



# fyi for your information

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February/March 2000

[www.james-city.va.us](http://www.james-city.va.us)

## ▼ decals due

Automobile owners...your County decal must be on your vehicle no later than Tuesday, February 15. Decals are free once your personal property taxes are paid. If your tax bill was paid by the due date, your decal will be mailed to you no later than February 1. Decals are also available at the County Office Complex (101 Mounts Bay Road) in Building B and at the Satellite Office (3127 Forge Road) in Toano. For more information, call the Treasurer's Office at 253-6705.

## ▼ tax abatement

Property owners of buildings damaged by natural or accidental events may apply to the Real Estate Assessment Office for a tax reduction *provided* 1) you apply within six months of the event 2) the damage exceeds \$500 and 3) the damage was not repaired during the same calendar year it occurred. For information, call 253-6650.

## ▼ digital age is coming

By early April, Cox Communications—your local cable provider—will begin upgrading the cable system in James City County. Using advanced fiber optic technology, the new system will provide customers more channel selections, enhanced system reliability, and improved picture quality. During the course of the upgrade, you may see Cox representatives in your neighborhood replacing existing cable and completing upgrades.

Disruptions will occur, but every effort is being made to keep them short and outside of primetime viewing hours.

Cox Communications will keep you informed of the progress of their work through letters, postcards, door hangers, neighborhood presentations, and the local media.

## new board chairman

Powhatan Supervisor Ron Nervitt is the new chairman of the James City County Board of Supervisors. He was named during the Board's January 4 organizational meeting. Nervitt, in the middle of his first 4-year term, was elected to the Board in 1998. Asked what challenges he sees in the year 2000, Nervitt responded, "to keep this 'special place special' through appropriate growth management."

Nervitt is a retired Senior Executive with the Federal Government with more than 32 years of public service experience. He has held positions in the department of Treasury, Naval Intelligence, General Services Administration, and the National Security Agency. He currently is president of an information systems company that provides consulting services to corporate and government clients.

The Board also voted newly elected Roberts District Supervisor Bruce Goodson Vice Chair. Both the chairman and the vice chairman positions are for one year. John McGlennon, elected to the Board in 1998 represents the Jamestown District. Newly elected Jay Harrison and James Kennedy represent the Berkeley and Stonehouse Districts respectively.

Board of Supervisor meetings are regularly held on the second and fourth Mondays of each month, 7 p.m., at the County Office Complex, 101 Mounts Bay Road, in the Building C Board room. Board work sessions are held on the last Wednesday of each month at 4 p.m. All meetings are broadcast live on County Government Channel 36.



*As chairman, Nervitt will preside over meetings and serve as the head of County government for ceremonial functions.*

## new fire station

Groundbreaking ceremonies for the County's newest fire station were held in December at the site—just off Centerville Road on the Monticello Road extension. Fire Station #5 has been part of the County's capital improvement plan for about 5 years, built in response to growth along the Route 5 corridor. The station will be equipped to deal with typical situations plus hurricanes, hazardous incidents, and other crises. The station is expected to open in September.

## ▼ Jamestown road update

Repairs to Lake Powell Bridge, destroyed in September due to flooding caused by Hurricane Floyd, are currently on schedule. The road is expected to open to full traffic in March. However, Road officials hope to open one lane of traffic in February if work remains on schedule.

For the latest repair information, call the County's emergency hotline number at **875-2424** or check the County's web site at [www.james-city.va.us](http://www.james-city.va.us).

## ▼ household chemical collection

The County's Household Chemical Collection program begins in March, the second Saturday of every other month, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Chemical Collection facility located behind the Tewning Road Convenience Center. The collection dates are **March 11, May 13, July 8, September 9, and November 11**.

For the list of accepted disposables, call the Virginia Peninsulas Public Service Authority at **728-2062**.

## ▼ county history minute

*Did you know that Virginia is a Dillon Rule state?* Unlike many states where there is "Home Rule" and localities have a lot of power unless the state legislature takes it away, the County and the other localities are under the Dillon Rule. Virginia cities, while under the Dillon Rule, have charters granted to them by the General Assembly that gives them additional powers.

Dillon was a justice in Iowa, and in 1865, ruled that unless there's been a direct authority delegated by the General Assembly or the governing body of the state, that all authority is vested in the General Assembly. This means your local government needs State permission before taking action on a variety of local issues. Examples include a County request to install video cameras at intersections where there are constant violators running red lights (*the request was denied*) and increasing the room tax to provide additional funding for County critical services (*the General Assembly granted permission with the stipulation that those funds resulting from the increase be invested in tourism*).

## toward 2007

James City County is the centerpiece of a unique historical area, famous around the world because it encompasses land important in the early years of our nation—Jamestown, site of the first permanent English speaking settlement in 1607; Williamsburg, the restored Colonial Capital of Virginia between 1699 and 1780; and Yorktown, the final battlefield where American independence was won in 1781. We have an obligation to collaborate on policies and programs, infrastructure and land use to preserve this Historic Triangle.

Over the coming months, we'll provide you with information on the County's growth management efforts, as we head toward 2007—our 400th birthday. Features will include our growth in terms of population, public facilities, housing, transportation, land use, and community character. In this first article, we look at the History of Planning in James City County. We hope these series of articles provide you the knowledge, tools, and opportunities to help continue to shape the face of James City County.

• *Staff, James City County Development Management*

## history of planning in james city county

**May 1953** - County Planning Commission established.

**September 1964** - Subdivision/Mobile Home Park Ordinance approved.

**May 1965** - First Land Use Plan developed in a cooperative effort with the Governor's Office of the Industrial Development and Planning.

