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Press Release

“PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITIES” THEME OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT WEEK

April 21, 2006 - (Hendersonville, NC) - For the past several years, Henderson County Government has participated in National County Government Week, an effort by the National Association of Counties (NACo) to bring counties across the nation together by focusing on specific issues one week a year. This year's theme, "Protecting Our Communities," give Henderson County the opportunity to affect not only our community here at home, but also, a community in another state. County Government Week kicks off on Monday, April 24th and wraps up on Saturday, April 29th.

On Monday, April 24th, Henderson County kicks off the Hancock County, Mississippi Donation Fund. Last August, Hurricane Katrina slammed into Hancock County, Mississippi, and left death, destruction, and despair. Henderson County adopted Hancock County as a sister county, and began preparations to help the devastated community. Through an agreement with the Community Foundation of Henderson County, Henderson County residents and businesses can make monetary donations to help our sister county rebuild.

Tuesday, April 25th brings the "Protecting Our Communities" theme back home with a blood drive for both county employees and the public. The drive will be held from 10 AM to 2 PM at the County Administration Building on King Street. While walk-ins are always welcome, appointments are being taken by the American Red Cross at 693-5605.

On Wednesday, April 26th, WHKP's Larry Freeman will host a special Open Line program on The Hancock County, MS Donation Fund with Henderson County Commissioner Shannon Baldwin, who spearheaded the sister county idea, and McCray Benson, President/CEO of the Community Foundation of Henderson County. The program begins at 9 AM on WHKP.

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Also on Wednesday, the Henderson County Department of Public Health will hold a child passenger safety seat check for all children who, by law, must be restrained in a child safety seat. A leading cause of auto accident injury among children is the improper installation of a child safety seat. This free check will be held at the Health Department from 9 AM to 3 PM.

Wrapping up County Government Week on Saturday, April 29th, Henderson County will hold an Open House for its brand new Animal Services Center. The long-awaited construction is complete, animals needing good homes have been moved in, and the facility begins operation. The Open House is scheduled from 10 AM to 2 PM, with refreshments and tours of the facility. As an added bonus, local children's book author Paul M. Howey, will be on hand to talk about his own experience with a shelter pup. The experience prompted him to write *Freckles, The Mystery of the Little White Dog in the Desert*. The book won the ASPCA Henry Berg Gold Medal Award and was chosen as one of the "Top Five Children's Books of the Year" by Copley News Service. Mr. Howey will be on hand to sign books, and is donating 50% of the sale of each book that day to the Animal Services Center. Freckles will be there as well. The book signing runs from 11 AM until Noon.

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