workshop Time	1	2	3	4	5
Workshop Content	1	2	3	4	5
Speaker	1	2	3	4	5

Please provide any other suggestions or comments, including future topics that you would like to see covered (use the back if necessary):

I Learned a lot, great speaker no suggestions
Coffee + snacks were great!! I did



Date

11-14-2015

Do you have comments or suggestions you'd like to share with us about these workshops? Use this card to let us know and leave it at the registration table.

Please rate the following aspects of this workshop, with 5 being the best:

Workshop Location	1	2	3	4	5
Workshop Time	1	2	3	4	5
Workshop Content	1	2	3	4	5
Speaker	1	2	3	4	5

Please provide any other suggestions or comments, including future topics that you would like to see covered (use the back if necessary):

Excellent workshop - very informative and useful for everyday issues.
Thanks for putting it on.
Sincerely, Dr. Mohamed ElFino, PE
804-226-1367



Date 2-6-16

Do you have comments or suggestions you'd like to share with us about these workshops? Use this card to let us know and leave it at the registration table.

Please rate the following aspects of this workshop, with 5 being the best:

Workshop Location	1	2	3	4	5
Workshop Time	1	2	3	4	5
Workshop Content	1	2	3	4	5
Speaker	1	2	3	4	5

Please provide any other suggestions or comments, including future topics that you would like to see covered (use the back if necessary):

Great session, and information.



Date 2/6/16

Do you have comments or suggestions you'd like to share with us about these workshops? Use this card to let us know and leave it at the registration table.

Please rate the following aspects of this workshop, with 5 being the best:

Workshop Location	1	2	3	4	5
Workshop Time	1	2	3	4	5
Workshop Content	1	2	3	4	5
Speaker	1	2	3	4	5

Please provide any other suggestions or comments, including future topics that you would like to see covered (use the back if necessary):

Excellent workshop! Loved to have an project + activib.



Date 2/6/15

Do you have comments or suggestions you'd like to share with us about these workshops? Use this card to let us know and leave it at the registration table.

Please rate the following aspects of this workshop, with 5 being the best:

Workshop Location	1	2	3	4	5
Workshop Time	1	2	3	4	5
Workshop Content	1	2	3	4	5
Speaker	1	2	3	4	5

Please provide any other suggestions or comments, including future topics that you would like to see covered (use the back if necessary):

Thank you! It was wonderful the workshops were relevant



Date 2-5-16

Do you have comments or suggestions you'd like to share with us about these workshops? Use this card to let us know and leave it at the registration table.

Please rate the following aspects of this workshop, with 5 being the best:

Workshop Location	1	2	3	4	5
Workshop Time	1	2	3	4	5
Workshop Content	1	2	3	4	5
Speaker	1	2	3	4	5

Please provide any other suggestions or comments, including future topics that you would like to see covered (use the back if necessary):

Great Job



Date Feb. 6, 2016

Do you have comments or suggestions you'd like to share with us about these workshops? Use this card to let us know and leave it at the registration table.

Please rate the following aspects of this workshop, with 5 being the best:

Workshop Location	1	2	3	4	5
Workshop Time	1	2	3	4	5
Workshop Content	1	2	3	4	5
Speaker	1	2	3	4	5

Please provide any other suggestions or comments, including future topics that you would like to see covered (use the back if necessary):

1. Handout is very useful.
 2. Hand on experience is good.
 3. Speakers are prepared!
- Thank You!



Date 2-5-2016

Do you have comments or suggestions you'd like to share with us about these workshops? Use this card to let us know and leave it at the registration table.

Please rate the following aspects of this workshop, with 5 being the best:

Workshop Location	1	2	3	4	5
Workshop Time	1	2	3	4	5
Workshop Content	1	2	3	4	5
Speaker	1	2	3	4	5

Please provide any other suggestions or comments, including future topics that you would like to see covered (use the back if necessary):

This is an excellent effort. It addressed basic issues for homeowners.



Date 2/6/16

Do you have comments or suggestions you'd like to share with us about these workshops? Use this card to let us know and leave it at the registration table.

Please rate the following aspects of this workshop, with 5 being the best:

Workshop Location	1	2	3	4	5
Workshop Time	1	2	3	4	5
Workshop Content	1	2	3	4	5
Speaker	1	2	3	4	5

Please provide any other suggestions or comments, including future topics that you would like to see covered (use the back if necessary):

Thanks



Date FEBRUARY 6, 2016

Do you have comments or suggestions you'd like to share with us about these workshops? Use this card to let us know and leave it at the registration table.

