



James City County, Virginia  
**Fiscal Year 2011 Progress Report**



# Table of Contents

Quality of Life.....	2
Public Safety .....	4
Community Needs .....	6
Business Development.....	8
Financial Stewardship.....	10



*2011 Board of Supervisors from left to right: Bruce Goodson – Roberts, James Kennedy – Stonehouse, Chairman Mary Jones – Berkeley, James Icenhour Jr – Powhatan, and John McGlennon – Jamestown*



# 2011 Board of Supervisors Chairman's Message

Because of prudent fiscal management and a determination to find efficiencies and savings, James City County is on sound financial footing. Despite the economic downturn, the County achieved “rare air” financial status, becoming one of 67 County governments nationally to obtain a triple-A bond rating from Standard and Poor’s. We have maintained a responsible budget while providing essential services to the community and responding to unexpected events such as spring tornados.

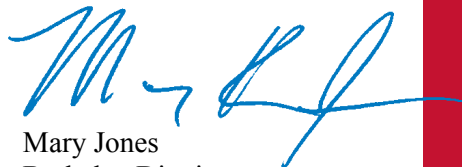
We continued to invest in public safety and local schools by opening a new police building that will house our officers and staff well in to the next 25 years. And our Police Department obtained State accreditation once again and is the only department in the Commonwealth to receive a perfect assessment. To meet the growing needs of our school-age population, J. Blaine Blayton Elementary School and Lois S. Hornsby Middle School opened this year.

Despite a less than favorable business climate nationally, the County saw entrepreneurial growth at the Business and Technology Incubator. New and existing businesses will find more opportunities to receive State and local incentives through our expanded Enterprise Zone. We took a more aggressive role to promote and provide facilities that attract regional and national sports events, which have a positive revenue impact. The announcements by Xanterra and Blackstone to invest in the future growth of Kingsmill and Busch Gardens respectively, is further evidence of an encouraging business outlook.

The Board of Supervisors successfully completed the decennial redistricting process, by employing the principles of model redistricting by drawing voting districts and precincts based on geographical compactness instead of incumbency.

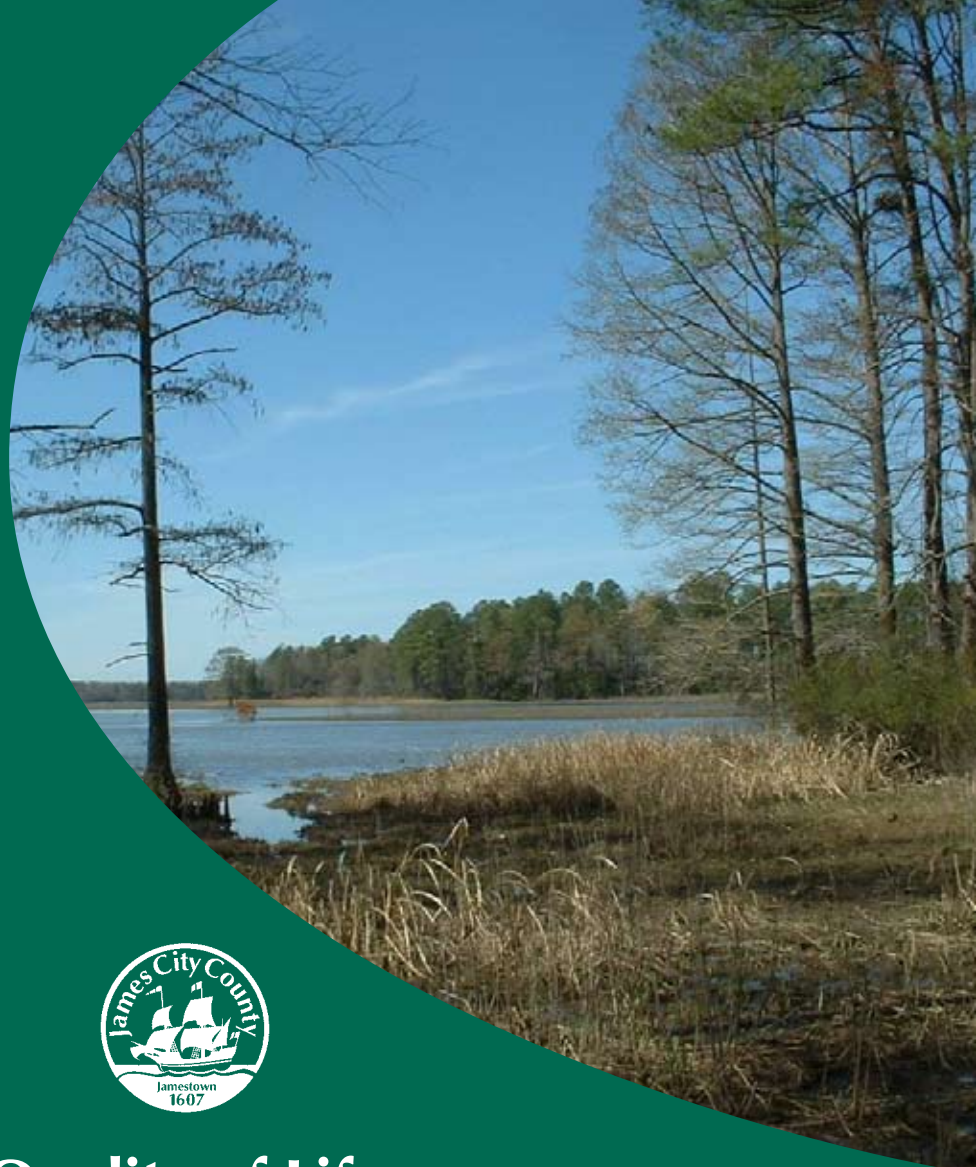
We continue to move the adopted 2009 Comprehensive Plan forward by updating zoning ordinances and policy to ensure our community continues to be safe, productive and healthy in the present and future.

