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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Henderson County Honors First Three Eco Heroes Award Winners

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As part of the Henderson County Eco Heroes Award Program, Henderson County will recognize the first three recipients of this award on Monday, January 3rd at the Board of Commissioner meeting at 5:30 PM at the Historic Courthouse. The recipients are Patricia Russel, Kim Bailey, and Geri Conley.

The Henderson Eco Heroes Awards Program exists to honor individuals who can serve as an example and inspire others to preserve the environmental health of Henderson County. Managed by the Henderson County Environmental Advisory Committee, members of this committee hope this award can bring environmental awareness to new people and demonstrate that a healthy environment improves the quality of life for all people.

Awardee Patricia Russell serves as the Cafeteria Manager at Dana Elementary and has worked with the school community to institute a composting project, which has resulted in a significant reduction of solid waste being sent to the landfill.

Kim Bailey, another awardee, is a local pollinator farmer, environmental educator, and advocate for pollinators. Kim owns and operates Milkweed Meadows Farm where she grows milkweed, pawpaw, and other pollinator-friendly plants. She grows, donates, and sells milkweed and other plants to ensure that these plants are widely available for monarchs and other important pollinators for generations to come.

The third awardee is Geri Conley, who focuses on natural resource conservation and has been a long-time, reliable, and devoted volunteer for conservation groups in Henderson County. Geri is also an avid recycler and volunteers to curb food waste and redirect it to people who need it with IAM and the Feed the Kids program.

Nominees for Henderson Eco Heroes are accepted on a rolling basis. Anyone who lives or works in Henderson County, who goes above and beyond to exhibit sound environmental practices, is eligible for the award. To nominate someone that you think fits this description, please visit the Environmental



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Advisory Committee webpage at <https://www.hendersoncountync.gov/solid-waste/page/henderson-county-eco-heroes-award-program>.

For more information, contact Henderson County Environmental Programs Supervisor, Christine Wittmeier at cwittmeier@hendersoncountync.gov or call (828) 694-6524.

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