Please rate the following aspects of this workshop, with 5 being the best:

Workshop Location	1	2	3	4	5
Workshop Time	1	2	3	4	5
Workshop Content	1	2	3	4	5
Speaker	1	2	3	4	5

Please provide any other suggestions or comments, including future topics that you would like to see covered (use the back if necessary):

THE CONTENT WAS VERY USEFUL AS WERE THE EXHIBITS. THE EXHIBITS AND THOSE PRESENTS SHOULD BE INCLUDED AT EACH WORKSHOP.



Date March 5, 2016

Do you have comments or suggestions you'd like to share with us about these workshops?
Use this card to let us know and leave it at the registration table.

Please rate the following aspects of this workshop, with 5 being the best:

Workshop Location	1	2	3	4	5
Workshop Time	1	2	3	4	5
Workshop Content	1	2	3	4	5
Speaker	1	2	3	4	5

Please provide any other suggestions or comments, including future topics that you would like to see covered (use the back if necessary):

Hard wood floor maintenance



Date 3/5/16

Do you have comments or suggestions you'd like to share with us about these workshops?
Use this card to let us know and leave it at the registration table.

Please rate the following aspects of this workshop, with 5 being the best:

Workshop Location	1	2	3	4	5
Workshop Time	1	2	3	4	5
Workshop Content	1	2	3	4	5
Speaker	1	2	3	4	5

Please provide any other suggestions or comments, including future topics that you would like to see covered (use the back if necessary):

I would love to have a workshop on repurposing second-hand items (thrift store, yard sale, etc.) + making the most of what you have - esp. for first time homeowners. Could you get the Petersiks from Young House Love? -I loved the wkshps! - Especially simple repairs. Keep them com



Date 3/5/16

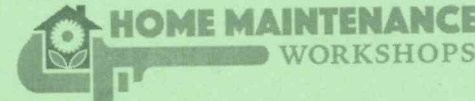
Do you have comments or suggestions you'd like to share with us about these workshops?
Use this card to let us know and leave it at the registration table.

Please rate the following aspects of this workshop, with 5 being the best:

Workshop Location	1	2	3	4	5
Workshop Time	1	2	3	4	5
Workshop Content	1	2	3	4	5
Speaker	1	2	3	4	5

Please provide any other suggestions or comments, including future topics that you would like to see covered (use the back if necessary):

Would have liked more content on Native species + Invasive plant



Date 3-5-16

Do you have comments or suggestions you'd like to share with us about these workshops?
Use this card to let us know and leave it at the registration table.

Please rate the following aspects of this workshop, with 5 being the best:

Workshop Location	1	2	3	4	5
Workshop Time	1	2	3	4	5
Workshop Content	1	2	3	4	5
Speaker	1	2	3	4	5

Please provide any other suggestions or comments, including future topics that you would like to see covered (use the back if necessary):

Very nice -- sorry I missed the other workshops.



Workshop participants got a change to learn drywall repair during the February 6 session on home improvements.



A participant gets a hands-on opportunity to try some skills for repairing a hole in drywall.



Workshop attendees visited exhibitor booths during the November 14 workshop on small home repairs.



A speaker from the Virginia Cooperative extension demonstrates proper pruning techniques at the March 5 workshop.

Henrico, Habitat partner to host home maintenance workshops

By Eileen Mellon

For homeowners in the region who have struggled with home repairs, life could soon be getting a little easier.

Richmond Metropolitan Habitat for Humanity and the Henrico County Department of Community Revitalization have joined forces to host a series of workshops to help residents maintain and improve their homes. The courses begin Saturday, Oct. 17.

The goal of the workshops is to address the high volume of calls that the county receives about home maintenance issues, as well as to provide an outlet for those homeowners who are uncertain about how to maintain the upkeep of a home.

"This idea was a means for providing an additional resource for primarily low- and moderate-income homeowners to assist them in recognizing the maintenance needs of their homes, ideally helping them lower their maintenance costs and helping them prevent problems that lead to deterioration and sudden unexpected costs," said David Sacks, the community development manager for Henrico County's Department of Community Revitalization. "By addressing all these issues, we hope to help maintain the neighborhoods, which are the backbone of the Henrico



community."

The partnership with Habitat for Humanity to host the workshops was a natural fit, Sacks said. Both organizations have deep community roots, both focus on providing a safe and affordable environment and both understand the value and difference between a 'house' and a 'home.'