Even during these challenging times, James City County remains one of the most desirable places to live and work and it has been my pleasure to serve as Chairman of the Board of Supervisors this past year.



Mary Jones  
Berkeley District





# Quality of Life

- New County Administrator Robert “Bob” Middaugh met and listened to residents in a [series of meetings](#) sponsored by individual [Board of Supervisors](#) members. The discussions gave citizens an opportunity to meet and talk with local elected officials about the County’s overall direction. (1)
- The [Mill](#) and [Gordon Creek](#) Watershed Management Plans were completed and approved by the Board of Supervisors. The Plans reflect the input received from citizens and other stakeholders and assess the natural resources, identify goals for the areas and include plans for implementation.
- Homeowners with flood insurance received a reduction in premiums as a result of the County’s improved [National Flood Insurance Program’s](#) Community Rating as determined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. (2)
- [J. Blaine Blayton Elementary School](#) and [Lois S. Hornsby Middle School](#) opened at the beginning of the 2010-11 school year, representing the completion of two major capital projects by the County this year. The schools add seven athletic fields for school and County recreation programs and over 30 acres of site maintenance for the County.
- The [James City Service Authority](#) continued improvements to ensure reliable and safe water and sewer services by rehabilitating the Stonehouse Well Facility pump control system, installing a major waterline on Longhill Road and replacing pumps and controls at the Ironbound Road Water Storage Facility. (3)
- An extensive shoreline restoration project was completed at [Jamestown Beach Park](#). As part of the effort, 80 volunteers planted beach grasses to help hold sand in place and offer habitat for shoreline animals. The restoration protects and preserves one of the few public beaches in the County. ([back cover](#))
- The Board of Supervisors approved the [Mid-County Park Master Plan](#) after receiving input from more than 75 citizens. The Plan calls for the replacement of aging facilities, removal of the baseball fields due to safety concerns and a new and improved Kidsburg. (4)
- Fifteen County residents completed the [Citizen Leadership Academy](#) (CLA). The program, originally cut in a cost-saving measure, was offered again as a direct result of citizen feedback received during the County Administrator outreach meetings. (5)



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JAMES CITY COUNTY



# Public Safety

- The [Police Department](#) was accredited for the third time by the [Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission](#) and became the only police department in the Commonwealth of Virginia to receive a perfect inspection. (1)
- James City County had a 13 percent decrease in the overall crime rate – the second greatest decrease in crime of any Hampton Roads jurisdiction. (2)
- The new Law Enforcement Center was constructed bringing all police divisions and units under one roof. The 47,000 square foot facility located on Opportunity Way near Warhill High School is more centrally located and has the capacity to serve as a back-up Emergency Operations Center. In recognition of the County’s commitment towards energy efficiency, the Law Enforcement Center qualified for certification in the [U.S. Green Building Council’s LEED program](#) at the Gold level. (3)
- Anticipating the need for additional advanced life support trained personnel, the [Fire Department](#) sought and received certification from the State to conduct advanced medical training for staff. The intensive course consists of over 400 hours of instruction and clinical time. Eight employees will complete the training each year.
- The County installed the next generation of 911 (NG911) and training is underway. With NG911, [emergency dispatchers](#) will be able to receive text and video 911 messages and enhanced location services. (4)
- The Fire Department’s Marine Response Team joined the [Hampton Roads Marine Incident Response Team](#). The Team is responsible for the protection of the Port of Hampton Roads. Units from the [Virginia Port Authority](#) and all Hampton Roads fire departments with marine response capability are represented. As a result, the County will benefit from increased protection for our shores. (5)
- In April, over 45 Fire and EMS personnel from James City County, York County and the City of Williamsburg, responded after a tornado caused significant damage in the eastern part of the County. Calls for service included 36 reports of damaged homes due to fallen trees or power lines. A shelter was opened at Fire Station 2 and residents needing assistance were encouraged to call Emergency Management for referral to area resources.



