

Special Supplement for James City County Citizens



2003 Comprehensive Plan Update

October/November 2002

Vision For Our Future

During the 1997 update of the Comprehensive Plan, the County undertook a community-wide effort to address the future needs and desires of our citizens. This Plan is reviewed every five years to ensure it continues to reflect our vision and our values. The time has come to update our Comprehensive Plan through *Vision For Our Future* - a 12-month process to evaluate our accomplishments since 1997, review our direction, and to determine the tools and resources we will need to meet future community goals.

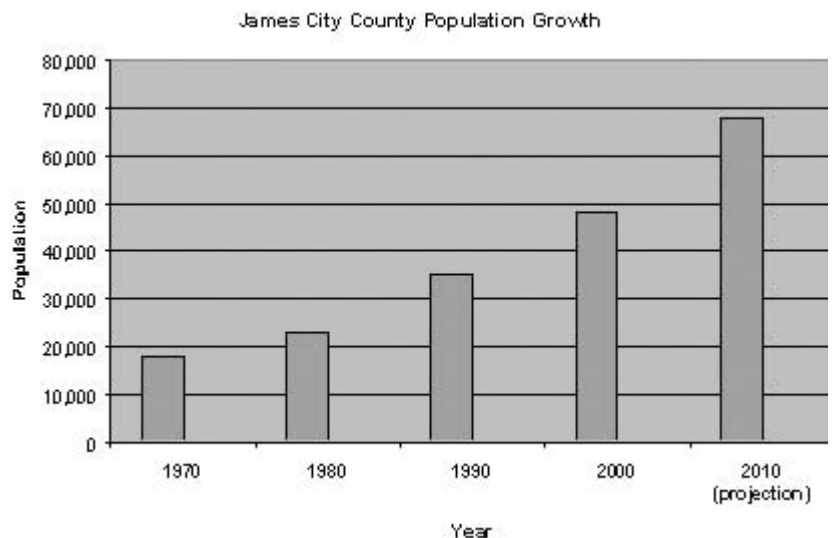
Citizen input and participation are key to a successful outcome - an outcome with a shared vision and strategy for James City County's future. Your participation is vital, and I encourage you to become involved. There will be many opportunities to get informed, stay involved, and to share your *Vision For Our Future* (see *Share Your Vision*).

Sanford B. Wanner, County Administrator

Why Update The Comprehensive Plan?

The Plan is used by citizens, developers, County staff, the Planning Commission, and the Board of Supervisors to develop and implement a course of growth in James City County. Issues that are impacted include transportation, housing, land use, economics, and public facilities.

Much has changed in our community over the last five years. The 2001 Citizen Survey, conducted by the Planning Department last fall, showed that while citizens agreed with the general vision of the 1997 Plan, there were still areas of concern. The future of our water sources promises to play a pivotal role in the 2003 Comprehensive Plan update. The update is necessary to assess new needs, develop solutions for new and long-term challenges, and to plan for new growth while enhancing our existing community.



# Development Trends

James City County continues to be an attractive community for settlers. Based on population forecasts, the population will grow to 67,947 by 2010 - making it one of the fastest growing counties in the state.

James City County Population Growth		
Year	Population	Percent Increase
1970	17,853	N/A
1980	22,763	27.5%
1990	34,970	53.6%
2000	48,102	35.6%
2010 (projection)	67,947	41.3%

James City County Housing Units		
Year	Housing	Percent Increase
1995	17,604	N/A
2000	20,772	17.99%
2005	24,022	15.65%
2010	27,272	11.92%

Source: US Census, Virginia Employment Commission, JCC Staff

With growth comes the increased demand for services and public facilities. The County is, and will continue to be, challenged to maintain and meet the demands for:

- effective networks of roads and transportation systems
- quality public services including water and sewer, police and fire protection, and refuse collection and disposal
- model educational facilities
- environmental integrity and scenic beauty
- healthy and diverse economic bases
- affordable choices in housing type and density
- recreational facilities and activities

## A Look Back...What Has Been Accomplished Since 1997:

A list of key accomplishments from the 1997 Comprehensive Plan update include:

- Economic Development - more than \$80 million in new capital investment and 450 new jobs in the James River Enterprise zone since 1995.
- New Facilities and Parks - include Stonehouse Elementary School, Fire Station #5, the District Sports Complex, Skate Park, Chickahominy Riverfront Park, and the Williamsburg/James City County Courthouse.
- James City County Zoning Ordinances - the Ordinances were updated to enact provisions of the 1997 Comprehensive Plan.
- Sensitive, Natural Areas - development of new plans to protect and enjoy these areas include the Greenway Master Plan and the Powhatan Creek Watershed Study. The County's first greenway, the Greensprings Greenway Trail, opened in 2001. The County also con-

tinues to actively implement the watershed study.