"Habitat already does classes on maintenance for our homeowners, and David Sacks asked whether we would be interested in developing this program with the county," said Jane Helfrich, chief executive officer of the Richmond Metropolitan Habitat. "We are hopeful this will decrease the calls to the county and help homeowners take care of minor issues before they become major maintenance problems."

The first workshop will focus on

weatherization and seasonal maintenance, just in time for the change of seasons. Experts will explain how to reduce heating and cooling costs, improve safety by sealing air leaks, improve duct systems, replace unsafe heating systems, clean gutters, wash siding and more.

Other workshops include a session on small home repairs (Saturday, Nov. 14); home improvements (Saturday, Feb. 6) and landscaping and curb appeal (Saturday, Mar. 5).

"We are so excited to pair with Henrico County to offer home maintenance classes to local residents," said Amy McDaniel, vice president of homeowner services for Habitat for Humanity. "We have seen the positive effects home maintained classes have on homeowners, and we are excited to empower local residents to learn new skills and gain the confidence to keep their homes healthy and beautiful for years to come."

The workshops, which are free, are funded by the Henrico Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) fund. The Henrico County Board of Supervisors allocated \$10,000 of the CDBG fund to cover some of the expenses of putting on the four workshops. The CDBG funds are federal entitlement funds provided to the county each year

and are earmarked to be used to benefit low- and moderate-income citizens.

The workshops are being held at Harvie Elementary School, a central location in an area where there are greater concentrations of older single family homes, particularly those that are 40 years old and older.

"We have received so much positive feedback, and so many people think this is a great idea," said Sacks. "This is an opportunity for citizens to get hands-on instruction in basic home repairs and learn from local experts. There will also be additional information available from non-profit and government agencies. The Department of Community Revitalization hopes this will help citizens and in turn assist efforts to stabilize and enhance neighborhoods."

Doors will open at 8:30 am, the programs will begin at 9 a.m., and the workshops are expected to end by noon. The first two programs will be hosted primarily by Monique Johnson, president of Environmental Green Solutions.

For details about the workshops, visit henrico.us/revit/ or call the Henrico County Department of Community Revitalization at 501-7640 or Habitat for Humanity at 232-7001.

The 6th Annual Mill House Pig Out Charity BBQ


Friday, October 9th,
from 11 am until the food runs out
 7812 Shrader Rd, Richmond, VA 23294

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HENRICO COUNTY COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION PRESENTS

FREE



HOME MAINTENANCE WORKSHOPS

in partnership with
Richmond Metropolitan Habitat for Humanity

LOCATION: HARVIE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 3401 HARVIE ROAD

• Doors open: 8:30 a.m. • Program: 9 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Information: HENRICO COUNTY COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION • HENRICO.US/REVIT • (804) 501-7640

SATURDAY, OCT. 17

WEATHERIZATION & SEASONAL MAINTENANCE

Learn to reduce your heating and cooling costs and protect the health and safety of your family by sealing air leaks, repairing duct systems and replacing unsafe heating systems. Get advice on installing carbon monoxide and smoke detectors. And learn about cleaning gutters, washing siding, recognizing problems and other seasonal activities.

SATURDAY, NOV. 14

SMALL HOME REPAIRS

Get hands-on instruction to help you tackle a leaking toilet or sink. Gain an understanding of how your heating and air system works to address maintenance and prevent future issues.

SATURDAY, FEB. 6

HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Learn how to get the biggest bang for your buck when it comes to home improvements. Get tips on sheetrock repair, grout removal and more. And learn how to protect yourself when hiring a contractor to complete the jobs you can't.

SATURDAY, MARCH 5

LANDSCAPING & CURB APPEAL

An attractive yard can enhance your property and neighborhood. Learn to design a landscape that works for you and prepare your yard for spring with techniques to help you create a sustainable lawn for years to come. Also learn steps you can take to discourage crimes on your property.

FEATURING:

- Discussions Led by Local Experts
- Practical Hands-On Demonstrations and Activities
- Exhibits, Door Prizes, and Light Refreshments

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

- Henrico County Public Schools
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development



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Information: **Henrico County Community Revitalization** • henrico.us/revit • (804) 501-7640

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SATURDAY, OCT. 17

**WEATHERIZATION
& SEASONAL
MAINTENANCE**

SATURDAY, NOV. 14

**SMALL HOME
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