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# Community Needs

- Reducing traffic on Route 60 near [James River Elementary School](#) is one step closer with a \$10 million commitment from the [Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization](#) (HRTPO) for the Skiffes Creek Connector. Once Federal approval is received, the new roadway will provide a connection to Route 143 and Interstate 64 for trucks going to [AB InBev Brewery](#), the [Wal-Mart Distribution Center](#) and [Busch Gardens](#). (1)
- The [Zoning and Subdivision Ordinance Update](#) process, the next step in the County's [2009 Comprehensive Plan](#), began in earnest with three public forums to collect input. The [Planning Division](#) researched and analyzed potential options for amendments, developed draft ordinances, held 20 Policy Committee meetings and presented findings at several [Planning Commission](#) and [Board of Supervisors](#) work sessions. (2)
- Forty-three families who were homeless or in danger of losing housing due to an unavoidable crisis, received a total of \$93,486 from the [Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development](#) for limited-term assistance with rental, security deposit and mortgage payments. (3)
- The County received a \$1.4 million Community Development Block Grant to assist with the [Forest Heights Neighborhood Improvement project](#). When completed, the neighborhood will have paved roads, stormwater control and housing improvements. (4)
- Twelve local contractors received training to perform home energy assessments and improvements for homeowners through the new [Home Energy Loss Program](#) (HELP). (5)
- Five public assistance clients were prosecuted for welfare fraud through the ongoing [Welfare Fraud](#) investigation initiative. The total overpayment amount that will be recovered is \$26,219.
- As the result of efforts made by staff, ten children left the [foster care system](#) and were placed in permanent homes: four children were adopted, three united with their fathers and three were placed with relatives through a transfer of custody.



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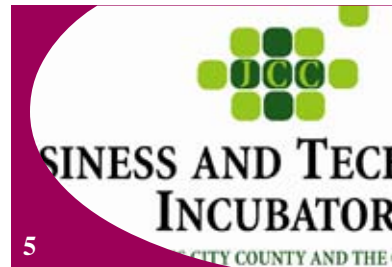


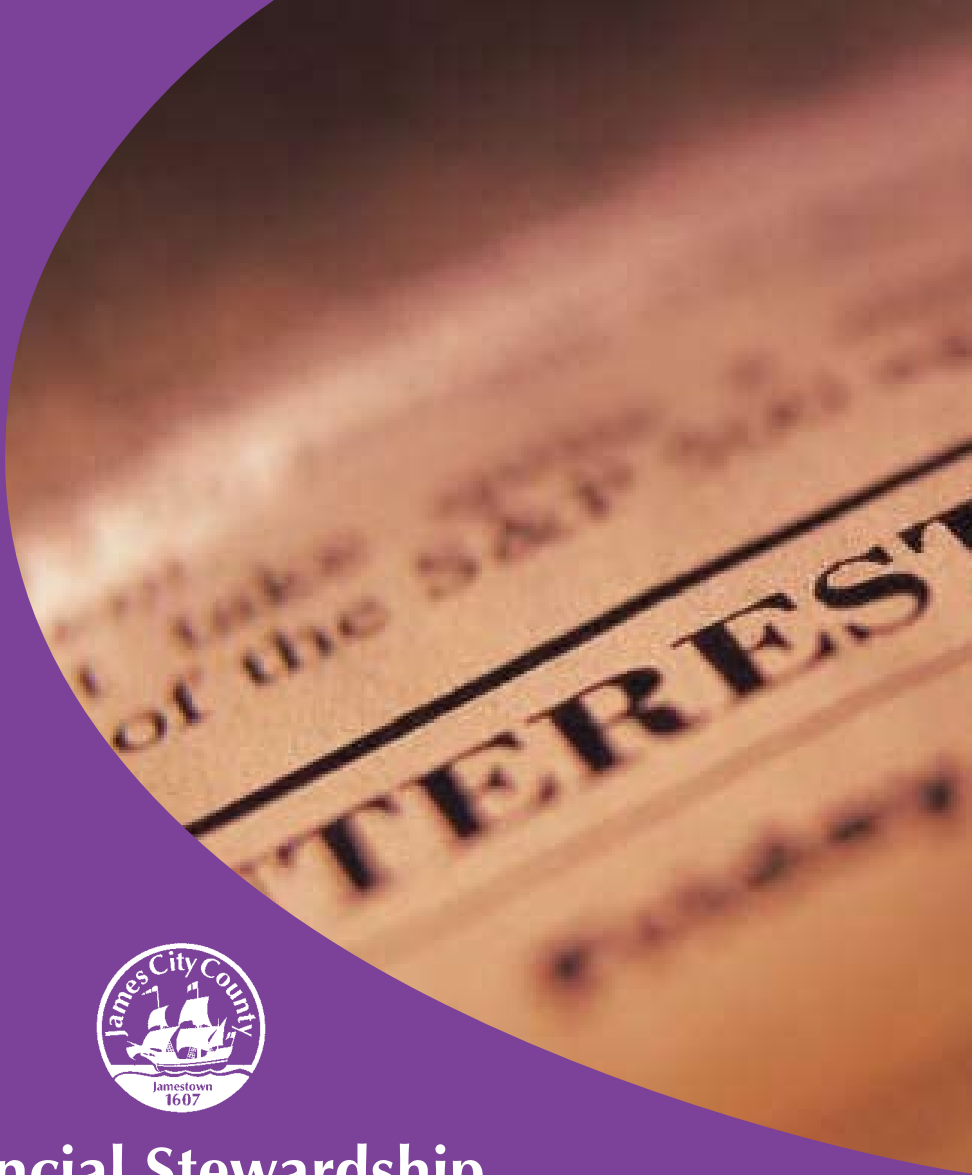
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## Business Development