**March 1969** - First Zoning Ordinance approved.

**May 1972** - First County Planner hired.

**October 1972** - County Wetlands Board established.

**October 1975** - First Comprehensive Plan adopted by the Board of Supervisors (BOS).

**June 1982** - Second Comprehensive Plan adopted by the BOS.

**April 1985** - Update of the Zoning Ordinance adopted by the BOS.

**July 1987** - Neck-O-Land Area Plan adopted as part of the Comprehensive Plan.

**July 1987** - Adoption of Greenbelt Policy, Criteria and Guidelines and additional Greenbelt Roads.

**November 1987** - Williamsburg Regional Commission on Growth completes its work and forwards recommendations to Board and Council members of the City of Williamsburg and the Counties of York and James City.

**August 1990** - The BOS adopts the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance—the first jurisdiction in the State to adopt an ordinance.

**August 1990** - The BOS adopts the first comprehensive landscape ordinance for the County.

**August 1991** - BOS adopts the 1991 Comprehensive Plan Update.

**January 28, 1997** - 1997 Comprehensive Plan approved by the BOS.

**1998-1999** - Adoption of major ordinance revisions in many areas to implement 1997 Comprehensive Plan.

**1999** - Major greenspace acquisitions of Mainland Farm, EXXON property, and other parcels.

## ▼ attention members of homeowners associations!

Mark your calendar for *Saturday, March 11* from *8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.* for a one-day training program in "The ABC's of Community Association Management." The program is a great way to train new board and committee members and reinforce the knowledge of experienced members in your association. The course will provide information about the creation, legal foundation, organization, and financial structure of community associations. It will also introduce an approach that can be used for addressing issues and solving problems that arise in community associations.

Call the Neighborhood Connections office at **229-7630** to learn more or to sign up for this worthwhile training, led by professionals in their respective fields.

## ▼ neighborhood college II

Space is still available for February and March sessions of Neighborhood College II. **February 10**, Developing Strategic Neighborhood Improvement Plans; **March 4**, Regional Neighborhoods Conference; **March 9**, Neighborhoods Improvement Matching Grants; and **March 30**, Designing Neighborhood Web Pages. Call **229-7630** for more information or to register.

## chairman's award 1999

James City County's Neighborhood Connections has received the 1999 Chairman's Award. The award is presented annually by the outgoing Board of Supervisors Chairman to recognize an employee or division for outstanding public service. As he concluded his 28-year career on the Board in December, Jack Edwards recognized Neighborhood Connections with this resolution:

*In August 1994, the Board of Supervisors endorsed the Neighborhood Connections initiative. The purpose of the program is to help everyone involved at the level where so many critical issues are decided—  
The Neighborhood.*

*Neighborhood Connections seeks to empower citizens through training, to facilitate direct linkages between neighbors and their government, and to involve all community assets in expanding and sustaining safe and healthy neighborhoods.*

*As we have come to understand more about the importance of neighborhoods, the number of connected neighborhoods has climbed steadily. Growth has occurred through requests from citizens and through word of mouth, as it becomes clear to other citizens what can be achieved by better human connections.*

*The staff and facilitators of Neighborhood Connections serve as a clearinghouse and provide support to neighborhoods. The goal is not to tell people what to do, but rather to help neighborhood residents accomplish what they want.*

*Work in the Neighborhood Connections program is done by a combination of dedicated professionals and full-time County employees who volunteer their time and talent to the program because they are passionately committed to the idea of helping citizens help themselves.*

*Therefore I recognize the outstanding public service of the staff and volunteers of Neighborhood Connections.*

To learn more about Neighborhood Connections, call **229-7630**.

*Neighborhood Connections staff and facilitators (left to right) front row: Neighborhood Connections Administrator Ronnie Nowak, Vicki Sprigg, Seth Benton, Anita Taylor, and Deborah Merritt. Second row: Barbara Coughlan. Third row: Neighborhood Resource Coordinator Barbara Watson, Jill Schmidle. Top row: Caroline Rhodes and Renee Dallman.*

*Not pictured: Larry Foster, Vaughn Poller, Madeleine Conway, Orlando Caraballo, and Mike Gentry.*



● Editors: Veda McMullen, Barbara Watson  
 ● Graphic Designer: Gene Canova  
 Copies of FYI are available at all government buildings, the Williamsburg Regional Library, or by mail. To get on the mailing list, call Communications and Neighborhood Connections at 229-7630.

**▲ FYI distribution**

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 757-875-2424

**web site**  
[www.james-city.va.us](http://www.james-city.va.us)

Printed on recycled paper.

**kristiansand gets grant**



The *Kristiansand community* has received a \$500 grant from the County for their Operation Playground project. County Administrator Sandy Wanner (*pictured right*) presented Homeowners Association President **Bob Ranson** with the \$500 Neighborhood Improvement Matching Grant during a special ceremony in November. Project work included fund-raising, replacing existing playground equipment, assembling new equipment, and landscaping. To qualify for the grant, residents contributed over 200 hours toward the project, valued at \$2,648.

**neighborhood cookbook**

Neighborhood College alumni are collecting favorite neighborhood recipes between February 7 and March 24. Major categories include desserts, casseroles/stews/soups, main dishes, and salads. Recipes may either be typed or printed and may be faxed: 229-4688, emailed: [bwatson@james-city.va.us](mailto:bwatson@james-city.va.us) or mailed: *Neighborhood Connections, 5248 Olde Towne Road, Suite 11, Williamsburg, Virginia 23188*. Provide a name and telephone number in case there are questions. To volunteer for a cookbook committee, call 229-7870.