- Open Space Preservation - the dedication of one-cent of the real estate tax has allowed the County to acquire open space and to protect sensitive property and areas such as Mainland Farm and the Jamestown Road corridor.
- Community Character Enhancement - planting of selective areas of the County, including the Route 199 corridor and Monticello Avenue Extended.
- Transportation Improvements - expanded bus routes, additional bikeways and sidewalks, and the completion of Grove Interchange and Monticello Avenue (Alternate Route 5).
- Protection of the County's rural character - the creation of the Purchase of Development Rights Program, an incentive program for landowners to preserve the agricultural or forestal uses of their land.

# Attention Landowners!

An important part of the Comprehensive Plan is the Application Process for Change in Land Use Designation. As part of the review process, landowners have the opportunity to request the Board of Supervisors change their Land Use designation. Land Use designations assist in interpreting the intent of the Comprehensive Plan and are used with land development standards when the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors consider certain development proposals, such as rezonings and special use permits.

The Land Use Map and Comprehensive Plan are intended to provide relatively rigid guidelines for development over the next five years. County staff will be collecting applications for land use designation changes through the end of January. Call Planning at 253.6685 for more information.

# Community Participation Team

Last June, the Planning Commission appointed the James City County Community Participation Team (CPT). The CPT, a team of Planning Commission members and County citizens, will help lead citizen participation in the review and update of the Comprehensive Plan. The group meets weekly to plan and implement methods for encouraging citizen feedback in 2003 process.



Toano resident Jeff Barra (*left*) chairs the team. Barra is a local architect and President of Toano Design, Inc. He's also a long-standing citizen volunteer, having served on the both the CPT and Steering Committee for the past two Comprehensive Plan updates.

Bob Jacobsen (*right*), is the first youth member of the CPT. Jacobsen, 18, is a lifelong resident of the County. He graduated Lafayette High School in May where he was a four-year varsity swimmer and a member of the National Honor Society and Latin Honor Society. He's currently a freshman at the College of William & Mary and a member of the varsity swim team.



CPT members are Mary Higgins, Don Hunt, Ron Rosenberg, Jeff Barra, Wilford Kale, Dr. Lisa Curry, Bill Miller, Bob Jacobsen, and Joe Poole.



The CPT is also backed by a team of citizens who support its work. They are (*pictured left to right*), Grant Olson, Mary Jones, Denise Koch, and Hampton Jesse. Not pictured: Clarence Curry and Bill Pompeii.

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Your opinions are very important for us.

### Be Heard!

Your opinions are very important for us. Please share them by responding to the following questions.

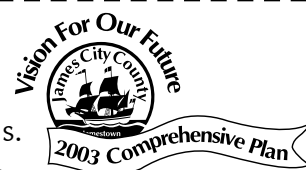
- 1) What are the top three issues facing James City County?
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) What do you like most about living in James City County?
 

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_
- 3) If you could change something about James City County, what it would be?
 

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# Steering Committee

Another important body functioning during the Comprehensive Plan update process is the Steering Committee (SC). The Steering Committee-composed of four Planning Commission members, one Board of Supervisors member, and one CPT member-will begin meeting weekly in November. Following efforts made by the CPT, the SC will review technical reports and policy recommendations from staff as well as applications of landowners who wish to change the land use designation on their properties. This Committee will recommend the new Plan to the Planning Commission.

## Share Your Vision

Participating in the 2003 Comprehensive Plan process will be one of the most important decisions you make for yourself, your family and your community over the next five years. During the next 12 months please take advantage of the many opportunities to share your *Vision For Our Future*.

## Attend!

One of the four scheduled town meetings, titled Community Conversations. The Conversations will consist of small group discussions on issues important to citizens.

**Wednesday, November 6, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.**

Clara Byrd Baker Elementary School

**Thursday, November 7, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.**

James River Elementary School

**Wednesday, November 13, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.**

Toano Middle School

**Thursday, November 14, 12 p.m. - 2 p.m.**

JC/Williamsburg Community Center

**PARTICIPATE** in the public awareness events, one of which will be listening stations setup throughout the County to solicit your comments on the Comprehensive Plan process.

**REQUEST** a member of our Speakers' Bureau to address your group or organization.

**EMAIL** the Planning Division at [compplan@james-city.va.us](mailto:compplan@james-city.va.us) to send us your comments.

**LOG ON** to the County's web site at [www.jccEgov.com](http://www.jccEgov.com) for upcoming Comp Plan activities and events.

**READ** your local newspapers and "FYI," this citizen's bi-monthly newsletter. "FYI" is available by mail, Internet, and at all public County facilities. For more information, call 229.7630.

**WATCH** local government channel JCC TV48 for video programming and important scrolled messages.

**CALL** our Comp Plan Information Line at 253.6877 with your comments and questions.

**WRITE US** at:  
Vision For Our Future  
2003 Comprehensive  
Plan Update  
James City County  
Planning Division  
P.O. Box 8784  
Williamsburg, VA  
23187-8784

**VISIT** the Planning Office at the County Government Complex, 101 Mounts Bay Road, Building E, 8 a.m. - 5pm, or telephone 253.6685.



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