- The County received a [Virginia Association of Counties Achievement Award](#) for [www.williamsburgworks.com](http://www.williamsburgworks.com), a one-stop portal to information and resources of interest to prospective employees with emphasis on job and relocation information. The website is a collaboration that includes the [County](#); the [City of Williamsburg](#); [York County](#); [Busch Gardens](#) and [Water Country, USA](#); [College of William and Mary](#); [Colonial Williamsburg Foundation](#); [Jamestown Yorktown Foundation](#); [Kingsmill Resort & Spa](#); [Sentara Hospital](#); and the [Greater Williamsburg Chamber & Tourism Alliance](#). (1)
- Businesses looking to locate or expand in the County's [Enterprise Zone](#) will find more opportunities to receive State and local incentives as the result of the expansion of the existing Enterprise Zone and the creation of a second Zone in the northern portion of the County. The 898 additional acres provides more opportunities for businesses growth within James City County. (2)
- The Board of Supervisors adopted a series of zoning ordinance amendments which implemented [Business Climate Task Force](#) recommendations aimed at fostering a more business friendly environment and providing greater predictability and communication in the development plan review process. (3)
- [La Tienda](#), a Spanish foods and products distributor and a County business since 1996, was the recipient of the annual Captain John Smith Award. The Award is given by the County's economic development team to a business, organization or individual for exemplary contributions in the business community. (4)
- [Court Record Solutions, Inc.](#); [Restin, LLC.](#); [Colonial Coffee](#); and [American Flag and Flag Pole](#) were selected for inclusion in the [James City County Business and Technology Incubator](#). The Incubator was founded by the County and its [Economic Development Authority](#) and is managed by the [College of William and Mary](#). It offers its clients a wide-range of services tailored to their business' individual needs. Incubator clients can range from fledgling companies to existing businesses that are transitioning to new locations. (5)





# Financial Stewardship

- The County’s bond rating was upgraded to a triple-A bond from [Standard and Poor’s](#) (S&P) becoming one of only 67 counties in the nation with that rating. As a result of the upgrade, the County is able to refinance or issue general obligation bonds at a lower interest rate, saving money on interest paid and the rate of debt pay-down. The County also has a triple-A bond rating from [Fitch Ratings](#) and a AA1 bond rating from [Moody’s Investor Service](#).
- Shared services between the County and the [Williamsburg/James City County Public Schools](#) expanded to include purchasing, risk management, benefit administration and courier/mail services resulting in cost savings to the citizens. (1)
- The County negotiated a non-exclusive franchise renewal with [Cox Communications](#) which continues support of public, educational and government access channels and maintains [Federal Communications Commission](#) (FCC) required customer service standards. A fiber contract was also negotiated with Cox that will provide fiber access to over 40 public building sites for enhanced internet, data, video and phone capability. (2)
- Generating new sources of tourism revenue continued as the County increased its involvement in sports marketing by providing County sports facilities and staff support to a number of visiting groups including nationally known [Football University](#) (FBU). FBU used the [Warhill Sports Complex](#) and [Wanner Stadium](#) in addition to booking area hotels and restaurants. Regional and State soccer, lacrosse and baseball tournaments also used County facilities and stayed in the area. (3)



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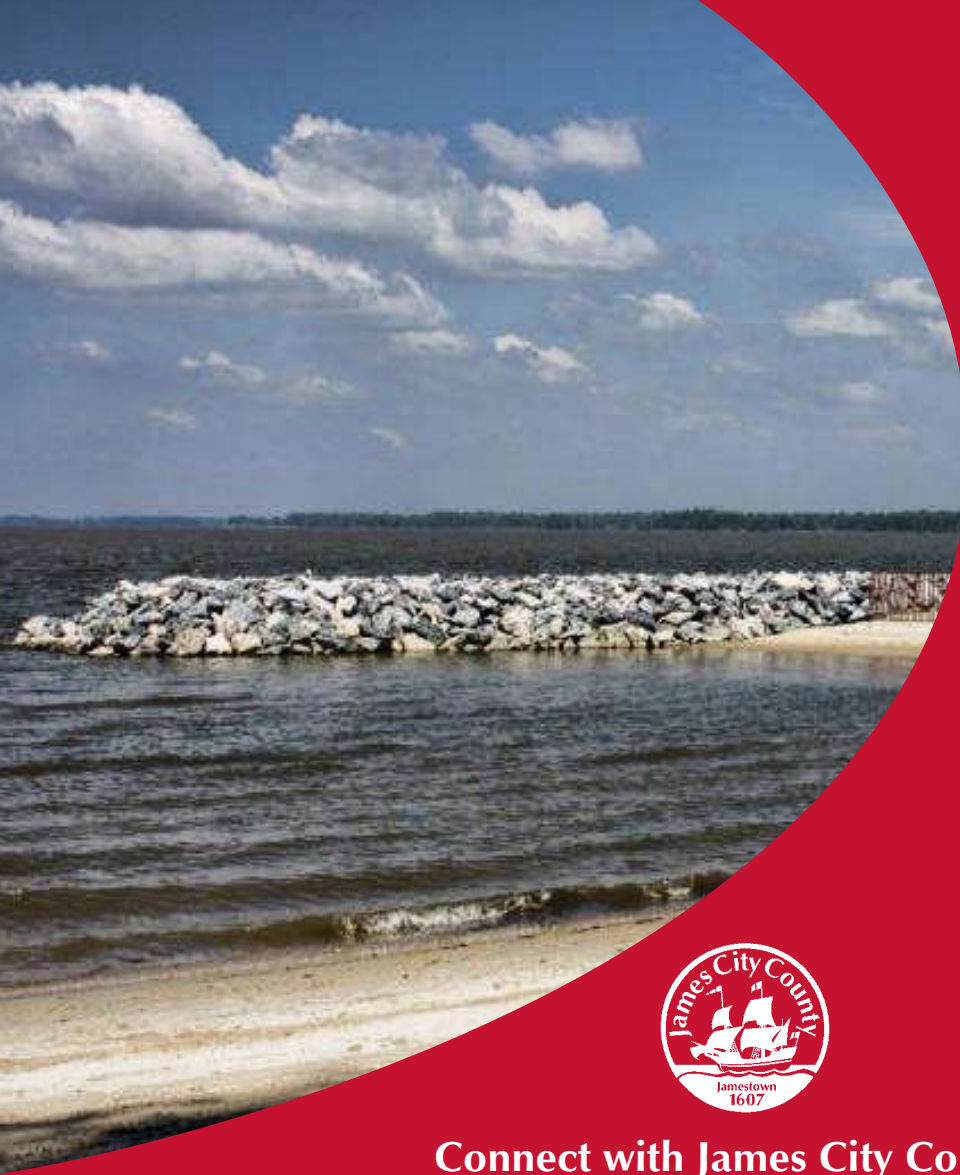
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## FY 11 Completed Capital Improvement Projects

- Mainland Farm Connector Trail
- Warhill Traffic Calming/Trail Improvements
- Jolly Pond/Centerville Rd. Intersection
- Chickahominy Riverfront Park RV Loop Improvements
- Warhill Stream Restoration
- Scott’s Pond Stream Restoration
- Ironbound Square Drainage Pond
- 40+ Drainage Repairs
- Law Enforcement Center
- WJCC Public Schools Central Office
- J. Blaine Blayton Elementary School
- Lois S. Hornsby Middle School



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